



BELMONT NEIGHBORHOOD SUBAREA PLAN

Lincoln, Nebraska
25 July 2025

DRAFT



Prepared for

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The Community Health Endowment invests in health-related projects and programs and convenes the community around important health issues.

The Lincoln Community Foundation facilitates positive change for the common good through partnerships and collaboration.

The strategies in this draft reflect the lived experiences and input of Belmont community members and are shared for reflection and dialogue. They do not represent official positions or endorsements from the funders.

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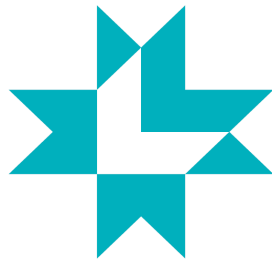


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Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the City of Lincoln, including the Belmont neighborhood is located on lands that are the past, present, and future homelands of the Ponca, Omaha, Dakota, and Otoe Peoples. One undercurrent of this plan is to be respectful custodians of these traditional lands, learn from the past, be mindful of what we do in the present, and be equally considerate of how we plan a sustainable future for those who come after.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary

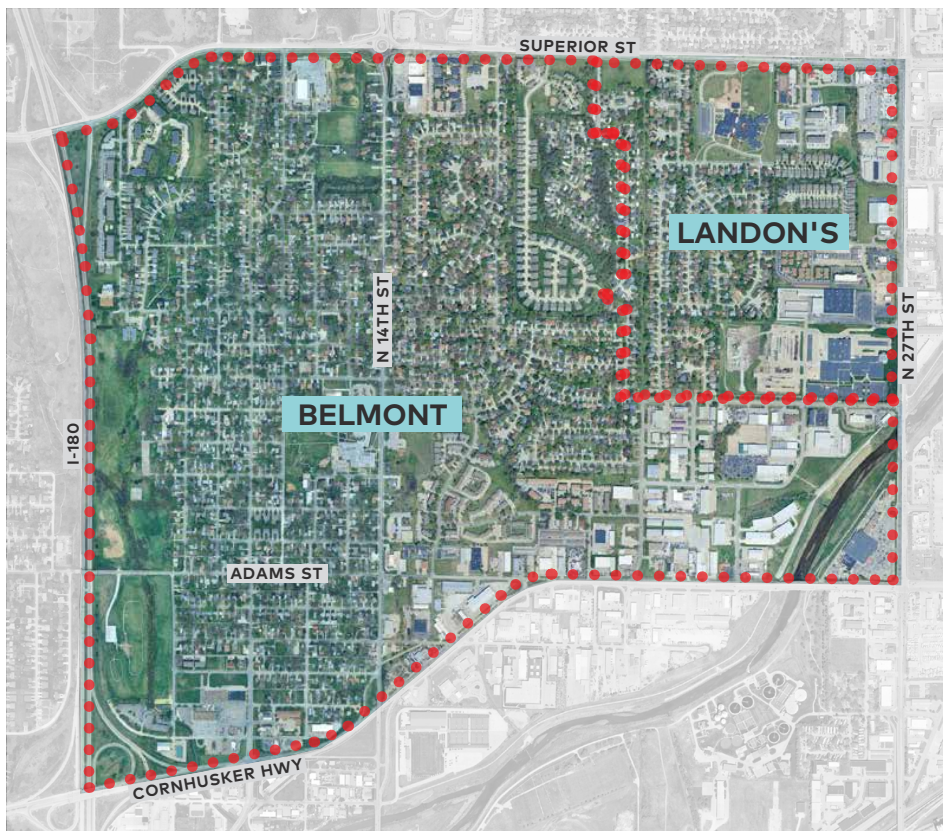
THIS PLAN

This Belmont Neighborhood Subarea Plan represents Belmont residents' voice in the future of their neighborhood. It is seen as an opportunity to build upon the existing social, natural, and constructed capital found in this place by imagining a better future that respects and supports the potential of this place. When the boundaries of both Belmont and Landon's neighborhoods were deemed blighted by the City of Lincoln, it provided an opportunity identify areas of improvement within the neighborhood that might benefit from financial and other support structures. This plan highlights themes that came up during the community engagement process, goals identified by the neighborhood, and implementable strategies that could happen immediately or over a number of years.

BELMONT NEIGHBORHOOD

Belmont is located just north of Downtown Lincoln across the Salt Creek. It is bounded by vehicular infrastructure: I-180 to the west separating it from West Lincoln; Cornhusker Highway to the

Belmont and Landon's Neighborhoods



south along which is the most commercial/industrial section of Belmont; N 27th Street to the east, a major north-south arterial; and Superior Street to the north (both major arterials, north-south and east-west, respectively).

Most of Belmont is residential with an even split of owner-occupied and renter-occupied residences. At the center of the neighborhood is the Belmont Campus, which is home to the Belmont Elementary School, Belmont Recreation Center, Belmont Community Center, and other important organizations and community amenities. Goodrich Middle School in Belmont and Campbell Elementary School in Landon's are just south of

Superior Street. On the southwest corner of the neighborhood is Belmont Plaza, a once vibrant retail center that is currently planned for redevelopment by a new property owner.

PLANNING APPROACH

This plan represents the neighborhood’s goals and priorities for the future of the Belmont neighborhood. The process was broken down into four phases:

Discover

The community identifies treasures in the community and issues facing the neighborhood that need attention. Meanwhile, the Core Team gathered online census and mapping data related to the neighborhood. Site visits also informed another important perspective of the neighborhood.

Analyze

This phase involves reviewing and synthesizing the community input and online resources, including review of existing plans and initiatives relevant to this plan.

Plan

This part of the process pulls all the input together into recommendations for implementable strategies in and for Belmont.

Align

A review of the plan by stakeholders and other community members ensures alignment amongst all.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

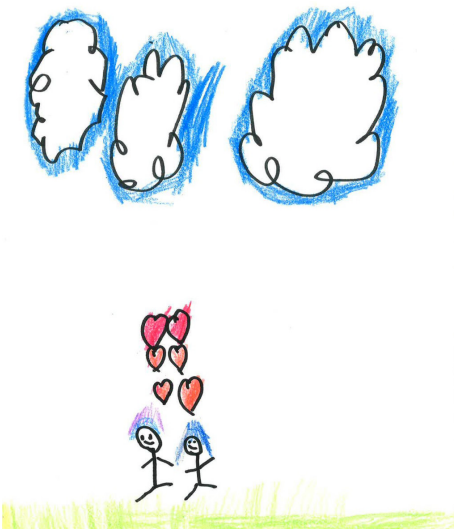
The Core Team used a variety of methods to reach out to the community, spread awareness about the plan, and facilitate a dialogue within the community. The Themes, Goals, and Strategies contained within this plan emerged directly from the ideas and feedback shared

PLANNING TIMELINE

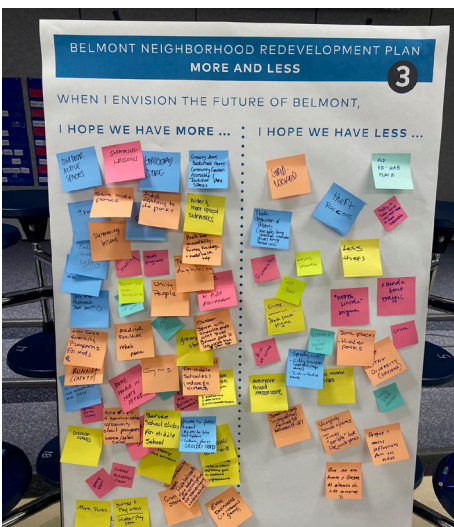




Community Open House 1



"More Kindness" was one request from the students, plus many ideas for skate ribbons and pool slides



Community input on desires for MORE and LESS in the neighborhood

by the stakeholder group and community members. Community Open Houses allowed individuals to provide input through mapping, surveys, drawings, and post-it notes on boards. On two occasions, residents were able to help prioritize Goals, then Strategies at the Open House. School-age children were able to participate through drawing and mapping activities as well. Through more focused meetings, the Stakeholder Group allowed more in-depth conversations with unique and critical perspectives within the neighborhood, representing residents, non-profit organizations, businesses, schools, and other community leadership. The City of Lincoln's website also allowed for online input for those unable to attend in-person meetings.

THEMES + GOALS

Several themes emerged in the first Community House, which were supported throughout the rest of the planning process:

Community Building emphasizes how the neighborhood appreciates the diversity of their neighbors and how most residents have a positive view of Belmont.

Health + Recreation is centered on support for healthy living in the neighborhood through access to healthy food, health care, and safe outdoor environments.

Nature + Environment recognizes how Belmont residents want to spend more time outdoors, formally and informally, with more opportunities to engage nature through outdoor activities, especially when contributing to a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle.

Mobility + Transportation expresses a strong sense that neighborhood streets could be safer for pedestrians and bicyclists within the neighborhood and that they should better connect to other destinations in the City with a multi-modal transit approach.

Housing + Development acknowledges that, though there are not many vacant lots for additional development or housing in the neighborhood, there are opportunities for reinvestment that supports a diversity of housing and businesses that are community-serving.

STRATEGIES

Many implementable Strategies were derived from the community engagement process coupled with other data-gathering. All Strategies support multiple Goals and are organized within the framework of the five Themes, even though many Strategies support Goals in other Themes as well. Each strategy description includes an approximate time frame for implementation, relative costs, and other information, such as potential champions, resource opportunities, and demonstrated public support.

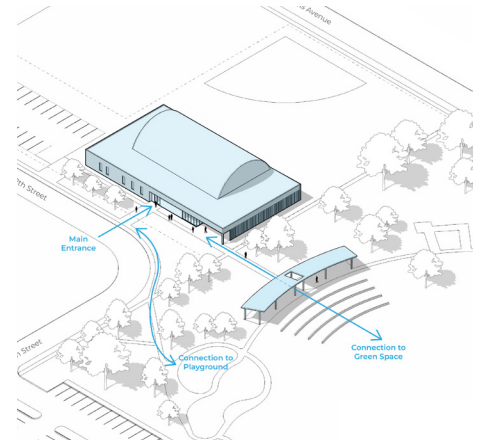
KEY CONCLUSIONS / TAKEAWAYS

Belmont has a strong foundation in its people, schools, and other organizations that care much about the place. The ideas presented in this plan are based in this reality and represent important ways in which the City and other partners can support the five themes that emerged from the beginning:

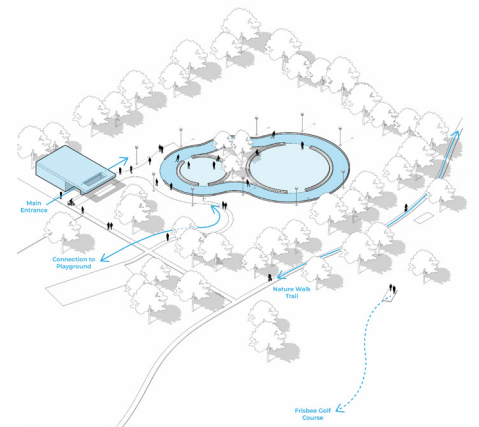
- Community Building
- Health + Recreation
- Nature + Environment
- Mobility + Transportation
- Housing + Development

From all the implementable Strategies that were identified and explored, several catalytic projects were recognized as having the most potential for impact. Though many received similar levels of support, these six were the most supported:

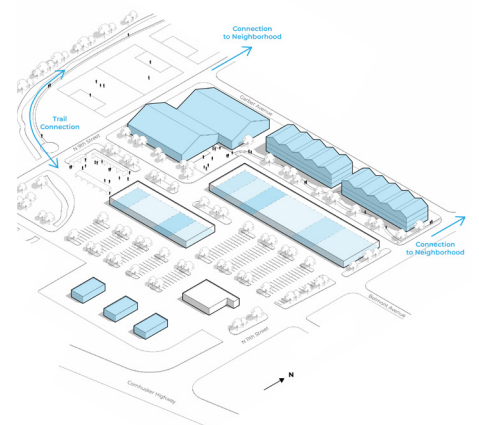
- Expand Belmont Community Center as a central community support center
- Improve outdoor lighting at parks, bus stops, and Belmont Community Center
- Establish a farmers' market in the neighborhood
- Upgrade Belmont Park into a hub of accessible, modern, and multi-use facilities
- Preserve + expand natural areas with walking trails
- Develop safe multi-modal access at bridges + major connection points
- Implement street / sidewalk / crosswalk improvements throughout Belmont
- Improve bus stops in the neighborhood
- Establish minor home repair program
- Promote affordable housing initiatives
- Encourage new community-serving business development in existing retail zones



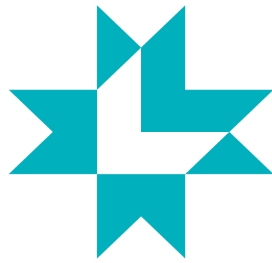
One idea for expanding Belmont Community Center and integrating with Belmont Park improvements (Strategy 01)



One idea for improving one section of Max E Roper Park East (Strategy 11)



Early input on redevelopment of Belmont Plaza (Strategy 24)



1

LISTENING AND LOOKING

The Belmont neighborhood, just north of downtown Lincoln, is a diverse and vibrant community that has been disconnected from other areas of the city by highways and other transportation corridors. Residents appreciate their neighbors, desire to be more connected to each other, and enjoy the benefits of community spaces.

What is the Belmont Neighborhood Subarea Plan?

A neighborhood plan that is born from hopes, concerns, and ideas of the community is always stronger than one that comes from the outside in. This plan relied on the generosity of time and thought provided by the community at-large and key stakeholders. Each contribution has been a vote for a more robust and meaningful future and serves as the beginning of an implementable plan that shapes a better future for the neighborhood.

The Belmont Neighborhood Subarea Plan aims to accomplish four outcomes:

Neighborhood Priorities

Document the neighborhood's priorities for future development and infrastructure improvements

Build on Existing Work

Build on existing plans and coordinate with on-going initiatives

Implementation-Focused Strategies

Create implementation-focused strategies that address specific issues that affect the Belmont neighborhood

Capitalize on Investment

Benefit from public and private investment opportunities available to the neighborhood

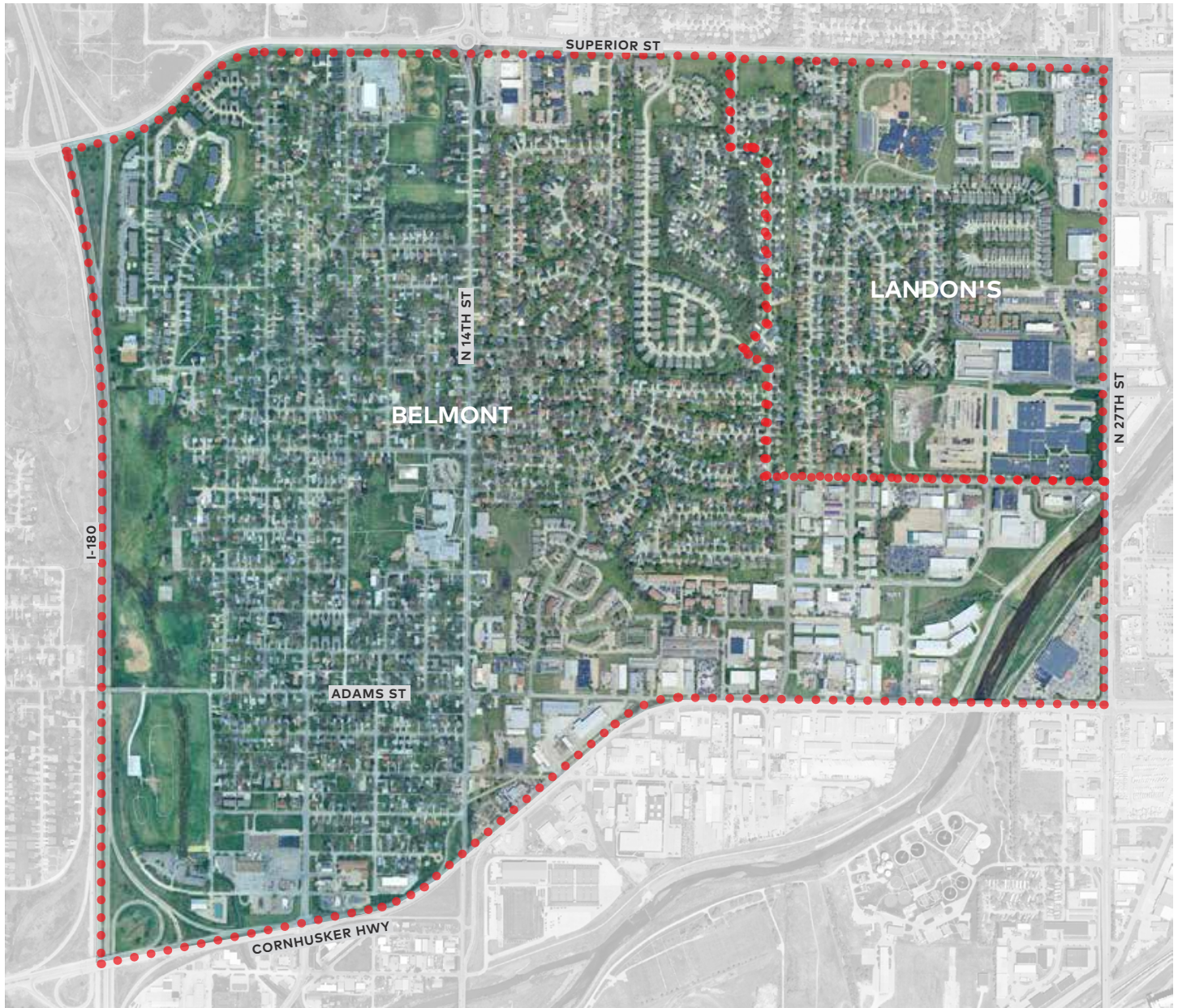
With Belmont's proximity to community assets and destinations such as Downtown Lincoln, the University of Nebraska campus, the Lincoln Airport, and several local parks position it well to thrive now and into the future. Belmont is surrounded by major highway infrastructure such provides great vehicular access but also makes it convenient to bypass the neighborhood without experiencing its true beneficial attributes.

Neighbors are generally experienced as nice, the diversity is valued, there are nice park areas and there is the "Belmont Campus" consisting of the Belmont Elementary School, Belmont Community Center, Belmont Recreation Center, Belmont Park and Pool, plus Educare of Lincoln. Within these buildings on the campus is also Aging Partners, Belmont Community Learning Center, and a Lincoln Police Department Substation.

Connecting Belmont to adjacent destinations, especially via a safe bike and pedestrian trail system, will further increase options for the neighborhood. In the meantime, real concerns could be addressed through implementation of this plan and connecting its strategies with key partners, volunteers, and funding where needed.

This plan is driven by the community. The goals and strategies identified in this plan come directly from input gathered in community open houses, stakeholder meetings, and online surveys. Direct quotes from public input are included throughout the plan, demonstrating the connection between the stakeholder input and the strategies provided.

The Belmont Neighborhood Subarea Plan also connects to existing City and community plans and initiatives, such as Lincoln and Lancaster County's Plan Forward 2050 Comprehensive Plan, Lincoln's Local Food System Plan, the Lincoln Bike Plan, Cornhusker Highway Plan, and others listed at the end of this chapter.



Belmont and Landon's Neighborhoods

The subarea plan area is bounded by I-180 on the west, Cornhusker Highway on the south, 27th Street on the east, and Superior Street on the north. These boundaries also include the Landon's neighborhood; and existing census tracts span across both Belmont and Landon's. So, while neighborhood profile data gathered for this plan includes both neighborhoods, this plan remains focused on Belmont.

Planning Approach

THEMES



GOALS



STRATEGIES

This Belmont Neighborhood Subarea Plan documents near-, mid-, and long-term implementation-focused strategies that advance neighborhood goals. The planning process began with listening to the neighborhood through a variety of outreach methods including Core Team and stakeholder meetings, community open houses, and online surveys. Neighborhood goals emerged from what we heard, and the strategies were informed by the neighborhood's priorities. The Planning Approach was organized by these phases:

DISCOVER

During the Discover phase, the stakeholders and community defined the issues (organized into Themes) facing the Belmont neighborhood, and the Core Team gathered data and reviewed existing plans.

ANALYZE

The Core Team analyzed the data and feedback to determine the greatest opportunities for the future of the Belmont neighborhood based on the Themes that arose during the Discover phase.

PLAN

Working collaboratively with the community through meetings, open houses, and interactive digital opportunities to engage, the Core Team created Plan recommendations.

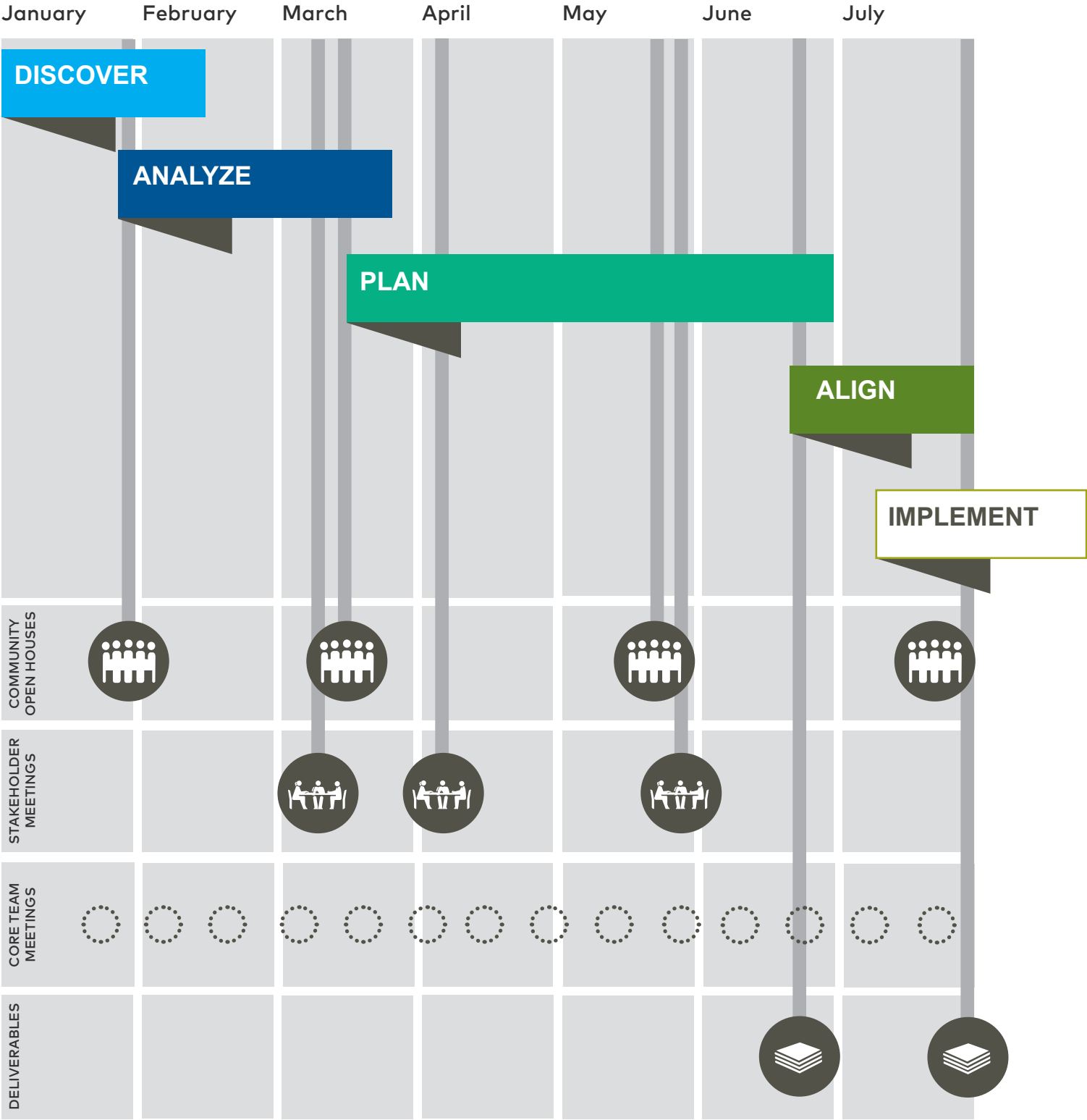
ALIGN

During the Align phase, the Core Team circled back with stakeholders to achieve consensus on the plan. The Core Team documented strategies with associated activities and responsibilities, priorities, time frames, and conceptual costs for implementation.

IMPLEMENT

The Belmont Neighborhood Subarea Plan will be presented to the Lincoln Planning Commission and then the City Council after July 2025.

With an approved plan in hand, the final phase will be implemented by the City, the neighborhood, and all champions and partners associated with the initiatives. Neighborhood leaders and organizations will be able to use this document to guide future implementation projects and strategies. This is where the plan comes to life.



Community Engagement

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

BELMONT
NEIGHBORHOOD
REDEVELOPMENT
PLAN

TONIGHT
4:00 - 7:00 PM
School Cafeteria

welcome
bienvenido
أهلاً وسهلاً



Wayfinding for multi-lingual events.

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN

This plan represents the neighborhood's goals and priorities for the future of the Belmont neighborhood. The Core Team used a variety of methods to reach out to the community, spread awareness about the plan, and facilitate a dialogue within the community. The issue areas, goals, and strategies emerged directly from the ideas and feedback shared by the stakeholder group and community members. The variety and purpose of different engagement opportunities is summarized below. Interpreters and a meal were available at each Open House and Stakeholder meeting. Invitations were issued via neighborhood email and newsletters. An invitation to Community Open House 3 was also mailed to all residential and commercial addresses within the 68521 zip code.

CORE TEAM MEETINGS

Bi-weekly Core Team meetings were held to plan all engagement activities and coordinate with the City's public engagement guidelines. The Core Team coordinated with activities already happening in the community in order to meet people where they already are. This approach increased engagement opportunities and reduced the time commitment of neighborhood participants. Core Team members are listed on the inside cover of this plan.

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE BELMONT REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

JOIN US!

The City of Lincoln is hosting a planning process to imagine a long-term vision for the future of Belmont and to identify short-term catalytic projects ... all based on your input at this Community Open House.

The City needs your thoughts and ideas to help shape that vision. Please join us at this Open House to imagine the future of Belmont together.

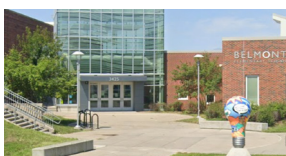
And spread the word ... invite your friends and neighbors from the Belmont area to share their ideas.



Thursday, January 30
4:00 - 7:00 PM

Belmont Elementary
School Cafeteria - Door 1
3425 N. 14th Street

Translation available.
For more information and
to share your ideas, go to:
lincoln.ne.gov/BelmontPlan



Announcement flyer for Community Open House 1.

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSES

Three Community Open Houses were offered to Belmont residents, business owners, and individuals that work within or are otherwise connected to the neighborhood.

Community Open House 1 was held in conjunction with Parent-Teacher Conferences at Belmont Elementary School. This gathering was focused on listening to attendee feedback on the current state and possible future state of the neighborhood. Engagement activities included written surveys, post-it notes on boards asking opinions about what is good and what could be better in the neighborhood, and mapping by both children and adults identifying favorite places and areas of concern. The feedback received at this event drove the development of five common themes and tentative neighborhood goals.

Community Open House 2 was held at the end of Lincoln Public School's Spring Break in conjunction with "City Build", a program hosted by Belmont Community Center at Belmont Elementary, where students were given recycled materials from which to build a model city over a five-day span with input from community experts in housing, public services, local government, and more. The Open House portion, a presentation that shared input from Community Open House 1 along with demographic data gathered by the Core Team. The five Themes that arose out of the first Open House were shared, along with specific Goals that emerged from evaluating this input. The attendees were asked to prioritize the proposed Goals by placing marbles in bags for their top ten goals and specifically their top two.

Community Open House 3 was held simultaneously with the Belmont Community Block Party. This Open House included information boards about the neighborhood profile and demographic research, mapping activities for adults and children on desired amenities within the neighborhood, and another opportunity to prioritize specific Strategies that were developed from additional stakeholder and online feedback based on the Goals.

A final open house in conjunction with the kickoff of the Belmont Community Summer of Fun provided an opportunity for the residents to view and respond to the plan, prior to the formal approval process with the City, and stay connected to their community throughout the summer months.

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

In addition to the larger Community Open Houses, a select number of community representatives were identified to meet separately for more in-depth conversations and brainstorming about the strategies, potential partners, implementable projects, and more. The Stakeholder group represented residents, businesses, City departments, not-for-profit organizations, and school leaders. The complete representation of this group is included on the inside cover of this plan.

