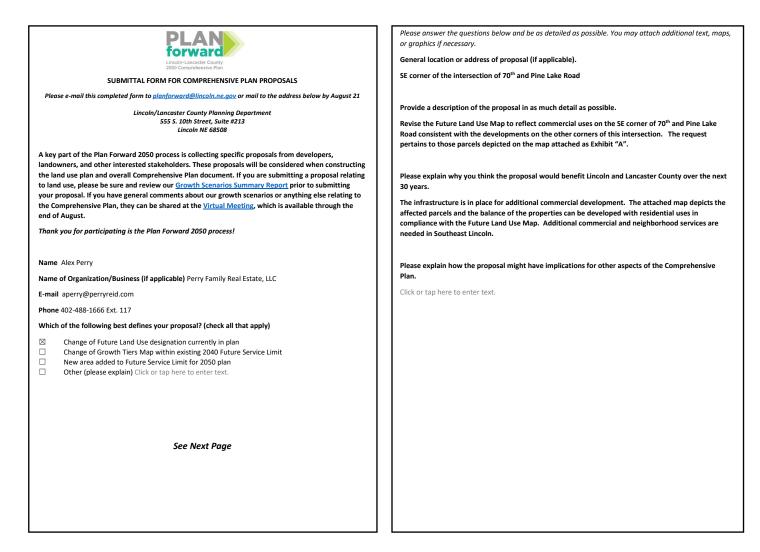
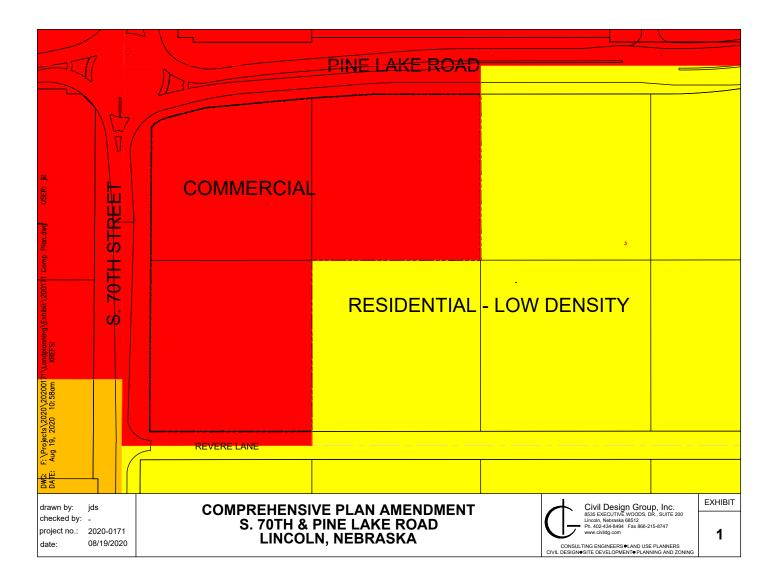
## Summary of Developer Proposals

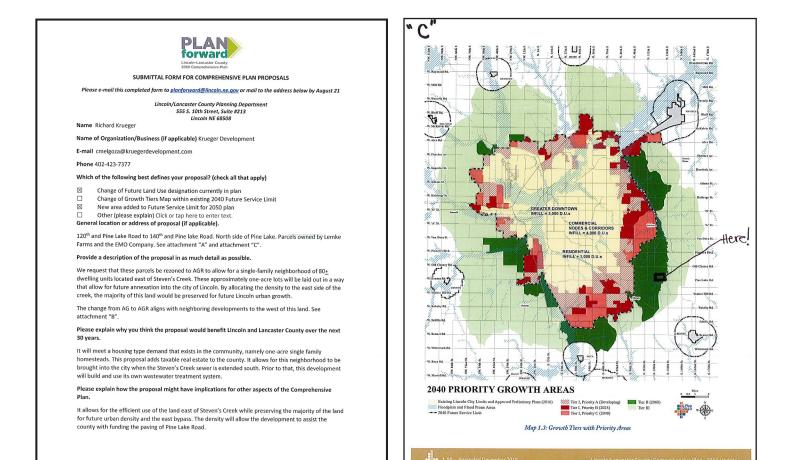
Formal land use and growth tier proposals were solicited from the development community and interested stakeholders. As part of that process, six proposals were received. This document contains the submitted materials from each proposal.

