

**City of Bennet
City Council
NOTICE OF MEETING
February 12, 2024
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM**

Bennet City Hall, 685 Monroe, Bennet, NE 68317

REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA

1. ROLL CALL AND PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW NOTIFICATION
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - 3.a. MINUTES of January 8, 2024, City Council Regular Meeting Approval
 - 3.b. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT
 - 3.c. TREASURER'S REPORT
 - 3.d. RESOLUTION 2024-2.1, A Resolution approving a Block Party Application from Bennet Fire & Rescue to hold a fundraiser on Fir Street from Monroe Street to Van Buren Street and on Quincy Street from Elm Street to Fir Street on June 1, 2024.
4. PRESIDING OFFICER PUBLIC COMMENT ANNOUNCEMENT.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - 5.a. Michael Hoback with AMGL, P.C. to present the audit report.
 - 5.b. Review and approval of Henry Addition Preliminary Plat.
 - 5.c. RESOLUTION 2024-2.__, a resolution approving the Henry Addition Final Plat.
 - 5.d. Adoption of the Bennet, NE Downtown Economic Development Plan.
 - 5.e. Discuss Community Daycare.
 - 5.f. Discuss/Review sample LB840 Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act plans.
 - 5.g. Discuss having Utility Committee meet with Allo communications on feasibility of providing internet access to Bennet citizens.
 - 5.h. Approval of Olsson work order for SCADA services.
 - 5.i. Consideration of asphalt crack sealing machine to be cost shared with surrounding communities.
 - 5.j. Approval of Bennet Builders Association alternate location for Preschool Playground Equipment in Bennet Park.
6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - 6.a. Discussion of Master Fee Schedule. RESOLUTION 2024-2.2, a resolution approving the Master Fee Schedule.
 - 6.b. Discussion of development fees for new subdivisions.
 - 6.c. Discussion of Garbage Transfer Site - new employee, hours of operation, proclamation requirement for City to provide curbside service.
7. REPORTS: Written reports submitted in advance are available for review in the public copy of meeting material. Submitted reports include Utility Superintendent, Sheriff's Office, Engineer, and January 17, 2024, Planning Commission Minutes* Additions to submitted reports
8. COMMUNICATIONS
9. ADJOURNMENT

*Meeting agendas are kept continuously current and available for public inspection at the offices of the City Clerk. All sessions of the Bennet Mayor and City Council remain open to the attendance of the public, but the Council reserves the right to go into closed session subject to the Open Meetings Act

**City of Bennet, Nebraska
City Council
Minutes January 8, 2024
Regular Meeting**

The Bennet City Council (the "Council") of the City of Bennet, Nebraska (the "City") held a regular business meeting on January 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM, at the Bennet City Hall, 685 Monroe Street in the City, the same being open to the public and preceded by advance publicized notice duly given in strict compliance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 84, Article 14, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, as amended, and having set forth (a) the time, date and place of the meeting; (b) that the meeting would be open to the attendance of the public; and (c) that the agenda for the meeting, kept continuously current, was available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk and posted at the City Office, Post Office and First Nebraska Bank.

Mayor Ryan Cheney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced the location of the Open Meetings Act. City Clerk Michele Lincoln conducted roll call. Council Members in attendance were Pete Simmons, Dan Zieg, Steve Bettendorf, Justin Dorn, and Mayor Ryan Cheney. A quorum being present, and the meeting duly commenced, the following proceedings were taken while the meeting remained open to attendance by the public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. MINUTES of December 11, 2023, City Council Regular Meeting Approval
- b. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT
- c. TREASURER'S REPORT

Dorn moved and Zieg seconded a motion that all items under the consent agenda be approved and accepted as presented. Roll call vote: Simmons, Zieg, Bettendorf, Dorn voted YES. Motion carried.

With an increase in expenses and staffing shortage due to the recent death of Transfer Site Attendant Terry Newman, the Mayor and Council discussed the hours, operation and staffing of the Refuse Transfer Site. Former Transfer Site Attendant Gary Judds volunteered to temporarily fill the position. There have been a couple of inquiries regarding the position, so the Council agreed to post it and accept applications. They discussed whether the current days and hours of operation need to be adjusted. The Utility Committee will evaluate the hours and customer usage. It was also mentioned that the days of operation may need to change dependent on staffing availability. The City recently renewed a contract with Uribe Refuse for hauling services which included a rate increase. Current dump fees were set in 2016 and are due for a significant increase for the service to support itself. With the thought of a significant increase, the Council discussed reaching out to service providers to get proposals for a franchise agreement. If a franchise agreement could be established allowing a lower rate for curbside service, they may be able to consider discontinuing the Transfer Site, which would allow that property to be repurposed for other uses such as an additional baseball field and recreational facilities. A request for proposals to establish a franchise agreement will be sent to interested garbage service providers.

The Council discussed purchasing an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). The Medic Source provided a quote of \$1,376.10. The Council agreed to purchase one for City Hall and suggested that we investigate possible grant funds to cover the purchase.

**City of Bennet, Nebraska
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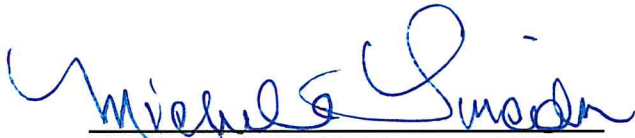
The Utility Committee reviewed the Master Fee Schedule but thought with the discussion of adding additional fees (Subdivision Fees), they should take another look at it.

H&L Asphalt LLC reached out to Utility Superintendent Russ Jones to see if Bennet would be interested in two pallets of asphalt crack sealant at a reduced price due to an over purchase from another job. His offer was to apply the two pallets for \$11,000.00. Bettendorf moved and Zieg seconded a motion to approve the estimate of \$11,000 from H&L Asphalt LLC for crack cleaning and two pallets of Hot Rubber Crack Sealing applied with the payment of a 25% deposit. Roll call vote: Simmons, Zieg, Bettendorf, Dorn voted YES. Motion carried.

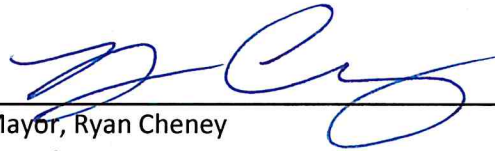
The discussion of development fees for new subdivisions was tabled until the February meeting.

Submitted reports include Utility Superintendent and Lancaster County Sheriff's Office. Utility Superintendent Russ Jones clarified the placement of the speed bumps on Hackberry Street. The three speed bumps purchased by the Nemaha Valley Subdivision Homeowners Association will start on the west end of Hackberry Street and go east at the recommended spacing by the City Engineer.

Zieg moved and Simmons seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:42. Roll call vote: Simmons, Zieg, Bettendorf, Dorn voted YES. Motion carried.



City Clerk, Michele Lincoln
City of Bennet, NE



Mayor, Ryan Cheney
City of Bennet, NE

City of Bennet
Monthly Claims
February 2024

Name	Memo	Credit
Almquist Maltzahn Galloway & Luth, CPA	Audit	3,400.00
Black Hills Energy	Gas Utility	175.91
Casey's General Stores, Inc.	Fuel	286.16
EMC Insurance Co.	Insurance	37,415.00
First Nebraska Bank	ACH Fees	68.75
H&L ASPHALT LLC		2,750.00
Hamilton Equipment Co.	Repair/Supplies	325.47
Hochstetler, David	Inspections	90.00
IRS/Department of Treasury	47-0485932	4,692.28
IRS/Department of Treasury	Federal Withholding	2,152.48
Kreifels, Jeff	Inspector	225.00
Lancaster County Sheriff	Patrol	1,315.46
League of Nebraska Municipalities	Conference	425.00
LPL Financial	Employee Investment	447.14
LPL Financial	Employee Investment	458.84
LPL Financial		439.94
MARC	Chemical	597.50
Marsh Mclennan Agency	Insurance	1,487.50
Marvin Planning Consultants, Inc	Consultant	1,335.00
Matrix Business Systems, Inc.	Copies/Equipment	88.14
Menards	Supplies	497.51
Michael Tofdd Industrial Supply	Signs	3,595.88
Midwest Labs	Effluent Test	240.27
Monica Brewer	Refund	22.80
Municipal Supply Inc.	Supplies	412.69
NAPA (A Street Auto Parts Inc)	Supplies	231.90
NCS INC	IT Support	366.70
NE Public Health Environmental Lab	Testing	60.00
Nebraska City Utilities	Services	270.00
Nebraska City Utilities	Electric	3,918.02
Nebraska Code Consulting and Inspections	Inspections	525.00
Nebraska Dept. of Revenue	Keno Tax	330.00
Nebraska Dept. of Revenue	State Withholding	657.87
Nebraska Dept. of Revenue	Sales & Use Tax	1,194.42
Nebraska Planning & Zoning Association	NPZA Conference	470.00
Nebraska Snow Equipment	snow blade parts	507.00
Olsson Inc.	Engineering	2,069.72
One Call Concepts, Inc.	Diggers Hotline	13.94
Randy Peterson	Refund	74.67
Rural Water District No. 1	Water Purchased	5,736.00
Sams Club MC/Synch	Supplies	63.30
SE Area Clerk's Association	Clerk dues	10.00

City of Bennet
Monthly Claims
February 2024

Solheim Law Firm	Legal	1,000.00
The Voice News	Publication	153.21
Union Bank	2021 GO Bond Payment	183,727.50
Uribe Refuse Services, Inc.	Refuse	1,887.97
Vasa Construction, Inc.	Services	2,267.50
Verizon Wireless	Phones	132.73
Visa/Bank One	Supplies	652.20
Windstream	Phones	516.91
Payroll		22,468.76
Mayor/Council Pay		1,015.85
Insurance Stipend		975.00

CITY OF BENNET
TREASURER REPORT
FEBRUARY 2024

	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24
(B) 2 VLG Checking	1,385,532.47	1,420,630.97	1,423,185.45
(B) 2009 Sewer Bond MM	70,624.52	71,332.11	73,696.70
(B) Park Improvement Savings (1/4)	12,457.85	12,488.91	12,488.91
(B) KENO Community Betterment	13,272.59	13,674.28	13,567.74
(B) KENO Prize Reserve	25,447.80	26,305.92	26,804.18
Subtotal Bennet First Nebraska	1,507,335.23	1,544,432.19	1,549,742.98
(U) CD - Water Sinking 5/29/25	16,268.67	16,341.68	16,341.68
(U) CD -Sewer Sinking 5/29/25	16,268.67	16,341.68	16,341.68
(U) Housing Rehab Savings (6mo)	813.54	814.57	814.57
(U) Value Edge MM	6,967.44	7,299.97	7,916.45
Subtotal Union Bank	40,318.32	40,797.90	41,414.38
CDAR #24 12/19/24	106,942.14	107,150.36	107,606.32
CDAR #25 12/19/24	53,351.64	53,455.52	53,682.99
CDAR #26 Water 1/2/25	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00
CDAR #27 1/2/25	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
Total CDARS	310,293.78	310,605.88	311,289.31
Petty Cash	65.00	65.00	65.00
TOTALS	1,858,012.33	1,895,900.97	1,902,511.67

City of Bennet
Profit & Loss by Fund (Fiscal Year-to-Date) Use This For Closing Month
 October 2023 through January 2024

	<u>1 GENERAL</u>	<u>2 STREET</u>	<u>4 WATER</u>	<u>5 SEWER</u>	<u>6 GARBAGE</u>	<u>7 DEBT S...</u>	<u>8 SALES T...</u>	<u>9 KENO</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense									
Income									
4000 · Personal & Real Property ...									
4010 · Property Taxes									
4011 · Property Tax/General	12,460.07								12,460.07
4012 · Property Tax/Sewer						996.16			996.16
Total 4010 · Property Taxes	12,460.07					996.16			13,456.23
4020 · Other Taxes									
Occupation/Franchise Taxes	7,020.85				895.72				7,916.57
Total 4020 · Other Taxes	7,020.85				895.72				7,916.57
Total 4000 · Personal & Real Pro...	19,480.92				895.72	996.16			21,372.80
4200 · State Receipts									
4210 · Motor Vehicle Pro Rate		210.73							210.73
4230 · Highway Allocation & I...									
4231 · Highway Allocation		46,951.60							46,951.60
Total 4230 · Highway Allocatio...		46,951.60							46,951.60
4240 · Motor Vehicle Fees		4,446.63							4,446.63
4260 · Municipal Equalization ...		9.56							9.56
Total 4200 · State Receipts		51,618.52							51,618.52
4500 · Local Receipts									
4520 · Motor Vehicle Tax		9,748.90							9,748.90
4530 · Local Option Sales Tax ...									
Sales Tax Collection Fee							75.00		75.00
4530 · Local Option Sales T...		8,421.49					53,666.80		62,088.29
Total 4530 · Local Option Sale...		8,421.49					53,741.80		62,163.29
4550 · Local Receipts Other									
4551 · Use of Money & Pro...									
4551.1 · Interest & Divid...									
Interest Income	4,376.09		1,011.33	73.01		2,744.56		65.52	8,270.51
Total 4551.1 · Interest & ...	4,376.09		1,011.33	73.01		2,744.56		65.52	8,270.51

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4551.2 · Rental & Lease ...									
Equipment Fee	201.99								201.99
Property Lease Paym...	2,918.30								2,918.30
Total 4551.2 · Rental & L...	3,120.29								3,120.29
Total 4551 · Use of Money ...	7,496.38		1,011.33	73.01		2,744.56		65.52	11,390.80
4552 · Licenses & Permits									
Building & Safety Inc	6,295.15								6,295.15
Permits/Office Fee	872.32								872.32
Pet License	20.75								20.75
4552 · Licenses & Permi...	100.00								100.00
Total 4552 · Licenses & Per...	7,288.22								7,288.22
4553 · Charges & Fees for ...									
Garbage Fees					27,629.82				27,629.82
Late Fee	1,215.79								1,215.79
New Utility Service			250.00						250.00
NSF Fees			90.00						90.00
Sewer Service Fee				39,523.68					39,523.68
Sewer Usage Fees				34,184.36					34,184.36
Water Service Fees			48,812.50						48,812.50
Water Usage Fees			36,020.35						36,020.35
Total 4553 · Charges & Fee...	1,215.79		85,172.85	73,708.04	27,629.82				187,726.50
4554 · Contributions Donati...									
Donation Income	56.26								56.26
KENO proceeds								3,761.89	3,761.89
Total 4554 · Contributions ...	56.26							3,761.89	3,818.15
Total 4550 · Local Receipts Ot...	16,056.65		86,184.18	73,781.05	27,629.82	2,744.56		3,827.41	210,223.67
Total 4500 · Local Receipts	16,056.65	18,170.39	86,184.18	73,781.05	27,629.82	2,744.56	53,741.80	3,827.41	282,135.86
Total Income	35,537.57	69,788.91	86,184.18	73,781.05	28,525.54	3,740.72	53,741.80	3,827.41	355,127.18
Gross Profit	35,537.57	69,788.91	86,184.18	73,781.05	28,525.54	3,740.72	53,741.80	3,827.41	355,127.18

City of Bennet
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Expense									
5000 · Governmental Activities									
5100 · General Government									
Rent Expense	300.00								300.00
Auto Fuel	135.34								135.34
Bank service charge	275.00								275.00
Building & Safety Exp	3,340.00								3,340.00
Capital Improvement	23,390.69								23,390.69
Contract Labor	2,640.46								2,640.46
Dues/Subscrp/Workshops	573.00								573.00
Equipment & Tools									
Equipment Purchased	525.00								525.00
Total Equipment & Tools	525.00								525.00
Insurance	7,483.00								7,483.00
O/R&M Building/Property	61.35								61.35
O/R&M Equipment	459.00								459.00
Payroll Salaries & Wages									
Trustee Pay	4,400.00								4,400.00
With IRA	43,008.12								43,008.12
Without IRA	8,151.74								8,151.74
Total Payroll Salaries & Wa...	55,559.86								55,559.86
Payroll Taxes & Benefits									
Medicare	805.58								805.58
Retirement	1,317.52								1,317.52
Social Security	3,444.72								3,444.72
Total Payroll Taxes & Bene...	5,567.82								5,567.82
Postage & Shipping	11.80								11.80
Printing/Publishing	1,661.05								1,661.05
Professional Fees									
Accounting	810.00								810.00
Engineering & Specialty	16,262.99								16,262.99
Legal	4,052.50								4,052.50
Total Professional Fees	21,125.49								21,125.49
Supplies	242.54								242.54
Supplies-General	351.79								351.79
Supplies-Office	4,887.58								4,887.58
Telephone/Fax	1,313.21								1,313.21

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Utilities									
Utility-Electric	517.93								517.93
Utility-Gas/Propane	303.38								303.38
Total Utilities	<u>821.31</u>								<u>821.31</u>
Total 5100 · General Governm...	130,725.29								130,725.29
5200 · Public Safety									
5210 · Police & Fire									
Contract Labor									
Interlocal/Sheriff	5,248.22								5,248.22
Total Contract Labor	<u>5,248.22</u>								<u>5,248.22</u>
Total 5210 · Police & Fire	<u>5,248.22</u>								<u>5,248.22</u>
Total 5200 · Public Safety	5,248.22								5,248.22
5300 · Public Works									
5310 · Street									
Auto		780.61							780.61
Debt Service									
Bond Interest		7,316.61							7,316.61
Total Debt Service		<u>7,316.61</u>							<u>7,316.61</u>
Equipment Purchased		-1,286.55							-1,286.55
Equipment Rental		-146.24							-146.24
Insurance		7,483.00							7,483.00
O/R&M Equipment		3,736.49							3,736.49
O/R&M Street		5,964.94							5,964.94
Payroll Salaries & Wages									
With IRA		2,754.98							2,754.98
Without IRA		3,775.73							3,775.73
Total Payroll Salaries & ...		<u>6,530.71</u>							<u>6,530.71</u>
Payroll Taxes & Benefits									
Medicare		94.70							94.70
Retirement		82.65							82.65
Social Security		404.91							404.91
Total Payroll Taxes & Be...		<u>582.26</u>							<u>582.26</u>
Professional Fees									
Accounting		810.00							810.00
Engineer & Specialty		482.04							482.04
Total Professional Fees		<u>1,292.04</u>							<u>1,292.04</u>

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Supplies-General		4,137.13							4,137.13
Utility-Electric		5,396.52							5,396.52
Total 5310 · Street		41,787.52							41,787.52
Total 5300 · Public Works		41,787.52							41,787.52
5700 · Culture & Recreation									
5720 · Parks & Recreation									
Equipment Rental	348.75								348.75
Capital Improvement	2,335.00								2,335.00
Supplies - General	905.06								905.06
Utility-Electric	687.27								687.27
Total 5720 · Parks & Recre...	4,276.08								4,276.08
Total 5700 · Culture & Recreat...	4,276.08								4,276.08
5800 · Community Development									
KENO Expense								601.00	601.00
Total 5800 · Community Devel...								601.00	601.00
Total 5000 · Governmental Activi...	140,249.59	41,787.52						601.00	182,638.11
6000 · Business Type Activities									
6500 · Solid Waste-Garbage									
Equipment Rental					312.00				312.00
Garbage Sevice					8,309.23				8,309.23
Insurance					7,483.00				7,483.00
Payroll Salaries & Wages									
With IRA					2,152.45				2,152.45
Without IRA					5,864.72				5,864.72
Total Payroll Salaries & Wa...					8,017.17				8,017.17
Payroll Taxes & Benefits									
Medicare					116.25				116.25
Retirement					64.57				64.57
Social Security					497.06				497.06
Total Payroll Taxes & Bene...					677.88				677.88
Professional Fees									
Accounting					810.00				810.00
Total Professional Fees					810.00				810.00

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Supplies-General					971.63				971.63
Telephone/Fax					175.67				175.67
Utility-Electric					333.18				333.18
Total 6500 · Solid Waste-Garb...					27,089.76				27,089.76
6700 · Wastewater-Sewer									
Capital Improvement				29,942.00					29,942.00
Insurance				7,483.00					7,483.00
O/R&M Building/Property				863.31					863.31
O/R&M Equipment				2,405.00					2,405.00
O/R&M Lines				400.00					400.00
Payroll Salaries & Wages									
With IRA				6,377.67					6,377.67
Without IRA				5,033.89					5,033.89
Total Payroll Salaries & Wa...				11,411.56					11,411.56
Payroll Taxes & Benefits									
Medicare				165.47					165.47
Retirement				191.33					191.33
Social Security				707.52					707.52
Total Payroll Taxes & Bene...				1,064.32					1,064.32
Professional Fees									
Accounting				810.00					810.00
Engineer & Specialty				1,401.84					1,401.84
Total Professional Fees				2,211.84					2,211.84
Supplies-General				2,169.02					2,169.02
Telephone/Fax				926.41					926.41
Utility-Electric				6,517.67					6,517.67
6700 · Wastewater-Sewer - ...				44.90					44.90
Total 6700 · Wastewater-Sewer				65,439.03					65,439.03
6800 · Water									
Dues/Subscrp/Workshops			230.00						230.00
Insurance			7,483.00						7,483.00
O/R&M Building/Property			56,356.00						56,356.00
O/R&M Equipment			1,285.64						1,285.64
O/R&M Lines			5,975.36						5,975.36
Payroll Salaries & Wages									
With IRA			6,056.63						6,056.63
Without IRA			4,872.28						4,872.28
Total Payroll Salaries & Wa...			10,928.91						10,928.91

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Profit & Loss by Fund (Fiscal Year-to-Date) Use This For Closing Month
 October 2023 through January 2024

	<u>1 GENERAL</u>	<u>2 STREET</u>	<u>4 WATER</u>	<u>5 SEWER</u>	<u>6 GARBAGE</u>	<u>7 DEBT S...</u>	<u>8 SALES T...</u>	<u>9 KENO</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Payroll Taxes & Benefits									
Medicare			158.47						158.47
Retirement			181.70						181.70
Social Security			677.59						677.59
Total Payroll Taxes & Bene...			1,017.76						1,017.76
Professional Fees									
Accounting			810.00						810.00
Engineer & Specialty			45.46						45.46
Total Professional Fees			855.46						855.46
Supplies-General			653.44						653.44
Telephone/Fax			181.70						181.70
Utility-Electric			305.84						305.84
Water Purchase			22,773.00						22,773.00
Total 6800 · Water			108,046.11						108,046.11
Total 6000 · Business Type Activi...			108,046.11	65,439.03	27,089.76				200,574.90
Total Expense	140,249.59	41,787.52	108,046.11	65,439.03	27,089.76			601.00	383,213.01
Net Ordinary Income	-104,712.02	28,001.39	-21,861.93	8,342.02	1,435.78	3,740.72	53,741.80	3,226.41	-28,085.83
Other Income/Expense									
Other Expense									
Fund Balance Transfer	-104,712.02	28,001.39	-21,861.93	8,342.02	1,435.78	3,740.72	53,741.80	3,226.41	-28,085.83
Total Other Expense	-104,712.02	28,001.39	-21,861.93	8,342.02	1,435.78	3,740.72	53,741.80	3,226.41	-28,085.83
Net Other Income	104,712.02	-28,001.39	21,861.93	-8,342.02	-1,435.78	-3,740.72	-53,741.80	-3,226.41	28,085.83
Net Income									

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-2.1

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATION OF BENNET FIRE & RESCUE TO HOLD A BLOCK PARTY (SMOKE -OFF FUNDRAISERS) ON FIR STREET FROM MONROE TO VAN BUREN AND QUINCY STREET FROM ELM TO FIR, BENNET, NE.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA:

That the application of Bennet Fire & Rescue (Licensee) to conduct a Block Party within an area on Fir Street from Monroe to Van Buren and Quincy Street from Elm to Fir, Bennet, NE, from 9:00 am on June 1st to 2:00 pm, on June 2nd, 2024, is approved, subject to the following conditions:

A. Proper and sufficient barricades will be placed to assure that no vehicular traffic may enter during the proposed activities. Licensees shall be responsible, at their own cost and expense, for the placement and removal of the barricades.

B. The Licensee shall clear all trash and other debris from the right-of-way upon completion of the licensed activities.

C. Licensee acknowledges and represents that they have inspected the licensed premises, know the condition thereof, and assume full responsibility for any injury to persons or damage to property by reason of the use of the licensed premises under this license and shall undertake and agree to release and hold harmless and indemnify the City and all its officers and employees from and against all actions, claims, loss, demands, expense, damage, or liability of any nature whatsoever, for death or injury to any person or damage to any property in any manner arising by reason of or incident to the exercise or enjoyment of the licensed premises herein given, whether or not caused

solely or contributed to by any act or omission, active or passive, negligent or otherwise, of the City, or any officer, employee or agent.

D. The Licensee shall, in writing, indicate their acceptance of the terms and conditions as set forth in this Resolution.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this _____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor

(SEAL)

Applicant (s) Bennet Fire and Rescue

Contact information:

Mailing address: 480 Fir Street

Primary phone: 402.440.5521

Secondary phone: _____

Email Address: kinzietd@gmail.com

Organization information (if applicable):

Name: Bennet Fire and Rescue

Mailing address: 480 Fir St

Primary phone: 402.440.5521

Email Address: bennetfire@gmail.com

EXACT proposed use: Safety for over-flow of guests from our "Smoke-Off" fundraiser, as well as providing a better opportunity for guests to safely walk to their vehicles as they arrive and leave our event. We would also be able to stage a trailer for a band and have our parking lot for guests to enjoy.

LOCATION (Example: Garden Street from Monroe to Madison. Intersections not included.)

Fir Street from Monroe to Van Buren and Quincy Street from Elm to Fir _____

DATE REQUESTED: June 1st-2nd

HOURS REQUESTED: 9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

DESCRIPTION and number of barricades (Must adhere to NDOR standards):

14 Baracades _____

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

The applicant, in consideration of the permit being granted agrees to hold harmless the City of Bennet and its officers and employees from all claims, demands, suits, actions, payments, liability, and judgments because of bodily injury or property damage caused by an accident arising out of the private use of the street. The applicant, in further consideration of the permit being granted, agrees to reimburse the City of Bennet for all damage to or loss of City property in his/her possession or control under this permit. The applicant agrees to clean the permitted area of all paper products, glass, plastic, trash and debris within one hour after the 'end time' approved for the block party. The applicant also agrees to remove the barricades immediately following clearing of all trash and debris.

Applicant Signature:  Date: 2/6/24

NOTE: Application must be received 3 days prior to the City Council meeting reviewing the request.

Date received by the City Clerk: _____ Meeting Date: _____

City Council approval and comments: _____

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

September 30, 2023

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
City of Bennet, Nebraska

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities – modified cash basis, the business-type activities – accrual basis, each major fund – modified cash basis for the governmental funds and accrual basis for the proprietary funds and the aggregate remaining fund information – modified cash basis for the governmental funds of the City of Bennet, Nebraska as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City's financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities – modified cash basis, the business-type activities – accrual basis, each major fund – modified cash basis for the governmental funds and accrual basis for the proprietary funds and the aggregate remaining fund information – modified cash basis for the governmental funds of the City of Bennet, Nebraska, as of September 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the basis of accounting as described in Note A.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the City of Bennet, Nebraska and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note A of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting for the governmental activities and governmental funds. The governmental financial statements are prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinions are not modified with respect to that matter.

SHAREHOLDERS:

Robert D. Almquist
Phillip D. Maltzahn
Marcy J. Luth
Heidi A. Ashby
Christine R. Shenk
Michael E. Hoback
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A PROFESSIONAL
CORPORATION

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the modified cash and accrual basis of accounting described in Note A, and for determining that the modified cash basis and accrual basis of accounting are acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the City of Bennet, Nebraska's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of City of Bennet, Nebraska's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about City of Bennet, Nebraska's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the financial statements. The other information comprises the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison schedules, but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 6, 2024, on our consideration of the City of Bennet, Nebraska's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the City of Bennet's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the City of Bennet, Nebraska's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

AMGL, P.C.

Grand Island, Nebraska
February 6, 2024

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
For The Year Ended September 30, 2023

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

As management of the City of Bennet, we offer readers of the City of Bennet financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the City of Bennet for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023.

Financial Highlights

- The assets of the City of Bennet exceeded its liabilities at the close of the most recent fiscal year by \$4,095,715 (*net position*). Of this amount, \$1,377,289 (*unrestricted net position*) may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.
- As of the close of the current fiscal year, the City of Bennet's governmental activities reported combined ending net position of \$1,927,330. Approximately 24.4 percent of this total amount, \$470,766 is *unrestricted net position*.
- At the end of the current fiscal year, unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was \$324,423, or 98.2 percent of total General Fund expenditures.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the City of Bennet's financial statements. The City of Bennet's financial statements comprise three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other information in addition to the financial statements themselves.

Government-wide financial statements. The *government-wide financial statements* are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the City of Bennet's finances in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The *statement of net position* presents information on all of the City of Bennet's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as *net position*. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the City of Bennet is improving or deteriorating.

The *statement of activities* presents information showing how the government's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, *regardless of the timing of related cash flows*. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS, Continued
For The Year Ended September 30, 2023

Both of the government-wide financial statements distinguish functions of the City of Bennet that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (*governmental activities*) from other functions that are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges (*business-type activities*). The governmental activities of the City of Bennet include general government, public safety, highways and streets, and culture and recreation. The business-type activities of the City of Bennet include the Water, Sewer, and Trash Enterprise Funds.

The government-wide financial statements can be found on pages 13 and 14 of this report.

Fund financial statements. A *fund* is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The City of Bennet, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of the City of Bennet can be divided into two categories: governmental funds and proprietary funds.

Governmental funds. *Governmental funds* are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as *governmental activities* in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on *near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources*, as well as on *balances of spendable resources* available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a government's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for *governmental funds* with similar information presented for *governmental activities* in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between *governmental funds* and *governmental activities*.

The City of Bennet maintains five individual governmental funds. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet and in the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances for the General, Street, Debt Service and Sales Tax Funds, all of which are considered to be major funds. The Keno Fund is nonmajor and is reported as Other Governmental Fund.

The City of Bennet adopts an annual appropriated budget for its governmental funds. A budgetary comparison statement has been provided for the General, Street, Debt Service and Sales Tax Funds to demonstrate compliance with this budget.

The governmental fund financial statements can be found on pages 15-18 of this report.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS, Continued
For The Year Ended September 30, 2023

Proprietary funds. The City of Bennet maintains one type of proprietary fund. *Enterprise funds* are used to report the same functions presented as *business-type activities* in the government-wide financial statements. The City of Bennet uses enterprise funds to account for its Water, Sewer, and Trash Funds.

Proprietary funds provide the same type of information as the government-wide financial statements, only in more detail. The proprietary fund financial statements provide separate information for the Water, Sewer and Trash Funds, all of which are considered to be major funds of the City of Bennet.

The proprietary fund financial statements can be found on pages 19-21 of this report.

Notes to the financial statements. The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements can be found on pages 22-46 of this report.

Other information. In addition to the financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain *other information* concerning the City of Bennet's budgetary comparison schedules. Other information can be found on pages 47-50 of this report.

Government-wide Financial Analysis

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. In the case of the City of Bennet, assets exceeded liabilities by \$4,095,715 at the close of the most recent fiscal year.

Summary Statements of Net Position

	September 30, 2023			September 30, 2022		
	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total
Current and Other Assets	\$ 923,113	\$ 1,094,647	\$ 2,017,760	\$ 798,099	\$ 1,006,243	\$ 1,804,342
Capital Assets	1,939,217	2,050,945	3,990,162	2,114,596	2,198,419	4,313,015
Total Assets	<u>2,862,330</u>	<u>3,145,592</u>	<u>6,007,922</u>	<u>2,912,695</u>	<u>3,204,662</u>	<u>6,117,357</u>
Long-term Liabilities	890,000	770,000	1,660,000	935,000	950,000	1,885,000
Other Liabilities	45,000	207,207	252,207	45,000	238,254	283,254
Total Liabilities	<u>935,000</u>	<u>977,207</u>	<u>1,912,207</u>	<u>980,000</u>	<u>1,188,254</u>	<u>2,168,254</u>
Net Position:						
Net Investment in						
Capital Assets	1,004,217	1,100,945	2,105,162	1,134,596	1,068,419	2,203,015
Restricted	452,347	160,917	613,264	371,123	160,917	532,040
Unrestricted	470,766	906,523	1,377,289	426,976	787,072	1,214,048
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 1,927,330</u>	<u>\$ 2,168,385</u>	<u>\$ 4,095,715</u>	<u>\$ 1,932,695</u>	<u>\$ 2,016,408</u>	<u>\$ 3,949,103</u>

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA
MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS, Continued
For The Year Ended September 30, 2023

A large portion of the City of Bennet’s net position (51.4 percent) reflects its investment in capital assets (land, improvements, buildings, vehicles, and equipment), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. The City of Bennet uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are *not* available for future spending. Although the City of Bennet’s investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

An additional portion of the City of Bennet’s net position (15.0 percent) represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining balance of *unrestricted net position* (\$1,377,289) may be used to meet the government’s ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

At the end of the current fiscal year, the City of Bennet is able to report positive balances in all three categories of net position, for the government as a whole as well as for its governmental activities and business-type activities.

Expenses and Program Revenues – Governmental Activities

<u>Function</u>	<u>Year Ended September 30, 2023</u>		<u>Year Ended September 30, 2022</u>	
	<u>Program</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Program</u>
	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
General Government	\$ 43,908	\$ 310,786	\$ 74,450	\$ 297,084
Public Safety	-	14,399	-	28,111
Public Works	366	64,824	-	46,210
Environment and Leisure	-	7,504	-	9,961
Interest and Fees	-	15,537	-	15,173
Depreciation	-	181,284	-	170,278
Total	<u>44,274</u>	<u>594,334</u>	<u>74,450</u>	<u>566,817</u>
Transfers out	-	135,000	-	298,000
	<u>\$ 44,274</u>	<u>\$ 729,334</u>	<u>\$ 74,450</u>	<u>\$ 864,817</u>

**CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS, Continued
For The Year Ended September 30, 2023**

Revenues by Source – Governmental Activities

SOURCES OF REVENUE

	<u>Year Ended September 30, 2023</u>		<u>Year Ended September 30, 2022</u>	
Charges for Services	\$ 39,894	5.51 %	\$ 74,162	10.06 %
Grants and Contributions	4,380	0.60	288	0.04
Property Taxes	338,868	46.81	331,767	44.99
Motor Vehicle Taxes	28,532	3.94	30,509	4.14
Sales Taxes	131,845	18.21	124,963	16.94
Franchise Taxes	16,481	2.28	16,697	2.26
State Allocation	146,321	20.21	132,127	17.92
Keno	8,396	1.16	11,912	1.61
Miscellaneous	1,669	0.23	12,481	1.69
Interest	7,583	1.05	2,562	0.35
Total	<u>\$ 723,969</u>	<u>100.00 %</u>	<u>\$ 737,468</u>	<u>100.00 %</u>

Net position of the governmental activities decreased by \$5,365 during the year.

Business-type activities. Business-type activities increased the City of Bennet's net position by \$151,977. Key elements of this increase are as follows:

Expenses and Program Revenues – Business-type Activities

<u>Function</u>	<u>Year Ended September 30, 2023</u>		<u>Year Ended September 30, 2022</u>	
	<u>Program Revenues</u>	<u>Program Expenses</u>	<u>Program Revenues</u>	<u>Program Expenses</u>
Water	\$ 284,370	\$ 258,155	\$ 378,727	\$ 201,374
Sewer	200,546	212,769	170,182	553,956
Trash	60,725	60,281	63,535	58,244
Total	<u>\$ 545,641</u>	<u>\$ 531,205</u>	<u>\$ 612,444</u>	<u>\$ 813,574</u>

Revenues by Source – Business-type Activities

SOURCES OF REVENUE

	<u>Year Ended September 30, 2023</u>		<u>Year Ended September 30, 2022</u>	
Charges for Services	\$ 545,641	79.87 %	\$ 523,330	57.45 %
Grants and Contributions	-	-	89,114	9.78
Interest	2,541	0.37	430	0.05
Transfers In	135,000	19.76	298,000	32.72
Total	<u>\$ 683,182</u>	<u>100.00 %</u>	<u>\$ 910,874</u>	<u>100.00 %</u>

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS, Continued
For The Year Ended September 30, 2023

Financial Analysis of the Government's Funds

As noted earlier, the City of Bennet uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Funds. The focus of the City of Bennet's *governmental funds* is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of *spendable* resources. Such information is useful in assessing the City of Bennet's financing requirements. In particular, *unassigned fund balance* may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

As of the end of the current fiscal year, the City of Bennet's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$923,113. Approximately 35.1 percent of this total amount (\$324,423) constitutes *unassigned fund balance*, which is available for spending at the government's discretion. The remainder of fund balances is not available for new spending because it has already been 1) restricted for federal programs (\$814), 2) restricted for street projects (\$422,455), 3) restricted for debt service (\$2,678), 4) assigned for debt service (\$44,580), 5) restricted for community betterment (\$26,400), 6) assigned for park improvements (\$12,458), or 7) assigned for budgetary stabilization (\$89,305).

The General Fund is the chief operating fund of the City of Bennet. At the end of the current fiscal year, unassigned fund balance of the General Fund was \$324,423, while total fund balance was \$427,000. As a measure of the General Fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare both unassigned fund balance and total fund balance to total fund expenditures. Unassigned fund balance represents 98.2 percent of total General Fund expenditures, while total fund balance represents 129.3 percent of that same amount.

The fund balance of the City of Bennet's General Fund increased by \$6,564, the Street Fund increased by \$79,363, and the Sales Tax Fund increased by \$37,230 during the current fiscal year.

Proprietary funds. The City of Bennet's proprietary funds provide the same type of information found in the government-wide financial statements, but in more detail.

Unrestricted net position of the proprietary funds at the end of the year was as follows: Water Fund – \$750,748, Sewer Fund – \$112,987, and Trash Fund – \$42,788. The changes in net position for the proprietary funds were as follows: Water Fund – increase of \$28,707, Sewer Fund – increase of \$122,826 and Trash Fund – increase of \$444. Other factors concerning the finances of these three funds have already been addressed in the discussion of the City of Bennet's business-type activities.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA
MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS, Continued
For The Year Ended September 30, 2023

Budgetary Highlights

There were no differences between the original and final adopted budget.

Capital Asset and Debt Administration

Capital Assets. The City of Bennet’s investment in capital assets for its governmental and business-type activities as of September 30, 2023, amounts to \$3,990,162 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment in capital assets includes land, buildings and improvements, distribution and collection systems, vehicles and equipment, and park facilities.

Major capital asset events (individually greater than \$10,000) during the current fiscal year included the following:

- Pressure reducing valve - \$12,651

City of Bennet's Capital Assets
(net of depreciation)

	<u>September 30, 2023</u>			<u>September 30, 2022</u>		
	<u>Governmental</u> <u>Activities</u>	<u>Business-type</u> <u>Activities</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Governmental</u> <u>Activities</u>	<u>Business-type</u> <u>Activities</u>	<u>Total</u>
Land	\$ -	\$ 73,448	\$ 73,448	\$ -	\$ 73,448	\$ 73,448
Construction in progress	14,946	18,785	33,731	14,946	17,078	32,024
Infrastructure	1,374,556	-	1,374,556	1,492,132	-	1,492,132
Buildings and Improvements	522,278	-	522,278	566,830	-	566,830
Vehicles and Equipment	27,437	99,043	126,480	40,688	124,413	165,101
Distribution and Collection Systems	-	1,859,669	1,859,669	-	1,983,480	1,983,480
Total	<u>\$ 1,939,217</u>	<u>\$ 2,050,945</u>	<u>\$ 3,990,162</u>	<u>\$ 2,114,596</u>	<u>\$ 2,198,419</u>	<u>\$ 4,313,015</u>

Additional information on the City of Bennet’s capital assets can be found in Note C3 on pages 39 and 40 of this report.

**CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS, Continued
For The Year Ended September 30, 2023**

Long-term debt. At the end of the current fiscal year, the City of Bennet had the following long-term debt outstanding:

City of Bennet's Outstanding Debt

	September 30, 2023			September 30, 2022		
	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	<u>Business-type Activities</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	<u>Business-type Activities</u>	<u>Total</u>
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 935,000	\$ 950,000	\$ 1,885,000	\$ 980,000	\$ 1,130,000	\$ 2,110,000

The City of Bennet's total debt decreased by \$225,000 (10.7 percent) during the current fiscal year due to scheduled payments.

The City of Bennet does not have a bond rating.

Additional information on the City of Bennet's long-term debt can be found in Note C4 on pages 40-42 of this report.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budgets and Rates

- The General Fund property tax asking for the year ending September 30, 2024, is \$354,369, an increase of \$17,644 (5.2 percent) from the prior year.
- At September 30, 2023, the City had commitments of \$11,865 for the comprehensive plan, \$15,615 for the water main design and \$179,823 for the water tower painting.

These factors were considered in preparing the City of Bennet's budget for the 2024 fiscal year.

Request for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the City of Bennet's finances for all those with an interest in the government's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the City Clerk, City of Bennet, P.O. Box 255, Bennet, NE 68317.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
September 30, 2023

	Governmental Activities (Modified Cash Basis)	Business-type Activities (Accrual Basis)	Total
ASSETS			
Current assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 191,333	\$ 784,040	\$ 975,373
Certificates of deposit	276,348	66,269	342,617
County treasurer cash	3,342	-	3,342
Unbilled revenue	-	48,831	48,831
Inventory	-	29,643	29,643
Prepaid insurance	-	4,947	4,947
Total current assets	<u>471,023</u>	<u>933,730</u>	<u>1,404,753</u>
Noncurrent assets:			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	452,090	160,917	613,007
Capital assets:			
Land	-	73,448	73,448
Construction in progress	14,946	18,785	33,731
Other capital assets, net of depreciation	1,924,271	1,958,712	3,882,983
Net capital assets	<u>1,939,217</u>	<u>2,050,945</u>	<u>3,990,162</u>
Total noncurrent assets	<u>2,391,307</u>	<u>2,211,862</u>	<u>4,603,169</u>
Total assets	<u>2,862,330</u>	<u>3,145,592</u>	<u>6,007,922</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities:			
Accounts payable	-	17,530	17,530
Advance utility collections	-	40	40
Accrued expenses	-	9,637	9,637
Current portion of long-term debt	45,000	180,000	225,000
Total current liabilities	<u>45,000</u>	<u>207,207</u>	<u>252,207</u>
Noncurrent liabilities:			
Noncurrent portion of long-term debt	890,000	770,000	1,660,000
Total liabilities	<u>935,000</u>	<u>977,207</u>	<u>1,912,207</u>
NET POSITION			
Net investment in capital assets	1,004,217	1,100,945	2,105,162
Restricted for:			
Federal programs	814	160,917	161,731
Street improvements	422,455	-	422,455
Debt service	2,678	-	2,678
Community betterment	26,400	-	26,400
Unrestricted	470,766	906,523	1,377,289
Total net position	<u>\$ 1,927,330</u>	<u>\$ 2,168,385</u>	<u>\$ 4,095,715</u>

See notes to financial statements.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended September 30, 2023

<u>Functions/Programs</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Program Revenues</u>	
		<u>Charges for Services</u>	<u>Operating Grants and Contributions</u>
Governmental activities			
(modified cash basis):			
General government	\$ 310,786	\$ 39,528	\$ 4,380
Public safety	14,399	-	-
Public works	64,824	366	-
Environment and leisure	7,504	-	-
Interest and fees on long-term debt	15,537	-	-
Depreciation - unallocated	181,284	-	-
Total governmental activities	594,334	39,894	4,380
Business-type activities			
(accrual basis):			
Water	258,155	284,370	-
Sewer	212,769	200,546	-
Trash	60,281	60,725	-
Total business-type activities	531,205	545,641	-
Total primary government	\$ 1,125,539	\$ 585,535	\$ 4,380

See notes to financial statements.

	Net (Expenses) Revenues and Changes in Net Position		
	Governmental Activities (Modified Cash Basis)	Business-type Activities (Accrual Basis)	Total
Capital Grants and Contributions			
\$ -	\$ (266,878)		\$ (266,878)
-	(14,399)		(14,399)
-	(64,458)		(64,458)
-	(7,504)		(7,504)
-	(15,537)		(15,537)
-	(181,284)		(181,284)
-	(550,060)	\$ -	(550,060)
-	-	26,215	26,215
-	-	(12,223)	(12,223)
-	-	444	444
-	-	14,436	14,436
\$ -	(550,060)	14,436	(535,624)
General revenues:			
Taxes:			
Property	338,868	-	338,868
Motor vehicle	28,532	-	28,532
Sales	131,845	-	131,845
Franchise	16,481	-	16,481
State allocation	146,321	-	146,321
Keno	8,396	-	8,396
Miscellaneous	1,669	-	1,669
Interest income	7,583	2,541	10,124
Transfer from (to) other funds	(135,000)	135,000	-
Total general revenues	544,695	137,541	682,236
Change in net position	(5,365)	151,977	146,612
Net position - September 30, 2022	1,932,695	2,016,408	3,949,103
Net position - September 30, 2023	\$ 1,927,330	\$ 2,168,385	\$ 4,095,715

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

**BALANCE SHEET - MODIFIED CASH BASIS -
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**

September 30, 2023

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Street Fund</u>
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 147,567	\$ 422,455
Certificates of deposit	276,348	-
County treasurer cash	3,085	-
	\$ 427,000	\$ 422,455
Total assets	\$ 427,000	\$ 422,455
 LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Liabilities	\$ -	\$ -
Fund balances:		
Restricted for:		
Federal programs	814	-
Street improvements	-	422,455
Debt service	-	-
Community betterment	-	-
Assigned for:		
Park improvements	12,458	-
Debt service	-	-
Budgetary stabilization	89,305	-
Unassigned	324,423	-
	427,000	422,455
Total fund balances	427,000	422,455
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 427,000	\$ 422,455

See notes to financial statements.

Debt Service Fund	Sales Tax Fund	Other Governmental Fund (Keno)	Total Governmental Funds
\$ 2,421	\$ 44,580	\$ 26,400	\$ 643,423
-	-	-	276,348
<u>257</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,342</u>
<u>\$ 2,678</u>	<u>\$ 44,580</u>	<u>\$ 26,400</u>	<u>\$ 923,113</u>
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
-	-	-	814
-	-	-	422,455
2,678	-	-	2,678
-	-	26,400	26,400
-	-	-	12,458
-	44,580	-	44,580
-	-	-	89,305
<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>324,423</u>
<u>2,678</u>	<u>44,580</u>	<u>26,400</u>	<u>923,113</u>
<u>\$ 2,678</u>	<u>\$ 44,580</u>	<u>\$ 26,400</u>	<u>\$ 923,113</u>

See notes to financial statements.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

**RECONCILIATION OF THE BALANCE SHEET - MODIFIED
CASH BASIS - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**

September 30, 2023

Total fund balances - governmental funds \$ 923,113

Amounts reported for *governmental activities* in the statement of net position are different because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported as assets in governmental funds. The cost of the assets is \$2,956,179, and the accumulated depreciation is \$1,016,962. 1,939,217

Long-term liabilities, including bonds and notes payable, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported as liabilities in the fund financial statements. Long-term liabilities at year end consist of:

Bonds payable (935,000)

Total net position - governmental activities \$ 1,927,330

See notes to financial statements.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCES - MODIFIED CASH BASIS - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**

For the Year Ended September 30, 2023

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Street Fund</u>
REVENUES		
Taxes:		
Property	\$ 267,932	\$ -
Motor vehicle	-	28,532
Sales	-	29,615
Franchise	16,481	-
Intergovernmental	47	146,102
Rental and fees	39,528	366
Interest income	6,970	-
Keno proceeds	-	-
Contributions and grants	4,380	-
Other	1,560	109
Total revenues	336,898	204,724
EXPENDITURES		
General government	302,526	-
Public safety	14,399	-
Public works	-	64,824
Environment and leisure	7,504	-
Capital outlay	5,905	-
Principal on long-term debt	-	45,000
Interest on long-term debt	-	14,913
Bond fees	-	624
Total expenditures	330,334	125,361
Excess of revenues over expenditures	6,564	79,363
OTHER FINANCING USES		
Transfers to other funds	-	-
Net change in fund balances	6,564	79,363
Fund balances - September 30, 2022	420,436	343,092
Fund balances - September 30, 2023	\$ 427,000	\$ 422,455

See notes to financial statements.

Debt Service <u>Fund</u>	Sales Tax <u>Fund</u>	Other Governmental Fund <u>(Keno)</u>	Total Governmental <u>Funds</u>
\$ 70,936	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 338,868
-	-	-	28,532
-	102,230	-	131,845
-	-	-	16,481
172	-	-	146,321
-	-	-	39,894
487	-	126	7,583
-	-	8,396	8,396
-	-	-	4,380
-	-	-	1,669
<u>71,595</u>	<u>102,230</u>	<u>8,522</u>	<u>723,969</u>
-	-	8,260	310,786
-	-	-	14,399
-	-	-	64,824
-	-	-	7,504
-	-	-	5,905
-	-	-	45,000
-	-	-	14,913
-	-	-	624
<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,260</u>	<u>463,955</u>
71,595	102,230	262	260,014
<u>(70,000)</u>	<u>(65,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(135,000)</u>
1,595	37,230	262	125,014
<u>1,083</u>	<u>7,350</u>	<u>26,138</u>	<u>798,099</u>
<u>\$ 2,678</u>	<u>\$ 44,580</u>	<u>\$ 26,400</u>	<u>\$ 923,113</u>

See notes to financial statements.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

**RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - MODIFIED CASH BASIS -
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

For the Year Ended September 30, 2023

Total net change in fund balances - governmental funds	\$ 125,014
Amounts reported for <i>governmental activities</i> in the statement of activities are different because:	
Capital outlays are reported in governmental funds as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which capital outlay (\$5,905) is exceeded by depreciation expense (\$181,284).	(175,379)
Repayment of bond principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the statement of net position.	<u>45,000</u>
Change in net position of governmental activities	<u><u>\$ (5,365)</u></u>

See notes to financial statements.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

STATEMENT OF FUND NET POSITION - PROPRIETARY FUNDS

September 30, 2023

	Enterprise Funds			<u>Total</u>
	<u>Water Fund</u>	<u>Sewer Fund</u>	<u>Trash Fund</u>	
ASSETS				
Current assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 640,957	\$ 100,965	\$ 42,118	\$ 784,040
Certificates of deposit	66,269	-	-	66,269
Unbilled revenue	24,293	20,868	3,670	48,831
Inventory	29,643	-	-	29,643
Prepaid insurance	1,649	1,649	1,649	4,947
Total current assets	762,811	123,482	47,437	933,730
Noncurrent assets:				
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	160,917	-	-	160,917
Capital assets:				
Land	-	73,448	-	73,448
Construction in progress	18,785	-	-	18,785
Distribution and collection system	1,893,473	2,576,643	-	4,470,116
Vehicles and equipment	84,772	223,182	12,617	320,571
Less accumulated depreciation	(1,263,964)	(1,555,394)	(12,617)	(2,831,975)
Net capital assets	733,066	1,317,879	-	2,050,945
Total noncurrent assets	893,983	1,317,879	-	2,211,862
Total assets	1,656,794	1,441,361	47,437	3,145,592
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities:				
Accounts payable	7,495	6,885	3,150	17,530
Advance utility collections	22	15	3	40
Accrued expenses	4,546	3,595	1,496	9,637
Current portion of long-term debt	54,000	126,000	-	180,000
Total current liabilities	66,063	136,495	4,649	207,207
Noncurrent liabilities:				
Noncurrent portion of long-term debt	231,000	539,000	-	770,000
Total liabilities	297,063	675,495	4,649	977,207
NET POSITION				
Net investment in capital assets	448,066	652,879	-	1,100,945
Restricted	160,917	-	-	160,917
Unrestricted	750,748	112,987	42,788	906,523
Total net position	\$ 1,359,731	\$ 765,866	\$ 42,788	\$ 2,168,385

See notes to financial statements.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES
IN NET POSITION - PROPRIETARY FUNDS**

For the Year Ended September 30, 2023

	Enterprise Funds			
	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Trash Fund	Total
Operating revenues:				
Sales	\$ 283,133	\$ 200,546	\$ 60,725	\$ 544,404
Service charges	925	-	-	925
Other revenue	312	-	-	312
Total operating revenues	284,370	200,546	60,725	545,641
Operating expenses:				
Purchased services	84,918	-	23,995	108,913
Personnel services	36,014	31,127	23,843	90,984
Repairs and maintenance	69,301	26,706	2,216	98,223
Professional fees	808	5,189	2,370	8,367
General office expense	1,398	400	-	1,798
Utilities	1,710	24,086	1,352	27,148
Insurance	6,479	6,479	6,479	19,437
Miscellaneous	-	306	26	332
Depreciation	55,029	112,647	-	167,676
Total operating expenses	255,657	206,940	60,281	522,878
Operating income (loss)	28,713	(6,394)	444	22,763
Nonoperating expenses:				
Interest income	2,492	49	-	2,541
Interest expense	(2,311)	(5,392)	-	(7,703)
Bond issuance costs	(187)	(437)	-	(624)
Total nonoperating expenses	(6)	(5,780)	-	(5,786)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	28,707	(12,174)	444	16,977
Interfund transfers:				
Transfers from other funds	-	135,000	-	135,000
Change in net position	28,707	122,826	444	151,977
Net position - September 30, 2022	1,331,024	643,040	42,344	2,016,408
Net position - September 30, 2023	\$ 1,359,731	\$ 765,866	\$ 42,788	\$ 2,168,385

See notes to financial statements.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS -
PROPRIETARY FUNDS**

For the Year Ended September 30, 2023

	Water Fund
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	
Receipts from customers	\$ 291,164
Payments to suppliers	(170,799)
Payments to employees	(36,014)
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	84,351
CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES:	
Transfers from other funds	-
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES:	
Purchases of property and equipment	(20,202)
Principal payments on capital debt	(54,000)
Interest paid on capital debt	(2,338)
Payments of bond issuance costs	(187)
Net cash used by capital and related financing activities	(76,727)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:	
Interest and dividends received	2,492
Increase in certificates of deposit	(65)
Net cash provided by investing activities	2,427
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	10,051
Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of the year	630,906
Cash and cash equivalents - end of the year	\$ 640,957
Reconciliation of operating income (loss) to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:	
Operating income (loss)	\$ 28,713
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:	
Depreciation expense	55,029
Change in assets and liabilities:	
Accounts receivable and unbilled revenue	7,118
Inventory	(1,172)
Prepaid insurance	(116)
Accounts payable	(5,090)
Advance utility collections	(324)
Accrued expenses	193
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	\$ 84,351

See notes to financial statements.