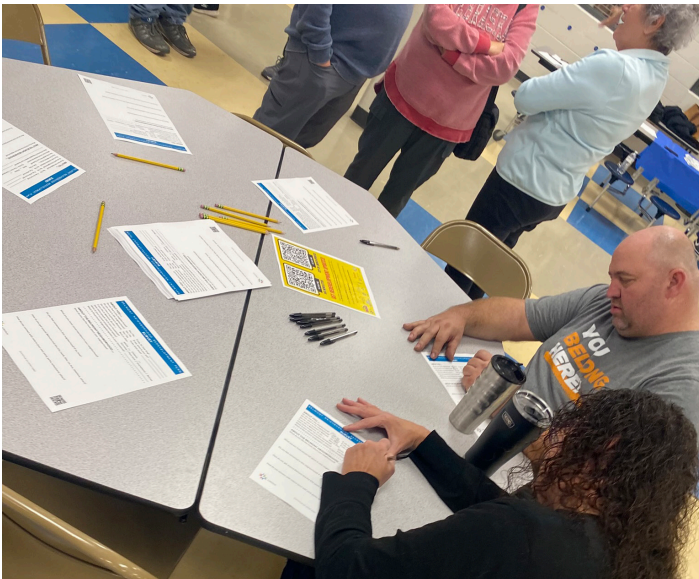
The stakeholder group also participated in a neighborhood tour and reviewed a Draft of this document.



Digital announcement for Community Open House 2.



Announcement and mailer for Community Open House 3.



Community Open House 1 - Survey



Community Open House 1 - Community Mapping



Community Open House 1 - Kids Drawing Their Ideas



Community Open House 1 - Multiple Stations



Community Open House 1 - Kids Mapping



Community Open House 1 - Post-It Question Boards



Community Open House 3 - Welcome Station



Community Open House 3 - Neighborhood Info Boards



Community Open House 3 - Prioritizing Strategies



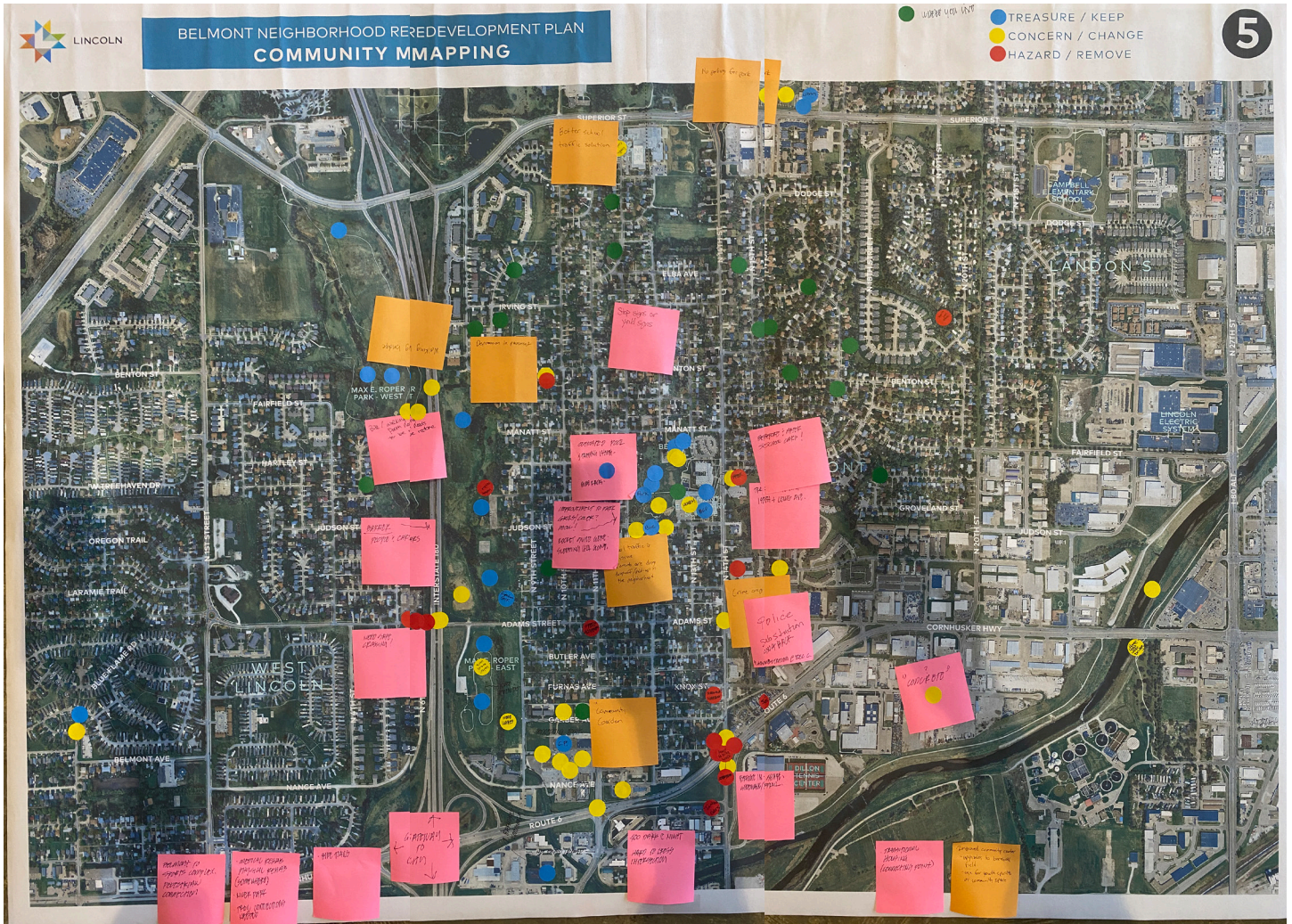
Community Open House 3 - Design a Park



Community Open House 3 - Ideas for Belmont Plaza



Community Open House 3 - Placing Community Amenities



Community Mapping at Community Open House 1.

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

For those that were unable to attend the Community Open Houses or who wanted to provide additional input to the plan, Core Team presentations were posted to a Belmont webpage that was hosted on the City of Lincoln's website (lincoln.ne.gov/BelmontPlan). A QR code was offered at every public meeting to direct individuals to the webpage, which also offered an online survey similar to the one completed at Community Open House 1 and an opportunity to prioritize and create Strategies for neighborhood goals after Community Open House 2. Additional communication and surveying were coordinated by the Belmont Community Center through newsletters and a strong social media presence.





Community Amenity Placement at Community Open House 3. Legend connects pieces to preferred location of community-identified amenities.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ● BASKETBALL | ● PUBLIC RESTROOMS |
| ● SOCCER | ● FOOD TRUCKS |
| ● SKATE RIBBON | ● RECYCLE CENTER |
| ● BASEBALL | ● OUTDOOR COMMUNITY CENTRAL GATHERING |
| ● VOLLEYBALL | ● FARMERS MARKET |
| ● PICKLEBALL | ● RESTAURANTS |
| ● WALKING TRAILS | ● COFFEE SHOP |
| ● SMALL PLAYGROUNDS | ● GROCERY STORE |

Neighborhood Profile

INTRODUCTION

In addition to listening to neighborhood residents, the Core Team looked at information available online via the City's GIS, the American Community Survey, the U.S. Census databases, and a host of other sources of data available to the public. Gaining a deeper understanding of Belmont through both "listening" to the community and "looking" at both online sources and the place in person contributes to a more informed plan-building process that then leads to specific implementable strategies that support the residents.

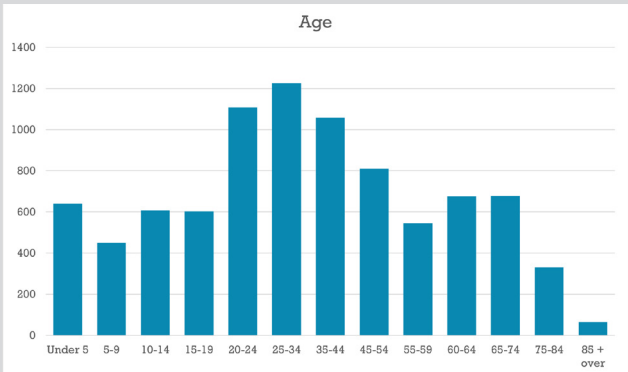
DEMOGRAPHICS

The diversity of the neighborhood was identified early on as an attribute of Belmont enjoyed by the community, and there is interest in acknowledging and celebrating the diversity. The neighborhood is predominantly English-speaking as a first language with approximately 17% of the population having limited English ability. Of that group, the top languages spoken are:

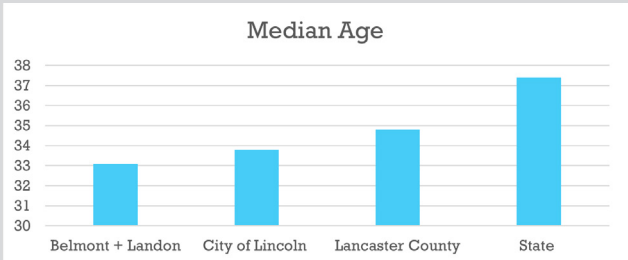
Spanish	7.1%
Vietnamese	6.2%
Arabic	2.3%

The median age of Belmont is slightly lower than that of the City of Lincoln at large and several years younger than the state median age.

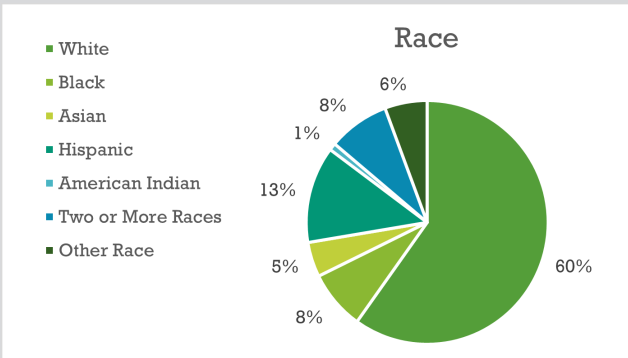
DEMOGRAPHICS



Age

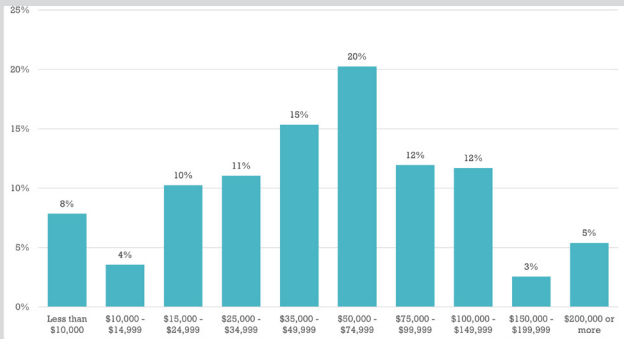


Median Age Comparison

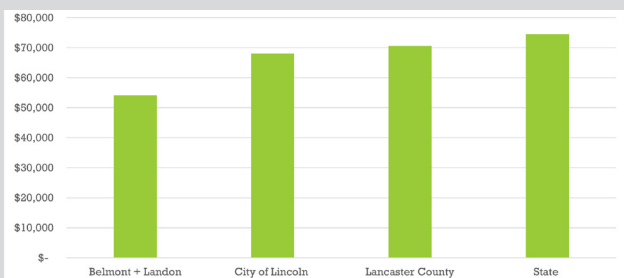


Race / Ethnicity

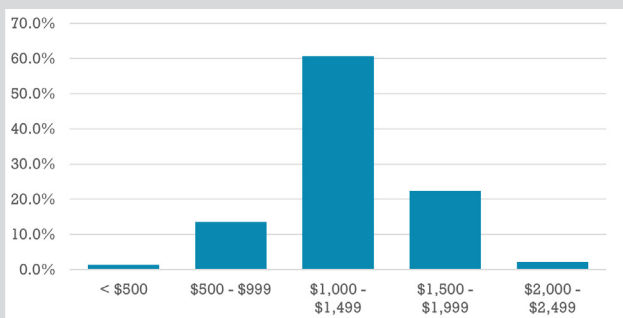
NEIGHBORHOOD ECONOMY



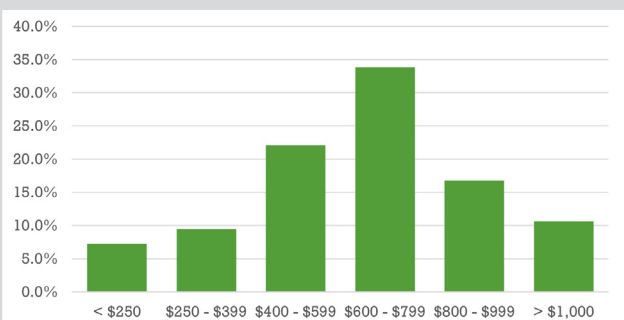
Household Incomes (Belmont)



Median Household Incomes (Compared)



Monthly Housing Costs (Homeowners)



Monthly Housing Costs (Renters)

NEIGHBORHOOD ECONOMY

Household incomes in the neighborhood ranges from below \$10,000 annually to more than \$200,000. Compared to city-wide, county-wide, and state-wide incomes, Belmont's median household income is at least \$10,000 below the others as shown in the chart.

12.2% of Lincoln households overall are below the Federal Poverty Level, with an additional 18.5% in near poverty. Belmont is not a neighborhood identified as being in extreme poverty, though there is a good number of households that are considered "housing cost burdened" meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on housing.

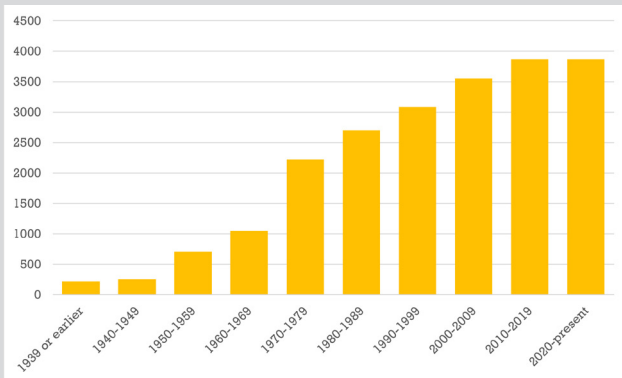
HOUSING TRENDS

With regard to the cost of housing in Belmont, homeowners predominantly spend between \$1,000 and \$1,500 per month for mortgage and other related homeowner costs. Most renters in Belmont spend between \$400 and \$1,000 per month.

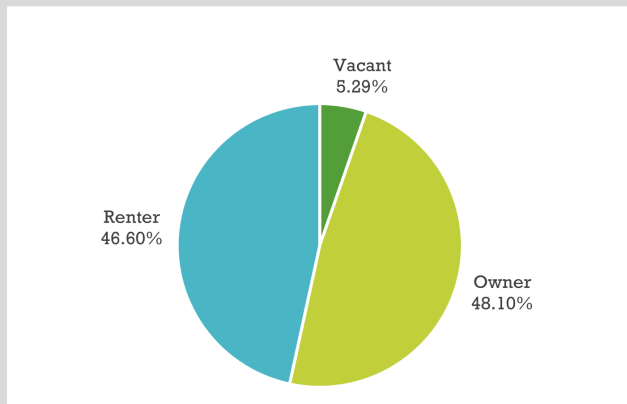
The Housing Trends chart illustrates the rate of housing units built in the neighborhood since the early 1900s to present. Little if any new housing units were built after 2020, which may be due to the pandemic or due to lack of available vacant land to build upon.

Overall, there is a 5.29% vacancy rate in the neighborhood when looking at both rental and homeowner-occupied units. Of Belmont's total population (5133), 18.18% are reported to be enrolled in college or graduate school, which is likely attributable to the neighborhood's proximity to the University of Nebraska - Lincoln City Campus.

HOUSING TRENDS

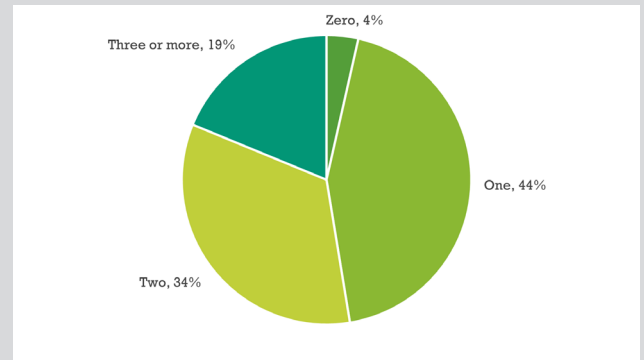


Total Housing Units (pre-1940 to present)

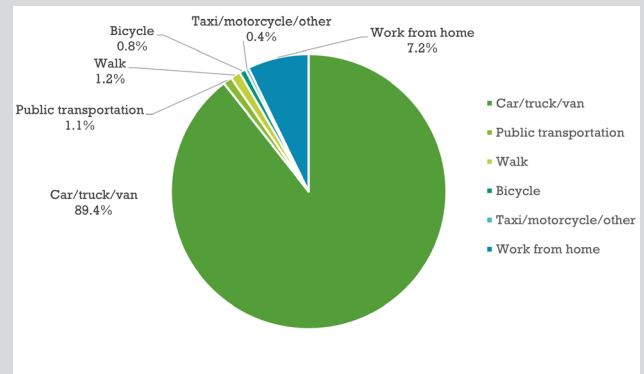


Housing Occupancy

TRANSPORTATION



Vehicles Available Per Household



Means of Transportation to Work

TRANSPORTATION

In terms of transportation, 96% of households in the neighborhood have access to at least one vehicle. While 7% of the neighborhood works from home, 89% use a car, truck, or van to commute to work. A little over 3% walk, bike, or take public transportation. Of the 89% that use a vehicle to commute, 79% are in single-occupancy vehicles and 11% are carpooling.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

The "word clouds" on the facing page were created from responses at Community Open House 1. The larger the word, the more often it was used. As noted in the captions, participants were asked to describe Belmont as they see it NOW and in a BETTER FUTURE. They were also asked to complete the statements:

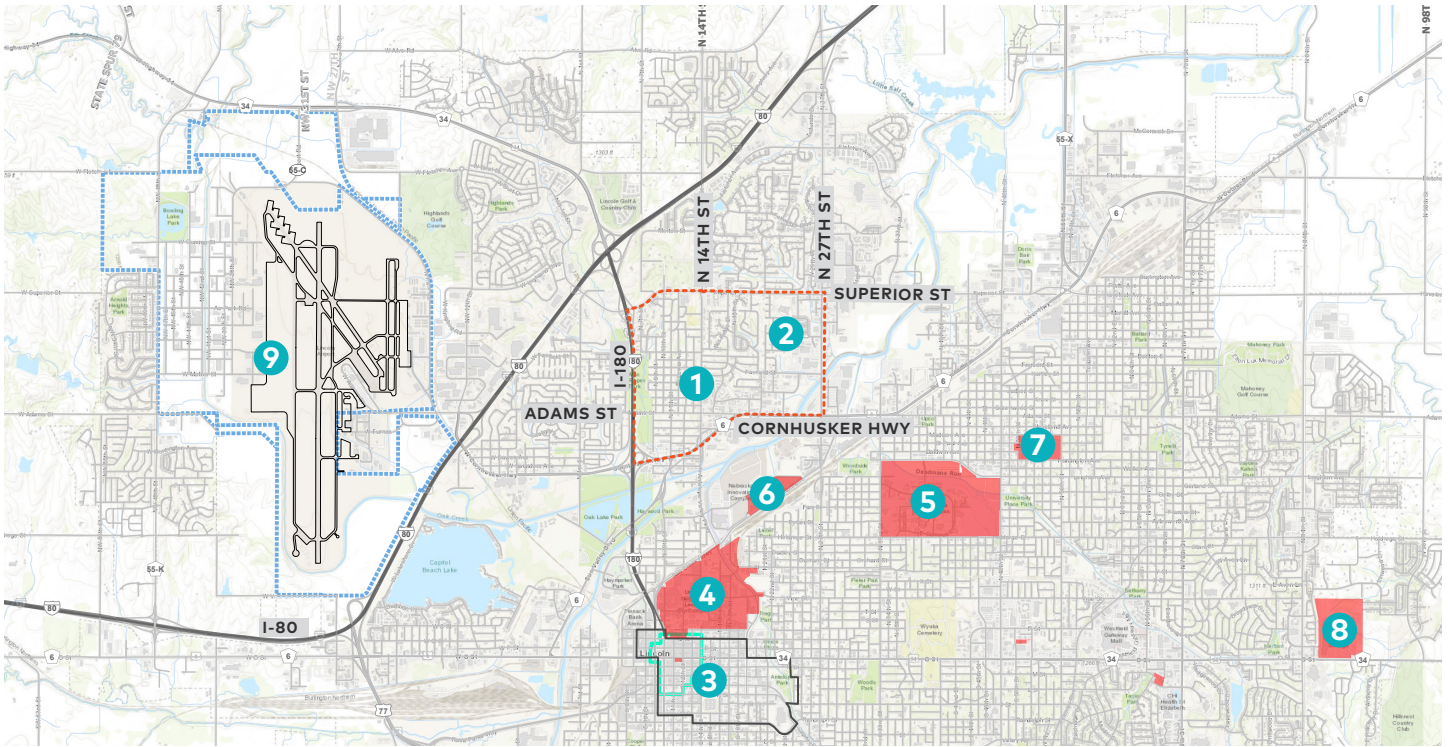
- "When I envision the future of Belmont, I hope we have MORE ..."
- "When I envision the future of Belmont, I hope we have LESS ..."



Wordle.net was used to create these word clouds.

Neighborhood Mapping

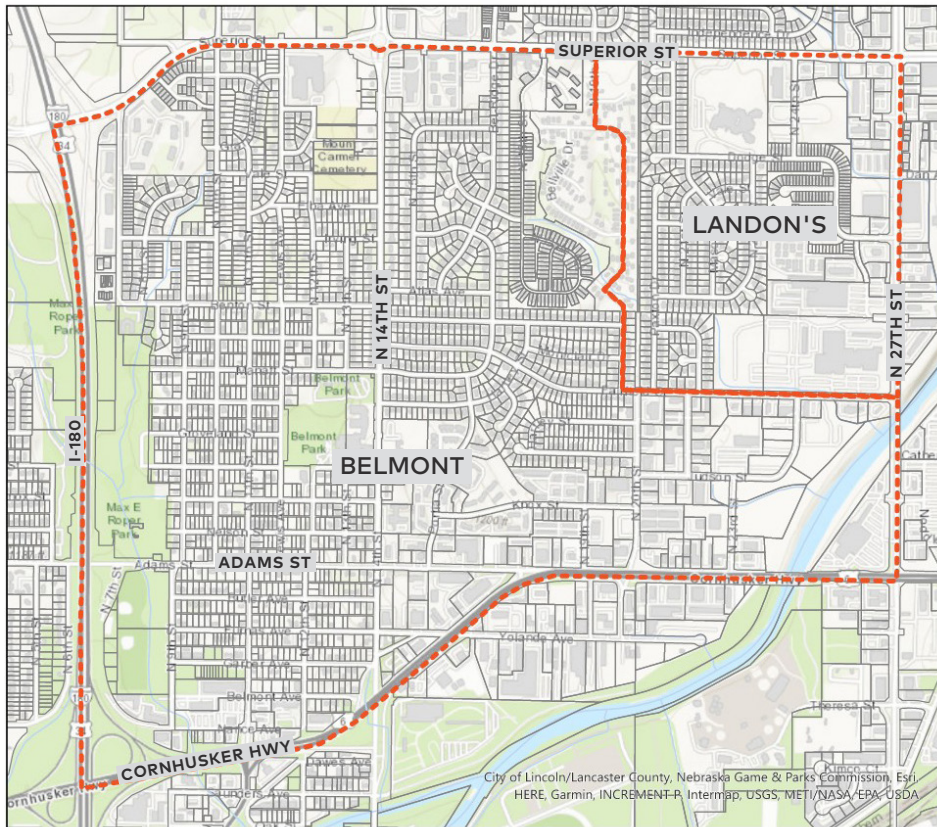
CONTEXT MAP



- 1 Belmont Neighborhood
- 2 Landon's Neighborhood
- 3 Downtown Lincoln
- 4 UNL - City Campus
- 5 UNL - East Campus
- 6 UNL - Innovation Campus
- 7 Wesleyan University
- 8 Southeast Community College
- 9 Lincoln Airport
- Lincoln Parks

This map locates Belmont neighborhood within the broader Lincoln context, illustrating the proximity to a number of significant areas including Downtown Lincoln, university campuses, and the airport.

NEIGHBORHOOD BASE MAP



Two neighborhoods make up the census data shared in the previous section: Belmont and Landon's. Because of how the census tracts are drawn, there was no good way to separate the data and so all neighborhood data included in this plan refers to both Belmont and Landon's.

This two-neighborhood area is clearly surrounded by major vehicular corridors:

- I-180 to the west;
- Superior Street to the north;
- 27th Street to the east; and
- Cornhusker Highway to the south.

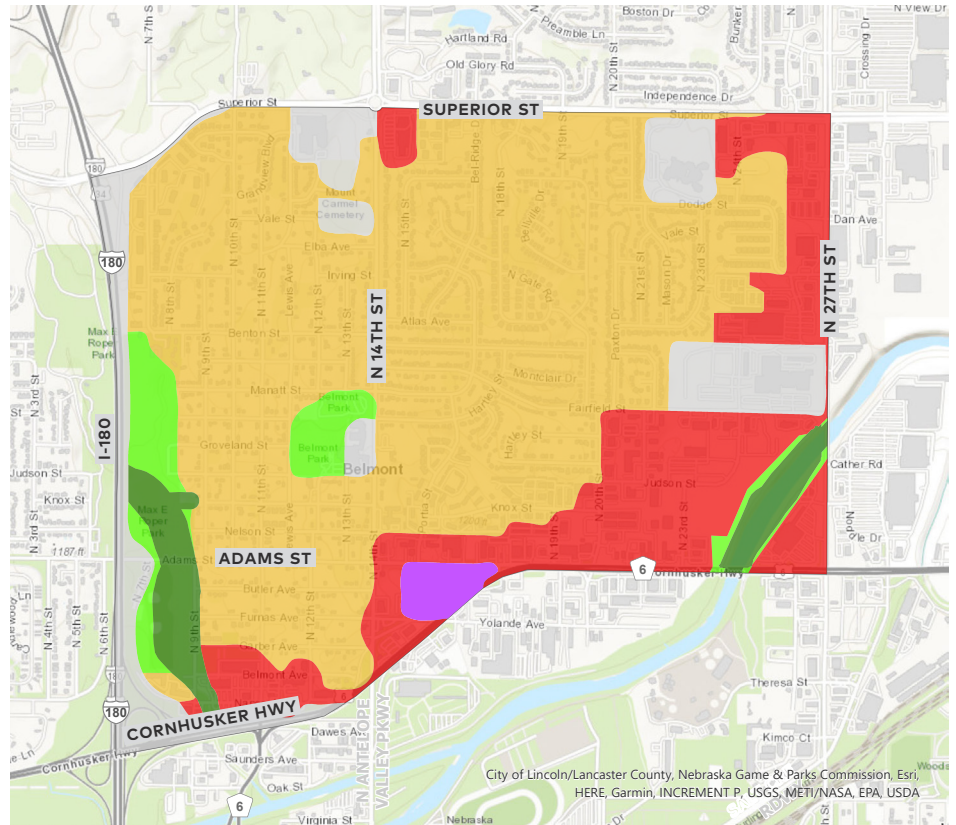
FUTURE LAND USE

The Future Land Use for the Belmont and Landon's neighborhoods is shown here. Future Land Use maps are part of the growth scenario in the Comprehensive Plan and are used as a guide when making planning decisions.

As seen in this Future Land Use map, most of the Belmont area is designated as urban residential use. In the case of an existing neighborhood, such as Belmont, the existing land uses are assumed to continue. However, all types of housing may be found in Urban Residential, from detached single family, duplex and "missing middle", to higher density multi-family.

The Future Land Use map also shows locations of public parks, commercial areas, industrial areas, and public/semi-public areas such as schools and churches.

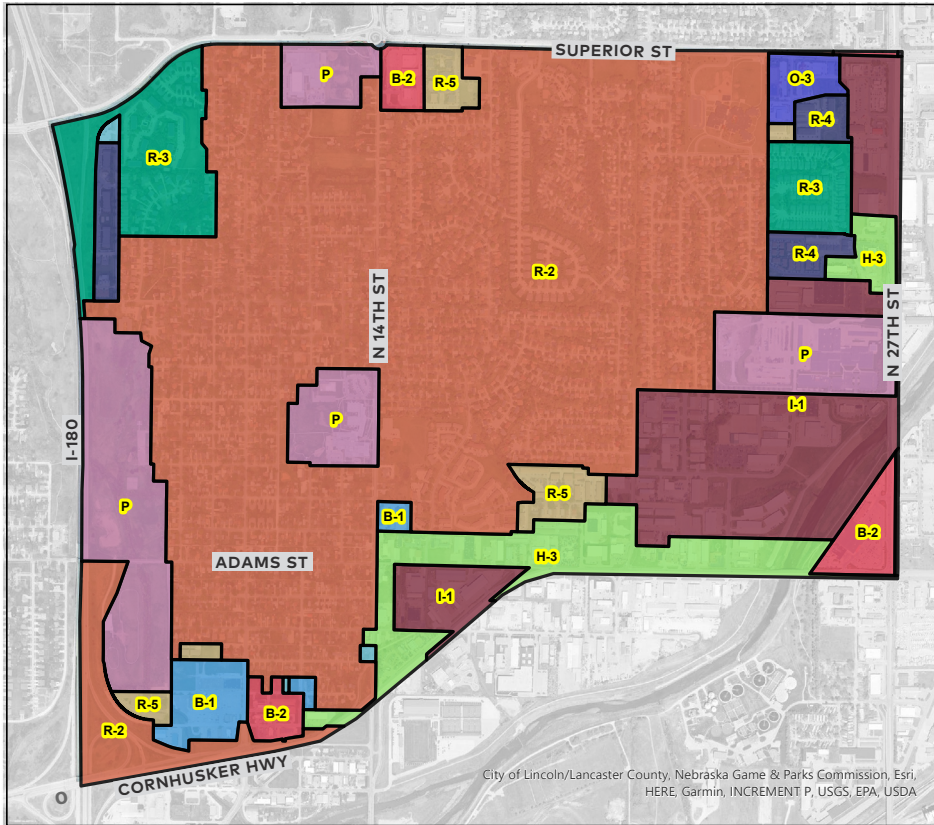
This Subarea Plan does not propose to modify the overall land use plan within the neighborhood.



