



Cultivating the Quality-of-Life Capital of the Country



CITY of
LINCOLN



Dear Neighbors,

In Lincoln, we measure our progress not only by what we build, but by why we build it. Every decision, every investment, and every service we provide is guided by a simple and powerful purpose: to make life better for everyone in our community. From keeping our families safe to creating affordable housing to strengthening our infrastructure, our work is rooted in a shared commitment to ensure that all residents have the opportunity to flourish.

Over the past year, our City team has continued to expand access to safe streets, reliable water, and responsive emergency services. We have invested in affordable housing, added inclusive playgrounds, and advanced climate-smart solutions that will sustain our community for generations to come. These efforts reflect a deep belief that Lincoln should be a place where everyone belongs and where every neighbor can put down roots and live the good life.

We know that the challenges ahead are real, but so is our collective resolve. By working with partners in business, education, and nonprofit organizations, and with residents in every neighborhood, we are creating a community that is even more safe, healthy, strong, resilient, equitable, inclusive, prosperous, and vibrant. We take pride in this important work to cultivate Lincoln as the quality-of-life capital of the country.

It is an honor to serve as your mayor, and I am grateful to all who contribute their time and talent to our city. Together, we are building a successful, secure, and shared future for everyone who calls Lincoln home.

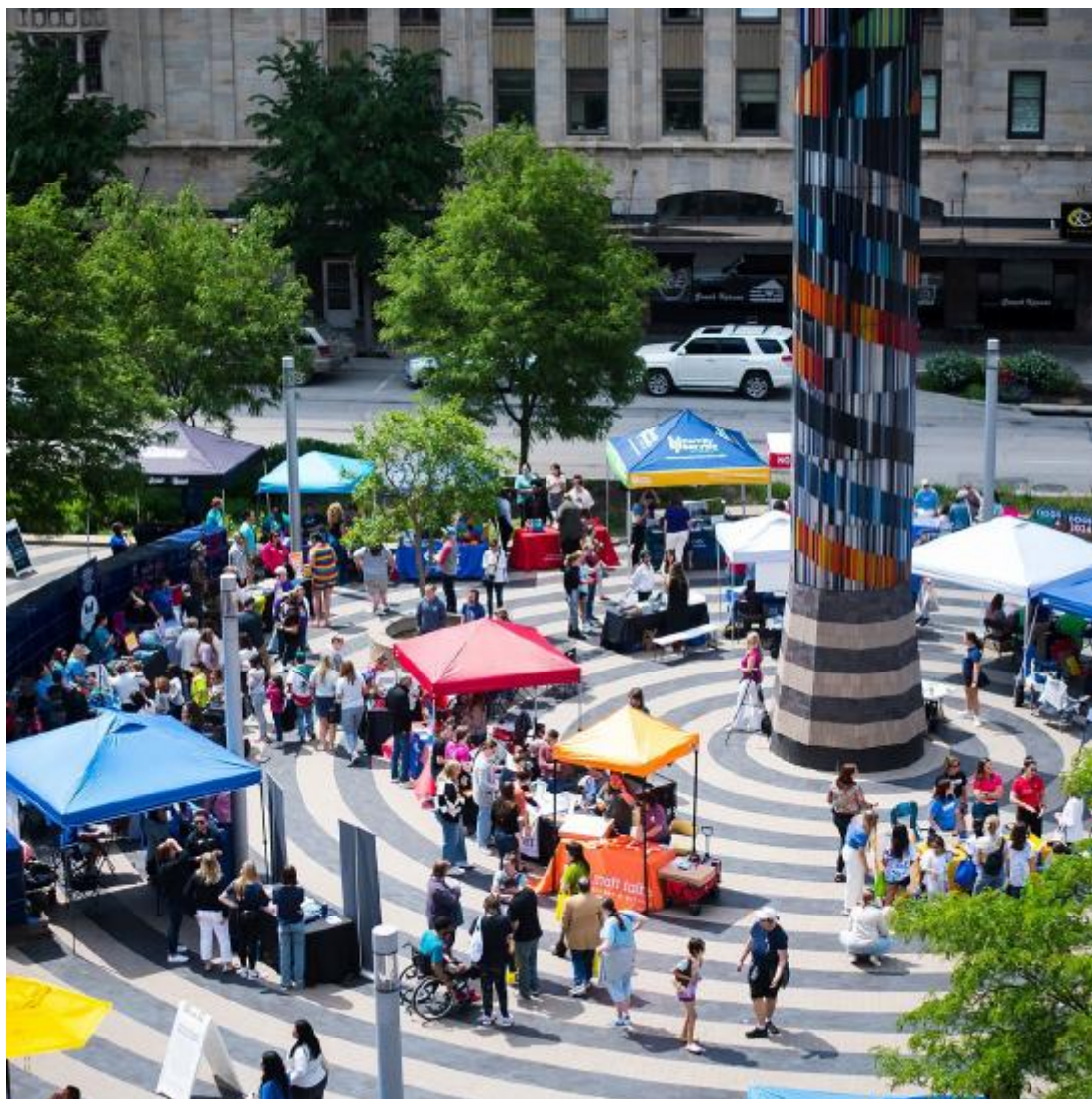
A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leirion Gaylor Baird". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leirion" being the most prominent.

Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird



The state of our city is strong,
safe, healthy, resilient,
equitable, inclusive,
prosperous, and vibrant.



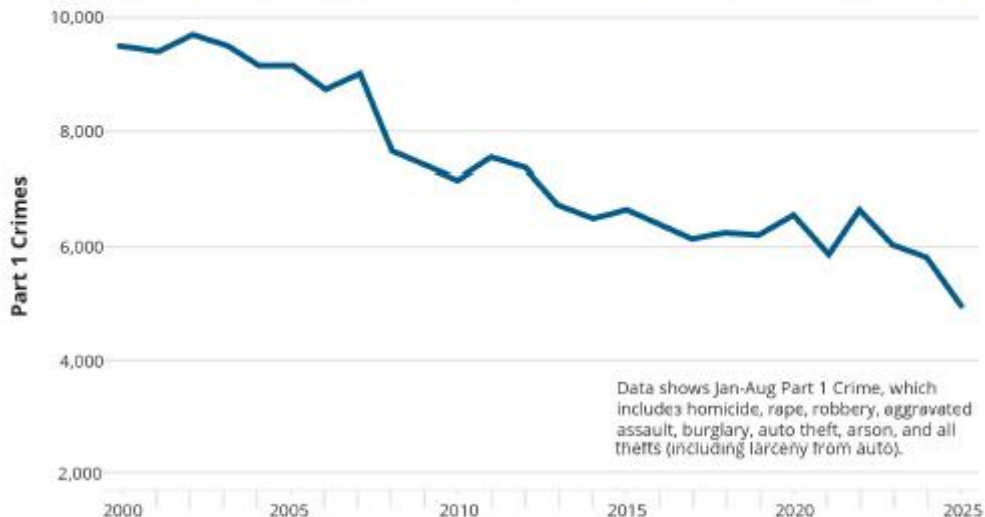


Cultivating a safe and healthy city

The Lincoln Police Dept. is staffed at 97% of authorized strength, supporting rapid response times and safer neighborhoods.



Part 1 Crime Reaches 25-Year Low (again)



115,785
total calls
for service
answered



99.99%
of calls
completed
without force



20%
increase in public-
generated
commendations



9%
decrease
in complaints
and inquiries

Based on 2024 data

Innovative Approaches to Public Safety in 2025



Co-Responder Program

Since March, Co-Responders have helped answer 220 calls, guiding individuals with mental health challenges away from the justice system and toward needed care.