## 70th & Pine Lake

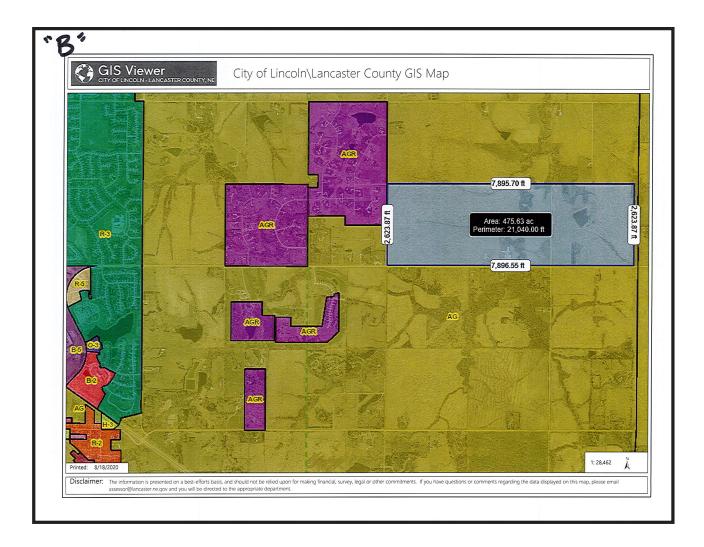




### 120th & Pine Lake







## NW 70th & W Fletcher (Nine Mile Prairie)

### https://grassland.unl.edu/nine-mile/nine-mile-plan.pdf



Please e-mail this completed form to planforward@lincoln.ne.gov or mail to the address below by August 21

Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department 555 S. 10th Street, Suite #213 Lincoln NE 68508

A key part of the Plan Forward 2050 process is collecting specific proposals from developers, landowners, and other interested stakeholders. These proposals will be considered when constructing the land use plan and overall Comprehensive Plan document. If you are submitting a proposal relating to land use, please be sure and review our Growth Scenarios Summary Report prior to submitting your proposal. If you have general comments about our growth scenarios or anything else relating to the Comprehensive Plan, they can be shared at the Virtual Meeting, which is available through the

Thank you for participating is the Plan Forward 2050 process!

Name Endorsement of UNI Nine Mile Prairie Environs Master Plan

Name of Organization/Business (if applicable) Jon Oberg, Landowner and Stakeholder

E-mail jonoberg5840@gmail.com

Phone 240-449-7014

Which of the following best defines your proposal? Potentially all

- Change of Future Land Use designation currently in plan
- Change of Growth Tiers Map within existing 2040 Future Service Limit
- New area added to Future Service Limit for 2050 plan
- Other (please explain)

See Next Page

# Nebraska

INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

July 13, 2020

Mr. David Cary, Director Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department 555 S 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 213 Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: Master Plan for Nine-Mile Prairie Environs

Dear Mr. Cary

This correspondence conveys the completed Master Plan for the Nine-Mile Prairie Environs and requests the review and consideration of this plan by the Community Committee and others as part of the development of the "PLAN forward" 2050 Comprehensive Plan. The Nine-Mile Prairie Environs is a several square mile area northwest of Lincoln that contains over at housand acres of grassland and associated woodland and riparian habitat. A core resource is Nine-Mile Prairie, a 230-acre reliet tallgrass prairie managed by the University of Nebraska. Encoundation and leased to the University of Nebraska Foundation and leased to the University of Nebraska in Counters of the University of Nebraska foundation and leased to the University of Nebraska studies and used for educational and research purposes.

Nine-Mile Prairie provides many values to the community. As one of the largest intact tracts of tallgrass prairie left in the Midwest, it serves as a nationally important outdoor laboratory for the study of biological processes in grasslands. Nine-Mile Prairie is the longest-studied natural area in Nebraska, serving as the site of pioneering research in plant ecology by Professor John E. Weaver, the father of grassland ecology, 1000 Nine Natural Statement (Statement Statement S beginning in the 1920s, and seeing decades of continued use by researchers from the University of Nebraska. Nine-Mile Prairie is routinely used for classes and outreach by the University, Lower Platte South NRD (LPSNRD), and other organizations

There is an interesting side note as the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department considers Nine-Mile There is an interesting side note as the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department considers Nine-Mile Prairie and its environs in the current planning process. In 1981, as the Lincoln Airport Authority (LAA) considered the fate of former military land from the Lincoln Airport Base, the Nebraska Legislature passed LB58, which encouraged LAA to work with the University or other organizations to protect the Nine-Mile Prairie area. The bill stated: "It is in the public interest that such virgin prairie which has been used as an educational tool by an educational institution of this state in suitable quantities be preserved and protected... When any agency or political subdivision of the state of Nebraska, except the Board of Educational Lands and Funds, owns land with virgin prairie as described in section 1 of this act, such agency or political subdivision on totate the totato and boundaries of such virgin prairie or a part thereof that may be preserved and protected. " Although 40 years has passed since this bill helped protect Nine-Mile Prairie, the importance of protecting our prairie heritage has only increased.