LAND USE 2050

- Public + Semi-Public
- Environmental Resources
- Green Space
- Residential - Urban Density
- Commercial
- Industrial

ZONING



Whereas a Future Land Use map is used as a guide in decision-making, Zoning is a regulatory tool that is used to regulate specific uses, densities, building heights, and lot requirements. The Belmont and Landon's neighborhoods are comprised largely of R-2 residential with some H-3 commercial and I-1 industrial in the south and east edges.

This Subarea Plan does not suggest a change in zoning within Belmont. This does not preclude individual property owners to make such requests in the future, however.

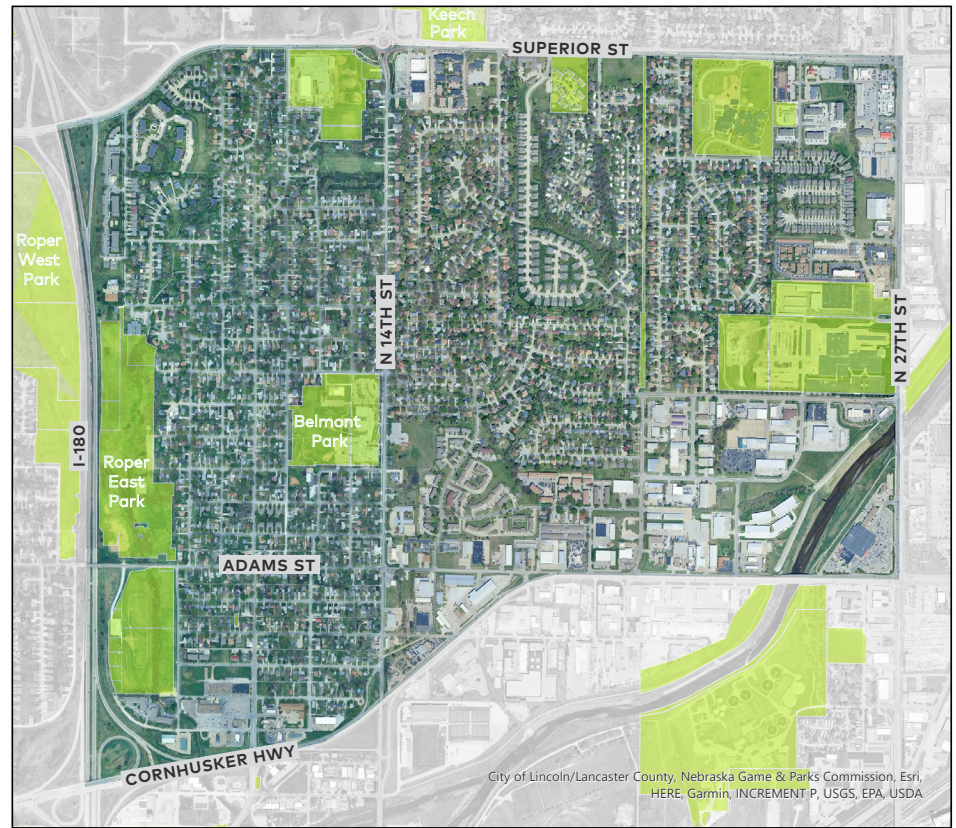
ZONING

B-1	Local Business
B-2	Business Neighborhood
B-5	Planned Regional Business
H-3	Highway Commercial
I-1	Industrial
O-2	Suburban Office
O-3	Office Park
P	Public Use
R-2	Residential
R-3	Residential
R-4	Residential
R-5	Residential

PUBLIC-OWNED PROPERTY

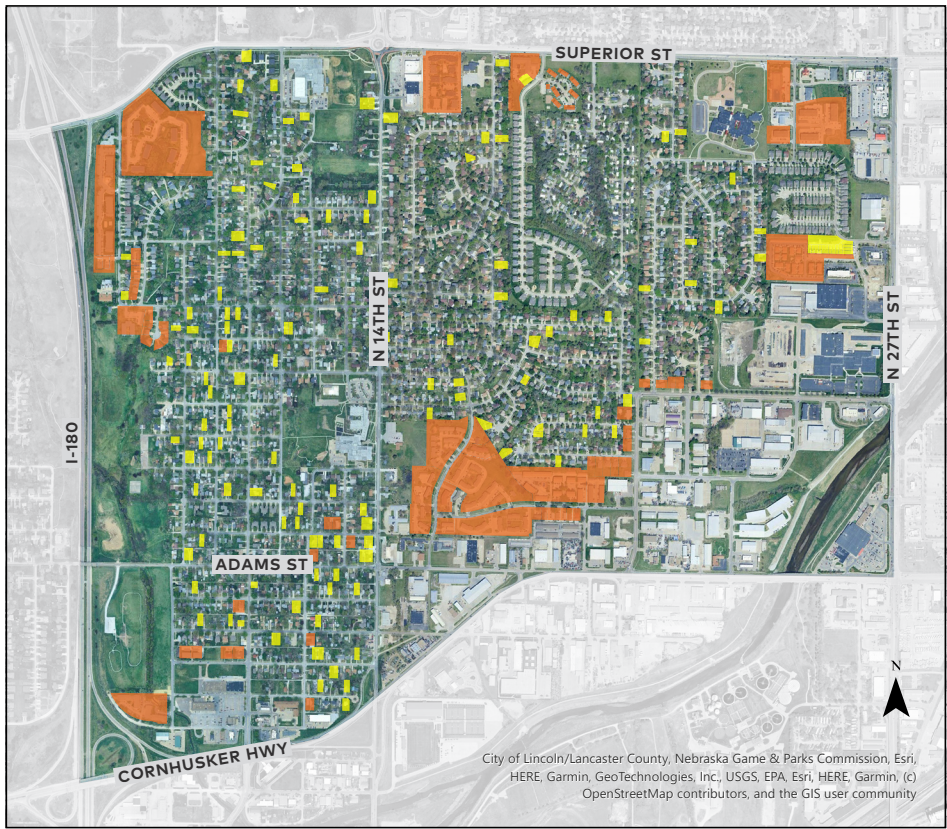
Publicly-owned property in Belmont and surrounding areas are identified on this map. This public land is currently under the following jurisdictions:

- City of Lincoln Parks + Recreation at Max E Roper Park and Belmont Park
- Lincoln Public Schools at Belmont Elementary School, Goodrich Middle School, Campbell Elementary School, and Educare of Lincoln
- Housing Authority of the City of Lincoln at the Paul VI Heights Addition along Superior
- Lincoln Electric System within the Landon's neighborhood



■ Public-Owned Property

RENTER-OCCUPIED RESIDENTIAL



RENTED HOUSING TYPES

- Single Family Homes Rented
- Multi-Family Housing

This map illustrates the distribution of renter-occupied housing units in Belmont.

The bright yellow areas indicate single-family homes that are rented out; the larger orange areas are associated with multi-family apartment buildings.

There are not many rental units that fit into the "missing middle" category, which refers to structures with a fewer number of units within one structure (such as the two-flats in Chicago, rowhouses in Washington, DC, or triple-deckers in Boston).

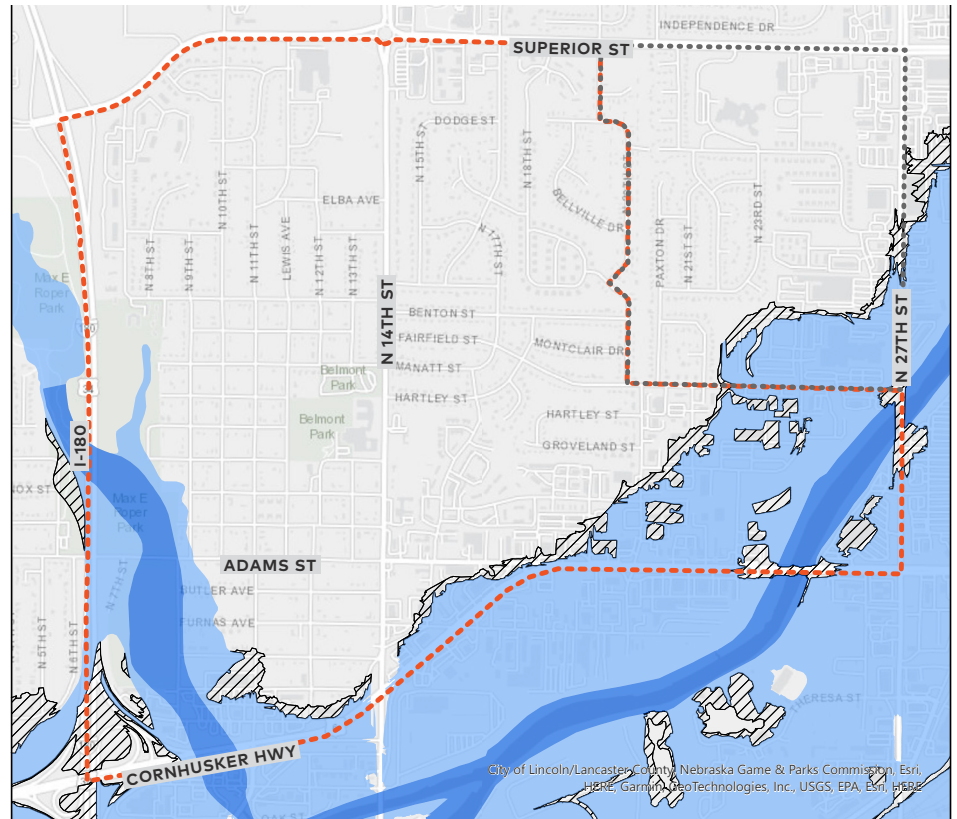
Some consideration might be made to provide this different density of housing within the neighborhood as it would provide much needed options.

FEMA FLOOD PLAIN

Though there were no explicit stories shared in the community meetings about flooding events within Belmont, there are certainly areas of the neighborhood that are in the floodway (dark blue on the map), the 100-year flood plain (light blue), and 500-year flood plain (striped hatch).

Buildings that sit within any of these zones are highlighted on the map. Any future development in the neighborhood should be mindful of these zones, especially because such events are happening with increased frequency.

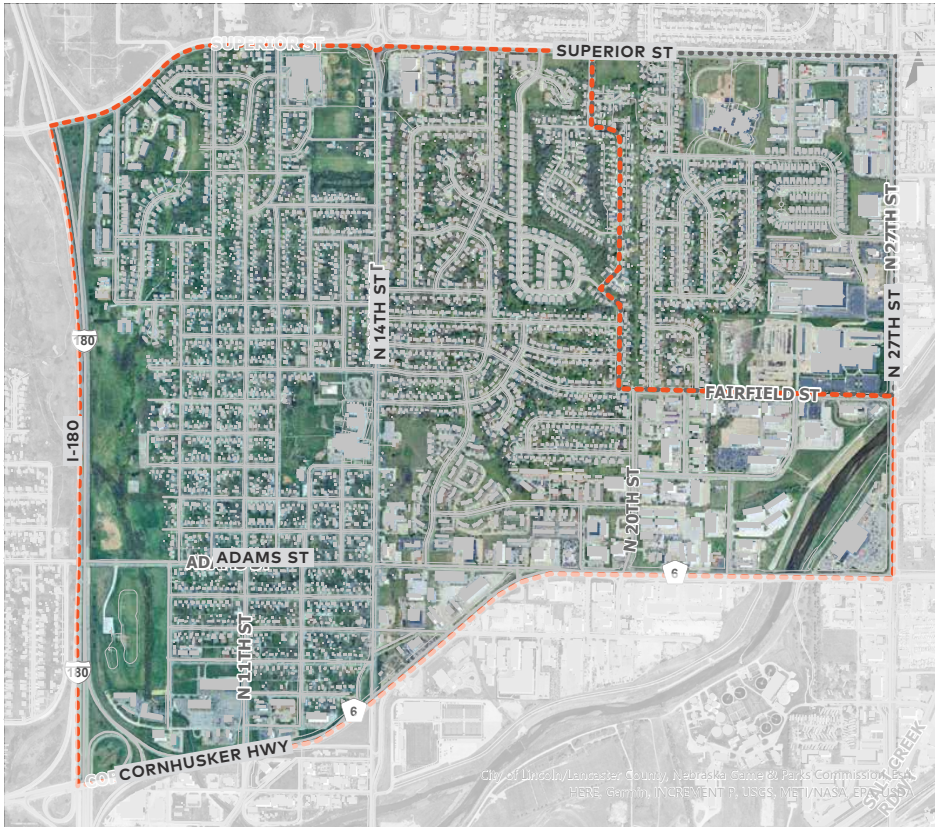
More suitable development in a flood plain (if needed at all) are recreation areas that could withstand flooding better than a house or other structure with people and other valuables inside. Industrial uses are often located in flood plains (as is true in Belmont) but they are no less at risk than homes with regard to potential loss of goods and materials.



FEMA FLOODPLAIN

- Floodway
- FEMA Floodplain - 500-year
- FEMA Floodplain - 100-year
- Buildings in 500-year Floodplain
- Buildings in 100-year Floodplain

PERMEABLE / IMPERVIOUS SURFACES



IMPERVIOUS SURFACES

- Roads
- City Sidewalks
- Building Footprints

Examples of large parking lots in the neighborhood with impervious surfaces.



Contributing to localized or regional flooding in urban areas is the combined area of hard surfaces introduced by streets, parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, and buildings, shown in gray on this map. Parking lots are not highlighted but a few examples are pictured below.

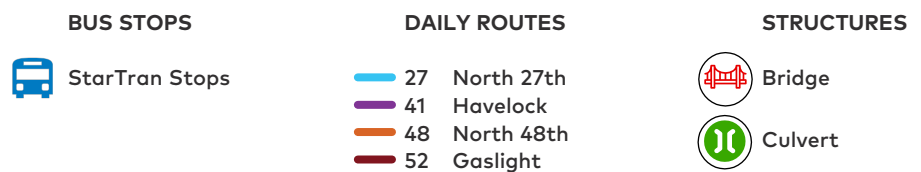
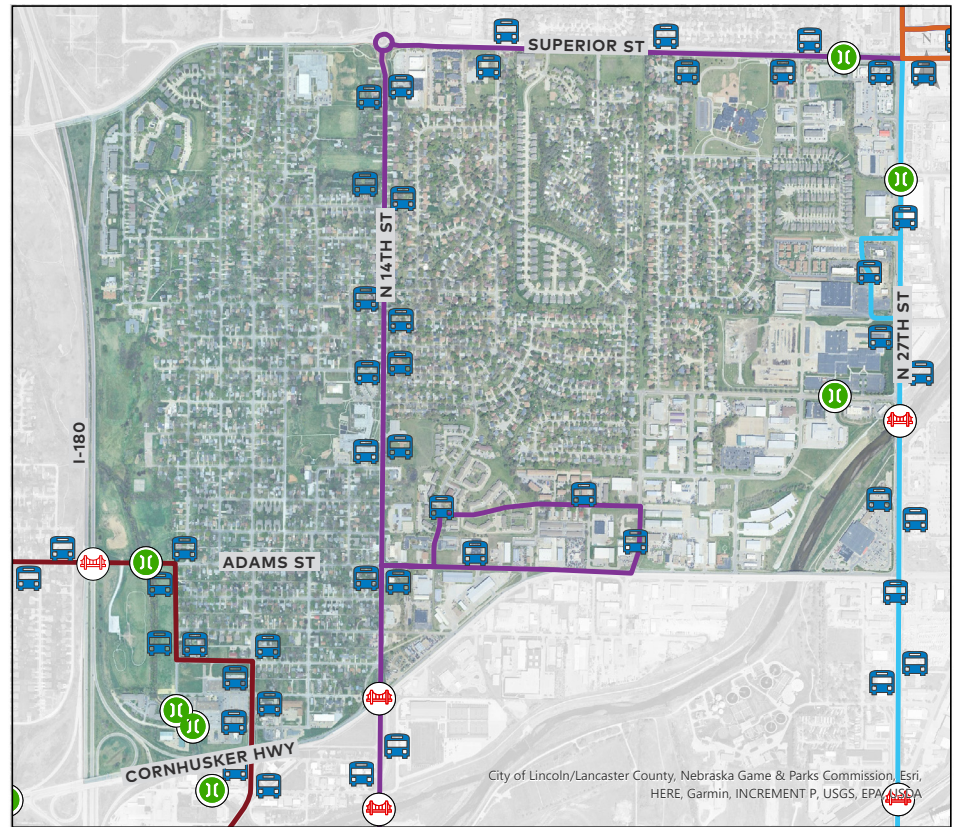
These impervious surface areas decrease the amount of water able to infiltrate to groundwater and aquifer because it is carried away to storm drains that are accommodating more and more volumes of water with increasing storm severity.

Flash flooding frequently occurs in areas of significant impervious surfaces and undersized conveyance systems (gutters, catch basins, storm pipes). Each act of installing stormwater management strategies, such as raingardens near a home, bioswales along a street, sidewalk, or parking lot, or green roofs on a home or business helps mitigate the volume of water running to storm drains by slowing it down and letting it dissipate in place.

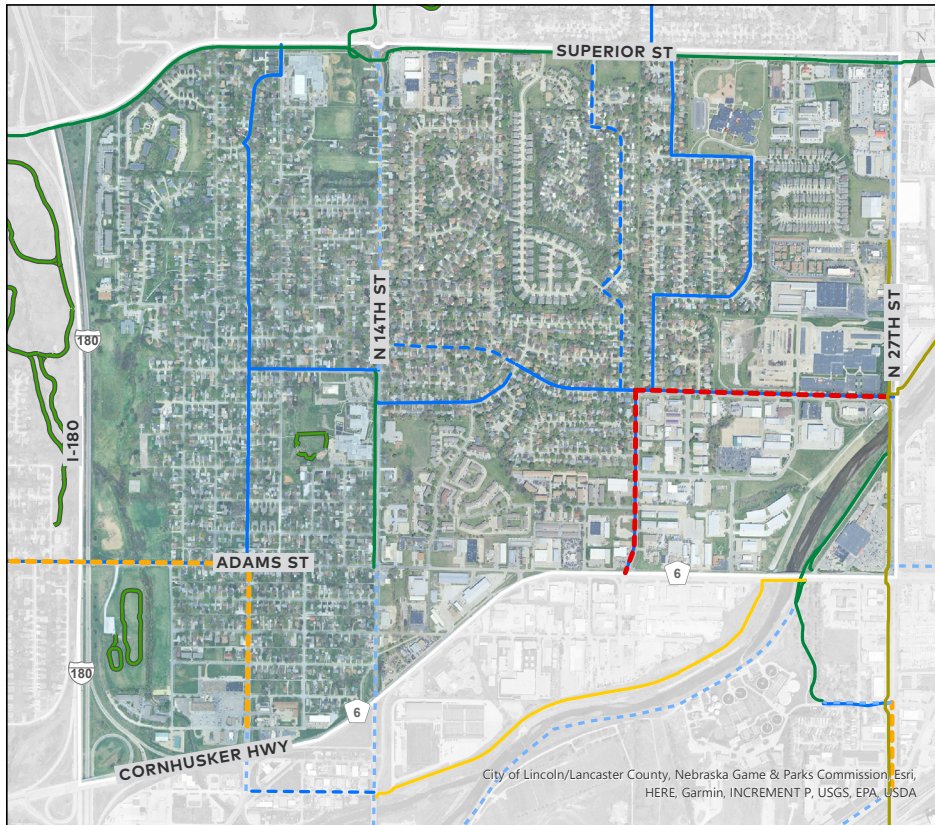
PUBLIC TRANSIT

Four StarTran bus routes run through or are adjacent to the Belmont neighborhood. Effectively, only the 41 Havelock line runs through the middle of the neighborhood on N 14th Street, whereas the three other routes are accessible on or near the edges of the neighborhood.

Frequency of the buses is noted by the stakeholders to be limited with bus stops that have little or no amenities such as a bench, shelter, or lighting.



BIKE + TRAIL NETWORK



COMMUTER TRAILS

- Dietrich; Murdock
- Salt Creek Levee
- Other

PROPOSED/FUTURE TRAILS

- - - Future

EXISTING ON-STREET BIKE NETWORK

- Shared Lane
- Existing Pedestrian / Bicycle Facilities

PROPOSED ON-STREET BIKE NETWORK

- - - Bike Lane
- - - Buffered Bike Lane
- - - Shared Lane

The Lincoln Bike Plan and Complete Streets programs have a more comprehensive indication of future plans for connecting bike and walking trails throughout Lincoln and into the Belmont neighborhood. Most of the trails/paths indicated here are proposed (dashed) and are waiting on funding. Connecting the neighborhood to the larger Lincoln trail network is one of the desires of this neighborhood and is a key strategy within this plan.

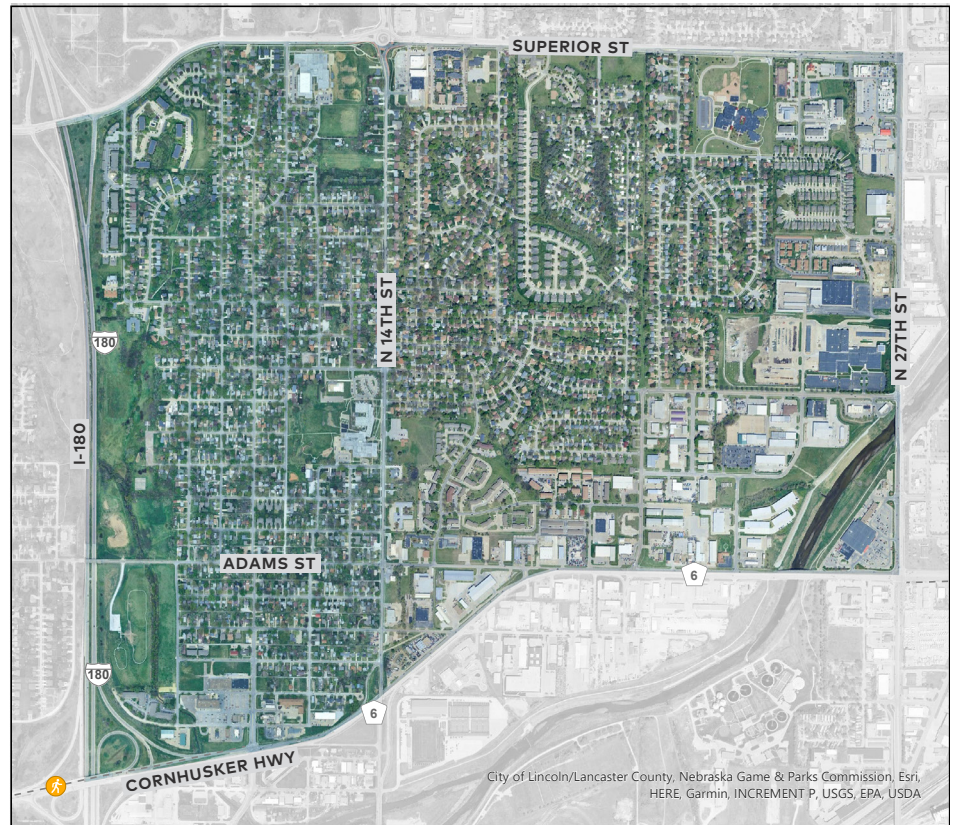
Trails and facilities within or adjacent to the neighborhood include:

- Superior Street sidepath
- 14th Street sidepath segment near Belmont Elementary
- 14th Street sidepath at Superior and north
- Salt Creek Levee Trail
- Various other sidepaths at:
 - Adams Street
 - N 11th Street
 - Manatt Street
 - Hartley Street
 - Fairfield Street
 - N 20th Street

COMPLETE STREETS PLAN

While the City of Lincoln does have a Complete Streets Committee looking to implement a more robust multi-modal system throughout the city, very little is imminently planned within Belmont's boundaries. This map shows only that there is a plan to provide a sidewalk along Cornhusker where it crosses I-180 (which is currently on hold awaiting funding).

While complete streets throughout Belmont would be mostly welcome, one strategy of this plan is to at least provide sidewalks where there are none, crosswalks at key locations, and paved roads where there is now gravel.



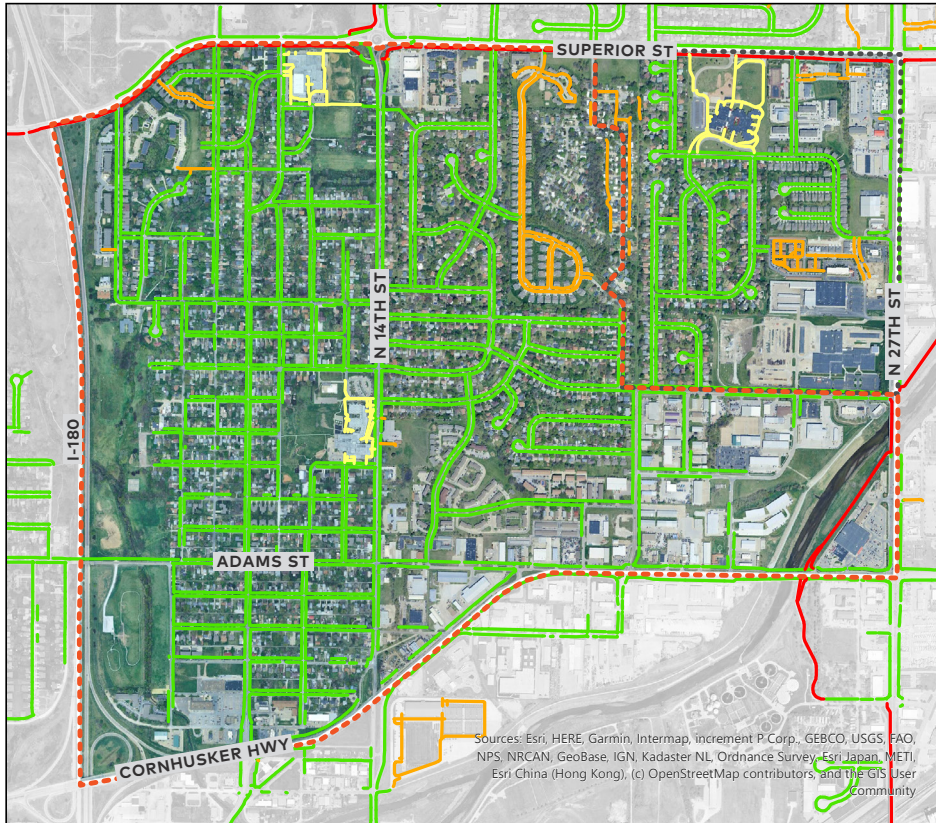
PROPOSED PROJECT

 Sidewalk

STATUS

----- Unfunded

SIDEWALK GAPS



The solid colored lines on this plan show sidewalks in place. Gaps in sidewalk continuity are found where there are no lines on either or both sides of a street.

Lack of sidewalks, coupled with a lack of crosswalks at key locations, makes it more difficult for safe passage from one part of the neighborhood to another by pedestrians and bikers, most notably between a home and school or park.

These gaps impact all pedestrians, but perhaps more so those in wheelchairs or pushing strollers.

OWNERSHIP / RESPONSIBILITY

- Lincoln Transportation + Utilities (LTU)
- Parks
- Private
- School

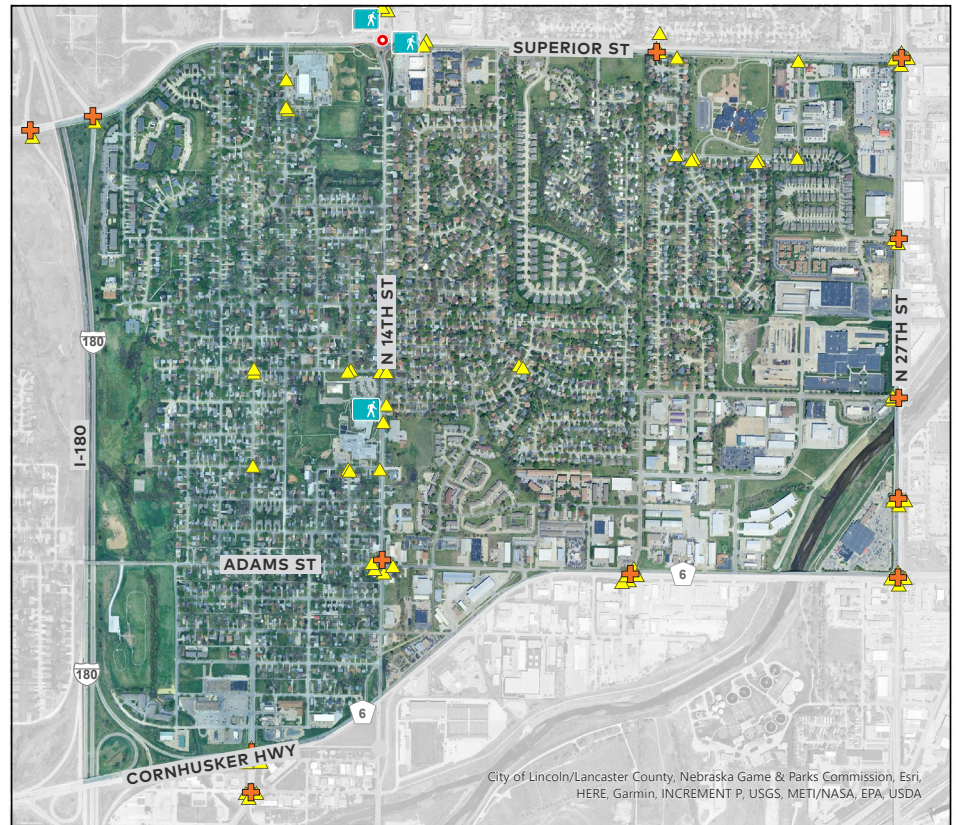
CROSSING + SIGNAL INTERSECTIONS

This map highlights areas in the neighborhood where marked crossings and signaled intersections occur. The practice of Lincoln Transportation + Utilities (LTU) is to install stop signs in accordance with crash, volume, and other criteria outlined by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).