Enterprise Funds

<u>Sewer Fund</u>	<u>Trash Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
\$ 196,117	\$ 60,638	\$ 547,919
(83,749)	(36,664)	(291,212)
(35,719)	(24,214)	(95,947)
<u>76,649</u>	<u>(240)</u>	<u>160,760</u>
135,000	-	135,000
-	-	(20,202)
(126,000)	-	(180,000)
(5,455)	-	(7,793)
(437)	-	(624)
<u>(131,892)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(208,619)</u>
49	-	2,541
-	-	(65)
<u>49</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,476</u>
79,806	(240)	89,617
21,159	42,358	694,423
<u>\$ 100,965</u>	<u>\$ 42,118</u>	<u>\$ 784,040</u>
\$ (6,394)	\$ 444	\$ 22,763
112,647	-	167,676
(4,270)	(50)	2,798
-	-	(1,172)
(116)	(116)	(348)
(20,467)	(110)	(25,667)
(159)	(37)	(520)
(4,592)	(371)	(4,770)
<u>\$ 76,649</u>	<u>\$ (240)</u>	<u>\$ 160,760</u>

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

September 30, 2023

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the City of Bennet, Nebraska (City) are prepared in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting for governmental funds and the accrual basis for the proprietary funds. The City’s reporting entity applies all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements.

The accounting and reporting framework and the more significant accounting principles and practices are discussed in subsequent sections of this Note.

1. Financial Reporting Entity

The City operates under a Council-Mayor form of government with an elected chief executive, Mayor, and an elected legislative body, Council, composed of four members. The Mayor is elected at large for a four-year term, and the four members of the City Council are elected on four-year terms. The administration of the City government is performed under the direction of the City Clerk. Services provided to residents include public safety, highways and streets, parks, recreation, water and sanitary sewer systems, electric, garbage, and general administrative services.

The City’s financial reporting entity comprises the following:

Primary Government:	City of Bennet
---------------------	----------------

In determining the financial reporting entity, the City complies with the provisions of GASB Statement No. 61, and has addressed all potential component units (traditionally separate reporting entities) for which the City may be financially accountable, and, as such, should be included within the City’s financial statements. The City (the primary government) is financially accountable if it appoints a voting majority of the organization’s governing board and (1) it is able to impose its will on the organization or (2) there is a potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the City. Additionally, the primary government is required to consider other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity’s financial statements to be misleading.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued

1. Financial Reporting Entity, continued

Blended Component Units

Blended component units are separate legal entities that meet the component unit criteria described above and whose governing body is the same or substantially the same as the City Board or the component unit provides services entirely to the City. These component units' funds are blended into those of the City by appropriate activity type to compose the primary government presentation. Currently, the City has no blended component units.

Discretely Presented Component Units

Discretely presented component units are separate legal entities that meet the component unit criteria described above but do not meet the criteria for blending. The City has no discretely presented component units currently.

2. Basis of Presentation

Government-wide Financial Statements

The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities display information about the reporting government as a whole. They include all funds of the reporting entity. The statements distinguish between governmental and business-type activities. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other nonexchange revenues. Business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties for goods or services.

Fund Financial Statements

Fund financial statements of the reporting entity are organized into funds, each of which is considered to be a separate accounting entity. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts that constitute its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures/expenses. Funds are organized into two major categories: governmental and proprietary. An emphasis is placed on major funds within the governmental and proprietary categories. A fund is considered major if it is the primary operating fund of the City or meets the following criteria:

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued

2. Basis of Presentation, continued

Fund Financial Statements, continued

- a. Total assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of that individual governmental or enterprise fund are at least 10 percent of the corresponding total for all funds of that category or type; and
- b. Total assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of the individual governmental fund or enterprise fund are at least five percent of the corresponding total for all governmental and enterprise funds combined.

The funds of the financial reporting entity are described below:

Governmental Funds

General Fund

The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the City and is always classified as a major fund. It is used to account for all activities except those legally or administratively required to be accounted for in other funds.

Special Revenue Funds

Special Revenue Funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for certain purposes.

Debt Service Fund

The Debt Service Fund accounts for the accumulation of financial resources for the payment of principal and interest on the general long-term debt of the City other than debt service payments made by enterprise funds. Ad valorem taxes are used for the payment of principal and interest on the City's general obligation bonds.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued

2. Basis of Presentation, continued

Proprietary Funds

Enterprise Funds

Enterprise funds are used to account for business-like activities provided to the general public. These activities are financed primarily by user charges and the measurement of financial activity focuses on net income measurement similar to the private sector.

Major and Nonmajor Funds

The funds are further classified as major or nonmajor as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Brief Description</u>
<i>Major:</i>	
Governmental:	
General Fund	See page 25 for description.
Street Fund	The Street Fund is a Special Revenue Fund that accounts for the City's share of highway allocation from the State of Nebraska.
Debt Service Fund	See page 25 for description.
Sales Tax	The Sales Tax Fund is a Special Revenue Fund that accounts for the collection of the City Sales Tax.
Proprietary:	
Enterprise:	
Water, Sewer, and Trash	See above for description.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued

2. Basis of Presentation, continued

Major and Nonmajor Funds, continued

Nonmajor:

Governmental:

Special Revenue:

Keno Accounts for the City’s share of lottery gaming proceeds.

3. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

Measurement focus is a term used to describe “which” transactions are recorded within the various financial statements. Basis of accounting refers to “when” transactions are recorded regardless of the measurement focus applied.

On the government-wide Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, both governmental and business-type activities are presented using the economic resources measurement focus as defined in item b, below.

In the fund financial statements, the “current financial resources” measurement focus or the “economic resources” measurement focus is used as appropriate:

- a. All governmental funds utilize a “current financial resources” measurement focus. Only current financial assets and liabilities are generally included on their balance sheets. Their operating statements present sources and uses of available spendable financial resources during a given period. These funds use fund balance as their measure of available spendable financial resources at the end of the period.
- b. The proprietary fund utilizes an “economic resources” measurement focus. The accounting objectives of this measurement focus are the determination of operating income, changes in net position (or cost recovery), financial position, and cash flows. All assets and liabilities (whether current or noncurrent) associated with their activities are reported. Proprietary fund equity is classified as net position.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued

3. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting, continued

Basis of Accounting

In the government-wide Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities, governmental activities are presented using the modified cash basis of accounting. This basis recognizes assets, liabilities, net position, revenues, and expenses when they result from cash transactions with a provision for depreciation. This basis is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As a result of the use of this modified cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and revenue for billed or provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable and expenses for goods or services received but not yet paid, and accrued expenses and liabilities) *are not recorded* in these financial statements. Under the modified cash basis of accounting, proceeds from the issuance of long-term debt increase liabilities and payment of long-term debt reduces liabilities. Capital assets are capitalized and depreciation is recognized over the estimated lives of the related assets. Right of use assets and related lease liabilities, as defined by GASB 87 and 96, are not reflected in the accompanying modified cash basis financial statements.

Business-type activities are presented using the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred or economic asset used. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, and liabilities resulting from exchange and exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange takes place.

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds are presented on the modified cash basis of accounting using a flow of current financial resources measurement focus. Proceeds from issuance of long-term debt are recognized as revenue when received and payment of long-term debt principal is reported as an expenditure when paid. Capital asset purchases are recorded as expenditures and depreciation is not recognized.

All proprietary funds utilize the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred or the economic asset is used.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued

4. Assets, Liabilities, and Equity

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America used by the proprietary funds and with the modified cash basis of accounting used by the governmental funds requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and Certificates of Deposit

For the purpose of the Statement of Net Position, “cash and cash equivalents” include all demand accounts and savings accounts. For the purpose of the proprietary fund Statement of Cash Flows, “cash and cash equivalents” include all cash on hand, demand accounts, savings accounts, and equity in pooled cash, which have an original maturity of three months or less. The County Treasurer’s cash represents revenues collected not yet remitted to the City.

The certificates of deposit are carried at cost, which approximates fair market value. Additional cash disclosures are presented in Notes B2, C1, and D1.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the City’s policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

Receivables

In the government-wide statements, receivables consist of all revenues earned at year end and not yet received. Business-type activities report utility billings as their major receivables.

In the fund financial statements, proprietary fund receivables consist of all revenues earned at year end and not yet received. Utility accounts receivable compose the majority of proprietary fund receivables. The City considers all accounts receivable as collectible.

Inventory

All inventories are valued at cost using the first-in/first-out (FIFO) method.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued

4. Assets, Liabilities, and Equity, continued

Restricted Assets

Restricted assets include cash and investments that are legally restricted as to their use. The primary restricted assets are proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for certain purposes.

Capital Assets

The accounting treatment over property, plant, and equipment (capital assets) depends on whether the assets are used in governmental fund operations or proprietary fund operations and whether they are reported in the government-wide or fund financial statements.

Government-wide Statements

In the government-wide financial statements, capital assets are capitalized in the statement of net position. The City has a \$1,000 capitalization threshold. All capital assets are valued at historical cost or estimated historical cost if actual is unavailable, except for donated capital assets, which are recorded at their estimated fair value at the date of donation. The City has elected the depreciation approach for reporting infrastructure.

Depreciation of governmental capital assets is recorded as an unallocated expense in the Statement of Activities. Depreciation for all proprietary capital assets is recorded as an allocated expense in the Statement of Activities, with accumulated depreciation reflected in the Statement of Net Position. Depreciation is provided over the assets' estimated useful lives using the straight-line method of depreciation. The ranges of estimated useful lives by type of asset are as follows:

Buildings and Improvements	15-25 years
Vehicles and Equipment	5-10 years
Distribution and Collection Systems	40-50 years

Beginning October 1, 2003, governmental funds' infrastructure assets were capitalized under the prospective method. These assets have been valued at cost. The cost of normal maintenance, preservation, and repairs that do not add to the value of the assets or materially extend the assets' lives are not capitalized.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued

4. Assets, Liabilities, and Equity, continued

Capital Assets, continued

Fund Financial Statements

In the fund financial statements, capital assets used in governmental fund operations are accounted for as capital outlay expenditures of the governmental fund upon acquisition. Capital assets used in proprietary fund operations are accounted for the same as in the government-wide statements.

Compensated Absences

The City's policies regarding vacation time permit employees to accumulate earned but unused vacation leave. In the event of termination, an employee is paid for all unused accumulated vacation time. Accumulated vacation time is accrued in the accompanying proprietary funds financial statement but not in the governmental funds.

Long-term Debt

The accounting treatment of long-term debt depends on whether the assets are used in governmental fund operations or proprietary fund operations and whether they are reported in the government-wide or fund financial statements.

Government-wide Statements

All long-term debt to be repaid from governmental and business-type resources is reported as liabilities in the government-wide statements. The long-term debt consists primarily of notes payable.

Fund Financial Statements

Long-term debt for governmental funds is not reported as liabilities in the fund financial statements. The debt proceeds are reported as other financing sources and payment of principal and interest reported as expenditures. The accounting for proprietary funds is the same in the fund financial statements as it is in the government-wide statements.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued

4. Assets, Liabilities, and Equity, continued

Equity Classifications

Government-wide Statements

Equity is classified as net position and displayed in three components:

- a. Net investments in capital assets – consists of capital assets including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.
- b. Restricted net position – consists of net position with constraints placed on their use either by (1) external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- c. Unrestricted net position – all other net position that does not meet the definition of “net investment in capital assets” or “restricted net position.”

Fund Financial Statements

Governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance. Proprietary fund equity is classified the same as in the government-wide statements.

Effective October 1, 2010, the City has adopted GASB Statement No. 54, which redefined how fund balances of the governmental funds are presented in the financial statements. Fund balances are classified as follows:

Nonspendable—Amounts that cannot be spent either because they are not in a spendable form or because they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted—Amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes because of the City Charter, City Code, state or federal laws or externally imposed conditions by grantors or creditors.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued

4. Assets, Liabilities, and Equity, continued

Equity Classifications, continued

Fund Financial Statements, continued

Committed—Amounts that can be used only for specific purposes determined by a formal action by City Board ordinance or resolution.

Assigned—Amounts that are designated by Management for a specific purpose but are not spendable until a budget ordinance is passed by the City Board.

Unassigned—All amounts not included in other spendable classifications.

The details of the fund balances are included in the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet (page 15). Restricted funds are used first as appropriate. Assigned Funds are reduced to the extent that expenditure authority has been budgeted by the City Board or the Assignment has been changed by Management. Decreases to fund balance first reduce Unassigned Fund balance; in the event that Unassigned Fund Balance becomes zero, then Assigned and Committed Fund Balances are used in that order.

5. Revenues, Expenditures, and Expenses

Sales and Use Tax

The City presently levies a one-cent sales tax on taxable sales within the City. The sales tax is collected by the Nebraska Department of Revenue and remitted to the City in the month following receipt. The Nebraska Department of Revenue receives the sales tax approximately one month after collection by vendors. The sales tax is recorded in the Sales Tax Fund and used for budgeted appropriations. Sales tax collected on the sale of motor vehicles is recorded in the Street Fund as required by LB904.

Property Taxes

The City has the power to levy taxes each year sufficient to pay any judgment existing against the City, the interest on bonded debt, and the principal on bonded debt maturing during the fiscal year or within six months thereafter, as well as taxes authorized by state law.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued

5. Revenues, Expenditures, and Expenses, continued

Property Taxes, continued

The tax levies for all political subdivisions in Lancaster County are certified by the County Board on or before October 20. Real estate taxes are due on December 31 and attach as an enforceable lien and become delinquent in two equal installments on May 1 and September 1. Personal property taxes are due in the same manner as real estate taxes. Delinquent taxes bear 14 percent interest.

Property taxes levied for 2022-2023 are recorded as revenue when received by the County.

Operating Revenues and Expenses

Operating revenues and expenses for proprietary funds are those that result from providing services and producing and delivering goods and/or services. It also includes all revenue and expenses not related to capital and related financing, noncapital financing, or investing activities.

Expenditures/Expenses

In the government-wide financial statements, expenses are classified by function for both governmental and business-type activities.

In the fund financial statements, expenditures are classified as follows:

Governmental Funds – by Character and Function

Proprietary Fund – by Operating and Nonoperating

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report expenditures of financial resources. Proprietary funds report expenses relating to use of economic resources.

Interfund Transfers

Permanent reallocation of resources between funds of the reporting entity are classified as transfers. For the purposes of the Statement of Activities, all interfund transfers between individual governmental funds have been eliminated.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE B – STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

By its nature as a local government unit, the City is subject to various federal, state, and local laws and contractual regulations. An analysis of the City’s compliance with significant laws and regulations and demonstration of its stewardship over City resources follows:

1. Fund Accounting Requirements

The City complies with all state and local laws and regulations requiring the use of separate funds. The legally required funds used by the City include Special Revenue Funds.

2. Deposit Laws and Regulations

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of a bank failure, a government’s deposits may not be returned to it. The City’s deposit policy for custodial credit risk requires compliance with the provisions of state law.

State law requires collateralization of all deposits with federal depository insurance or with U.S. Treasury and U.S. agency securities having an aggregate value at least equal to the amount of the deposits. The City’s demand deposits are insured up to \$250,000 and certificates of deposit/savings accounts are insured up to \$250,000 by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). Any bank deposits in excess of the FDIC limits are insured by collateral held by the pledging institution in the City’s name.

3. Revenue Restrictions

The City has various restrictions placed over certain revenue sources from state or local requirements. The primary restricted revenue sources are described in Note A2 for the various funds.

4. Debt Restrictions and Covenants

Bonds Payable

The various bond ordinances relating to the bonds payable contain some restrictions or covenants that are financial-related. These include covenants such as debt-service coverage requirements and required reserve account balances. The City is in compliance with the bond restrictions and covenants.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE B – STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY, continued

5. Budgetary Data

The City is required by state laws to adopt annual budgets for all fund types. Each budget is presented on the cash basis of accounting, which is consistent with the requirements of the state budget act.

The Nebraska Budget Act provides the prescribed budget practices and procedures that governing bodies are required to follow. The amounts that may be budgeted for certain specific funds are subject to various expenditure and/or tax-levy limitations.

The City follows these procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the accompanying financial statements.

- a. On or before August 1, the City prepares a budget for the fiscal year commencing October 1. The budget includes proposed expenditures and resources available.
- b. The budget is published with subsequent public hearings to obtain taxpayer comments.
- c. Prior to September 30, the City Board adopts the budget, which is then filed with the appropriate state and county officials.
- d. Total expenditures may not legally exceed total appropriations. Appropriations lapse at year end and any revisions require board approval.
- e. The County Clerk certifies a preliminary property tax levy for each fund of the City, which levied property taxes in the county the previous year based on the combined valuation and amount required for the City the prior year. The preliminary levy becomes the final levy unless the governing board passes, by a majority vote, a resolution setting the levy at a different amount.
- f. The property tax requirements resulting from the budget process are utilized by the County Assessor to establish the tax levy. Taxes are levied annually on or before October 20. Real property taxes and personal property taxes are due December 31 with the first half delinquent May 1 and the second half delinquent September 1.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE B – STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY, continued

5. Budgetary Data, continued

- g. Appropriations lapse at the end of the fiscal year, except for capital improvement appropriations and certain encumbrances against operating budgets.
- h. The City of Bennet adopts a budget by resolution for all funds.

NOTE C – DETAIL NOTES ON TRANSACTION CLASSES/ACCOUNTS

The following notes present detail information to support the amounts reported in the financial statements for its various assets, liabilities, equity, revenues, and expenditures/expenses.

1. Deposits and Investments

Deposits

The City’s policies regarding deposits of cash are discussed in Note A4. The table presented below is designed to disclose how the City’s deposits were insured or secured with collateral at September 30, 2023. The categories of insurance/collateral are defined as follows:

Category 1 – Insured by FDIC or collateralized with securities held by the City (or public trust) or by its agent in its name.

Category 2 – Uninsured but collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution’s trust department or agent in the City’s name.

Category 3 – Uninsured and uncollateralized; or collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution, or by its trust department or agent, but not in the City’s name; or collateralized with no written or approved collateral agreement.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE C – DETAIL NOTES ON TRANSACTION CLASSES/ACCOUNTS, continued

1. Deposits and Investments, continued

Deposits, continued

<u>Types of Deposits</u>	<u>Total Bank Balance</u>	<u>Category 1</u>	<u>Category 2</u>	<u>Category 3</u>	<u>Carrying Value</u>
Demand deposits and certificates of deposit	\$ 1,945,647	\$ 772,537	\$ 1,173,110	\$ -	\$ <u>1,930,997</u>

Reconciliation to Government-wide Statement of Net Position:

Primary Government –

Unrestricted cash and cash equivalents	\$ 975,373
Unrestricted certificates of deposit	342,617
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	<u>613,007</u>
Total primary government	<u>\$ 1,930,997</u>

2. Restricted Cash

Restricted cash in the governmental activities consists of cash and cash equivalents of \$814 in the General Fund restricted for federal programs, \$422,455 restricted for street improvements in the Street Fund, \$2,421 in the Debt Service Fund restricted for debt service and \$26,400 restricted for community betterment in the Keno Fund.

Restricted cash in the business-type activities consists of cash and cash equivalents of \$160,917 in the Water Fund restricted for federal programs.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE C – DETAIL NOTES ON TRANSACTION CLASSES/ACCOUNTS, continued

3. Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the year ended September 30, 2023, was as follows:

	<u>Balance at</u> <u>October 1, 2022</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Disposals</u>	<u>Balance at</u> <u>September 30, 2023</u>
<u>Governmental Activities:</u>				
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Construction in progress	\$ 14,946	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,946
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Infrastructure	1,900,445	-	-	1,900,445
Buildings and improvements	854,970	3,750	-	858,720
Vehicles and equipment	179,913	2,155	-	182,068
Total capital assets at historical cost	<u>2,935,328</u>	<u>5,905</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,941,233</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Infrastructure	(408,313)	(117,576)	-	(525,889)
Buildings and improvements	(288,140)	(48,302)	-	(336,442)
Vehicles and equipment	(139,225)	(15,406)	-	(154,631)
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>(835,678)</u>	<u>(181,284) *</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,016,962)</u>
Other capital assets, net	<u>2,099,650</u>	<u>(175,379)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,924,271</u>
Governmental activities capital assets, net	<u>\$ 2,114,596</u>	<u>\$ (175,379)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,939,217</u>

* Depreciation expense was incurred by the following governmental activities:

General Fund \$ 54,312

Special Revenue Funds:

Street 126,972

Total Governmental Activities
depreciation expense \$ 181,284

Construction in progress at September 30, 2023, consists of \$14,946 of engineering for the Hackberry Street project. This project has been placed on hold and there are no commitments.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE C – DETAIL NOTES ON TRANSACTION CLASSES/ACCOUNTS, continued

3. Capital Assets, continued

	<u>Balance at</u> <u>October 1, 2022</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Disposals</u>	<u>Balance at</u> <u>September 30, 2023</u>
<u>Business-type Activities:</u>				
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 73,448	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 73,448
Construction in progress	17,078	1,707	-	18,785
Total capital assets not being depreciated	<u>90,526</u>	<u>1,707</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>92,233</u>
Other capital assets being depreciated:				
Distribution and collection systems	4,457,465	12,651	-	4,470,116
Vehicles and equipment	314,727	5,844	-	320,571
Total other capital assets at historical cost	4,772,192	18,495	-	4,790,687
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Distribution and collection systems	(2,473,985)	(136,462)	-	(2,610,447)
Vehicles and equipment	(190,314)	(31,214)	-	(221,528)
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>(2,664,299)</u>	<u>(167,676)*</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,831,975)</u>
Other capital assets, net	<u>2,107,893</u>	<u>(149,181)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,958,712</u>
Business-type activities capital assets, net	<u>\$ 2,198,419</u>	<u>\$ (147,474)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,050,945</u>

* Depreciation expense was charged to functions as follows:

Water	\$ 55,029
Sewer	<u>112,647</u>
Total Business-type Activities depreciation expense	<u>\$ 167,676</u>

Construction in progress at September 30, 2023, consists of \$18,785 of engineering for the water main design project. See Note D4 for more information on construction commitments.

4. Long-term Debt

The reporting entity's long-term debt is segregated between the amounts to be repaid from governmental activities and amounts to be repaid from business-type activities.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE C – DETAIL NOTES ON TRANSACTION CLASSES/ACCOUNTS, continued

4. Long-term Debt, continued

Changes in Long-term Debt

The following is a summary of changes in long-term debt for the year ended September 30, 2023:

<u>Type of Debt</u>	<u>Balance at October 1, 2022</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deductions</u>	<u>Balance at September 30, 2023</u>	<u>Amounts Due Within One Year</u>
Governmental Activities:					
Bonds payable	<u>\$ 980,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (45,000)</u>	<u>\$ 935,000</u>	<u>\$ 45,000</u>
Business-type Activities:					
Bonds payable	<u>\$ 1,130,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (180,000)</u>	<u>\$ 950,000</u>	<u>\$ 180,000</u>

Governmental Activities

As of September 30, 2023, the governmental long-term liabilities consisted of the following:

Highway Allocation Bonds, dated April 29, 2021, with original issue amount of \$1,025,000. Interest rates range from 0.50 percent to 2.25 percent. Interest is due in semi-annual installments and principal is due in annual installments through April 15, 2041. Paid by the Street Fund.	<u>\$ 935,000</u>
Current portion	\$ 45,000
Noncurrent portion	<u>890,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 935,000</u>

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE C – DETAIL NOTES ON TRANSACTION CLASSES/ACCOUNTS, continued

4. Long-term Debt, continued

Business-type Activities

As of September 30, 2023, the business-type long-term liabilities consisted of the following:

G.O. Refunding Sewer Bonds, dated April 15, 2021, with original issue amount of \$1,310,000. Interest rates range from 0.30 percent to 1.15 percent. Interest is due in semi-annual installments and principal is due in annual installments through February 15, 2029. These bonds are repaid 30.0 percent from the Water Fund and 70.0 percent from the Sewer Fund.	<u>\$ 950,000</u>
Current portion	\$ 180,000
Noncurrent portion	<u>770,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 950,000</u>

Annual debt service requirements to maturity, including principal and interest, for long-term debt as of September 30, 2023, are as follows:

<u>Year Ending September 30,</u>	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities	
	Other Debt Issues		Other Debt Issues	
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2024	\$ 45,000	\$ 14,688	\$ 180,000	\$ 7,005
2025	45,000	14,462	185,000	5,954
2026	45,000	14,238	185,000	4,659
2027	50,000	13,855	180,000	3,155
2028	50,000	13,430	185,000	1,374
2029-2033	250,000	58,475	35,000	201
2034-2038	270,000	37,237	-	-
2039-2041	180,000	8,100	-	-
	<u>\$ 935,000</u>	<u>\$ 174,485</u>	<u>\$ 950,000</u>	<u>\$ 22,348</u>

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE C – DETAIL NOTES ON TRANSACTION CLASSES/ACCOUNTS, continued

5. Interfund Transactions

The Debt Service Fund transferred \$70,000 and the Sales Tax Fund transferred \$65,000 to the Sewer Fund during the year ended September 30, 2023.

NOTE D – OTHER NOTES

1. Risk Management

The City is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The City purchases commercial insurance to minimize the effect of possible exposure to these risks. There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage from coverage in the prior year. During the past three fiscal years, there have been no settlements exceeding the amount of the City's insurance coverage.

Deposits and Investments

Custodial Credit Risk. For an investment, custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the City will not be able to recover the value of its investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. All of the underlying securities for the City's investments at September 30, 2023, are held by banks in the name of the City.

Interest Rate Risk. As a means of limiting its exposure to fair value losses arising from rising interest rates, the City's investment policy requires that market conditions and investment securities be analyzed to determine the maximum yield to be obtained and to minimize the impact of rising interest rates. The certificate of deposit maturities are as follows:

<u>Maturities by Month</u>	<u>Amount</u>
December 2023	\$ 160,080
January 2024	150,000
May 2025	<u>32,537</u>
	<u>\$ 342,617</u>

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE D – OTHER NOTES, continued

1. Risk Management, continued

Deposits and Investments, continued

Concentration of Credit Risk. The City’s investment policy places no limit on the amount that may be invested in any one issuer. At September 30, 2023, the City’s certificates of deposit consisted of the following:

<u>Financial Institution</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Union Bank	\$ <u>342,617</u>

Credit Risk. Credit risk is the risk that the issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. The City’s investments consist of certificates of deposit, money market funds, and other securities backed by U.S. Government obligations, minimizing credit risk associated with the City’s investment portfolio.

Foreign Currency Risk. This risk relates to adverse effects on the fair value of an investment from changes in exchange rates. The City’s investments had no exposure to foreign currency risk and the City held no investments denominated in foreign currency at September 30, 2023.

2. Interlocal Agreements

The City has the following interlocal agreements in effect as of September 30, 2023:

<u>Party to Agreement</u>	<u>Agreement Period</u>	<u>Description</u>
Lancaster County	7/24/03 – present	Address assignment
Lancaster County	7/1/00 – present	Law enforcement
Lincoln/Lancaster Co. Health Dept.	1983 – present	Ordinances and nuisances
Diode Communications	8/1/03 – present	Internet site lease
Cities of Douglas and Palmyra and District OR-1 School	May 2002 – present	Joint contracting

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE D – OTHER NOTES, continued

2. Interlocal Agreements, continued

<u>Party to Agreement</u>	<u>Agreement Period</u>	<u>Description</u>
Lancaster County	6/30/10 – present	Maintenance of portions of 162nd and Apple Streets
Nebraska WARN	March 2010 – present	Water and wastewater mutual fund
City of Lincoln	9/13/93 – present	Solid waste management and recycling agreement

3. Retirement Benefits

The City contributes to an employee retirement fund under a SIMPLE IRA Plan. All employees with at least \$5,000 earned during each year for a two-year period are eligible to participate in the plan. The City contributes three percent of the employee’s annual compensation to the plan. Employees are fully vested in 100 percent of their own contributions and the employer contributions immediately. The City contributed \$4,477 to employee retirement funds during the year ended September 30, 2023.

4. Commitments

Construction Commitments

At September 30, 2023, the City had a \$34,400 contractual commitment with Olsson Associates on the Tyler and Cottonwood water main design project. The City had made payments of \$18,785 on this contract as of September 30, 2023, leaving \$15,615 to be paid under the contractual obligation. This project is on hold until funding can be determined.

At September 30, 2023, the City had a \$234,779 contractual commitment with Maguire Iron, Inc. for the water tower painting and inspection. The City had made payments of \$54,956 on this contract as of September 30, 2023, leaving \$172,823 to be paid under the contractual obligation.

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, Continued

September 30, 2023

NOTE D – OTHER NOTES, continued

4. Commitments, continued

Other Commitment

At September 30, 2023, the City had a \$20,000 contractual commitment with Marvin Planning Consultants Inc. for the comprehensive plan. The City had made payments of \$8,135 on this contract as of September 30, 2023, leaving \$11,865 to be paid under the contractual obligation.

5. Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated subsequent events through February 6, 2024, the date on which the financial statements were available for issue.

OTHER INFORMATION

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - MODIFIED CASH BASIS
GENERAL FUND**

Year Ended September 30, 2023

	Budget (Original and Final)	Actual	Variances - Actual Over (Under) Final Budget
RESOURCES (INFLOWS)			
Taxes:			
Property	\$ 263,599	\$ 267,932	\$ 4,333
Franchise	16,000	16,481	481
Intergovernmental	14	47	33
Rental and fees	21,252	39,528	18,276
Interest income	2,000	6,970	4,970
Contributions and grants	-	4,380	4,380
Other	5,250	1,560	(3,690)
Total resources	308,115	336,898	28,783
CHARGES TO APPROPRIATIONS (OUTFLOWS)			
General government	281,650	302,526	20,876
Public safety	14,000	14,399	399
Environment and leisure	8,500	7,504	(996)
Capital outlay	23,900	5,905	(17,995)
Total charges to appropriations	328,050	330,334	2,284
 RESOURCES OVER (UNDER) CHARGES TO APPROPRIATIONS			
	\$ (19,935)	\$ 6,564	\$ 26,499

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - MODIFIED CASH BASIS
STREET FUND**

Year Ended September 30, 2023

	Budget (Original and Final)	Actual	Variances - Actual Over (Under) Final Budget
RESOURCES (INFLOWS)			
Taxes:			
Motor vehicle	\$ 27,000	\$ 28,532	\$ 1,532
Sales	25,000	29,615	4,615
Intergovernmental	140,895	146,102	5,207
Rental and fees	500	366	(134)
Other	-	109	109
Total resources	<u>193,395</u>	<u>204,724</u>	<u>11,329</u>
CHARGES TO APPROPRIATIONS (OUTFLOWS)			
Public works	47,400	64,824	17,424
Capital outlay	320,000	-	(320,000)
Principal on long-term debt	45,000	45,000	-
Interest on long-term debt	14,913	14,913	-
Bond fees	624	624	-
Total charges to appropriations	<u>427,937</u>	<u>125,361</u>	<u>(302,576)</u>
RESOURCES OVER (UNDER) CHARGES TO APPROPRIATIONS	<u><u>\$ (234,542)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 79,363</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 313,905</u></u>

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - MODIFIED CASH BASIS
DEBT SERVICE FUND**

Year Ended September 30, 2023

	Budget (Original and <u>Final</u>)	<u>Actual</u>	Variances - Actual Over (Under) <u>Final Budget</u>
RESOURCES (INFLOWS)			
Taxes:			
Property	\$ 69,792	\$ 70,936	\$ 1,144
Intergovernmental	175	172	(3)
Interest income	75	487	412
Total resources	<u>70,042</u>	<u>71,595</u>	<u>1,553</u>
 OTHER FINANCING USES			
Transfers out	<u>(70,000)</u>	<u>(70,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
 RESOURCES OVER OTHER FINANCING USES	 <u>\$ 42</u>	 <u>\$ 1,595</u>	 <u>\$ 1,553</u>

CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - MODIFIED CASH BASIS
SALES TAX FUND**

Year Ended September 30, 2023

	Budget (Original and <u>Final</u>)	<u>Actual</u>	Variances - Actual Over (Under) <u>Final Budget</u>
RESOURCES (INFLOWS)			
Taxes:			
Sales tax	\$ 105,000	\$ 102,230	\$ (2,770)
OTHER FINANCING USES			
Transfers out	<u>(65,000)</u>	<u>(65,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
RESOURCES OVER OTHER FINANCING USES	<u>\$ 40,000</u>	<u>\$ 37,230</u>	<u>\$ (2,770)</u>

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL
OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE
AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
City of Bennet, Nebraska

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities – modified cash basis, the business-type activities – accrual basis, each major fund – modified cash basis for the governmental funds and accrual basis for the proprietary funds and the aggregate remaining fund information – modified cash basis for the governmental funds of the City of Bennet, Nebraska, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City’s financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated February 6, 2024. Our report on the financial statements disclosed that, as described in Note A to the financial statements, the City of Bennet, Nebraska, prepares its financial statements for the governmental funds on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the City of Bennet’s internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the City’s internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the City’s internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. *A material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity’s financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

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Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies, and therefore material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We identified a certain deficiency in internal control, described below that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

Segregation of Duties

Due to limited number of personnel, there is not adequate segregation of duties to ensure internal control over cash receipts, disbursements, and recording of transactions.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the City of Bennet's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

City of Bennet's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the City of Bennet's response to the findings identified in our audit and described above. The City of Bennet's response to the findings identified in our audit is that due to the small size of the City, it is impractical to further segregate duties. The City of Bennet's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

AR-66, P. 6.

Grand Island, Nebraska
February 6, 2024

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
City of Bennet
Bennet, Nebraska

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and each major fund of the City of Bennet for the year ended September 30, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated February 6, 2024. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated July 20, 2023. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the City of Bennet are described in Note A to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year ended September 30, 2023. We noted no transactions entered into by the City during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

Management's estimate of the collectability of accounts receivable is based on historical utility revenues, historical loss levels, and an analysis of the collectability of individual accounts. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the collectability of accounts receivable in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

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Management's estimate of the depreciation of capital assets is based on the estimated useful life of the capital asset. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the depreciation of capital assets in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. Eight audit adjustments decreased the fund balance of the City's governmental funds by \$137,436. Fourteen audit adjustments increased the net position of the City's business-type activities by \$193,067. The following material misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures were corrected by management:

1. Bond principal payments of \$180,000 were reclassified in the business-type activities, increasing net position and decreasing expenses.
2. Capital assets of \$20,202 were reclassified in the business-type activities, increasing net position and decreasing expenses.
3. Depreciation expense of \$167,676 was recorded in the business-type activities, decreasing net position and increasing expenses.
4. Transfers from the Debt Service Fund and Sales Tax Fund to the Sewer Fund of \$135,000 were recorded, decreasing net position and increasing expenditures in the governmental funds and increasing net position and revenues in the business-type activities.
5. Accounts payable was adjusted \$25,667 in the business-type activities, increasing net position and decreasing expenses.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated February 6, 2024.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a “second opinion” on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the City’s financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor’s opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the City’s auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements of the City of Bennet as of September 30, 2023, we noted certain matters that we believe you should consider. Our observations were formed as a by-product of our audit procedures, which did not include a comprehensive review for the purpose of submitting detailed recommendations.

1. We recommend that you review the water, sewer and trash rates for possible increases.
2. We recommend that you increase your capitalization policy from \$1,000 to \$2,500 or \$5,000.

Other Matters

The management’s discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison schedules, which are the responsibility of management, have not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on them.

Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the use of the City Council and management of the City of Bennet and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

AMCL, P.C.

Grand Island, Nebraska

February 6, 2024

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
City of Bennet
Bennet, Nebraska

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Bennet as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the City's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the City's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the City's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the following deficiency in the City of Bennet's internal control to be a significant deficiency:

The size of the City's accounting and administrative staff precludes certain internal controls that would be preferred if the office staff were large enough to provide optimum segregation of duties. This lack of segregation of duties creates an opportunity for employees to commit fraud that may go undetected. This situation suggests that the City Council remain involved in the financial affairs of the City to provide oversight and independent review functions.

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This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, the City Council, and others within the City, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

AMG, PC.

Grand Island, Nebraska
February 6, 2024

**CITY OF BENNET KENO LOTTERY
BENNET, NEBRASKA**

**REPORTS ON AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES
AND ANNUAL EXAMINATION**

For the Year Ended September 30, 2023

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**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT’S REPORT ON AGREED-UPON
PROCEDURES**

City of Bennet Keno Lottery
Bennet, Nebraska

To the Honorable Chairman and Members of the City Board
City of Bennet, Nebraska

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on Revenue Ruling 35-10-3 published by the Nebraska Department of Revenue, Charitable Gaming Division (Division), solely to assist the specified users in evaluating management’s assertions about the City of Bennet Keno Lottery’s compliance with the specifically cited provisions of the Nebraska County and City Lottery Act and County and City Lottery Regulations of the City of Bennet Keno Lottery for the year ended September 30, 2023, included in its representation letter dated December 28, 2023. The City of Bennet Keno Lottery is responsible for the compliance with the specifically cited provisions of the regulations.

The City of Bennet has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose, evaluating the City of Bennet Keno Lottery’s compliance with the specifically cited provisions of the regulations. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

**PROCEDURES PERFORMED IN CONNECTION WITH KENO LOTTERY
OPERATION**

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

1. Compliance Requirement (Manual Draw Method): An unannounced observation of the keno activity must be made at least annually for all sponsors who use a manual ball draw method for selection of winning numbers during the conduct of a keno lottery.

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Findings:

The City of Bennet does not use a manual draw method; therefore, this compliance procedure was not applicable.

2. Compliance Requirement (Manual Draw Method): During the unannounced visit, observe five keno games and verify that the keno operator has a minimum of three lottery workers involved during the drawing of the twenty keno numbers when a manual ball draw method of winning number selection is used. Three lottery workers must be involved on every game using a manual ball draw system without exception. A keno lottery using an automated ball draw system may be conducted with less than three lottery workers as prescribed in Regulation 35-621.06B.

Sponsor's Representative should observe that:

- a. The number of the game being drawn is recorded on a blank keno draw ticket.
- b. One lottery worker must call the ball numbers as they enter the rabbit ears.
- c. A different lottery worker must enter the numbers on the draw ticket on which the number of the game is recorded.
- d. The keno manager must verify the numbers drawn comparing the rabbit ears to the draw ticket and to the numbers entered into the keno system prior to computing the game.
- e. Determine at the time of the unannounced visit that the Lottery Operator is utilizing the method of winning number selection that agrees with the designated selection method on file with the Sponsor and the Department of Revenue.

Findings:

The City of Bennet does not use a manual draw method; therefore, this compliance procedure was not applicable.

3. Compliance Requirement (Automated Ball Draw Method): Verify that keno management personnel have performed on a next day basis a review of all "no read" and duplicate number occurrences. Sponsors must also verify that keno management personnel have performed on a next day basis a review of the game draw for a minimum of ten percent of the games run for the previous day. A written log of such reviews must be maintained by the Lottery Operator or Sales Outlet Location where the automated ball draw equipment is in use.

Findings:

The City of Bennet does not use an automated ball draw method; therefore, this compliance procedure was not applicable.

4. Compliance Requirement (Manual and Automated Ball Draw): View the videotape or digital recording for a minimum of five games for each month (from at least two different weeks within each month) to determine that the following items are in compliance with the regulations:

- a. The videotape or digital recording must have a clear image to show the empty rabbit ears or wheel, date and time, and full rabbit ears or wheel. The videotape or digital recording must also show the game number or the time and date which will relate to the game number.
- b. The winning numbers drawn per the videotape or digital recording must agree to the draw ticket prepared by a lottery worker, in the case of a manual ball draw, and the winning numbers recorded on the transaction log. Verify that all discrepancies were reported to the Nebraska Department of Revenue, Charitable Gaming Division, by the Lottery Operator, Sales Outlet Location, or Sponsor. Report all discrepancies not previously reported directly to the Nebraska Department of Revenue, Charitable Gaming Division. Compare the time of the videotape or digital recording to the transaction log; also examine any procedures that would allow the Lottery Operator or Sales Outlet Location the opportunity to affect the outcome of the keno game.
- c. The videotapes must be retained and may not be reused until the Sponsor has performed the compliance procedures on the tapes and has released the tapes.

Findings:

The City of Bennet does not use any ball draw method; therefore, this compliance procedure was not applicable.

5. Compliance Requirement: Verify the accuracy of monthly game summary information provided by the Lottery Operator, by reconciling the gross proceeds with prize payouts from the keno system's transaction log, to the monthly summary information.

Findings:

The gross proceeds and prize payouts from the monthly summary information provided by the Lottery Operator were compared to the totals recorded on the keno system transaction logs. The monthly summary information agreed with the totals recorded on the keno system transaction logs.

6. Compliance Requirement: Determine that the gross proceeds of the keno lottery, less prizes paid in cash, are deposited into a separate bank account of the Sponsor or Lottery Operator. Trace the deposits monthly per the daily cash summary and the transaction log to the keno operations bank account to determine that the proper amount has been deposited within a commercially reasonable time frame and report any discrepancies.

Findings:

The gross proceeds of the keno lottery, less prizes paid in cash, were deposited into a separate bank account of the Sponsor or Lottery Operator. The deposits, per the daily cash summary and the transaction log, were traced to the keno operations bank account.

For Big 10 Tavern we considered three days to be a commercially reasonable time frame. Big 10 Tavern had 50 late deposits during the year.

7. Compliance Requirement: Examine any cash overage or shortage in excess of \$25 per keno writer per shift/day and report unexplained and unresolved discrepancies and irregularities.

Findings:

There were nine overages for Big 10 Tavern totaling \$299.05:

10/26/2022	\$ 3.50
11/20/2022	20.25
1/7/2023	29.35
2/24/2023	197.95
3/30/2023	2.50
6/7/2023	13.00
6/8/2023	19.50
7/14/2023	12.50
8/3/2023	0.50
	<u>\$ 299.05</u>

8. Compliance Requirement: The computer-generated prize pay tables for all types of wagers must agree with the published prize pay tables. Verify that the Lottery Operator has a procedure to maintain a log of all updates and changes to the prize pay tables and that the active prize pay tables on the keno system agree with the published prize pay tables.

Findings:

The active prize pay tables on the keno system were examined on November 22, 2023, and agreed with the published prize pay tables. The Lottery Operator maintains a log of all updates and changes to the prize pay tables.

9. Compliance Requirement: Examine the financial security provided for prize payments to verify that the funds are guaranteed and in compliance with the regulations.

Findings:

The financial security provided for prize payouts was examined on November 22, 2023, and is in the form of two irrevocable letters of credit in the amount of \$35,000. The beneficiary of the letters of credit is the City of Bennet and the expiration dates on the letters of credit are December 28, 2023, and they renew automatically on an annual basis. The previous letters of credit in the amount of \$35,000 expired December 28, 2022. The value of the financial security is greater than or equal to the top prize offered.

10. Compliance Requirement: Ensure that all lottery records are maintained as prescribed in Schedule 59 - County/City Lottery Records approved by the Records Management Division of the Secretary of State's office and Regulation 35-622.

Findings:

Lottery records are maintained as prescribed in Schedule 59 - County/City Lottery Records. The printed transaction logs are stored at Four Sons' office, 13901 Guildford Suite H, Waverly, NE 68462. Outside tickets with pay tickets of net winnings of \$1,500 or more and void tickets are also stored at Four Sons' office.

11. Compliance Requirement: Sponsor must file a Nebraska County/City Lottery Report, Form 35K, for the annual period corresponding to the Sponsor's fiscal year. The report must be filed with the Charitable Gaming Division by December 31, 2023.

Findings:

The Nebraska County/City Annual Lottery Report, Form 35K, covering the period October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023, is attached.

During the performance of the required procedures, no findings other than the findings for compliance requirement #6 and #7 were noted.

We were engaged by the City of Bennet to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on management's assertions. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the City of Bennet Keno Lottery and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and the Division, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than those specified parties.

AMGL, PC.

Grand Island, Nebraska
December 28, 2023

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON THE ANNUAL
EXAMINATION**

City of Bennet Keno Lottery
Bennet, Nebraska

To the Honorable Chairman and Members of the City Board
City of Bennet, Nebraska

We have examined management's assertions, included in its representation letter dated December 28, 2023, that:

1. The Lottery Operator and the Sponsor are in compliance, for the year ended September 30, 2023, with applicable provisions of the Nebraska County and City Lottery Act and Regulations issued thereunder, with the exception of the findings noted in the compliance requirement #6 and #7 of the attached Agreed Upon Procedures Report.
2. The Lottery Operator and the Sponsor are in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Lottery Operator contract for the year ended September 30, 2023.
3. The attached Nebraska County/City Lottery Report, Form 35K, of keno lottery activity for the year ended September 30, 2023, complies with the minimum requirements of Revenue Ruling 35-10-3.

Management is responsible for the City of Bennet Keno Lottery's compliance with the requirements outlined in those assertions. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on management's assertions about compliance based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether management's assertions about compliance with the specified requirements are fairly stated, in all material respects. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether management's assertions are fairly stated, in all material respects. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material misstatement of management's assertions, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

SHAREHOLDERS:

Robert D. Almquist
Phillip D. Maltzahn
Marcy J. Luth
Heidi A. Ashby
Christine R. Shenk
Michael E. Hoback
Joseph P. Stump
Kyle R. Overturf
Tracy A. Cannon
Jamie L. Clemans

1203 W 2nd Street
P.O. Box 1407
Grand Island, NE 68802
P 308-381-1810
F 308-381-4824
EMAIL cpa@gicpas.com

A PROFESSIONAL
CORPORATION

We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement.
Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the City of Bennet Keno Lottery's compliance with the specified requirements.

In our opinion, management's assertions that the City of Bennet Keno Lottery complied with Revenue Ruling 35-10-3 and the Nebraska County and City Lottery Act and Regulations are referred to above are fairly stated with the exception of the findings noted in the compliance requirements #6 and #7 of the attached Agreed-Upon Procedures Report.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and the Nebraska Department of Revenue, Charitable Gaming Division, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

AMGL, P.C.

Grand Island, Nebraska
December 28, 2023



Nebraska County/City Lottery Annual Report

FORM
35K
Page 1

for the fiscal year or short reporting period
beginning 10/1/2022 and ending 9/30/2023

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Name of County/City/Village (Sponsor)
City of Bennet

Nebraska Identification Number
35—289361

Name of Lottery Operator
Four Sons, Inc.

Lottery Operator's E-Mail Address
keithblake2@gmail.com

Method of Accounting

Cash

Accrual

Other

PART A — INCOME, EXPENSES/DISBURSEMENTS, PROFIT AND INTEREST

Income:

1	Gross proceeds.....	1	\$	55,054	57
2	Prizes paid	2		42,008	60
3	Net proceeds (line 1 minus line 2).....	3		13,045	97
4	Overage or (Shortage)	4		0	00
5	Adjusted net proceeds	5		13,045	97

Expenses/Disbursements:

6	Lottery operator commissions.....	6	\$	7,707	64
7	State lottery taxes	7		1,101	08
8	License fees	8		0	00
9	Audit and legal fees.....	9		3,100	00
10	Other expenses/disbursements (attach itemized list).....	10		132	50
11	Total expenses/disbursements (total of lines 6 through 10)	11		12,041	22

Net Profit:

12	Total available for distribution (line 5 minus line 11)	12	\$	1,004	75
13	Total interest earned (total of line 3, page 2).....	13		124	23
14	Total available for community betterment (line 12 plus line 13).....	14		1,128	98

PART B — MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

15	Amount owed to the sponsor at the end of the period	15	\$	288	15
16	Amount owed to the lottery operator at the end of the period.....	16	\$	672	35

Under penalties of law, I declare that as a governing official of the county/city/village of Bennet I have examined this report, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is complete, true and accurate.

This report will be/was made available to the residents of the county/city/village of Bennet on 12/28/23 Date

sign here

Signature of Preparer
Kyle Overturf, CPA

Print Name of Preparer
koverturf@gicpas.com

E-Mail Address

12/28/23
Date

(308) 381-1810

Daytime Telephone Number

1203 West 2nd St, PO Box 1407 Grand Island, NE 68802
Address City/State Zip Code

Signature of Governing Official

Michele Lincoln

Print Name of Governing Official
cityclerk@cityofbennet.com

E-Mail Address

City Clerk/Treasurer
Title

685 Monroe St
Address

Bennet, NE
City/State

(402) 826-4313

Daytime Telephone Number

68317
Zip Code

This report and statements are due within 90 days of the end of the reporting period.
Mail to: NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, P.O. BOX 94855, LINCOLN, NE 68509-4855



NEBRASKA SCHEDULE I — Bank Account Information

FORM 35K
Page 2

• Attach this page to Form 35K (page 1)

Name of County/City/Village (Sponsor) as Shown on Form 35K
City of Bennet

Nebraska Identification Number
35— 289361

- Enter information from bank statements for each account maintained for revenues and disbursements from county/city lottery (keno)
- Attach additional sheet(s) if necessary

Bank account name	KENO OPERATIONS BANK ACCOUNT	PRIZE RESERVE BANK ACCOUNT	PROGRESSIVE JACKPOT ACCOUNT	BIG WINS BANK ACCOUNT	COMMUNITY BETTERMENT ACCOUNT	OTHER BANK ACCOUNT
Bank account number (last four digits)	9197	9189			9219	

ACCOUNT ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REPORT

1 Balance at fiscal year or short period beginning date <u>10/1/2022</u>	1	\$ 1,043 39	\$ 23,135 94	\$ 0 00	\$ 0 00	\$ 10,648 20	\$ 0 00
2 Deposits.....	2	28,565 60	5,207 63	0 00	0 00	3,188 10	0 00
3 Interest earned	3	0 00	83 54	0 00	0 00	40 69	0 00
4 Subtotal (total of lines 1 through 3).....	4	\$ 29,608 99	\$ 28,427 11	\$ 0 00	\$ 0 00	\$ 13,876 99	\$ 0 00
5 Disbursements (checks and withdrawals)	5	28,302 26	4,150 59	0 00	0 00	1,008 00	0 00
6 Balance at fiscal year or short period ending date <u>9/30/2023</u> (line 4 minus line 5) ...	6	\$ 1,306 73	\$ 24,276 52	\$ 0 00	\$ 0 00	\$ 12,868 99	\$ 0 00
7 Amount of lottery (keno) cash on hand or outstanding deposits as of the start of fiscal year or the short period starting <u>10/1/2022</u> (see instructions).....	7					\$ 48 00	
8 Amount of lottery (keno) cash on hand or outstanding deposits as of the end of fiscal year or the short period ending <u>9/30/2023</u> (see instructions).....	8					382 80	
9 Prizes paid by check and withdrawals for keno cash (i.e. fills) during the reporting period	9					12,055 15	
10 Deposits into the keno operations account other than daily keno receipts (i.e. transfers from prize reserve, operator, community betterment or any other accounts, etc.) Attach itemized schedule	10					5,207 63	
11 Other disbursements from the keno operations account (Attach itemized schedule).....	11					4,186 59	
12 Total community betterment expenditures paid from the community betterment bank/fund	12					\$ 0 00	

Use the space below to highlight these expenditures:

See attached.

