

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF LANCASTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT NO.)
09005, BY THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING,)
AT THE REQUEST OF THE DIRECTOR OF)
THE PARKS AND RECREATION)
DEPARTMENT, PURSUANT TO THE)
2009 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ANNUAL)
REVIEW, TO AMEND THE 2030)
LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY)
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BY ADDING)
UNION PLAZA AS A REGIONAL PARK AND)
ALLOWING COMMUNITY PARKS TO)
SERVE AS NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS)
AS PROVIDED IN EXHIBIT "A")

RESOLUTION NO. R-09-0049

WHEREAS, the Director of Planning, at the request of the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, pursuant to the 2009 Comprehensive Plan Annual Review, wishes to amend the 2030 Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan by adding Union Plaza as a regional park and allowing community parks to serve as neighborhood parks; and

WHEREAS, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department recommends approval of said Comprehensive Plan Amendment concluding that the proposed amendments are in conformance with the 2030 Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2009, the Lincoln-Lancaster Planning Commission held a public hearing regarding said amendments; and

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2009, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Commission agreed with the staff recommendation, and voted to recommend approval of Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 09005; and

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2009, the Board of Commissioners of Lancaster County conducted a public hearing regarding said amendments; and

WHEREAS, on ^{July} June 14, 2009, the Board of Commissioners of Lancaster County voted to approve said amendments as per the staff recommendation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Lancaster County, Nebraska that the 2030 Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan be amended as provided in Exhibit "A", attached hereto and incorporated by this reference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any other references in said plan which may be affected by the above specified amendments be, and they hereby are, amended to conform to such specific amendment.

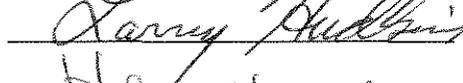
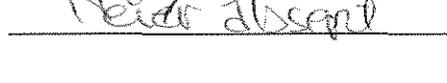
DATED this 14 day of July, 2009, at the County-City Building, Lincoln, Nebraska.

APPROVED AS TO FORM
this 14 day of
July, 2009.

Deputy County Attorney
for GARY E. LACEY
County Attorney

BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF LANCASTER
COUNTY, NEBRASKA



LINCOLN /LANCASTER COUNTY PLANNING STAFF REPORT
for May 13, 2009 Planning Commission Meeting

PROJECT #: Comprehensive Plan Amendment #09005

PROPOSAL: Amend the 2030 Lincoln/ Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan to add Union Plaza as a Regional Park and to allow Community Parks to serve as Neighborhood Parks.

CONCLUSION: The amendments are in conformance with the goals of the 2030 Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan.

<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u>	Approval of the proposed amendment
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GENERAL INFORMATION:

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SPECIFICATIONS: The 2030 Comprehensive Plan states the following related to the proposed amendments:

Directness - **Pedestrians should be able to walk in a reasonably direct path to destinations like** transit stops, schools, **parks**, and commercial and mixed-use activity centers. Directness is the ratio of actual distance along a sidewalk or pathway divided by the minimum distance the trip would take on a grid system. (Page 91)

REGIONAL PARKS
DESCRIPTION

Regional parks are large tracts of land that encompass special or unique facilities and features that are of interest to the diverse groups throughout the community. Sites offer opportunities for a variety of activities, a portion of which are generally centered around natural or environmental features. There is generally an emphasis on preserving natural landscape features as an important element of park design. Regional parks primarily provide opportunities for day use activities that may include picnicking, hiking, sports, fishing, canoeing and boating, and environmental interpretation and appreciation. Fields and courts for organized sports activities may be secondary uses. (Page 134)

COMMUNITY PARKS
DESCRIPTION

Community parks are comprised of sites that are thirty to fifty acres and are readily accessible from arterial streets and commuter/recreation trails. Community parks may include fields and play courts for organized sports, a playground with an accessible fall surface, facilities for day use activities including a picnic shelter and restroom, seating, walking paths, off-street parking, swimming pools, and recreation centers. (Page 135)

ANTELOPE VALLEY REDEVELOPMENT PLAN SPECIFICATIONS: The Antelope Valley Redevelopment Plan states the following related to the proposed amendments:

1. East Downtown Park: (Page 87)

While the new waterway will provide many new recreation and redevelopment opportunities, the main focus area will be the **East Downtown Park section from "O" Street to "R" Street**. See East Downtown Park, Figure 29. As part of the construction of the new waterway, the City of Lincoln will be investing approximately \$2 million in this stretch to provide the basic park infrastructure. Subsequent phases call for approximately \$8 to 11 million of park enhancements, such as a skating rink, outdoor amphitheater, water fountains, play features and other parkland and water activities. These funds will need to come from a variety of corporate, government, foundations, public entities and individuals in the form of grants, donations, memorials and gifts.