In September 2018, Michael Boehm, Vice Chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR), appointed an Advisory Council for Nine-Nile Prairie and charged it with developing a long-range strategic plan for the Nine-Mile Prairie Environs. The Advisory Council includes representatives of the surrounding landowners (public and private), UNL, City of Lincoln, LAA, LPSNRD, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). In early January 2019, five members of the Advisory Council met with Mayor Beutler and six city staff (Parks & Recreation, City/County Planning) to discuss the Nine-Mile Prairie area. Following this meeting, the Advisory Council recommended that a consultant be hired to help

203 Keim Hall / P.O. Box 830953 / Lincoln, NE 68583-0953 402-472-4101 / FAX 402-472-4104 / E-mail: grassland@unl.edu / www.grassland.unl.edu

Please answer the questions below and be as detailed as possible. You may attach additional text, maps, or graphics if necessary

General location or address of proposal (if applicable).

Nine Mile Prairie Environs

Provide a description of the proposal in as much detail as possible.

The proposal has already been submitted by UNL. I am a landowner in the environs area and I speak for at least seven other private landowners in the environs who favor the UNL plan to create a buffer zone around the historic prairie. I know of no local opposition to it, or opposition from any source. The plan was prepared by professional environmental engineers with the guidance of a committee of representatives from local, state, and federal government agencies.

Please explain why you think the proposal would benefit Lincoln and Lancaster County over the next 30 years.

We must protect and preserve a valuable ecosystem, which, in the case of Nine Mile Prairie, is also a teaching and research site. Moreover, it has historical significance in the development of the discipline of plant ecology and the history of science.

### Please explain how the proposal might have implications for other aspects of the Comprehensive Plan

The existing 2040 Plan has few if any conflicts with the UNL plan, but the 2050 plan, which proposes development very close to Nine Mile Prairie, would be in significant conflict. As a landowner and stakeholder in the area. I know that placing development in Area 1 as proposed for 2050 would remove some of the ecosystem connectivity between my property and others in the environs, connectivity that many of us have tried over the years to preserve on the advice of the best environmental authorities.

I also note that our efforts have come at considerable expense, both private and public. Those investments should be allowed to continue to pay off, rather than to be undone by destroying part of the existing ecosystem, at a risk to the rest of it. For example, my neighbor to the north has been in the CRP program for many years and has restored a remarkably good tallgrass prairie. My own property has benefitted from investments by the local NRD many years ago. It is not possible to place developments within an ecosystem like the NMP environs without degrading the whole and diminishing the value of previous investments and efforts.

Conversely, integrating the UNL plan into the 2050 plan would enhance the city in many positive ways by making Lincoln a model city for environmental protection and enhancement.

develop a Master Plan for the Nine-Mile Prairie Environs. UNL subsequently engaged the Flatwater Group, Inc.to develop a Master Plan, and the Plan was completed in April 2020 and presented to the Advisory Council

The Nine-Mile Prairie Environs was delineated by the Master Plan to promote and coordinate long-range management strategies compatible with grassland conservation and prairie preservation. Situated along the Elk and Oak Creek watershed divide, the planning area contains headwaters to numerous stream tributaries. Key features include Nine-Mile Prairie itself and adjacent prairies and grasslands, woodlands, upland riparian stream corridors, future sites for recreational trails, Elk Creek and Oak Creek. It is bounded by NW 40th Street on the east, NW 84th Street on the west, US Highway 34 on the north, and Adams Street on the south

We request that the staff, Community Committee, and other partners consider the following as part of the review leading to the 2050 update to the Comprehensive Plan.