<u>Page, Line</u>	<u>Amount Reported</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
	40.50	Checks purchased
	32.00	Overdraft fees
	60.00	Service charges
Page 1, Line 10	<u>132.50</u>	Total
	4,150.59	Transfers from reserve account
	36.00	E-statement rebate
Page 2, Line 11	<u>4,186.59</u>	Total
Page 2, Line 10	<u>5,207.63</u>	Transfers to reserve account

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

A PARCEL OF LAND BEING ALL OF LOT 1A, SHAY & SMITH ADDITION AND THE REMAINING PORTIONS OF LOT 7-9, BLOCK 42, BENNET LOCATED IN THE NE 1/4 SEC. 10, T8N, R8E OF THE 6TH P.M., CITY OF BENNET, LANCASTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT NE CORNER OF SAID LOT 1A;

THENCE ON THE EAST BOUNDARY OF SAID LOT 1A, S00°56'11"E, 91.17 FEET TO THE SOUTH BOUNDARY OF SAID LOT 1A, ALL BEARINGS HEREON ARE RELATIVE THERETO;

THENCE ON SAID SOUTH BOUNDARY, N89°02'19"W, 66.16 FEET TO SAID EAST BOUNDARY;

THENCE ON SAID EAST BOUNDARY, S00°06'40"E, 41.24 FEET TO THE NORTH RIGHT-OF-WAY OF GARDEN STREET;

THENCE ON SAID NORTH RIGHT-OF-WAY, N89°01'57"W, 133.25 FEET TO THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF MONROE STREET;

THENCE ON SAID EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY, N00°34'54"W, 132.48 FEET TO THE NW CORNER OF SAID LOT 1A;

THENCE ON THE NORTH BOUNDARY OF SAID LOT 1A, S89°00'45"E, 199.18 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

CONTAINING 23,685 SQUARE FEET OR 0.54 ACRES

Lyle L. Loth, L.S. 314
REGA Engineering Group Inc.
601 Old Cheney Road, Suite 'A'
Lincoln, NE 68512
402-484-7342

HENRY ADDITION

TO THE CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

PRELIMINARY PLAT

OWNER / SUBDIVIDER:

MARY F. LANGER
15101 BENNET RD.
BENNET, NE 68317

ZONING INFORMATION

CURRENT ZONING: F-1 FLEX

SURVEYOR:

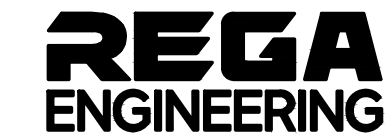
LYLE L. LOTH
REGA ENGINEERING GROUP INC.
601 OLD CHENEY RD., SUITE 'A'
LINCOLN, NE 68512 (402) 484-7342

ENGINEER:

NATHANIEL P. BURNETT
REGA ENGINEERING GROUP INC.
601 OLD CHENEY RD., SUITE 'A'
LINCOLN, NE 68512 (402) 484-7342

NO.	REVISIONS		
	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY

PROJECT
231151



601 OLD CHENEY RD., SUITE A
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68512
(402).484.7342

- ENGINEERING
- PLANNING
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAND SURVEYING

F-1 FLEX DISTRICT BUILDING SETBACK RESTRICTIONS

FRONT YARD	- 0 FEET
SIDE YARD	- 0 FEET
SIDE YARD WHEN ADJOINING RESIDENTIAL	- 10 FEET
REAR YARD - 0 FEET	
REAR YARD WHEN ADJOINING RESIDENTIAL	- 25 FEET

SHEET NOTES:

- EXISTING 10' UTILITY EASEMENT CENTERED ON PRIOR LOT LINE TO BE VACATED.

GENERAL NOTES

- THIS PRELIMINARY PLAT CONTAINS 0.54 ACRES.
- THIS PRELIMINARY PLAT PERMITS 2 FLEX USE LOTS.
- THE DEVELOPER/OWNER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO BUILD ANYWHERE WITHIN THE LOT WHICH IS OUTSIDE OF THE BUILDING SETBACKS AND EASEMENTS SHOWN.
- UTILITY EASEMENTS SHALL BE GRANTED TO THE CITY OF BENNET AND OTHER PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE PROPOSED LOTS.
- PARKING LOT LAYOUTS ARE CONCEPTUAL AND CAN BE MODIFIED AT TIME OF BUILDING PERMITS. PARKING SHALL BE SHARED IN AND BETWEEN ALL COMMERCIAL LOTS WITHIN THE DEVELOPMENT.

PROPOSED USE TYPES		
BUILDING:	SQ FT	USE TYPE
LDT 1 - NORTH BUILDING	864	SERVICE - SINGLE TENANT
LDT 1 - CENTRAL BUILDING	564	SERVICE - SINGLE TENANT
LDT 1 - SOUTH BUILDING	1434	OFFICE - MULTI TENANT
TOTAL	2862	

PARKING REQUIREMENTS

ZONING = F-1 FLEX DISTRICT
REQUIRED: GENERAL SERVICES

1 Stall per 300 sq. ft.

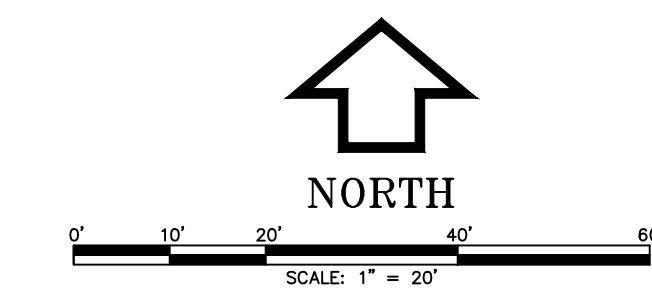
PROPOSED BUILDING: = 2862 S.F.
TOTAL: 2862 S.F. / 300 = 10 STALLS REQUIRED

SHOWN FOR THE PROJECT:

NON-ADA STALLS = 8 STALLS
ADA STALLS = 2 STALLS
TOTAL STALLS = 10 STALLS

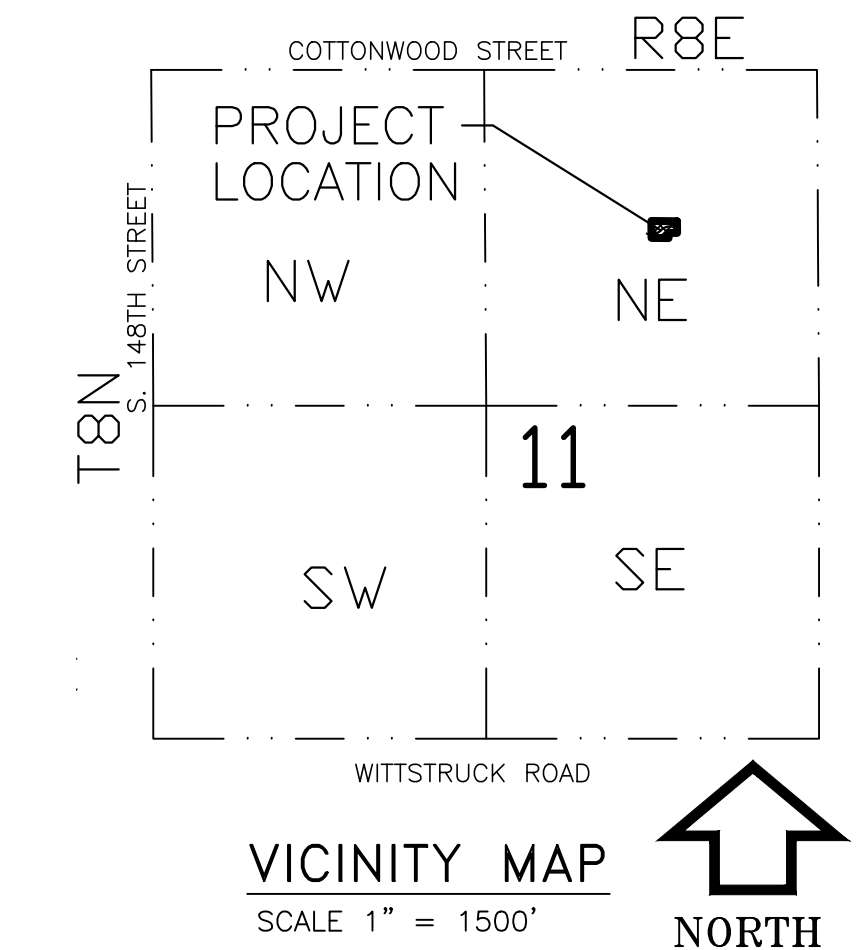
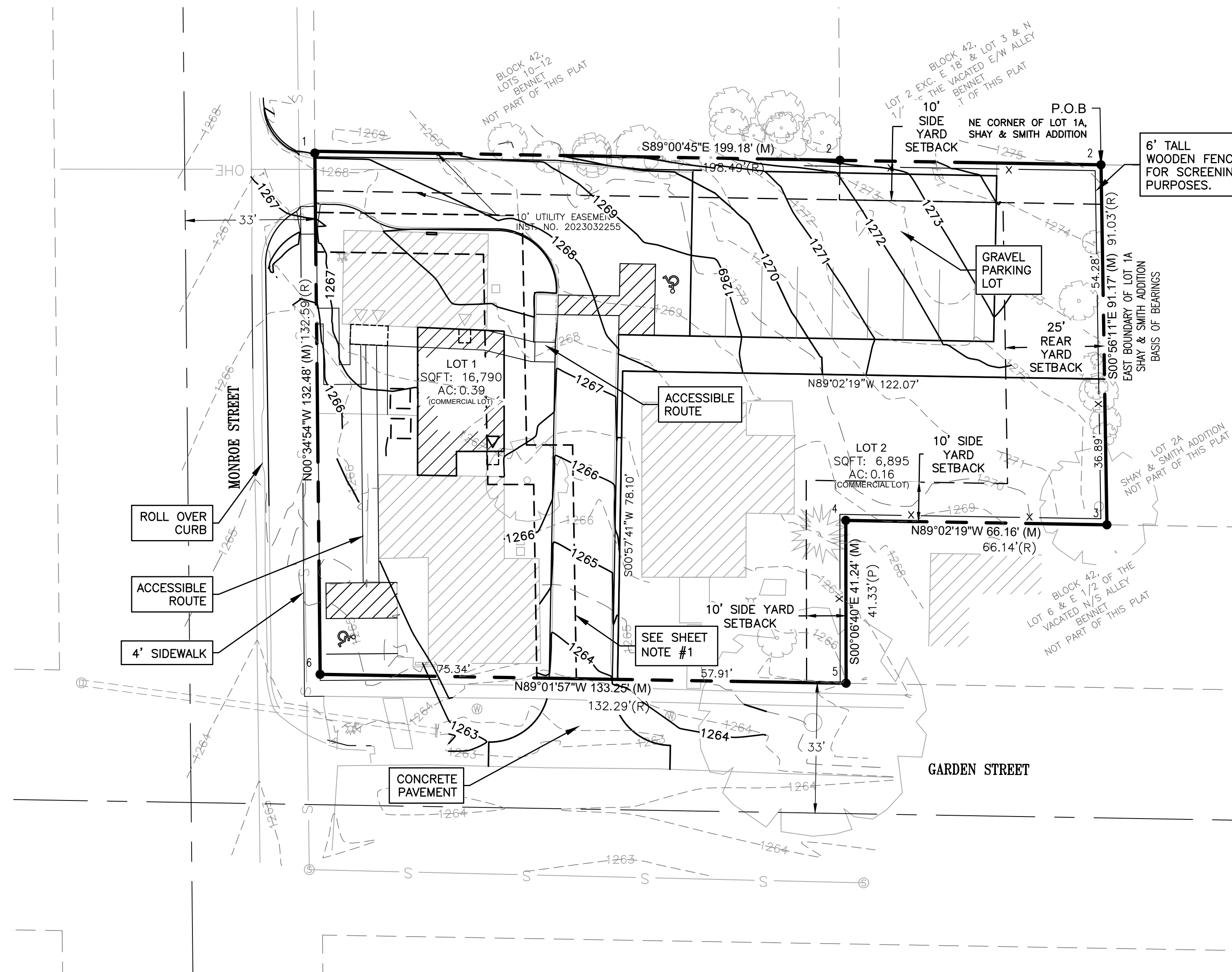
MONUMENT SYMBOL LEGEND

- FOUND NO. 4 Bar
 - FOUND PLASTIC CAP STAMPED "LS#483"
 - FOUND MAG Nail
 - FOUND NO. 5 Bar
 - FOUND PLASTIC CAP STAMPED "LS#502"
 - FOUND Drill Hole
- (M) MEASURED DIMENSION
(R) RECORD DIMENSION PER INST. NO. 98031250



HENRY ADDITION CONSIST OF:

Total Lots = 2
Total Acres = 0.54



HENRY ADDITION
PRELIMINARY PLAT

NE 1/4 SEC. 10, T.8N., R.8E., 6TH P.M.
LANCASTER COUNTY, CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

DATE: 2/7/2024
DRAWN BY: RDR
CHECKED BY: LLL

SHEET NO.
1 of 2

OVERALL SITE PLAN

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

A PARCEL OF LAND BEING ALL OF LOT 1A, SHAY & SMITH ADDITION AND THE REMAINING PORTIONS OF LOT 7-9, BLOCK 42, BENNET LOCATED IN THE NE 1/4 SEC. 10, T8N, R8E OF THE 6TH P.M., CITY OF BENNET, LANCASTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

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Lyle L. Loth, L.S. 314
 REGA Engineering Group Inc.
 601 Old Cheney Road, Suite 'A'
 Lincoln, NE 68512
 402-484-7342

HENRY ADDITION

TO THE CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

PRELIMINARY PLAT

OWNER / SUBDIVIDER:

MARY F. LANGER
 15101 BENNET RD.
 BENNET, NE 68317

ZONING INFORMATION

CURRENT ZONING: F-1 FLEX

SURVEYOR:

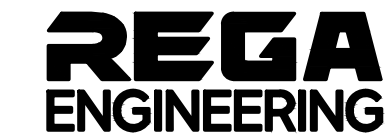
LYLE L. LOTH
 REGA ENGINEERING GROUP INC.
 601 OLD CHENEY RD., SUITE 'A'
 LINCOLN, NE 68512 (402) 484-7342

ENGINEER:

NATHANIEL P. BURNETT
 REGA ENGINEERING GROUP INC.
 601 OLD CHENEY RD., SUITE 'A'
 LINCOLN, NE 68512 (402) 484-7342

NO.	REVISIONS		
	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY

PROJECT
 231151



601 OLD CHENEY RD., SUITE A
 LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68512
 (402).484.7342

- ENGINEERING
- PLANNING
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAND SURVEYING

F-1 FLEX DISTRICT BUILDING SETBACK RESTRICTIONS

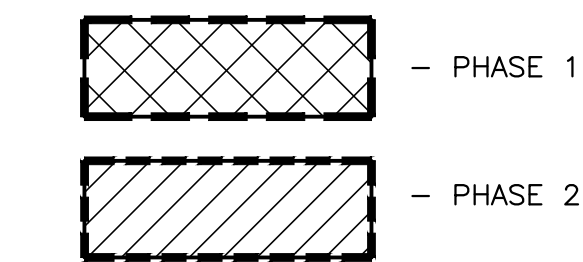
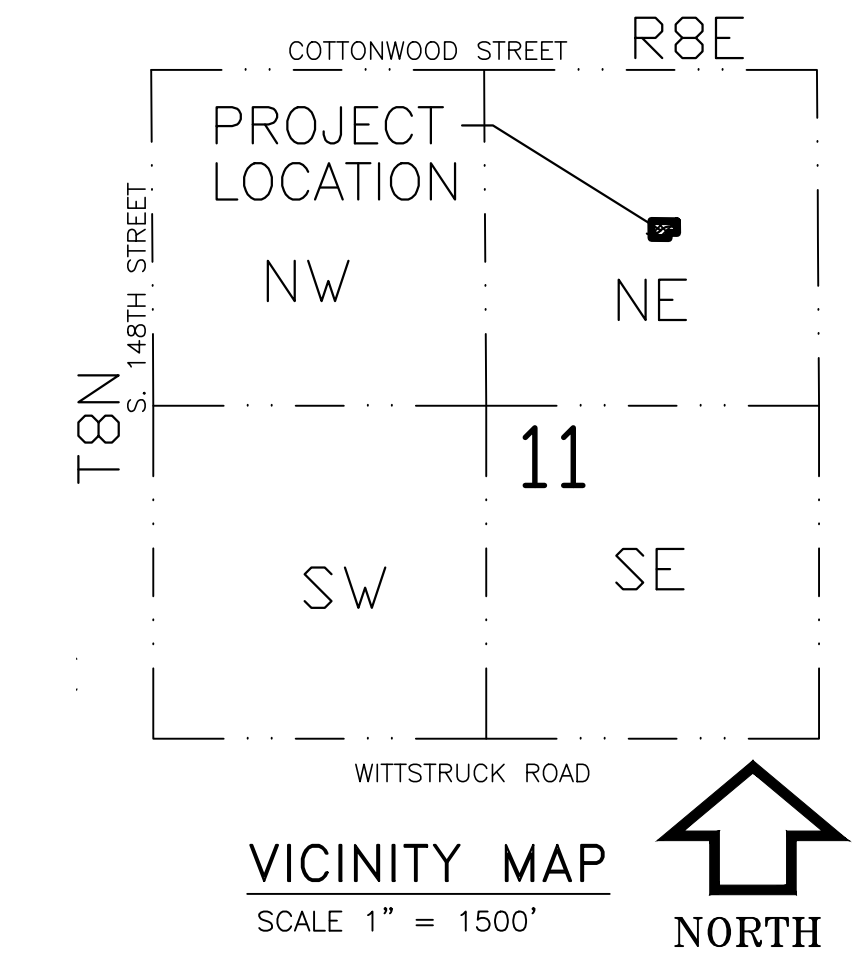
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SIDE YARD	- 0 FEET
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REAR YARD WHEN ADJOINING RESIDENTIAL	- 25 FEET

GENERAL NOTES

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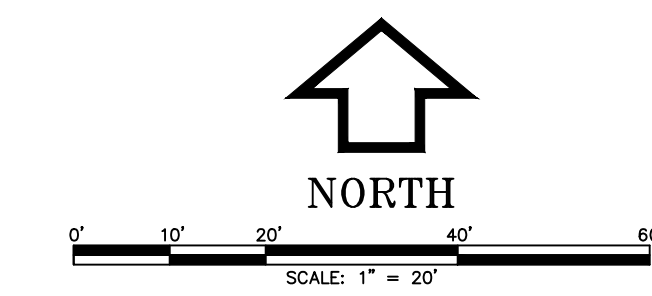
PROPOSED USE TYPES

BUILDING	SQ FT	USE TYPE
LOT 1 - NORTH BUILDING	864	SERVICE - SINGLE TENANT
LOT 1 - CENTRAL BUILDING	564	SERVICE - SINGLE TENANT
LOT 1 - SOUTH BUILDING	1434	OFFICE - MULTI TENANT



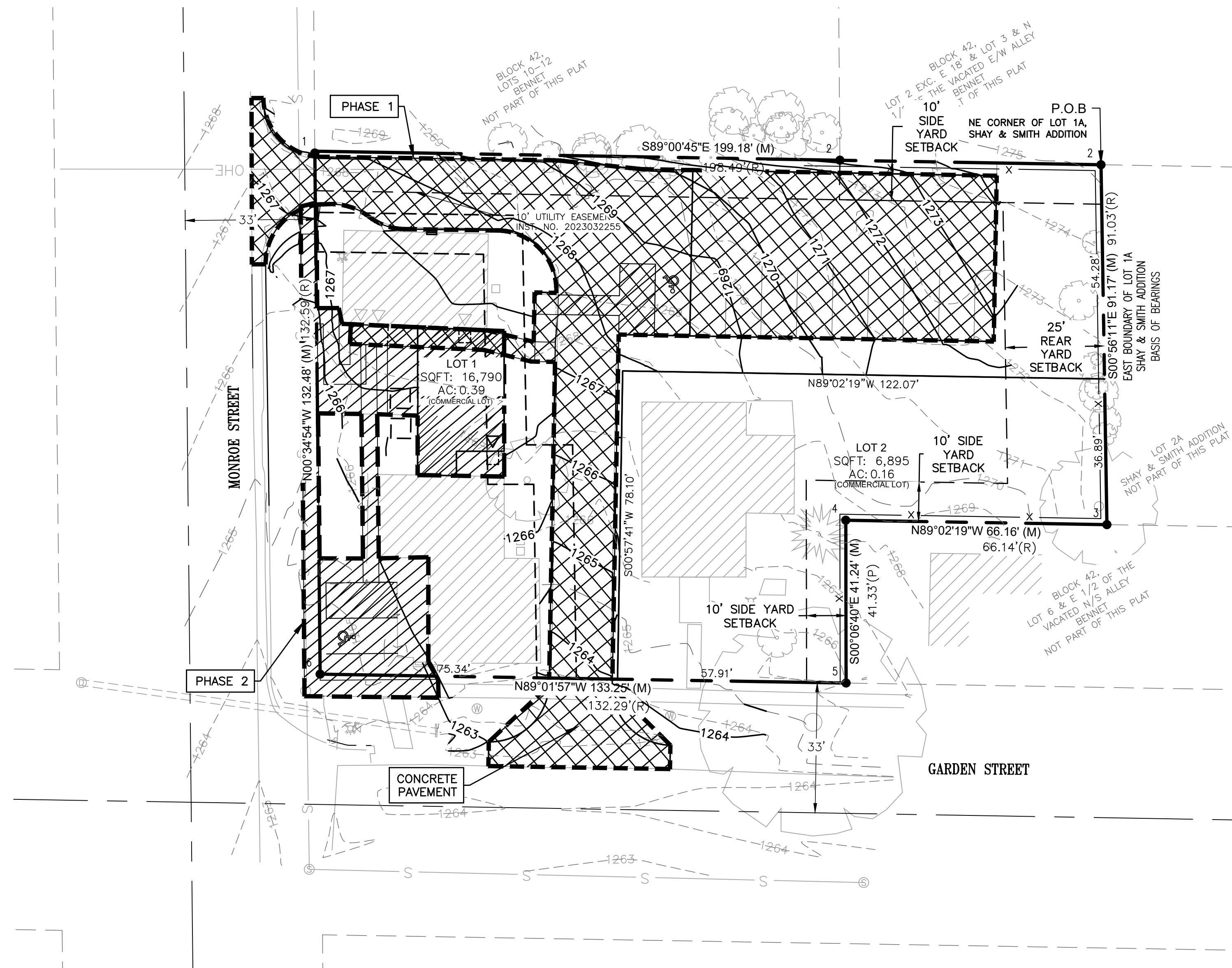
MONUMENT SYMBOL LEGEND

- FOUND NO. 4 Bar
 - FOUND PLASTIC CAP STAMPED "LS#483"
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 - FOUND Drill Hole
- (M) MEASURED DIMENSION
 (R) RECORD DIMENSION PER INST. NO. 98031250



HENRY ADDITION CONSIST OF:

Total Lots = 2
 Total Acres = 0.54



HENRY ADDITION
PRELIMINARY PLAT
NE 1/4 SEC. 10, T.8N., R.8E., 6TH P.M.
LANCASTER COUNTY, CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA

DATE: 2/7/2024
 DRAWN BY: RDR
 CHECKED BY: LLL

SHEET NO.
 2 of 2

PHASING PLAN

Bennet Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 29, 2023

The Bennet Planning Commission held a regular meeting on November 29, 2023 at 7:00 PM, at City Hall, 685 Monroe Street in the City. The session was open to the public and proceeded by advance publicized notice duly given in strict compliance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 84, Article 14, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska by posting at the City Clerk Office, the Post Office, and First Nebraska Bank.

Chairperson Josh Buck called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced the Open Meetings Act was posted. Michele Lincoln, City Clerk/Zoning Administrator conducted roll call and recorded the minutes. Roll call: Boyd Batterman, Josh Buck, Kevin Hiatt, Marilyn Maney, Greg Pohl present. Alternate Matt Tyler absent.

Pohl moved and Hiatt seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the November 1, 2023, Regular Meeting. Roll call vote: Buck, Maney, Hiatt, Batterman, Pohl voted YES. Motion carried.

Mia Maschenburger and Matt Bolander, participants of the CRPL 990 Planning Studio course at the University of Nebraska -Lincoln, presented the Bennet Downtown Economic Development Plan. Mia said that this plan is the starting point, and they want Bennet to take the students' ideas and make them their own. They tried to keep in mind what the residents expressed about the town's values and untapped potential. The residents that participated in the town hall meeting were enthusiastic, dedicated to preserving the history of the town while expanding the small, local businesses. They foresee promoting a "Bennet Experience", making it a family-friendly regional destination with businesses that have multiple uses combined making it a gathering place for the community. Regional facilities such as a daycare, which is a need in the community, would also bring customers into town. Another recommendation was that Bennet look at branding and a logo that people would associate with Bennet. Matt shared the four key goals and recommendations which include the following: 1) improve the built environment (beautification of streetscapes, connectivity through trail development, infrastructure, street lighting) 2. Promote Economic Development (establish Chamber of Commerce, promote local business and revenue, expand services offered, develop education and workforce programs) 3. Facilitate Community Placemaking (what can we do to create an active space that people want to come to?) 4. Achieve Well-Planned Growth (use this plan in conjunction with comprehensive plan, implement design guidelines, coordinate with regional plans). Dr. Tang, the Program Director of the Community and Regional Planning Program, encouraged us to use this plan in conjunction with other regional plans such as the Lower Platte Hazard Mitigation Plan and Lancaster County Long Range Transportation Plan for funding. He will send a final copy to Southeast Nebraska Development District (SEND) which will be the key office to help get the funding. Other communities the University has created these plans for have received over \$400,000 in CDBG grants. The Planning Commission will finish their review of the document and make a recommendation for approval by the City Council at the next meeting.

A Public Hearing was held for the purpose of hearing testimony regarding a Conditional Use Application to allow more than one principal building of a permitted use on a lot as per Section 4.06 of

Bennet Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 29, 2023

the Bennet Zoning Ordinance [amended with Ordinance 2023-9.1(a)] on Lot 7, W 59' & W 47.35' & S 10' E11.65' W 59' Lot 8 & W 47.35' S 24' Lot 9, Block 42, Bennet, commonly known as 690 Monroe Street. Chairperson Buck opened the hearing at 7:23 p.m. Buck closed the hearing at 7:41 p.m. Pohl moved and Batterman seconded a motion to recommend approval of a Conditional Use Permit to allow more than one principal building of a permitted use on a lot as per Section 4.06 of the Bennet Zoning Ordinance [amended with Ordinance 2023-9.1(a)] on Lot 7, W 59' & W 47.35' & S 10' E11.65' W 59' Lot 8 & W 47.35' S 24' Lot 9, Block 42, Bennet, commonly known as 690 Monroe Street with the condition that the applicant get the required building permit and commence construction in 2024 to join the two buildings as presented with the site plan to the Planning Commission on September 20, 2023. Roll call vote: Buck, Maney, Hiatt, Batterman, Pohl voted YES. Buck abstained. Motion carried.

Dan Rosenthal with REGA Engineering Group, Inc. presented the Henry Addition Preliminary Plat on behalf of Kelly Langer. He requested that the Planning Commission recommend approval of the Preliminary Plat contingent on meeting the requirements in the Henry Addition Preliminary Plat Review provided by the City Engineer. Pohl moved and Hiatt seconded a motion to recommend the City Council approve the Henry Addition Preliminary Plat contingent upon the recommended actions listed in the Requirement and Comments section of the Henry Addition Preliminary Plat Review provided by the City Engineer Brian Schuele are addressed. Roll call vote: Buck, Maney, Hiatt, Batterman, Pohl voted YES. Motion carried. Pohl moved and Hiatt seconded a motion to recommend the City Council approve the Henry Addition Final Plat contingent upon the approval of the Preliminary Plat with conditions. Roll call vote: Buck, Maney, Hiatt, Batterman, Pohl voted YES. Motion carried.

Buck moved and Batterman seconded a motion to nominate Greg Pohl as the Chairperson of the Planning Commission. Roll call vote: Buck, Maney, Hiatt, Batterman, Pohl voted YES. Motion carried. Maney moved and Hiatt seconded a motion to nominate Josh Buck as the Vice-Chairperson of the Planning Commission. Roll call vote: Maney, Hiatt, Batterman, Pohl voted YES. Buck abstained. Motion carried. Batterman moved and Pohl seconded a motion to nominate Kevin Hiatt as the Secretary of the Planning Commission. Roll call vote: Buck, Maney, Batterman, Pohl voted YES. Hiatt abstained. Motion carried.

Pohl moved and Hiatt seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Roll call vote: Buck, Maney, Hiatt, Batterman, Pohl voted YES. Motion carried.

Michele Lincoln, CMC
City Clerk/Zoning Administrator

Bennet Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2024

The Bennet Planning Commission held a regular meeting on January 17, 2024, at 7:00 PM, at City Hall, 685 Monroe Street in the City. The session was open to the public and proceeded by advance publicized notice duly given in strict compliance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 84, Article 14, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska by posting at the City Clerk Office, the Post Office, and First Nebraska Bank.

Chairperson Greg Pohl called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and announced the Open Meetings Act was posted. City Clerk/Zoning Administrator Michele Lincoln conducted roll call and recorded the minutes. Roll call: **Present:** Boyd Batterman, Josh Buck, Kevin Hiatt, Greg Pohl, **Absent:** Marilyn Maney, Matt Tyler. A quorum being present, and the meeting duly commenced, the following proceedings were taken while the meeting remained open to attendance by the public.

Hiatt moved and Batterman seconded a motion to approve the November 1, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes. Roll call: Batterman, Hiatt, Buck, Pohl voted yes. Motion carried.

Pohl declared that public comment would be received on Agenda Item #7, review of the Future Land Use Map and #8, review of the draft Comprehensive Plan with a five-minute time limit.

Keith Marvin and Mason Herrman with Marvin Planning Consultants (MPC) were in attendance to review the Future Land Use Map and the draft Comprehensive Plan with the Planning Commission. Some corrections to the Future Land Use Map were pointed out. Chapters 1-10 of the draft Comprehensive Plan were reviewed.

Chapter 1 – Introduction

Chapter 2 – Community Engagement: This section explains what was done to seek community engagement (project website, postcards, stakeholder interviews, open house & survey). It includes the input results from the open house and community survey.

Chapter 3 – Population: Marvin pointed out that we had a good dependency ratio which meant that we are growing in the right age categories, meaning income producers.

Chapter 4 – Housing: The lack of rental units within the community is something we could address under our Goals & Policy's section.

Chapter 5 - Economic Profile: This section shows that Bennet's 2020 median household income of \$83,125.00 greatly exceeds the state's median household income of \$63,015.00. Bennet had the highest number of residents with bachelor's degrees or higher than other communities in Lancaster County (not including Lincoln). The Employment section shows the majority of the residents are employed in educational services, health care, and social assistance and the majority commute 30-34 minutes to work. Most of the workforce within Bennet commute from Lincoln and south and southwest of Bennet.

Chapter 6 – Public Facilities: Need to include water shortage in the Utilities section.

Chapter 7 – Public Safety.

Chapter 8 – Energy.

Chapter 9 – Hazards: Basically, a reproduction of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Bennet Planning Commission
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Chapter 10 – Land Use: Reflects the existing zoning districts and supports the Zoning Ordinance. Herrman shared the Transportation Component created by Kyle McLaughlin for the Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Economic Development Plan. This will be reviewed at the next meeting. He pointed out that this is a lengthy document and that the first 20 pages are the most essential to review.

Buck moved and Batterman seconded a motion to move the December 2023 Downtown Economic Development Plan drafted by the UNL CRPL 990 Planning Studio team forward for City Council adoption which will open funding opportunities for plan initiatives. Roll call: Batterman, Hiett, Buck, Pohl voted yes. Motion carried.

Buck moved and Batterman seconded a motion to adjourn 8:12 pm. Roll call: Batterman, Hiett, Buck, Pohl voted yes. Motion carried.

Michele Lincoln, CMC
City Clerk/Zoning Administrator



BENNET, NE

Downtown Economic Development Plan

**DECEMBER
2023**

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Bennet Downtown Economic Development Plan

PLAN PRODUCED BY:

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Tristen Brown

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Rabah Khan

Chrissy Land

Kyle McLaughlin

MC Raterman

Ruva Tsoka

COURSE INFORMATION:

Course: CRPL 990 Planning Studio

Instructor: Dr. Zhenghong Tang

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:

Tom Bliss, Executive Director, SENDD

Keith Marvin, President & Founder, MPC

Mason Herrman, Community Planner, MPC

Kerry McCullough-Vondrak, College of Architecture,
University of Nebraska – Lincoln



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Acknowledgments

The planning team would like to thank the residents, property owners, elected officials, city staff, and business owners who participated in the development of Bennet’s Downtown Economic Development Plan. Assistance from all has been invaluable and has been used to create the vision and recommendations laid out in this Plan. Much appreciation to the American Legion Post 280 of Bennet, Nebraska for their contributions during the public engagement portion of this process.

We also very much appreciate Keith Marvin and Mason Herrman from Marvin Planning Consultants (MPC), the City staff and the Planning Commission team of Bennet who guided the development of this document.

City Staff:

Mayor Ryan Cheney
Pete Simmons, Ward 1
Justin Dorn, Ward 1
Daniel Zieg, Ward 2
Steve Bettendorf, Ward 2
Michele Lincoln, City Clerk/Treasurer
Russ Jones, City Superintendent
Marlene Sturdy, Code Enforcement Officer/Administrative Aide
Mike Kucera, Maintenance
Sue Biltoft, Receptionist/Utility Clerk

Planning Commission Members:

Josh Buck - Chairperson
Marilyn Maney
Greg Pohl
Kevin Hiatt
Boyd Batterman
Matthew Tyler - Alternate



Abbreviations

ACS – American Community Survey

ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act

CCCCFF – Civic and Community Center Financing Fund

CDBG – Community Development Block Grant

DHHS – Department of Health and Human Services

DOT – Department of Transportation

DYTI – Developing Youth Talent Initiative

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency

LCC – Leadership Certified Community

MPC – Marvin Planning Consultants

MPO – Metropolitan Planning Organization

NBDC – Nebraska Business Development District

NPPD- Nebraska Public Power District

NRD – Natural Resources District

SBDC – Small Business Development District

SENDDD – Southeast Nebraska Development District

SHPO – State Historic Preservation Office

UNL – University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Executive Summary

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The Bennet Downtown Economic Development Plan has been written to help the city of Bennet and its public envision a new future for their growing community. In partnership with Marvin Planning Consultants who were engaged to rewrite Bennet's Comprehensive Plan, this plan is intended to serve as a guide for efforts to create a small-town downtown experience that promotes economic growth and community values.

The plan recommends possible sources of funding for future development efforts and is intended to be referenced and reflected upon once necessary funding is acquired.

SCOPE OF THE PLAN

- Complete a community assessment to understand who lives in Bennet today and its pattern of growth.
- Determine the optimal location for a “downtown” corridor in Bennet.
- Gather and document the wants and needs of community members and their vision for Bennet.
- Generate recommendations to promote economic development in Bennet.

The planning team, which consists of students from the Master of Community and Regional Planning (MCRP) program at University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), has documented its work throughout this plan and updated the City and its stakeholders with its progress through a community open house.

PLANNING PROCESS

1. Faculty from the Community and Regional Planning program at UNL met with city staff and the planning commission team of Bennet during the spring of 2023, to discuss collaborating on a downtown economic development plan.
2. A community survey was distributed during the summer of 2023, which recorded input on the current strengths and opportunities as well as future needs of the community.
3. Stakeholder feedback and suggestions were incorporated into the plan recommendations.
4. Recommendations were shared at a public open house at the Bennet American Legion Hall on October 10, 2023, hosted by Marvin Planning Consultants and the UNL planning team.
5. Additional information gathered from the stakeholder interviews, planning commission meetings, and other communication channels was incorporated into the final plan document delivered by the planning team.

KEY GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the input provided by residents and stakeholders of Bennet, the following goals and key recommendations were identified as priorities for downtown economic development.

1. Improve the Built Environment
2. Promote Economic Development
3. Facilitate Community Placemaking
4. Achieve Well-Planned Growth



Chapter 1: Community Profile

Bennet Circa 1909 – Postcard of Bennet

The City of Bennet, NE

Defining the Area

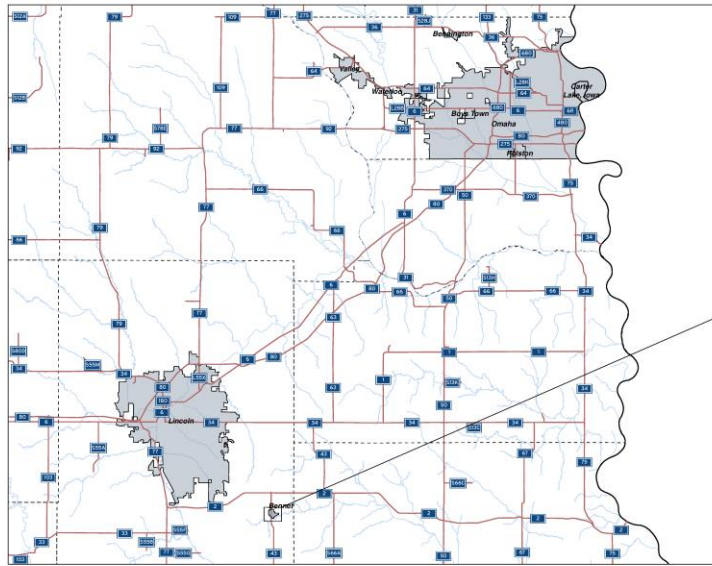
The city of Bennet is located in Lancaster County, Nebraska, approximately 14 miles southeast of the state's capital, Lincoln. Bennet is situated along Nebraska State Highway 43, 2 miles south of Highway 2, around a half-hour drive away from Lincoln. More than doubling its population over the last twenty years, Bennet has a current population of 1,082 and aims to sustain its current average annual rates of growth (between 1.8% and 3.5%).

Bennet is around a half square mile in area—having an approximate density of 2,000 people per square mile—the city's concentration is comparable to that of some urban neighborhoods. Bennet is within the Missouri River Watershed and sits just north of the Little Nemaha River.

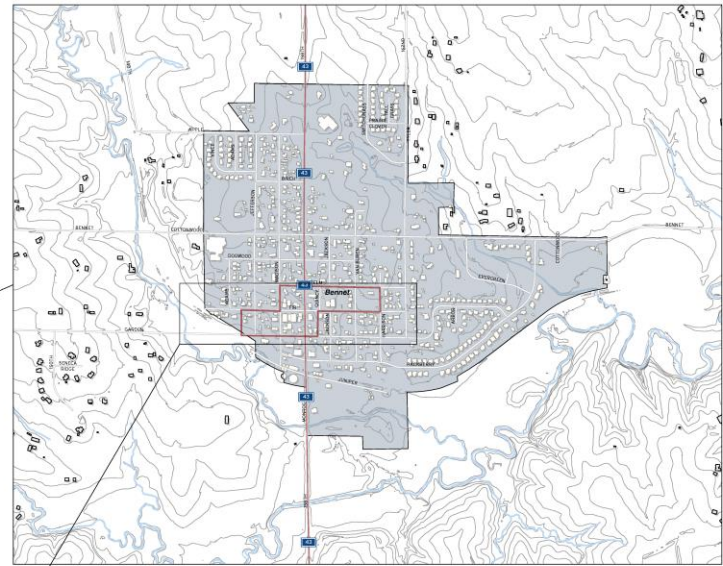
The historic core of Bennet has been chosen as the target of this Plan. This zone begins at the western edge of town north of Garden Street, doglegs across Fir Street at Highway 43, and then ends at the eastern end of Bennet Park.



Location Map of Bennet, NE



0 10 20 40 Miles
Regional Map, Southeast Nebraska



0 0.25 0.5 1 Mile
City of Bennet



0 0.13 0.25 0.5 Miles
Downtown Bennet, Proposed Development Area

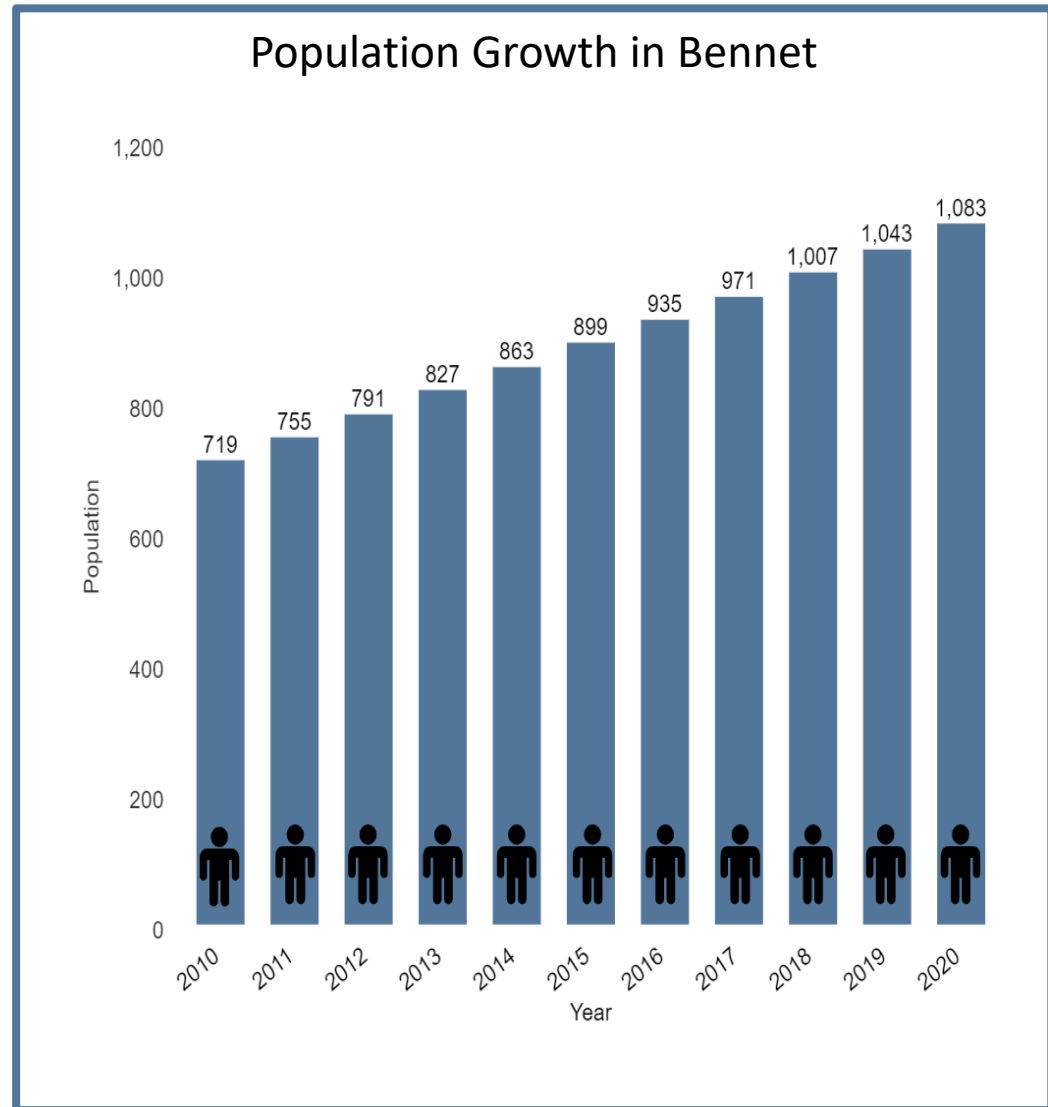


Community Profile:

Population Growth in Bennet

From 2010 to 2020, Bennet underwent a significant demographic transformation, characterized by a consistent increase in population. With a population of 719 in 2010, the numbers steadily rose each year, reaching a population of 1,083 by 2020. The US Census Bureau's 2023 data estimates the community's population to be 1,095.

Population growth drives downtown development by boosting demand for goods and services, creating job opportunities, and increasing the need for housing. The expansion of both the population and the tax base can significantly contribute to the vitality and economic dynamism of downtown areas.



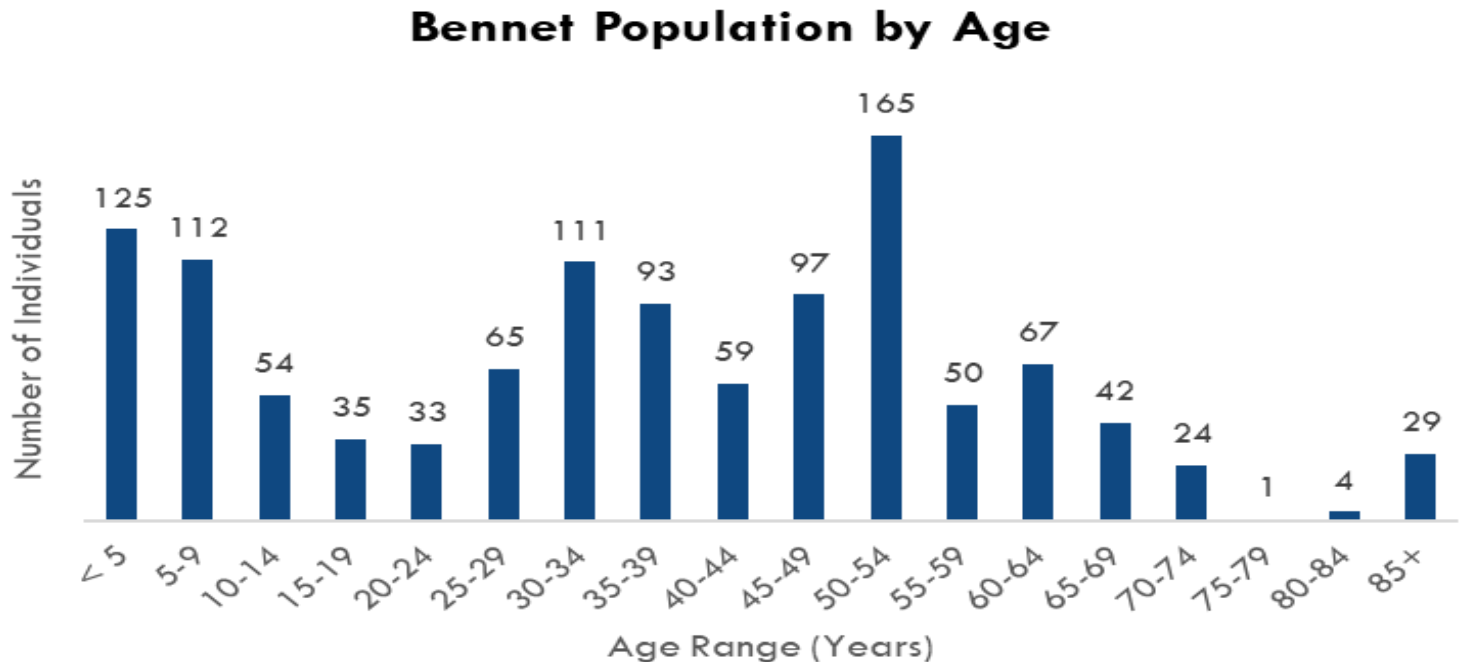
Source: ACS 2021 5-year summary (The American Community Survey is conducted every 5 years to provide data between the decennial census.)

Community Profile

Population by Age

Bennet boasts a population that spans various age groups, with a particularly noteworthy concentration in the 50-54 age range, comprising the largest demographic segment in the community. This prevalence suggests a considerable portion of the population is either currently in or approaching middle age, underscoring the community's well-established and stable nature. Additionally, the substantial presence of individuals in the age categories of 30-34, 35-39, and 45-49 highlights the dynamic mix of working-age residents actively contributing to economic growth.

Notably, there are 125 individuals under the age of 5 and 112 individuals aged 5-9, indicating a pronounced immediate need for daycare services and forecasting a future demand for K-12 education services in the next decade.



Source: ACS 2021 5-Year Estimates

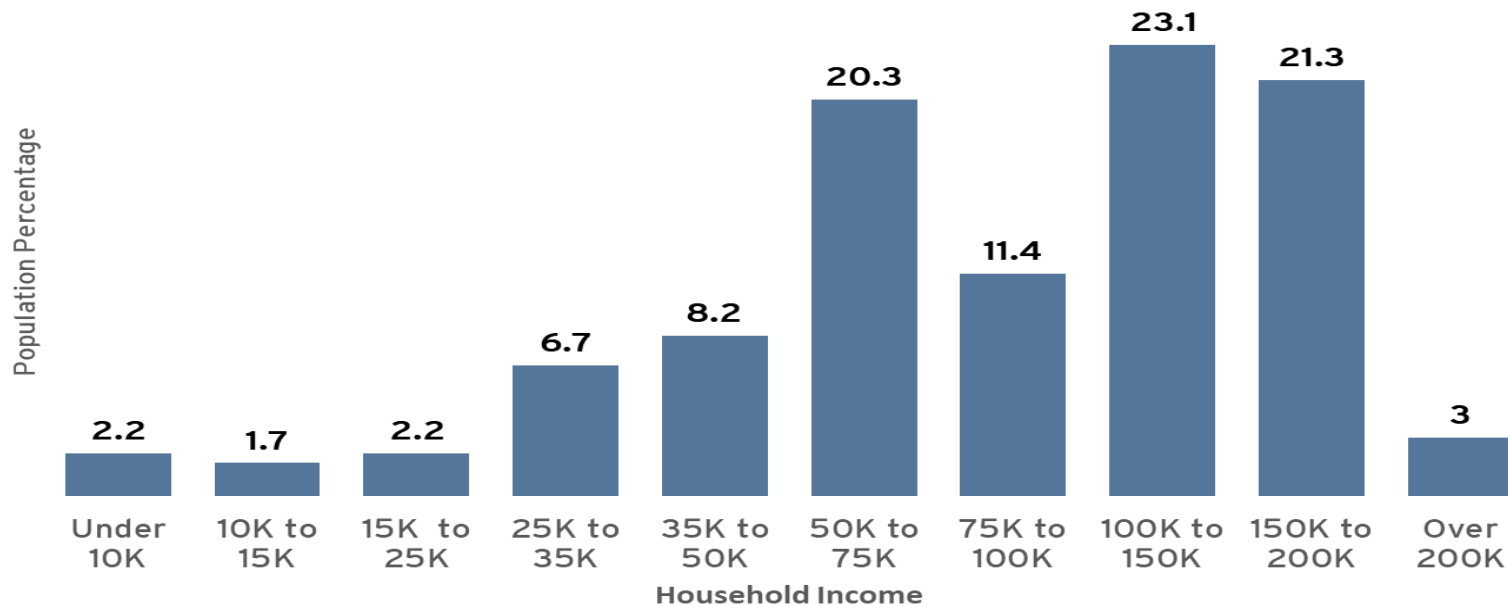
Community Profile:

Household Income

Household income serves as a crucial indicator for gauging consumption potentials within the Bennet downtown area, establishing a pivotal link to economic development planning. In Bennet, as of 2021, over 20.3% of households fall within the income range of \$50,000 to \$75,000, with an additional 11.4% in the \$75,000 to \$100,000 bracket. Furthermore, 23.1% of households have incomes ranging from \$100,000 to \$150,000, and 21.3% fall within the \$150,000 to \$200,000 range.

Understanding the distribution of household incomes is integral to formulating effective strategies for downtown economic development. The concentration of households in various income brackets not only reflects the community's economic diversity but also informs decisions regarding the types of businesses and services that are likely to thrive in the downtown area. This demographic insight is instrumental in tailoring development plans that align with the consumption capacities of the local population, fostering a sustainable and flourishing downtown economy.

Bennet, NE Household Income in 2021

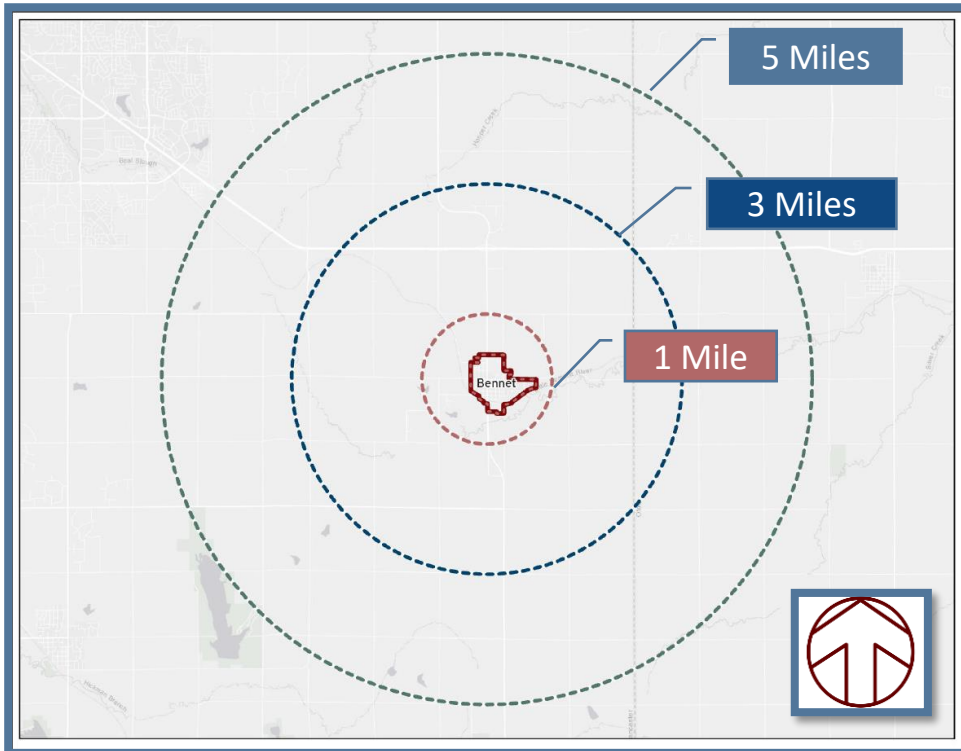


Source: ACS 2021 5-year summary

Community Profile: Educational Level Snapshot

The percentage of individuals with a high school diploma or higher in this area is 97.9%, a slightly greater figure than that of the Lincoln, NE Metro Area, which stands at 93.4%. Moreover, it exceeds the statewide rate in Nebraska by about 10%, where the corresponding percentage is 91.7%. In terms of individuals holding a bachelor's degree or higher, the local rate is 41.8%, again surpassing both the Lincoln, NE Metro Area (39.6%) and Nebraska's rate (33%) by slight margins, approximately 25% higher. Within the 1-mile buffer area of Bennet, 22.0% of the population holds a bachelor's degree, while this figure increases to 28.6% in the 3-mile buffer area and slightly decreases to 26.5% in the 5-mile buffer area.