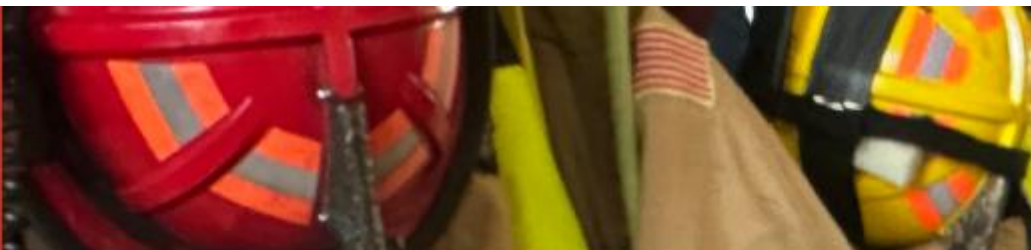
Nuisance Vehicles

To curb reckless driving, the City passed a new ordinance giving officers stronger enforcement tools. Since its inception in April 2025, 68 vehicles have been towed as nuisance vehicles.

Alternate Response

Calls regarding unsheltered individuals are redirected to CenterPointe Street Outreach if law enforcement action is not needed. More than 60 people have been successfully housed since 2023.





**Every day, Lincoln Fire & Rescue
saves lives, protects property,
and keeps our city and people safe.**





Local Results in 2024

34,831 Total incidents managed

95.8 Average daily incidents

\$228.8M Property value saved

98% Threatened property protected (national benchmark is 95%)



Excellence in Service



28 years of accreditation

One of 300+ internationally accredited fire agencies worldwide



Cardiac survival rate

More than 2x the national average, resulting in 24 lives saved in 2024



Lighthouse Community

The only Midwest city honored as a national model for life-saving care





Rebuilt Fire Station 8

This state-of-the-art station represents the City's commitment to ensuring our first responders have the facilities, tools, and resources they need to keep themselves and our families safe.



Through prevention, education, and innovation, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department builds a healthier and safer future for every community member.

8,623 child
vaccinations

Protecting children from
preventable diseases

4,583 adult
vaccinations

Safeguarding the
health of residents

12,862 dental clinic
visits

Delivering affordable
oral health care

2,354 food safety
inspections

Ensuring local businesses
meet health standards

15,873 food handling
employees trained

Equipping residents with
safe practices that protect
public health

132,123 lbs of household
hazardous waste

Keeping harmful materials
out of the landfill to protect
community health

Based on 2025 data

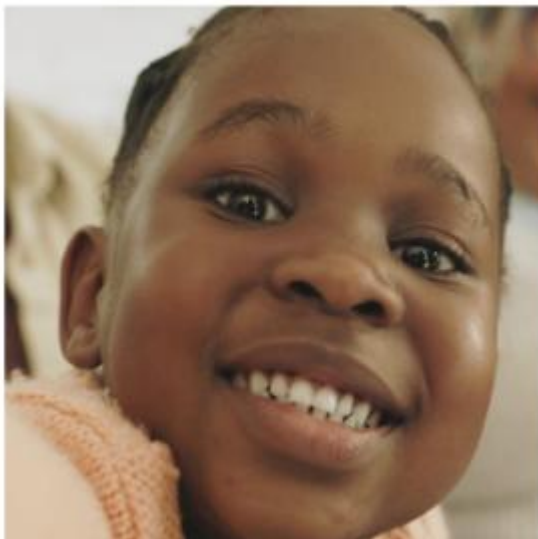


Helping Parents and Newborns

Since Family Connects launched in 2023, public health nurses have made more than **1,500 home visits** to support families with a new baby.

Focus On Wellbeing

Created with community partners, the “6 Pillars for Emotional Wellbeing” video series helps families build healthy routines that support youth emotional health.



Preventing and reducing the risk of lead exposure for children and families



We replace private lead water service lines at no cost to property owners, providing them safety and **a cost savings of up to \$10,000.**



Our Lead Safe Lincoln initiative conducts lead testing in children, assesses lead exposure risk, removes lead paint from homes, and replaces private lead water service lines.

Since 2024, we have replaced 311 lines.

Service has been completed in portions of the North Bottoms, Woods Park, and Hawley neighborhoods.

Our goal is to replace all lead service lines by 2035.

In the next year, we will service the Near South, Everett, Irvingdale, and South Salt Creek neighborhoods.



Cultivating a strong and resilient city



Well-maintained streets support public safety, economic development, housing construction, and our high quality of life.