- · Identification of the east-west drainageway connecting Bowling Lake and Nine-Mile Prairie as a reenway and trail corridor.
- greenway and trait corruor. Review and use of the Master Plan's habitat prioritization and land use considerations to assist in informing development of the Future Land Use Plan, including: Evaluation of land uses as they relate to habitat diversity and connectivity in particular,
  - be exported if the starts as they return to mark threatly and connectivity in particular, the opportunity to designate these areas with Habitat Priority Scores of 7.5 to 10 as Green Space or Environmental Resources and Options for making trait connections between Bowling Lake, Arnold Elementary, Nine-Mile Prairie, and NW 56th Street.
  - Identification of the Nine-Mile Prairie Environs as a Salt Valley Greenway "connecting green
- corridor" with Nine-Mile Prairie as a node in the corridor. Recognition of Nine-Mile Prairie Environs as a "signature landscape" with an emphasis on the natural resources and ecosystem services of talgrass prairie. Our hope is that recognizing the area's unique values will encourage conservation partnerships with the diverse public and private stakeholders in this landscape.

Please contact us if you have questions regarding the Nine-Mile Prairie Environs Master Plan or the University of Nebraska's programs and management at Nine-Mile Prairie. The Executive Summary of the Master Plan is attached, and the full plan with extensive appendices is available at <u>https://grassland.unl.edu/nine-mile/nine-mile/plan.pdf</u>. The extensive GIS analyses compiled by the Flatwater Group are also available.

Sincerely.

Dotor B. H

Walter Schacht, Interim Director Center for Grassland Studies

David Wedin, Director, Nine-Mile Prairie and Professor, School of Natural Resources

Eling Wed-

CC: Nine-Mile Prairie Advisory Council

Paul Barnes, Long Range Planning Manager, City of Lincoln/Lancaster County Ronnie Green, Chancellor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Mike Boehm, Vice Chancellor, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

## NW 48th & W Holdrege



SUBMITTAL FORM FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PROPOSALS

Please e-mail this completed form to planforward@lincoln.ne.gov or mail to the address below by August 21

Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department 555 S. 10th Street, Suite #213 Lincoln NE 68508

A key part of the Plan Forward 2050 process is collecting specific proposals from developers, landowners, and other interested stakeholders. These proposals will be considered when constructing the land use plan and overall Comprehensive Plan document. If you are submitting a proposal relating to land use, please be sure and review our <u>Growth Scenarios Summary Report</u> prior to submitting your proposal. If you have general comments about our growth scenarios or anything else relating to the Comprehensive Plan, they can be shared at the <u>Virtual Meeting</u>, which is available through the end of August.

Thank you for participating is the Plan Forward 2050 process!

Name Mark A. Hunzeker

Name of Organization/Business (if applicable) Apples' Way, LLC

E-mail mhunzeker@baylorevnen.com

Phone 402-432-2987

### Which of the following best defines your proposal? (check all that apply)

- Change of Future Land Use designation currently in plan
- Change of Growth Tiers Map within existing 2040 Future Service Limit
- New area added to Future Service Limit for 2050 plan

Other (please explain) Change classification of West Vine Street from collector to Minor Arterial; change classification of NW 40<sup>th</sup> Street from Minor Arterial to collector; change the Future Land Use Plan by extending the "red" (Commercial) designation along NW 48<sup>th</sup> Street from its current location North to West Holdrege Street

See Next Page

the north and south sides of Holdrege, but the sanitary sewer to serve the south side of Holdrege must come all the way from I-80.

Access is crucial to development of the commercially zoned property at the I-80 interchange. W. Vine Street, currently classified as a major collector, presents an opportunity for development of the corridor between I-80 and W. Vine between NW 27<sup>th</sup> Street and NW 48<sup>th</sup> Street. With adequate access the area is ideally suited for warehouse/distribution type uses. With W. Vine opened and improved, this area would have easy access to I-80 in both directions, and excellent visibility from I-80. Moreover, addition of W. Vine as an alternative route for traffic exiting sporting events and other major activities at the new high school will reduce potential traffic backups at I-80 and W. "O" Street.

Provision of good access and utilities to this area will allow the area to build population, support commercial services and jobs for the broader neighborhood, provide for a third eastbound route for traffic exiting sporting events and other major activities at the new high school, and create the potential for a true full service I-80 interchange. Drawing traffic off I-80 will help raise additional sales tax/lodging tax revenues and enhance the overall image of NW Lincoln.

Please explain how the proposal might have implications for other aspects of the Comprehensive Plan.