2022 Population 25+ by Educational Attainment



Educational Attainment	% In 0–1 Mile Radius	% In 1–3 Mile Radius	% In 3–5 Mile Radius
Less than 9th Grade	0.4	3.5	2.3
9th – 12th Grade, No Diploma	2.4	1.4	1.9
High School Graduate	21.1	23.2	20.2
GED/Alternative Credential	3.2	3.1	2.8
Some College, No Degree	19.0	9.6	14.3
Bachelor's Degree	22.0	28.6	26.5
Graduate/Professional Degree	10.5	17.6	17.0

Source: ESRI Community Analyst

Community Profile: Economic Characteristics

Economic Base

The downtown district of Bennet occupies the southern segment of the town, situated along Monroe Street (Nebraska State Highway 43). Within this vicinity, one can find small-scale commercial and industrial facilities, alongside governmental, farming, and other agricultural services. Notably, the city office is centrally located at the northwest corner of Monroe and Garden Streets (685 Monroe St.), serving as a venue for government meetings, public gatherings, and planning commission sessions.

Major employers in and around Bennet include significant entities such as First Nebraska Bank, the Bennet-Palmyra Public School District OR-1, Zermatt Tool, Midwest Farmers Cooperative, and Vasa Construction. These enterprises contribute significantly to the economic landscape of Bennet and its surrounding areas.

Commercial and Industrial Sites in Downtown Bennet



Source: UNL Community and Regional Planning Program, and City of Bennet

Community Profile: Economic Characteristics

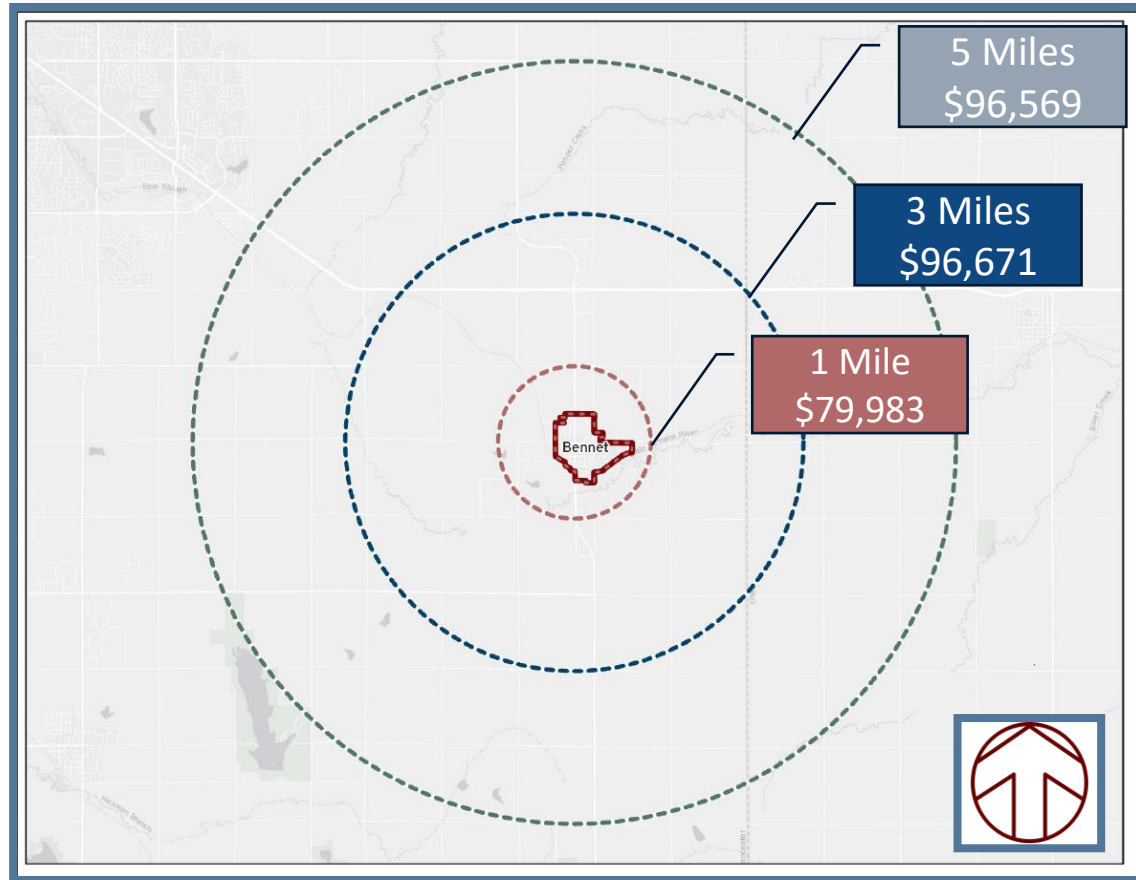
Although Bennet's location close to Lincoln is an advantage for residents, it can deter the establishment of new businesses. During a community planning open house in March 2019, residents identified two strategies for recruiting and retaining new businesses. One was a business incubator program, for which a building would be needed. The other was greater community engagement that could lead to increased community support of business in Bennet.

According to the 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates, the median household income for Bennet is \$93,500.

The median age in Bennet is 38, compared to the median age of 37 in Nebraska. Approximately 42% of Bennet residents have an education level of a bachelor's degree or higher.

According to a market analysis made using Esri's ArcGIS software and the U.S. Census Bureau's 2000 and 2010 decennial Census data, the 2022 median household income was \$79,983 for a 0-1 mile radius, \$96,671 for a 1-3 mile radius, and \$96,569 for a 3-5 mile radius around Bennet.

Bennet & Surrounding Area Median Household Incomes in 2022



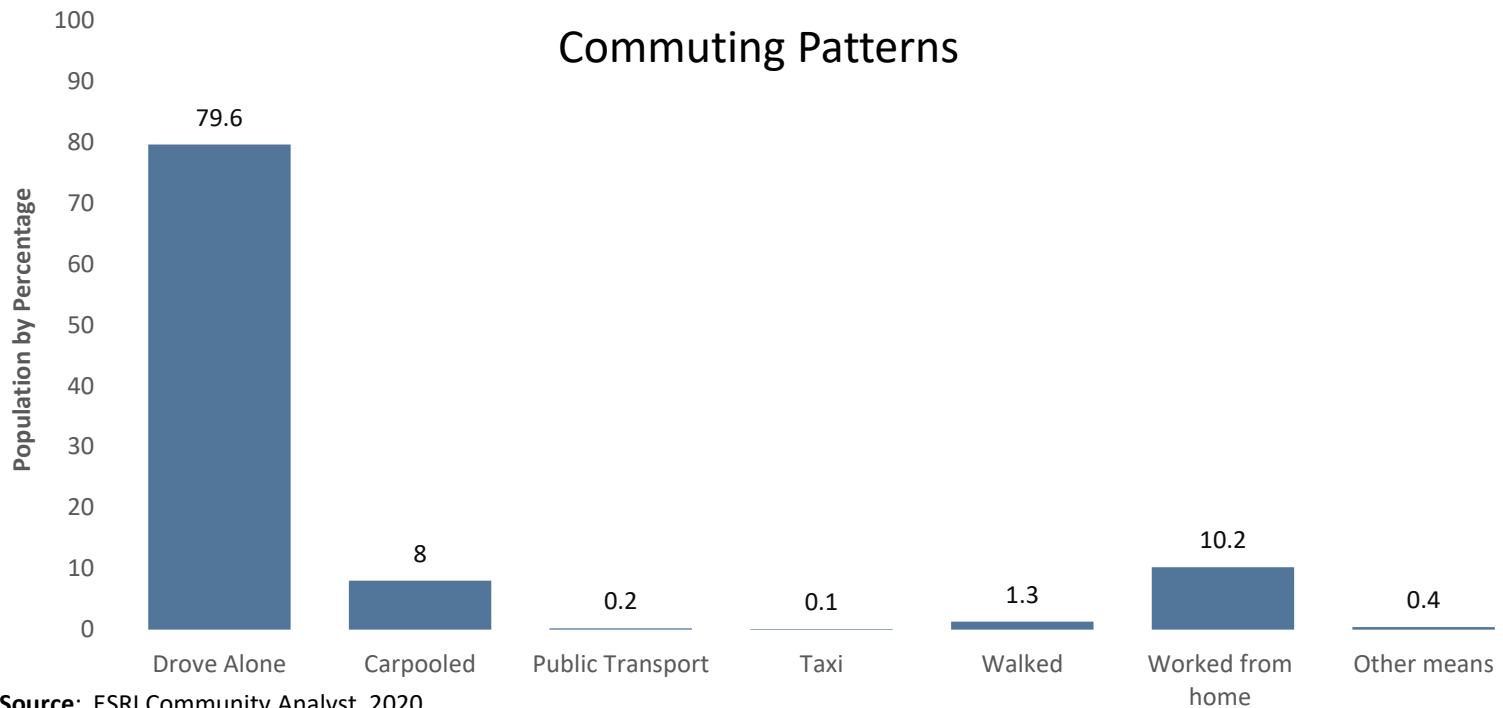
Source: Map created by CRPL 990, Matt Bolander

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Community Profile:

Commuting Patterns

In Bennet, the economic landscape and modes of transportation to work reflect a dynamic and diverse community. The majority of residents, at 79.6%, opt for the independence and convenience of driving alone to work, suggesting a significant level of car ownership and potential economic stability. Additionally, 8% choose to carpool, promoting environmentally friendly practices and a sense of community. Public transport and taxis, at 0.3% combined, indicate potentially underdeveloped transit infrastructure. Some residents, 1.3%, prefer walking to work, reflecting a mix of economic backgrounds. Notably, 10.2% work from home, reflecting a modern trend in telecommuting, and 0.4% use unconventional means, showcasing adaptability. Overall, Bennet's transportation choices highlight a diverse community that tailors modes of commute to economic and lifestyle preferences, with a growing embrace of remote work and alternative transportation options.



Source: ESRI Community Analyst, 2020

Community Profile: Economic Characteristics

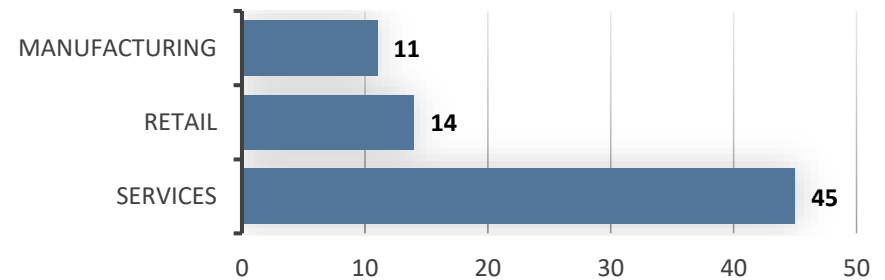
Across all radius sizes around Bennet, the services industry employs the largest segment of the population, accounting for approximately 45%, followed by the retail trade sector at approximately 14%. The third-largest employment sector varies based on radius size. In the 0-1 mile radius, approximately 11% of the population is employed in the finance/insurance/real estate industry. In the 1-3 mile radius, approximately 11% are employed in the manufacturing industry, and in the 3-5 mile radius, approximately 9% work in the construction industry.

Highway 43 serves as the primary route through Bennet, facilitating commuter access from towns like Sterling, Adams, and Panama to connect with Highway 2.

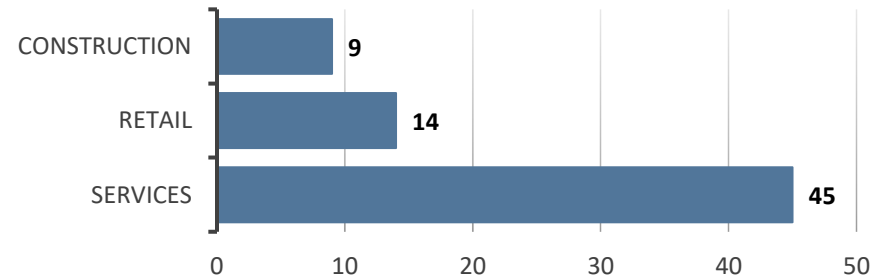
0-1 Mile Radius Population



1-3 Mile Radius Population



3-5 Mile Radius Population



Source: ESRI Community Analyst

Community Profile: Anchor Institutions

The anchor institutions in Bennet are critical to the town's identity and culture. Without these listed and recognized businesses, buildings, infrastructure etc., Bennet would not have the sense of community that it does. These anchor institutions keep the residents and community of Bennet resilient and close knit. The city of Bennet certainly wants to revitalize their downtown scene, and bring in more business for the community. It's safe to say bringing in new business certainly should help Bennet prosper economically, but using these anchor institutions as the foundation of expanding business is key for further developing Bennet while simultaneously keeping it a small town. These anchor institutions serve vital roles in the community that have helped mold Bennet into the community it is today. These institutions are the backbone of Bennet, and have been providing the services and goods necessary for Bennet residents for some time. These institutions are vital for the community moving forward for the economic revitalization plan in the works. These institutions aside from the general community of Bennet, will be the biggest driver for economic growth in the downtown area as the demand for development increases. Sustaining these anchor institutions for future generations to come is critical so that all can enjoy these institutions!



Source: Downtown Bennet, Digital Photograph, Planning Team

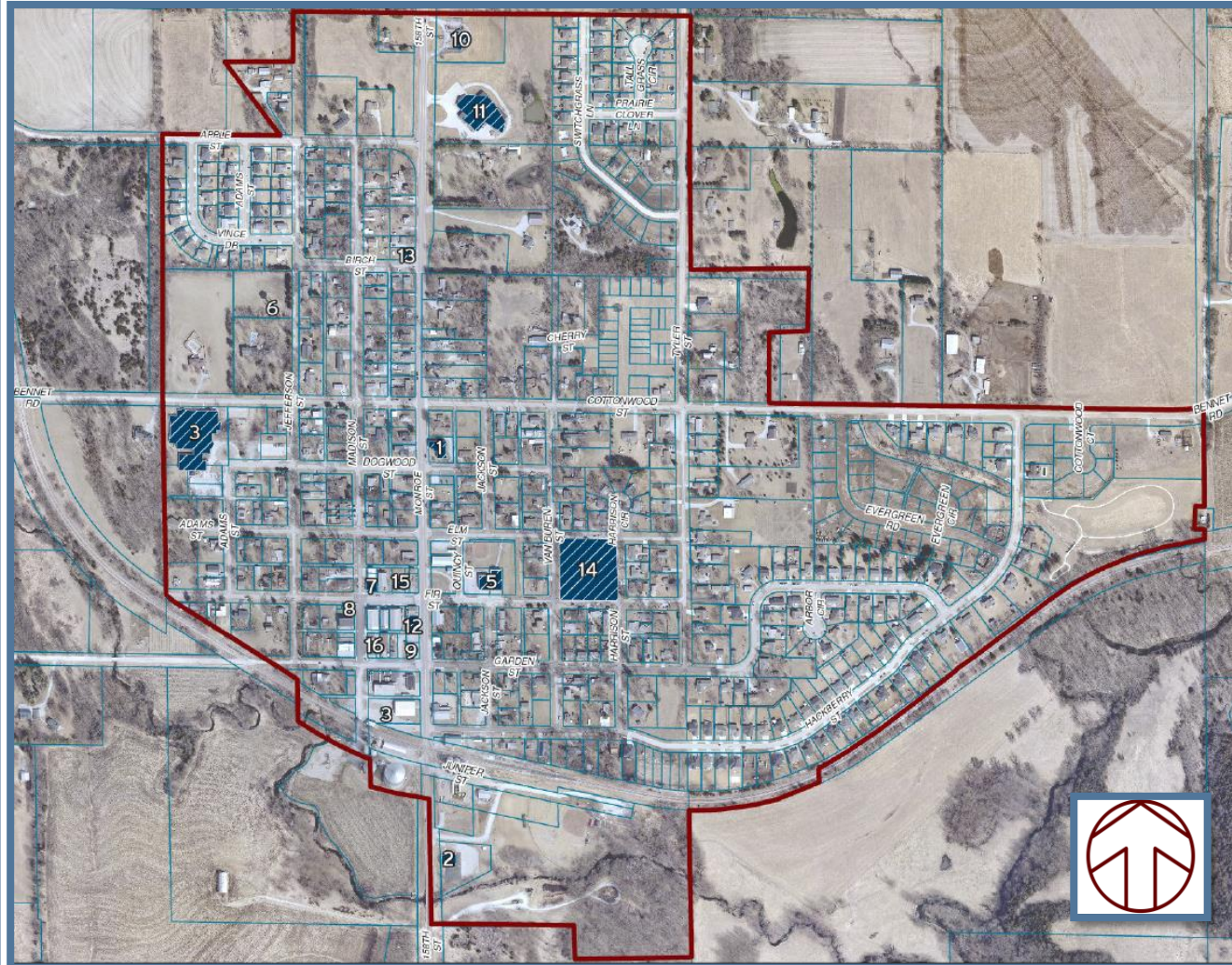
Community Profile: Anchor Institutions and Landmarks

Landmarks and Institutions

1. Bennet Community Church
2. American Legion
3. Frontier Cooperative
4. Bennet Elementary School
5. Bennet Fire Department
6. Bennet Water Tower
7. Lancaster Rural Water District
8. United States Postal Service
9. City of Bennet Municipal Building
10. First Nebraska Bank
11. Zermatt Tools
12. Big Ten Tavern
13. Ed's Garage
14. Bennet Park
15. Tailored Life
16. Tim Norris Home and Farm Insurance

**11-16 Businesses in operation as of Summer 2023*

Anchor Institutions: Bennet, NE



Source: Map created by CRPL 990, Matt Bolander and Tristen Brown



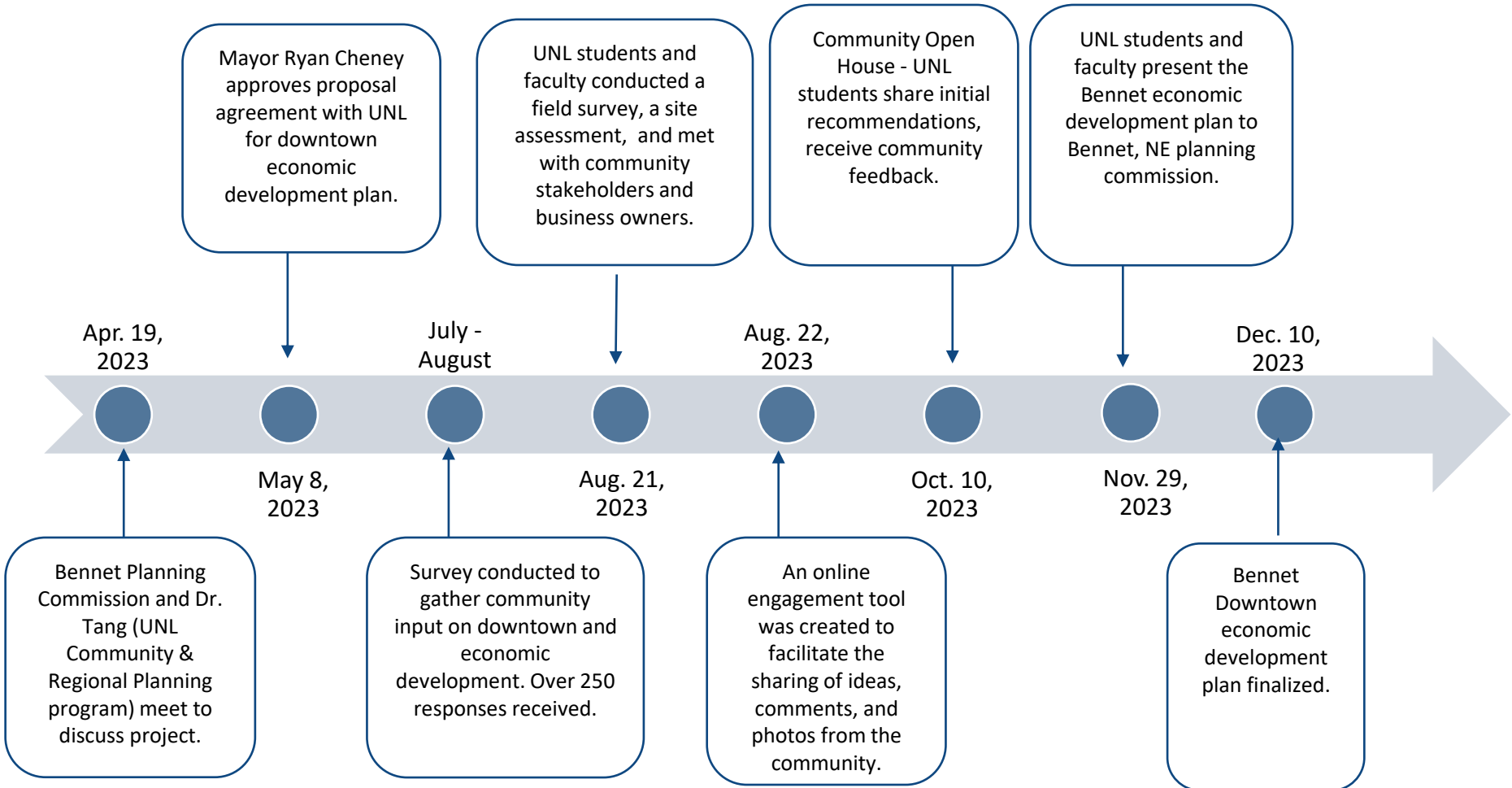
Chapter 2: Planning Process

Bennet Circa 1900s – Madison and Fir Streets



Project Timeline

Downtown Economic Development Plan



Community Survey

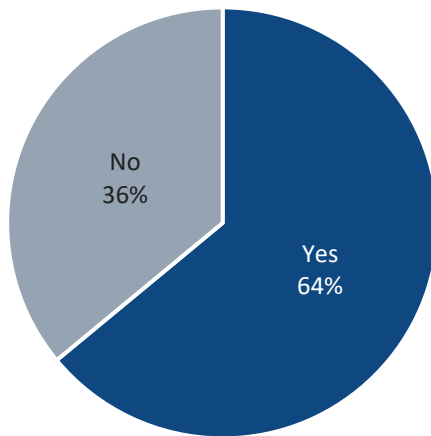
The Bennet Comprehensive Plan Survey was made available for completion between July 15, 2023 and August 15, 2023. During this time, over 250 responses were recorded.

The community survey showed that 49% of residents have been living in Bennet for 10 or fewer years. Of the respondents, 79% indicated that they are employed full-time or self-employed and 16% said that they are retired. Those who completed the survey are generally well educated with 84% having some form of post-secondary education or training.

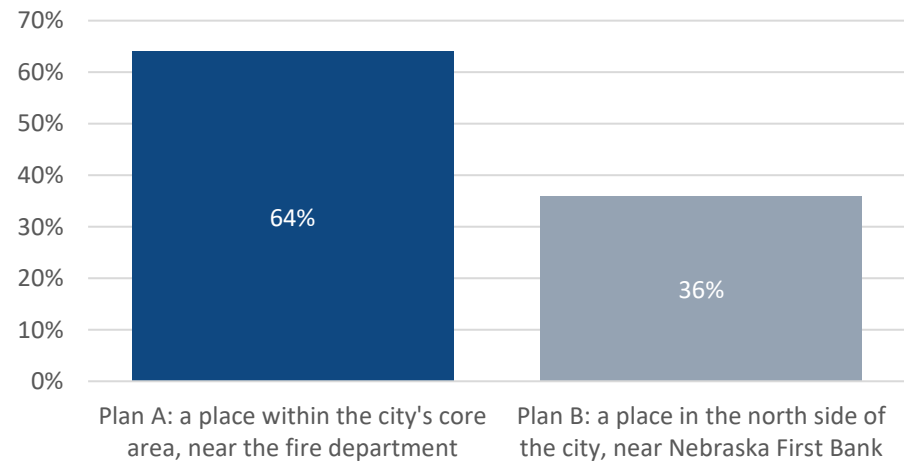
Respondents have a positive view of Bennet: 52% said that Bennet is a quality place to live, 41% said they are indifferent, and only 6% rated it as a low quality place to live. This is reflected in their outlook, with 61% being confident in the future of Bennet.

Regarding a new downtown area, 64% responded that they support the idea of establishing a new downtown area. 64% also indicated a preference towards this new downtown being placed within the city's core area as opposed to the north side of town.

Do you support the idea of establishing a new downtown area in Bennet?



Which area would you prefer to establish a new downtown area in Bennet?

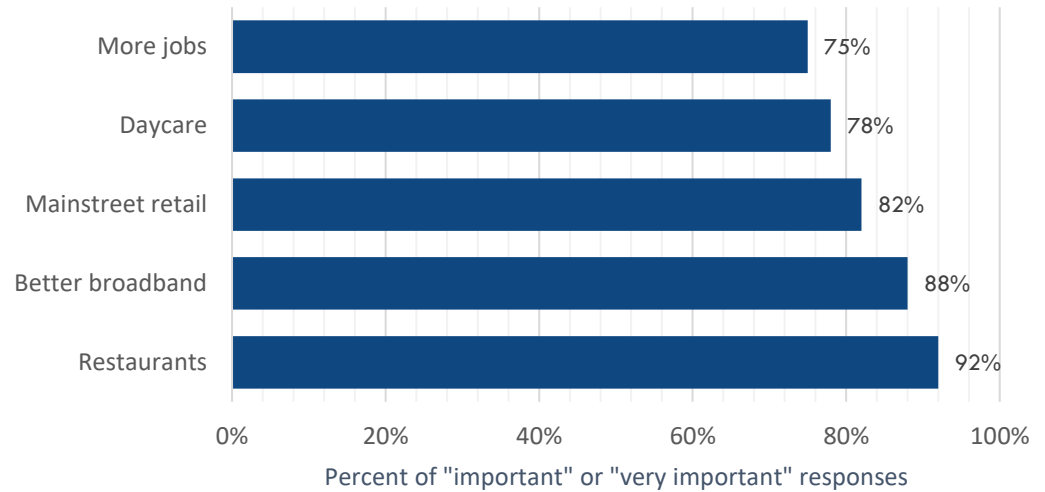


Community Survey

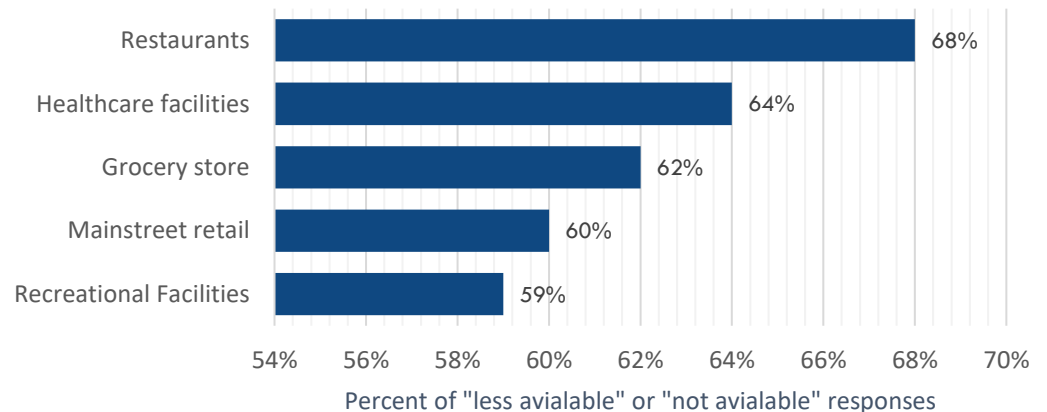
According to respondents, the most important services to focus on for the future economic development of Bennet are better broadband, daycare for children, and restaurants. Each of these services was rated as either important or very important by 94% or more of the respondents. Currently, the least available services were indicated to be restaurants, healthcare, and a grocery store. Each of these were rated to be less available or not available by 61% or more of respondents. The sectors with the highest preference for future economic development are agriculture, retail and wholesale trade, and technology. The sectors with the lowest preference are manufacturing/assembly, energy, and mining.

In general, responses showed a desire for more reasons to visit downtown. Respondents commonly indicated wanting more restaurants/coffee shop, a grocery/general store, and unique retail. Additionally, beautification of the downtown area seems to be a high priority including new sidewalks with planters and an outdoor area that could be used as a gathering space.

Which of the following services and/or businesses should be the focus of economic development activities in the future?



Access to quality goods and services is important. How available are these to you?

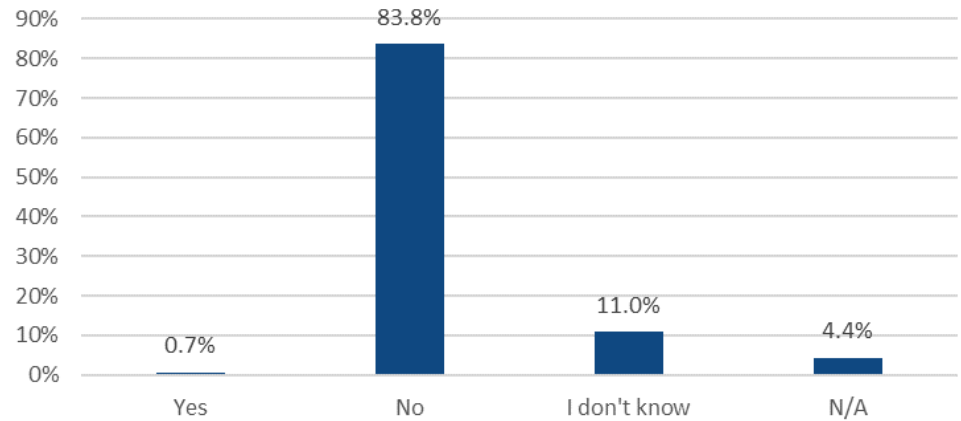


Community Survey

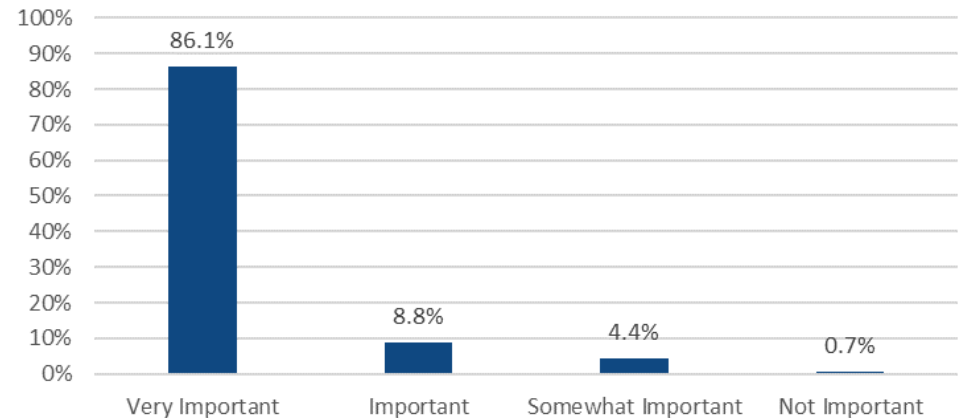
When questioned about childcare options in and around Bennet, an overwhelming 83.8% of respondents expressed dissatisfaction, stating that there are insufficient high-quality childcare facilities within a 30-mile radius of the community. Conversely, less than 1% reported being content with the available childcare options within this distance. Given the substantial representation of the 0-5 year and 5-9 year old age groups, there is a clear and growing demand for daycare services and K 0-12 school services in the nearby future in Bennet.

The significance of access to high-quality childcare services to the growth and development of the region is underscored by the responses, with nearly all participants expressing its importance. Specifically, 86.1% deemed it "very important," 8.8% considered it "important", and 4.4% found it "somewhat important". A resounding 86% emphasized that having access to high-quality childcare is of utmost importance. Only a mere 0.7% of respondents indicated that the availability of sufficient, high-quality childcare options is "not important" to the growth and development of the region.

Do you feel that there are enough high-quality childcare options within a 30-mile radius of Bennet (not including Lincoln)?



How important do you think having enough high-quality, accessible child care options is for the overall growth and development of the region?



Community Field Assessment

Community survey and meeting with stakeholders – August 21, 2023

On August 21, 2023, the students surveyed sidewalks, housing, public sites, and street infrastructure, aiming to comprehend accessibility and mobility factors. They collected land use data to understand future opportunities for growth and development within the area. Furthermore, the students engaged with local residents to gain deeper insights into community activities and dynamics.



Community Open House

Community Input - October 10, 2023

On October 10, 2023, MPC and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Community and Regional Planning Department hosted an Open House at the Bennet American Legion Hall. The Open House was for residents to view updates on the Comprehensive Plan and the Downtown Economic Development Plan. Over 30 residents signed in for the Community Open House, providing critical feedback used to make appropriate changes to the respective documents.

Comprehensive Plan/Downtown Open House

American Legion Hall, 970 Monroe St

October 10, 2023, 6:00 - 8:00 PM



Join the consulting team and students from UNL on October 10, 2023, from 6 - 8 PM, to talk about the future of the city.

At this meeting you can give us your thoughts on the vision for downtown Bennet and the future of the city overall.

You can also learn about other opportunities to participate during the planning process.

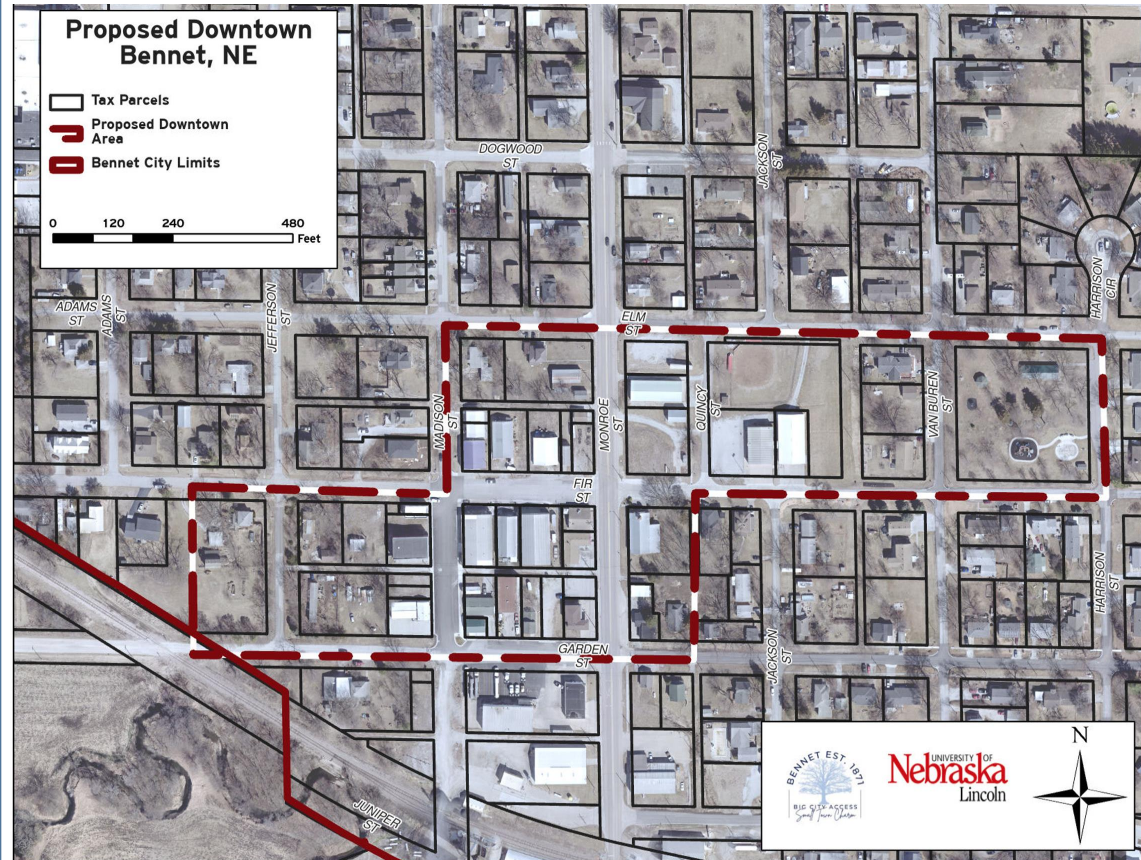


Proposing Downtown Area for Bennet, NE With Community Input and Field Assessment

The proposed Bennet downtown area encompasses sections adjacent to City Hall along both sides of Monroe Street, with the focal point being the intersection of First Street and Monroe Street. Extending to Elm Street on the north, Harrison Street on the east, slightly crossing Jefferson Street on the west, and reaching Garden Street on the south. This delineation reflects comprehensive consideration of the defining process. This process extensively incorporates public input garnered from Bennet residents through community survey responses, stakeholder communications, professional suggestions, field assessments, and open house events.

The strategic goal of the proposed downtown area is to concentrate main activities within Bennet's existing core areas, particularly along Monroe Street, aligning with the primary traffic flows for optimal economic growth. This approach ensures that the development plan not only reflects the community's input but also positions the downtown area as a vibrant and thriving hub for residents and businesses alike.

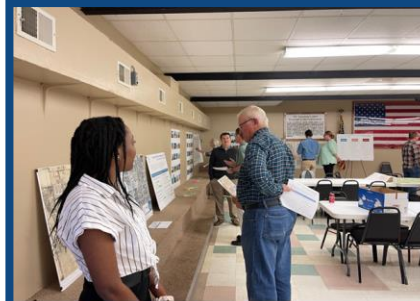
Proposed Downtown Area for Bennet, NE



Community Open House

Community Input -
October 10, 2023

Over 30 residents enthusiastically attended the Community Open House held at the American Legion Hall in Bennet, NE on October 10, 2023. Their active participation and engagement during the event were evident, as they not only contributed valuable comments and feedback on the initial plan, but also fostered a sense of community collaboration.



Planning Commission Meeting Update

November 29, 2023




The students and faculty updated the progress of the planning, highlighted the key recommendations, presented the draft plan, and suggested the implementation steps to the planning commission team.

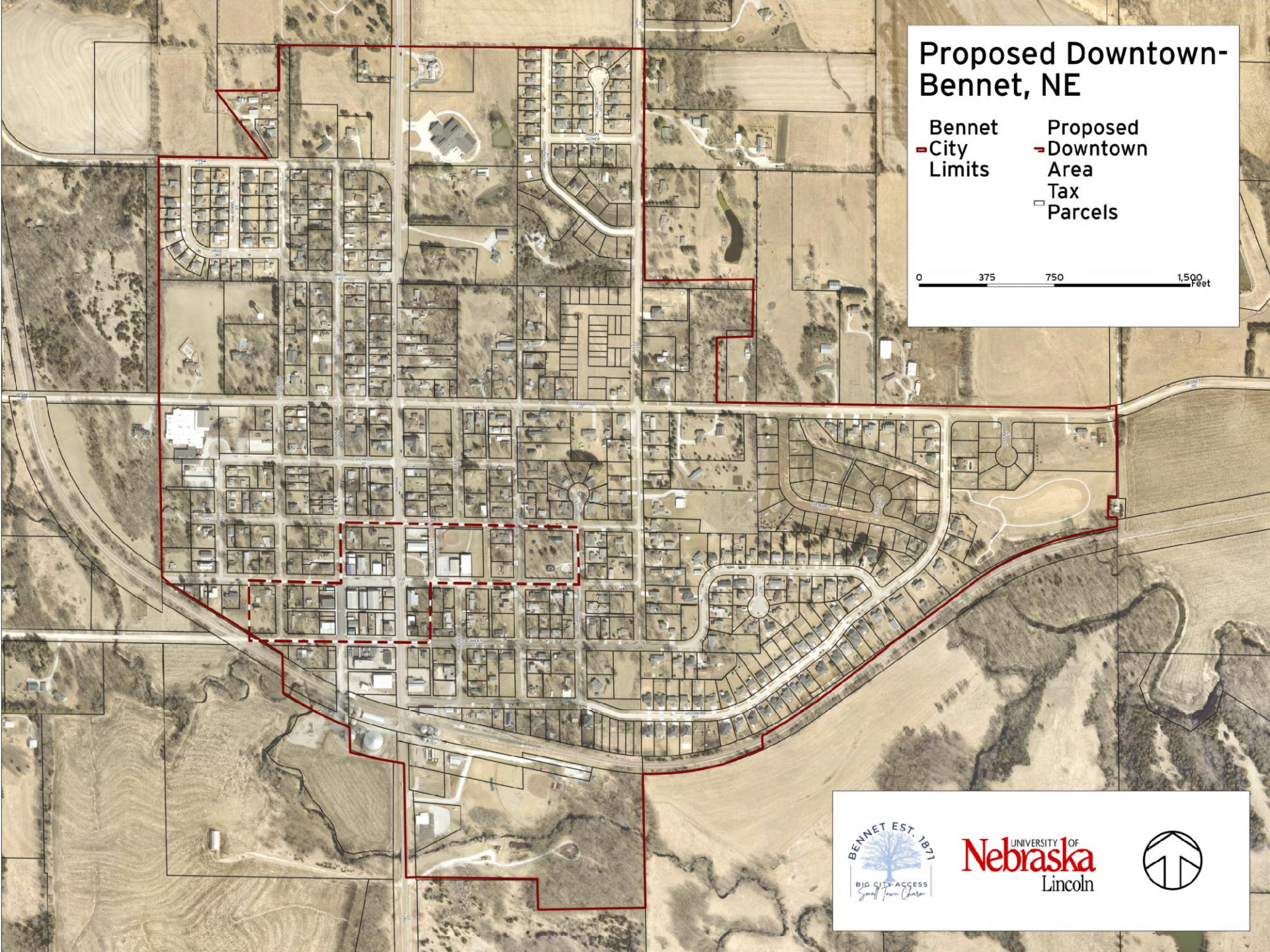
As part of the Bennet downtown economic development plan, stakeholders have been actively engaged throughout the entire planning process to enhance the local business environment and ensure the quality of life in the community.

This inclusive planning approach ensures that the voices of residents and local businesses are heard, contributing to a comprehensive and people-centric planning effort.



Proposed Downtown-Bennet, NE

-  City Limits
-  Proposed Downtown Area
-  Tax Parcels



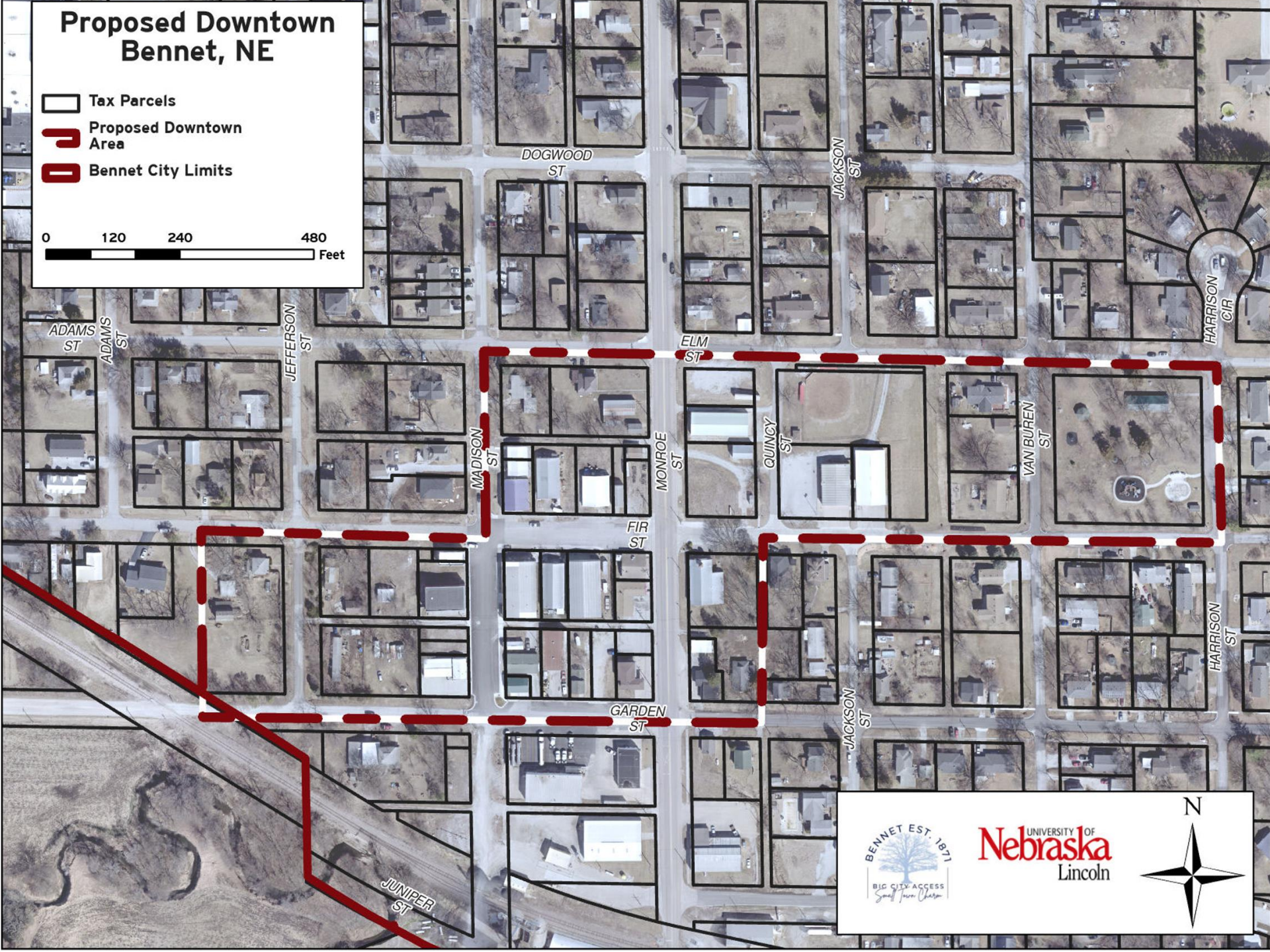
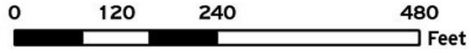
BENNET EST. 1871
BIG CITY ACCESS
Small Town Charm

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln



Proposed Downtown Bennet, NE

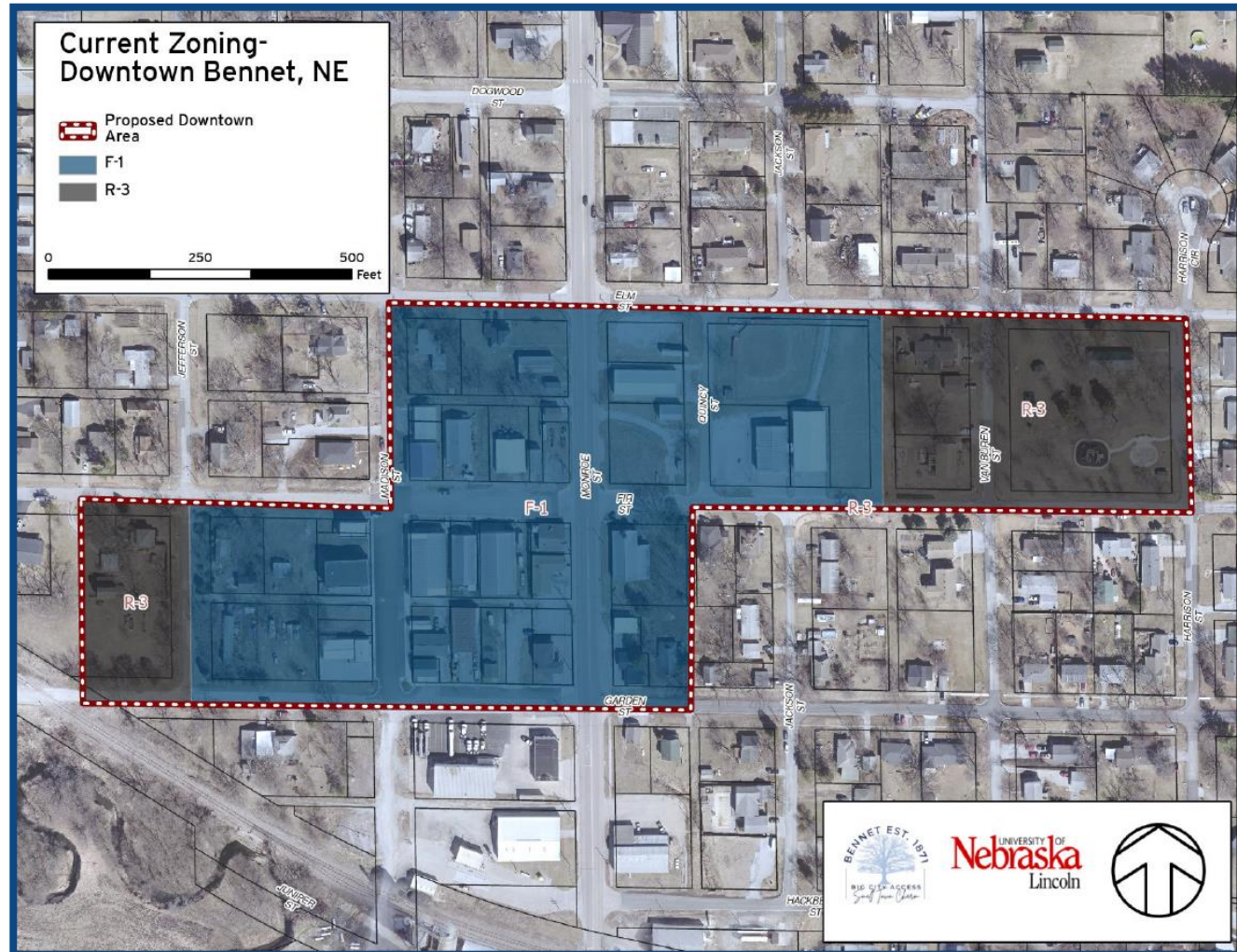
-  Tax Parcels
-  Proposed Downtown Area
-  Bennet City Limits



Zoning in Proposed Downtown Area

The envisioned downtown area encompasses both F-1 and R-3 zoning. Ensuring zoning consistency across this area is crucial for the seamless execution of future plans, particularly in the context of the downtown economic development plan. To achieve this, it is imperative to make appropriate modifications to the zoning ordinance, aligning it with the envisioned future land use and the comprehensive plan. This alignment not only enhances the efficiency of the regulatory framework but also supports the overarching goals of the downtown economic development plan, contributing to a cohesive and strategically planned urban landscape.

Current Zoning within Study Area



Source: Map modified from Marvin Planning Consultants, digitized CRPL 990 Matt Bolander



Chapter 3: Existing Conditions

Mural in Present-Day Bennet

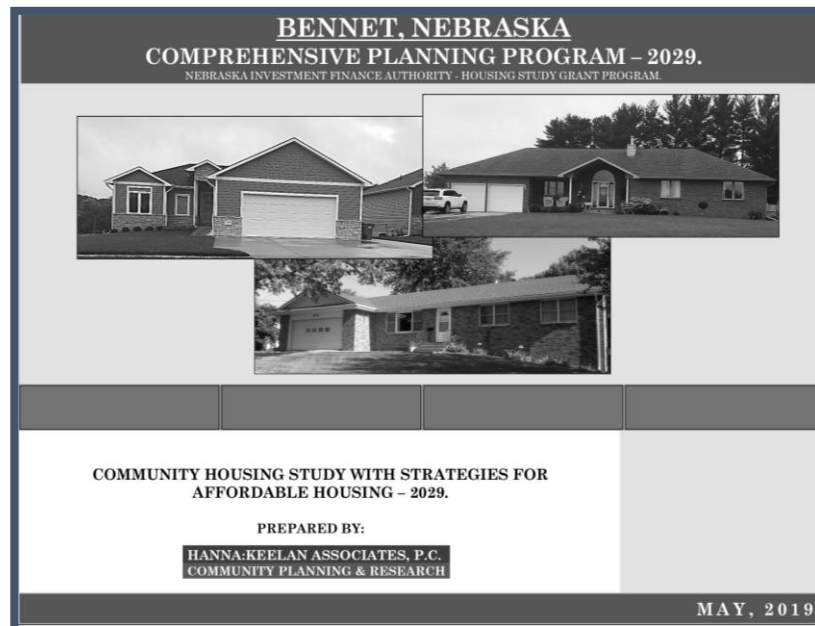
Existing Conditions: Past Planning Efforts

The current Bennet Comprehensive Plan, developed by Hanna:Keelan Associates, P.C. in collaboration with the Bennet Planning Commission, stands as a pivotal component of the 2019-2029 Bennet Comprehensive Planning Program. Funded through the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority Housing Study Grant Program, with matching contributions from the Village of Bennet, this plan serves as a comprehensive guide for the period 2019-2029.

Envisioned as a roadmap for future growth and development in both the Village of Bennet, Nebraska, and the Village's One-Mile Planning Jurisdiction, the plan addresses a 10-year span. It shares crucial information on the conditions at the time of the document's publication, spanning population, land use, public facilities, utilities, and transportation. Moreover, the Comprehensive Plan integrates a community/economic development profile and plan to tackle issues like business recruitment and retention, housing development, and an energy element to evaluate energy utilization and promote conservation measures.

The 2019-2029 Comprehensive Plan, a successor and update to the 2006 Comprehensive Plan, not only replaces its predecessor but also plays a vital role in shaping and directing the future growth and development in Bennet.