A review of stop signs and crosswalks at key points would be a beneficial addition to sidewalk installations and other improvements, which would require a more detailed study beyond this plan.

A signaled zone in front of Belmont Elementary School on N 14th Street was completed in 2022. During dropoff and pickup times at the school, it does appear that pedestrians cross 14th Street directly from the main school entrance sidewalk to the Belmont Baptist Church parking lot across the street, bypassing the signaled crossing north of this direct path. This safety concern of chaotic traffic conditions in this area was noted by the residents.

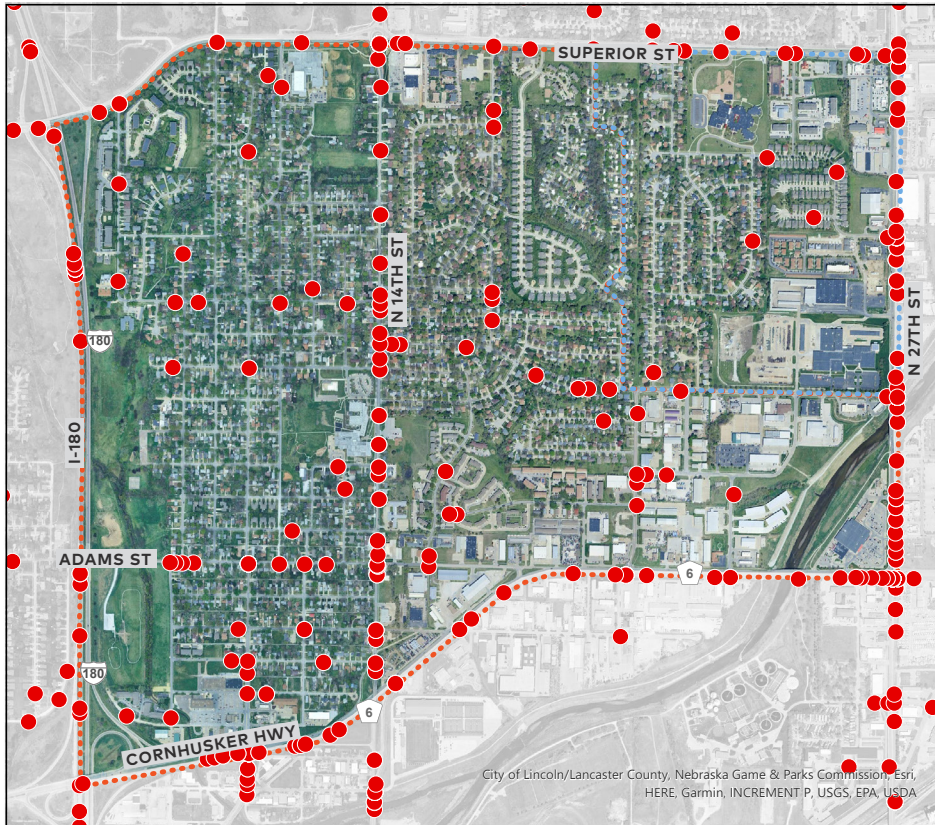
That said, LTU has implemented Lincoln's Safe Routes to School program for the Belmont Elementary campus. Implementation of plans for Campbell and Goodrich Schools are forthcoming.



INTERSECTIONS

-  Signalized Intersection
-  Pedestrian Intersection
-  Roundabout
-  Crosswalks

TRAFFIC CRASHES



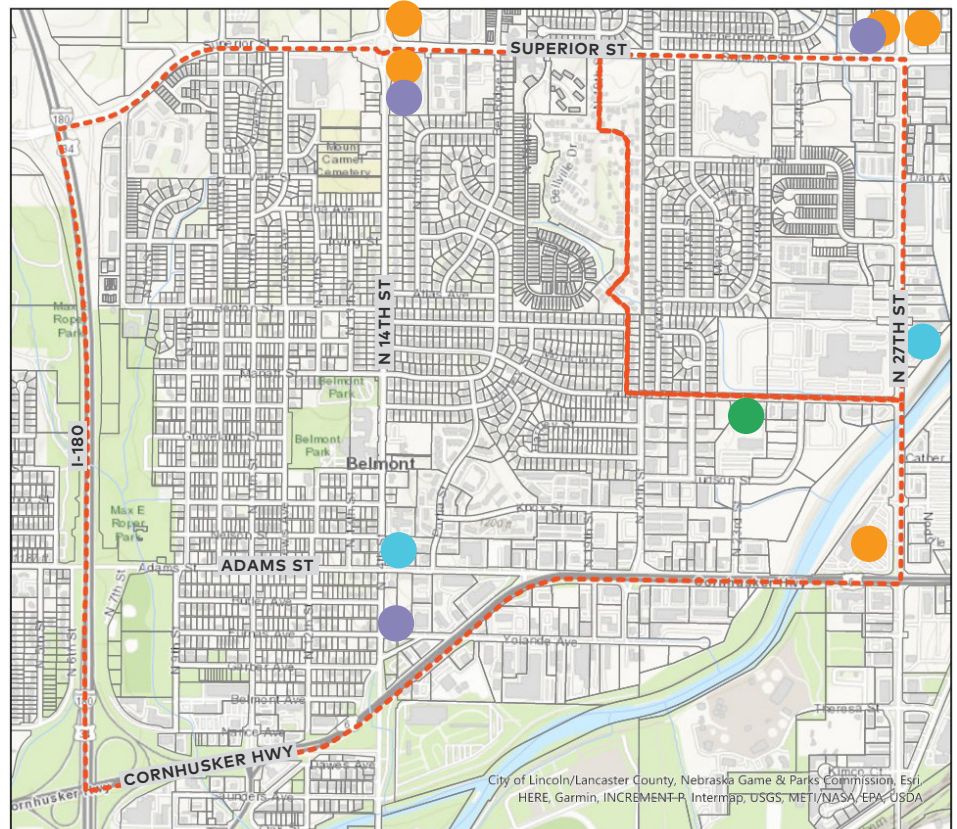
This map highlights the traffic crashes in the neighborhood during a one-year span (specifically 2019). There is no data on causes of these incidents but they do appear with regularity along N 14th Street (fewer but some in front of Belmont Elementary), Cornhusker Highway, N 27th Street, and at intersections within the neighborhood.

● Accidents / Crashes

MEDICAL FACILITIES

This map locates medical and healthcare-related facilities in and just outside the neighborhood. It includes health clinics and pharmacies as well as dental offices. The Health Clinic on N 14th Street and Adams is a Federally Qualified Health Center (www.bluestemlincoln.com).

The vehicular corridors around Belmont and Landon's do make it more difficult to access those amenities outboard of these neighborhoods, particularly for walkers and bikers.



EXISTING FACILITIES

- Health Clinic
- Pharmacy
- Medical Center
- Dental Office

Existing Plans and Initiatives

INTRODUCTION

The most robust plans are those that are connected to related efforts already in motion, whether they be actual or aspirational. Included here are a number of existing plans and initiatives that are part of the City and County's documented efforts to plan a better future for the larger community. Some consider a more regional approach, and some are specific even to the Belmont community. In combination, all support each other to move the best ideas forward. Some of these plans are specifically referenced in the Strategies section of the Belmont Neighborhood Subarea Plan.



LINCOLN'S VISION FOR A CLIMATE-SMART FUTURE 2021

City of Lincoln

This plan follows the vision of Mayor Gaylor Baird's administration to lead "Lincoln to a more successful, secure, and shared future." The action areas that this plan addresses includes the following:

- Transition to Low-Carbon Energy
- Building a Decarbonized and Efficient Transportation Infrastructure
- Aligning Economic Development Goals with Climate Realities to Ensure a Thriving Economy
- Improving Protections for and with Lincoln Residents
- Building a Resilient Local Food System
- Maximizing Natural Climate Solutions
- Reducing Waste
- Engaging Residents in Co-Creating a Climate-Smart Future



LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM PLAN 2023-2027

City of Lincoln

This plan acknowledges that a thriving local food system benefits Lincoln in a number of ways. A thriving local food system reduces food insecurity, benefits the local economy, and helps protect the environment. The goal of developing a local food system plan is to strengthen the local food system and continue to support the farmers and producers who sell to the Lincoln market already and/or foster those who will do so in the future - thus helping the local economy by creating new jobs and keeping our "food dollars" circulating in our community. Goals of the plan are to:

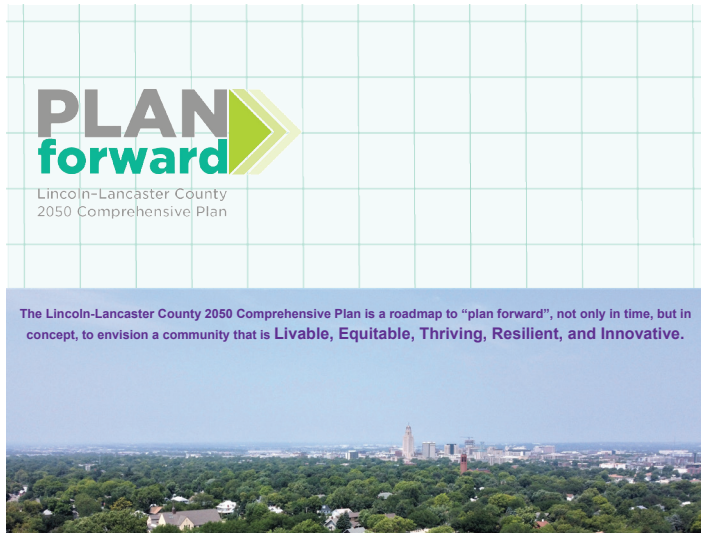
- Increase and Ensure Access to Healthy Food for All
- Invest in a Thriving Local Food and Farm Community to Increase Local Food Production and Food Security
- Promote Food Production Practices that Protect Soil, Water, and Air
- Reduce Food Waste

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR LINCOLN AND LANCASTER COUNTY 2040

This comprehensive, long-range plan serves as a communication tool and resource for policy decisions regarding solid waste management systems, facilities, and programs in Lincoln and Lancaster County. The recommendations will move the current solid waste management system toward a more comprehensive and integrated strategy and reduce quantities of solid waste going to disposal in landfills. The plan was updated in 2020.

The five guiding principles established as part of the plan are:

- Engage the community
- Encourage public-private partnerships
- Ensure sufficient system capacity
- Emphasize the waste management hierarchy
- Embrace sustainable principles



PLAN FORWARD: LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY 2050 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

This is a roadmap to plan forward in time and concept to envision a community that is:

- Livable
- Equitable
- Thriving
- Resilient
- Innovative

The Plan includes information on a growth framework and community background. It also identifies Goals, Elements, and Policies, and an Implementation guide for the community to make this common vision a reality, including tasks, resources, programming, and on-going activities. The Comprehensive Plan also includes a number of policies and strategies for design, sustainability, and "complete neighborhoods" within existing neighborhoods.



LINCOLN BIKE PLAN

Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization

The primary purpose of the Lincoln Bike Plan is to identify an on-street bike network that builds on the City's extensive trail network and provides safe and low-stress bicycle commuting and recreational opportunities. The plan depicts a comprehensive system of off-street and on-street facilities to safely connect neighborhoods and destinations and encourage bicycle travel. To complement the bike network recommendations, this plan recommends programmatic initiatives pertaining to education, enforcement, and encouragement and policy changes to further Lincoln's bicycle-friendly culture.

Goals include: Safety, Comfort, Culture, Equity, Connected, Ridership, Education, Funding, Travel Options, and Bicycle-Friendly.



LINCOLN MPO 2050 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) provides Lincoln and Lancaster County with a roadmap for the next three decades of transportation planning and supports the PlanForward Lincoln-Lancaster County 2050 Comprehensive Plan.

While this plan covers the entire county, there is one project identified that effects Belmont directly, which is the replacement of the N 14th Street bridge heading south out of the neighborhood towards Downtown Lincoln. This Belmont Neighborhood Subarea Plan supports this bridge replacement, especially if it provides safe multi-modal along its length. More direct connections to Downtown and the University for bikes and pedestrians are desirable.

CORNHUSKER HIGHWAY CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT PLAN

City of Lincoln

This plan is connected to the Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) that was created by the Nebraska Legislature in 1971 to address the high rate of fatalities in train-to-vehicle/pedestrian collisions.

The purpose of this particular plan is to detail the vision of a revitalized Cornhusker Highway corridor, envisioning the overall look and feel of the streetscape along its path. Guiding principles emphasize: Safety, Connectivity, Economic Sustainability, Identity and Quality of Life, and Sustainability.

Notably, the plan identifies N 14th Street as an important node along the corridor and supports enhancements to the 14th Street Bridge. This provides an opportunity to envision a more graceful entrance into the Belmont neighborhood and provide safer passage from the south for bicyclists and pedestrians.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING COORDINATED ACTION PLAN 2020

City of Lincoln

In support of Mayor Gaylor Baird's One Lincoln Initiative, Lincoln's Affordable Housing Coordinated Action Plan is a compilation of market analysis, current conditions, issues, opportunities, and a path forward as it relates to affordable housing in the City of Lincoln.

It is focused on addressing housing needs for residents earning less than 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) though recognizes that housing markets are interdependent. It relies on previous work such as the Lincoln Homeless Coalition's Affordable Housing Task Force Essential Housing Report, and the South of Downtown Community Development Organization's Affordable Housing Subcommittee Plan.

STARTRAN TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022

StarTran

This Transit Development Plan outlines the conditions in which StarTran operates, provides a comprehensive evaluation of existing service characteristics and system performance, and makes recommendations for the future. The planning process examined the existing market and operating conditions, engaged in public and stakeholder outreach, developed and refined alternative service scenarios, and recommended a series of service improvements for short-term and long-term implementation.

Short-term recommendations include addressing one-time performance issues and improving access to employment. Long-term recommendations include:

- Adding more crosstown service requiring fewer transfers in downtown Lincoln
- Improving service frequency on key corridors
- Operating later evening service
- Adding Sunday service
- Developing new service delivery alternatives for growing areas of Lincoln

Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Program

Lincoln Transportation and Utilities Traffic Engineering

(rev 08-22-2023)

City of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Belmont Neighborhood Redevelopment Area.
Blight & Substandard Determination Study.



January, 2021.



NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC MITIGATION PROGRAM

Lincoln Transportation and Utilities (LTU)

This program focuses on traffic calming measures that are considered state-of-the-practice. As stated by the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), "Traffic calming involves changes in street alignment, installation of barriers, and other physical measures to reduce traffic speeds and/or cut-through volumes in the interest of street safety, livability, and other public purposes."

This document outlines the process by which a representative of an affected area makes a written request to the LTU to initiate a process to study specific situations. Illustrated are approved traffic calming devices such as traffic circles, speed humps, speed tables, narrowings, chicanes and diverters. Impacts of these measures are also included.

BELMONT BLIGHT STUDY

City of Lincoln

The Blight & Substandard Determination Study was issued in 2021 for the area that includes both Belmont and Landon's neighborhoods, bounded by I-180, Superior Street, Cornhusker Highway, and N 27th Street.

Refer to the Redevelopment Process section of the Strategies chapter for an explanation of this process and its outcomes.



BELMONT PARK NATURAL PLAY SPACE MASTER PLAN

Lincoln Parks & Recreation

Belmont Park is a community park located next to Belmont Elementary School and Belmont Community Center near 12th and Judson Streets. An open shelter, playground, public pool, and walking paths are part of the park.

Belmont is one of seven playgrounds being renovated using federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant funding. Though the plan illustrated above is more extensive, construction for only the small playground at the southeast corner is currently funded and planned to be completed in Summer 2026. Inclusive features to be incorporated into the full plan are: native plantings, educational zones, the beloved dinosaur play piece, multi-sensory engagement, parallel play, and a variety of challenges for all abilities to foster inclusive and independent play.

BELMONT COMMUNITY

2024 Strategic Planning
FEBRUARY 12, 2024

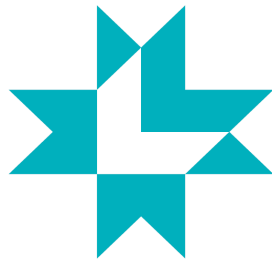
WINNING ASPIRATIONS				
Continue in this era of engagement by fostering a vibrant, interconnected community that prides itself on active participation and robust support systems for all residents.				
2024	2025		2026	
Creating & Keeping Connections	Increasing Engagement		Establishing a Full-Service Hub	
Build a strong foundation of active participation by expanding the Belmont network to foster deeper connections among Belmont stakeholders by launching initiatives that bolster community involvement and pride.	Expand involvement and solidify trust within the community by focusing on a shared sense of belonging, accelerating the development of community programs, and building traditions and commitments that resonate with stakeholders.		Transform Belmont into a full-service hub with improved infrastructure, catering to all ages and abilities, ensuring access to essential services: health and wellness, food, healthcare, childcare, and extended education with accessible hours.	
2024 PRIORITIES				
Community Identity and Unity	Community Engagement and Events	Stakeholder Engagement and Network Expansion	Belmont Park Activation	Operational Belmont Pool
Establish and promote a distinct community identity through a shared mission and marketing.	Increase community cohesion by enhancing participation in diverse, year-round events and activities.	Build relationships with stakeholders across a variety of sectors and clearly communicate community needs.	Maximize the potential of Belmont Parks & Trails for community activities and events.	Ensure the Belmont Pool is fully operational, focusing on resolving staffing challenges.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Craft a mission statement and core values for unified messaging.• Implement a strategic marketing plan targeting diverse groups.• Enhance communication about community needs and events.• Promote local identity through signage and public art.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boost event participation and organize a 'Summer of Fun'.• Actively involve families and partners in engagement efforts.• Expand youth sports and coordinate with local schools for events.• Host a community garage sale.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage with local businesses for mutual community support.• Present clear funding requests to potential sponsors.• Organize a 'Shark Tank' style event for fundraising.• Commit to identifying and involving over 30 participants in SNAC meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain the ballfield and maximize its use.• Offer monthly movie nights as part of the 'Summer of Fun'.• Develop a comprehensive plan for the Belmont Park that includes utilization and beautification.• Increase resident and stakeholder input and voice in neighborhood improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure the pool is fully staffed.• Tackle the challenges of recruiting lifeguards.• Increase awareness and access to the pool for swimmers of all ages and abilities

BELMONT SNAC STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2026

Lincoln Community Learning Centers

The Belmont School Neighborhood Advisory Committee (SNAC) is a diverse coalition of residents, educators, nonprofits, and city partners working together to strengthen the neighborhood, one relationship at a time. With support from Prosper Lincoln's Strong Neighborhoods initiative, SNAC meetings are held monthly including a meal and childcare. The Belmont SNAC developed this three-year strategic plan that is currently being implemented.

Emphasis is on fostering a vibrant, interconnected community that prides itself on active participation and robust support systems for all residents. This plan was referenced throughout the Belmont Neighborhood Subarea Plan process.



2

THEMES + GOALS

Five themes emerged from community input at the first Community Open House and were reinforced in subsequent core, stakeholder, and community meetings. Goals for each of these themes were created based on ideas and feedback from the community and informed by background research and existing plans and initiatives.

Themes + Goals Overview

Neighborhood goals were developed for each of the five themes that emerged from Community Open House 1 and early background research and mapping. The themes are: Community Building, Health + Recreation, Nature + Environment, Mobility + Transportation, and Housing + Development.



COMMUNITY BUILDING

This theme explains how the neighborhood appreciates the diversity of their neighbors and how most residents have a positive view of Belmont.

Goals:

- Create a central outdoor gathering space
- Support existing community institutions
- Improve communication in the neighborhood.
- Improve safety in the neighborhood
- Celebrate and support the diversity of the neighborhood



HEALTH + RECREATION

This theme is centered on support for healthy living in the neighborhood through access to healthy food, health care, recreation, and safe outdoor environments in the community.

Goals:

- Increase opportunities for inclusive outdoor activity
- Improve access to healthy food
- Increase access to local health care
- Increase access to year-round sports facilities



NATURE + ENVIRONMENT

This theme explains how Belmont residents want to spend more time outdoors, formally and informally. More opportunities to engage nature through outdoor activities were noted, especially when contributing to healthier and more sustainable lifestyles.

Goals:

- Encourage connection to nature
- Reduce environmental risks (heat, cold, flood)
- Maximize recycling + composting



MOBILITY + TRANSPORTATION

This theme explains the strong sense that neighborhood streets could be safer for pedestrians and bicyclists within the neighborhood and should better connect to other destinations in the City. A multi-modal transit approach would support safer pathways.

Goals:

- Improve pedestrian + cyclist experience within the neighborhood
- Improve pedestrian + cyclist experience to destinations into and out of the neighborhood
- Slow car traffic on neighborhood streets
- Improve public transit experience



HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

This theme describes how the Belmont neighborhood might consider targeted locations that could be redeveloped to support a diversity of housing and businesses that are community-serving, even though there are a limited area of vacant lots. Programs and resources for homeowners are supported as well.

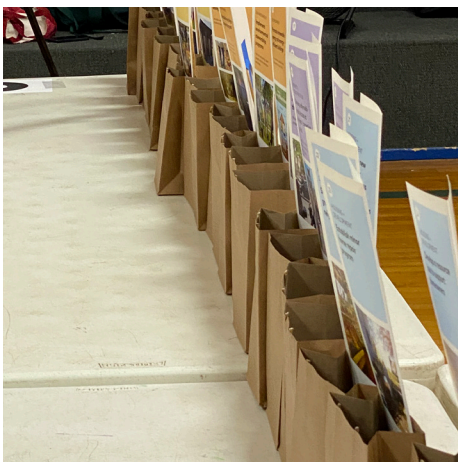
Goals:

- Reinforce pride of place
- Maintain access to affordable housing
- Ensure access to homeowner education + resources
- Increase businesses that serve day-to-day needs of the neighborhood

Prioritized Goals

Belmont residents and stakeholders prioritized the plan goals during Community Open House 2. The results of this feedback are illustrated here where the numbers are the votes submitted for each goal. The Core Team then modified the goals list based on additional feedback and conversations.

The modified goals are included in the list on the previous pages and the Goals - Strategies matrix in the Strategies section of this plan. One example of a change influenced by additional feedback is moving the reference to safety in the neighborhood from Housing + Development to Community Building, and adding a goal of celebrating the diversity of the neighborhood (which was not voted on).



Belmont residents and stakeholders prioritized the plan goals during the Community Open House 2 and online via the Belmont webpage.

COMMUNITY BUILDING



Create a central outdoor gathering place

Satisfy a desire to have a central place for community activities like a farmer's market, performances, public art, recreation



Support existing community institutions

Advertise existing programs within the community and build upon those to meet current needs



Improve communication in the neighborhood

Create and advertise a single hub to gather information and events; distribute via multiple outlets



Improve safety in the neighborhood

Support programs and education that provide a safe environment for all ages in all locations



Celebrate and support the diversity of the neighborhood

Elevate the diversity of the community through cultural engagement (see narrative on the left for additional information regarding this goal)

HEALTH + RECREATION



Provide outdoor lighting in public areas

Improve safety of public areas such as parks and bus stops with appropriate outdoor lighting



Increase opportunities for inclusive outdoor activity

Improve existing pool and playground equipment and increase amenities that support inclusive outdoor gathering



Improve access to healthy food

Support integration of healthy food offerings within the community



Increase access to local health care

Ensure widespread access to medical, mental health, pharmacies, and home health



Increase access to year-round sports facilities

Develop/expand facilities that support affordable youth and adult sports programs year-round

NATURE + ENVIRONMENT



Maximize recycling + composting

Encourage recycling and composting through education and community facilities/programs



Encourage connection to nature

Increase and improve park facilities in the neighborhood to encourage greater engagement with the natural environment



Reduce environmental risks (heat, cold, flood)

Support energy-efficiency in all buildings, stormwater management, and reduction in urban heat island; establish a resiliency center

MOBILITY + TRANSPORTATION



Slow car traffic on neighborhood streets

Incorporate traffic calming measures to slow traffic on neighborhood streets; consider revisiting school drop-off zone on 14th Street



Improve pedestrian + cyclist experience within the neighborhood

Catalyze and complete sidewalk, bikeway, and street design and construction that offer safer pathways for all means of travel



Improve pedestrian + cyclist experience to destinations outside the neighborhood

Provide safe pathways from Belmont to West Lincoln, Downtown, and the University



Improve public transit experience

Redesign transit riders' experience (lighting, shelter, frequency)

HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT



Reinforce pride of neighborhood

Support minor home repair, neighborhood cleanup, and participation in community events



Increase businesses that serve day-to-day needs of the neighborhood

Encourage businesses and development of all kinds that support healthy and safe living in Belmont



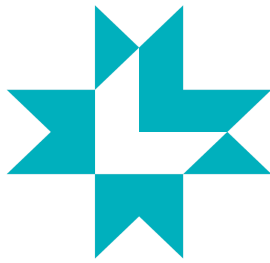
Ensure access to homeowner education + resources

Make incentives, rebates, discounts widely known and support home ownership education



Maintain access to affordable housing

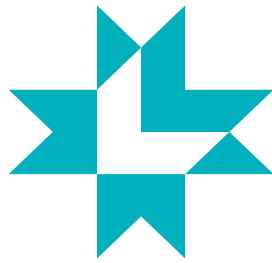
Support programs that ensure affordable and diverse housing options for all in the neighborhood



3

STRATEGIES

The plan strategies are designed to advance the goals and provide near-, mid-, and long-term strategies with a focus on near-term implementable strategies. Based on the complexity, cost, and other factors, some strategies may already be in process while others will take years to implement. Like the goals, the strategies are driven by community ideas and stakeholder feedback.



Strategies Overview

This section includes strategies to advance neighborhood goals. They are also organized by the five issue areas, and many advance goals in multiple areas. Each strategy description includes an approximate time frame for implementation, relative costs, and other information, such as potential champions, resource opportunities, and demonstrated public support.

Time Frame for Implementation

This estimates the relative time frame before a certain strategy could be completed. The categories include near-term (1-2 years), mid-term (3-4 years), and long-term (5+ years).

Costs

Each strategy includes a cost sign from one to four dollar signs (\$ - \$\$\$\$) to compare approximate costs of implementing the strategy.

Examples:

- A policy change is inexpensive to implement and would receive a single dollar sign (\$).
- A new program might receive two dollar signs (\$\$).
- A development project would show three dollar signs (\$\$\$).
- An infrastructure project would likely receive four dollar signs (\$\$\$\$).

Champions + Partners

The champions section highlights the champions and partners responsible for championing the implementation of the strategy.

Location(s)

If a solution is implemented in a specific location or locations, it is indicated here.

Public Support

These strategies were developed based on neighborhood input. This section includes quotes that demonstrate public support for each strategy.

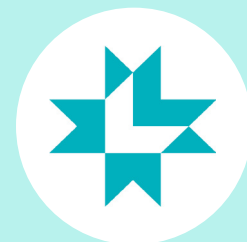
Funding Opportunities

Funding opportunities highlight potential financial resources to implement the strategy.

Quick Wins

The quick wins section highlights any low-hanging fruit or first steps the champions can take to implement the strategy.

Strategies on the following pages marked with this symbol have been identified by the community and City staff as ones that will have the most impact for catalytic change in the neighborhood.





THEME



COMMUNITY BUILDING

STRATEGIES



01 Expand Belmont Community Center as a central community support center



02 Improve outdoor lighting at parks, bus stops, and Belmont Community Center

03 Implement a neighborhood safety program

04 Create multi-cultural programs that celebrate Belmont's diversity

05 Create + maintain a Belmont neighborhood communication hub

01 Expand Belmont Community Center as a central community support center

Description

In their own words, Belmont Community Center (BCC) is envisioned to be a "space that promotes individual growth in the presence of community". This facility is already utilized by the community as a central hub for licensed early childhood and school-age programs, including a robust summer program, all of which promotes learning, physical activity, and skill development. BCC also hosts to community events for residents of all ages and rents out their facility for community use. BCC staff and families play an active role in the Belmont's School Neighborhood Advisory Committee (SNAC).