In FY 2024/25, we invested a record \$51.1 million to improve, maintain, and build new street infrastructure. Thanks to voter renewal of Lincoln on the Move in April 2025, we anticipate investing \$144 million over the next eight years, delivering hundreds of lane miles of new and resurfaced streets.

Safe and Smooth Sidewalks

From 2024 to 2025, we doubled our investment in sidewalks, resulting in an 85% increase in locations repaired. We more than doubled the number of ADA-compliant ramps installed from 38 to 100.



Improving safety,
accessibility, and
mobility citywide



33rd and Cornhusker Improvements

In 2025, the City won its largest ever competitive grant – \$66.7 million – from the U.S. Department of Transportation to rebuild the intersection at 33rd and Cornhusker Highway. This project will improve safety, reduce traffic delays, and enhance mobility for Lincoln drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians.

This is a conceptual visualization



Water 2.0: A New Source Starts Here



Water is essential to Lincoln's health, growth, and resilience. Developing a second source will secure reliable water for our community for generations.





Our new water main will be able to carry up to 60 million gallons of water daily.

This summer, we laid the first large pipes on North 98th Street that will build vital redundancy to today's system and will create a future link to Lincoln's second source of water, the Missouri River.



A thriving local food system reduces food insecurity, benefits the local economy, and helps protect our environment.



Lincoln's New Urban Agriculture Policy

Residents may now grow and sell produce from their homes or gardens, turning yards into sources of fresh, healthy food.





Mayor's Local Food Challenge

In July 2025, we invited Lincoln businesses, schools, and organizations to source fresh, local food through partnerships that connect small farms with trusted distributors.



Thank you to our initial Challenge participants!

Belmont Community Center
Bryan Health
Community Action's Gathering Place
Community Action Head Start
Dish Restaurant
Duncan Aviation

Educare Lincoln
Fresh Ideas Food Service
Hub Cafe
Hudl
Immanuel: The Landing
Kanga Kare
Lazlo's Brewery & Grill

Lincoln Public Schools
Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach
Stepping Stones Child Academy
Trinity Child Care at Village Gardens
University of Nebraska-Lincoln



Staying Safe in Extreme Heat



The last decade was the hottest on record globally, and heat-related visits to local hospitals' emergency rooms have doubled.

New Heat Response Plan

Lincoln-Lancaster County's new Heat Response Plan helps residents better prepare for and stay safe during periods of extreme heat. Since its launch, we have already distributed 655 heat relief kits to protect and support those most at risk.





Heat Pump Incentives

Heat pumps are a smart solution for many home owners. They save money on heating and cooling costs, improve indoor air quality, and cut emissions—supporting affordability, health, and sustainability.

Program data to date

477 Heat pumps installed

\$707,000 City incentives provided

271,578 kWh of energy saved

945,419 pounds of CO2 reduced

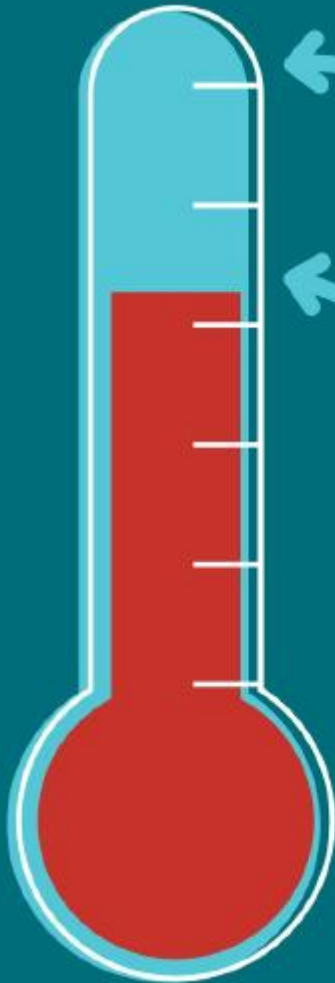


Cultivating an equitable and inclusive city



Housing for All

Preserving and growing the supply of affordable housing is fundamental to attracting and retaining our workforce, supporting business expansion, growing our local economy, and building an equitable and inclusive city.