**Plan was adopted prior to becoming the City of Bennet*

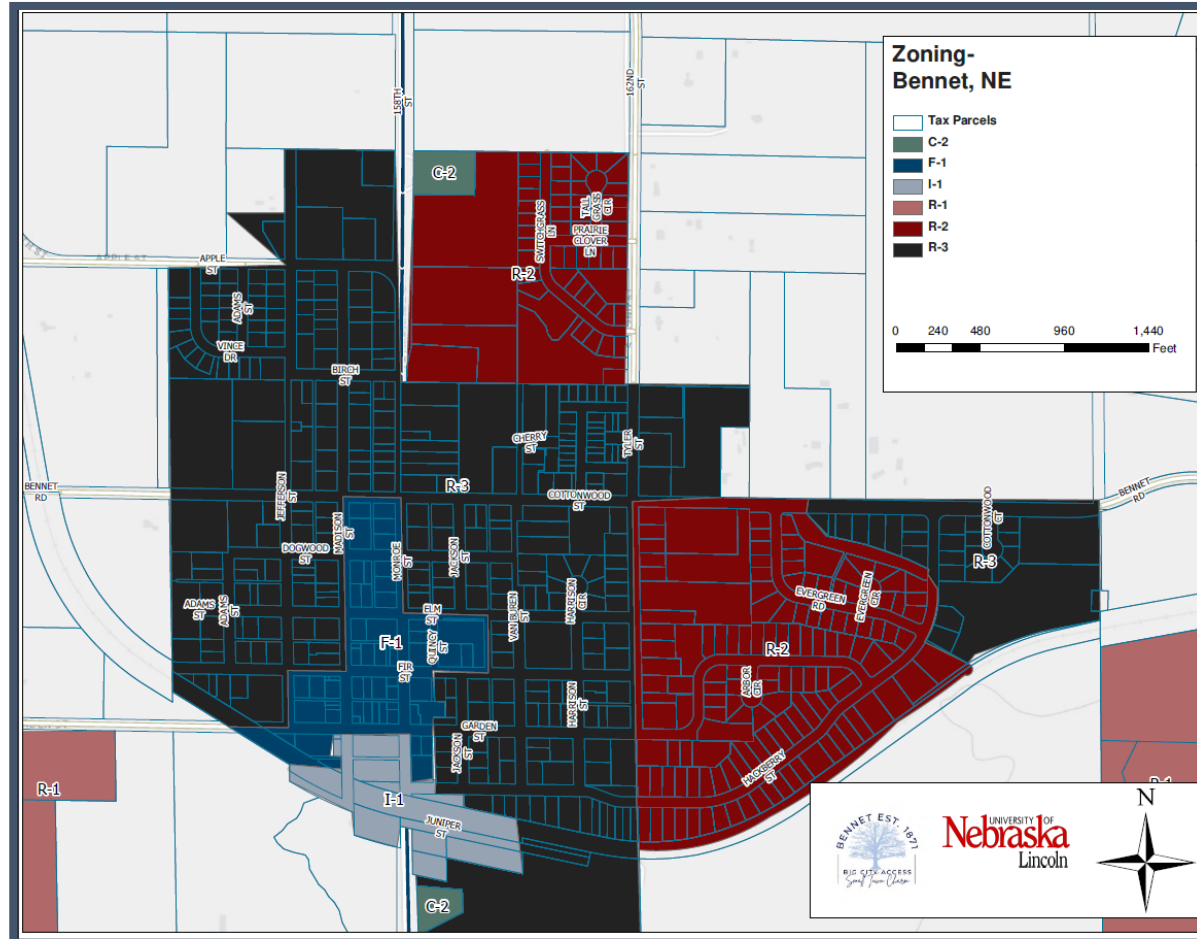


Existing Conditions: Residential Zoning

March 2023 updates to the Bennet Municipal Code created two new residential zoning districts within corporate limits. New residential zoning allows more flexibility in housing types.

- R2 zoning is intended to "provide for medium density residential neighborhoods, characterized by single-family and two-family dwellings, and apartment units, on small to moderately sized lots with supporting community facilities."
- R3 zoning is intended "to provide for higher density residential neighborhoods, characterized by single-family and two-family dwellings, as well as apartment units on small to moderately sized lots with supporting community facilities."

Current Zoning: Bennet, NE



Source: Map modified from Marvin Planning Consultants by Matt Bolander

Existing Conditions: Housing

Overview

Bennet has been experiencing growth due to proximity to Lincoln and a housing market that is more affordable than that of Lincoln.

According to the ACS 2021 5-year estimates, Bennet, NE has 475 total housing units, where 98% of these units are currently occupied and 2% of them are vacant.

2021 ACS 5-year estimates value the median home in Bennet at \$203,200. 38% of Bennet's homes fall within the range of \$100,000-200,000, while 41% are in the range of \$200,000-300,000.

According to the 2021 ACS 5-year estimates, 91% of homes in Bennet are occupied by owners, while 9% are occupied by renters.

Suburban Style Development



Traditional Style Development



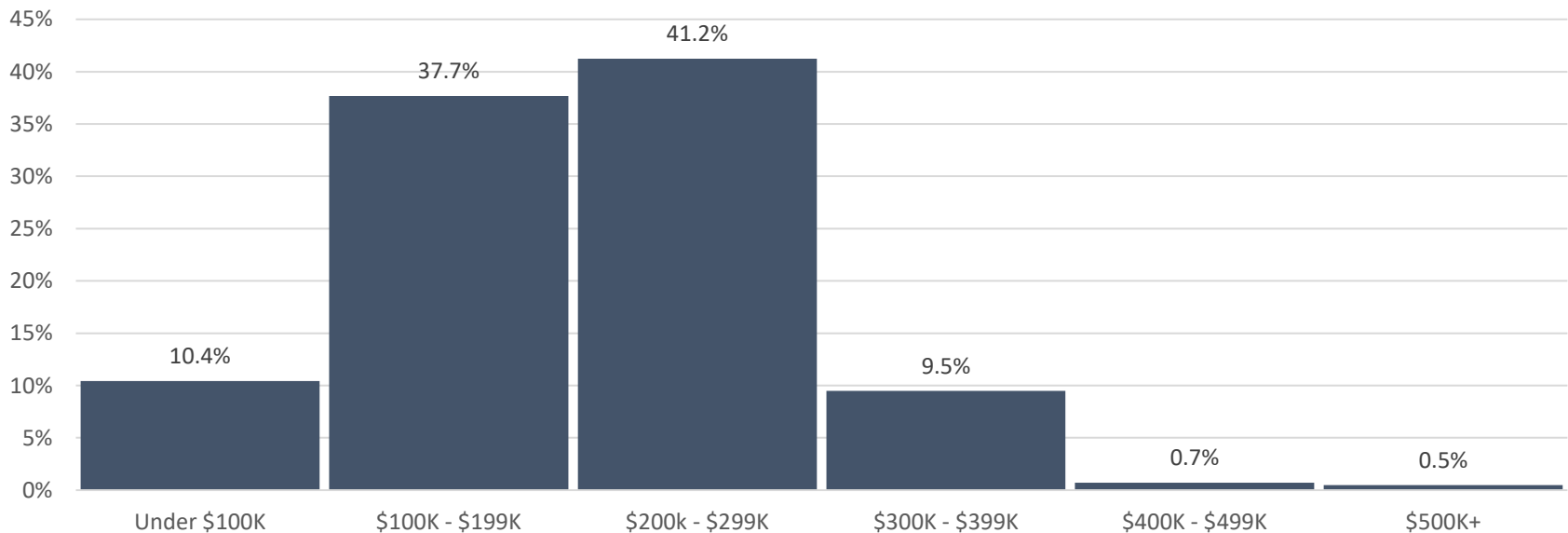
Source: UNL Community & Regional Planning Program; bottom is from Google Maps

Existing Conditions:

Median Home Values

With the greatest proportion of home values, namely 41.2%, falling in the range of \$200,000 to \$299,000, Bennet offers a variety of reasonable options for middle-class families. The second-largest category of home values, representing 37.7% of the total, is in the range of \$100,000 to \$199,000. This housing category offers a significant option for budget-conscious or budget-restrained families. Remaining categories of housing with lower values, as well as higher values, make up a smaller proportion of the total housing stock, while still offering choices for less expensive, as well as for higher-end options.

Median Home Value of Owner-Occupied Units in Bennet, NE



Source: ESRI Community Analyst, 2020

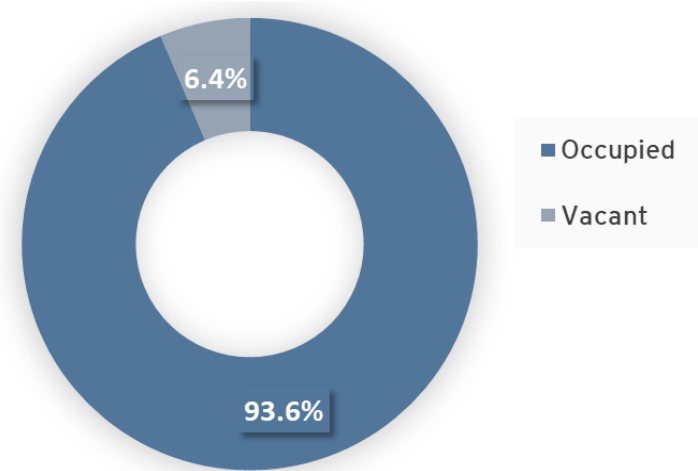
Existing Conditions: Housing

In Bennet, housing occupancy paints a picture of a thriving and predominantly homeowner-oriented community. As of the latest available data, 93.6% of the housing units are currently occupied, while 6.4% remain vacant, suggesting a stable and well-utilized housing market.

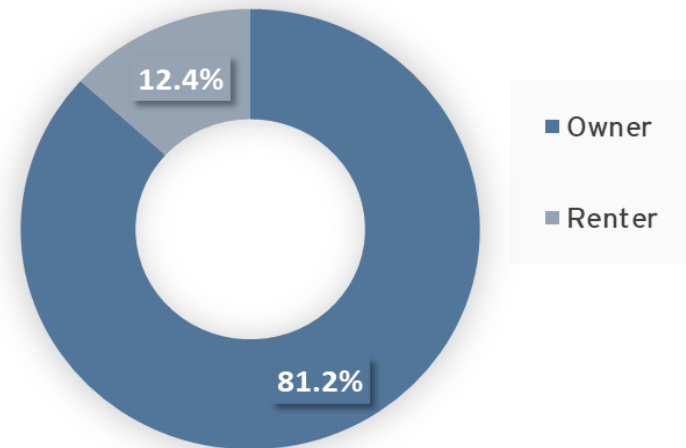
Most residents in Bennet take pride in homeownership, with 81.2% of the occupied housing units being owner-occupied. This reflects a strong sense of commitment and investment in the community, as homeowners often contribute to the neighborhood's stability and long-term well-being.

On the other hand, 12.4% of the housing units are occupied by renters, indicating a minority of residents who prefer the flexibility and lower commitment associated with renting. This diversity in housing options caters to a wide range of individuals, creating a balanced and inclusive living environment in Bennet.

Occupied vs. Vacant Units in Bennet in 2020



Ownership of Occupied Units in Bennet in 2020



Source: ESRI Community Analyst, 2020

Existing Conditions: Types of Housing

Bennet has 475 housing structures. Of these, 95% are categorized as single-family structures, which means that they are detached single-family homes.

5% of homes within the city of Bennet are not single-family, meaning they are either multi-family or manufactured homes.



Source: UNL Community and Regional Planning Program; bottom is from Google Maps

Existing Conditions: Housing Types

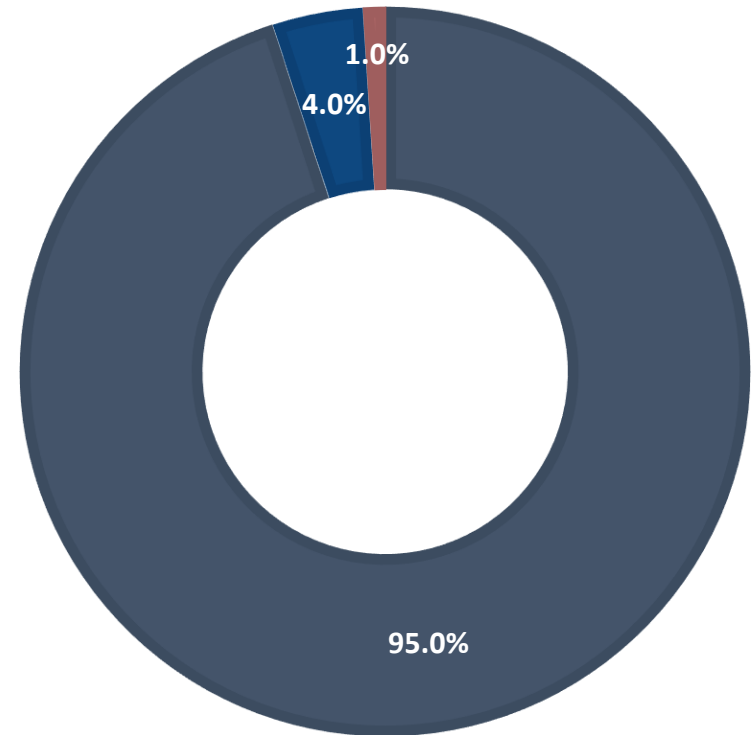
In Bennet, the housing landscape is predominantly characterized by single-family residences, constituting 95.0% of the housing stock. Multifamily units make up 4.0%, while 1.0% comprises mobile homes. This distribution reflects a residential structure that may influence downtown economic development planning.

While the prevalence of single-family units speaks to the quality of life in the Bennet area, the existence of multifamily units suggests potential opportunities for mixed-use, affordable housing developments. These developments can address diverse housing needs, fostering a more dynamic and inclusive downtown environment. It is imperative to comprehend these housing dynamics for the formulation of well-informed and customized economic development strategies tailored to Bennet's downtown area.

Throughout the community survey, open house event, and stakeholder meetings, the necessity for senior housing has been highlighted as a specific requirement for certain residents of Bennet.

Housing Types - Bennet, NE

■ Single Family ■ Multifamily ■ Mobile Home



Source: 2021 Census ACS Data

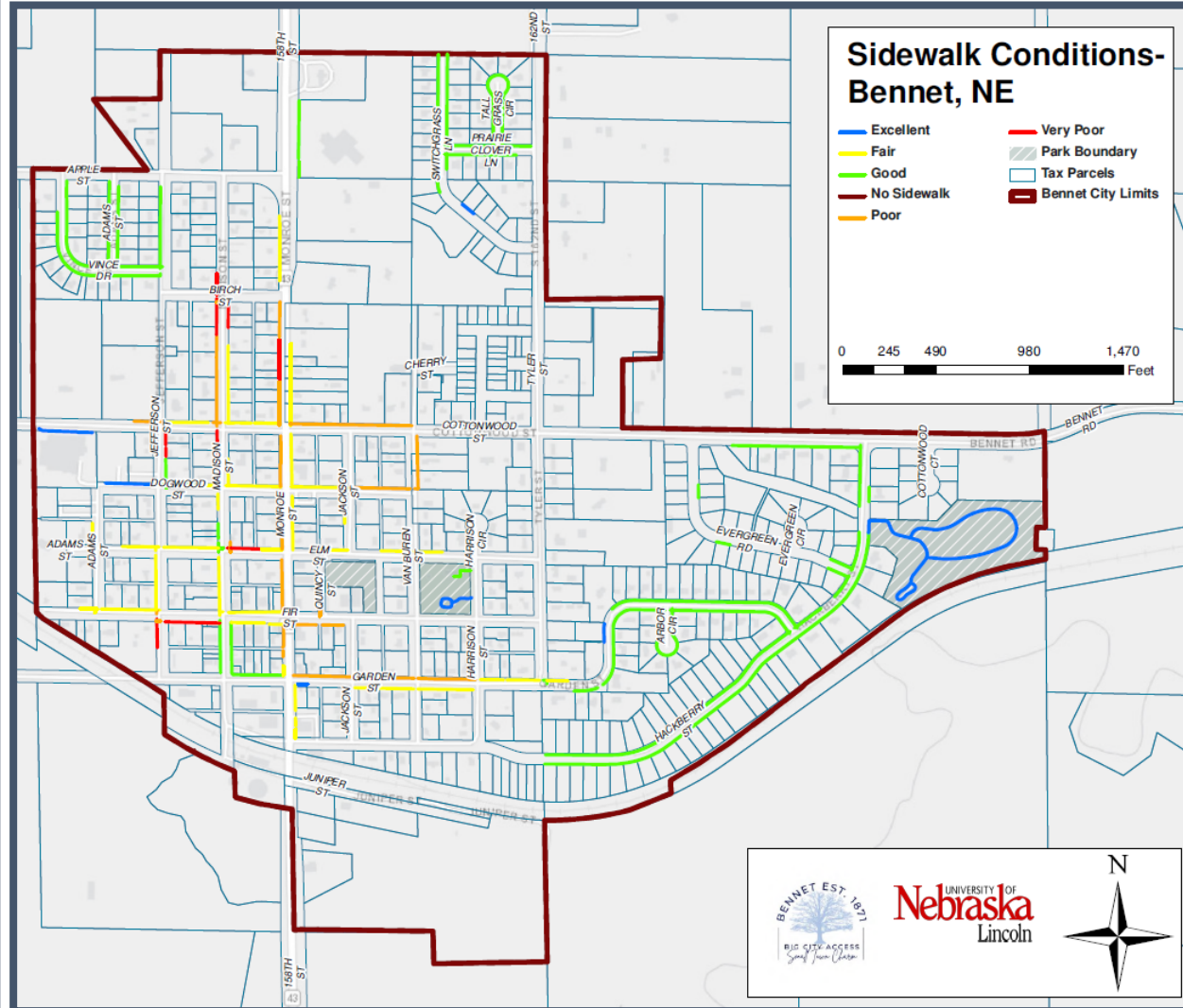
Sidewalk Conditions: Bennet, NE

Existing Conditions: Sidewalk Conditions

Conditions of sidewalks in Bennet vary from very poor to excellent with nearly 35% of sidewalks found to be in good condition.

- The existing sidewalk network in Bennet is 8.31 miles in total length.
- Bennet's current network is built with concrete which generally provides a durable building material for sidewalks. However, in many cases the concrete appears to be past its service life.
- Sidewalks were rated solely on the condition of the pavement. More information on the rating system can be found on the following page.

**As of September 2023*



Source: Map created by Matt Bolander

Existing Conditions: Sidewalk Conditions

Excellent

In this category, the sidewalk is more than likely built within the last 4-5 years and is in great condition, with little segment separation and up to ADA code compliance.

Good

Sidewalk is in good shape but may have some segment separation issues and may not be in full compliance with ADA.

Fair

Sidewalk has some repair issues and may be slightly overgrown but, in general, still serves its function as a sidewalk. ADA compliance is functional but likely not ideal.

Poor

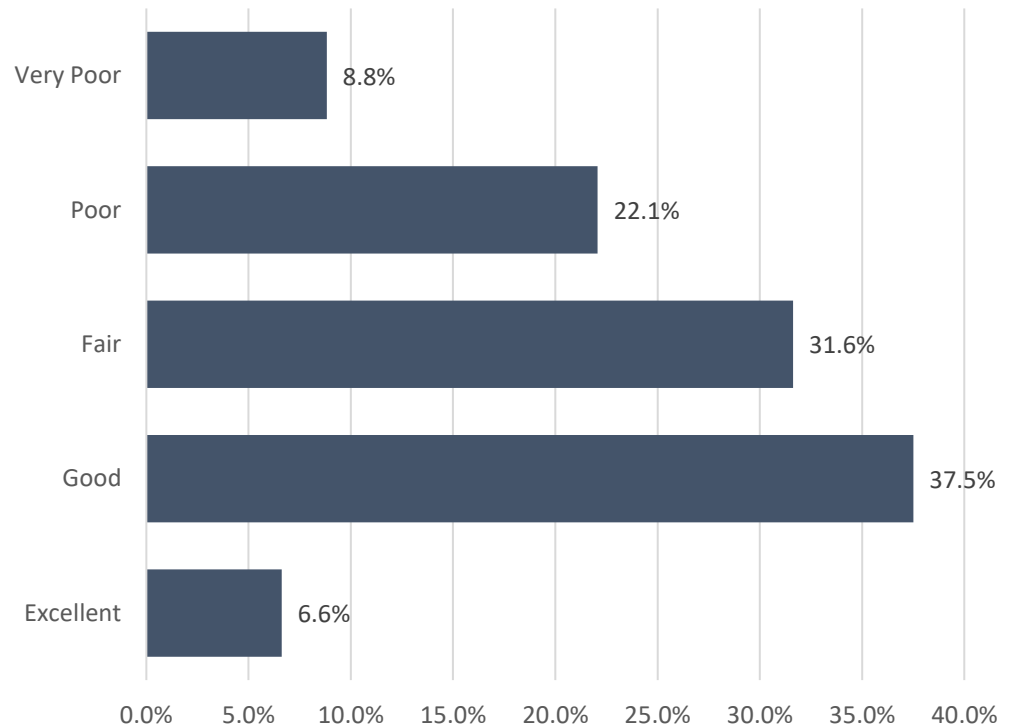
Sidewalk is in disrepair and is not even. There is a good amount of overgrowth and sidewalk is not in compliance with ADA.

Very Poor

Sidewalk is barely visible due to overgrowth, ADA compliance is non-existent, and the sidewalk is in disrepair.

**As of September 2023*

Existing Sidewalk Conditions in Bennet, NE



Source: City of Lincoln Aerial Imagery and University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Surveys

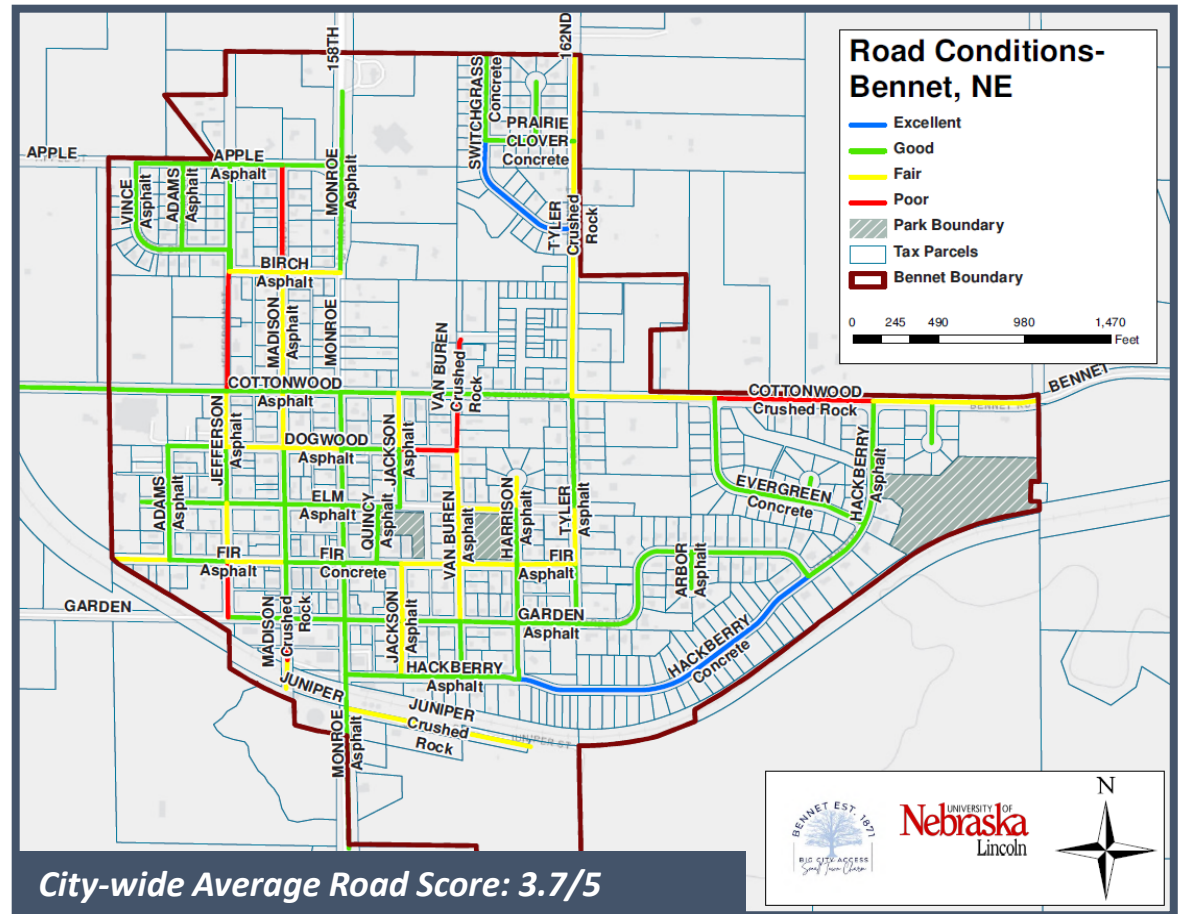
Existing Conditions: Road Conditions

Conditions of roads in Bennet vary from poor to excellent with none determined to be “very poor.”

- Roads were scored on a 1-5 scale and were given a condition score based on street name. (See Road Condition Score)
- There are three surface materials currently for roads in Bennet : crushed rock/gravel, concrete, and asphalt. (See Road Surface Materials)
- Monroe St. is also Nebraska State Highway 43 and runs through the center of Bennet.

**As of September 2023*

Road Conditions: Bennet, NE



Source: Map created by CRPL 990, Matt Bolander

Existing Conditions: Road Condition Classification

Excellent
The road is either recently paved, new construction and has little or no visible damage.

Good
The road is in good condition with little to no visible damage

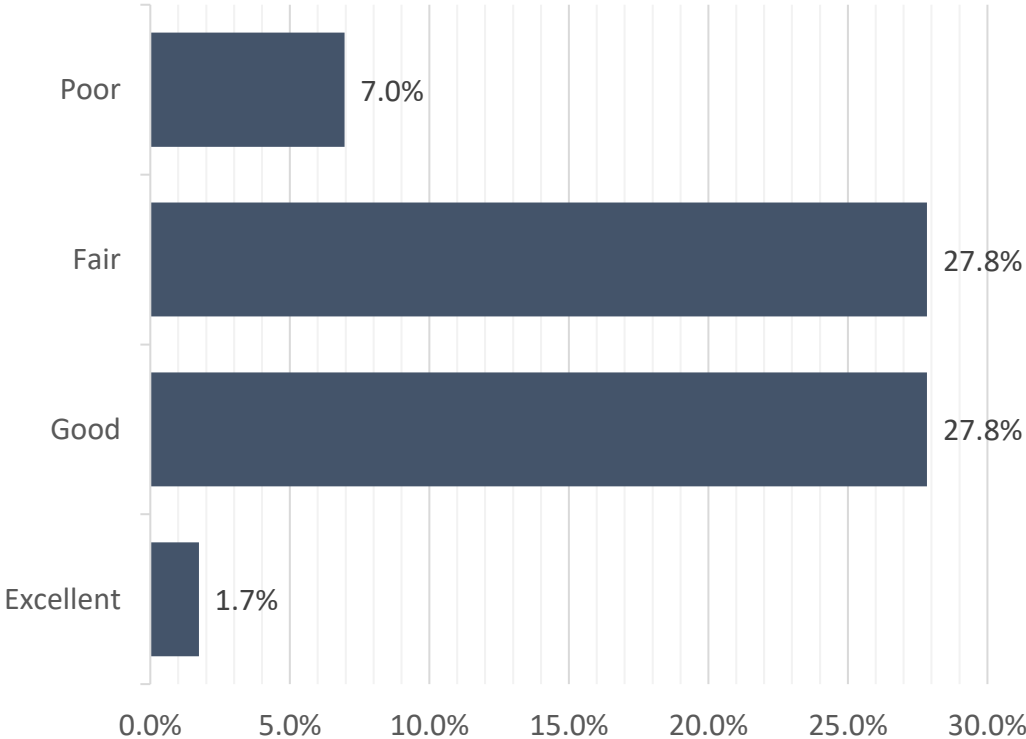
Fair
Road acceptable but some visible signs of cracking/damage to pavement with visible wear and tear.

Poor
Road in poor condition with lots of cracking and has not been resurfaced for several years.

**As of September 2023*

***No crushed rock roads were scored higher than fair.*

Existing Road Conditions in Bennet, NE



Source: University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Surveys

Existing Conditions: Walkability

Excellent

This sidewalk has great tree canopy coverage, full compliance with ADA, crosswalks, and is extremely safe for all users of the sidewalk.

Good

This sidewalk has a decent amount of tree coverage and follows ADA compliance requirements.

Fair

The sidewalk is well-connected, has a limited tree canopy coverage, and some compliance with ADA. Safety issues may persist, but to a lesser degree.

Poor

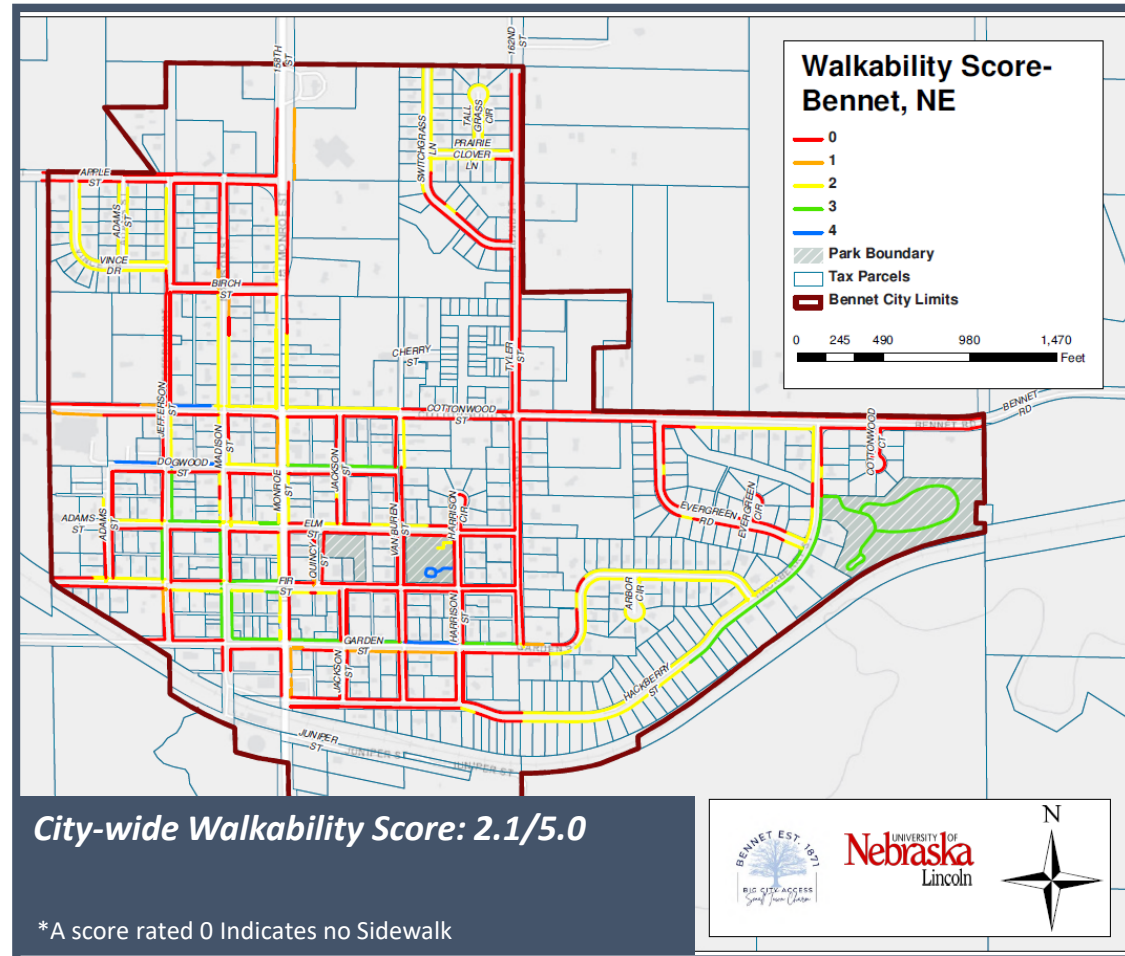
Similar to very poor except there may be less issues with disrepair. The sidewalk is disconnected to the rest of the network. Safety is an issue and limited tree canopy coverage. ADA compliance is lacking.

Very Poor

The sidewalk has limited tree cover, poor ADA compliance, and is in disrepair, while also not being connected to the rest of Bennet's sidewalk network. The sidewalk does not appear to be safe for pedestrians.

**As of September 2023*

Walkability in Bennet, NE



Source: Map created by CRPL 990, Matt Bolander

Existing Conditions: Physical Conditions

Buildings

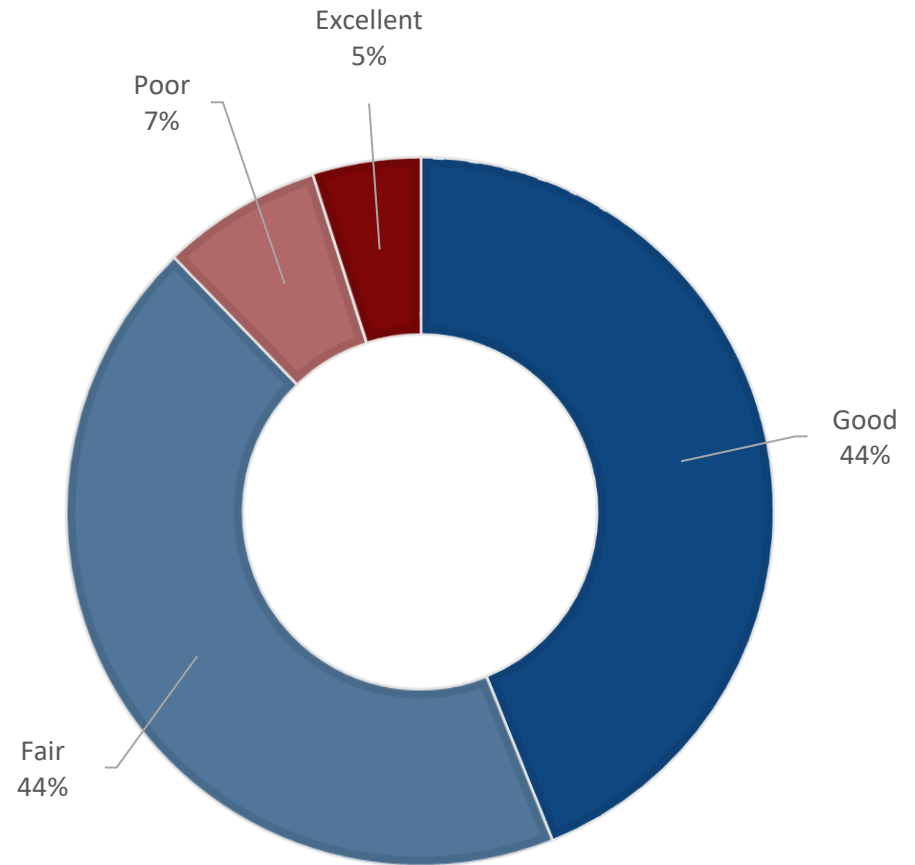
Conditions of buildings were rated based on 5 categories: Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, Very Poor.

Ratings were based on objective standards that include factors such as regular wear and tear and age of structure.

Only buildings within the Proposed Downtown area were included in the building conditions survey (See Building Conditions Report).

**As of September 2023*

Figure 3.3: Condition Of Buildings In Downtown Bennet



Source: Analysis by CRPL 990, Matt Bolander

Existing Conditions

Parks Introduction

Platted in 1871, Bennet was sited as a condition for the sale of a right-of-way to a railroad company running track along the little Nemaha River and was officially incorporated ten years later. A flourishing agricultural town, by 1900 Bennet had a population of 500 residents and supported a local economy comprised of a variety of businesses: general and hardware stores, construction supply stores, pharmacies, banks, hotels, pool halls, a railroad station, and an opera house. In 1910 the centrally located Bennet Park received a gazebo—hosting band performances and wedding ceremonies over the next hundred years. The gazebo remains a focal point of the park to this day. After experiencing a decline in its population and number of available institutions in the middle of the 20th century, Bennet is now looking to reestablish its vital downtown zone.

The existing core of Bennet is home to a number of locally owned commercial operations, including enterprises from retail and food service to manufacturing and light industry. All of these existing purposes are seen as assets, and planned improvements look to support and further promote these uses. Large employers in and near Bennet also include “...First Nebraska Bank, Bennet-Palmyra Public Schools District OR-1, Zermatt Tool, Midwest Farmers Cooperative and Vasa Construction.” As will be discussed further in the following sections on suggested improvements to the built environment, continued emphasis should be put on agriculture and industry as economic and aesthetic touchstones.

Historic photo of Bennet in 1916



Source: Bennet in 1916, archival photograph, History Nebraska

Existing Conditions: Bennet Parks

Bennet has two parks: Bennet Park and Whispering Pines Park.

Currently there are no sidewalk connections on any sides of Bennet Park.

There are sidewalks along Whispering Pines Park, but they do not connect to the rest of Bennet very easily and have limited tree coverage.

The splash pad at Bennet Park is an excellent feature that attracts many people to the community.

Bennet has many trees located within the public right-of-way and parks. Many of these trees are showing signs of disease and have been improperly pruned with a method known as topping (typically done for utility clearances).



Source: Bennet Park, City of Bennet

Existing Conditions: Cultural and Social

During a community planning open house in March 2019, the main business and service needs identified were a coffee shop, a convenience store, as well as a childcare facility. Similar needs were expressed at a subsequent event in October 2023.

Residents also expressed a need for more public facilities and recreational opportunities. Examples of desired public spaces and opportunities include a senior/retirement community center; a new location for the Bennet Area Historical Society that would include a library, museum and genealogy space; greater use of existing elementary school facility infrastructure; a public walking trail that would connect parks, facilities, schools, neighborhoods and the downtown area; and a swimming pool.

Current park facilities include two public parks, ballfields and a splash pad. However, the splash pad has a design issue that has frequently prevented access.

Although Bennet does not have a public library, there is a library in nearby Palmyra, where a new city library is currently being built. In addition, the Lincoln City Libraries' Lied Bookmobile Program provides service to Bennet and can process requests for items not usually carried. Service is provided twice per month at the Community Church.



Source: Mobile Library, Lincoln City Libraries

Existing Conditions: Bennet Parks

Park Unit	Number of Trees	Total Acreage	Park Amenities
Whispering Pines Park	23	7.4	Disc Golf Course, Walking Loop
Bennet Park	35	1.6	Gazebo, Shelter, Playground, Splashpad

Source: City of Lincoln Aerial Imagery and University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Surveys



Whispering Pines Park



Bennet Park

Existing Conditions: Cultural and Social

A local business currently sponsors a fall festival, Fallidays. However, it is challenging for a small business to be the sole sponsor of, and completely responsible for, this event. Other community events have included a car show during 4th of July celebrations, as well as Clean Up Day and Shredding Day.

The American Legion Hall (970 Monroe Street) serves as the polling location for the City of Bennet, as well as the Bennet Senior Center. Programming includes educational programs, music programs, games, cards, social opportunities, as well as occasional trips to Lincoln and the surrounding areas to attend cultural and other events. The American Legion building is also used for other events and activities throughout the year, and offers community space for public meetings and large gatherings.

Bennet will possibly become an associate member of the Heritage, Nebraska Main Street program. This program helps with creating a more attractive and sustainable downtown, as well as preserving historically significant structures and sites. Bennet may also seek designation as a certified local government through the Nebraska State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) to preserve its historical resources. Of special significance is a mural on a building at 380 Fir Street that depicts the history of and various elements of Bennet.



Source: Top is from the American Legion Post 280 Facebook page; bottom is from Planning Team

Existing Conditions

Cultural and Social

Bennet residents have the “best of both worlds” in that they can easily access the employment, shopping, recreation and entertainment options that Lincoln offers while enjoying the advantages of living in a small, quiet town.

Bennet residents would like new and expanded commercial and entertainment facilities in the downtown area, as well as along the Highway 2 and 43 corridors, north and south of the corporate limits.

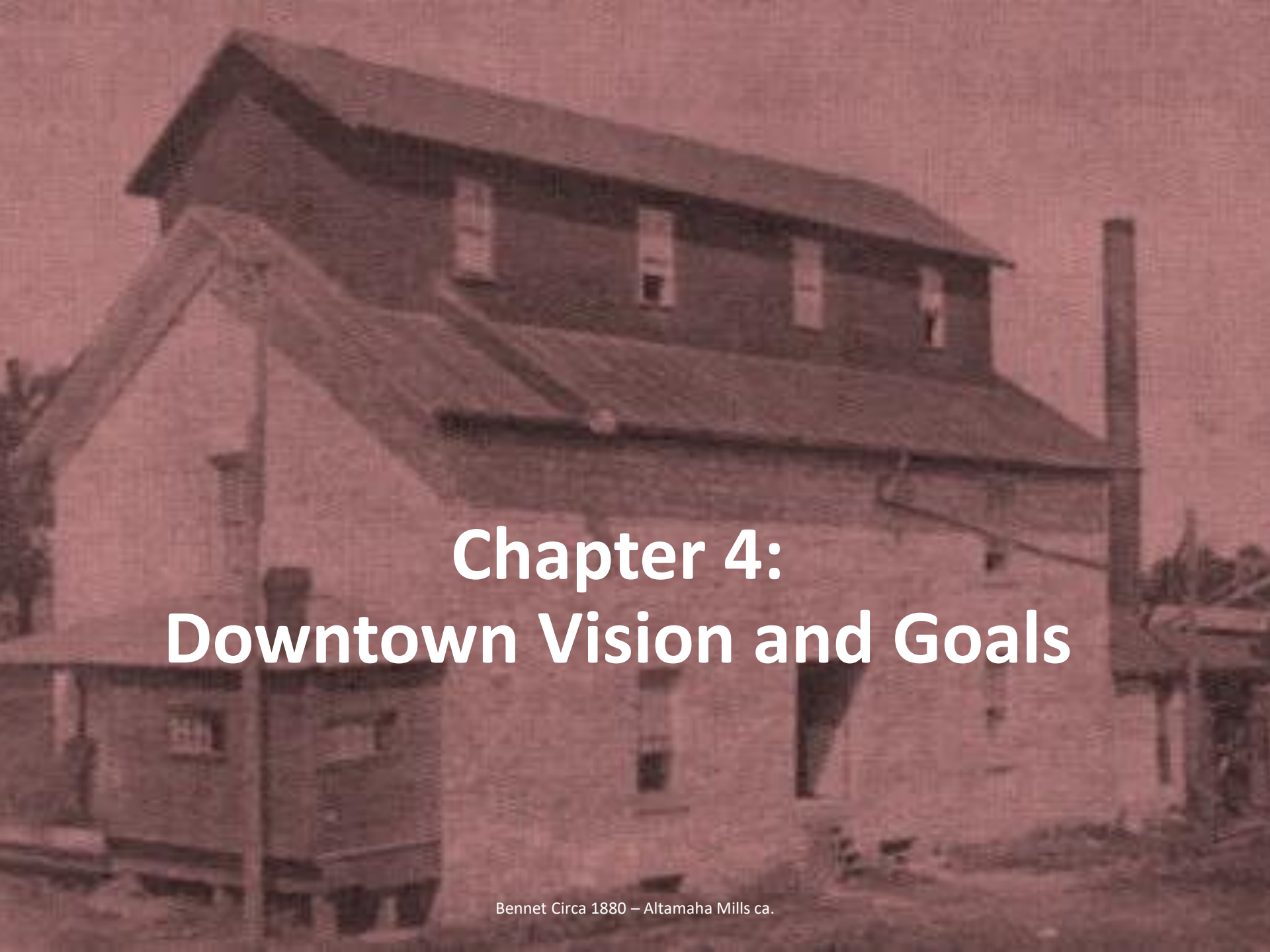
Other priorities include pedestrian safety (e.g., updated crosswalk infrastructure or school crossing guard), property clean-up and nuisance abatement, and housing (51% of Citizen Survey participants indicated that the northern portions of Bennet would be the preferred location for future residential development). Some aesthetic improvements residents would like to see include building façade improvements, especially downtown, housing rehabilitation, junk vehicle removal, as well as benches, street trees, street lighting, curb cuts and other features along the Highway 43 corridor.



Above: Examples of potential businesses in Bennet



Source: Top three are royalty-free images from Pixabay; bottom is from City of Bennet



Chapter 4: Downtown Vision and Goals

Bennet Circa 1880 – Altamaha Mills ca.

Vision Statement Creation: Bennet Downtown Economic Development Plan

The vision statement was shaped by extensive input from community members, and in-depth analysis by the planning team. The vision statement is rooted in the collective aspirations of the Bennet community.

The Downtown Economic Development Plan envisions cultivating a downtown space that preserves and enhances Bennet's unique, small-town atmosphere. The efforts can focus on fostering a community where people respect and care for one another, creating a vibrant business community that supports well-planned growth.

The plan is dedicated to elevating the quality of life for residents by prioritizing infrastructure improvements and providing diverse recreational opportunities. Throughout this process, we remain committed to safeguarding the natural beauty of the environment, ensuring a harmonious blend of progress and preservation.

As we envision the future of downtown Bennet, we are dedicated to promoting quality education and upholding multigenerational family values. By weaving these elements into the fabric of our development plan, we strive to create a downtown that not only meets the economic needs of the community but also enhances its social fabric, contributing to a flourishing and interconnected town.

Bennet Residents Participate in Community Open House Event



Source: UNL Planning Team

Vision Statement

The City of Bennet's Vision Statement

Protect and build on our unique, small-town atmosphere through people who respect and care for one another. **Support** well-planned growth and a vibrant business community. **Seek to enhance** quality of life by improving infrastructure and creating a variety of recreational opportunities, while maintaining the natural beauty of our environment. **Promote** quality education and multigenerational family values.

Vision Statement for Bennet Downtown Economic Development

Aligned with Bennet's vision, this Downtown Economic Development Plan aspires to uphold small-town charm, nurturing a community where respect and care take root. *We envision a **dynamic business hub** that fosters **well-planned growth** while elevating the quality of life through **enhanced infrastructure** and a range of recreational opportunities. Our commitment extends to preserving the natural beauty of the environment, advocating for **community placemaking**, quality education, and embracing multigenerational family values.* This vision charts the course for a downtown that addresses economic needs, enriches social fabric, and contributes to a flourishing community.



Source: UNL Planning Team

How the community of Bennet envisions its future.



Vision

What the community would like to accomplish together. Goals are broad statements which tend to be long-term in nature.



Goals

How to accomplish Bennet's goals. The actions represent specific activities that can be applied, some achievable in the near-term and some may require more time and planning.



Recommended
Actions



Bennet Downtown Economic Development Plan Vision, Goals, and Recommendations

Aligned with Bennet's vision, this Downtown Economic Development Plan aspires to uphold small-town charm, nurturing a community where respect and care take root. *We envision a **dynamic business hub** that fosters **well-planned growth** while elevating the quality of life through **enhanced infrastructure** and a range of recreational opportunities. Our commitment extends to preserving the natural beauty of the environment, advocating for **community placemaking**, quality education, and embracing multigenerational family values.* This vision charts the course for a downtown that addresses economic needs, enriches social fabric, and contributes to a flourishing community.

The following goals and actions were crafted to establish a downtown corridor and promote economic development in Bennet. Input provided by community survey participants and stakeholders involved in the planning process helped to formulate these goals.

1 Improve the Built Environment

- 1.1 Beautification
- 1.2 Connectivity
- 1.3 Infrastructure

2 Promote Economic Development

- 2.1 Promote local business and revenue
- 2.2 Expand services offered
- 2.3 Develop education & workforce programs

3 Facilitate Community Placemaking

- 3.1 Enhance civic engagement
- 3.2 Activate indoor and outdoor open spaces
- 3.3 Promote downtown activities

4 Achieve Well-Planned Growth

- 4.1 Integrate with Comprehensive Plan
- 4.2 Adopt city-wide planning guidelines
- 4.3 Coordinate with Regional Plan

Goal #1: Improve the Built Environment

Recommended Actions

1.1 Beautification

Streetscaping

Perennials, annuals

Shrubs

Lighting

Traffic signs

Curb changes

Crosswalks

Increase tree canopy coverage

Incorporate benches and seating

1.2 Connectivity

Walkability and safety

ADA compliant crossings

Wayfinding signage

Entrance to Bennet

Downtown/Business District

Parks

Trails

Local business amenities

1.3 Infrastructure

Improve sidewalk conditions

Water, broadband and utilities

Street lighting

Eliminate safety hazards

Slow traffic along Highway 43

Traffic calming devices

Crosswalks

Crossing signals

Goal #2: Promote Economic Development

Recommended Actions

2.1 Promote Local Business

Become a Leadership Certified Community (LCC) - NE Dept. of Economic Development

Establish Chamber of Commerce

Develop branding, strategic advertising

Collaborate with Nebraska Business Development Center

Enhance gateways

2.2 Expand Services Offered

Daycare

Restaurant

Bookstore/print shop

Art gallery/workshop

Coffee shop, bakery

Grocery store

Versatile/multi-purpose

Capture through-traffic business potential

2.3 Develop Education & Workforce Programs

Local workforce training and education

Digital access

Trades

Internships

"Developing Youth Talent Initiative" (DYTI) - NE Dept. of Economic Development

Goal #3: Facilitate Community Placemaking

Recommended Actions

3.1 Enhance Civic Engagement

- Multi-generational amenities
- Expanded senior programs
- Volunteer groups
- Community center
- Develop event space
- Leverage community-building potential of businesses

3.2 Activate Indoor and Outdoor Open Spaces

- Improve park amenities
- Establish trails connecting parks
- Tree planting
- Interpretive signage
- Mobile/Innovative businesses that contribute to placemaking

3.3 Promote Downtown Activities

- Business events
- Car show
- Fall festival
- Farmers' market
- Seasonal activities
- Celebration of Bennet's founding day (July 29)

Goal #4: Achieve Well-Planned Growth

Recommended Actions

4.1 Integrate with City Comprehensive Plan

Integrate downtown economic development plan into overall comprehensive plan

Review growth plan and infrastructure needs

Merge capital improvements projects (roads, sidewalks) with broadband service expansion in right-of-way

4.2 Adopt and Implement City-Wide Design Guidelines

Building facades

Sidewalk standards in front of businesses

Signage and lighting for businesses

Pedestrian lighting along corridor

Review peer cities' standards and guidelines

4.3 Coordinate with Regional Plan

Lancaster County

City/County comprehensive plan

Long-range transportation plan

Southeast Nebraska Economic Development District (SEND)D

Lower Platte South NRD

Hazard Mitigation Plan

Trails

Watershed/Stormwater Plan

Nebraska Department of Transportation (DOT)

Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)



Chapter 5: Key Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Improve the Built Environment

Introduction

The Development of Public Spaces and the Expansion of Social Horizons

This plan serves to develop a vibrant downtown area, emphasizing the importance of community activity. The planned enhancements to Bennet's public spaces are understood as investments in not just infrastructure, but in civic life as well. The broad design intent of the following improvements is to provide support for a sincere and lively downtown space. As previously noted, the historic core of Bennet has been chosen as the target of these improvements: this zone begins at the western edge of town north of Garden Street, doglegs across Fir Street at Highway 43, and then ends at the eastern end of Bennet Park. This area has been selected for its central geography as well as its existing buildings and institutions.



Source: Bennet, digital photographs, Mason Herrman

Recommendation 1.1: Improve the Built Environment

Beautification of Streetscapes

The designers have recommended the addition of an entry archway to Bennet’s streetscape. An archway would serve as a welcoming visible cue—communicating a change of place that would naturally slow incoming traffic.

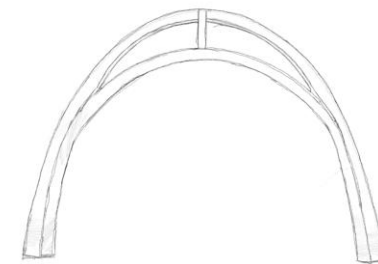
At the open house with the stakeholders of Bennet, two entryway-arch concepts performed well, the former being particularly well received. A third concept design of a more abstract arch—pared down, and without any writing—performed poorly. The design for the arch was based on the light-industrial character of downtown Bennet that the designers and authors of this document are looking to retain. The arches are conceived as being built from bent, welded, and bolted I beams that could be painted, left to patina, or a combination of both. The third arch mentioned earlier was proposed as being made of Corten steel (a steel that achieves a rust-colored patina but then stabilizes), but it was interpreted that this design performed poorly for reasons other than its proposed building material or finish.



Source: Potential archway no. 1, computer-assisted concept art, MC Raterman



Source: Potential archway no. 2, computer-assisted concept art, MC Raterman



Source: Potential archway no. 3, digital sketch, MC Raterman

Recommendation 1.1: Improve the Built Environment

Beautification of Streetscapes

Along with the form of the arch itself, the font for the attached signage was chosen to convey Bennet’s industrial personality. Grain silos and corrugated metal buildings govern the aesthetic, and within this plan’s proposed downtown area are welding shops and a trucking firm. The font matches the signage for the trucking firm pictured, Nebraska Bulk Transports, but also has a built-in technical look to it.

Though worded signage appeared to perform well at the community open house, the designers do not see it as an absolute necessity in the case of the arch. General signage for the purpose of navigation should be developed, along with improved transportation signage. The lettering of these signs could easily be made to coordinate with the industrial, technical, and ‘machine-lettered’ look that has been proposed during the open house event.



Source: Nebraska Bulk Transports, photograph, MC Raterman

NEBRASKA

BULK

TRANSPORTS, INC

Source: Nebraska Bulk Transports Signage, digital recreation

Recommendation 1.1: Improve the Built Environment

Beautification of Streetscapes

These industrial characteristics are the foundation of the designers' aesthetic choices, and it is highly recommended that this style be retained in Bennet. This design direction was not chosen simply as 'a look'—the authors of the document recommend the continued cooperation with light industry in the Downtown area and recommend against attempts to push these facilities out of the core of town. Retaining this light industry will set Bennet apart from Lincoln's suburbs and bedroom communities and provide visual interest through the industries' unique structures and activities, and maintain an economic base regardless of the proposed downtown area's success as a retail or service based commercial zone.