This proposal will not have dramatic impacts on other aspects of the Comprehensive Plan. It encompasses a relatively small area which is already within Tier I. Utility extensions requested are readily available at the southern portion of the area. The biggest impact of the proposed changes would result from extension and construction of W. Vine Street from NW 40<sup>th</sup> Street to NW 48<sup>th</sup> Street. It would make W. Vine Street eligible for the use of impact fees for right of way acquisition and construction. It would, once fully constructed, provide good access to an area with excellent I-80 visibility, in a location ideal for industrial and warehouse/distribution center type uses. It would provide a third east/west corridor for traffic moving back into eastern parts of the city following events at the new high school, and provide an excellent opportunity for development of a full service interstate interchange, enhancing sales and lodging tax revenues to the city. Moreover, it will encourage additional residential development to populate the new high school, and enhance the image of this northwestern portion of our community. Please answer the questions below and be as detailed as possible. You may attach additional text, maps, or graphics if necessary.

General location or address of proposal (if applicable).

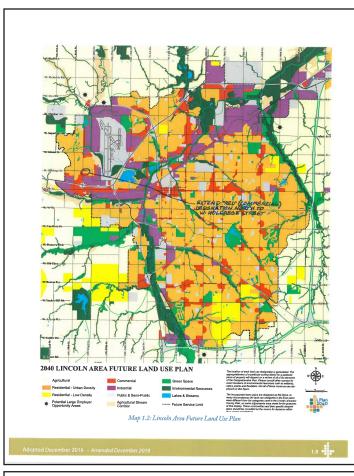
Between I-80 and West Vine Street from NW  $27^{th}$  Street to NW40th Street; and Between I-80 and West Holdrege from NW40th Street to NW48th Street.

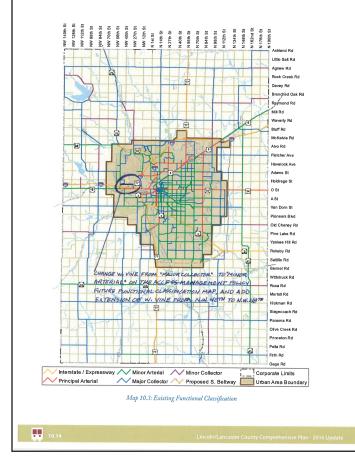
Provide a description of the proposal in as much detail as possible.

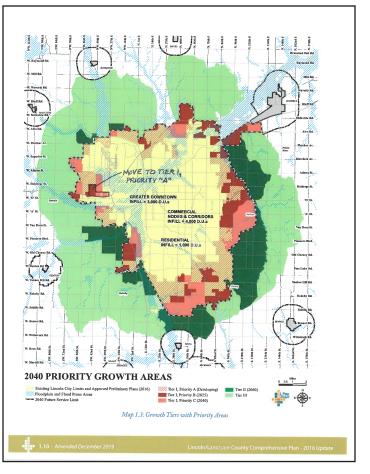
- Change Map 1.2: Lincoln Area Future Land Use Plan by extending "red" (Commercial) designation along NW 48<sup>th</sup> Street from its current location north to W. Holdrege Street.
- Move the area bounded by I-80, NW 48<sup>th</sup> Street, W. Holdrege Street, NW 40<sup>th</sup> Street, W. Vine Street, and NW 27<sup>th</sup> Street from Tier I, Priority B to Tier I, Priority A on Map 1.3: Growth Tiers with Priority Areas
- 3. Change the functional classification of W. Vine Street from Major Collector to Minor Arterial, and show its extension from NW 40<sup>th</sup> to NW 48<sup>th</sup> Street on the Access Management Policy Future Functional Classification Map, and add the extension of W. Vine Street from NW 40<sup>th</sup> to NW 48<sup>th</sup> Street on Map 10.3: Existing Functional Classification and designate it as a Minor Arterial.
- 4. Change the functional classification of NW 40<sup>th</sup> Street from Minor Arterial to Major Collector on the Access Management Policy Future Functional Classification Map and continue to show it as a Major Collector on Map 10.3: Existing Functional Classification

Please explain why you think the proposal would benefit Lincoln and Lancaster County over the next 30 years.