The existing building on 12th Street was built in 1955 through an outpouring of volunteer labor from throughout the city. While the staff at BCC have created and maintained a robust community amenity, the facility has aged and is challenged to meet the needs of the community. Based on a cursory review of the current facilities, it is recommended that BCC and the City engage a team to study existing conditions from multiple perspectives including code, accessibility, structural integrity, and current programmatic needs of the facility. A thoughtful programming exercise that explores and identifies the best uses and facilities that can serve the mission of BCC and the community would follow. This will allow BCC staff and visitors to continue their work and activities in a healthier workplace and provide more modern amenities for year-round activities. This effort should be closely coordinated with proposed improvements at Belmont Park, immediately adjacent to the BCC.

Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Create a central outdoor gathering space
- Support existing community institutions
- Improve communication in the neighborhood.
- Improve safety in the neighborhood
- Celebrate and support the diversity of the neighborhood



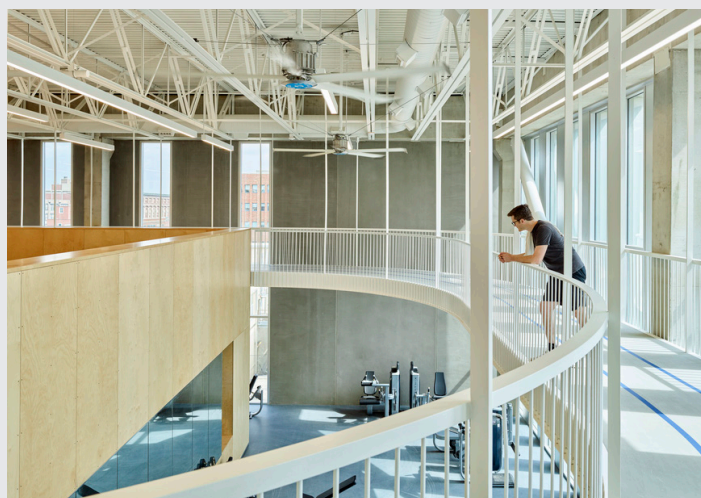
HEALTH + RECREATION

- Increase opportunities for inclusive outdoor activity
- Increase access to year-round sports facilities



HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

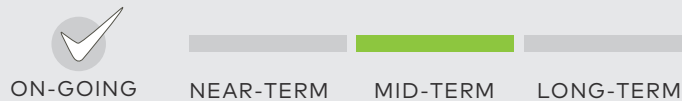
- Reinforce pride of neighborhood
- Ensure access to homeowner education + resources



Kirk Family YMCA, Kansas City, Missouri



Time Frame for Implementation



Costs



- Programming
- Design
- Construction

Champions + Partners

- Belmont Community Center
- Educare Lincoln
- City of Lincoln Urban Development
- City of Lincoln Parks + Recreation (related to Belmont Park as hub)

Funding Opportunities

- City of Lincoln Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
- Lincoln Community Foundation
- Capital campaign
- Individual charitable donations

Quick Wins

- Begin the programming process immediately to connect the momentum of this planning effort with a project that has the potential to provide community-wide impact
- Consider reinvigorating a Belmont Neighborhood Association that works closely with the SNAC group, Belmont Community Center, and other organizations in the neighborhood in a way that is clear and effective for all

Public Support

"A brand new community center building."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"A more popular meeting center with outside and inside activities that would hopefully help rebuilt the three-block park."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"I hope we have more teen gyms."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"In ten years, I would like to see a new community center."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"A brand new community center building."

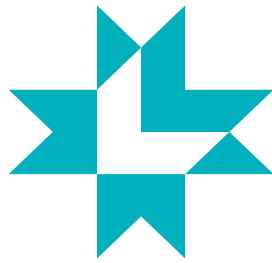
SURVEY RESPONSE

"Expansion of the Belmont Community Center (bigger/nicer gym for youth sports)."

SURVEY RESPONSE

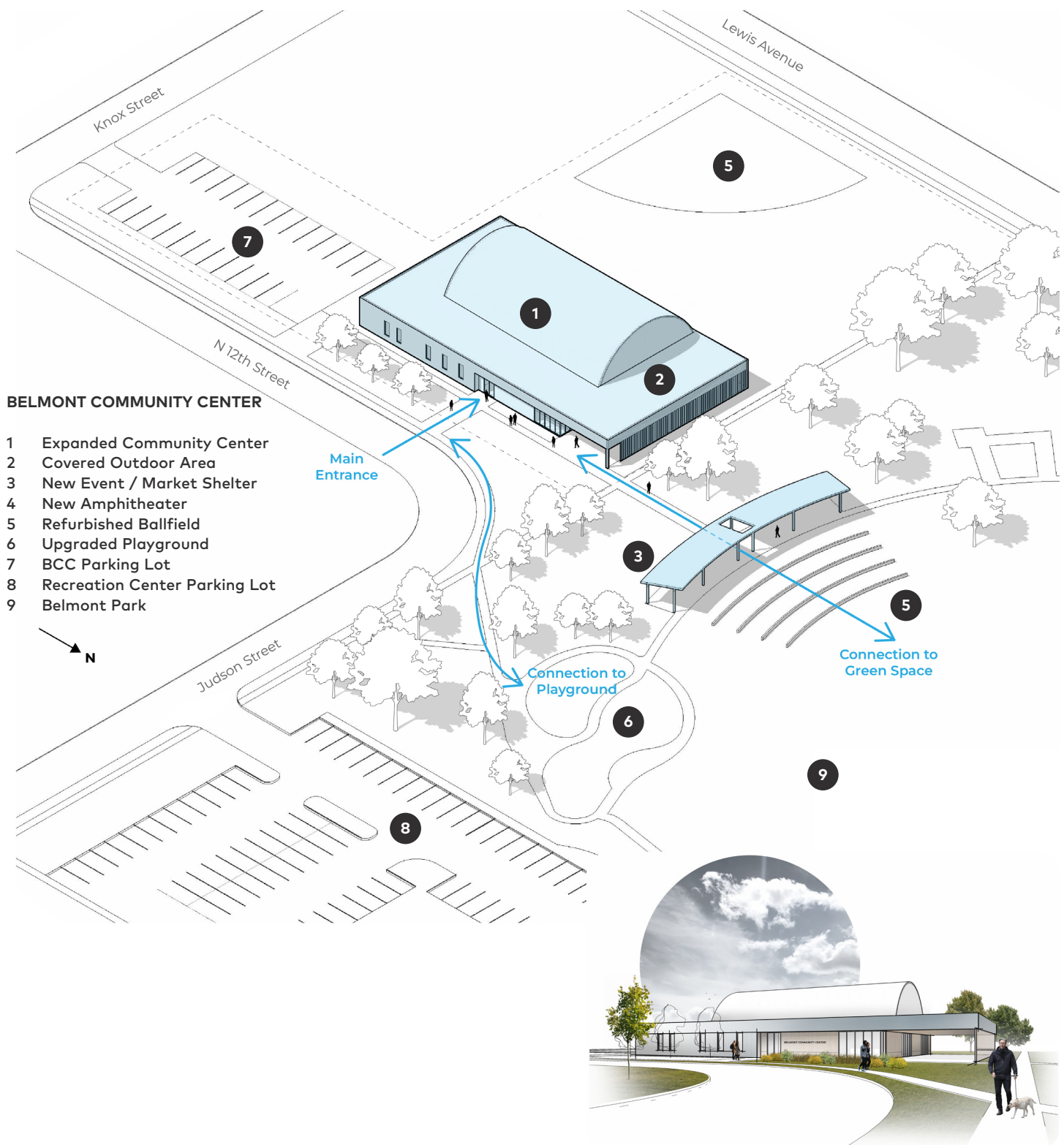
"Have a more popular meeting center with outside and inside activities."

SURVEY RESPONSE



An expansion of the Belmont Community Center (BCC) has the potential to serve the community even more than the programs and activities that they currently host and lead. Enhancements at both BCC and Belmont Park, when designed together, will reinforce this synergy as the heart

of Belmont's community space. **This sketch illustrates one way** that the two entities might be developed further to work better together and with the rest of the campus as a unified whole. This view is looking towards the southwest.



02 Improve outdoor lighting at parks, bus stops, and Belmont Community Center

Description

Lack of adequate lighting in public places was a consistent theme in the comments received from the community. This condition hinders a resident's incentive to walk about the neighborhood, wait at a bus stop, or spend time in a park during darker hours because it contributes to a sense of concern for one's safety and increases a sense of disconnection from neighbors.

In particular, residents commented on poor lighting at parks, bus stops, and at Belmont Community Center (BCC). Implementation of a program that increases lighting in public spaces would contribute to many of the goals identified in surveys, including safety for cyclists and pedestrians, improved public transit experience, increased connection to nature, and a greater chance of encountering neighbors in shared public spaces.

A lighting program in each of these areas will need to be supported and implemented by separate entities who have jurisdiction but could be championed by an empowered team of residents who are particularly passionate about this strategy.

This effort could be initiated with an assessment of existing lighting at the following locations that were mentioned specifically in the feedback:

- All 30+ bus stops within Belmont and Landon's
- Area surrounding Belmont Community Center
- Belmont Park
- Max E. Roper Park, particularly spaces designed for outdoor activity

Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Create a central outdoor gathering space
- Support existing community institutions
- Improve safety in the neighborhood



HEALTH + RECREATION

- Increase opportunities for inclusive outdoor activity



NATURE + ENVIRONMENT

- Encourage connection to nature



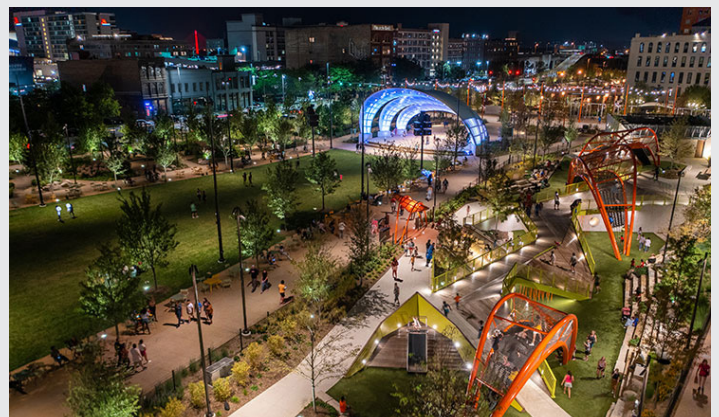
MOBILITY + TRANSPORTATION

- Improve pedestrian + cyclist experience within the neighborhood
- Improve public transit experience



HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

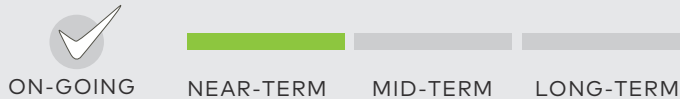
- Reinforce pride of neighborhood



Gene Leahy Mall, Omaha, Nebraska - Night lighting



Time Frame for Implementation



Costs



- Lighted poles / bollards / shelters
- Connection to electrical utility grid or dedicated solar panel/array

Champions + Partners

- City of Lincoln Transportation + Utilities (LTU)
- Lincoln Electric System (LES)
- City of Lincoln Parks + Recreation
- Belmont SNAC
- Interested Belmont residents

Funding Opportunities

- City of Lincoln Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
- Utility incentives / grant programs
- Existing city budgets
- Individual charitable donations as part of a larger project

Quick Wins

- New lighting at existing bus stops as part of shelter upgrades, following StarTran initiative to improve communication at bus stops regarding bus arrival times, route changes, and more

Public Support

"I hope we have more lighting."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"I hope we have better street lighting."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Add lighting to the parks."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Especially at the park."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"I would like a nice neighborhood that is safe for everyone."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"A thriving Belmont would have well lit areas."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"More streetlights in the older part."

SURVEY RESPONSE

03 Implement a neighborhood safety program

Description

Many factors influence a community's real or perceived sense of safety. This may be related to patterns of crime in a community, streetscapes that make it difficult to walk from one part of the neighborhood to another safely, or a disincentive to visit public spaces due to poor lighting. Because of this, a comprehensive approach to improve overall safety requires input and action from multiple resources.

This strategy focuses on safety as a key aspect of quality of life perspective. In 2024, the Lincoln Police Department relocated their substation to be within the Belmont Recreation Center on Judson Street. This local presence is welcomed by many; however, some residents were not aware of this substation until recently, while some would like even more police presence.

Community-based policing can be a positive force in the neighborhood, especially when long-time officers, like those in the Lincoln Police Department, remain in the same area for years - developing a deeper connection with residents and a stronger understanding of the community.

In addition to this enhanced police presence, this strategy includes the development of a Neighborhood Watch Program, a national program that started in 1972. Their website, www.nnw.org, has valuable information for how local residents can be the eyes and ears when police are not immediately present. The program includes a how-to on starting a new watch program, a downloadable Virtual Neighborhood Watch Guide, and the ability to purchase signs to place in the neighborhood.

From the national website, these are the key steps in starting a neighborhood watch group:

Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Improve communication in the neighborhood
- Improve safety in the neighborhood



HEALTH + RECREATION

- Increase opportunities for inclusive outdoor activity



NATURE + ENVIRONMENT

- Encourage connection to nature



MOBILITY + TRANSPORTATION

- Slow car traffic on neighborhood streets
- Improve pedestrian + cyclist experience within the neighborhood



HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

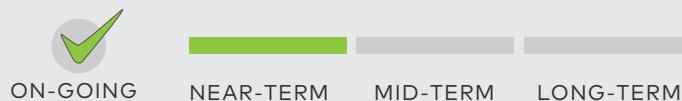
- Reinforce pride of neighborhood

- Recruit and organize as many neighbors as possible
- Contact local law enforcement agency and schedule a meeting
- Discuss community concerns and develop an action plan
- Create a communication plan
- Take action: Hold meetings and events

The Lincoln Police Department website also has neighborhood watch resources at (www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Police/Documents-Publications/Neighborhood-Watch).

On the design side, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) standards are encouraged for public space design considerations.

Time Frame for Implementation



Costs



- Support to initiate and maintain Neighborhood Watch Program, inc. signage

Champions + Partners

- Lincoln Police Department, particularly officers from the Belmont substation
- Belmont Recreation Center
- National Neighborhood Watch, a division of the National Sheriffs' Association

Funding Opportunities

- _____

Quick Wins

- On-going and active police engagement at community meetings and events
- Get the word out about the Belmont Recreation Center substation
- Initiation and posting of a Neighborhood Watch Program



Neighborhood Watch signage.

Public Support

"When I envision a better future for Belmont, I imagine a safe neighborhood."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"I hope we have less theft and destruction of property (mailboxes being smashed and intoxicated drivers hitting parked cars.)"

SURVEY RESPONSE

"I hope we have less 'drogas y malas influencias para los ninos'."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"I hope we have more police presence in the neighborhood."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Didn't know there was a substation at Belmont Rec Center."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Kids can't connect, learn, or explore outside if parents don't think it is safe enough to go outside."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"I am most concerned about homelessness, drug use, and crime."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"More active neighborhood watch group."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Increase police presence."

SURVEY RESPONSE

04 Create multi-cultural programs that celebrate Belmont's diversity

Description

When asked to share three words that best describe Belmont, community members referenced diversity of the neighborhood as one of its main and appreciated features. This was apparent at the public gatherings where interpreters for Spanish and Arabic speakers were available. There was also a sentiment that it would be good to keep this diversity intact into the future of the neighborhood.

A strategy that embraces the diverse backgrounds of Belmont residents can be implemented in several ways, including:

- Foster and support businesses that reflect the cultural diversity of the community, such as the Teeba Grocery located at the corner of Furnas/Yolande and 14th Street.
- Support for culturally specific restaurants, possibly at the Belmont Plaza site where there is already a small hub of eating establishments, would also support the separate goal of increasing local and community-serving businesses
- Establishment of an annual food festival that highlights different cultural groups within the neighborhood and throughout the city of Lincoln
- Inclusion of food trucks that specialize in ethnic food associated with the neighborhood at local events
- Inclusion of a community cooking space to support classes hosted by different cultural groups to pass knowledge between generations and expand cultural appreciation

Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Support existing community institutions
- Improve communication in the neighborhood
- Celebrate and support the diversity of the neighborhood



HEALTH + RECREATION

- Increase opportunities for inclusive outdoor activity



HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

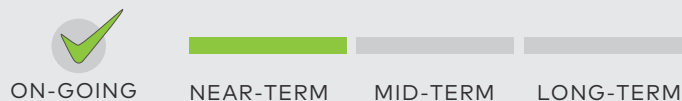
- Reinforce pride of neighborhood
- Increase businesses that serve day-to-day needs of the neighborhood

Sharing of food culture is a natural way to bring people / neighbors together. This can easily expand into sharing differences in lifestyle, traditions, and cultural norms. In Belmont, these events and amenities could draw others from around the Lincoln metro and region in a way that celebrates the diversity of the neighborhood.



2022 Swope Park Ethnic Enrichment Festival, Kansas City, MO

Time Frame for Implementation



Costs



- Program administration
- Logistics

Champions + Partners

- Immigrant and Refugee community leaders within Belmont
- Belmont Community Center
- Lincoln Public Schools
- Educare of Lincoln
- Lincoln Public School's Family Literacy Programs
- Sabah Foundation / Mosque
- Connecting Pointe Church

Funding Opportunities

- _____

Quick Wins

- Connect with other city-wide events including Welcoming Week (welcomingweek.org)
- Incorporation of food trucks and catering at local events
- Establishment of annual food festival held in Belmont specifically representing Belmont diversity

Public Support



NOW



FUTURE

SURVEY RESPONSE

"I like that my children have been able to go to a school with many kids with different cultures."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"In ten years, I would like to see an increase in local businesses / restaurants; there are people from all over the world that live in this neighborhood ... how cool would it be to have a market / food hall / hub that could shine a light on this."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"When I envision a better future for Belmont, I imagine more neighborhood festivals."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"More ethnic businesses (for example, restaurant and grocery)."

SURVEY RESPONSE

05 Create + maintain a Belmont neighborhood communication hub

Description

The Belmont Community Center (BCC), while primarily connected to youth programming, is currently well-suited to act as the Belmont communication hub as it is already a convener of Belmont residents in building community through year-round programming and active participation in the Belmont SNAC. Its proximity to Belmont's Elementary School, Park, and Recreation Center at a central location in the community is relatively accessible to all, and their staff members are generally connected to happenings in the neighborhood.

It should be noted that there is a Belmont Neighborhood Association (NA) listed on the City's website, though it is not currently active. Neighborhood associations are mechanisms for the City to communicate with neighborhoods on issues and activities relevant to them, and to disseminate information to the residents. Reinvigorating the Belmont NA would create a single entity that is focused on representing the interests of neighborhood residents and would give Belmont a stronger voice regarding issues affecting the neighborhood. Whether BCC plays this role is yet to be determined. The neighborhood will need to determine how best BCC, SNAC, and an active NA would serve the community in this capacity.

For this strategy, the intent is to identify a leader for the communication hub. The communication hub would be charged with keeping all information current, relevant, and to share information in practical ways. This could be physical posting of information at schools, libraries, and businesses and/or a regular newsletter that is shared with all residents that are signed up. The communication hub may also

Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Support existing community institutions
- Improve communication in the neighborhood.
- Improve safety in the neighborhood
- Celebrate and support the diversity of the neighborhood



HEALTH + RECREATION

- Increase access to local health care



NATURE + ENVIRONMENT

- Reduce environmental risks (heat, cold, flood)



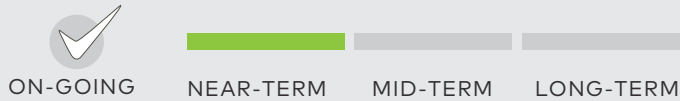
HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

- Reinforce pride of neighborhood
- Ensure access to homeowner education + resources

include a social media page (such as a Facebook page that holds basic and new information) and/or an account that pushes current news and upcoming events (such as Instagram). The ever-evolving technological landscape is an important factor to consider when setting this up. Eventually, the entire community will come to know where to send and get information.

The major key to success of the communication hub is sustainability over time, which would require a reliable funding source.

Time Frame for Implementation



Costs



- Website creation and management
- Computer purchase, maintenance, and support

Champions + Partners

- Belmont Community Center
- UNL School of Computing
- Firespring / The Foundry
- Best Buy
- Lincoln Public Schools (Belmont, Goodrich, Campbell)
- Loren C. Eiseley Branch Library
- Not-for-profit organizations in Belmont
- City of Lincoln
- Business owners
- Belmont communities of faith

Funding Opportunities

- Grant funding
- Advertising revenue
- Tech companies
- Firespring

Quick Wins

- Secure startup funds to hire for a position that can intelligently learn the objectives of the community and begin the process (including a plan for securing long-term funding)

Public Support

"I've never been to an event at BCC, but I also don't hear much about these events if/when they are happening."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Would like to see better online communication."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"When I envision a better future for Belmont, I imagine a community connected."

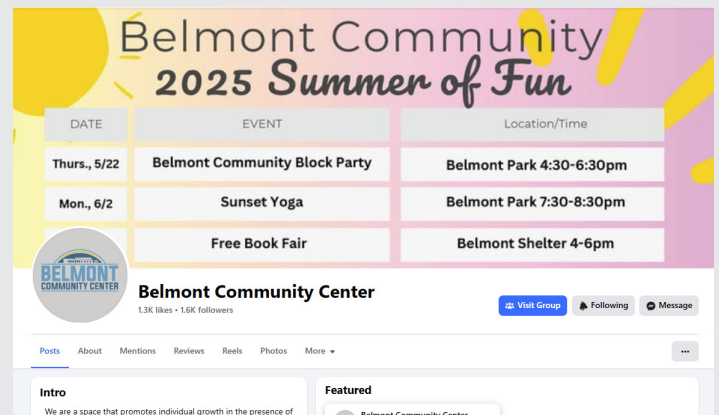
SURVEY RESPONSE

"More info and communication with community about programs before/after school."

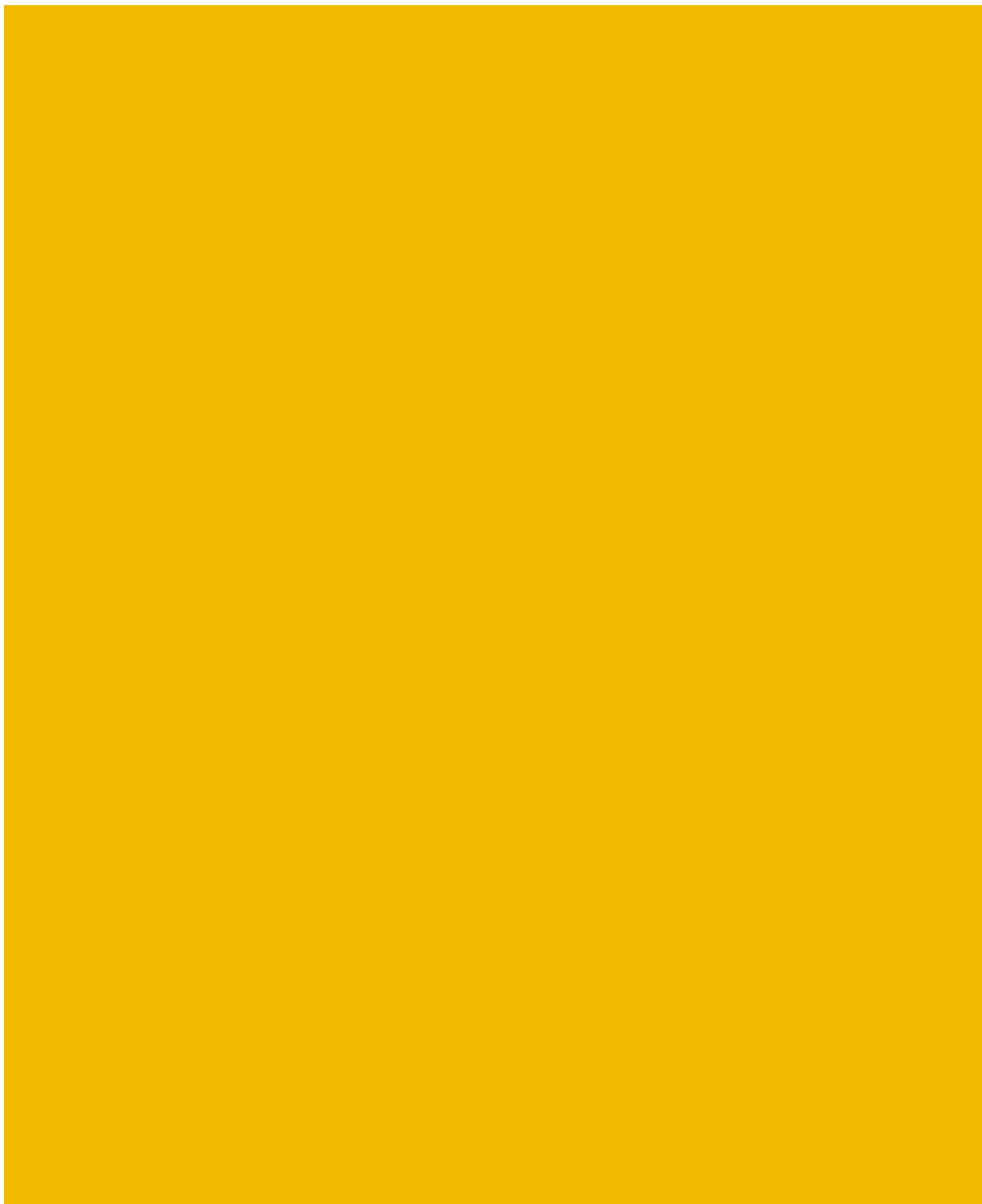
SURVEY RESPONSE

"Better communication for community meetings."

SURVEY RESPONSE



Belmont Community Center Facebook Page



THEME



HEALTH + RECREATION

STRATEGIES



06 Establish a farmers' market in the neighborhood



07 Upgrade Belmont Park into a hub of accessible, modern, and multi-use facilities

08 Provide accessible restrooms in outdoor public areas

09 Support community gardening that provides fresh produce + fosters social interaction

10 Develop year-round sports venues in the Belmont Plaza area

11 Redevelop east side of Max E Roper Park to include healthy community amenities

06 Establish a farmers' market in the neighborhood

Description

Access to healthy food within Belmont was a recurring theme in community comments, noting that a grocery store, community gardening opportunities, and an established farmers' market were greatly desired. The City of Lincoln's *Local Food System Plan 2023-2027* includes a goal to "invest in a thriving local food and farm community to increase local food production and food security".

As of its adoption, the *Local Food System Plan* noted that Lincoln has seven farmers' markets with 20 produce growers from Lancaster County participating. The challenges identified with farmers' markets are that they are considered expensive by some, and there is a lack of indoor farmers' markets during winter months. Ways to mitigate these challenges are noted in the plan:

- Encourage farmers' markets to participate in SNAP, Double Up Food Bucks, the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, and the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (Step 1.1.4 under Goal 1).
- Encourage more farmers' markets to be open year-round by investing in infrastructure that protects food from inclement weather (Step 2.2.11 under Goal 2).
- Consider investment in signage, sidewalk infrastructure, and transit service to help community members access farmers' markets (Step 2.2.12 under Goal #2).

While there are at least two farmers' markets within three miles of Belmont (Hub Farmers Market and Lincoln Haymarket Farmers' Market), there is still consensus that a market local to Belmont is still greatly desired.

Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Celebrate and support the diversity of the neighborhood



HEALTH + RECREATION

- Increase opportunities for inclusive outdoor activity
- Improve access to healthy food



NATURE + ENVIRONMENT

- Encourage connection to nature



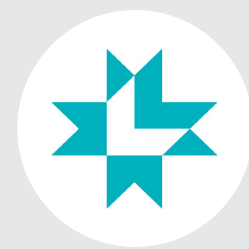
HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

- Reinforce pride of neighborhood
- Increase businesses that serve day-to-day needs of the neighborhood

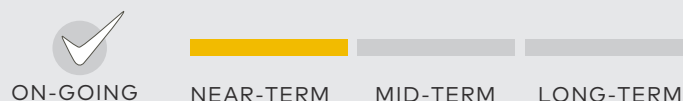
Educare Lincoln already has plans to host a farmers' market in the summer of 2025, and Connecting Pointe Church has identified a farmers' market as one of the program elements they are considering as they redevelop Belmont Plaza, which they purchased in 2024.

Why is this important? Nearly one-third of Lincoln's households are in or near poverty. And, while the Belmont neighborhood has a poverty rate below the city-wide average, nearly 10% of children 17 and under in Belmont are living below the federal poverty line. Those living in poverty are most at risk for inadequate nutrition through lack of access to affordable healthy food.

Additional information can be found on the Poverty Rate Map (<https://www.lincolnvitalsigns.org/poverty-map/>) courtesy of the Community Health Endowment of Lincoln.



Time Frame for Implementation



Costs



- Startup funds
- Open-air structure (requiring design, construction, + maintenance costs)

Champions + Partners

- Connecting Pointe Church
- Educare of Lincoln Farmers' Market
- Community Crops
- Mayor's Community Committee on Local Foods
- Other food market organizers in Lincoln for startup assistance

Funding Opportunities

- USDA Community Food Project grants
- Philanthropic organizations (e.g., PEW Trusts)
- Other grants that could be leveraged to support farmers' markets

Quick Wins

- Organize a pop-up farmers' market in conjunction with other community events to test the waters
- Partner with local community gardeners to participate in other events by selling their produce
- Reach out to other farmers' markets organizers to learn more about startup

Public Support

"I hope we have more health food accessibility."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Need more access to healthy food."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Create a regular farmers' market in a community area."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"A new farmers' market in the Belmont Plaza parking lot - repavement/parking lot transformation for this."