With the hiker/biker trail traveling through the waterpark area and connecting with six other major trail networks, the East Downtown Park will be readily accessible to the surrounding Neighborhoods and community. **East Downtown Park will become a major public gathering place— for events, concerts and festivals.** It will also be a quiet place to stroll, feel the sun, eat lunch, read a book or simply reflect and gather thoughts.

ANALYSIS:

1. This proposal to amend the Comprehensive Plan has five main purposes:
 - A. To add “community festival/gathering spaces” to the “Description” of Regional Parks.
 - B. To add Union Plaza to the Regional Parks section under “Other Location and Design Criteria” and “Strategies”.
 - C. To add to the “Description” of Community Parks that they may serve as Neighborhood Parks.
 - D. To add to the “Other Location and Design Criteria” of Community Parks that pedestrian connections should be created between surrounding residential development and neighborhood-related park features.
 - E. To revise the Community Park conceptual diagram on Page 135 by incorporating Neighborhood Park features closer to surrounding residential areas with pedestrian connections and placing Community Park features such as ball fields and parking closer to arterial streets.

SUMMARY:

The amendments propose to update the Comprehensive Plan with information regarding Union Plaza (referred to as “East Downtown Park” in the Antelope Valley Redevelopment Plan) and to better align with current practices for allowing Community Parks with Neighborhood Park features and adequate pedestrian connectivity to surrounding residential areas to serve as Neighborhood Parks.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

Amend the 2030 Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan as follows:

1. Amend pages 134-135 as shown on the following pages:

Prepared by:

Brandon M. Garrett, AICP
Planner
441-6373, bgarrett@lincoln.ne.gov

DATE: April 17, 2009

APPLICANT: Lynn Johnson, Director
Parks and Recreation Department
2740 A Street
Lincoln, NE 68502

AMENDMENT A

REGIONAL PARKS [Page 134]

DESCRIPTION

Regional parks are large tracts of land that encompass special or unique facilities and features that are of interest to the diverse groups throughout the community. Sites offer opportunities for a variety of activities, a portion of which are generally centered around natural or environmental features. There is generally an emphasis on preserving natural landscape features as an important element of park design. Regional parks primarily provide opportunities for day use activities that may include community festival/gathering spaces, picnicking, hiking, sports, fishing, canoeing and boating, and environmental interpretation and appreciation. Fields and courts for organized sports activities may be secondary uses.

AMENDMENT B

STRATEGIES [Page 135]

- ◆ Continue to enhance opportunities for interpretation of native landscapes and eco-systems indigenous to eastern Nebraska through acquisition of additional parcels for buffering and enhancement of visitor facilities at the Pioneers Park Nature Center.
- ◆ Explore opportunities to provide enhanced water recreation activities at Holmes Lake in Holmes Park.
- ◆ Develop Jensen Park as a regional park as the surrounding area is urbanized and funding is available. The land should remain in agricultural use in the interim.
- ◆ Continue to develop a cooperative relationship with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the Lower Platte South Natural Resource District to provide recreation facilities within rural areas of the community.
- ◆ Identify and acquire a regional park site for the future development in the eastern portion of the Stevens Creek Basin.
- ◆ Develop Union Plaza as a regional park in conjunction with the Antelope Valley waterway and as public-private partnership funding is generated.

AMENDMENT C

COMMUNITY PARKS [Page 135]

DESCRIPTION

Community parks are comprised of sites that are thirty to fifty acres and are readily accessible from arterial streets and commuter/recreation trails. Community parks may include fields and play courts for organized sports, a playground with an accessible fall surface, facilities for day use activities including a picnic shelter and restroom, seating, walking paths, off-street parking, swimming pools, and recreation centers. Community parks often include activity areas consistent with those located in neighborhood parks. As a result, community parks may serve as the neighborhood park for surrounding residential areas.

AMENDMENT D

OTHER LOCATION AND DESIGN CRITERIA [Page 135]