Source: Fictional 'Bennet Welding Supply', suggested aesthetic direction, manipulated photograph, MC Raterman



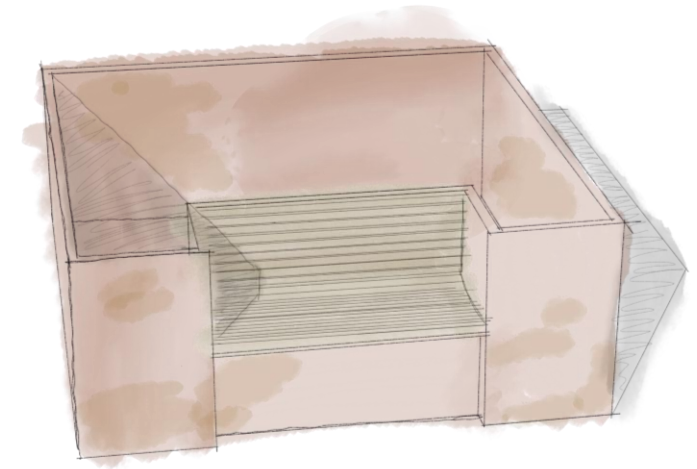
Source: Frontier Co-Op, suggested aesthetic direction, manipulated photograph, Mason Herrman and MC Raterman

Recommendation 1.1: Improve the Built Environment

Streetscape Furniture

The designers recommend the use of Corten steel in conjunction with wood boards to construct or otherwise source streetscape amenities and furniture. The use and combination of these materials was initially inspired by Bennet’s resident welding shops and wood-working shops. These material choices not only complement an industrial look—through the steel’s naturally occurring rust-colored patina—but also serve as an appropriate transition into the naturalistic look that the recommended native plant materials will hold. Outdoor furniture, by virtue of the utilization of these materials, will be durable and straight-forward to maintain.

The following pages demonstrate a number of additional possibilities for the use of Corten steel in planters, laser cut decorative motifs, a fire pit, and so on.



Source: Corten steel planter with built-in bench, digital sketch, MC Raterman



Source: Corten steel seating and surface item, manipulated photograph, MC Raterman

Recommendation 1.2: Improve the Built Environment Connectivity

Roads

Well-maintained roads are important for providing economic links to Bennet. The new Lincoln South Beltway will bring traffic past Bennet and can also help to improve mobility to the city. The highway will also bring growth around the interchanges that has potential to impact Bennet in the coming years.

Building streets on a traditional grid pattern (composed of through streets and intersections) rather than on a contemporary curvilinear street pattern (composed of winding roads, branches and cul-de-sacs) promotes more compact and walkable development that can help to build a sense of community. The authors of the document recommend that the community of Bennet emphasize infill development in the parts of town already laid out in a grid pattern, and new street construction far more connected than ‘winding’ or ‘meandering.’

Traditional Grid Street Network



Meandering Street Network



Source: ESRI Imagery Basemap, Top Maryville, MO and Bottom Ozark, MO

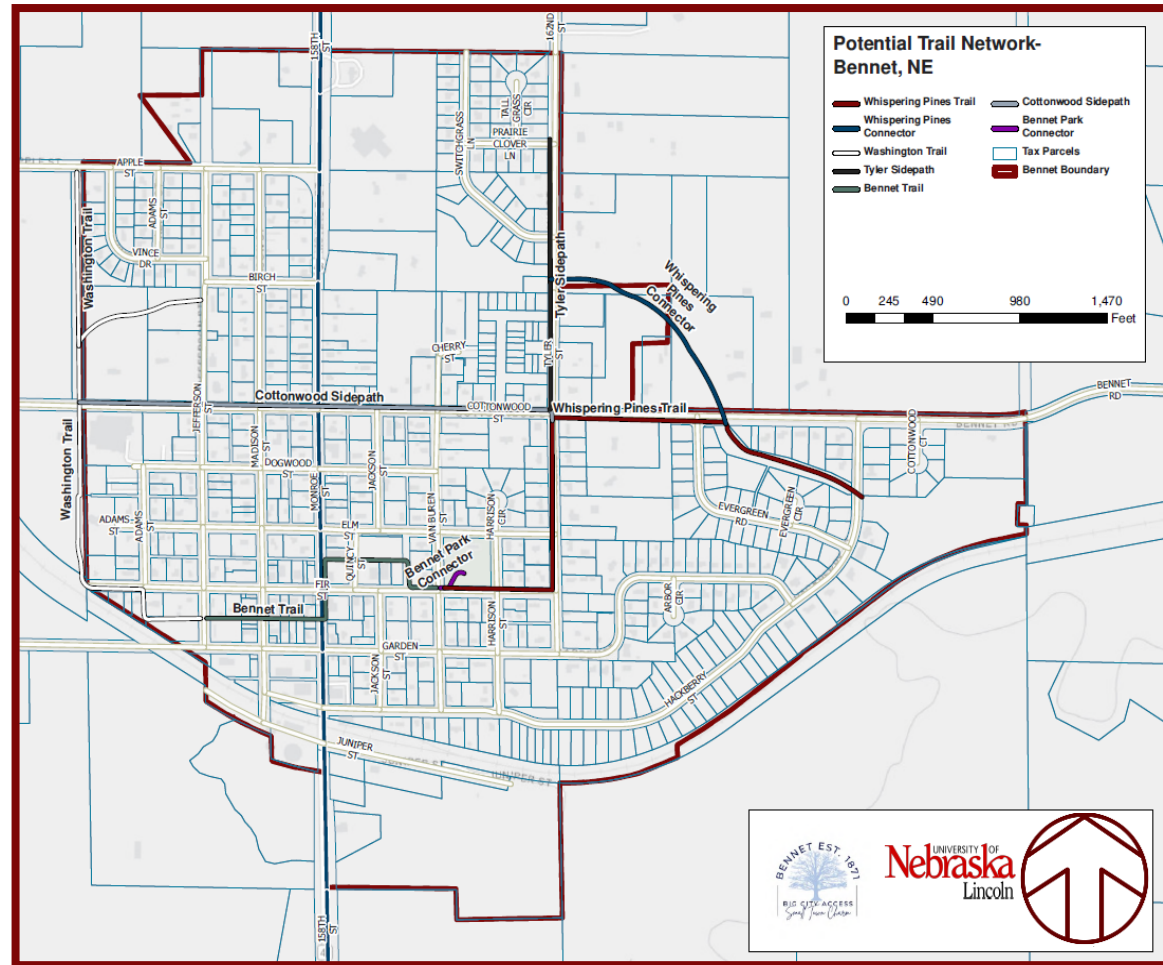
Recommendation 1.2: Improve the Built Environment Connectivity

Potential Trail Network

Trails have an important link to quality of life. The presence of trails in a community can provide improvements in mental, physical, and the social health of residents. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has identified that a goal for recreation should be to connect existing amenities with trails. Trails are an attractive amenity for visitors and residents alike, and can help create a marketable asset for the City of Bennet.

Citizens of Bennet have indicated that trails are an important connecting feature for the city. According to J.J. Yost, of the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department, “At least recently, construction costs to purchasing the land, to pour the concrete, we see that as just a little over \$300,000 a mile in total.”

Potential Trail Network: Bennet, NE



Source: Map created by CRPL 990, Matt Bolander

Case Study: Trails in West Point, NE



Source: City of West Point, NE

West Point, NE has a population of around 4,000 residents and has created a system of trails across their community. Partnerships with business and land-owners were made, and there was an exhaustive public engagement campaign. Almost all trails were constructed with private funds donated to the city. Bennet can implement a Bennet Trails Partnership to help raise awareness of the importance of trails and to help oversee their construction and maintenance. The Lower Platte South NRD, Lancaster County, and Lincoln Parks and Recreation should be priority partners.

Recommendation 1.2: Improve the Built Environment Connectivity

Wayfinding and Signage

Wayfinding is defined as the "the process or activity of learning one's position and planning and following a route." Typically, in a city, this means trails will have signs and maps that are marked by color codes known as blazes to indicate route location (i.e., Great Plains Trail Network).

Well-designed and well-built entrances, as well as park signs, can help give visitors and residents a good first impression of Bennet. The City of Bennet logo should be incorporated into sign design.



Source: Wayfinding Example, Parvin-Claus Sign Co

Recommendation 1.3: Improve the Built Environment Infrastructure

Water, Broadband, and Utilities

Utilities were a main concern cited at the community open house. The need for improved broadband internet was expressed, and significantly, water supply and quality was the major concern.

Drinking water in the City of Bennet is provided by Lancaster County Rural Water District No. 1 through their managed wells and pumps. According to Hanna:Keelan Associates, in their 2019 Comprehensive Plan, streams and surface drainage only account “...for a small percentage of the water resources in...” Bennet’s planning jurisdiction and the city relies heavily on Rural Water “...to supply municipal water to the Community”.

Stormwater runoff drains south and southeast of Bennet, into (among other drainageways) the Little Nemaha River. Runoff drains primarily directly off the city’s impervious coverage, but stormwater drains exist in areas of new development.

Though current flood protection is limited, Bennet’s downtown has been designated accordingly and avoids potential floodways. Whispering Pines Park is home to one of Bennet’s creeks, and water swells through open tracts of the park during flood events.



Source: Google Maps, City of Bennet

Recommendation 1.3: Improve the Built Environment Infrastructure

Streetscaping and Traffic

Many community members expressed a desire to create safe crossings across the highway, to encourage school children's safety. This goal could be achieved with improved intersection geometry, traffic calming, signalization, or grade-separated crossings

The community appears to be in agreement about finding ways to minimize Highway 43 as a barrier. Improvements that received positive reactions included signalization at Fir or Garden Streets, reduced crossing widths via pedestrian bump outs, or even a pedestrian overpass, while traffic circles (roundabouts) were expressly rejected. Finding ways to connect the downtown area effectively with the rest of Bennet remains a priority.

In addition to addressing Highway 43, the desire for intersection improvements at Jefferson and Cottonwood Street were expressed; these improvements would create safer access between the school and the potential water tower park (Cottonwood Park). Overall, there is a strong sentiment for the improvement and expansion of sidewalks.



Source: Photos by Kyle McLaughlin

Recommendation 1.3: Improve the Built Environment Infrastructure

Streetscaping and Traffic

The developed streetscaping plan has two primary ambitions: one, to signal a change in spatial organization; and two, to organically slow traffic moving along Nebraska State Highway 43 (Monroe Street.) Increased pedestrian safety and an improvement in subjective walking experiences are anticipated to follow naturally from these ambitions. Special care has been taken to consider the Nebraska Department of Transportation’s recommendations and guidelines for the proper treatment of highways.

The strategic addition of at-grade sidewalks in certain areas of downtown could achieve a number of positive results. At-grade sidewalks remove the need for curb cuts and can allow easy entry for trucks into designated yards, while at the same time, slowing local automobile traffic in the interior downtown circuit.



Source: Early streetscaping concepts, digital sketch, MC Raterman



Source: Early streetscaping concepts, digital sketch, MC Raterman

Recommendation 1.3: Improve the Built Environment Infrastructure - Streetscapes

Streetscaping is the combination of natural elements such as perennials, annuals, trees, and shrubs with hardscape features such as traffic signs, lighting, curb changes, crosswalks, and other amenities such as benches. The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and the Nebraska Forest Service are great resources for developing and designing community green spaces. They have a combined team of professionals who know how to identify the best fit for your maintenance staff and help create spaces fit for your community. The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum offers a variety of guides on their website at plantnebraska.org. Grant programs and other services they provide can also be found there.

Street Trees



Why Plant Trees Along the Street?

Trees provide a multitude of environmental, social and economic benefits that encourage the long term success of a community. Trees are low-cost infrastructure that help create a sense of space and create shelter in neighborhoods and business districts.

Trees improve public safety by contributing to the perception of quality of life and community investment. Many street trees stand between pedestrians and moving traffic, providing real and perceived safety from vehicles.

Trees improve the efficiency and lifespan of built infrastructure by providing shelter from the wind and sun. Shade from street trees can lower heating and cooling costs by 20-50% (USDA Forest Service). The concrete and asphalt on a shaded street has an average life span 60% longer than those left exposed to UV rays (WALC Institute).

Planning for Street Trees

Trees come in all shapes and sizes, fitting the right species with the right planting sight is critical in creating sustainable, functional streetscapes. There are many wonderful tree species that have a place in our towns but not every species will work in every situation. We want trees to reach their mature size to provide the maximum benefits. If a site is too limiting for a large shade tree, then we should consider a medium size tree. Limiting factors such as soil volume, utility lines, lights, building signage, and awnings are important to consider when selecting the right tree.

What is a Street Tree

A street tree is any tree that stands within 15 to 20 feet of the edge of a road or parking lot, the space where public and private use blend. These trees provide many benefits to the street, streetside parking, sidewalk, and improve the aesthetics of the lane. Not all street trees sit in the right-of-way between sidewalk and road.

Source: Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

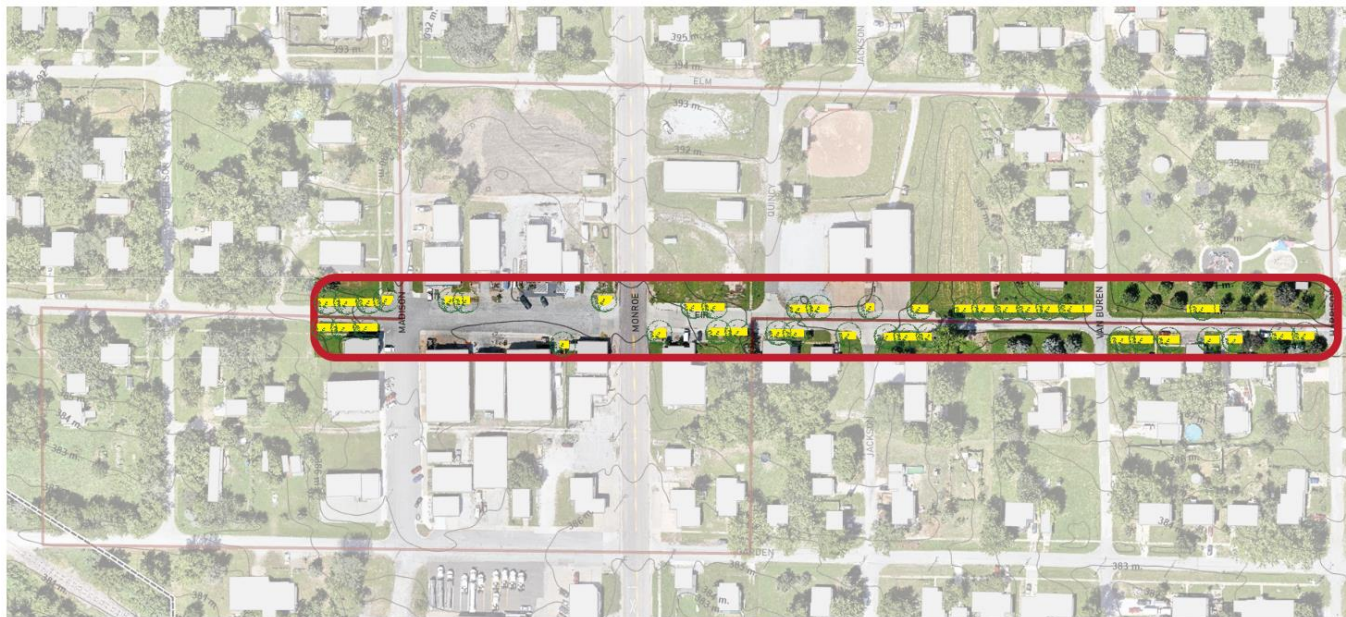
Recommendation 1.3: Improve the Built Environment

Infrastructure - Streetscapes

Looking at Fir Street to the right, the red outlined area is the section of road that connects the park to the Fire Hall to the west end of businesses. Rather than going with the highway, this option crosses over the highway. This allows for more flexibility in what is allowed along the streets.

The yellow highlighted areas identify spaces that could potentially incorporate streetscaping with trees, perennials, lighting, signage, safe walkways, and possibly benches.

Lining a street, across multiple blocks, with similar characteristics creates a visual connection and a sense of unity. It is important to use the same planting style, especially on the intersections between blocks to show the connectivity and continuity in the area. If there is an opportunity to incorporate plantings mid-block, then that would strengthen the visual connectivity.



Recommendation 1.3: Improve the Built Environment

Infrastructure - Streetscapes

Change to the built environment provides the opportunity to incorporate trees into the plan from the beginning. Many times, trees are viewed as the icing on the cake and are thought of last. Trees offer the same value as other infrastructure such as lighting and signage. It is best to work trees into the design during the beginning stages to ensure that trees are given the proper amount of soil volume and are placed appropriately where they will not interfere with the built environment. Selecting the right tree for the location is just as important, and your community forestry team with the Nebraska Forest Service can help.

Streetscaping does not have to be elaborate; many Nebraska Communities have been able to incorporate small-scale projects where tired concrete has been removed creating an opportunity to place some natural green textures to soften the surrounding hardscape. People are more likely to pause and wander under a tree canopy than they are in an open concrete lot. Also, people prefer to park in the shade, or potentially arrive early to sit in the shade for a parade or car show. Even if it is one or two trees per block, a few trees are better than none; however, more tree canopy coverage is preferred. Green, vibrant life also reflects a town's vitality. One of the first things noticed as one enters a community is if there are many dead trees and a thinning canopy, indicating the infrastructure is not well cared for, versus a robust green canopy indicating people care about the environment around them and invest in their community.

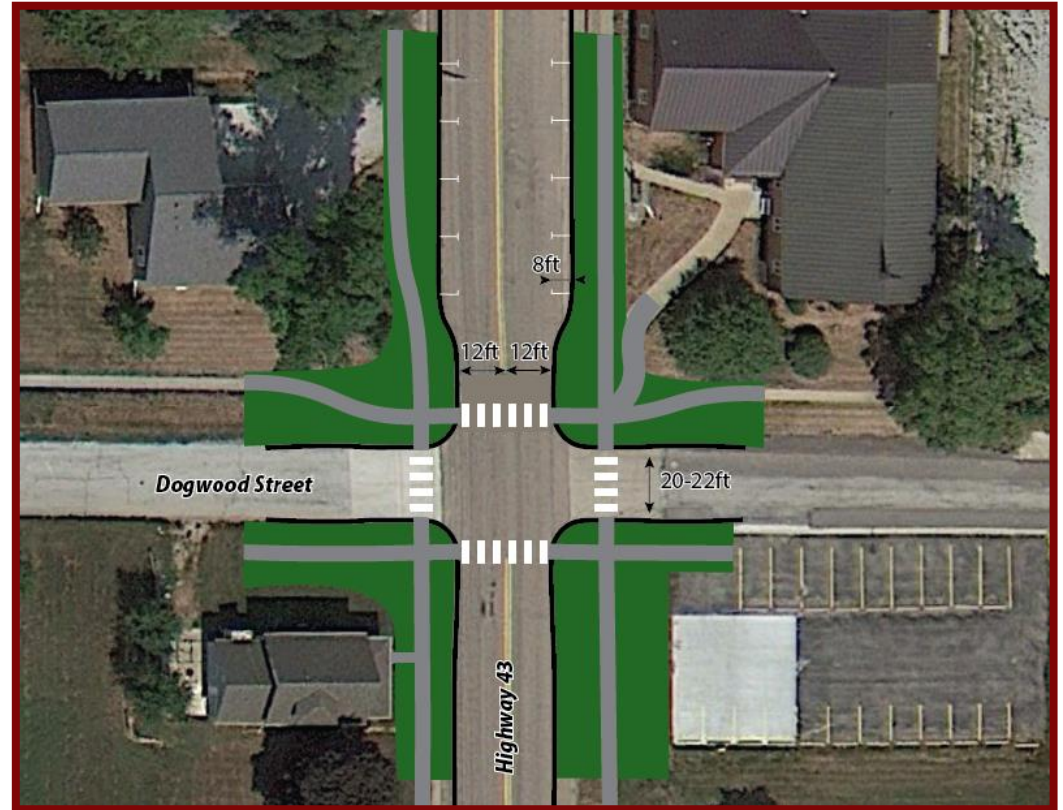


Source: Scottsbluff NE, digital photographs, Chrissy Land

Recommendation 1.3: Improve the Built Environment Infrastructure - Streetscapes

Many intersections around the city could benefit from crosswalk improvements. In particular, many intersections along Highway 43 can be considered top candidates for redesign and reconstruction to link downtown on the east and west sides of Highway 43. Currently, no parking is allowed south of Dogwood Street, and there is limited streetscaping, both of which encourage faster speeds. The concept image suggests curb bump outs with marked parking stalls and designated crosswalk stripes. The bump outs also reduce the road width of the intersection. These design changes would reduce crossing length for pedestrians, slow down traffic, improve pedestrian visibility, and increase the usability of the downtown space.

Recommended Intersection Improvements at Highway 43 And Dogwood Street



Source: Computer-generated image by Kyle McLaughlin

Case Study: Scottsbluff, NE Downtown Streetscaping



The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum’s work in Scottsbluff, NE serves as a good example of what is possible for the City of Bennet.

The top option shows downtown Scottsbluff, NE where larger bump outs were installed at the end of the parking lanes. These bump outs have enough room to support large shade trees at their mature height and width. The bottom image displays ways to incorporate individual tree planters, typically a space with a minimum 8’ width X 8’ length to support large trees. Concrete can be removed and dead soil can be replaced with living soil, to support trees in their long-term mature stages. Trees should reach their full potential when they are providing the most area of shade. If the trees do not have enough room to begin with, they are unlikely to last after 30-40 years, when their growth begins to conflict with the hardscape around them.

Recommendation 1.3: Improve the Built Environment

Infrastructure - Streetscapes

Incorporating planters at the corners of intersections has proved to be a successful approach in Scottsbluff, Valentine and Chappell, NE. The above and below images demonstrate plantings incorporated as elements of the pedestrian right-of-way. Using low-input native perennial plants and grasses can break up the monotony of the concrete curb lines and can also invite pedestrians to occupy the sidewalk for pleasure. The bottom image performed particularly well at the open house event, signaling interest in streetscaping being paired with public amenities such as benches and trash receptacles.

This landscape design can surely bring a cozy and attractive downtown feel to Bennet. The interest shown in beautifying downtown with similar planters in Bennet did receive favor, and if executed properly, would bring great pride to the community. The more people feel proud of their downtown area, the more they will frequent it. Additionally, if Bennet were to incorporate unique plants, it would attract out of town enthusiasts.

Overall, it is important to create environments that encourage people to pause and wander. With a natural feel, buffers and resting places can draw people into the downtown area and encourage them to stay long enough to look at the surrounding businesses and become more familiar with available services. Keeping a cohesive appearance from one intersection to the next clearly communicates the connectivity of spaces throughout the downtown area.



Source: Scottsbluff NE, digital photographs, Chrissy Land

Recommendation 1.3: Improve the Built Environment

Infrastructure: Street Lighting

The concept of adding lighting to Bennet’s downtown—including pedestrian-focused lighting—performed well in the open house.

Lighting is essential for extending the vibrancy of a public space into the early mornings and evenings, especially in winter months. Not only does lighting make a place feel safer and more welcoming, lighting also contributes greatly to the navigability and mood (perhaps best described as the ‘wayfinding’) of a public space.

Lighting design concepts are aimed at retaining the industrial feel of downtown, resembling classic interior lighting fixtures of factories. These concepts were all designed with the intent of minimizing light pollution. Though the hooded design of these fixtures will produce some glare, they will also hopefully create an attractive pool of light below them; the light-bulbs themselves should be warm-toned and dimmer than other traditional street fixtures.

The authors recommend styling these fixtures as sconces or pendants as well.



Source: Potential streetlamps, computer-assisted concept art, MC Raterman

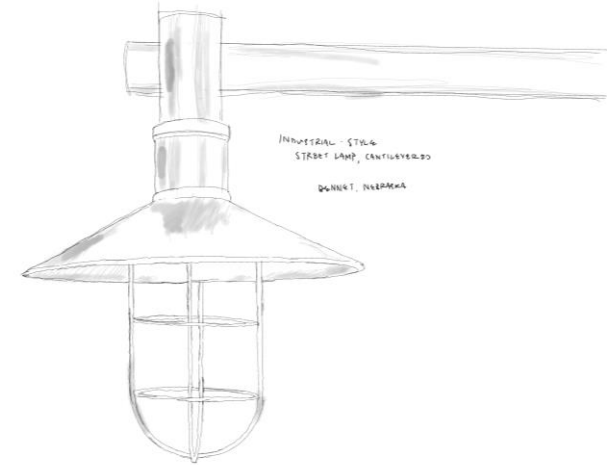


Source: Potential streetlamp look, digital photograph

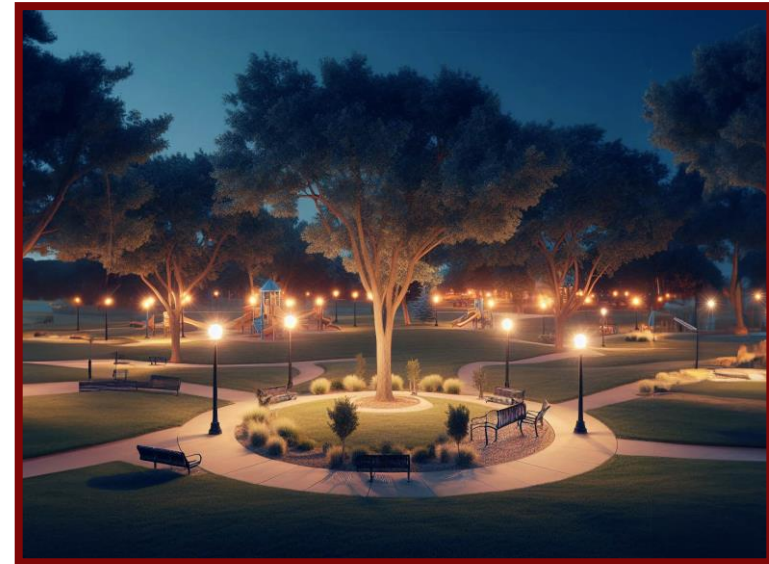
Recommendation 1.3: Improve the Built Environment Infrastructure: Park Lighting

The authors of the document suggest that creating park spaces that are vital day and night will contribute to a lively downtown in Bennet; ensuring that Bennet’s public spaces are welcoming around the clock creates an atmosphere of safety and community participation. Establishing this atmosphere in Bennet’s public spaces supports a positive experience for residents and visitors alike.

Numerous works of concept art depicting parks at sunset and night were displayed at the community open house; images were met with a neutral or positive response, and the image displayed on the right performed particularly well. The authors interpret this to mean that communal spaces in Bennet would benefit from plentiful but warm evening lighting; this lighting would be especially welcome if it centered around a nexus with landscaping and public amenities.



Source: Hooded light, digital sketch, MC Raterman



Source: Park lighting, computer-assisted concept art, DALL-E 3 and MC Raterman

Recommendation 2.1: Promote Economic Development

Promote Local Business and Revenue

Assistance from SENDD may be available for taking steps towards establishing a successful chamber of commerce, as well as from the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) for economic development in general. The Nebraska Business Development Center (NBDC) has offices throughout Nebraska, including Lincoln, and offers various services that support businesses and help them grow. The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is one such resource, specifically aimed at starting and growing small businesses in Nebraska. It offers confidential consulting with credentialed business advisers, among other services, at no or low cost.

Ideally, with the arrival of fiber optic internet service in the near future, business growth will be facilitated.



Source: Nebraska Business Development Center

Recommendation 2.1: Promote Economic Development

Promote Local Business and Revenue

Establishing a Chamber of Commerce

Forming a chamber of commerce can be an important first step in increasing the involvement of businesses in the community, as well as community engagement with businesses. At an October 10, 2023, open house event held at the American Legion Hall, stakeholders expressed interest in establishing a chamber of commerce. Chambers of commerce can help create a sense of community among their members, and provide benefits for them, resulting in both business and community improvement. Businesses, organizations, and even individuals can all join a chamber of commerce. It is essential to create a mission statement before even recruiting members, in order to establish clarity in setting goals and how to achieve them. A mission statement explains what the chamber will focus on, who it will serve, and what its goals will be.



Source: Heimwerker Haus Facebook page

Recommendation 2.1: Promote Economic Development

Promote Local Business and Revenue

There are advantages to joining a smaller chamber of commerce, such as affordability; the opportunity to get to know other members better, especially through Ambassador committees who work to make new members feel welcome; convenience; and visibility. In order to be successful, a chamber of commerce must hold events that are beneficial for its members and enable relationship building.

A good example of a business association website in a small town is that of Ogden Legacy, located in Ogden, Iowa.



Source: Top is from MembershipWorks; bottom is from Generations Photography and Specialty Gift Shoppe, Beaver, PA

Case Study: Ogden, IA Business Association

2021 Priorities:

1. Create opportunities for housing along with programs focused on the visual attractiveness of residential areas.
2. Encourage new business, existing business expansion, and the improvement of the downtown area.
3. Increase quality of life through recreational and community activities.
4. Promotion, marketing, planning, and development of our committees and programs.

What we've done:

- Since 2010, we granted \$25,725 toward revitalization of downtown buildings through the Store Front Fix Up Grant.
- Since 2010, we granted \$80,924 to help families with home improvements through the Annual Housing Fix Up Grant offered to homeowners.
- Raised funds to build a clinic in downtown Ogden that is now owned by Boone County Family Medicine.
- Created a revolving loan with Ogden Municipal Utilities to help fund those wanting to begin business and create jobs in Ogden
- Purchased new "Ogden" signs, welcoming those driving into town

Committees:

- Signage Committee
 - Contact: Lori Anderson (andy5@netins.net)
- Housing Committee
 - Contact: Matt Van Sickle (mattyjvs@yahoo.com)
- Promotions and Marketing Committee
 - Contact: Mary Bergstrom (BergstromMaryA@johndeere.com)

Ogden Legacy

Vision: "Promoting economic, industrial, professional, and community welfare for Ogden."

Mission: "Ogden will be a destination to live, work, and play, resulting in population growth, balanced economic growth, and increased quality of life for its residents."

How to get involved:

If you would like to get involved with Ogden Legacy and/or any of its committees, please contact Craig Christensen (craiger@netins.net).

Follow Ogden Legacy on Facebook!

Business Assistance/Storefront Grant

The purpose of the Ogden Legacy Business Assistance/Storefront Grant program is to improve/expand existing businesses, attract new businesses, increase building values, and improve the general appearance of the downtown district.

Eligible projects include renovation or construction of an awning or a sign, construction, renovation, or improvement of a building storefront, demolition or cleanup of an existing building in the Ogden Business District.

The Ogden Legacy Business Assistance/Storefront Grant program will pay seventy-five percent (75%) of the total qualifying project costs up to a maximum of \$2,500 per project.

Ogden Legacy Business Assistance Storefront Grant

Recommendation 2.1: Promote Economic Development

Promote Local Business and Revenue

Businesses can be used as activity areas for kids and others who want to learn how to garden, providing an opportunity to learn how to grow food. This would attract folks from the overall region who want a small town feel that is close by. Light shows can be projected onto buildings and houses during the holiday season. This would attract tourism from residents, locals, and regional towns. Advertising for local events should be sought out. A classic car show would bring revenue and tourism to the city, which could also promote local businesses, generating more revenue while also bringing in out-of-towners.

Welding workshops could be used for school programs, to offer welding classes and training. Local eating or drinking establishments could promote contests and offer prizes. Local farmers could open a more formal storefront, in addition to the existing farmers' market, to serve as a type of grocery store. Tractor pulling events, as well as pin-the-ribbon-on-the-cow type events can promote local businesses. Rodeo events may also involve local farmers and be part of a potential Bennet Agricultural Days event. These local business recommendations can aid in developing the local economy and further improve community offerings.



Source: Top is from the *Columbia Missourian*; bottom is from *USA Today*

Recommendation 2.1: Promote Economic Development

Promote Local Business and Revenue

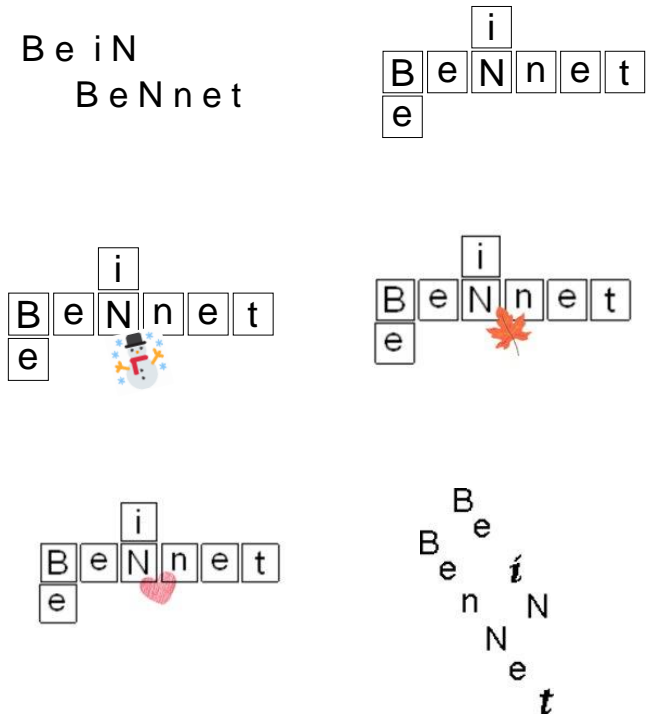
Branding

Businesses/a chamber of commerce could promote “Bennet Bucks” (electronic or paper/reloadable card versions - for example, as stocking stuffer gifts) that could be accepted at all Bennet businesses.

A customizable logo should be created, that can be adjusted seasonally. The ideas here are meant to provide a possible starting point. The goal would be to create an association of this logo with fun events and establish Bennet’s reputation as a destination, especially for residents of nearby towns. The logo could be used in advertising materials, placed on t-shirts, as well as on items used as prizes (e.g., scavenger hunts), and on “Bennet Bucks”.

Since many residents expressed an appreciation for Bennet as a good community for raising children, events that are family-oriented would likely be the most successful. This concept could be incorporated in the branding, and help establish Bennet as a fun, family-friendly, small-town destination.

Potential Branding Options:



Recommendation 2.1: Promote Economic Development

Promote Local Business and Revenue

Advertising

Advertising Bennet events in the region can create awareness, increase attendance, and build a local culture.

The annual Apple Jack event in Nebraska City draws many visitors and may provide opportunities to reach people driving from the Lincoln area. Flyers could be distributed at convenience stores, perhaps within a 50-mile radius, as well as at various Apple Jack events and locations hosting events or visitors (e.g., Lied Lodge). The Apple Jack parade may be an opportunity to distribute coupons, “Bennet Bucks” of a small value, or advertising flyers offering “FREE” items or services.

Popular places in the area, such as Glacial Till Vineyard & Winery in Palmyra, The Lewis and Clark Center in Nebraska City, as well as travel stops such as Sapp Bros Travel Center in Percival, Iowa (people may stop there on the way back to Lincoln from Kansas City) could be good advertising targets.

Waverly is a growing community only 20 minutes or so north of Bennet. Although it is close to Lincoln, it is much smaller and likely attracts residents for similar reasons as Bennet. It is fairly close to Ashland but may be a good advertising target since Bennet will offer a different experience than what is found in Ashland. Other towns where advertising may be successful, where residents may value what Bennet residents do, include Adams, Sterling, Firth, Douglas, Palmyra, Unadilla, and Eagle.



Source: Top is from KOLN; bottom is from Glacial Till Vineyard & Winery, Palmyra, NE

Recommendation 2.1: Promote Economic Development

Promote Local Business and Revenue

Welcoming Gateways to Town

Since the majority of survey respondents, as well as some participants at the open house event held on October 10, 2023, indicated that they do not find the entrances to town in Bennet attractive, or that they would like to enhance gateways to town, this identifies an opportunity to improve the experience of visitors. Welcome signs should incorporate the town motto and/or logo, and ideally, there could be some landscaping elements and highlight on something unique to the town. This example from Ogden, Iowa shows an inviting welcome sign area, with landscaping and elements of town pride and values.



Display at entrance point to Ogden, IA.

From Google Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/7huehWfHY1U65BLH8>

Recommendation 2.2: Promote Economic Development

Expand Services Offered

Although Bennet offers ample park space, there may be an opportunity to provide indoor play space for children year-round. An example of an innovative business is Chirpy's Play Café in Papillion, Nebraska. This space provides opportunities for children to engage in creative play and socialize, while parents eat, drink coffee, work or meet up with friends.

Another option for this business model could be to offer cooking classes for adults during children's play sessions. Families with young children are often busy and may struggle with healthy meal preparation. There may be opportunities to provide classes similar to Hy-Vee's "Freezer Meal" classes, where participants prepare five nutritious meals for four, to bring home and freeze for future use. If a small grocery store were to open in Bennet, as residents have expressed interest in having, such cooking classes may become popular and even attract visitors from neighboring communities.

As expressed by stakeholders during the community open house event on October 10, 2023, there is a need in Bennet for daycare services. Such a service may also benefit those commuting through Bennet on their way to work and may spur other businesses, as people who previously drove through town would now have more of a reason to stop.

Indoor Play Space Example



Source: Top is from International Kids Concepts; bottom is from Churchill Manor, Napa, CA

Recommendation 2.2: Promote Economic Development

Expand Services Offered

The proposed downtown area holds immense potential to boost economic development by offering critical community services. Strategically placed, a restaurant and bookstore would become cultural hubs.

An art gallery/workshop would add a creative dimension, attracting both locals and visitors. Such an artistic space could serve multiple functions in the community, in addition to stimulating business growth. Art classes could be offered for both adults and children, special guest speaker or artist visits can be scheduled, and the facility can serve as a venue for events and gatherings.

A coffee shop and bakery, with versatile spaces, could also serve as a community meeting point.



Recommendation 2.2: Promote Economic Development

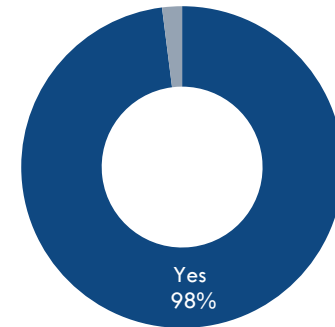
Expand Services Offered

Daycare is a critical service that Bennet residents have brought up in community surveys. Providing daycare services in the downtown area can be a potential solution to address the community's need, while contributing to economic development.

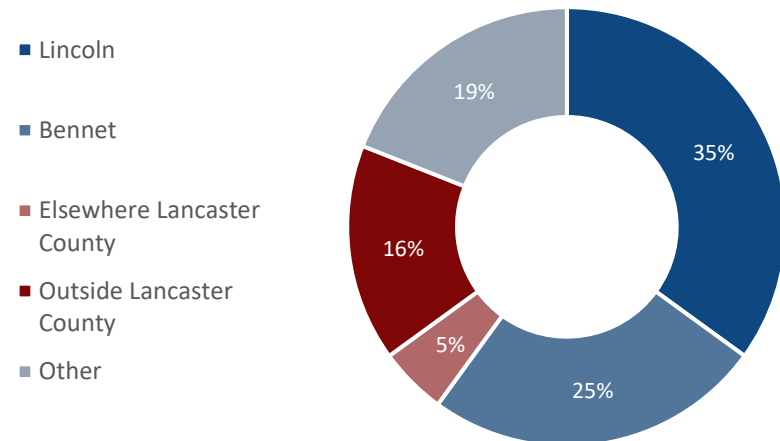
Results from the 2023 Bennet regional childcare survey:

- 137 people responded to the survey
- 84% said there are not enough high-quality childcare options within a 30-mile radius of Bennet, not including Lincoln
- 98% responded it is difficult to find a program locally
- 86% responded it is very important to have enough high-quality, accessible childcare options, for the overall growth and development of the region
- 84% responded yes to supporting an early childhood center-based program being developed in the region
- 77% have children aged birth through 12 years, or plan to have children in the next five years
- 25% currently use childcare services in Bennet, 35% currently use childcare services in Lincoln

It is Difficult to Find a Daycare Program Locally



Location of Childcare Services Used



Source: Bennet Regional Childcare Survey in November 2023

Recommendation 2.3: Promote Economic Development

Develop Education & Workforce Programs

Education and workforce development plays a vital role in economic growth. An educated workforce attracts industries, fostering innovation and productivity. Digital access ensures participation in the digital economy, while investing in trades addresses labor market gaps. Internships bridge education and practical application, enhancing employability.

The "Developing Youth Talent Initiative" (DYTI) by the NE Dept. of Economic Development strategically cultivates talent from a young age, ensuring a skilled and competitive workforce for sustained economic growth.

NEBRASKA
DEPT. OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Source: *Herold Times Reporter*, photo by Gary C. Klein

Recommendation 3.1: Facilitate Community Placemaking

Enhance Civic Engagement

Constructing a Community Pavilion

At the community open house, the recommendation of a community center was by far one of the most popular reaction points and was met with an overwhelmingly positive response. The authors, therefore, strongly recommend the establishment of a new and intentional community space for the city of Bennet.

Developing a central community space sits at the intersection of improvements to the built environment and the encouragement of civic engagement. The vision for this space is a public indoor-outdoor zone that can support a variety of activities throughout the year. This zone need not necessarily be (or start out as) a large climate-controlled facility; instead, it could begin as limited but intentional improvements to create a community space.



Sources: Computer-generated concept art, DALL-E 3

Recommendation 3.1: Facilitate Community Placemaking

Enhance Civic Engagement

Constructing a Community Pavilion

- The Designation of Public and Community Space
- Establishing an official and protected designation for the space
- Establishing an attitude of community ownership of the space.
- Establishing visible 'beginnings' and 'ends' to the community space

The Construction of a Physical Environment that Supports Public Gathering

- Creating a navigable space that can hold numerous people at once
- Providing amenities that allow the space to be collectively occupied for a meaningful period of time
- Providing an atmosphere that makes it desirable and pleasant to be in the space

Community Pavilion Example



Sources: City of Lincoln, Parks and Recreation Department

Recommendation 3.1: Facilitate Community Placemaking

Enhance Civic Engagement

Constructing a Community Pavilion

The required elements for a successful community space could be provided by a large and permanent air-conditioned interior space; they could also be provided using a paved plaza and outdoor shelter amenities; they could be provided using temporary construction, community cooperation, and an assemblage of facilities.

So long as the fundamental criteria that allow people to gather comfortably are met, an appropriate space for civic engagement and community activities can be had.

The authors of the document have drafted the following designs as a demonstration of where a community space could be, and what it could include.



Sources: Computer-generated concept art, DALL-E 3

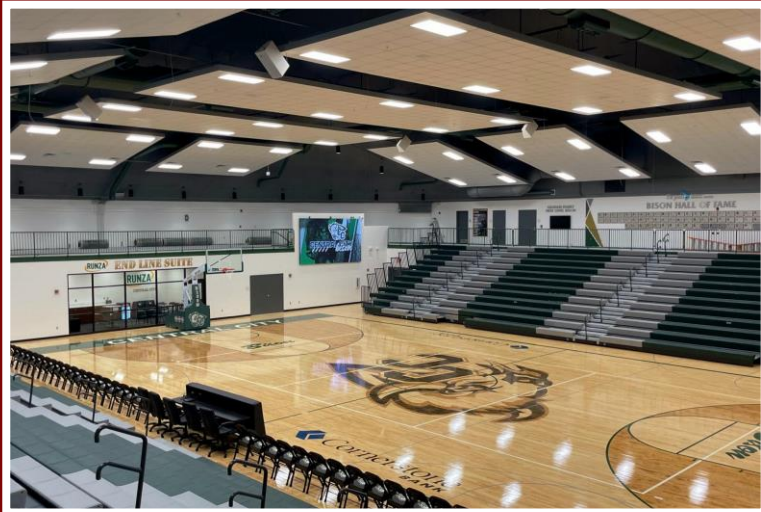
Case Study: Central City, NE Facilitate Community Placemaking



The construction of a new community facility can be expensive for small towns to fund on their own. A case study that could serve as an example for Bennet is the construction of the Monolithic Dome in Central City, NE which now serves as a home for local and district sporting events and can also be used as a storm shelter to protect students and the community during a tornado or other weather event.

Central City, a town of 3,000 people, needed facility updates for its school buildings but was unable to secure support from voters who rejected the large price tag being funded with bonds.

Central City Public Schools district shifted its approach and applied for a FEMA grant to construct a dome structure that would qualify as a FEMA Safe Room (the first of its kind in Nebraska). FEMA awarded \$4 million for the construction of the dome. The district was able to pass a bond for the remaining \$3 million to pay for their portion of the facility's construction, along with another \$700,000 which was raised privately to help with equipment expenses not covered by FEMA.



Source: Main entrance to the Bison Activity Dome in Central City, Nebraska

Recommendation 3.1: Facilitate Community Placemaking

Enhance Civic Engagement

Business to Strengthen Community

Ideally, businesses will have built-in opportunities for strengthening a sense of community. There are already Bennet businesses setting an excellent example in this regard. A potential restaurant and coffee shop, that residents have specifically expressed support for, could also be great contributors to community building. A microbrewery is another possible future business in Bennet that can serve a similar purpose and host events.

Another possibility would be a dance studio. Such a business may be a popular destination for families with young children, and could also provide opportunities for events, and community building through dance recitals, open houses, and free trials.

For example, American Midwest Ballet School organizes an annual Day of Dance celebration that provides free classes to the public. This event not only introduces both children and adults to available classes, but also creates an awareness of cultural offerings and organizations in Council Bluffs. During this free day, participants can win free tickets to a professional ballet performance, as well as sign up for fall classes without paying a registration fee. Support for business events to promote downtown activities was expressed during the open house held on October 10, 2023.

Another new business in Bennet with built-in community building potential is the hair salon, especially with services for all segments of the population, e.g., men's cuts, children's cuts, and senior-friendly services, if not already offered.



Source: Top is from Nebraska Dance; bottom is from Kid's Castle Cuts, Portland, OR

Recommendation 3.2: Facilitate Community Placemaking

Activate Indoor and Outdoor Open Spaces

There may be potential in Bennet for a specialty business such as a pet supply and pet grooming shop. This type of business could also include an area for self-serve dog washing and grooming, and perhaps offer pet boarding at a separate location with more space. In addition, having a dog park in Bennet can create many opportunities for community interaction and even events. The desire for a dog park in Bennet was expressed during the open house held at the American Legion Hall on October 10, 2023.

Businesses that address multiple needs in innovative ways have the potential to enhance community building and placemaking more efficiently, while also positioning Bennet as a regional destination. In addition, community building can occur when residents do not need to leave Bennet in order to access services such as dental offices, physical therapy, or chiropractic care. Such services may even attract clients from outside the community if operation costs are lower, i.e., with proximity to Lincoln, there may be an incentive to convince professionals to move their practice to Bennet.

At the open house event, residents expressed strong support for the promotion of local businesses.



Source: Top is from The Paw Pad Dog Grooming Company; bottom is from Orthopaedic Associates of Central Maryland

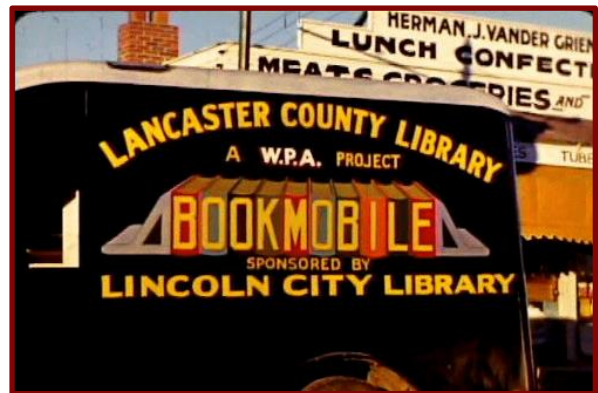
Recommendation 3.2: Facilitate Community Placemaking

Activate Indoor and Outdoor Open Spaces

In the 1940s, the Lincoln City Library's (name at the time) Bookmobile had a different look. A mobile business could be modeled after this vehicle. This design would contribute to the historical character of the downtown area. Some possible ideas for a mobile business using this type of vehicle are:

- Convenience store/lunch items, e.g., sandwiches that people driving through town may appreciate during a quick stop
- Dog grooming that goes to the dog owner's house
- House cleaning
- Car detailing and other automotive services
- Ideally, this type of vehicle could be incorporated into community events, e.g., ice cream truck

An antique type of vehicle could be used for more than one type of business, each having a unique model.



Source: Lincoln City Libraries

Recommendation 3.2: Facilitate Community Placemaking

Activate Indoor and Outdoor
Open Spaces

Parks

Bennet currently has two parks, Bennet Park and Whispering Pines Park with one possible new public park located at the city water tower.

Citizens of Bennet have consistently asked for improvements to parks and recreational spaces in their community. As Bennet grows, exploring the creation of a stand-alone parks department should be considered.



Source: City of Bennet

Recommendation 3.2: Facilitate Community Placemaking

Activate Indoor and Outdoor Open Spaces

Description

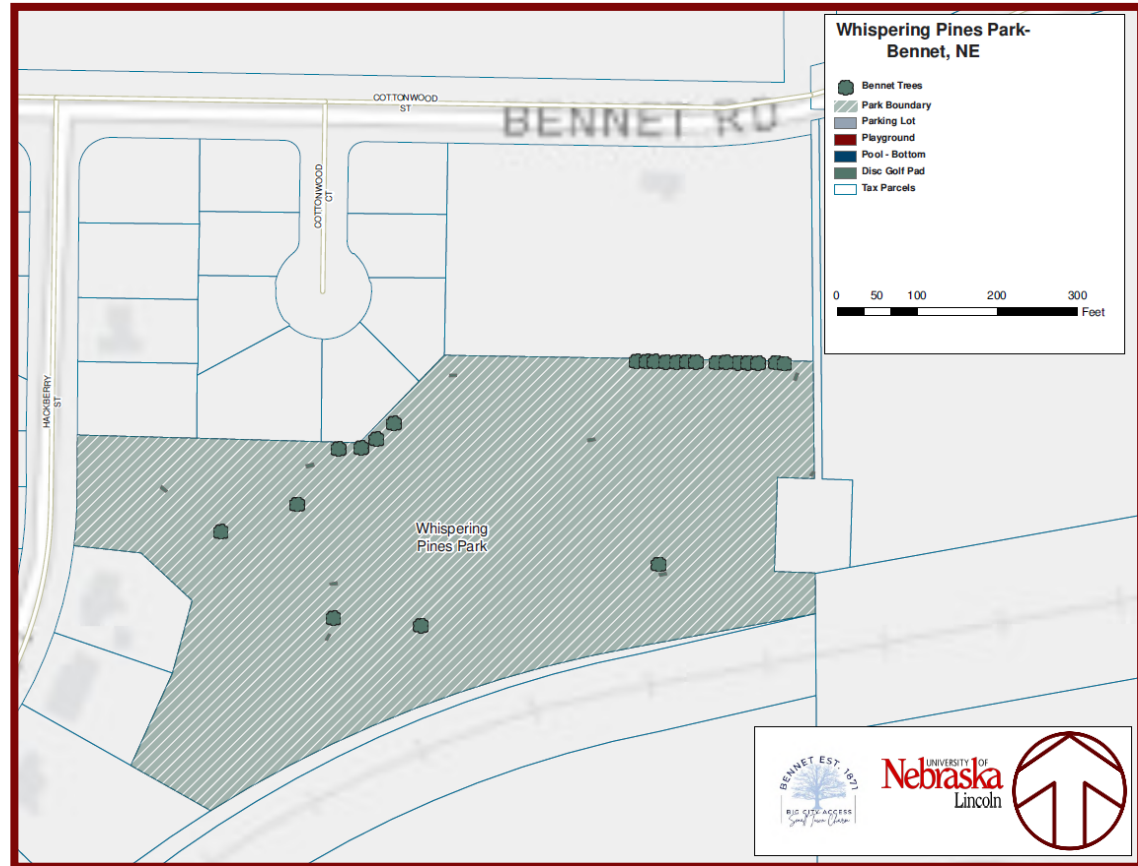
Located on the eastern edge of Bennet this park currently has amenities such as a walking loop and disc golf course.

Action Items

Whispering Pines has the potential to become the hub of trail connections within the city of Bennet. Constructing a trailhead should be considered on the eastern edge of the park.

Future eastern expansion of the park should consider pickleball courts or other trendy sports and recreational opportunities that will attract visitors, per the Bennet Survey results.