SURVEY RESPONSE



Lincoln Haymarket Farmers' Market, Lincoln, Nebraska

07 Upgrade Belmont Park into a hub of accessible, modern, and multi-use facilities

Description

Belmont Park is a community park in the center of the "Belmont Campus", next to Belmont Elementary School, Educare, Belmont Recreation Center, and Belmont Community Center. There is an open picnic shelter, a small dinosaur-themed playground, walking paths, two makeshift soccer fields, and a public pool.

The community had many comments regarding this park including the potential to enhance the existing amenities while creating a central outdoor gathering space that is connected to programming hosted by organizations part of the Belmont Campus. Because of its central location in the neighborhood, it is well-suited to serve as the central community outdoor space for community events such as performances, movies in the park, and more. Acknowledging that the scale may be different in Belmont, several existing parks were referenced as relevant precedents, including Gene Leahy Mall in Omaha and the Union Plaza Amphitheater in Lincoln.

A *Natural Play Space Master Plan* was developed by City of Lincoln Parks + Recreation, which identified improvements to Belmont Park, including a walking path with trees and other native plantings and upgrades to the soccer fields and playground area. Current plans call for an upgrade to the small playground area on the southeast corner of the park to be constructed in 2026. These plans include installing more inclusive playground equipment and pouring a blacktop surface for more year-round play.

Survey responses and stakeholder dialogues suggest Belmont Park could also be upgraded to accommodate a multi-purpose amphitheater, an improved pool, and other outdoor amenities.

Due to the topography of the park, additional outdoor sporting venues here are likely unfeasible (see strategy associated with sports venues at Belmont Park and Max E Roper Park East), but there is strong interest in making Belmont Park the central community gathering space for people of all abilities.

Of particular note is the Belmont Pool, which was completed circa 1968. Now more than 50 years old, it is time to consider an upgrade that accommodates greater physical accessibility and operationally allows more opportunity for swimming lessons and other programs, plus longer open hours in summer months. A clear connecting path from Belmont Community Center to the pool should be considered. The Highlands Aquatic Center was noted by residents as a precedent facility.



Union Plaza Amphitheater, Lincoln, Nebraska



Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Create a central outdoor gathering space
- Support existing community institutions
- Improve safety in the neighborhood



HEALTH + RECREATION

- Increase opportunities for inclusive outdoor activity
- Increase access to year-round sports facilities



NATURE + ENVIRONMENT

- Encourage connection to nature
- Reduce environmental risks (heat, cold, flood)



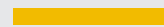
HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

- Reinforce pride of neighborhood

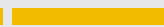
Time Frame for Implementation



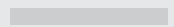
ON-GOING



NEAR-TERM



MID-TERM



LONG-TERM

Costs



- Coordinate with current master plan
- Design + construction
- Maintenance + operation (on-going)

Champions + Partners

- City of Lincoln Parks + Recreation
- Belmont Community Center
- Lincoln Public Schools
- Lincoln Community Foundation

Funding Opportunities

- City of Lincoln Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
- Existing city budgets
- Capital campaign
- Individual charitable donations

Quick Wins

- Continue with community programming at the park, such as the Belmont Community Block Party and SNAC Summer of Fun events
- Partner with Lincoln Parks + Rec to possibly modify plans for Belmont Park Natural Play Space Master Plan



Gene Leahy Mall, Omaha, Nebraska

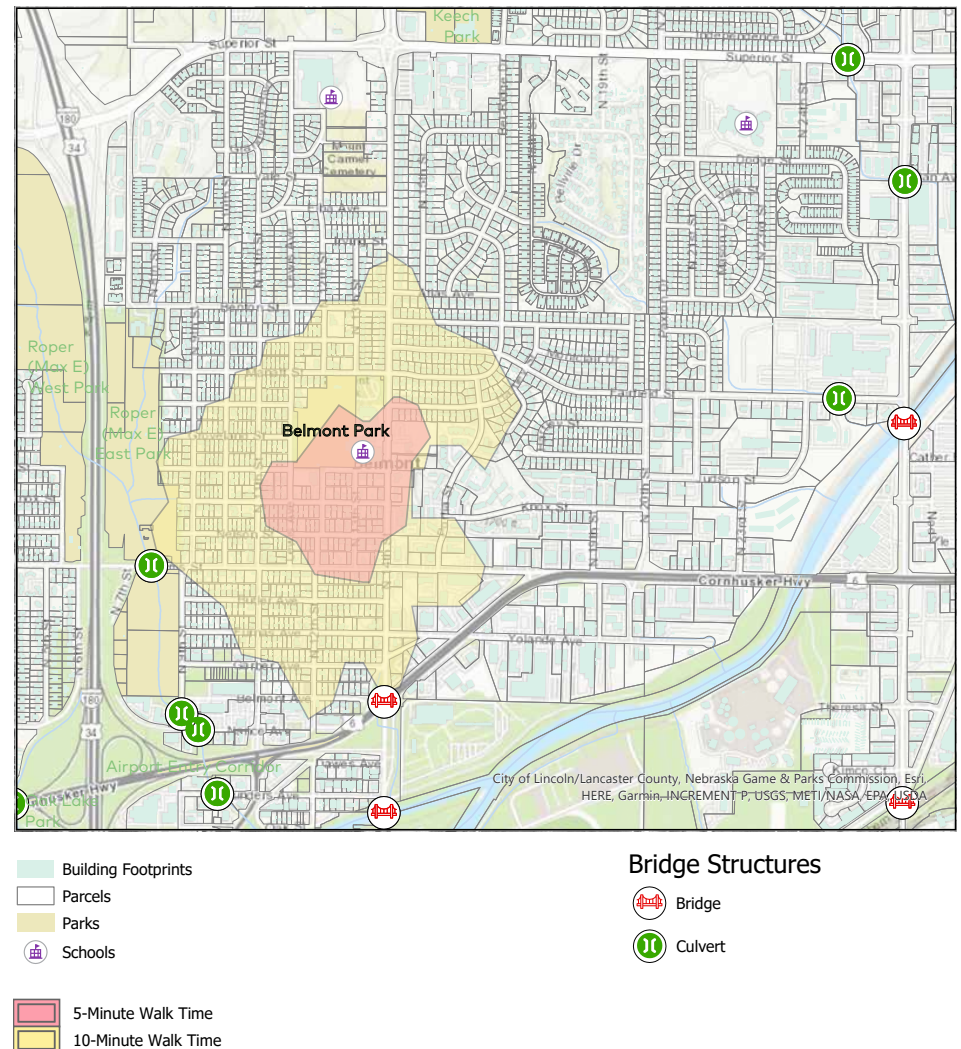
This map shows five- and ten-minute walk times from Belmont Park, illustrating that a good number of residences have a relatively short walk to Belmont School, Park, and Community Center - the Belmont Campus.

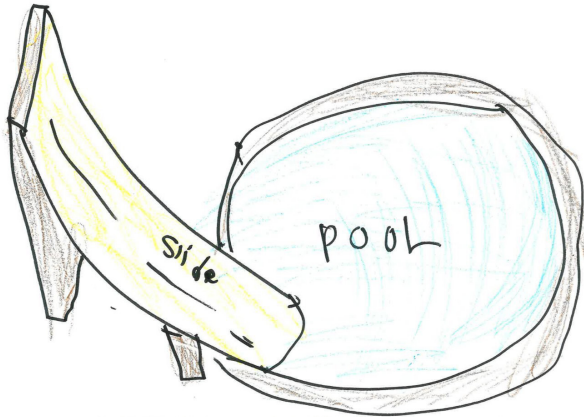
It is easy to extrapolate some walk times to Belmont Plaza should more amenities be developed in that area or along Max E Roper Park on N 9th Street.

Being able to walk to community amenities reduces car traffic on the streets, promotes health and wellbeing, and increases connection with neighbors and nature.

Because of its central location in the neighborhood, Belmont Park is a natural place to enhance its role as a community hub.

WALK TIME





Student Drawing from Community Open House 1, a common theme amongst the younger residents



Highlands Aquatic Center, Lincoln, Nebraska

Public Support

"I imagine a better pool and indoor water park."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Better park with handicap accessibility."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Redeveloped/renovated pool (similar to the Highlands Pool would be awesome."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"More quality outdoor spaces."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Better park with play equipment."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"I hope we have more outdoor spaces with amenities that people want to use; Belmont Park is less usable than 15 years ago."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Improve the parks and playgrounds, ... have outdoor space for arts and crafts, family gatherings, etc."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"More yoga in the park, movies in the park events."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Updated park for all including disabled individuals."

SURVEY RESPONSE

08 Provide accessible restrooms in outdoor public areas

Description

Several survey respondents noted the need for additional public restrooms. Currently, a closed public restroom is situated near the small playground at Max E. Roper Park East at the west end of Groveland Street. This facility appears perfectly situated for the Disc Golf course and the other park amenities in the vicinity.

Public restrooms at other locations in the neighborhood could be considered at:

- Belmont Community Center (serving the south side of Belmont Park)
- Belmont Pool (serving the north side of Belmont Park), and
- Connecting Pointe Church (serving their development of community-focused amenities as well as the south end of Max E. Roper Park East).

Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Create a central outdoor gathering space
- Support existing community institutions



HEALTH + RECREATION

- Increase opportunities for inclusive outdoor activity



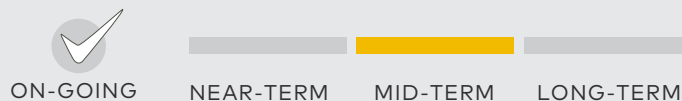
NATURE + ENVIRONMENT

- Encourage connection to nature



Public restroom at Meadowbrook Park, Prairie Village, Kansas, incorporated into the Park's Clubhouse.

Time Frame for Implementation



Costs



- Community outreach
- Design + construction
- Maintenance + operations

Champions + Partners

- City of Lincoln Parks + Recreation
- City of Lincoln Planning Department
- Belmont Community Center
- Connecting Pointe Church

Funding Opportunities

- City of Lincoln Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
- Lincoln Parks + Recreation budget

Quick Wins

- Consider temporary outdoor restrooms until permanent ones can be built and/or accommodated

Public Support

"Wow. Go to the park with a few kids and one has to go potty. Good luck."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Restroom facilities at Roper frisbee park."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Restrooms at Belmont Park."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"A bathroom that is a toilet with a locking door, not gender-specific. Handwashing outside. Include a diaper-changing station. Keep it well lit and do police checks to keep it safe."

SURVEY RESPONSE



Detached public restroom.

09 Support community gardening that provides fresh produce + fosters social interaction

Description

Lincoln's *Local Food System Plan 2023-2027* includes promotion of community gardens to support the goal of increasing and ensuring access to healthy foods for all. One of the key metrics for this plan is to triple the number of community gardens from 13 in 2023 to 39 by 2035. Belmont could play a significant role as this strategy was identified by many as one that would have positive impact in the community, supporting many of the goals in different ways.

Community Crops is a program of Family Service Lincoln, and their mission is to empower people to grow food at a community garden, local farm, or in one's own backyard. One such community garden was recently started at Belmont Baptist Church on 14th Street with the support of Community Crops.

Because of the number of times that community gardening was mentioned in the open houses and surveys, it would appear there is a critical mass of interested individuals and/or organizations within Belmont to start and grow this initiative immediately.

Community gardens also connect well with composting programs as a resource for organic matter for soil. For example, zoos often have recovered herbivore-dung, an excellent soil additive. And leaf-and-brush pickup composting programs produce quality organic matter soils.

One relevant precedent is the New Roots for Refugees program, a partnership of Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas and Cultivate KC. It is a four-year training program to help farmers develop and maintain small farm businesses. One location for such a program may be on Lincoln Park + Recreation land just west of 9th Street.

Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Support existing community institutions
- Celebrate and support the diversity of the neighborhood



HEALTH + RECREATION

- Increase opportunities for inclusive outdoor activity
- Improve access to healthy food



NATURE + ENVIRONMENT

- Encourage connection to nature
- Reduce environmental risks (heat, cold, flood)
- Maximize recycling + composting



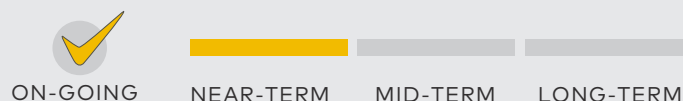
HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

- Reinforce pride of neighborhood
- Ensure access to homeowner education + resources



New Roots for Refugees graduate, Len Merry, with her produce at a local farmers' market

Time Frame for Implementation



Costs



- Startup
- Maintenance

Champions + Partners

- Community Crops
- Mayor's Community Committee on Local Foods
- Belmont Baptist Church and other local organizations
- Lincoln Public Schools (Belmont, Goodrich, Campbell, connected to curriculum)
- Southern Heights Food Forest
- Hawley Hamlet Neighborhood Garden, Inc.
- Interested Belmont Residents

Funding Opportunities

- Partnership with Community Crops
- Community health grants
- Local organizations and individuals

Quick Wins

- Community gardens are already happening; these can start up at any time with minimal financial support and volunteer labor

Public Support

"I hope we have less fast food."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"When I envision a better future of Belmont, I imagine community gardens for hobby and to combat food insecurity."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Community Garden! Multiple to make it accessible to [homeless]. Organic! Sensory garden for special needs."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"It would be nice to have a community garden for those who enjoy gardening and extra harvest can go to neighbors who may have food insecurity."

SURVEY RESPONSE



Community Crops 17th Street Community Garden, Lincoln, Nebraska - Courtesy of SustainLNK Website

10 Develop year-round sports venues in the Belmont Plaza area

Description

Belmont residents of all ages spoke consistently about their interest in more organized space for indoor and outdoor activities within the neighborhood. At the same time, Connecting Pointe Church has expressed interest in supporting an athletic complex near their new church location at Belmont Plaza, possibly to include courts and fields for soccer, pickleball, football, basketball, and volleyball, most of which were referenced by residents in the Community Open Houses.

These venues may be indoor, outdoor, or both as their plans develop. The church plans to have an indoor playground within their own building, which will be available to the general public during normal open hours of the church. Connecting Pointe has also supported pop-up events in the existing parking lot, including a Fall Fest.

As dialogue between the church and the neighborhood continues, care should be taken so that development at Belmont Plaza is complementary with plans at Belmont Park, Belmont Community Center, and other locations in the neighborhood. The goal would be to fill in the gaps and not become competing hubs.

The sports amenities noted above may be accommodated within the existing paved parking area or in the open land north of Belmont Avenue, which is currently in need of repair. Best practices in stormwater management will come into play in these areas due to its location with the FEMA floodway and 100-year flood plain.

Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Support existing community institutions
- Improve safety in the neighborhood



HEALTH + RECREATION

- Increase opportunities for inclusive outdoor activity
- Increase access to year-round sports facilities

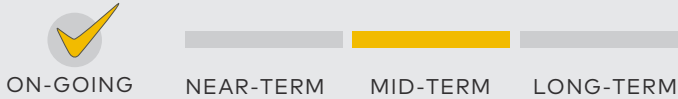


HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

- Reinforce pride of neighborhood
- Increase businesses that serve day-to-day needs of the neighborhood

Adjacent and north of Belmont Plaza is the southern end of Max E Roper Park East, which has a drainageway running roughly midway east to west. Vacant land between N 9th Street and the drainageway that could accommodate some of the sports facilities mentioned by the neighborhood residents and Connecting Pointe Church.

Time Frame for Implementation



Costs



- Planning
- Design + construction
- Operations + maintenance

Champions + Partners

- Connecting Pointe Church
- City of Lincoln Urban Development
- City of Lincoln Parks + Recreation

Funding Opportunities

- Connecting Pointe Church
- Partnerships with other organizations

Quick Wins

- Initiate a church-neighborhood conversation that explores the potential of a new Belmont Plaza and how it might best serve the community in coordination with possible other sports venue nearby in Max E Roper Park East and existing infrastructure (the gym at BCC, for example)
- Continue to host pop-up events on the property; coordinate with year-round SNAC events and other neighborhood activities

Public Support

"Indoor play center, jump park, or another activity for cold or rainy days."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"We would like more youth sports that aren't the YMCA or an expensive league"

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Turning empty parking lots into parks, pollinator zones, regrow prairie?"

SURVEY RESPONSE



Pop-Up Fall Fest hosted by Connecting Pointe Church at Belmont Plaza

11 Redevelop east side of Max E Roper Park East to include healthy community amenities

Description

Max E Roper Park East is a 33-acre community park located between 10th and Belmont Streets to 3rd and Superior Streets. It has been divided over time by the highway and drainageway, and falls within the 100-year flood plain. Today, Max E Roper Park East includes:

- Disc golf course
- Dog park
- Aging tennis courts
- Small playground with swings, playground equipment, benches, and picnic table
- Closed public restroom facility
- Two small unidentified buildings/structures

While the disc golf community are active users of the courses on both East and West sides of Roper Park, they come mostly from outside Belmont. Other community amenities could support health and well-being goals for residents while co-existing with disc golf and dog park activity, including:

- An upgraded playground at the west end of Groveland and Judson Streets to include a skate park/ribbon, new and accessible playground equipment, a picnic shelter, and public restrooms
- Improved amenities at the dog park to include better lighting and tree planting for shade in summer months
- Community garden space
- Educational signage along new walking path to preserve and teach about natural functions of flood plain (refer to complementary strategy in Nature + Environment theme section)
- Outdoor sports fields on the vacant land between the waterway and N 9th Street,

Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Create a central outdoor gathering space
- Support existing community institutions
- Improve safety in the neighborhood



HEALTH + RECREATION

- Increase opportunities for inclusive outdoor activity



NATURE + ENVIRONMENT

- Encourage connection to nature



HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

- Reinforce pride of neighborhood

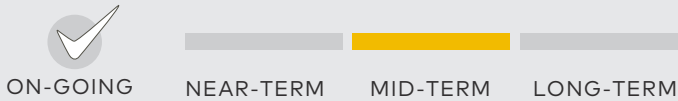
including possibly courts and fields for soccer, baseball, volleyball, and basketball. (This could be designed in conjunction with sports amenities planned at the Belmont Plaza site and accommodate appropriate parking and ancillary amenities.)

In all cases, care would need to be given with respect to the floodway and floodplain in this area.



Playground at Meadowbrook Park, Prairie Village, Kansas

Time Frame for Implementation



Costs



- Community planning
- Design + construction
- Operations + maintenance

Champions + Partners

- City of Lincoln Parks + Recreation
- City of Lincoln Planning
- Disc golf club/community
- Master gardeners
- Interested Belmont residents

Funding Opportunities

- City of Lincoln Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
- Existing city budgets
- Capital campaign
- Individual charitable donations

Quick Wins

- If gardening is allowed along the east edge of Max E. Roper Park - East, consider setting up a community garden
- Add amenities to existing facilities, such as more tree planting at the dog park

Public Support

"We would like more youth sports that aren't the YMCA or an expensive league, specifically soccer."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Turning empty parking lots into parks, pollinator zones, regrow prairie?"

SURVEY RESPONSE

A cleaner Antelope Creek; more businesses set up (like the Hub), which utilizes the water to create a more scenic environment (not a riverwalk but a creekwalk)."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"The Billy Wolff Trail has spots intentionally created to stop and linger, enjoying the quiet nature. Belmont lacks these intentionally created spaces, spaces designed to be beautiful."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Updated park for all including disabled individuals; bike pathways; Max E updated with additional trails."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Good clean accessible trails for outdoor walking!"

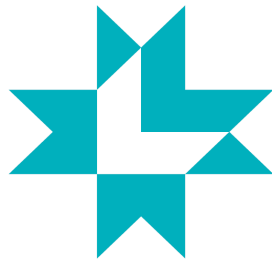
SURVEY RESPONSE

"Better dog park with shade, upgrade the grass in the dog park (full of sand burrs, which makes quick trips to the park almost impossible ... "

SURVEY RESPONSE

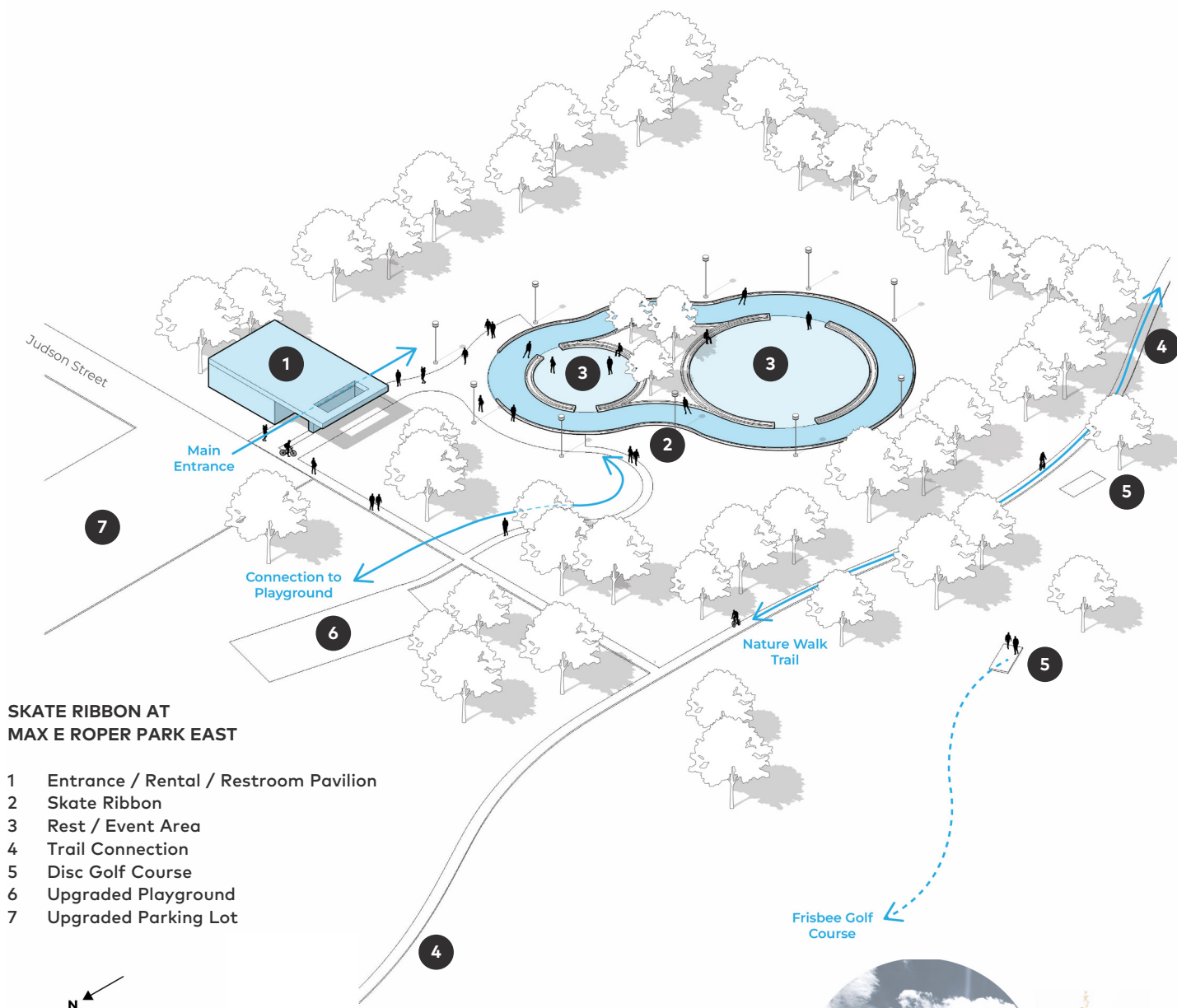
"We need a big field to play soccer nearby (Nance Street apt)."

SURVEY RESPONSE



At the west ends of Judson and Groveland Streets in the Belmont neighborhood, there is a portion of Max E Roper Park East that is home to a small playground, aging tennis courts, a closed public restroom, and a section of the active disc golf course. This sketch imagines replacing the tennis courts with a skate ribbon/park and a small

facility that could house a public restroom and skate rental. It could tie into the disc golf course and new walking trail along the waterway that runs through Max E Roper Park East from north to south. **This is just one idea of how this park might be reimagined** to serve the Belmont community. This is a view looking towards the southeast.





THEME



NATURE + ENVIRONMENT

STRATEGIES

- 12 Establish recycling + composting program in the neighborhood
-  13 Preserve + expand natural areas with walking trails
- 14 Establish stormwater management program for homeowners + businesses
- 15 Promote energy-efficient buildings + renewable energy
- 16 Implement environmental stewardship programs

12 Establish recycling + composting program in the neighborhood

Description

The City of Lincoln recently eliminated smaller recycling dropoffs and created fewer but larger centers for efficiency and security. It was suggested that there have been issues with residents dropping off material other than recyclable goods, and using them as dumping spots for bulk items.

It appears that current residents miss the convenient opportunity to recycle locally beyond a curbside service that they pay for. If the real issue is security and abuse of the system, there may be ways to mitigate the harm. If an organization were willing to take "ownership" of a smaller center, they could monitor on a regular basis and even offer volunteers for recycle days when the containers or bins would be "open".

Additionally, dumpster days could be established to help residents that do have bulk items for disposal on an annual or semi-annual schedule.

Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



NATURE + ENVIRONMENT

- Encourage connection to nature
- Reduce environmental risks (heat, cold, flood)
- Maximize recycling + composting



HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

- Reinforce pride of neighborhood
- Ensure access to homeowner education + resources

This center could also be a source for compost material connected to an organization or business in the area that would benefit from receiving bulk compost material.



Missouri Organic Recycling, Kansas City, Missouri
This organization collects compostable materials from businesses across the city and produces compost, top soil + blends, and mulch for use by homeowners and landscape professionals, closing the loop within the city.

SAVE THE DATE!

Neighbors—save the date for a dumpster day for the residents of the Westside

Westside Dumpster Day
June 7th and October 4th, 2025
From 9 am to 12 noon

21st Street Jefferson Street
under the I-35 bridge.

Please follow these guidelines:

- Wait in your vehicle for your turn
- When is your turn step out with your own helpers and dispose everything in the container.
- Be aware that other patrons are waiting so empty your vehicle as soon as possible
- Please read the list about what you can not put in the containers



You cannot bring:

water heaters,
propane tanks,
engines, car
parts, full paint
cans, hazardous
waste like aerosol
cans, electronics like
TV's, computers,
microwaves etc.

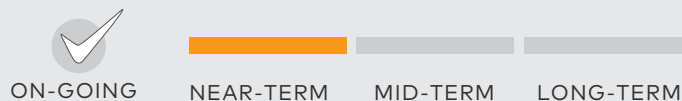
We suggest take water
heaters and propane
tanks to Advantage
Metal recycling in KCK.
Car engines and car
parts go to auto
salvage places.

Electronic item
bring to MRC
Recycling 2000
19th Street.
Full paint cans
hazardous was
take to the De
RD campus.

Westside Dumpster Days, Kansas City, Missouri

Two days a year, the neighborhood organizes Dumpster Days to help residents responsibly dispose of larger items that are not accepted during regular trash pickup. Opportunities for reusable/salvageable items are also available.

Time Frame for Implementation



Costs



- Containers for recycling, composting, dumpster days
- Operation + maintenance

Champions + Partners

- City of Lincoln Transportation + Utilities (LTU) Solid Waste Management
- Waste to Energy Lincoln
- Nebraska Recycling Council
- Prairieland Dairy
- Lincoln Public Schools (inc. North Star HS)
- Connecting Pointe Church
- Belmont Community Center
- Recycling companies
- Volunteers from schools, university, or the community-at-large

Funding Opportunities

- City of Lincoln
- Recycling companies

Quick Wins

- Initiate dumpster days for bulk drop-off
- Coordinate pickups for donations to Habitat ReStore
- Connect recycling/composting programs at schools with municipal programs
- Connect with the Near South neighborhood to observe their Spring Clean Up day

Public Support

"Yes! We go too far now and many have quit recycling!"

SURVEY RESPONSE



Kitchen Scrap Drop Off Composting Program, Kansas City Neighborhood dropoff for household food waste is safe and clean, and convenient when located near recycling options.



Smaller scale neighborhood drop-off

13 Preserve + expand natural areas with walking trails

Description

In addition to the amenities listed in the Health + Recreation section of the plan, Max E Roper Park East could also host a new walking trail running the length of the park north to south. This trail could meander along the waterway and the west edge of the neighborhood residential area, designed to include native and edible plantings.

Many connections could be made along the way to the dog park and to new sports facilities at Belmont Plaza and along the west side of N 9th Street. As it runs north it could be adjacent to the disc golf course and designed in such a way to be complementary and not intrusive. Since the disc golf course is used on most days it would support safe walking with more eyes in the area. Another key connection would be to the small playground area at the west ends of Groveland and Judson Streets.

Native trees, bushes, and flowers that are edible and/or attractive to butterflies and pollinators could be planted along the new trail. Care must be given in the design to acknowledge the floodway and flood plain in this area and to ensure that any new trails are accessible to a wide range of users. As well, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) safety principles should be adopted.

The educational opportunities are many with appropriate signage about previous flooding, flood plain functions, natural habitats, and more.