This proposal is not a major departure from the existing plan for the area, but does seek to accelerate infrastructure improvements and designate the area for immediate development as Tier I, Priority A, rather than Priority B. Development of this general area has been slow over the past 40 years or so. Attempts to encourage development have had mixed success. Commercial development in the area has struggled due to the relatively low population base, and lack of access to property with good I-80 visibility. The recent approval of bonds for construction of two new high schools is a major reason to accelerate development of this area. Construction of the high school west of NW48th Street and south of W. Holdrege is underway. It will include large new athletic fields and facilities which will add to the traffic generation and enhance the desirability of new residential construction in the area. Sanitary sewer is available at the southern boundary of the area (I-80). Moving forward with the construction of the sewer is necessary to develop the land south of Holdrege Street and east of NW 48<sup>th</sup> Street, which we envision to be a new neighborhood of workforce housing, together with neighborhood commercial near the intersection of NW 48<sup>th</sup> Street and W. Holdrege. Water is currently available in NW 48<sup>th</sup> Street, and will be extended as part of the construction of W. Holdrege Street. Paving of W. Holdrege will provide good access to both







## NW 70th & W Superior



SUBMITTAL FORM FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PROPOSALS

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Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department 555 S. 10th Street, Suite #213 Lincoln NE 68508

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Thank you for participating is the Plan Forward 2050 process!

Name Brad Marshall

Name of Organization/Business (if applicable) Olsson

E-mail bmarshall@olsson.com

Phone 402.458.5672

### Which of the following best defines your proposal? (check all that apply)

- Change of Future Land Use designation currently in plan
- Change of Growth Tiers Map within existing 2040 Future Service Limit
- New area added to Future Service Limit for 2050 plan
- Other (please explain) Click or tap here to enter text.

See Next Page

Please answer the questions below and be as detailed as possible. You may attach additional text, maps, or araphics if necessary

General location or address of proposal (if applicable).

Southeast corner of NW 70th & Superior Street

Legal description: S12, T10, R5, 6th Principal Meridian, LOT 32 NW

Parcel ID: 0412100001000

Provide a description of the proposal in as much detail as possible.

The proposal is requesting the priority of the land be changed from Tier I Priority C to Tier I Priority B. The area is near existing infrastructure and the City Limits. The area would be suitable for continued affordable housing options.

Please explain why you think the proposal would benefit Lincoln and Lancaster County over the next 30 years.

By moving the priority level up from "C" to "B" the land can be more quickly developed, promoting westward expansion of Lincoln. Based on the property's location, a portion of the site would be suitable for affordable housing.

Please explain how the proposal might have implications for other aspects of the Comprehensive Plan.

No adverse effects to the Comprehensive Plan are anticipated.

### olsson

August 21, 2020

Mr. David Cary Planning Director Planning Department 555 South 10<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 213 Lincoln NE 68508

RE: I Plan 2050 Undate Southeast co ner of NW 70th & Superior Street

### Dear Mr. Cary:

On behalf of Lincoln Federal, Olsson is submitting the following proposal to be considered as part of the minor update to the Comprehensive Plan (LPIan 2050). Lincoln Federal owns approximately 154 acres southeast of the intersection at NW 70<sup>th</sup> and Superior Street.

We are requesting to amend a portion of the future use categories for this subject property and tier designation. We are proposing to change from priority "C" to priority "B'

The property is bordered by what will be major arterial streets in Lincoln's westward expansion and is west of existing residential neighborhoods. Major infrastructure, including sanitary sever and water mains, are located in close proximity. The site would be well suited for affordable housing solutions in the future. Please see the attached PDF "NW 70 Property Image" for reference

The existing and proposed infrastructure to the subject property is listed below:

Annexation: • City limits are currently a mile away to the east.

 Street:

 • Superior Street does not connect to the east. This property seems better served by W. Adams Street. This would require 1 ½ miles of paved roads to the boundary. Both S.W 70<sup>th</sup> and Superior would need paved adjacent to the project.

Sanitary:

 Sanitary sewer is extended to within a few yards of the southeast corner of the property. Water:

Water (24") would only need to be extended  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the eastern edge of the property. It would likely require  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile extension to along Superior to S. 70<sup>th</sup>.

