

11. Encourage public and private investment in neighborhood infrastructure and services to support economic diversity that improves the quality of life for all residents.
12. Balance expanding housing options and neighborhood character. Infill development should include housing for a variety of incomes and households and should complement the character of the existing neighborhood by including appropriate transitions, scale, and context.
13. Preserve areas designated for multi-family and group living housing in approved plans to support a distributed choice in affordable housing.
14. Evaluate potential updates to the zoning code to allow expanded opportunities for ADUs throughout the community.
15. Develop and propose zoning text amendments that will allow platted, nonconforming lots to be buildable.
16. Review the Community Unit Plan requirements and consider revisions to meet the intent of developing creative, quality, and unique residential developments. Such revisions may include minimum densities and a minimum mix of housing types.
17. Promote neighborhood and community design that supports healthy and active lifestyles.
18. Enforce better property maintenance, both interior and exterior, by implementing proactive code enforcement, to help preserve affordable housing and encourage residents to take pride in and maintain their homes.
19. Encourage creation of rental rehab programs to improve the quality of affordable rental housing and support the City's Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes programs.
20. Examine current residential zoning districts and propose modifications to encourage 'missing middle' units (single-family attached, cottage courts, townhomes, live-work, and a variety of three- and four-plex configurations), including affordable units, to people with a range of incomes. Neighborhood edges in particular present an opportunity for missing middle housing.
21. Encourage a variety of housing types including townhomes, senior living facilities, low/no maintenance condominiums, accessory dwelling units, multi-family development, and small lot single-family units.
22. Following an assessment of current City environmental education programs, create a "Climate-Smart Future" education and community relations program that focuses on residents and businesses most impacted by climate related risks, including vulnerable neighborhoods.
23. Consider zoning revisions that align with home occupation trends and the community's expectations.
24. Explore economic development incentives to attract grocery stores to neighborhoods lacking access to fresh food/

Goals Supported by this Policy

- G1: Safe, Affordable, and Accessible Housing
- G2: Complete Neighborhoods
- G12: History and Culture
- G13: Community Appearance

Elements Related to this Policy

- E1: Complete Neighborhoods & Housing
- E2: Infill and Redevelopment

P22: Local Food

Encourage opportunities to grow local food, as locally produced food can provide a secure source of nutritious food that has a reduced impact on the environment and increased benefit to the health of consumers.



The local food movement was born of a desire to provide a secure source of nutritious food that has a reduced impact on the environment and increased benefit to the health of consumers. Many urban areas have few sources of fresh produce, meats and dairy products; and many consumers must rely upon convenience foods and fast food restaurants.

Local food production and consumption contributes to a more sustainable and resilient food supply chain, supports the local economy, and creates jobs and vocational training opportunities.

Action Steps

1. Continue to promote the preservation of prime farmland in the rural areas of the county.
2. Continue to promote public-private partnerships that build stronger food networks and promote urban agriculture. An example of a successful partnership is the LPS Farm to School program.
3. Continue to provide the opportunity for Community Gardens to be developed on appropriate park property.
4. Promote urban gardens in all parts of the community, with focus on neighborhoods that lack convenient access to fresh foods.
5. Allow commercial agriculture, including points of sale for foods grown on-site, in all zoning districts at appropriate locations and with appropriate standards.
6. Encourage home gardens and edible landscaping and consider amending ordinances that might inhibit gardening for personal food production.
7. Encourage increased points of sale of local foods.
8. Double the number of acres in Lancaster County that are growing edible food by 2035. (From a 2017 baseline of 341)
9. Evaluate potential for local food production through urban market gardening on designated City owned properties – some of which may currently be in row crop production. Establish criteria for evaluation such as soil condition, availability of water for irrigation, impact on adjacent uses, et
10. Explore potential property tax incentives for agricultural use of vacant properties.
11. Work with the Lincoln Housing Authority and other partners to provide opportunities for community gardens that would allow home gardens for those in LHA dwellings.
12. Convene various stakeholders (UNL Extension, Lincoln-Lancaster County Food Policy Council (Lincoln Lancaster FPC), Community Crops, Local producers, etc.) to host community conversations, expanding education, awareness, and support for local food and regenerative agriculture.