Finally, this has the potential to connect into the overall trail system that exists and is planned for expansion throughout the City.

Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Improve safety in the neighborhood



HEALTH + RECREATION

- Increase opportunities for inclusive outdoor activity



NATURE + ENVIRONMENT

- Encourage connection to nature
- Reduce environmental risks (heat, cold, flood)



MOBILITY + TRANSPORTATION

- Improve pedestrian + cyclist experience within the neighborhood



HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

- Reinforce pride of neighborhood



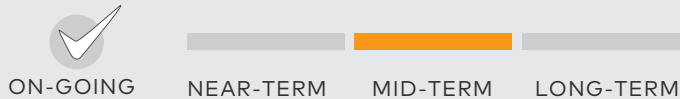
Antelope Valley Union Plaza Park, Lincoln, Nebraska



Parks + Recreation Cliff Drive Trail, Kansas City, Missouri



Time Frame for Implementation



Costs



- Design + construction of new trails
- Maintenance of new + existing trails

Champions + Partners

- City of Lincoln Parks + Recreation
- City of Lincoln Planning

Funding Opportunities

- City of Lincoln Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
- Existing city budgets
- Capital campaign
- Individual charitable donations

Quick Wins

- Cleanup at existing (formal and informal) trails
- Stake out new trail at Max E Roper Park - East along creek to help residents visualize the possibilities
- Install signage that indicates "future trails" through the neighborhood connecting with other trails beyond
- Consider an "adopt-a-trail" approach to developing neighborhood/community-based responsibility for day-to-day or weekly upkeep

Public Support

"Good clean accessible trails for outdoor walking!"

SURVEY RESPONSE

"More native plants in the parks."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"A winding walk path with trees with a measured distance. Berry bushes and fruit trees. Pollinator plants."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Easier access to bike trails, parks, third spaces without needing a car."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"There is a gap in the trail system between Superior Street and Cornhusker Highway."

SURVEY RESPONSE



Billy Wolff Trail, Lincoln, Nebraska

14 Establish stormwater management program for homeowners + businesses

Description

One policy of Plan Forward (Lincoln's 2050 Comprehensive Plan) is to promote Conservation Design, development that consolidates buildings so that natural areas are maximized. For Belmont, this could include integrating stormwater management as a natural system through the neighborhood and its parks. One key outcome of conservation design is to slow stormwater runoff. This happens first at the source, whether this occurs as rainwater falls on the roof of a house and handled on the property or in the design of a waterway that can absorb the ebb and flow of large rain events. Large parking lots unaccompanied by best practices in stormwater management, along with any large areas of hard (impervious) surfaces often create problems for both the property owner and anyone downstream from the property.

To help reduce overall demand on stormwater infrastructure in the city, to keep natural waterways clean, and to keep the rain where it falls, it is important to encourage a distributed network of green stormwater solutions throughout the neighborhood. There are many reasons to do this, from the macro urban scale to the scale of a single home property owner. At the individual homeowner and business owner scale a variety of strategies can be employed:

- Disconnect downspouts from the municipal system and handle stormwater on-site, including the incorporation of rainbarrels for irrigation and raingardens
- Encourage native landscapes
- Convert flat or low-sloping roofs to green roofs
- Reduce impervious paving and direct existing paved areas to raingardens and filter strips

Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



HEALTH + RECREATION

- Increase opportunities for inclusive outdoor activity



NATURE + ENVIRONMENT

- Encourage connection to nature
- Reduce environmental risks (heat, cold, flood)



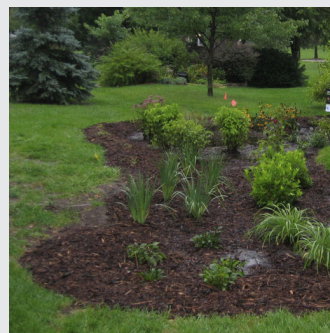
MOBILITY + TRANSPORTATION

- Improve pedestrian + cyclist experience within the neighborhood



HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

- Reinforce pride of neighborhood
- Ensure access to homeowner education + resources



Examples of Rainscaping Lincoln Projects, Lincoln, Nebraska;
Clockwise from upper left: waterwise lawn, tree planting,
rainbarrels, raingarden

Time Frame for Implementation



ON-GOING



NEAR-TERM

MID-TERM

LONG-TERM

Costs



- Implementation of best practices such as rainbarrels, raingardens, bioswales, green roofs, water-wise lawn, etc.

Champions + Partners

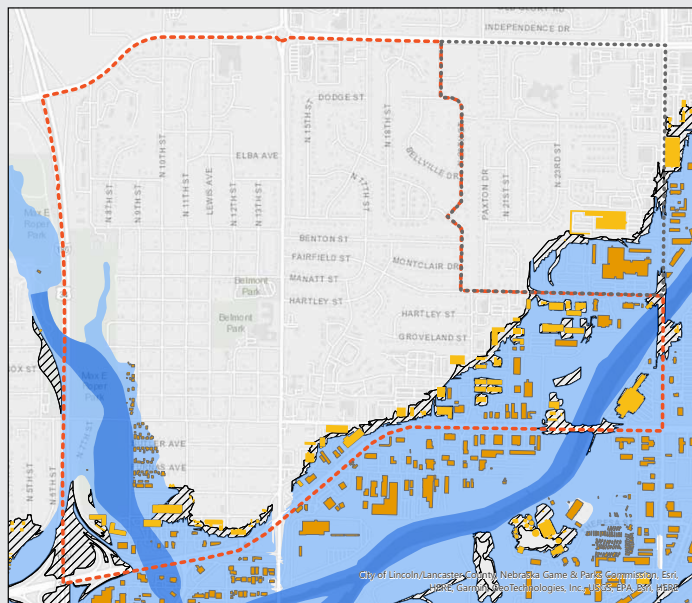
- Lincoln Transportation + Utilities (LTU) - Rainscaping Lincoln
- Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD)
- Rafa Roofing

Funding Opportunities

- LTU Rainscaping Lincoln (Sustainable Landscapes Cost Share Program)
- Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD)
- Other city grant programs

Quick Wins

- Promote awareness and action through an educational workshop on the basic risks of flooding and benefits of stormwater management at home or work (rainbarrel installation, raingarden design + construction, and more)
- Add signage near stormdrains warning of hazardous chemicals and impact on natural waterways



Buildings in FEMA flood plains (refer Neighborhood Mapping section for a larger image)

"Daily rainfall greater than one inch is generally not very common (less than five days a year) currently. However, we can expect a 15% to 35% increase in heavy precipitation days by mid-century. Furthermore, multi-day extreme precipitation events will increase in severity. Soil cover and structure will be critical to reduce runoff and increase the infiltration of excess precipitation."

- Excerpted from Lincoln's Vision for a Climate-Smart Future, February 2021

15 Promote energy-efficient buildings + renewable energy

Description

There are many reasons for improving energy-efficiency in buildings and choosing renewable energy sources, including:

- Improve physical comfort in each season
- Enjoy healthier air quality and improved health
- Increase property value
- Lower energy costs and bills by minimizing/eliminating wasted energy
- Improve outdoor air quality

According to the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL), buildings are responsible for 40% of total energy consumed in the U.S. and 35% of carbon emissions. Electric systems for heating, cooling, and other power needs help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, creating a cleaner environment that is better for human health.

Lincoln Electric System's *Sustainable Energy Program* offers incentives to residential and business customers to invest in energy-efficiency strategies that reduce "peak demand, power costs, wasted energy, and associated emissions". One component of the program is a Heat Pump Incentive that provides support toward the purchase of an air source heat pump, for example. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 used to offer homeowners up to \$3,200 savings annually in the form of a tax credit for energy-efficient upgrades through 2032. Upgrades were focused on clean energy equipment, including rooftop solar, wind energy, geothermal heat pumps, and battery storage. Recent funding changes at the federal level have altered these programs, which may push these types of funding opportunities to the state level. Several relevant programs in Nebraska include:

Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



NATURE + ENVIRONMENT

- Encourage connection to nature
- Reduce environmental risks (heat, cold, flood)



HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

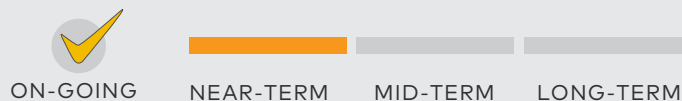
- Ensure access to homeowner education + resources
- Maintain access to affordable housing

- Nebraska State Sales & Use Tax Exemption for Renewable Energy
- Low-Interest Energy Savings Loans
- Net Metering + Property Tax Exemptions
- Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)

Appliance upgrades are also an opportunity to improving energy consumption, along with LED lighting, smart thermostats, and weatherproofing. To date, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Energy Star program is the go-to resource for energy-saving strategies for building owners.

Lincoln Electric System (LES) is also a valuable resource for the programs listed above and for installation or purchase of renewable energy, either installing solar panels on a building or participating in a community solar program. Support includes Virtual Net Metering Solar Program, Sunshares, and Renewable Energy Certificates. While these resources are available on the City of Lincoln's website, links to specific resources could be added to a Belmont neighborhood website as a one-stop shop for homeowner education and resources.

Time Frame for Implementation



Costs



- Directing building owners to resources regarding energy-efficiency improvements

Champions + Partners

- Lincoln Electric System (LES)
- City of Lincoln
- Community Action Partnership
- Black Hills Energy
- Rafa Roofing Company

Funding Opportunities

- Tax incentives through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022
- Lincoln Electric System's Sustainable Energy Program (SEP) - Resilient Lincoln
- Sunshares
- Renewable Energy Certificates
- Virtual Net Metering Program
- Community Action Partnership Weatherization Program

Quick Wins

- Start sharing energy-efficiency and renewable energy programs with neighbors
- Connect with LES to share information with the neighborhood at next SNAC meeting
- Invite LES to have a table at a community event that focuses or is coupled with educational opportunities

Public Support

"I imagine improved/updated homes with help of grants and/or tax credits."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Solar panels in car parks in local areas to power parks, camping sites, garage, etc."

SURVEY RESPONSE

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PROGRAM
Incentives through LES' Sustainable Energy Program

The Sustainable Energy Program (SEP) provides financial incentives to encourage **residential** and **business** customers to make energy-efficiency improvements. Investing in energy efficiency reduces peak demand, power costs, wasted energy, and associated emissions, paving the way for a brighter, more resilient future.

Questions? Email us at SEP@LES.com

Lincoln Electric System's Sustainable Energy Program
(les.com/sustainability/sustainable-energy-program)

16 Implement environmental stewardship programs

Description

In February 2021, the City of Lincoln published *Lincoln's Vision for a Climate-Smart Future*. As noted in the plan, "The Climate Action Plan has come about from an understanding of the need to significantly reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in order to slow the pace of climate change and protect Lincoln residents' way of life." The following expectations for Lincoln's future climate are included in the plan and drive the incentive for all to be more thoughtful and action-oriented with environmental stewardship:

- 5 degrees warmer than in 2021
- 44 days annually with a heat index over 100F
- 10-16% winter and spring precipitation totals will increase
- 15% - 30% increase in heavy precipitation days statewide

Many communities have acted on regional and municipal climate action plans by thinking globally and acting locally. This can come in the form of new not-for-profit organizations that support environmental stewardship, green teams formed within businesses, churches, or neighborhoods to consider day-to-day operations and impacts, and task forces within a neighborhood that consider practical applications that contribute to a healthier planet while making their own place in the world healthier and more beautiful. Programs come in many forms that address a wide variety of issues and accommodate the varying passions of any community: clean water, water conservation, energy-efficiency, tree planting to mitigate urban heat islands, community gardening to increase access to healthy food, composting, and recycling. The most powerful solutions are ones that marry individual volunteers with businesses,

Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Support existing community institutions
- Improve communication in the neighborhood



NATURE + ENVIRONMENT

- Encourage connection to nature
- Reduce environmental risks (heat, cold, flood)
- Maximize recycling + composting



MOBILITY + TRANSPORTATION

- Slow car traffic on neighborhood streets
- Improve pedestrian + cyclist experience within the neighborhood
- Improve pedestrian + cyclist experience to destinations outside the neighborhood
- Improve public transit experience

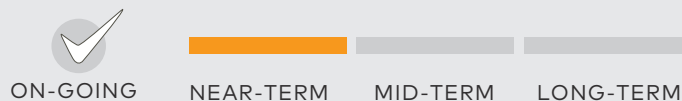


HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

- Reinforce pride of neighborhood
- Ensure access to homeowner education + resources
- Maintain access to affordable housing

not-for-profit organizations, local utilities, city and county systemic changes, and state and national tax incentives and grants. The benefits to the Belmont neighborhood of acting locally in this way will lead to healthier residents living in a more beautiful and abundant place.

Time Frame for Implementation



Costs



- Initiate a team within Belmont that supports environmental stewardship

Champions + Partners

- Interested Belmont residents + businesses
- Local not-for-profit agencies
- Lincoln Electric System
- Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD)
- Rafa Roofing Company

Funding Opportunities

- _____

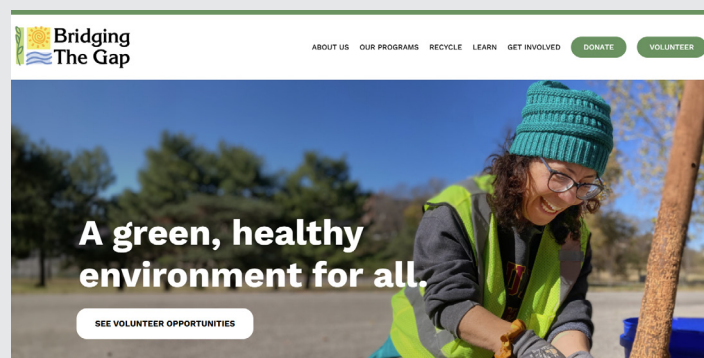
Quick Wins

- Find like-minded Belmont residents and businesses to start a neighborhood green team
- Partner with the City and not-for-profits that can support early wins like tree planting or sponsorship of a recycling and composting site

Public Support

"We connect with nature by keeping our yards mowed; picking up trash when it is thrown out of cars; keeping the gutters free of leaves."

SURVEY RESPONSE



Bridging the Gap, Kansas City, Missouri. Through a host of programs, this organization delivers environmental solutions in Kansas City through education, volunteerism, and the stewardship of natural resources. (bridgingthegap.org)



THEME



MOBILITY + TRANSPORTATION

STRATEGIES



17 Develop safe multi-modal access at bridges + major connection points



18 Implement street / sidewalk / crosswalk improvements throughout Belmont

19 Expand Safe Routes to School program (inc. library and parks)



20 Improve bus stops in the neighborhood

17 Develop safe multi-modal access at bridges + major connection points

Description

Belmont residents have expressed concerns about the isolation of Belmont due to heavy transportation infrastructure surrounding the community and how connections to destinations outside the community are unsafe for pedestrians and bicyclists. Four particular locations have been consistently mentioned in the community engagement process as in need of safer multi-modal infrastructure:

(1) 14th Street Bridge at Cornhusker

14th Street is a primary path to Downtown Lincoln from Belmont. The bridge is near its end-of-life with plans underway to replace the existing structure. The opportunity exists now to influence the design to enhance safe and enjoyable passage for pedestrians and bicyclists alike. (Refer to *Cornhusker Highway Corridor Enhancement Plan (2020)*.) Because the elevation of Belmont is a bit above that of Downtown, the path across this bridge heading south could highlight a view of the Capitol building, Downtown, and the crossing of Oak and Salt Creeks as it turns into N Antelope Valley Parkway. According to the *2019 Lincoln Bike Plan*, a future "sidepath" at 14th Street is planned along this route to connect to the Antelope Valley Parkway Trail. The future 14th Street sidepath would be an extension of the sidepath already constructed near Belmont Elementary School.

(2) Adams Street Overpass at I-180

This overpass is the only connection between the Belmont and West Lincoln neighborhoods. Considering the Belmont School District includes residences in the West Lincoln neighborhood, it is quite challenging for those students and other residents to safely transverse the overpass

by walking or biking. The sidewalk on either side of the overpass located at the back of curb with no barrier between the sidewalk and road lane. The only other passage below I-180 is a culvert between Max E Roper Park East and West, not intended for human passage. Lincoln's Bike Plan calls for a "bicycle boulevard" at the Adams Street overpass. At the next opportunity, safe multi-modal passage between the two neighborhoods and between the East and West sides of Max E Roper Park should be considered as it would be greatly welcomed in the community.

(3) 11th Street at Cornhusker Highway

Primarily serving motorized vehicles along 11th Street and Cornhusker Highway, the design of this intersection is not successful in serving pedestrians or bicyclists. This at-grade intersection is quite expansive with significant distances at primary crosswalks. Lincoln's Bike Plan shows some intention to connect to the N Antelope Valley Parkway by first heading east along Oak Creek before heading south again. This plan suggests prioritizing retrofits that provide safe passage for bikes and pedestrians.

(4) Superior Street between Belmont Neighborhood and Points North

Superior Street creates a barrier to amenities to the north of Belmont, including clear and direct access to the Loren C Eiseley Branch Library. This library was one of the "favorite places" noted by schoolchildren during the first Community Open House, which suggests a safer passage here is worth consideration. There is a dedicated passage just east of the 14th and Superior roundabout for pedestrians and bicyclists, but the residents expressed interest in the City



Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Improve safety in the neighborhood



NATURE + ENVIRONMENT

- Encourage connection to nature
- Reduce environmental risks (heat, cold, flood)



MOBILITY + TRANSPORTATION

- Slow car traffic on neighborhood streets
- Improve pedestrian + cyclist experience within the neighborhood
- Improve pedestrian + cyclist experience to destinations outside the neighborhood



HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

- Reinforce pride of neighborhood

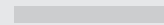
considering other opportunities along Superior to cross northward. The current crossing, though challenging due to its proximity to the roundabout, does appear to be one of the few ways to cross due to the lane/median design along this stretch of Superior.

Also of note, the upcoming *Lincoln Mobility Plan*, due out in 2026, will look at ways to enhance mobility and transportation in Belmont.

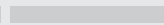
Time Frame for Implementation



ON-GOING



NEAR-TERM



MID-TERM



LONG-TERM

Costs



- Design + construction

Champions + Partners

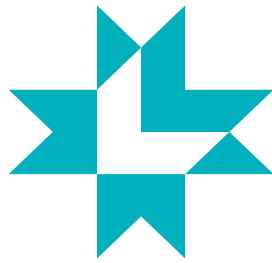
- City of Lincoln Transportation + Utilities (LTU)
- City of Lincoln Urban Development
- Biking community
- Interested Belmont residents

Funding Opportunities

- City of Lincoln Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
- Existing city budgets
- Capital campaign
- Individual charitable donations

Quick Wins

- Intervene on design of 14th Street bridge at Cornhusker Hwy
- Engage community on possibilities and timing of other interventions (Adams at I-180, N 11th Street at Cornhusker, 14th Street at Superior)
- Review the upcoming *Lincoln Mobility Plan* when it is published, and consider participation in its development



Public Support

"Continue with bike paths and new bridge over Cornhusker Hwy for safer crossings."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Improved access to trail network. Need a pedestrian bridge over Cornhusker on 14th or 10th. I've biked and run at both spots, and it's a consistently terrible experience. I can't think of many worse places to be a pedestrian."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"I am most concerned about speeding vehicles ... [and] poor access to trail network (crossing Cornhusker is a nightmare)."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Less traffic at roundabout or people knowing how to drive around it."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Safer road at 14th + Adams and 14th + Superior".

SURVEY RESPONSE

"The physical environment undermines the population's ability to connect (in outdoor spaces, etc.). 27th Street, N 14th Street, and Cornhusker Hwy have created an island. Kids can't connect, learn, or explore outside if parents don't think it is safe enough to go outside."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Continue bike paths and new bridge over Cornhusker Hwy for safer crossings."

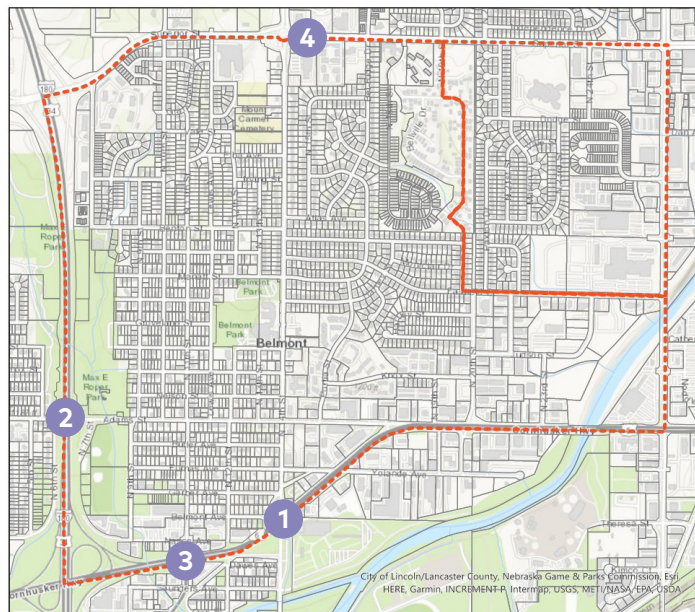
SURVEY RESPONSE

"To me a thriving Belmont would have safe streets, sidewalks, and bike paths that make it well-connected to the rest of the city"

SURVEY RESPONSE

"14th + Adams intersection needs ... stoplights back in."

SURVEY RESPONSE



Belmont map showing the four locations noted above in need of safer multi-modal passage to points outside the neighborhood noted most in community meetings.



West A Street Bridge at Railroad Crossing (safely accommodating pedestrians and bikers adjacent to vehicles).

18 Catalyze street / sidewalk / crosswalk improvements throughout Belmont

Description

In 2013, Mayor of Lincoln, Chris Beutler, signed an executive order "establishing a policy for the development of Complete Streets". The term "complete streets" refers to street design that provides for all modes of transportation including private vehicles, public transportation, walking, and bicycling. See the complete streets section of the *Smart Growth America* website for more information as well as Lincoln Planning Department's webpage focused on Complete Streets (www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Planning-Department/MPO/Complete-Streets).

In 2015, a *Complete Streets Gap Analysis and Prioritization Strategy* was published for the City of Lincoln. Annual Reports on this effort have been published and are available on the City's website. The Committee administering this effort receives \$50,000 annually to fund complete streets projects, including sidewalk improvements, bike rack installations, and trail connections. A future Commuter Trail / Sidepath is identified for N 14th Street in Belmont from Manatt Street to Adams Street.

This plan supports Belmont as a priority candidate for street, sidewalk, and crosswalk improvements. There are plenty examples of missing sidewalks, deficient curbs, and unpaved streets that could be addressed while some primary streets (such as N 14th and Adams as it connects to West Lincoln) could demonstrate a comprehensive multi-modal, complete street design. Belmont's community hub at the elementary school, rec center, and community center on N 14th Street already has a sidepath. Connecting the sidepath to additional bicycle and pedestrian facilities should be prioritized.

Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Support existing community institutions
- Improve safety in the neighborhood



NATURE + ENVIRONMENT

- Encourage connection to nature
- Reduce environmental risks (heat, cold, flood)



MOBILITY + TRANSPORTATION

- Slow car traffic on neighborhood streets
- Improve pedestrian + cyclist experience within the neighborhood
- Improve pedestrian + cyclist experience to destinations outside the neighborhood
- Improve public transit experience



HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

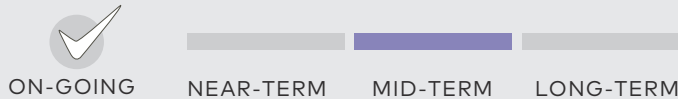
- Reinforce pride of neighborhood



Complete Streets Explained Diagram
(<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Planning-Department/MPO/Complete-Streets>)



Time Frame for Implementation



Costs



- Assessment
- Design + construction

Champions + Partners

- City of Lincoln Transportation + Utilities (LTU)
- City of Lincoln Complete Streets Committee
- Lincoln Public Schools (particularly from Belmont and Goodrich)
- Interested Belmont residents

Funding Opportunities

- City of Lincoln Complete Streets Program
- City of Lincoln Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
- Existing city budgets
- Capital campaign
- Individual charitable donations

Quick Wins

- Gather interested neighbors, in cooperation with the Lincoln's Complete Streets Committee representatives, to perform some ground-truthing, a street-by-street assessment of gaps in sidewalk continuity, missing crosswalks, needed stop signs or traffic signaling, and needed bike paths.
- Hold a "better block" event at one or more locations in the neighborhood, demonstrating how a street may be transformed.

Public Support

"Road improvement, specifically on Portia, Hartley, and Fairfield."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"A thriving Belmont in ten years would have sidewalks on all streets; 10th Street is missing them in some spots, for example."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Crosswalk across Adams Street."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"I am most concerned about the corner of 17th + Benton, an accident waiting to happen, no one yields."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Fill in gaps in sidewalks throughout the neighborhood."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Fix lights at 14th + Adams."

SURVEY RESPONSE



Making Grand Grand, Kansas City, Missouri. A pop-up festival that demonstrates how a car-centric street transforms into a street for walkers, bikers, and cars alike using limited funds before constructing the real thing.

Expand Safe Routes to School program (including library + parks)

Description

The first federally funded Safe Routes to School program was created in 2005 (though the funding mechanism seems to have expired). The City of Lincoln's Transportation and Utilities Department (LTU) announced school zone safety recommendations in August 2020 as a multi-year implementation project to improve safety and function of school zones and walking routes. In Belmont, this would be most impactful by strengthening safe routes to Belmont and Goodrich Schools as well as Belmont Park, Max E Roper East Parks, and the Loren C Eiseley Branch Library.

The goal of Safe Routes to School is to have more children walking and biking to school, improve their safety, and increase their health and physical activity. The Safe Routes Partnership website describes their key principles as Engagement, Equity, Engineering, Encouragement, Education, and Evaluation. This Strategy is also connected to the complete streets effort previously noted in this plan.

The *City of Lincoln School Zone Standards* include strategies around Campbell and Goodrich schools. And the *Lincoln Safe Routes to School* program has implemented improvements at Belmont Elementary. However, concerns were voiced regarding the new dropoff zone at Belmont Elementary School along N 14th Street as the street crossing is not aligned with the primary crossing point used during busiest times. Observation supported the concern suggesting a new review of this area is warranted.

A similar strategy as that noted for Campbell Middle at Superior (shown on the next page) is in place at the Library, but proximity to the

Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Support existing community institutions
- Improve safety in the neighborhood



HEALTH + RECREATION

- Increase opportunities for inclusive outdoor activity



NATURE + ENVIRONMENT

- Encourage connection to nature



MOBILITY + TRANSPORTATION

- Slow car traffic on neighborhood streets
- Improve pedestrian + cyclist experience within the neighborhood
- Improve pedestrian + cyclist experience to destinations outside the neighborhood



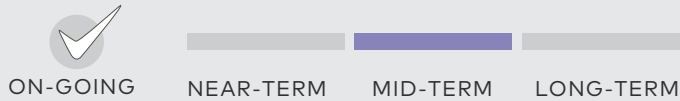
HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

- Reinforce pride of neighborhood

roundabout at 14th and Superior seems to complicate this solution.

Finally, access to Belmont parks west of N 14th Street could be reviewed and tied to Strategy 18 regarding improvements to sidewalks and crosswalks. Safer access to the Loren C Eiseley Branch Library is noted in Strategy 17.

Time Frame for Implementation



Costs



- Implementing the Six Es (some requiring more funding than others)

Champions + Partners

- City of Lincoln Transportation + Utilities (LTU)
- Lincoln Public Schools (Belmont, Goodrich, Campbell)
- Lincoln Police Department
- Loren C Eiseley Branch Library leadership

Funding Opportunities

- State of Nebraska
- City of Lincoln
- Non-profit organizations
- Local bike shops
- Mayor's Pedestrian and Bicycle Advocacy Committee

Quick Wins

- Initiate a pop-up project that demonstrates the key principles, builds support, attracts funding, and encourages community-wide awareness
- Work closely with the City to identify specific improvements at key locations in the neighborhood
- Try out a "walking school bus"

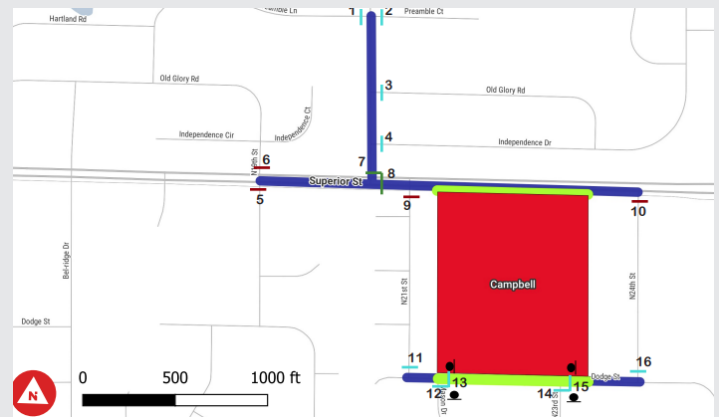
Public Support

"Wider sidewalks to allow more walking or a designated walking / bike path through the residential areas leading to the park."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"The streets are not really physically safe for those who walk or ride bicycles. More accessible sidewalks and paths would make it easier to navigate the neighborhood."