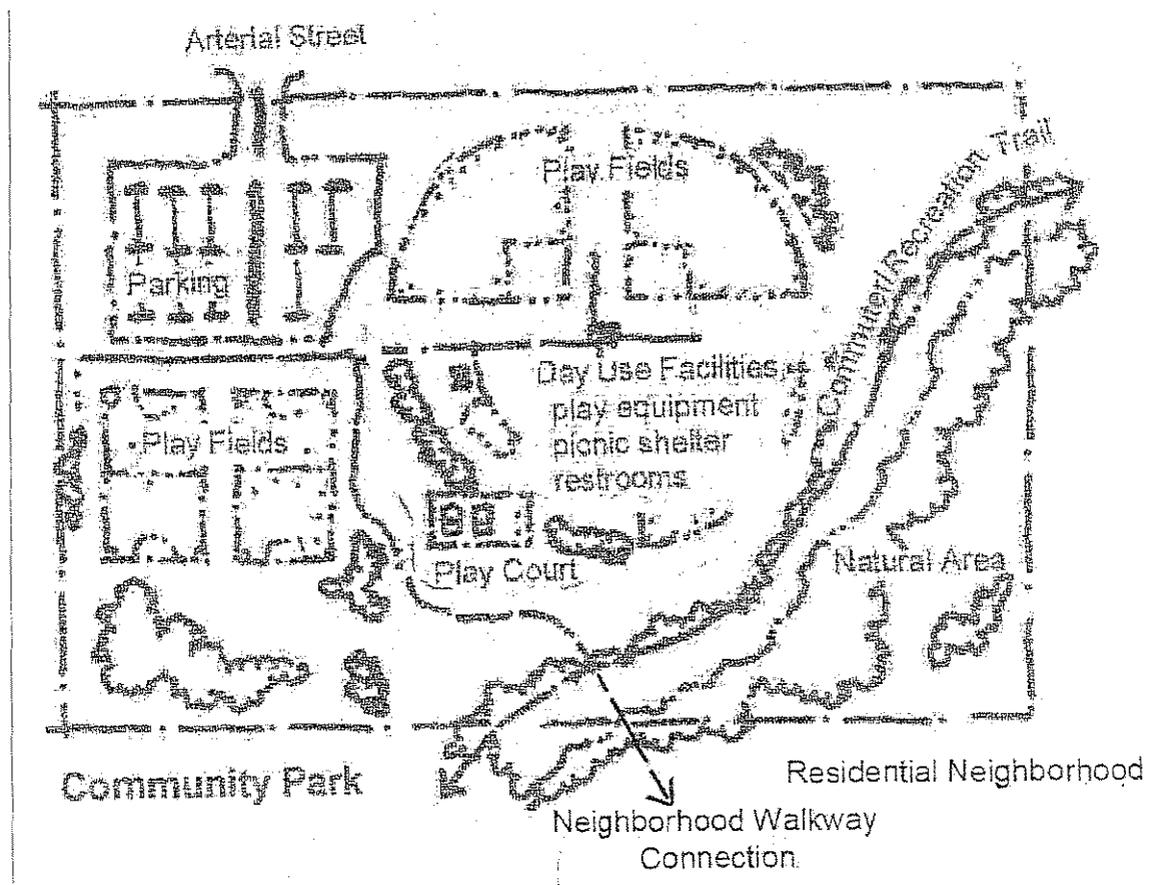
- ◆ Locate community parks on a collector or arterial street to accommodate automobile access and parking. Park sites shall also be readily accessible by pedestrians and bicyclists from a

commuter/recreation trail.

- ◆ Locate community parks adjacent to middle schools where possible.
- ◆ Community parks shall be adjacent to greenway linkages.
- ◆ Provide buffering between community park activities and adjacent residential areas to minimize traffic and noise impacts.
- ◆ Design standards for field and parking lot lighting should seek to minimize glare, light spill-over onto adjacent properties, and impacts on the dark night sky.
- ◆ Select sites for community parks that allow for multiple functions, such as storm water management or habitat conservation.
- ◆ Establish Youth Baseball/Softball complexes as part of community parks throughout the city. Partnerships should be formed with the youth baseball organizations and Lincoln Public Schools for maintenance of utilization strategies.
- ◆ Create pedestrian connections between surrounding residential development and neighborhood-related park features such as playgrounds and park shelters.

AMENDMENT E

[Replace existing Community Parks diagram on Page 135 with the one below]



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 09005

PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE PLANNING COMMISSION:

May 13, 2009

Members present: Esseks, Partington, Larson, Francis, Taylor, Cornelius and Sunderman; Gaylor Baird and Carroll absent.

Ex Parte Communications: None.

Staff recommendation: Approval.

Staff presentation: Brandon Garrett of Planning staff shared the revised diagram, which is part of this amendment, showing how community parks are proposed to be laid out and planned, with the parking facilities and major ballfields closer to the arterial streets, and with the adjacent residential neighborhoods and neighborhood facilities located closer to the neighborhoods. This amendment also allows community park features to qualify as neighborhood parks in terms of spacing, etc. In other words, to keep up with our current practice, when a neighborhood already has a community park, a second neighborhood park would not be required if that community park could provide those neighborhood park features. The idea is that the neighborhood is already served by those facilities. There are other minor amendments to specifically list Union Plaza as a regional park.

There was no testimony in opposition.

ACTION BY PLANNING COMMISSION:

May 13, 2009

Larson moved approval, seconded by Taylor and carried 7-0: Esseks, Partington, Larson, Francis, Taylor, Cornelius and Sunderman voting 'yes'; Carroll and Gaylor Baird absent.