Whispering Pines Park



Source: Map created by CRPL 990, Matt Bolander

Recommendation 3.2: Facilitate Community Placemaking

Activate Indoor and Outdoor Open Spaces

Description

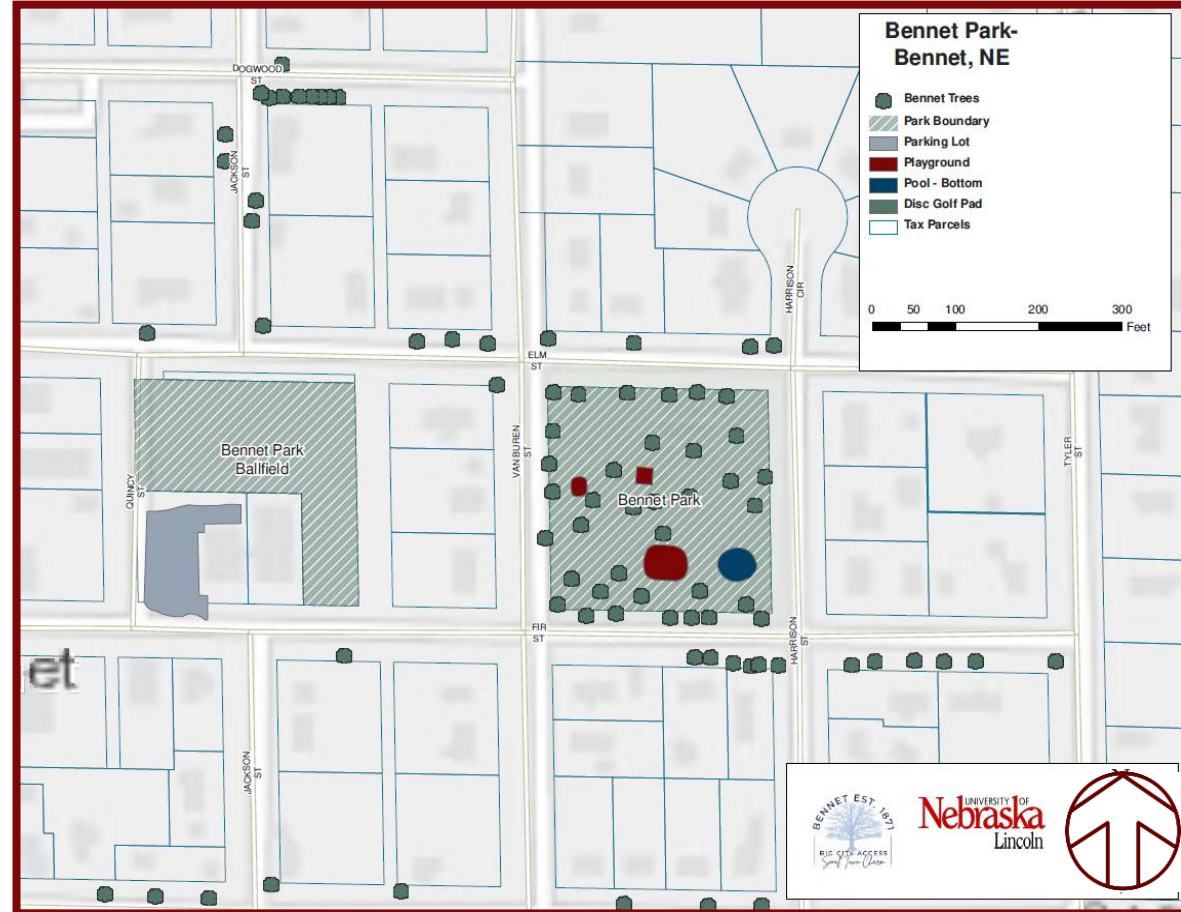
Bennet Park is centrally located and is the oldest park in the city. A historical gazebo, constructed in 1910, is located within the park.

Bennet Park has amenities such as a ballfield, splash pad, and playground, along with a shelter structure that is available for rent.

Action Item

Development should include constructing sidewalks and side path/trail connections to the park from Whispering Pines, and within the park, a new gateway entrance and signage explaining the history of Bennet should be considered, as per the Bennet Survey results.

Bennet Park



Source: Map created by CRPL 990, Matt Bolander

Recommendation 3.2: Facilitate Community Placemaking

Activate Indoor and Outdoor Open Spaces

2018 Nebraska Outdoor Recreation Survey Responses

73.5% of respondents in Bennet's region (which includes Omaha and Lincoln) indicated that trails are important to have in their local parks.

Bennet should seek to capitalize on proximity to Lincoln by installing adventure areas, which 71.3% of Nebraska's college students indicated they want to see in their local parks. Most often these are associated with ziplining, high ropes courses, or mountain biking. This could involve a partnership or collaboration with Lower Platte South NRD, as well as seeking grants at the state or federal levels.



Source: Top, City of Lincoln Antelope Park, Lincoln, NE; bottom Georgetown Parks & Recreation, Georgetown, TX

Recommendation 3.2: Facilitate Community Placemaking

Activate Indoor and Outdoor Open Spaces

Park Trees

Trees should be planted in Bennet's parks to provide shade and help with other environmental factors. The 10-20-30 rule is a forestry practice that indicates that no more than 10% of a single species should be planted, 20% of a genus, and 30% of a family. Maple trees and Ash trees ***should be avoided*** due to the presence of pests currently affecting these trees. Trees are an important mitigation strategy for preventing storm water runoff. They also serve as habitat for many species of animals within Bennet and provide beautification as an attraction for Bennet's parks.



Source: Google Maps

Recommendation 3.3: Facilitate Community Placemaking

Promote Downtown Activities

An important consideration in planning events in Bennet is to avoid competing with larger, more established events in the surrounding area.

Incorporating seasonal themes, and historical events, e.g., July 29 to celebrate the founding of the town, can help establish a cadence that becomes well-known in the area. Seasonal themes can also help with the planning of activities. For example, during a possible winter carnival, there could be a snowman building competition for children, or there could be Valentine's Day type events with a scavenger hunt, with prizes. One scavenger hunt idea could be to find the missing "t" (from the city's name), with cut-outs of the letter "t" being "hidden" at various locations.

The mural downtown would provide a great backdrop for a central location where July 29 festivities could take place. There could be a post-harvest celebration, in keeping with the agricultural nature of the area. Examples of activities and entertainment, such as those included in a family-oriented Cherry Hill, New Jersey harvest festival, include a pumpkin patch, pony rides, a petting zoo, balloon artists, a dance party bubble station, a strolling magician, a juggling stilt walker, and a DJ.



Source: Top The Farmers' Museum, Cooperstown, NY; bottom *The Sun Newspapers*, Haddonfield, NJ

Recommendation 3.3: Facilitate Community Placemaking Promote Downtown Activities

Based on resident comments, there is interest in holiday activities, such as a tree lighting ceremony. This type of event could include a holiday market, carriage rides, live reindeer, fire rings for roasting marshmallows and making s'mores, as well as a location for pictures with Santa. For example, if a pet supply and/or dog grooming and washing business were to open in Bennet, there could be opportunities for pictures of pets with Santa. Winter Wonderland is a successful event held in Papillion every year, on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. A smaller scale adaptation of such an event could be perfect for Bennet and would likely attract visitors from outside of town.

Based on feedback received during an open house event held on October 10, 2023, at the American Legion Hall, residents support community placemaking efforts such as civic engagement and the promotion of downtown activities. Specifically, a former pitch tournament was mentioned, as were music artists and concerts. These types of activities could be incorporated into seasonal events such as a possible July 29 celebration, harvest festival or farmers' markets.

Images of the Winter Wonderland Event in Papillion, NE



Source: Joe Shearer, *Papillion Times*

Recommendation 4.1: Achieve Well-Planned Growth

Integration with Comprehensive Plan

This Downtown Economic Development Plan is being developed in collaboration with the City of Bennet's comprehensive plan update, a process led by MPC Consulting. This synergy ensures seamless alignment and integration of strategic initiatives, allowing for a cohesive and well-coordinated approach to urban development that considers both the specific objectives of the downtown economic plan and the broader vision outlined in the comprehensive plan. Through this concerted effort, stakeholders can harness collective expertise and insights, maximizing the impact of both plans on the overall growth and vitality of the city.

The integration of senior housing development into the Comprehensive Plan underscores a commitment to fostering an age-friendly community in Bennet. By specifically addressing the needs of senior residents, the plan significantly enhances the overall well-being and livability of the town.



Recommendation 4.2: Achieve Well-Planned Growth

City-Wide Design Guidelines

The implementation of city-wide planning guidelines offers the ability to create a cohesive experience throughout the community. Ensuring that the built environment is consistent allows for greater community buy-in, enhancing and strengthening the community's identity.

Additionally, putting guidelines into place can have a positive effect on the likelihood of non-residents visiting the community because of a perceived overall attractiveness.

Finally, guidelines would provide an avenue for the justification of historic preservation efforts both in downtown and greater Bennet, allowing for current residents to be proud of and show off their community's past.

Features to consider within these guidelines may include:

- Benches
- Planters and landscaping
- Building facades and signs



Source: Top is from City of Hickman, Community Center Hickman, NE; bottom is from downtown Ashland, NE

Recommendation 4.3: Achieve Well-Planned Growth Regional Plan Coordination

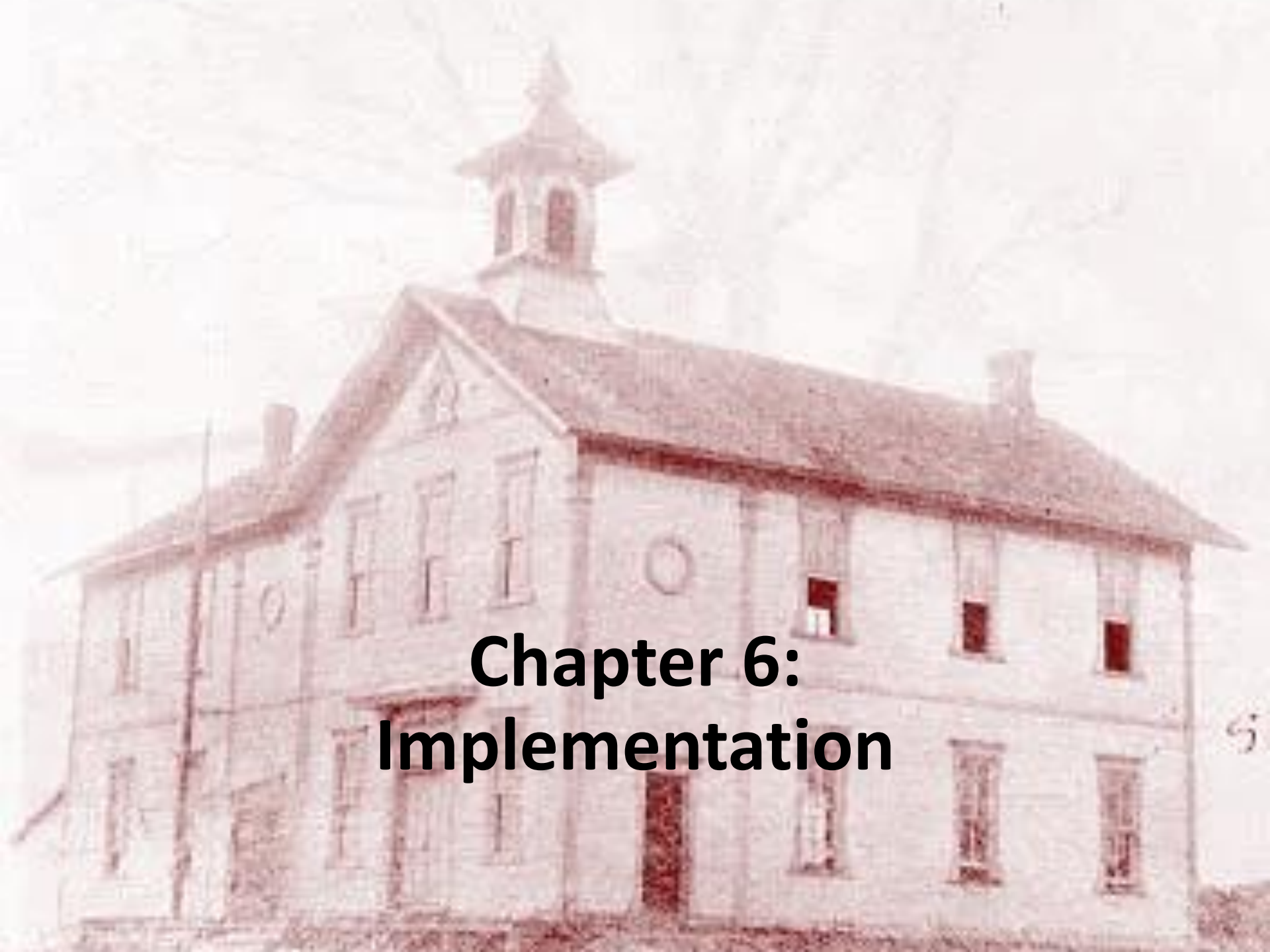
Support for the downtown revitalization plan for Bennet and its economy is derived from valuable information contained within Lancaster County's City/County Comprehensive Plan and the Long-Range Transportation Plan. Key partners collaborating on Bennet's plan include the Southeast Nebraska Economic Development District (SENDDD), the Lower Platte South NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan, Trails Watershed/Stormwater Plan, the Nebraska Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

The coordination with these regional plans holds the promise of potential opportunities for Bennet, encompassing economic development, funding availability, plan implementation, and policy coordination. This collaborative effort aims to leverage synergies between local and regional initiatives to enhance the overall economic landscape and sustainable growth of Bennet.



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH
natural resources district





Chapter 6: Implementation

Implementation

Funding Opportunities

State:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

- Website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/community/cdbg/>
- Administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, CDBG is one of the longest running federal programs aimed at supporting community projects in many areas such as housing and infrastructure development.
- Municipalities must submit applications that fund projects within the administrative boundary of the town. Priority funding is given to projects that meet the national objective, which is to benefit low- and middle-income people. The definition of low and middle-income persons is dependent on current Census data and is defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- CDBG-Downtown Revitalization provides funds for projects within the downtown business district of a community including:
 - Street, sewer, and water systems improvements
 - Historic restoration
 - Removal of architectural barriers
 - Loans to businesses for façade improvements

Implementation

Funding Opportunities

State:

Nebraska Department of Health and Service (DHHS)

- Website: http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages;grants_loans.aspx
- DHHS has many opportunities for loans and grants to help communities create a better quality of life for their residents. Some of these loans and grants provide financial assistance to new or existing childcare providers, student loans to help keep medical students in small communities, and services to low-income and disabled residents.

Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act (LB840)

- Website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/community/lb-840/>
- The Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act (LB840, 1991) authorized incorporated cities and villages — if approved by local voters — to collect and appropriate local tax dollars, including sales and/or property tax, for economic development purposes. Any project or program that provides direct or indirect financial assistance to a qualifying business is an eligible activity for local funds to be collected for the economic development program, or for any payment of related costs and expenses.

Implementation

Funding Opportunities

State:

Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCFF)

- Website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/community/cccff/>
- What the program does: Through the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCFF), the State of Nebraska awards funding to municipalities and tribal governments to support an array of project types that promote economic opportunity and a higher quality of life. Administered by the Department of Economic Development, CCCFF grants are awarded annually to eligible entities on a competitive basis for the planning and construction of civic, community, and recreation centers.
- How the funds can be used: CCCFF Capital Construction grants can be used to build and/or improve community facilities such as libraries, recreation and wellness centers, gathering spaces, convention centers, town squares, and cultural centers. Projects may include the conversion, rehabilitation, or reuse of historic buildings. CCCFF Planning grants can be used for preliminary planning efforts related to the development or rehabilitation of eligible projects.
- CCCFF eligible projects must be open to the public and located within the official boundaries of the applicant community. Successful applications demonstrate substantial community support, as well as a project that enhances local quality of life. Projects are owned by the eligible entity, with some limited provisions for shared ownership by a municipality and eligible political subdivision.
- A CCCFF grant cannot account for more than 50% of a project's total costs. Minimum local cost-share is 1:1.
- Grant period: The CCCFF program operates on an annual cycle. Contract term is for two years.
- Eligible for: Nebraska municipalities, including rural cities and villages, and tribal governments may apply for CCCFF grants.

Implementation

Funding Opportunities

State:

Developing Youth Talent Initiative (DYTI)

- Website:
<https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/business/dyti/>
 - What the program does:
 - The Nebraska Developing Youth Talent Initiative (DYTI) creates collaboration between Nebraska businesses and public schools, connecting young Nebraskans to learning opportunities in the workforce that can play an important role in their decision to build their careers in our state.
 - The intent of DYTI is to support an industry-defined approach to develop a youth talent pipeline for our state's emerging STEM workforce, especially in Manufacturing, IT, Healthcare and Engineering occupations. Grant recipients will partner with schools to engage 7th and 8th-grade students in participation in hands-on career exploration and relevant workplace learning opportunities. Exposing this next generation of leaders to the advanced skills and knowledge required for STEM occupations encourages an expanding workforce to help Grow Nebraska.
- Eligible Projects:
 - Developing new classroom curriculum
 - Purchasing equipment for a classroom or lab
 - Creating virtual engagement opportunities
 - Implementing a mobile trailer
 - Mentoring
 - Planning new events
 - Training teachers and company staff
 - Conducting industry tours
 - Creating a maker space
 - Providing project competitions and awards
 - Bringing in guest speakers

Implementation

Funding Opportunities

Federal:

Rural Community Development Initiative Grants

- Website:

https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fact-sheet/508_RD_FS_RHS_RuralCommunityDevInitiatives.pdf

- What the program does: This program provides funding to help non-profit housing and community development organizations support housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas.
- How the funds can be used: To improve housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas.
- Eligible for: Rural and rural area-Any area other than (i) a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants; and (ii) the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such city or town.
- Amounts:
 - Minimum grant award is \$50,000; maximum grant award is \$500,000. Grant funds are limited and are awarded through a competitive process.

Implementation

Funding Opportunities

Non-profit:

Nebraska Community Development Resources

- Website: <https://cdr-nebraska.org/>
- Community Development Resources (CDR) is a Non-profit 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to provide capital, technical assistance, and training opportunities for small business in the State of Nebraska and lends to start-up and existing businesses that have a viable business plan to create or maintain businesses. CDR is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) certified under the U.S. Treasury Department's Community Development Financial institution Fund, dedicated to, and whose core purpose is, providing financial products and services to people and communities underserved by traditional financial markets.
- Community Development Resources is also a Community Development Corporation (CDC) which furthers its mission by serving as a critical role in addressing issues of poverty and access to credit in economically disadvantaged communities by providing development services or technical assistance along with the loans and investments they make for community and economic projects.
- Programs:
 - SBA 504 Loans
 - SBA Micro Loans
 - Business Consulting
 - Development Resources

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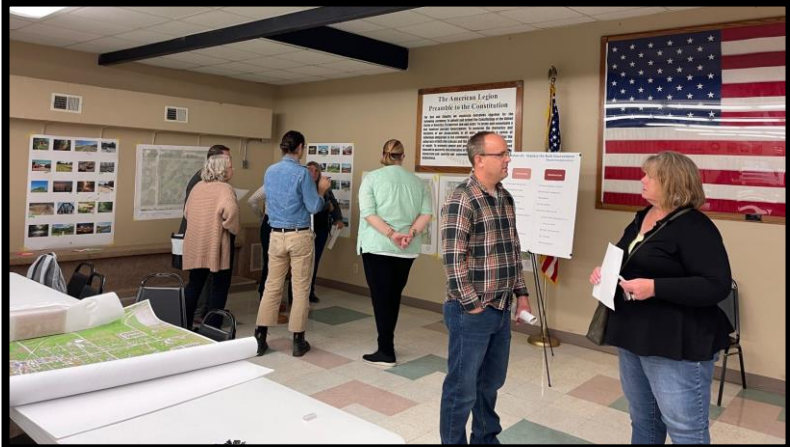
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Glossary of Key Words

- American Community Survey (ACS): an ongoing survey conducted by the United States Census Bureau that provides information every year about the nation and its people.
- Anchor Institutions: local organizations or entities that use their economic abilities to lift up their community.
- Bump outs (also known as curb extensions): added space sometimes at road intersections to narrow roadways, accommodate pedestrian safety, and incorporate more streetscaping.
- Comprehensive Plan: an official document adopted by a municipality that sets forth goals, policies, and guidelines to direct the present and future physical, social, and economic conditions within the municipality's jurisdiction.
- Dwelling (*for housing*): a building or part of a building that contains, living, sleeping, housekeeping accommodations, and sanitary facilities for occupancy by one or more families.
- Economic Development: change in a community that enables greater production, increased employment, and a better distribution of goods and services.
- Right of way: generally, a strip of land reserved for trails, water lines, sanitary sewer, and/or any other public utilities.
- Streetscape: an area that may either be next to or within a public or private street right of way that may contain sidewalks, street furniture, landscaping or trees, and similar features.
- Wayfinding: the process or activity of learning one's position and planning and following a certain route

Appendix A: Open House Responses



Overview of Downtown Bennet Vision, Goals, and Recommendations



Bennet Downtown Establishment Plan Vision, Goals, and Recommendations

VISION: **Protect and build** on our unique, small-town atmosphere through people who respect and care for one another. **Support** well-planned growth and a vibrant business community. **Seek to enhance** quality of life by improving infrastructure and creating a variety of recreational opportunities, while maintaining the natural beauty of our environment. **Promote** quality education and multigenerational family values.

The following goals and actions were crafted to establish a downtown corridor and promote economic development in Bennet. Input provided by community survey participants and stakeholders involved in the planning process helped to craft the goals.

1 Improve the Built Environment

- Beautification ●●●●●●●●●●
- Connectivity ●●●
- Infrastructure ●●●●●●●●●●

2 Community Placemaking

- Civic engagement ●●●
- Activate open spaces ●
- Promote downtown activities ●●●●●

3 Economic Development

- Promote local business ●●●●●●●●●●
- Increase tax revenue ●●●
- Education & workforce development ●●

4 Achieve Well-Planned Growth

- Integrate with Comprehensive plan ●●●
- Adopt city-wide planning standards ●●●●
- Regional Plan Coordination ●



Schematic design Charette #1



PEDAGOGICAL
BRIDGE
DOWNTOWN?



GRASSMA



DO YOU
WANT
TRUCKS
OR
TRUCKS?



PAVING



OPEN &
SUNNY
PATH?



CHATHAM, NEBRASKA

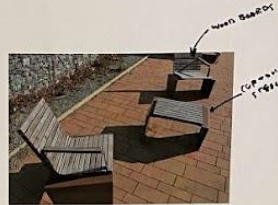


Schematic design Charette #2

How do we
use
wood?



CONCRETE
FRAME
ARCH



CHATT. NE



HICKMAN, NE



WOOD PLANTS
POTENTIAL
BENCH



Schematic design
Charette #3



CHATTAL, NE

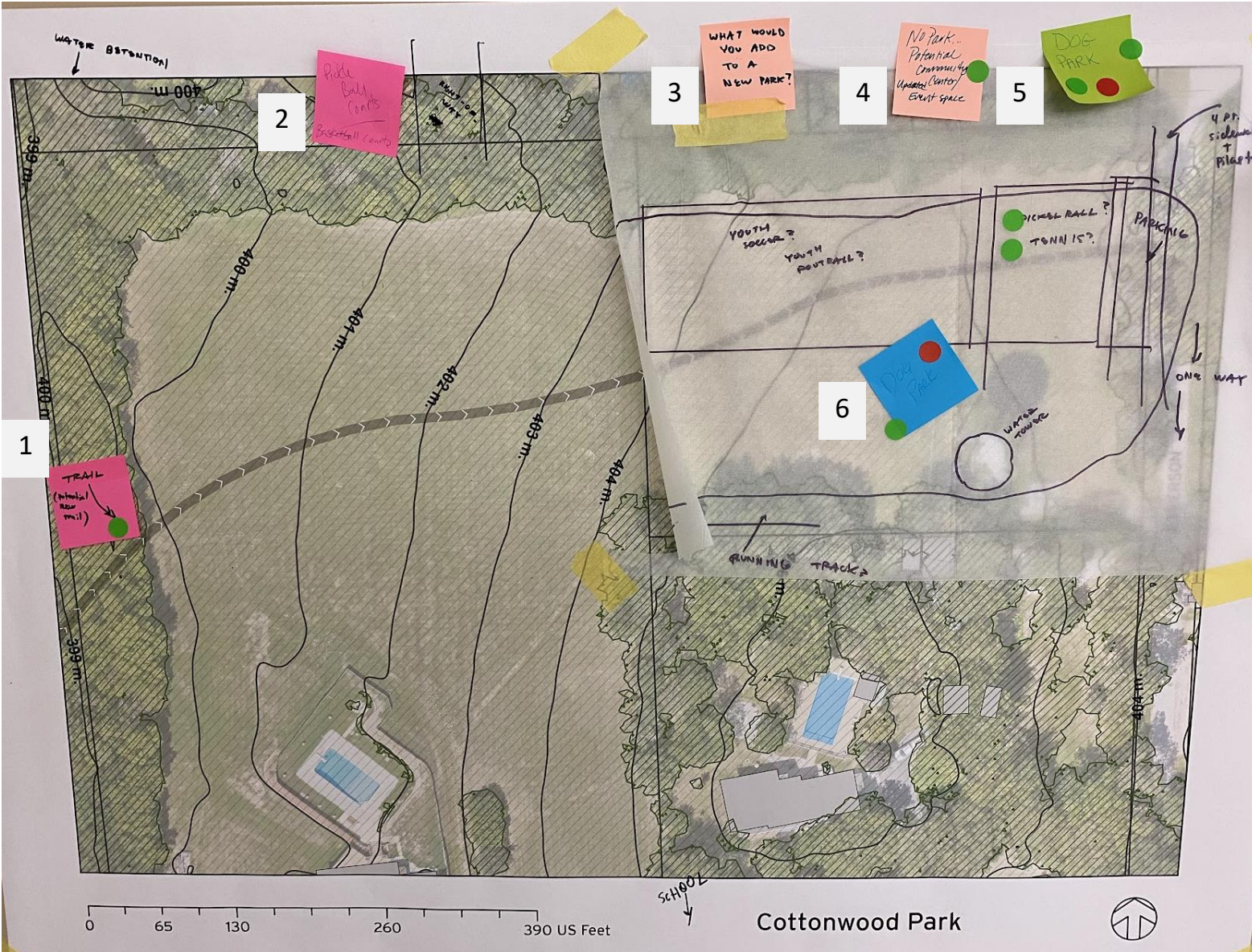


WILLOW, IL



Post-It Notes

1. Trail (potential new trail)
2. Pickleball courts, basketball courts
3. What would you add to a new park?
4. No park...potential community center/updated event space
5. Dog Park
6. Dog park





HACKBERRY

377 m.
376 m.

376 m.

375 m.

375 m.

373 m.

374 m.

372 m.
371 m.

373 m.
373 m.

374 m.

0 100 200 400 600 US Feet

Whispering Pines Park



Recommendation #1: Improve the Built Environment

Recommended Actions



Post-It Notes

1. Downtown cannot have industrial buildings
2. The houses coming into town are some of the worst in town. And that's what people see.
3. Wider roads and sidewalks everywhere
4. Crossing the train tracks needs improvement

Beautification

- Streetscaping
 - Perennials, annuals ●●●
 - Shrubs ●
 - Lighting ●
 - Traffic signs ●
 - Curb changes ●
 - Crosswalks ●●●
 - Increase tree canopy ●
 - Incorporate benches and seating ●

1
Downtown cannot have industrial buildings

2
The houses coming into town are some of the worst in town and that's what people see.

3
Wider roads and sidewalks everywhere

Connectivity

- Trail system through town ●●●●●
- Walkability and safety ●●
- ADA compliant crossings ●
- Wayfinding signage ●
- Entrance to Bennet ●●●
- Downtown/Business District ●●
- Parks ●
- Trails ●●●●●
- Local business amenities ●●

4
Crossing the train tracks needs improvement

Infrastructure

- Wooden Poles on W side of highway - too many houses ●●●●●
- Improve sidewalk conditions ●●●●●
- Stormwater management ●
- Broadband ●●●●●
- Street lighting ●
- Eliminate safety hazards
- Slow traffic along highway into and out of town ●●
- Traffic calming devices ●
- Crosswalks
- Crossing signals ●●

Recommendation #3: Community Placemaking Recommended Actions



Civic Engagement

- Multi-generational amenities ●
- Expanded senior programs ●●
- Volunteer groups ●●
- Community center ●●●●●●●●●●
- Event space ●●●●

Activate Open Spaces

- Improve park amenities ●●●●
- Establish trails connecting parks ●●●●●●●●
- Tree planting ●●●●
- Interpretive signage
- Mobile business visitors ●

Promote Downtown Activities

- Business events ●●●●●●●●
- Car show ●●
- Fall festival ●●●●
- Farmer's market ●●●●●●●●
- Seasonal activities ●●●●●

1
Community events
i.e. music artists, pitch
tournament, concerts, etc.

Post-It Notes:

1. Community events
 - I.e. music artists, pitch tournament, concerts, etc.

Recommendation #4: Achieve Well-Planned Growth

Recommended Actions



City Comprehensive Plan

- Integrate downtown establishment plans into overall comprehensive plan
- Review growth plan and infrastructure needs
- Merge capital improvements projects (roads, sidewalks) with broadband service expansion in right of ways

Adopt and Implement City-Wide Standards

- Building facades
- Sidewalk standards in front of businesses
- Signage and lighting for businesses
- Pedestrian lighting along corridor
- Review peer cities' standards and guidelines

Regional Plan Coordination

- Lancaster County
 - City/County Comp. plan
 - Long-range transportation plan
- Southeast Nebraska Economic Development District (SENDDD)
- Lower Platte South NRD
 - Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - Trails
 - Watershed/Stormwater Plan
- Nebraska Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

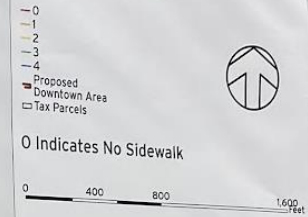
Post-It Notes:

1. Restrict industrial buildings in the downtown area
2. Tie into City of Lincoln, 2nd water source

1
Restrict industrial buildings in the downtown area

2
Tie into City of Lincoln 2nd water source

Walkability-Bennet, NE



1
No side walks - Needed
Pickle ball courts
Basketball court

2

Possible Crossings

3
Align a tree

Highly Visible Crosswalk

Post-It Notes:

1. No sidewalks needed
2. Pickle Ball courts, basket court
3. Adopt a tree

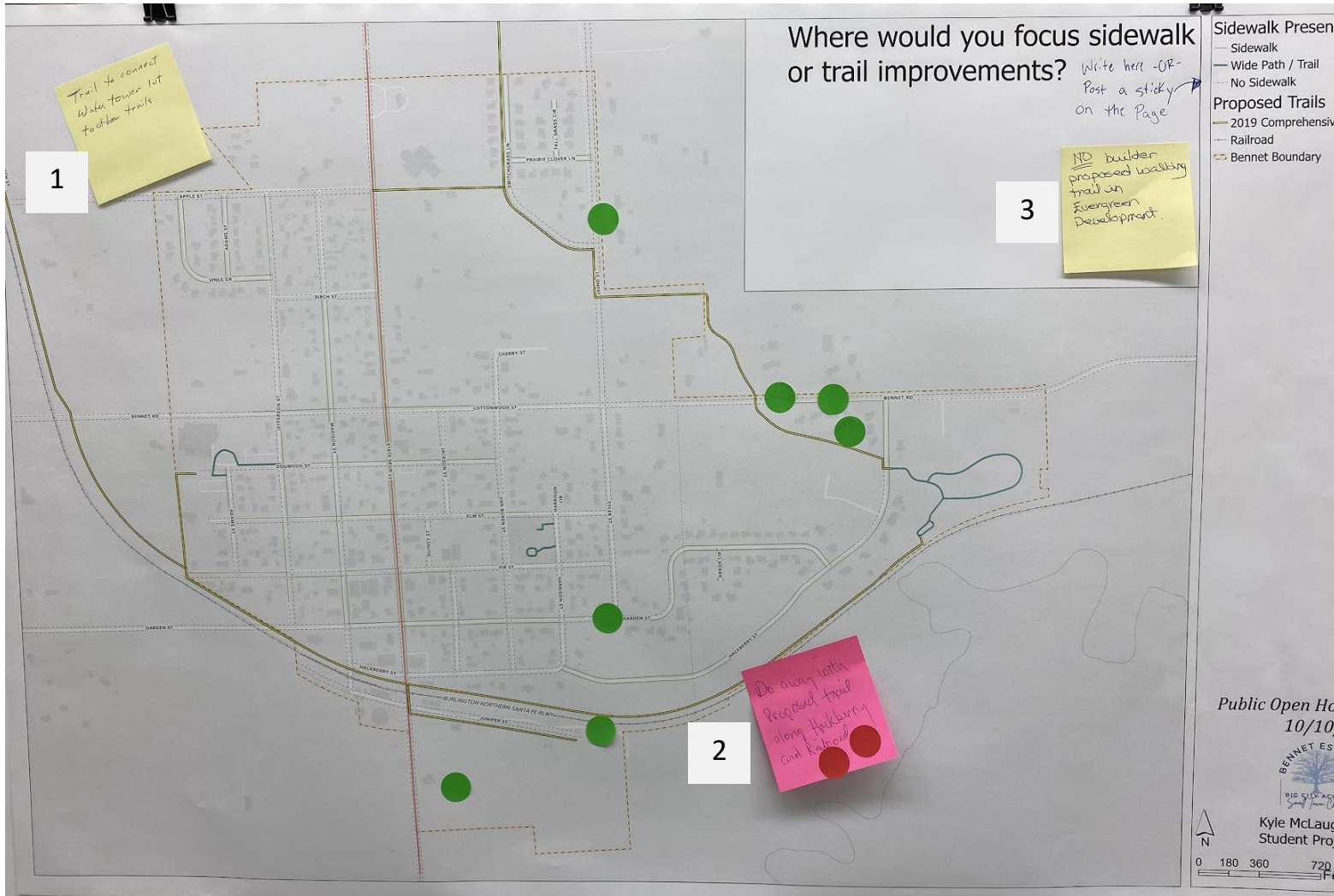
BENNET EST. 1871
BIG CITY ACCESS
Small Town Values

UNIVERSITY of Nebraska
Lincoln

Bennet Open House Comments

Post-It Notes:

1. Trail to connect water tower lot to other trails
2. Do away with proposed trail along Hackberry and railroad
3. NO builder proposed walking trail in Evergreen Development.



Where are your safety concerns?

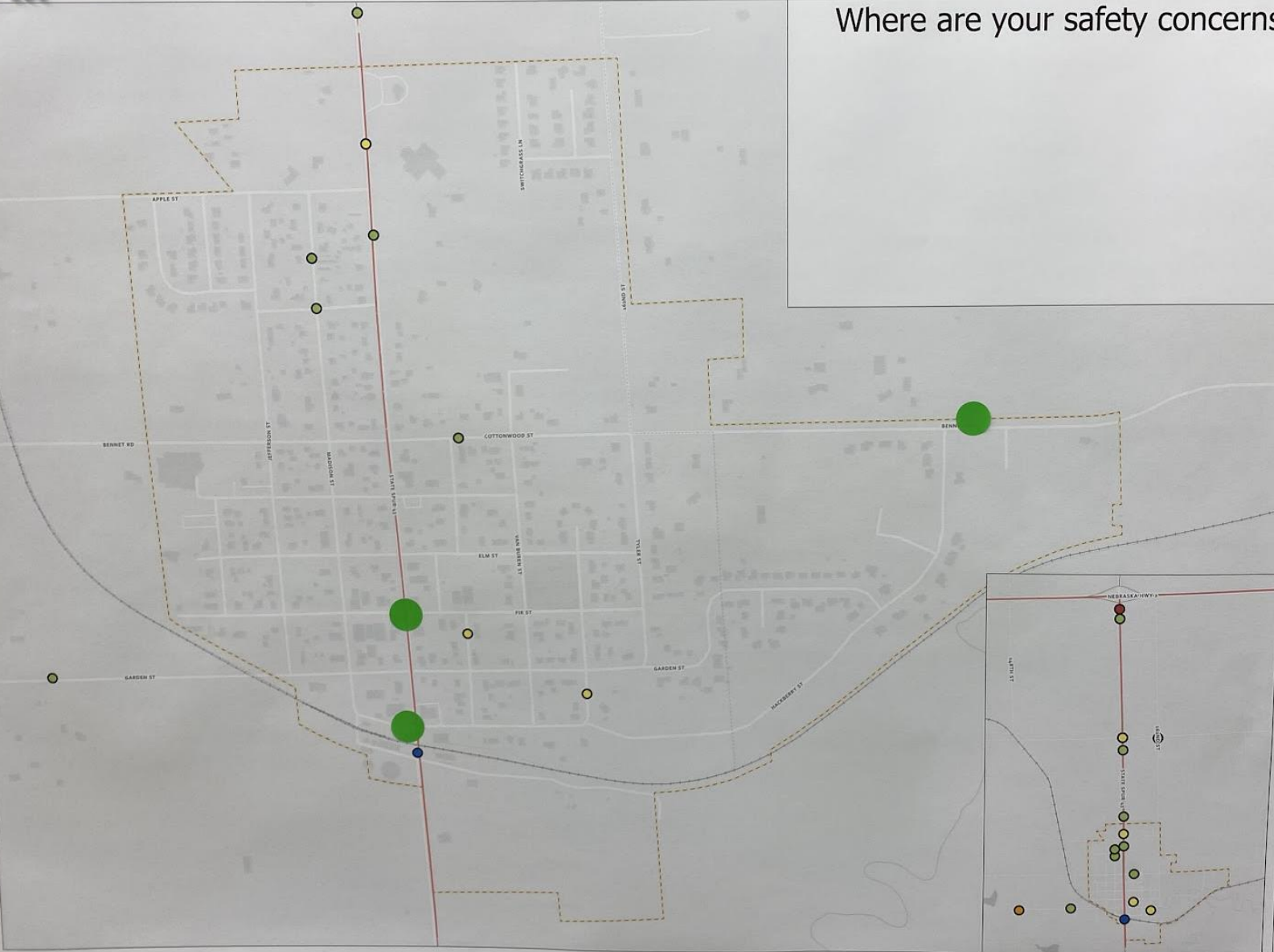
Street Network Functional Class

- Highway
- Local
- Railroad
- Bennet Boundary

Crash History (2016-2020)

Severity

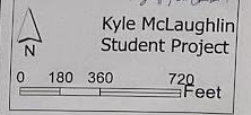
- Non-Reportable
- Property Damage Only
- Possible Injury
- Suspected Serious Injury
- Visible Injury



Public Open House
10/10/23



Kyle McLaughlin
Student Project



POST-IT COMMENTS

SAFETY

1

School Crossing
on highway.



Speeding on
Cottonwood St
(East)

2

3

Need a safe way
to bridge the
Business District/
Flex districts

NO
TRAFFIC
CIRCLES

4



NEEDS

POST-IT COMMENTS



Post-It Notes:

1. School crossing on highway.
2. Speeding on Cottonwood St (East)
3. Need a safe way to bridge the Business Districts/Flex districts
4. NO TRAFFIC CIRCLES

POST-IT COMMENTS



1

NO
ROUND-ABOUTS
TRAFFIC CIRCLES
PLEASE!

Post-It Notes:

1. NO ROUND-ABOUTS
TRAFFIC CIRCLES
PLEASE!

2

Sidewalks at
businesses

2. Sidewalks at
businesses

3. More
sidewalks in
and around
school – safer
walking across
high for kids

3

More sidewalks
in and around
School – safer
walking across
high for kids



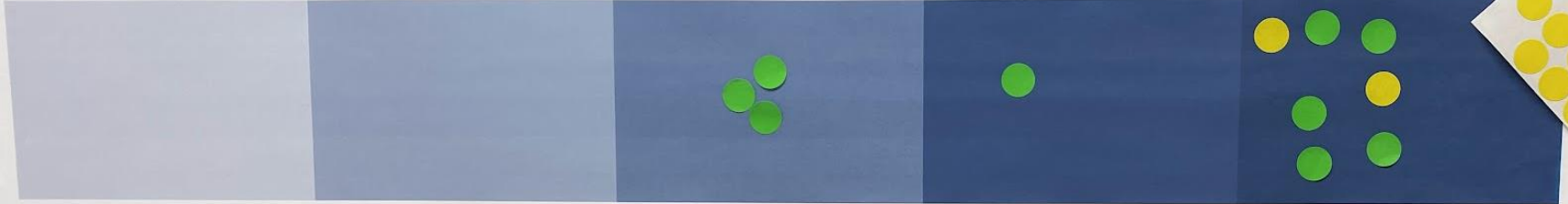
COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

How Well Do These Needs Align with You?



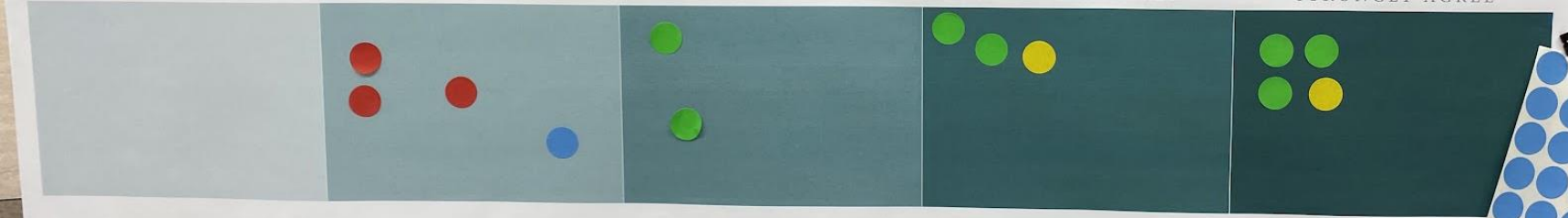
1. Bennet needs to provide sidewalks along both sides of all roadways.

.....STRONGLY DISAGREE.....SOMEWHAT DISAGREE..... NEUTRAL.....SOMEWHAT AGREE.....STRONGLY AGREE.....



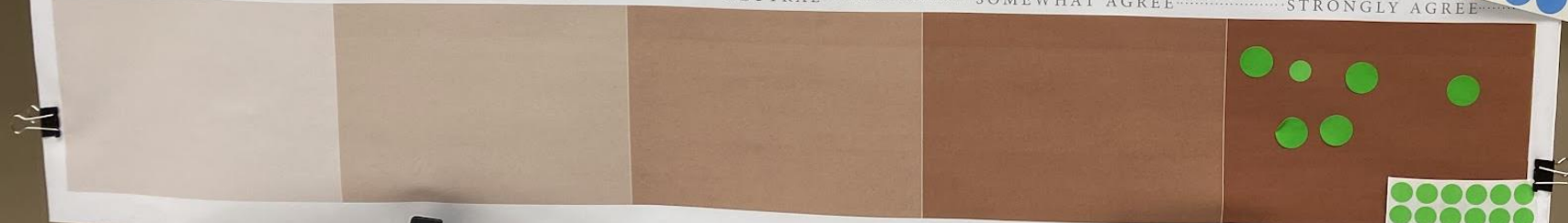
2. Bennet needs to reduce industrial and truck traffic near downtown.

.....STRONGLY DISAGREE.....SOMEWHAT DISAGREE..... NEUTRAL.....SOMEWHAT AGREE.....STRONGLY AGREE.....



3. Bennet transportation investments need to support economic development and growth.

.....STRONGLY DISAGREE.....SOMEWHAT DISAGREE..... NEUTRAL.....SOMEWHAT AGREE.....STRONGLY AGREE.....



What do you love about Bennet?

~~I love the history that I have with Bennet - the memories of going to school here.~~

The quiet, and the sky

The small town vibe & the community members. New & Old.

Comments

- I love the history that I have with Bennet – the memories of going to school here
- The quiet and the sky
- The small town vibe and the community members. New and old.



What are the biggest challenges Bennet has right now?

★
● WATER SUPPLY - ditto ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

● Streets - Cottonwood + Tyler - surface ●

● child care accessibility ●

● Infrastructure! ●

● ADDRESS HWY 43 DIVIDING COMM.

● INDUSTRY IN DWTW. ● ●

Fast!! internet!!

Comments

- WATER SUPPLY - ditto
- Streets - Cottonwood and Tyler - surface
- Child care accessibility
- Infrastructure!
- ADDRESS HWY 43 DIVIDING COMM.
- INDUSTRY IN DWTW.
- Fast!! internet!!



Why do you choose to live or have a business in Bennet?

Small town Atmosphere!

'GROWTH POTENTIAL'

- With internet, we can live and work anywhere.

Comments:

- Small town atmosphere!
- GROWTH POTENTIAL
- With internet, we can live and work anywhere.



What are the biggest opportunities Bennet has for the future?

Promote Growth (well planned) Business Opportunities caring Community
Promote Excellent Education.

Comments:

- Promote Growth (well planned). Business Opportunities, caring community, Promote Excellent Education.



How would you describe the ideal Bennet 20 years from now?

More Business - Rental Apartments - Paved Streets - safe places to walk - water improvements

Businesses, rentals, young families continuing to come live here. Clean community, water.


Quaint, Homey ~ Inviting.

Comments:

- More business – Rental apartments – Paved streets – safe places to walk – water improvements
- Businesses, rentals, young families continuing to come live here. Clean community. Water.
- Quaint, Homey and Inviting.