Our bold goal is to achieve 5,000 new or rehabilitated affordable housing units by 2030.
To date, we've reached 3,201 units, 64% of our goal.





The City has supported these and other affordable housing projects with financing and infrastructure.



Center Terrace

125 homes near downtown for residents earning 60% or less of area median income



Union at Middle Creek

194 units in west Lincoln for residents earning 60% or less of area median income



FiftyOne Commons

8 affordable homes, built by Family Service Lincoln, with youth programs, a community center, a garden, and other services



23rd Street Net Zero Ready

9 affordable homes, 5 to 6 ground-floor commercial spaces for entrepreneurs, and capacity for rooftop solar



Union at Antelope Valley

187 two- and three-bedroom units for residents earning 60% or less of area median income



Promenade at Pioneers

7 affordable single-family homes built by NeighborWorks in southeast Lincoln



Inclusive Playgrounds

Creating spaces where everyone can play



The City opened its first fully inclusive playground at Mahoney Park — a 34,000-square-foot space where children and adults of all abilities can laugh, learn, and play together. The new playground is five times larger than the previous one.



Easterday Recreation Center

Adaptive programs for all ages at the Center provide individuals with disabilities inclusive recreation, social activities, and Special Olympics opportunities in a fully accessible welcoming space.

Shooting Stars

This year, Easterday Recreation Center's Shooting Stars Special Olympics teams provided more than 200 individuals with opportunities to get in the game.



Supporting our seniors' independence and quality of life

An AARP Age-Friendly Community

Lincoln is one of only two cities in Nebraska to earn the AARP Age-Friendly Designation. AARP's 2024 Livability Index ranks Lincoln as the most livable city in Nebraska and top 10 in the U.S. for our size.



Aging Partners Grows at Victory Park

Since the new facility opened in May 2023, Aging Partners has seen dramatically increased participation.

282% more
seniors getting
hot meals

330% growth
in fitness
center use

5,951 seniors
supported
annually



Digital Literacy for Seniors

The Aging Partners Digital Literacy project pairs UNL Honor Students with seniors who need help with digital devices. Started with an AARP grant, it has been so successful that it is now an ongoing effort.

Cultivating a prosperous and vibrant city

Workforce investments help residents develop career opportunities and provide employers skilled talent they need.

The City used American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to invest in workforce development partnerships. As a result, more than 1,550 individuals have gained new skills, and more than 1,000 have earned new credentials.



Connecting Residents to Careers

Resource Room at American Job Center

3,689 residents received support at the American Job Center, and 69% of them were employed in the fourth quarter after their visit.

Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Training

With the City's ARPA support, 83 residents earned CDL credentials, helping fill critical workforce needs in our community.

Future-Ready Workforce Initiative

We expect to train 125 skilled workers in electrical, HVAC, and automotive trades through City-funded apprenticeships at SCC and IBEW Local 265.

Training Healthcare Workers

With the City's ARPA support, Bryan trained 200 individuals as nurses, CNAs, and phlebotomists. 90% graduated, and 97 now work in Lincoln.



Based on 2025 data and AJC program year

Expanding Access to Childcare

Affordable, high-quality childcare is vital for families and Lincoln's workforce. That's why the City is updating zoning to help providers open or expand early childhood education centers that support working families.





To support working families and foster youth development, the City provided before- and after-school care to more than 1,600 young people last year across our four Community Learning Center locations.





Libraries expand access to knowledge, technology, and opportunity for all.

3,025,788 total checkouts

Connecting readers to books, digital resources, and lifelong learning

828,549 library visits

Welcoming the community through libraries across Lincoln

14,955 new cardholders

Opening doors to knowledge, digital tools, and new possibilities

91,562 computer sessions

Bridging the digital divide with free access to technology

1,472,619 Wi-Fi sessions

Keeping residents connected to work, school, and community life

Based on 2024 data

21st Century Libraries Power 21st Century Cities



The new Central Library is in development at 1111 "O" Street.