The proposal provides additional flexibility for the project to provide services and goods for the surrounding urban residential, as well as build Lincoln's affordable housing stock

> 601 P Street / Suite 200 / Lincoln, NE 68508 olsson.com

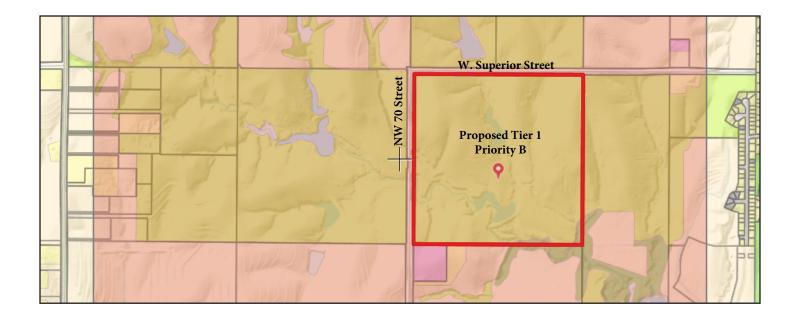
We appreciate your consideration of the proposal to amend the Comprehensive Plan for the subject property. If you require further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at bmarshall@olsson.com or 402.458.5672.

Sincerely

Brack Marshall

Brad J. Marshall

1525 Raleigh Street / Suite 400 / Denver, CO 80204 O 303.237.2072 / olsson.com



## 112th & Adams (Prairie Pines)

### University of Nebraska FOUNDATION

August 14, 2020

Paul Barnes Long Range Planning Manager Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 213 Lincoln, NE 68508

Re: Lincoln Area Future Use Plan for the Lincoln/Lancaster Comprehensive Plan Update

Dear Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department:

This letter is being submitted for consideration as you modify land use designations for the Comprehensive Plan update. 1 am writing on behalf of the University of Nebraska Foundation (UNF), as the owner of the property on which the Prairie Pines Nature Preserve (PPNP) is located (3100 N. 112<sup>th</sup> Street in Lincoln, NE). The past and current designated use of PPNP on the Lincoln Area Future Use Plan Map is "agricultural". We request a review of land use designation for this property, and that its designation be changed to "green space" because this would better align with the existing and future use of the land.

The PPNP is a 145-acre property that was purchased by Walt and Virginia Bagley in 1959. It was a typical farm of that time period and included a 10-acre remnant tallgrass prairie. The Bagley's had a Christmas tree farm for a number of years, but eventually they converted the property to grassland and woodland. Today the property is a nature preserve consisting of woodland, grassland, wetland, remnant tallgrass prairie, an arboretum, and many grassed hiking trails. It is managed as wildlife habitat that is used for academic research, nature-based education, and public recreation. It is open to the public every Saturday and for special events. Expanded public access is planned in the future. The Community Crops nonprofit leases a small portion of the property as growing plots for their vogetable farmers program.

It should also be noted that PPNP has a Conservation Easement that prevents significant development of the site other than for education, research and use as wildlife habitat. It was the first Conservation Easement in the state of Nebraska. The Conservation Easement is held by the Lower Platte South Natural Resource District.

Kearney 214 West 39th Street, P.O. Box 2678 Kearney, NE 68848 308-698-5270 
 Lincoln
 Omoha

 1010 Lincoln Mall, Suite 300
 2285 South 67th Street, Suite 200

 Lincoln, K66508
 Omoho, NE 66105

 402-458-1100
 402-502-0300

800-432-3216 | info@nufoundation.org

Paul Barnes

Re: Lincoln Area Future Use Plan for the Lincoln/Lancaster Comprehensive Plan Update August 14, 2020 Page 2

PPNP is a collaboration of nonprofit and University of Nebraska - Lincoln agencies. The property was donated to UNF by the Bagley's and is leased to the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, while it is physically managed by the Nebraska Forest Service. The nonprofit Prairie Pines Partners provides nature-based programming and public access at the Preserve. All are supportive of changing the land use designation of Prairie Pines to "green space" on the Lincoln Area Future Land Use Map of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require more information. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Charles Bally

Chet A. Poehling Associate General Counsel <u>chet.poehling@nufoundation.org</u> 402-458-1163

c: Ron Yoder, UNL IANR Aaron Clare, NFS Properties Manager Sue Kohles, Prairie Pines Partners Coordinator



### SUBMITTAL FORM FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PROPOSALS

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Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Dep 555 S. 10th Street, Suite #213 Lincoln NE 68508

A key part of the Plan Forward 2050 process is collecting specific proposals from developers ners, and other interested stakeholders. These proposals will be considered when constructing the land use plan and overall Comprehensive Plan document. If you are submitting a proposal relating to land use, please be sure and review our <u>Growth Scenarios Summary Report</u> prior to submitting your proposal. If you have general comments about our growth scenarios or anything else relating to the Comprehensive Plan, they can be shared at the Virtual Meeting, which is available through the end of August.