SURVEY RESPONSE



Safe Routes to School at Campbell Middle School - Focused on signalized crossing and school zone posted at Superior (City of Lincoln School Zone Standards)

20 Improve bus stops in the neighborhood

Description

The City of Lincoln's Transportation + Utilities (LTU) Department has plans for a new multi-modal transportation center (MMTC) in Downtown Lincoln. StarTran also has an initiative to upgrade communication at existing bus stops to share live updates on bus arrival times.

Some bus stop locations in Belmont consist of just a sign at the curb without concrete pads or sidewalks connecting to the street. Other bus stop locations have a bench while most have no shelter from weather or lighting. These amenities are critical when encouraging residents to use the bus system.

Existing Belmont bus stops in the *StarTran Bus Stop Improvements Project* include:

- 14th + Judson (NW)
- 14th + Manatt (SW)
- 14th + Benton (SE)
- 14th + Superior (SE)

The plan is to provide benches, bicycle parking, and shelters for protection from sun and rain. StarTran uses certain criteria for deciding which stops receive a shelter. Right-of-way (ROW) limitations will create a hurdle to proposed enhancements at some locations.

Also noted in the community comments was the lack of frequency of Belmont buses and that there are few buses that run through Belmont; most routes are at the perimeter. (See StarTran bus routes in the Neighborhood Mapping section of this plan.) Especially if/when other strategies are implemented in this plan, a more robust bus stop system would be most welcome.

Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Improve safety in the neighborhood



NATURE + ENVIRONMENT

- Reduce environmental risks (heat, cold, flood)



MOBILITY + TRANSPORTATION

- Improve public transit experience

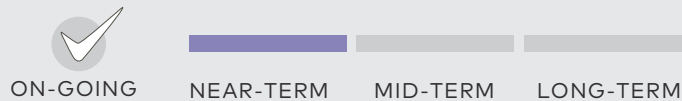


HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

- Reinforce pride of neighborhood



Time Frame for Implementation



Costs



- Identification, design, construction

Champions + Partners

- City of Lincoln Transportation + Utilities (LTU)
- City of Lincoln Urban Development

Funding Opportunities

- City of Lincoln Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
- Existing city budgets

Quick Wins

- Implement the recommendations per the *StarTran Bus Stop Improvement Project* and look at similar improvements for other bus stops in the neighborhood
- Plan incremental upgrades at all existing bus stops as part of shelter upgrades, following StarTran initiative to improve communication at bus stops regarding bus arrival times, route changes, and more

Public Support

"A bus system that actually serves the community would be great. Extended hours and more routes would benefit folks who live or work in Belmont and beyond."

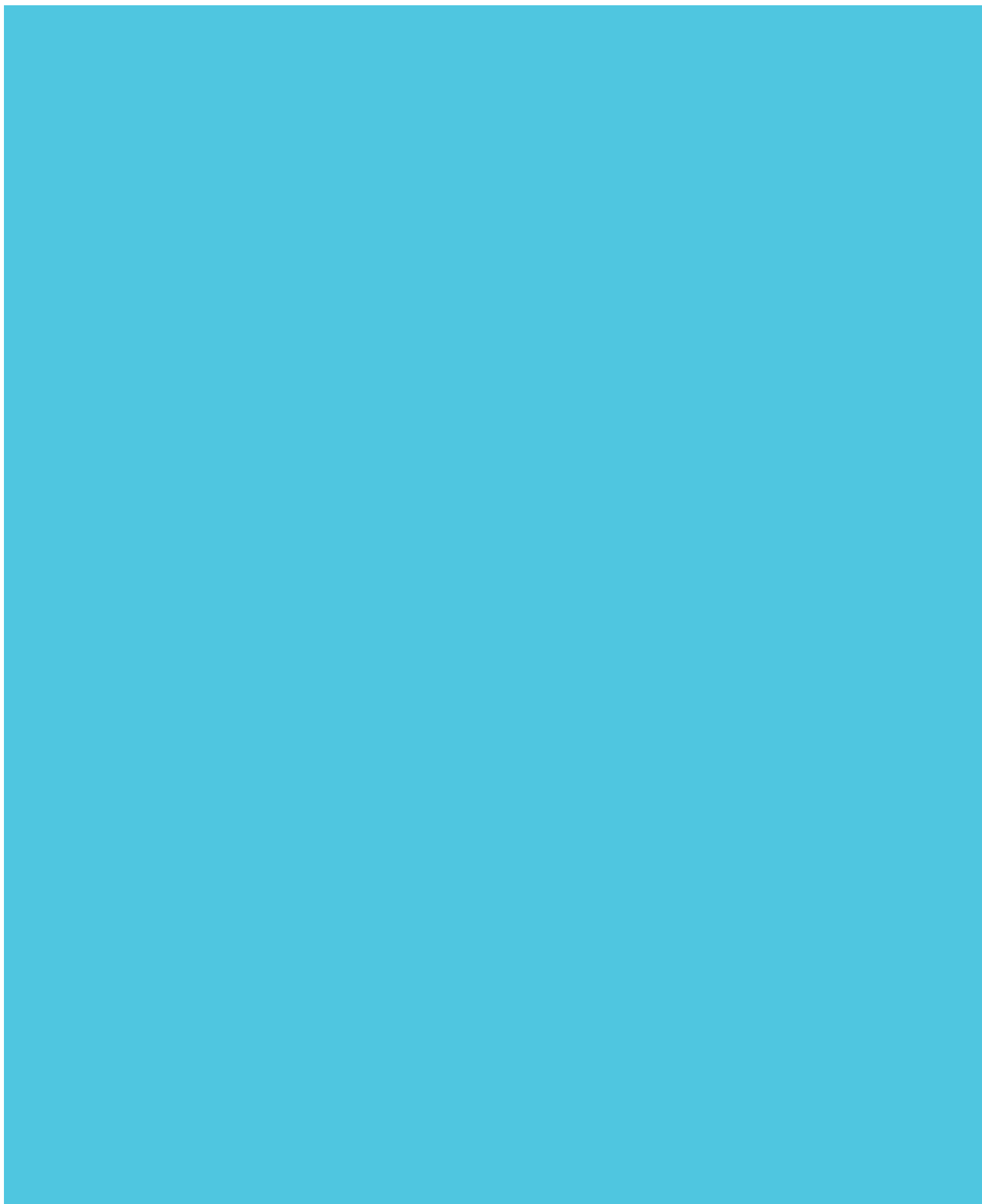
SURVEY RESPONSE

"An additional bus line that makes stops inside the neighborhood."

SURVEY RESPONSE



Troost MAX line bus stops feature artwork along the line. Kansas City, Missouri has three MAX bus rapid transit lines (BRT) that serve high-populated corridors with frequent service, traffic signaling priority, and more.



THEME



HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIES

21 Support return of a grocery store in the neighborhood



22 Establish minor home repair program



23 Promote affordable housing initiatives



24 Encourage new community-serving business development in existing retail zones

25 Develop resource hub to support home ownership

21

Support return of a grocery store in the neighborhood

Description

As noted in an earlier strategy, many older residents in the community lament the loss of their neighborhood grocery store at Belmont Plaza on 11th and Nance. Alongside other community-serving businesses, the grocery store was a place to complete several errands at once while also socializing with neighbors.

The return of a grocery store in Belmont would be a welcomed addition and would improve access to healthy food. A new grocery store in Belmont Plaza would be relatively easy to access by car, bike, or foot.

While the new owner of the former grocery store, Connecting Pointe Church, plans to convert the former grocery store building to a new sanctuary / gathering space, other locations on the property are available that could accommodate a grocery store.

Other locations for a grocery store in the Belmont neighborhood are limited, and navigating Superior and N 27th Streets to access Super Saver to the north has been noted as challenging.

Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Support existing community institutions
- Celebrate and support the diversity of the neighborhood



HEALTH + RECREATION

- Improve access to healthy food



HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

- Reinforce pride of neighborhood
- Increase businesses that serve day-to-day needs of the neighborhood



ALDI is one example of a smaller format grocery store that is more neighborhood-serving with more affordable prices. Other cooperative models can fill this role as well.

Time Frame for Implementation



ON-GOING

NEAR-TERM

MID-TERM

LONG-TERM

Costs



- Site selection
- Design + construction

Champions + Partners

- Connecting Pointe Church
- City of Lincoln Urban Development
- Interested Belmont residents
- Grocery store operators

Funding Opportunities

-

Quick Wins

- Convene a conversation with Belmont Plaza property owners to gauge interest in locating a grocery store at this location
- Though seemingly limited, identify other sites in the neighborhood that may be well-suited to this purpose and perform initial exploration

Public Support



MORE

SURVEY RESPONSE

"We need a grocery store back."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"When I envision a better future for Belmont, I imagine shops, grocery store(s), park(s) ... "

SURVEY RESPONSE

"It would be ideal if there were ... Grocery stores that provide access to healthy food options at a decent price would be ideal (one without gaming or alcohol would be my wish."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"A thriving Belmont would include a grocery store, easily accessible by bike."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"A thriving Belmont would include a nice grocery store."

SURVEY RESPONSE

22 Establish a minor home repair program

Description

Many comments in early community meetings noted a challenge of some property owners' abilities to keep up with maintenance and repair on properties in the neighborhood.

The City of Lincoln has a program that supports home rehabilitation by homeowners whose income does not exceed 50% of Lincoln median income. Rules apply that may disqualify some residents so additional programs would be beneficial if achievable; details are available on the City's website (www.lincoln.net.gov/City/Departments/Urban-Development/Housing/Home-Rehabilitation).

In addition to building new homes in the Lincoln area, Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln offers a Home Repair Program that can address accessibility modifications, weatherization, energy-efficiency improvements, and exterior repair to improve neighborhoods.

Making Belmont residents aware of such programs and encouraging them to apply should be a priority. This strategy would pair nicely with creating a Belmont communication hub/website with a separate page focused on homeowner education.

Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Improve communication in the neighborhood



HEALTH + RECREATION

- Increase opportunities for inclusive outdoor activity



NATURE + ENVIRONMENT

- Encourage connection to nature
- Reduce environmental risks (heat, cold, flood)
- Maximize recycling + composting



HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

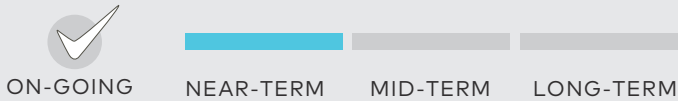
- Reinforce pride of neighborhood
- Ensure access to homeowner education + resources
- Maintain access to affordable housing



Minor Home Repair Program, Westside Housing Organization, Kansas City, Missouri - This program assists homeowners who live in targeted areas as part of a City-wide Housing + Community Development Plan. It is available to homeowners making less than 80% of median income.



Time Frame for Implementation



Costs



- Development of a micro-TIF or special fund/program

Champions + Partners

- City of Lincoln Urban Development
- Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln

Funding Opportunities

- City of Lincoln Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
- Existing city budgets
- Capital campaign
- Philanthropic organizations
- Individual charitable donations

Quick Wins

- Set up a neighborhood tool library with some construction expertise to provide guidance if needed
- Connect to volunteer organizations in the city that offer volunteer support for home repair

Public Support

"Would love grants for homeowners who want to improve their homes but may be financially limited."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Home improvement grants for those that need help with fixer uppers."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"A thriving Belmont would include nice sidewalks, cleaned up yards, maintained homes."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Low income financing to update homes."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Update the old houses."

SURVEY RESPONSE



Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln - Home Repair Program

23 Promote affordable housing initiatives

Description

In order to maintain the current character of the neighborhood, it is important for Belmont to lean into its affordable housing stock to both protect and diversify it.

Continuing to develop affordable housing in the neighborhood would also ensure that it remains a mixed-income neighborhood, whether those are homes for sale or apartments for rent. Examples throughout the U.S. demonstrate that good design, energy-efficient, quality homes can be balanced with affordability.

The *Housing Coordinated Action Plan* addresses the growing issues surrounding access to affordable housing in Lincoln. It provides a picture of Lincoln's housing market today and identifies challenges and suggestions to support strategies like this.

In Belmont, there are limited buildable lots that could support such development at a variety of scales to accommodate the missing middle, which refers to a range of medium density housing types. Vacant land adjacent to the former grocery store in Belmont Plaza is one such site.

Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Support existing community institutions
- Celebrate and support the diversity of the neighborhood



HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

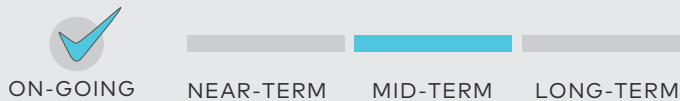
- Reinforce pride of neighborhood
- Ensure access to homeowner education + resources
- Maintain access to affordable housing



Gatehouse Rows by Hoppe Development, in response to Lincoln's affordable Housing Action Plan



Time Frame for Implementation



Costs



- Land acquisition
- Design + construction
- Operations + maintenance

Champions + Partners

- Mixed-income housing developers
- City of Lincoln Urban Development
- Lancaster Equity Community Development Corporation
- Community Action Partnership
- Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln and other Community Development Corporations
- NeighborWorks USA
- Connecting Pointe Church

Funding Opportunities

- Low-income housing tax credits
- Federal / state / local incentives
- City of Lincoln Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

Quick Wins

- Explore opportunities with developers that have a proven track record with mixed-income housing developments

Public Support

"A thriving Belmont in ten years would include a high level of home ownership with a variety of affordable housing options."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"In ten years, a thriving Belmont would include affordable housing options."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Affordable housing that meets the needs of families."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"A thriving Belmont would include new updated affordable housing units."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"I would love to see more affordable housing options to include purchase, rental, transitional, etc."

SURVEY RESPONSE



Villa Del Sol, Kansas City, Missouri - The first mixed-income development of its kind in the U.S., mostly townhomes.

Encourage new community-serving business development in existing retail zones

Description

Like other strategies, this one comes from early and consistent comments from the residents that they would like more businesses in the neighborhood that serve their day-to-day needs and that could be accessible by car, bike, or foot. As long-time Belmont resident Virginia Geiger recounts:

"The Belmont Plaza was at one time a thriving center for shopping and community building. The fact that it was named the Belmont Plaza says it all. In its peak years of the 1970s and early 1980s, it was home to a grocery store that was owned and operated by a local multi-generational family. Businesses also included a Hallmark Card Store, a Pharmacy, an Ace Hardware Store, Blockbuster Movie Rentals, Branding Iron Bar, a western clothing store, and a fabric store. In addition there was a car wash, a Ben Franklin Dime Store, a furniture store, and an A&W Root Beer. Across the street was the newly built Cornhusker Bank, a barber shop, and an ice cream shop, all locally owned by Belmont residents.

The loss of all these businesses has been a huge detriment to the economy as well as to the vitality that was once so prominent in the area. Despite all that, the people have maintained their Belmont Pride and spirit of community. Belmont is the best kept secret in Lincoln."

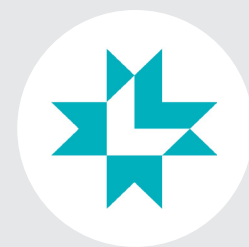
Some parcels have new businesses in them, while others are vacant, awaiting planned development by the new owners. The parking lot is in great need of repair. Relatively recently, Connecting Pointe Church purchased the majority of parcels and, in addition to locating their sanctuary in the old grocery store, envision

creating a place that once again serves the community. Several ideas have been put forth from both the church and Belmont residents, including ideas of bringing back a community-serving retail center. The amenities most desired by the residents include:

- Neighborhood grocery store
- Farmers' market
- Community-serving retail (e.g., standalone coffee shop, sit-down restaurants, ethnic food markets/grocers, small-scale medical facilities, to name just a few)
- Community services (e.g., tool library, compost/recycling center, public restroom serving outdoor sports venues)
- Indoor sports facility for affordable youth programs focused on neighborhood school-age children and young adults year-round

The creation or addition of more neighborhood-focused businesses within Belmont support a broad range of goals - from celebrating the diversity of the neighborhood, to improving access to healthy food and health care, to supporting improvements to local streets and sidewalks. Neighborhoods that are walkable and healthy are often the ones where daily amenities are a short walk away.

A few existing retail zones in Belmont could accommodate new such businesses, including the North Ridge Shopping Center at Superior and N 14th Street, Belmont Plaza at N 11th Street and Nance, and on the east side of N 14th Street from Knox Street to Yolande. New buildings in the Belmont Plaza area will need to be mindful of floodways and flood plains.



Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Support existing community institutions
- Celebrate and support the diversity of the neighborhood



HEALTH + RECREATION

- Improve access to healthy food
- Increase access to local health care



NATURE + ENVIRONMENT

- Reduce environmental risks (heat, cold, flood)



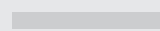
HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

- Reinforce pride of neighborhood
- Increase businesses that serve day-to-day needs of the neighborhood

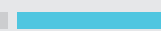
Time Frame for Implementation



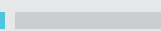
ON-GOING



NEAR-TERM



MID-TERM



LONG-TERM

Costs



- Development of new or renovated retail infrastructure

Champions + Partners

- Development partners with the community, including Connecting Pointe Church
- City of Lincoln Urban Development
- Connecting Pointe Church
- Business owners with an interest in locating in Belmont
- Educare Lincoln

Funding Opportunities

- Connecting Pointe Church
- City of Lincoln

Quick Wins

- Hold conversations with Connecting Pointe Church and neighborhood leaders to consider best potential for community-serving retail and other amenities at Belmont Plaza
- Engage existing retail property owners to propose businesses that would best serve the community
- Explore possible development along the east side of N 14th Street between Knox and Yolande



20-Minute Neighborhoods - An idea that some amount of residential density will support local retail and create a healthier place for its residents and visitors.

Public Support

"A few more local / non-chain restaurants and coffee shop in the already existing strip mall."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"A better shopping center!! ... with better shopping places. Some nice restaurants."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"A thriving Belmont would include a shopping center on N 27th Street finally built and completely full of tenants."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"It would be ideal if there were more services that are available in other areas of the city."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"More shops at 11th and Cornhusker shopping area."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"We do need nicer dining options in North Lincoln so it's easier to enjoy a night out and not have to go to Haymarket."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Maybe a community tool rental for free or reduced pricing so homeowners can do projects with tools that otherwise would be an investment."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"More retail near 11th + Cornhusker ... a grocery store again and a good bar/restaurant."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"I like to drink coffee and drink on occasion ... so seeing places that support third spaces would be nice."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Affordable daycare and healthcare clinics."

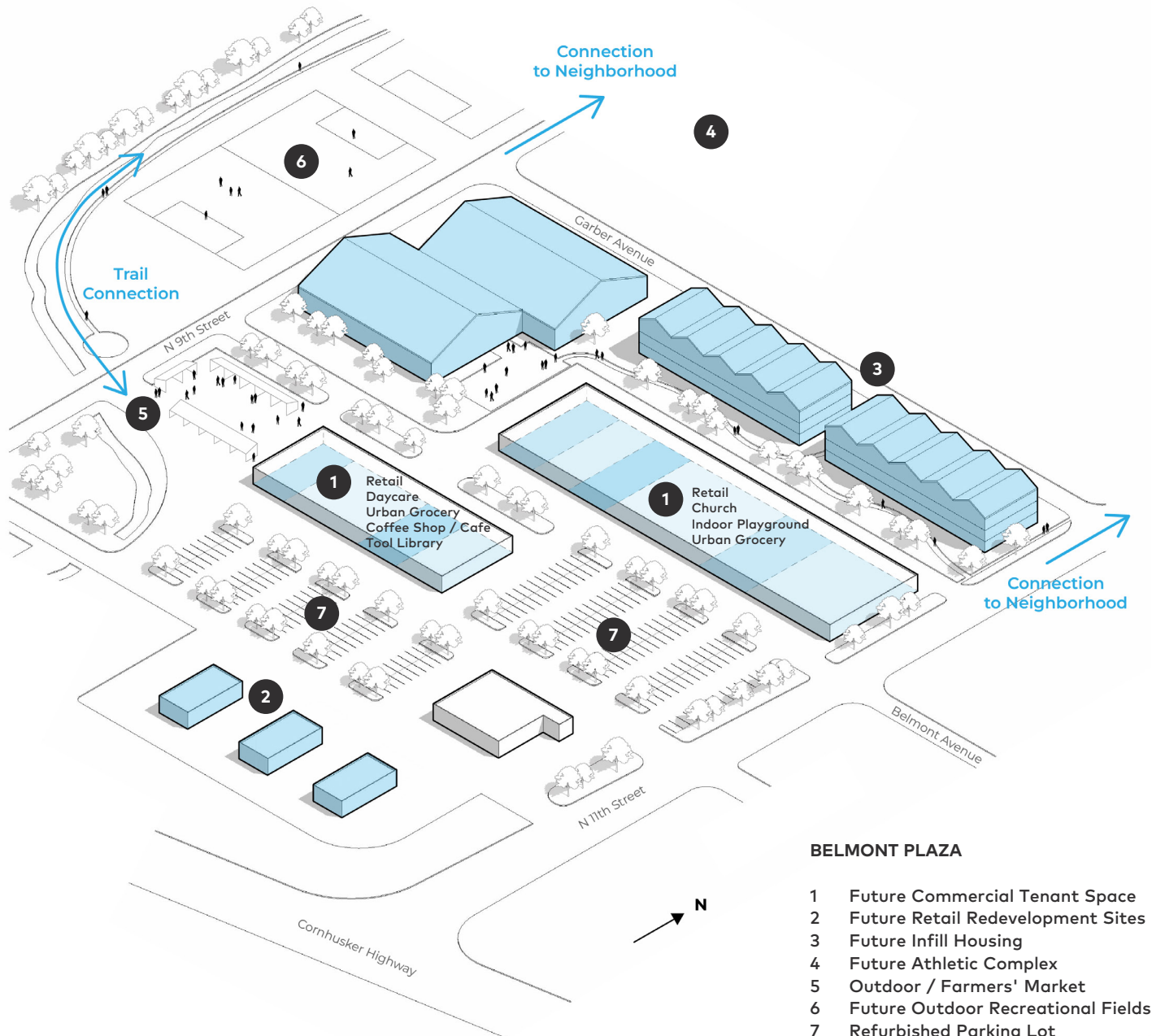
SURVEY RESPONSE

"Grocery store. Hardware store."

SURVEY RESPONSE

A redevelopment of Belmont Plaza by the new property owners is of great interest to the neighborhood, in part because of what it once was and in part because of what it could become. There are multiple strategies within this Subarea Plan that could be accommodated at this site, and it appears that Connecting Pointe Church is interested in supporting some

or all of those ideas and opportunities. Many conversations and partnerships will determine these outcomes. **This sketch illustrates how a few of those ideas might be realized** in conjunction with related opportunities in the southeast corner of Max E Roper Park East. This view is looking towards the northwest.



25 Develop resource hub to support homeowners

Description

Organizations active in the neighborhood often have websites and list their own programs on the website, causing a resident looking for resources to visit multiple websites in order to find their information they are looking for. A website with a comprehensive list of programs and services in English, Spanish, and Arabic would help mitigate this program.

There were many comments during community meetings that support for homeowners in the neighborhood. This could come in many forms, such as:

- A page on the website that connects homeowners to:
 - Minor home repair programs
 - Tax incentives for home improvements
 - Programs that support renewable energy at home and/or in the community
 - Local recycling/compost/bulk item disposal opportunities
 - Links to sites that cover hours for local amenities (pool, rec center, community center, and more)
- Volunteer cleanup days in the neighborhood
- Health-related programs and facilities
- Workshops on home financing, taxes, generational wealth building

And it could expand to include an offshoot for property owners that rent their homes and the renters themselves. The goal is to support the upkeep of the properties (pride of place) and share resources that are relevant to each group.

Goals

This strategy advances the following goals:



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Support existing community institutions
- Improve communication in the neighborhood.
- Celebrate and support the diversity of the neighborhood



HEALTH + RECREATION

- Increase access to local health care



NATURE + ENVIRONMENT

- Reduce environmental risks (heat, cold, flood)
- Maximize recycling + composting



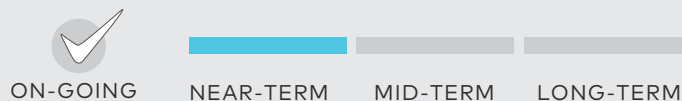
HOUSING + DEVELOPMENT

- Reinforce pride of neighborhood
- Ensure access to homeowner education + resources
- Maintain access to affordable housing



Heartland Tree Alliance, Kansas City, Missouri - Helping neighbors and neighborhoods with tree planing

Time Frame for Implementation



Costs



- Webpage creation and maintenance

Champions + Partners

- Belmont Community Center
- NeighborWorks Lincoln
- Homeowner advocates in the neighborhood

Funding Opportunities

- NeighborWorks Lincoln

Quick Wins

- Gather homeowner advocates to strategize on materials and programs that would benefit Belmont homeowners; connect with City services and other organizations already invested in this work
- Advocate for rules around used car lots that contribute to North Lincoln stigma and hinder pride of place

Public Support

"In ten years, a thriving Belmont would include a new generation of property owners with more pride of ownership."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Grants for cutting/trimming old, overgrown, dying trees."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"More info for homeowners/renters of grants from Neighborhood, Inc. [NeighborWorks]"

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Since Belmont is legally blighted, tax incentives should be made to existing homeowners!"

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Since Belmont is legally blighted, tax incentives should be made to existing homeowners!"

SURVEY RESPONSE

"A thriving Belmont in ten years would include high level of homeownership with a variety of affordable housing options."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"I envision a new generation of property owners with more pride of ownership."

SURVEY RESPONSE

"Improved ordinances regarding junk in people's yards."

SURVEY RESPONSE

Redevelopment Process

INTRODUCTION

The redevelopment process is undertaken to encourage redevelopment and private investment in projects that strengthen the community. Further, it provides access to certain funding tools as defined in the Nebraska Community Development Law, including tax increment financing (TIF), priority status to certain state funding, and other state tax incentives. This funding is vital to the public and private projects that it supports.

BLIGHT AND SUBSTANDARD DETERMINATION

In the redevelopment process, the first step is conducting a blight and substandard determination study, more commonly known as a blight study. The Lincoln City Council declared the plan area blighted and substandard and extremely blighted and substandard on June 28, 2021.

An area may be designated as blighted and substandard if it has enough deficiencies that private investment is declining or no longer occurring in the area. The Nebraska Community Development Law, as adopted by the Nebraska State Legislature, layouts the requirements for such determinations. A summary of the requirements is provided below:

An area can be designated "substandard" if it:

- has a predominance of buildings that are dilapidated, deteriorated, obsolete, or have inadequate ventilation, light, air, sanitation or open spaces
- has population overcrowding
- has conditions that endanger life or property, by fire and other causes
- has a combination of factors that are conducive to ill health, transmission of disease, infant mortality, juvenile delinquency, and crime
- is detrimental to public health, safety, morals, or welfare

An area can be designated "blighted" if it:

- includes a substantial number of deteriorated or deteriorating structures
- has a defective or inadequate street layout
- has a faulty lot layout in relation to size, adequacy, accessibility, or usefulness
- has insanitary or unsafe conditions
- is experiencing deterioration of site or other improvements
- has diversity of ownership
- has tax or special assessment delinquency exceeding the fair value of the land
- has defective or unusual conditions of title
- has improper subdivision or obsolete platting
- has conditions which endanger life or property by fire or other causes
- has factors that substantially impair or arrest the sound growth of the community, delay the provision of housing accommodations, or constitute an economic or social liability
- is detrimental to public health, safety, morals, or welfare in its present condition and use, and has one or more of the following conditions:
 - an unemployment rate of at least 120% of the state or national average
 - an average age of the residential or commercial units that is at least 40 years
 - more than half of plotted and subdivided property has been within the city for 40 years and has remained unimproved during that time
 - the per capita income is lower than the average per capita income of the city or stable or decreasing population, based on the last two decennial censuses

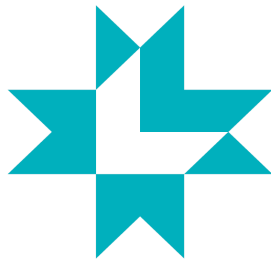
A finding of a blight and substandard determination can be made if these factors are present to a great enough extent that public intervention appears to be appropriate or necessary to assist with

any development activities, both public and private. In addition, these factors should be reasonably distributed throughout the area so basically good areas are not arbitrarily found to be blighted and substandard simply because of proximity to areas which may have a blight and substandard determination.

An “extreme blight” designation is also considered. The qualifying factors for an extreme blight designation are:

- a declaration of blight and substandard determination;
- the unemployment rate average is at least 200% of the average state unemployment rate; and
- average poverty rate exceeds 20%.

This tool was originally approved by the State Legislature to help with affordable housing. An extreme blight designation assists a redevelopment area in two ways: first, priority will be given to applicants seeking the State’s Housing Trust Fund dollars for projects located within an area with an extreme blight designation and, second, purchasing a home for owner-occupancy in an area with an extreme blight designation will qualify the purchaser for a \$5,000 Nebraska State income tax credit. This program credit is available until December 31, 2025. The Nebraska Legislature did not extend this credit during their 2025 session. If this credit does receive extension in the future, the City’s Urban Development Department will communicate with affected residents.



BELMONT NEIGHBORHOOD SUBAREA PLAN

City of Lincoln, Nebraska
Urban Development Department
555 S. 10th Street, Suite 205
Lincoln, NE 68508



LINCOLN
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