City Parks and Recreation facilities are FUNDamental to Lincoln's quality of life.



89% of Lincoln residents live within a **10-minute walk** of a park, compared to 57% U.S. average



5.4 million unique visits across all park spaces, with an average visit time of **71 minutes**



The Trust for Public Land ranked Lincoln parks **29th** among the 100 largest U.S. cities



Based on data from FY 2024-2025



5,496 adults
participate in rec
league sports such as
volleyball, basketball
kickball, and softball



2,317 youth
participate in league
sports such as flag
football, volleyball,
track, and basketball



506 swimming lesson
registrations,
and an additional
752 participants in
swim and dive teams

Lincoln's live, local music scene amplifies our community's economic and cultural vitality.



Boehmer Street Anchors Lincoln's Music District

In 2025, Lincoln officially designated 14th Street between "N" and "P" Boehmer Street to honor longtime Zoo Bar owner, the late Larry Boehmer. The landmark celebrates the city's sound and spirit while amplifying its musical future.



Music Box (MBX) Creates Space for Emerging Talent

The City collaborated with community members and the Downtown Lincoln Association to open MBX, a multi-use rehearsal and recording space where musicians and artists can hone their crafts and careers. The venue is designed to fuel economic development, support local businesses, attract visitors, and add to the vibrancy of downtown.



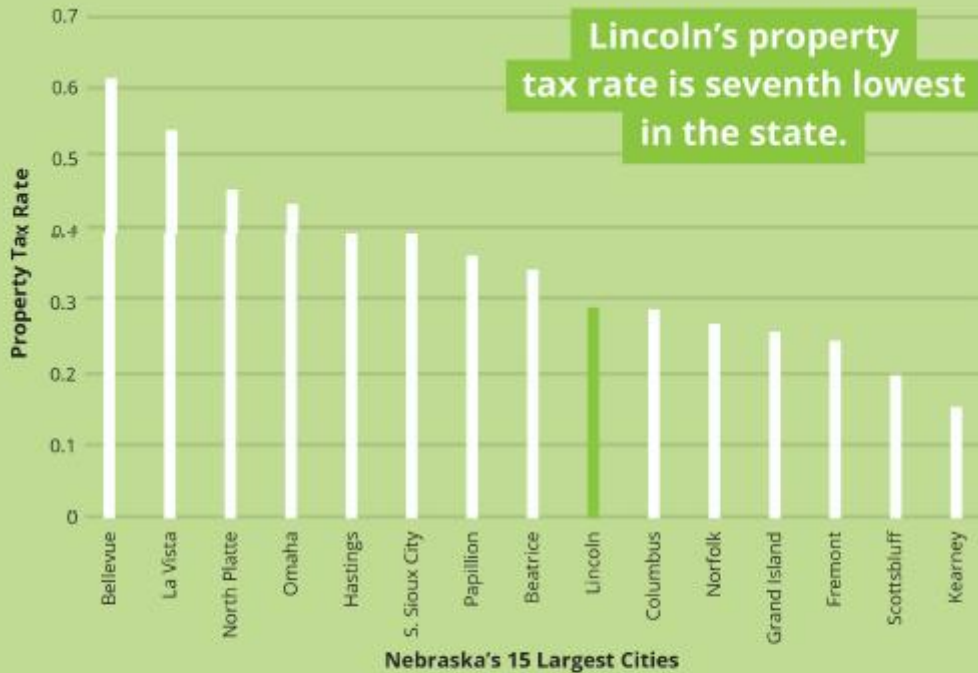


Growing Lincoln With Sound Fiscal Stewardship

Only 17 cents out
of every property
tax dollar goes to
City government.