Thank you for participating is the Plan Forward 2050 process!

Name Chet Poehling, Associate General Counsel, University of Nebraska Foundation

Name of Organization/Business (if applicable) University of Nebraska Foundation, owner of the Prairie Pines Nature Preserve located at 3100 N. 112th St., Lincoln NE

E-mail chet.poehling@nufoundation.org

Phone 402-458-1163

### Which of the following best defines your proposal? (check all that apply)

Change of Future Land Use designation currently in plan Change of Growth Tiers Map within existing 2040 Future Service Limit

- New area added to Future Service Limit for 2050 plan Other (please explain) Click or tap here to enter

See Next Page

#### Please explain how the proposal might have implications for other aspects of the Comprehensive Plan.

"Green space" is a far more accurate description of the property and provides a guide for those wishing to pursue development in the area. Having additional green space in northeast Lincoln makes the area more fit for residential development rather than manufacturing or industry.

It would be a significant detriment to PPNP's effectiveness as wildlife habitat, and its value as a conservation education tool would be threatened if surrounding development and land use did not consider its purpose. The effectiveness of natural habitats for conserving biodiversity is influenced by surrounding land use which can alter its composition, species range and animal movement, and facilitate invasive non-native species.

Please answer the questions below and be as detailed as possible. You may attach additional text, maps, or graphics if necessary.

General location or address of proposal (if applicable).

Prairie Pines Nature Preserve, 3100 N. 112th Street, Lincoln, NE 68527

Provide a description of the proposal in as much detail as possible.

This proposal is being submitted for consideration as you modify land use designations for the Comprehensive Plan update. It is in regard to the Prairie Pines Nature Preserve (PPNP). The past and current designated use of PPNP on the Lincoln Area Future Use Plan Map is "agricultural". We request a review of land use designation for this property, and that its designation be changed to "green space," as this would more accurately describe the existing and future use of the land. The PPNP is no longer agricultural; changing its map designation to green space provides a correction to the map.

The PPNP is a 145-acre property purchased by Walt and Virginia Bagley in 1959. It was a typical farm of that time period. The Bagley's had a Christmas tree farm, but eventually they converted the property to a nature preserve consisting of woodland, grassland, wetland, remnant tallgrass prairie, an arboretum and many grassed hiking trails. It is managed as wildlife habitat, academic research, nature-based natural resource education and public recreation. The Community Crops nonprofit leases a small portion of the property as growing plots for their vegetable farmers program.

PPNP has a Conservation Easement that prevents significant development of the site other than for education, research and use as wildlife habitat. It was the first Conservation Easement in the state of Nebraska and is held by the Lower Platte South Natural Resource District.

PPNP is a collaboration of nonprofit and University of Nebraska - Lincoln agencies. The property was donated to the University of Nebraska Foundation (UNF). The property is leased to the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and is physically managed by the Nebraska Forest Service. The nonprofit Prairie Pines Partners provides nature-based programming and public access at the Preserve. All of these organizations are supportive of changing the land use designation of Prairie Pines to "green space" on the Lincoln Area Future Land Use Map of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan.

#### Please explain why you think the proposal would benefit Lincoln and Lancaster County over the next 30 years.

As Lincoln expands, the 145-acre PPNP will likely become a green "island" surrounded by development. Its Conservation Easement prevents it from being developed, thus it shall forever be wildlife habitat and green space that supports nature-based natural resource education and recreation for the general public, and academic learning and research for the University of Nebraska and Nebraska Forest Service.

It will provide green space for northeast Lincoln in addition to current parks and the future Burns Park nearby. The planned one-third mile trail to connect PPNP to the existing Murdock Trail (Murdock Trail dead ends at 112<sup>th</sup> Street north of PPNP) will make PPNP accessible by foot and bike traffic, an alternative to motor vehicle. When the Prairie Pines Connection Trail and the Haines Branch Corridor trail to Spring Creek are completed, it will create a nearly 26-mile trail between PPNP and Spring Creek via Lincoln's celebrated bike trail system, an attractive feature to Lincoln's livability.

As wildlife habitat it supports biodiversity which promotes environmental and public health

## **Prairie Boulevard**