13. Evaluate City farm management contracts to require sustainable, regenerative agriculture practices (no till, multispecies cover crops, reduction in use of synthetic chemicals, toxic pesticides, and Genetically-modified Organisms (GMO)) to increase crop yield, lower production costs, and sequester carbon.
14. Conduct 128a brownfield site assessments on vacant lots for use as community gardens / urban agriculture.
15. Maintain database of City-owned property within the three-mile jurisdiction potentially available for community gardens / urban agriculture.
16. Develop a pilot program on City-owned property that is currently in row crop production for regenerative agriculture production. Identify a partner to act as land manager and/or consider reduced lease rate for local food producer that uses sustainable, regenerative agriculture practices to produce local food and products.
17. Assist institutional purchasers (UNL, schools, hospitals, etc.) to adopt local food purchasing percentage targets and create a model policy for the preferential purchasing of local food by public and private institutions.
18. Encourage all public entities to explore leasing public land to prospective farmers and market gardeners.
19. Encourage the development of a curriculum for agriculture and local food-growing in LPS and other school districts as well as UNL and Southeast Community College to help recruit and train a new generation of farmers and market gardeners. Community Crops' "Beginning Farmer Program" is a leading example.
20. Confer with economic development organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce as well as grocers and restaurants to investigate how best to enlist the private sector in expanding local food production, market development and career vocational opportunities in agriculture.
21. Consider economic development programs to support small food and farm businesses, including a low-interest revolving loan fund. Ensure that these programs are accessible to ethnic/minority food businesses and farms.
22. Seek out grant opportunities from state, federal and philanthropic organizations to assist with and support feasibility studies, and capital and operating expenses, as appropriate, for a food hub/commercial kitchen.
23. Compile information on existing food recovery, gleaning, and composting programs in Lincoln and Lancaster County and encourage all agencies with points of contact in the food system to cross-promote food recovery efforts.
24. Support the coordination of pantries and emergency food providers to improve recovery of safe, healthy food from area retail food outlets.

Goals Supported by this Policy

- G5: Equity and Inclusion
- G8: Community Resiliency
- G11: Rural Environment

Elements Related to this Policy

- E5: Parks, Recreation, & Open Space

Subarea plans considered part of this Comprehensive Plan include:

- [Wilderness Park Subarea Plan; February 2000](#)
- [NRGIS Greenprint Challenge, August 2001](#)
- [City of Lincoln Strategic Plan for HUD Entitlement Programs; FY 2013-2017, Urban Development](#)
- [Lincoln Water System Facilities Master Plan, June 2014](#)
- [Lincoln Wastewater Facilities Master Plan, November 2015](#)
- [The Implementation Plan for the Conservation of Nebraska's Eastern Saline Wetlands, 2003](#)
- [Lincoln Public Schools 10 year Plan, December 2019](#)
- [Lincoln Airport F.A.R. Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study, 2003](#)
- [Transit Development Plan, April 2016](#)
- [South Haymarket Neighborhood Plan, December 2015](#)
- [Parks and Recreation 10 Year Facilities Plan, 2019](#)
- [Downtown Lincoln Master Plan, December 2018](#)
- [Lincoln Affordable Housing Coordinated Action Plan, December 2020](#)
- [33rd and Cornhusker Subarea Plan, December 2020](#)
- [City of Lincoln Climate Action Plan, March 2021](#)
- [Comprehensive Watershed Master Plan, October 2022](#)
- [Local Food System Plan, October 2023](#)

As part of the Annual Plan Status Report process, the Planning Director should complete a yearly review of all subarea plans that become five years of age and older. This review would be for the purpose of determining the continued viability and relevance of those subareas plans to the Comprehensive Plan and the long range planning process.

Plan Amendments

The Plan is the community's collective vision. Yet, change is inevitable. New technologies and new community needs will arise during the planning period which were not foreseen during the Plan's development. Jobs, housing, transportation, goods and services will shift over time. The amendment process to the Plan must accommodate and help manage the inevitable change in a way that best promotes, and does not compromise, the community's core values, health and well being. The Plan amendment process must be an open and fair process, utilizing sound planning, economic, social and ecological principals.

Amendments to the Plan may be submitted in writing to the Planning Director by any group or individual at any time during the year. The Planning Director may elect to forward the Plan amendment request to the Planning Commission upon submission, or wait to include the request in a compilation that is reviewed by the Planning Commission once each year.