Based on data from 2023



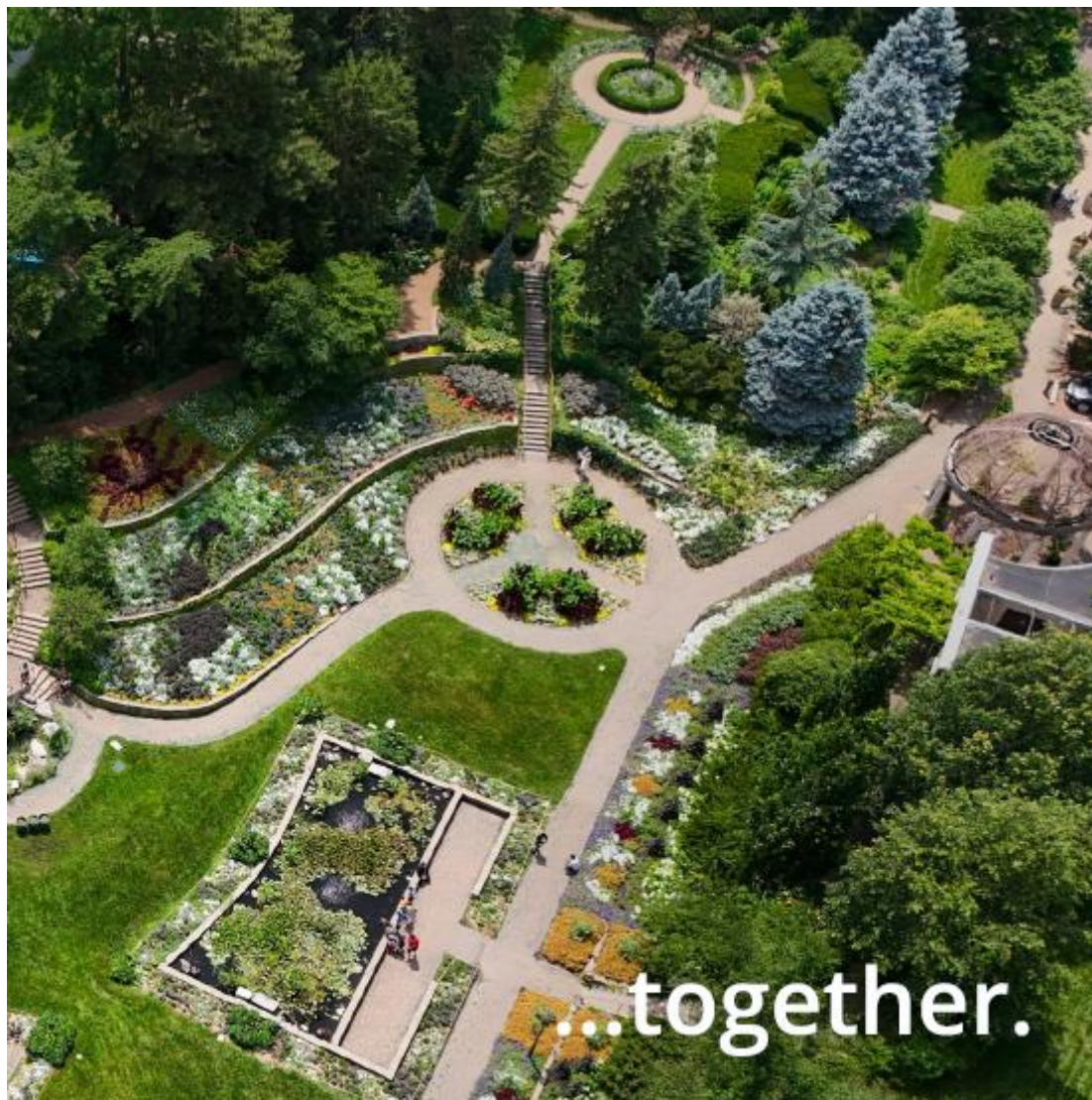


Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue 2024



An aerial photograph of a suburban neighborhood. In the upper center, there is a large, two-story house with a grey roof and a brick chimney. To its left is another house with a green roof. The foreground is dominated by a large, landscaped garden with a winding stone path, various plants, and a small pond or water feature in the bottom right corner. The garden is surrounded by lush green trees. The text "Cultivating the Quality-of-Life Capital of the Country..." is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

**Cultivating the
Quality-of-Life
Capital of
the Country...**



...together.



CITY *of* LINCOLN