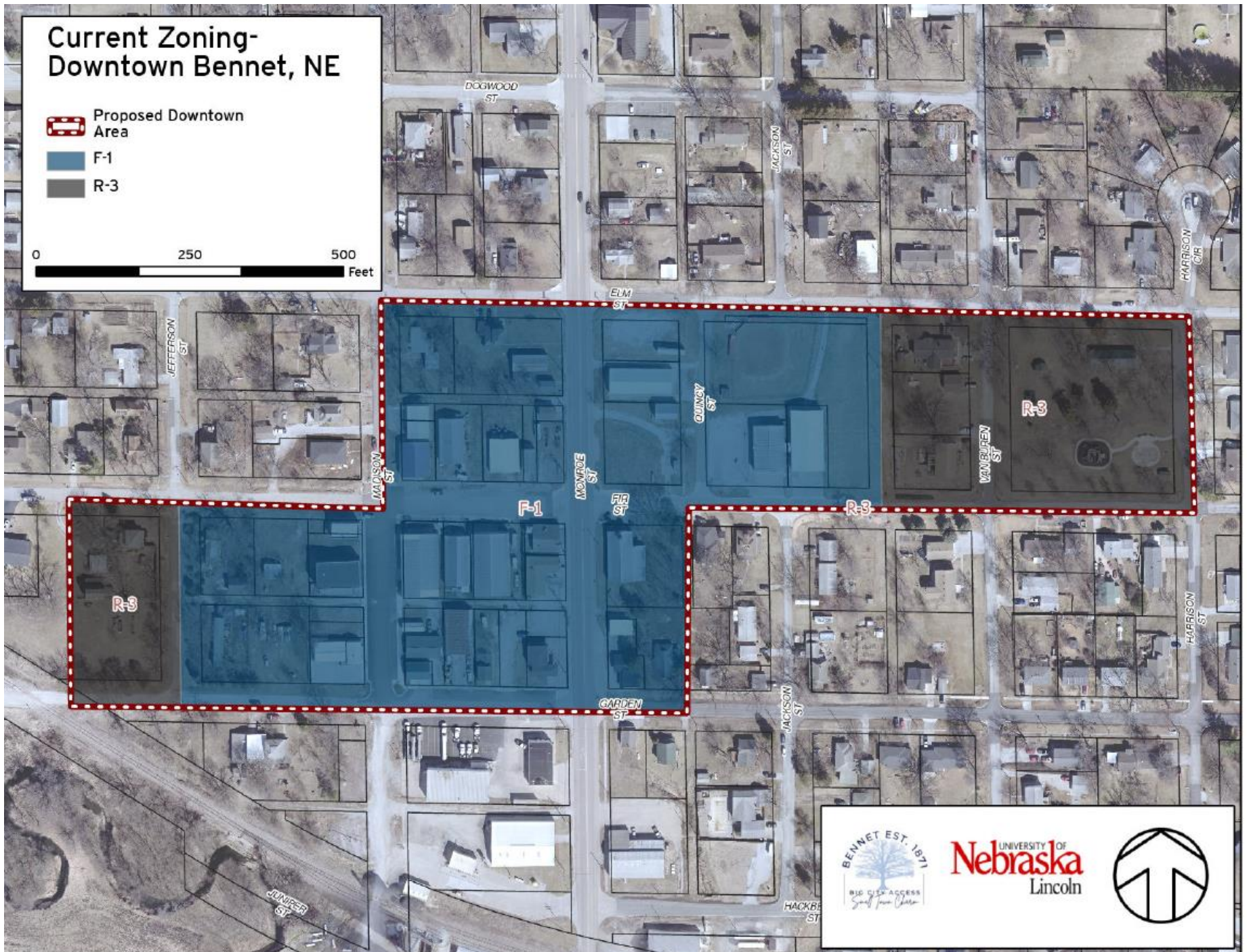

Appendix B: Supplemental Data

Current Zoning Downtown Bennet, NE

 Proposed Downtown Area

 F-1
 R-3

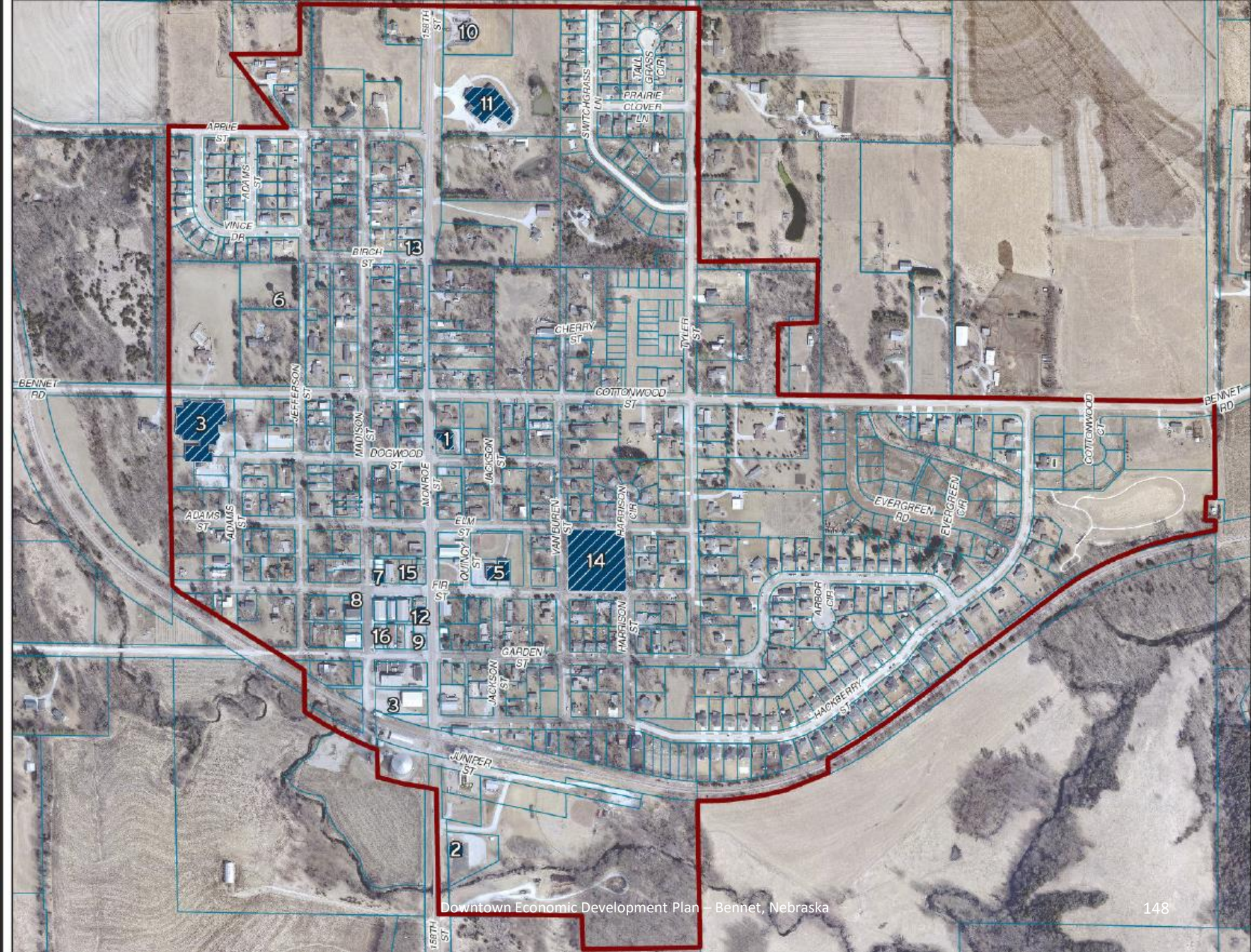
0 250 500 Feet






BENNET EST. 1871
BIG CITY ACCESS
Small Town Charm

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln

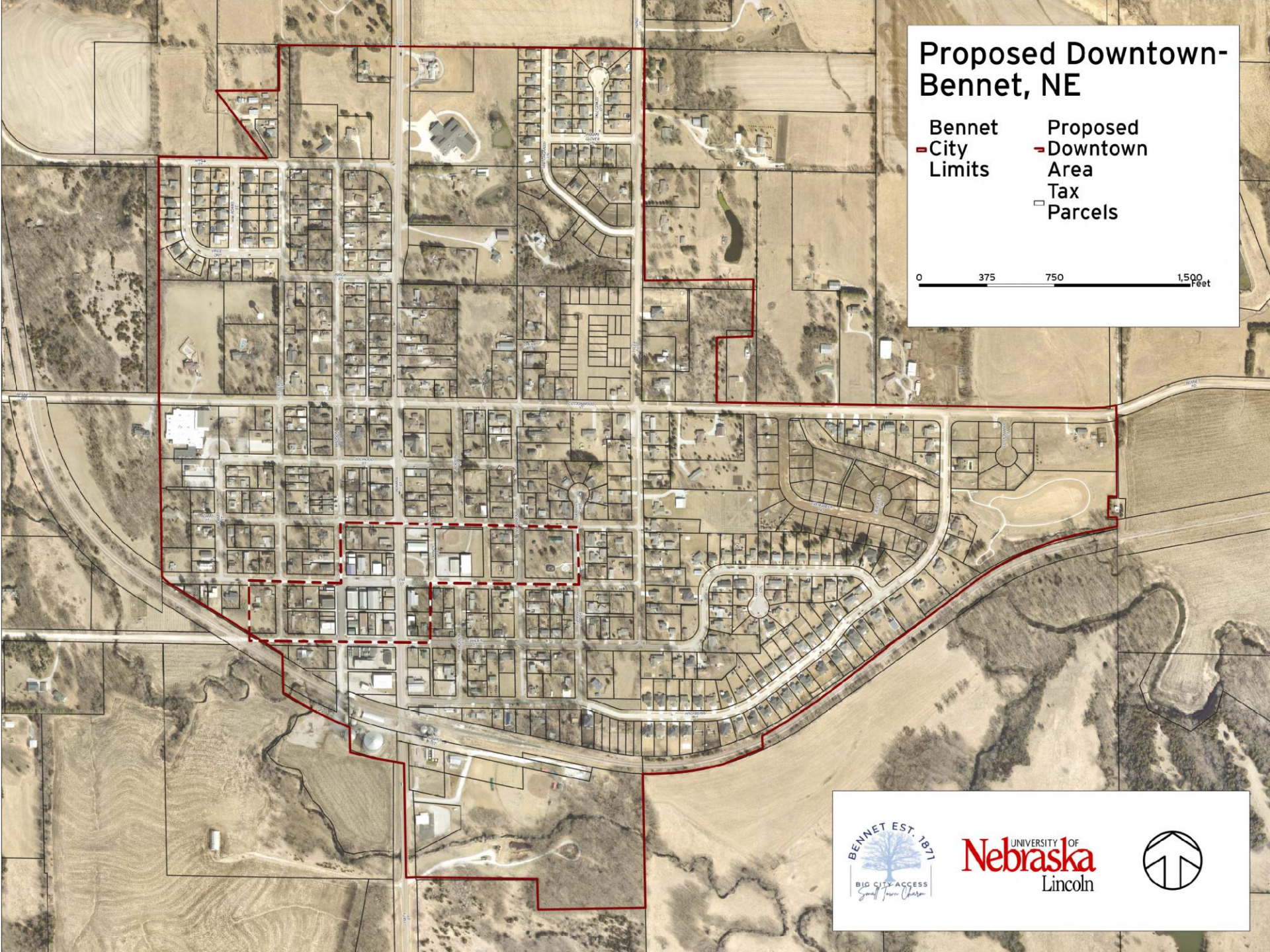




Proposed Downtown-Bennet, NE

-  City Limits
-  Proposed Downtown Area
-  Tax Parcels

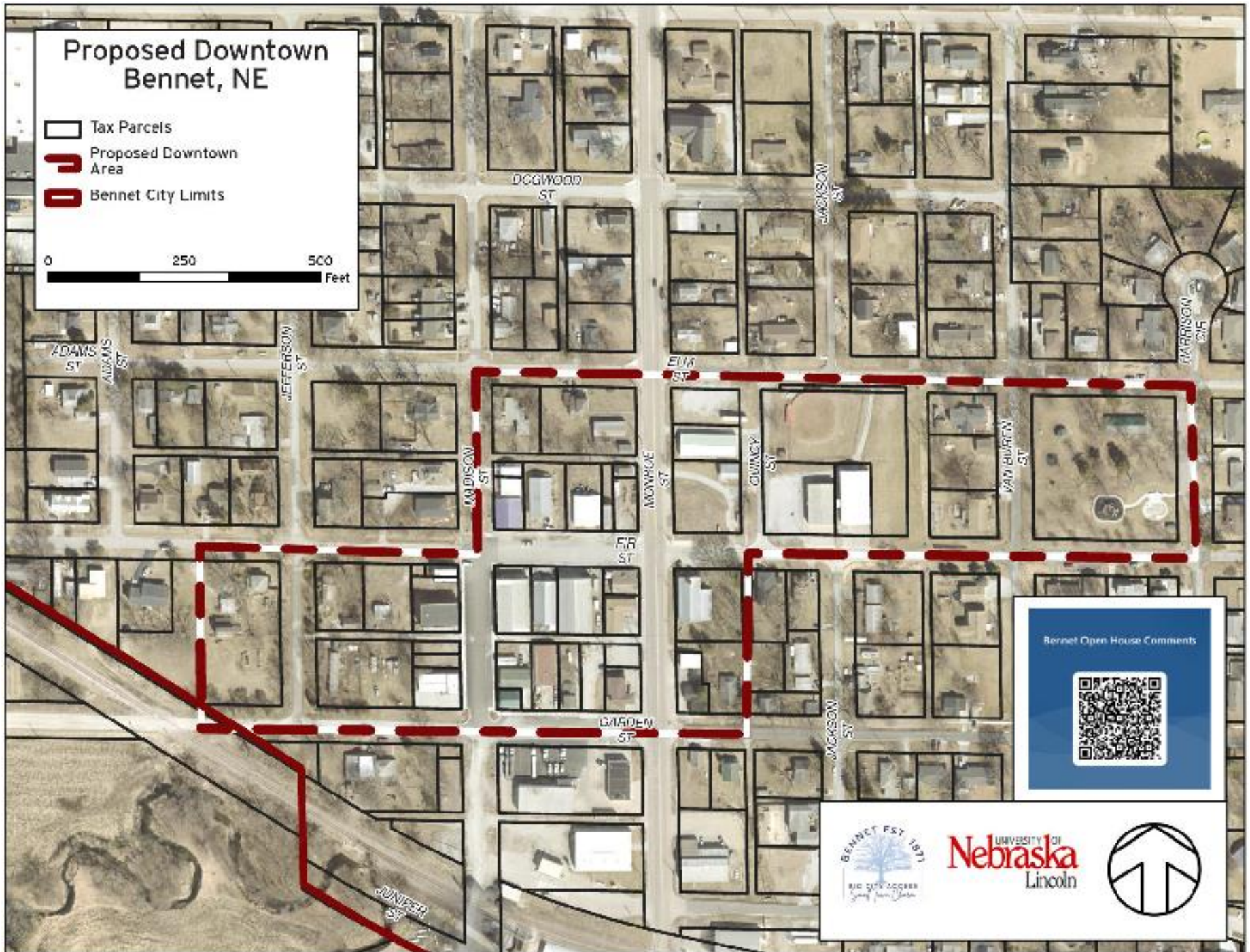
0 375 750 1,500 Feet



Proposed Downtown Bennet, NE

-  Tax Parcels
-  Proposed Downtown Area
-  Bennet City Limits

0 250 500 Feet

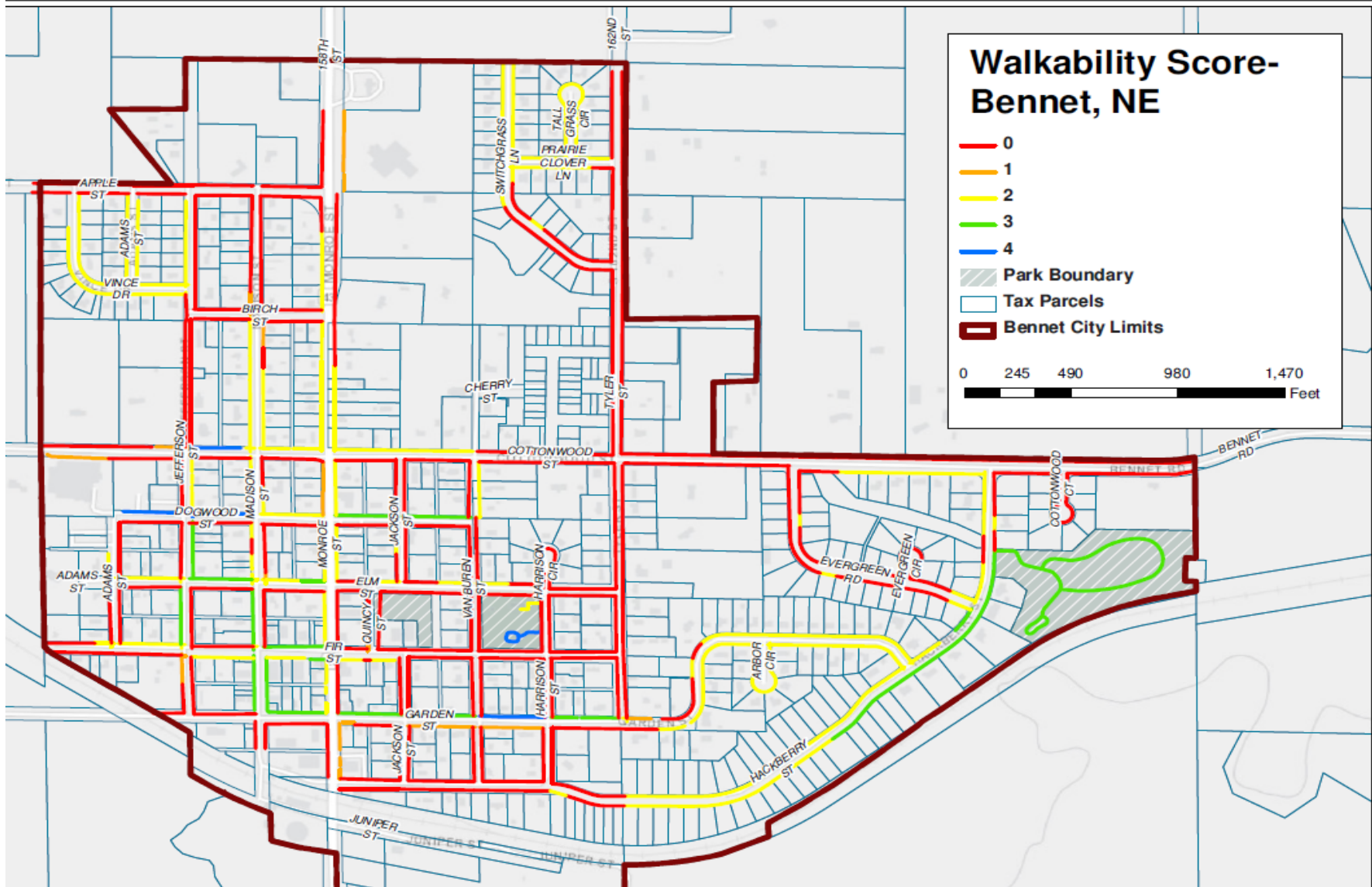


Bennet Open House Comments



UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln





City-wide Walkability Score: 2.1/5.0

*A score rated 0 Indicates no Sidewalk

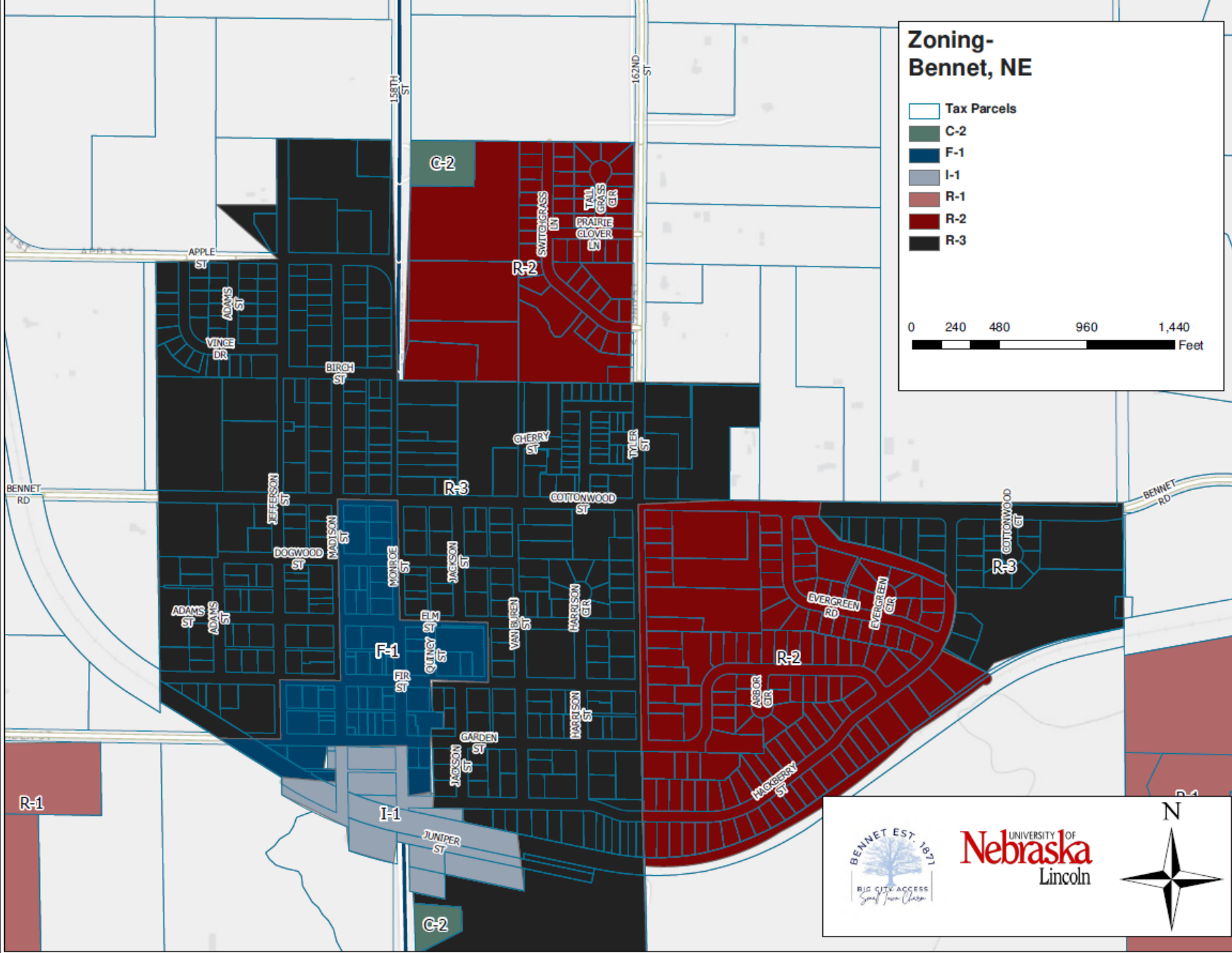
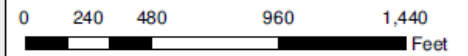
BENNET EST. 1871
BIG CITY ACCESS
Small Town Charm

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Nebraska
Lincoln

N
[North Arrow]

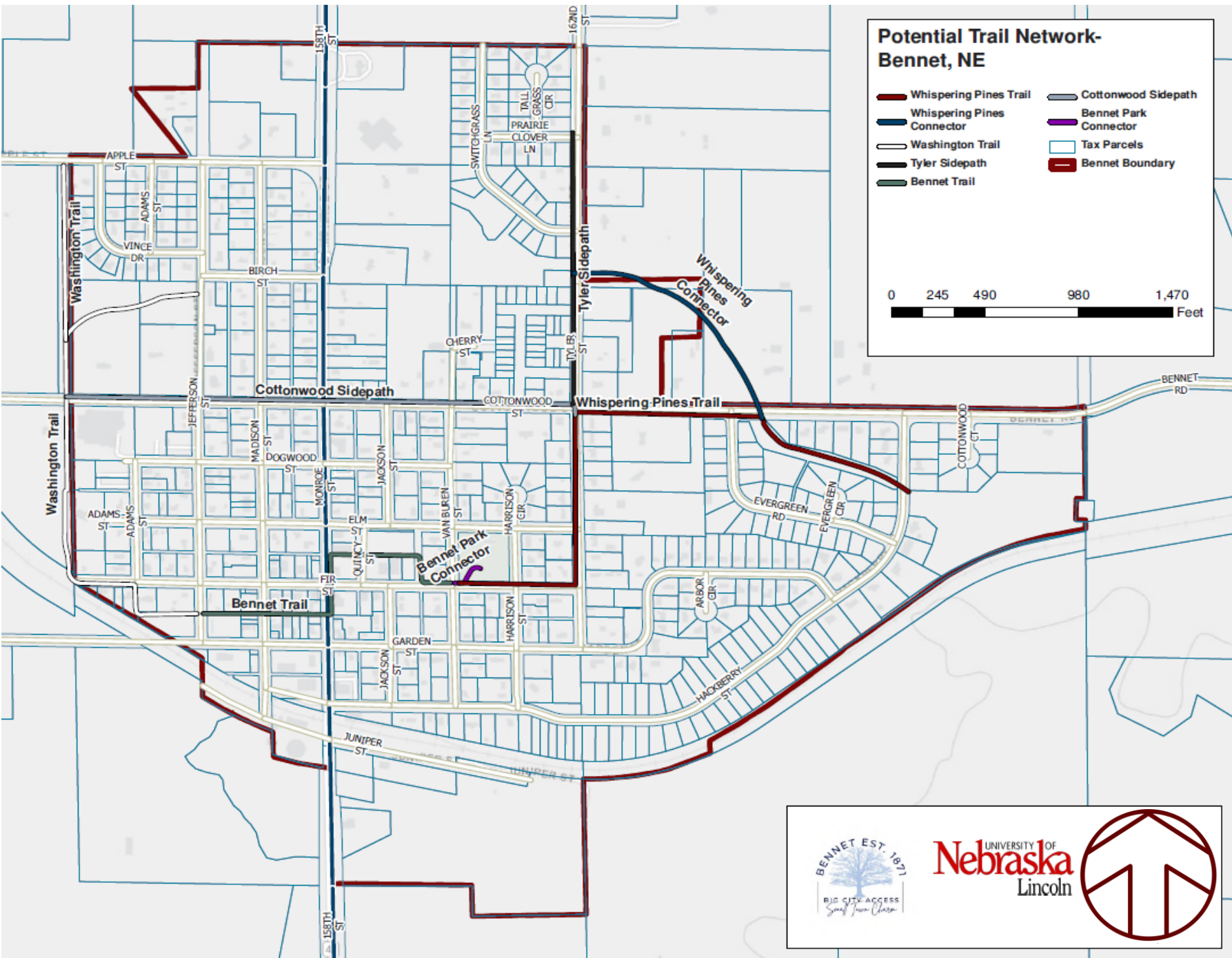
Zoning Bennet, NE

- Tax Parcels
- C-2
- F-1
- I-1
- R-1
- R-2
- R-3

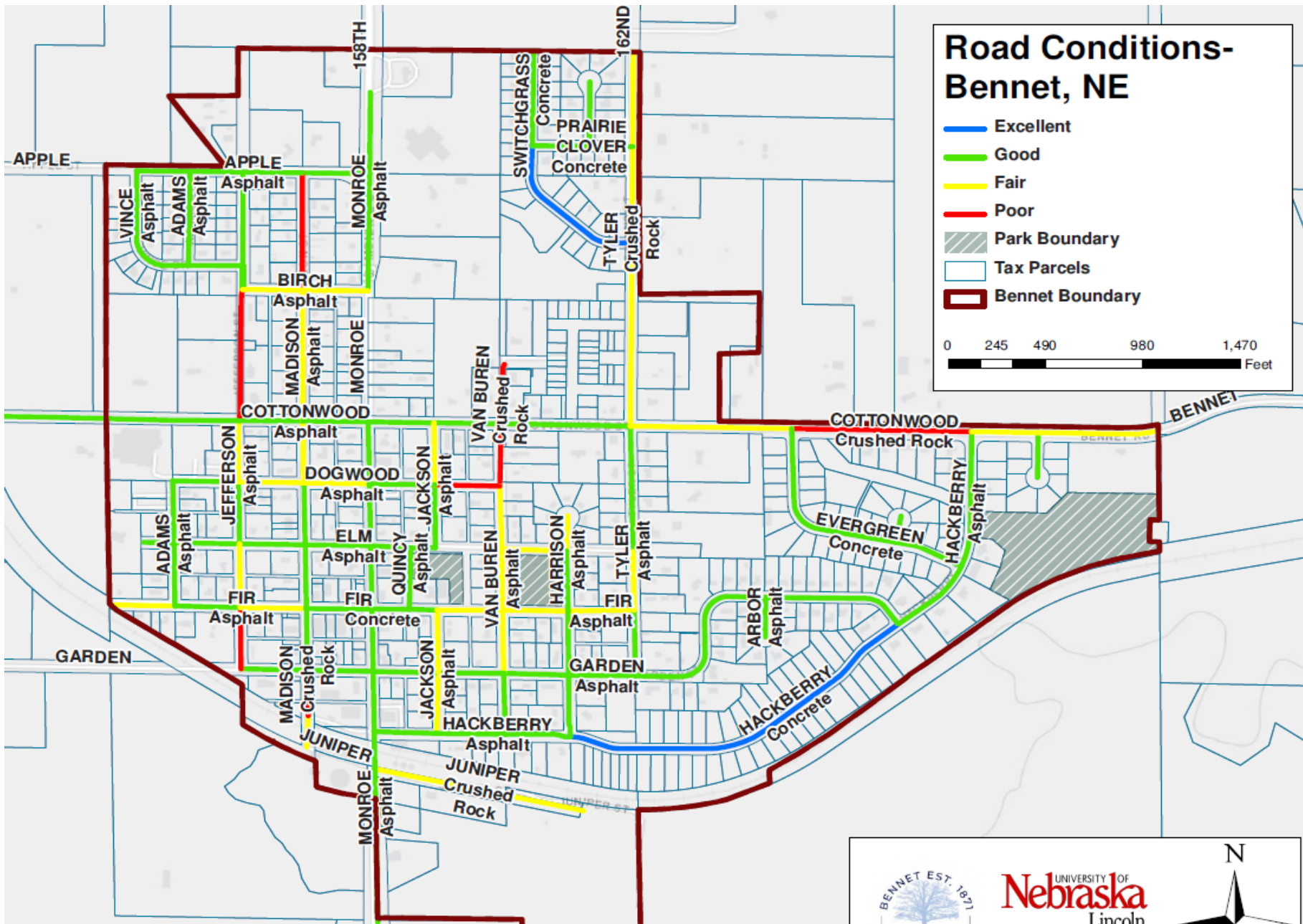


Potential Trail Network- Bennet, NE

-  Whispering Pines Trail
-  Whispering Pines Connector
-  Washington Trail
-  Tyler Sidepath
-  Bennet Trail
-  Cottonwood Sidepath
-  Bennet Park Connector
-  Tax Parcels
-  Bennet Boundary



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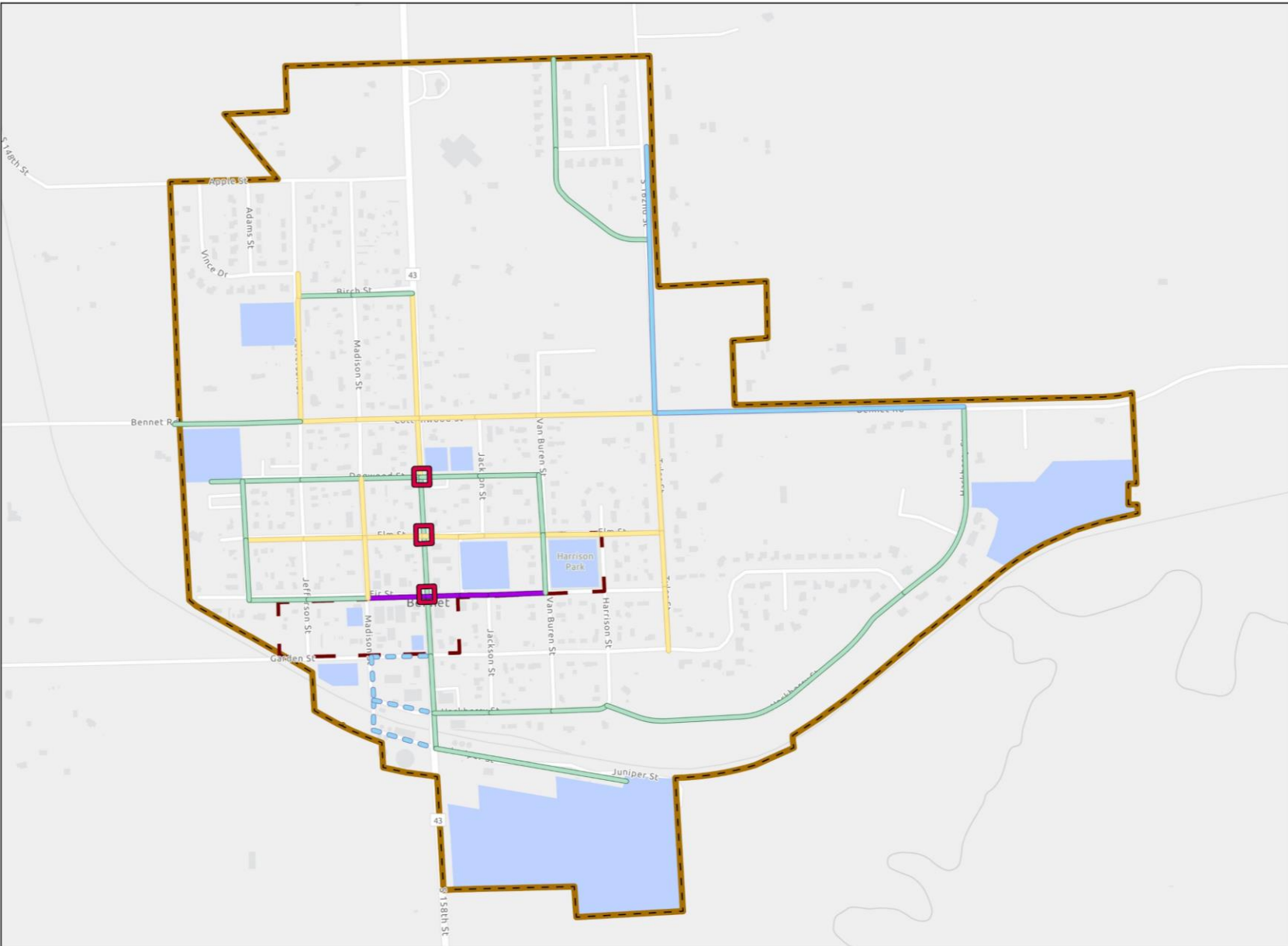
City-wide Average Road Score: 3.7/5

BENNET EST. 1871
BIG CITY ACCESS
Small Town Charm

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Lincoln

N

Transportation Strategies and Policies

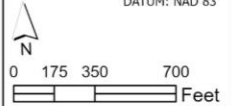


*Bennet, NE
Transportation*

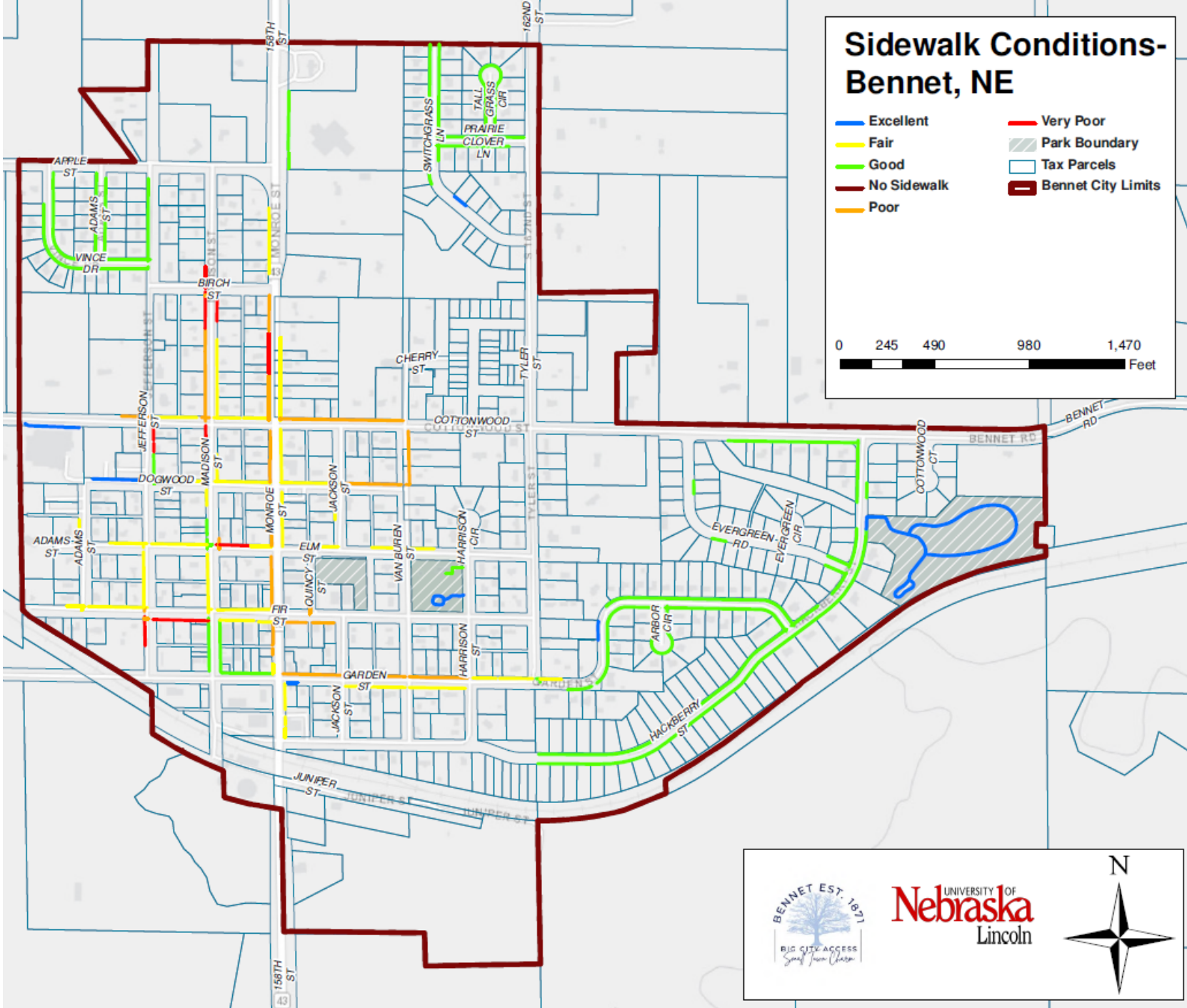
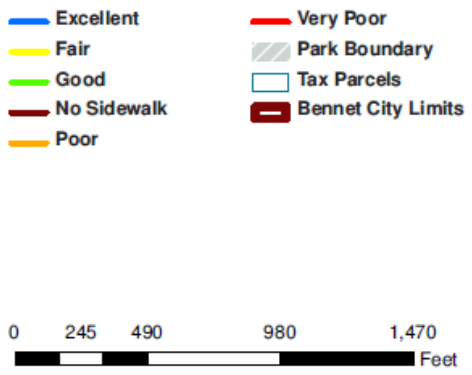
Street Improvement Recommendations

- Sidewalk Improvements
- Trail
- Trail and Streetscaping
- Placemaking Intersection
- Street Resurfacing
- Truck Circulation
- Activity Centers
- Proposed Downtown
- - - Bennet Boundary

PROJECTION: NE State Plane (Ft.)
DATUM: NAD 83



Sidewalk Conditions- Bennet, NE



BENNET EST. 1871
 BIG CITY ACCESS
 Small Town Charm

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
 Lincoln

N
 Compass rose showing North, South, East, and West directions.

Bennet Park- Bennet, NE

-  Bennet Trees
-  Park Boundary
-  Parking Lot
-  Playground
-  Pool - Bottom
-  Disc Golf Pad
-  Tax Parcels










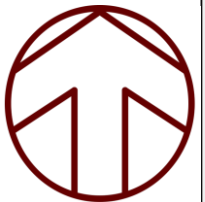
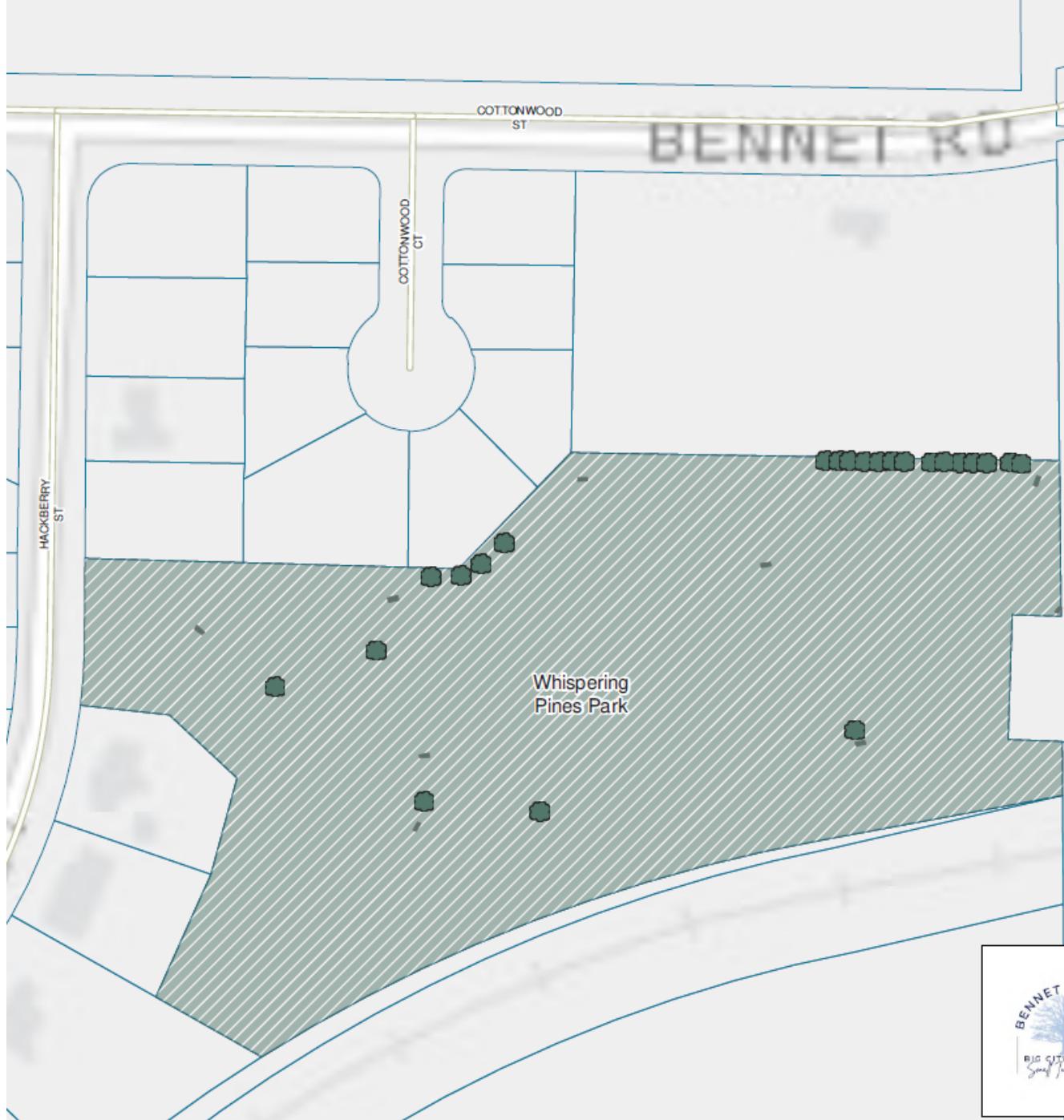
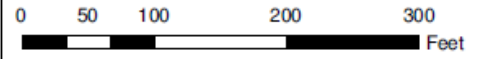
Bennet Park
Ballfield

Bennet Park



Whispering Pines Park- Bennet, NE

-  Bennet Trees
-  Park Boundary
-  Parking Lot
-  Playground
-  Pool - Bottom
-  Disc Golf Pad
-  Tax Parcels





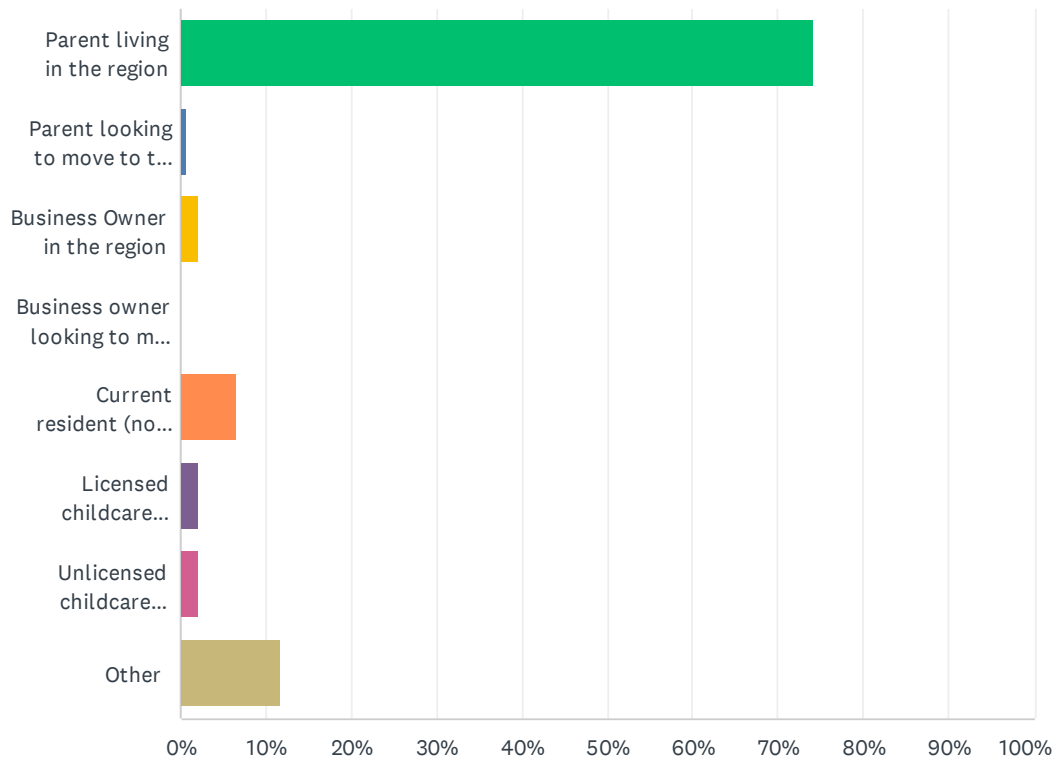
BENNET, NE

Downtown Economic Development Plan

**DECEMBER
2023**

Q1 Are you taking this survey as a?

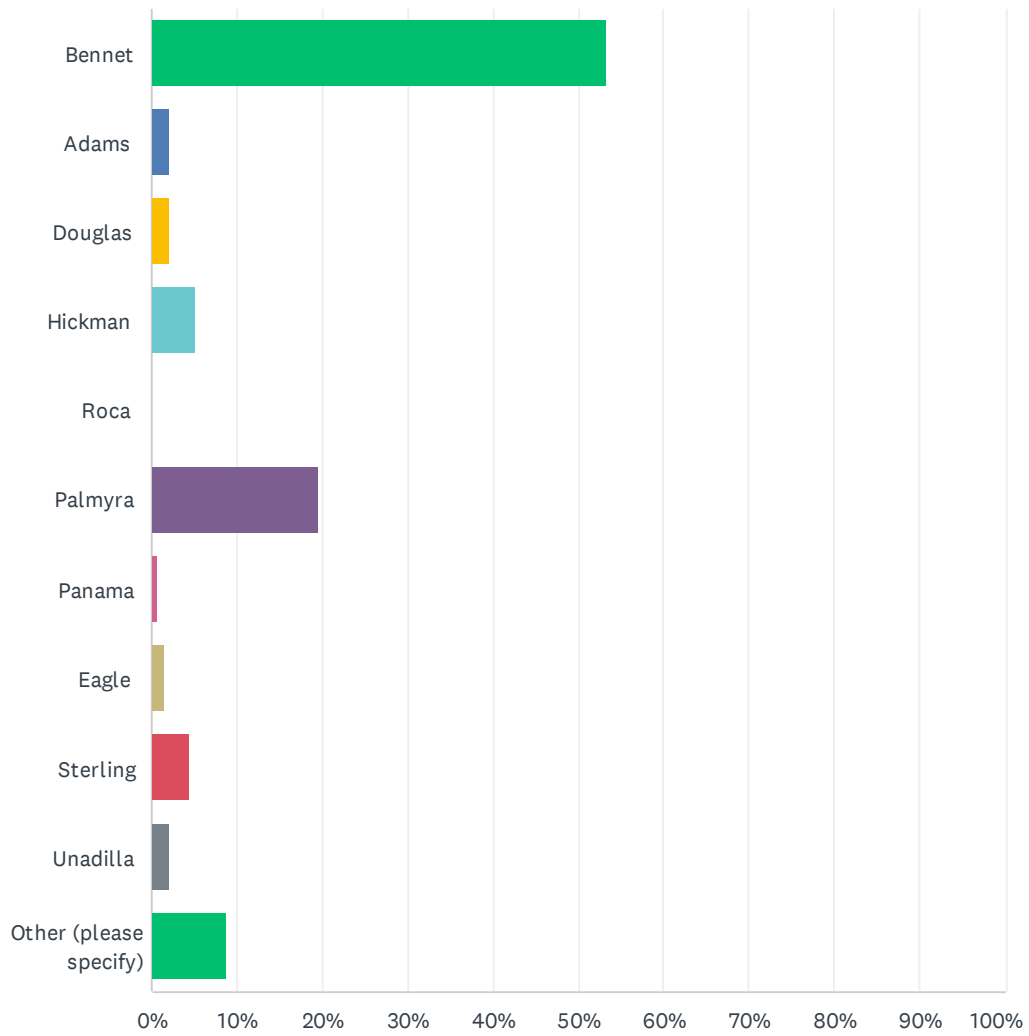
Answered: 136 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Parent living in the region	74.26%	101
Parent looking to move to the region	0.74%	1
Business Owner in the region	2.21%	3
Business owner looking to move to the region	0.00%	0
Current resident (no children)	6.62%	9
Licensed childcare provider	2.21%	3
Unlicensed childcare provider	2.21%	3
Other	11.76%	16
TOTAL		136

Q2 In which community do you reside?

Answered: 137 Skipped: 0



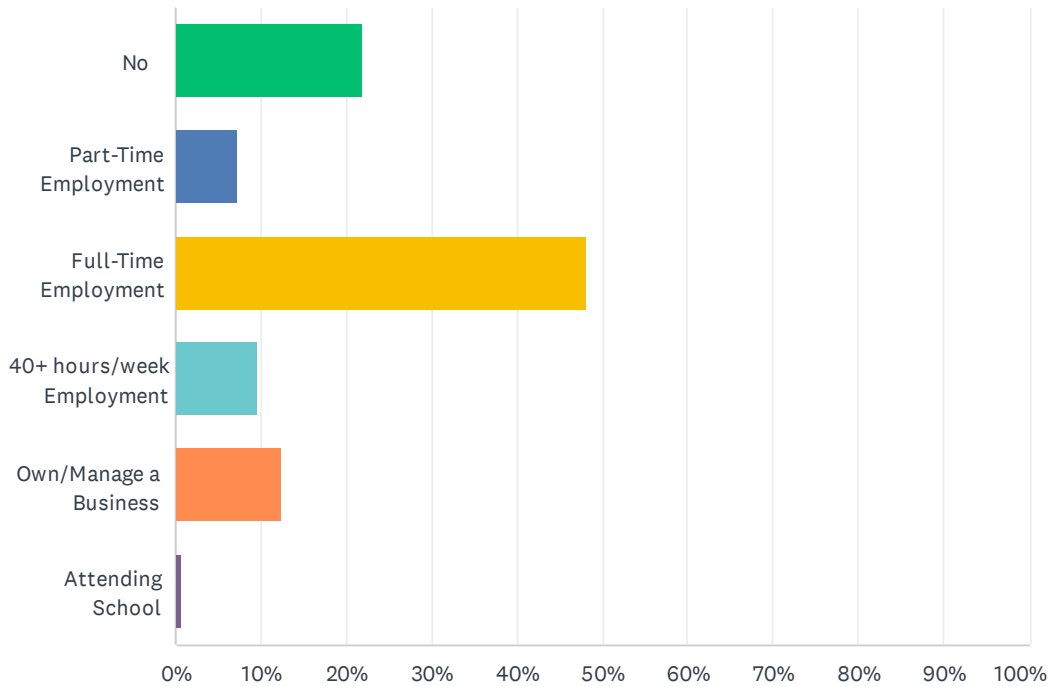
Bennet Regional Childcare Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bennet	53.28%	73
Adams	2.19%	3
Douglas	2.19%	3
Hickman	5.11%	7
Roca	0.00%	0
Palmyra	19.71%	27
Panama	0.73%	1
Eagle	1.46%	2
Sterling	4.38%	6
Unadilla	2.19%	3
Other (please specify)	8.76%	12
TOTAL		137

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Beaver Lake	9/27/2023 6:09 PM
2	Cook	9/27/2023 1:35 PM
3	Firth	9/5/2023 9:35 AM
4	Cass	9/1/2023 2:15 PM
5	Denton	9/1/2023 12:41 PM
6	Lincoln	8/30/2023 1:14 PM
7	Lincoln	8/30/2023 12:18 PM
8	Waverly	8/29/2023 3:42 PM
9	Lincoln	8/29/2023 12:54 PM
10	Syracuse	8/29/2023 12:47 PM
11	Lincoln	8/29/2023 12:39 PM
12	Lincoln	8/29/2023 12:37 PM

Q3 Are you currently employed, own/manage a business in one of the communities mentioned in the previous question, or currently attending school?

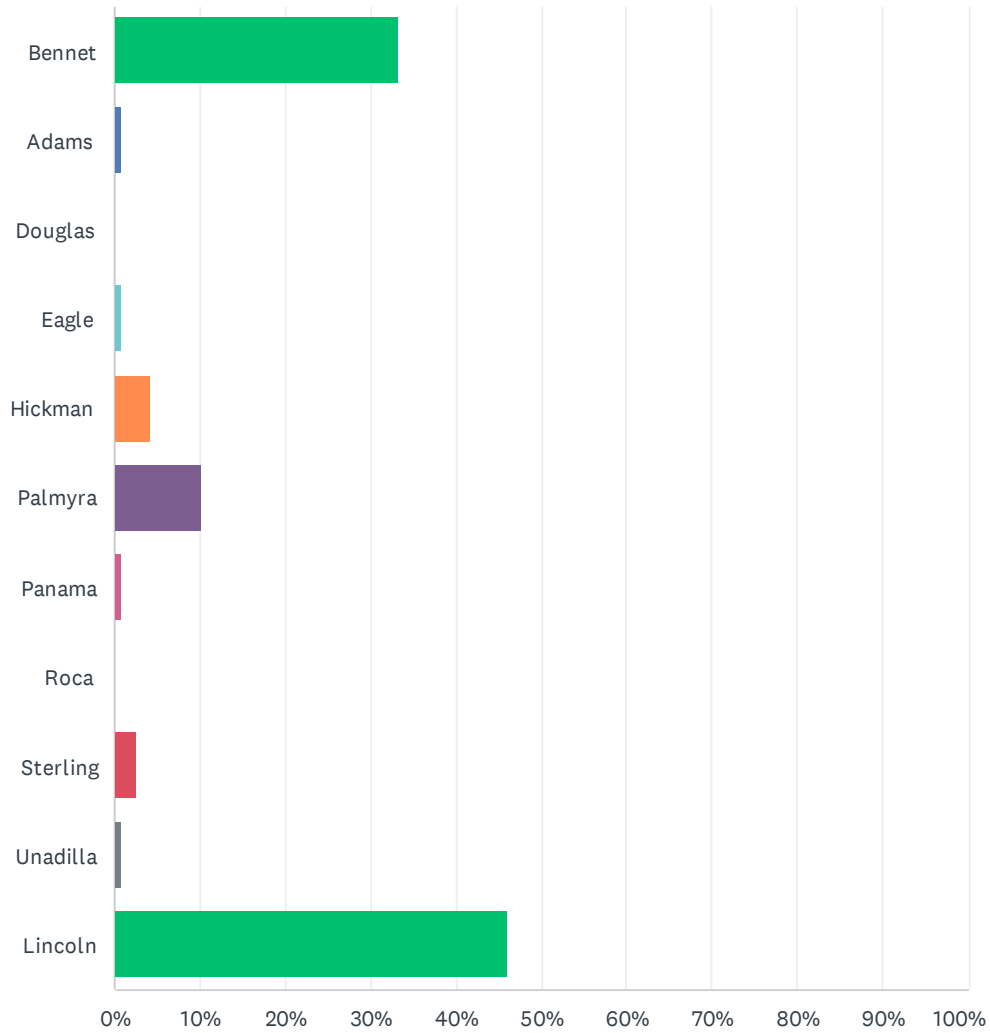
Answered: 137 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	21.90%	30
Part-Time Employment	7.30%	10
Full-Time Employment	48.18%	66
40+ hours/week Employment	9.49%	13
Own/Manage a Business	12.41%	17
Attending School	0.73%	1
TOTAL		137

Q4 If applicable, which community are you currently employed, own/manage a business, or attend school?

Answered: 117 Skipped: 20

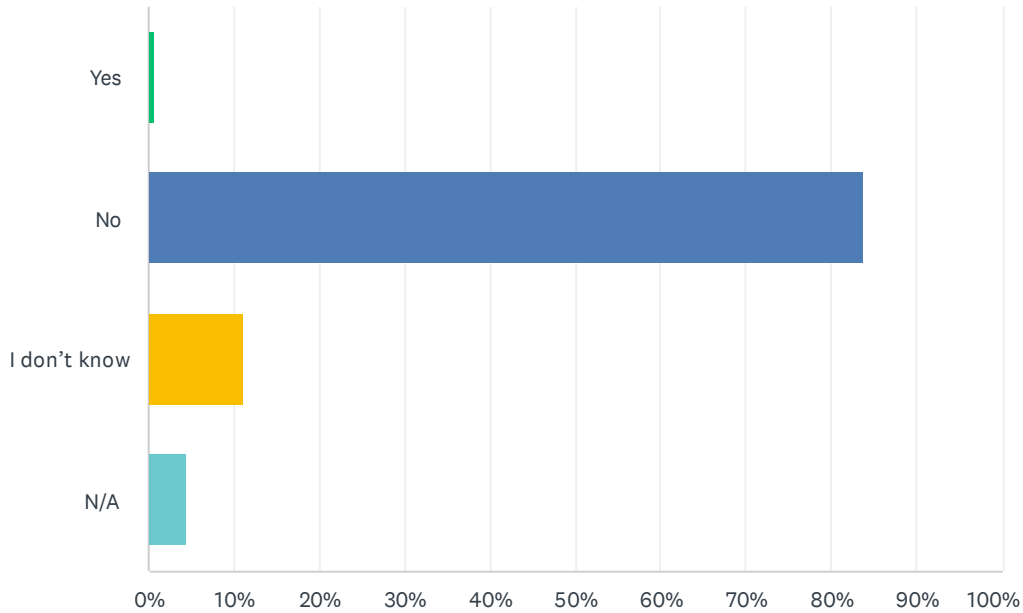


Bennet Regional Childcare Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bennet	33.33%	39
Adams	0.85%	1
Douglas	0.00%	0
Eagle	0.85%	1
Hickman	4.27%	5
Palmyra	10.26%	12
Panama	0.85%	1
Roca	0.00%	0
Sterling	2.56%	3
Unadilla	0.85%	1
Lincoln	46.15%	54
TOTAL		117

Q5 Do you feel that there are enough high-quality childcare options within a 30-mile radius of Bennet (not including Lincoln)?

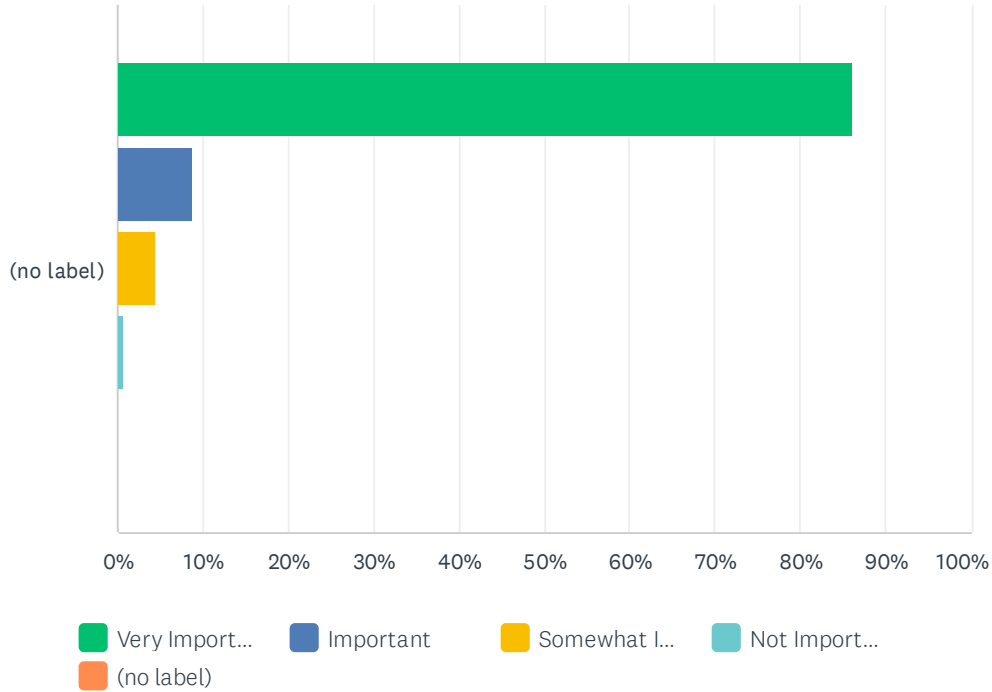
Answered: 136 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	0.74%	1
No	83.82%	114
I don't know	11.03%	15
N/A	4.41%	6
TOTAL		136

Q6 How important do you think having enough high-quality, accessible child care options is for the overall growth and development of the region?

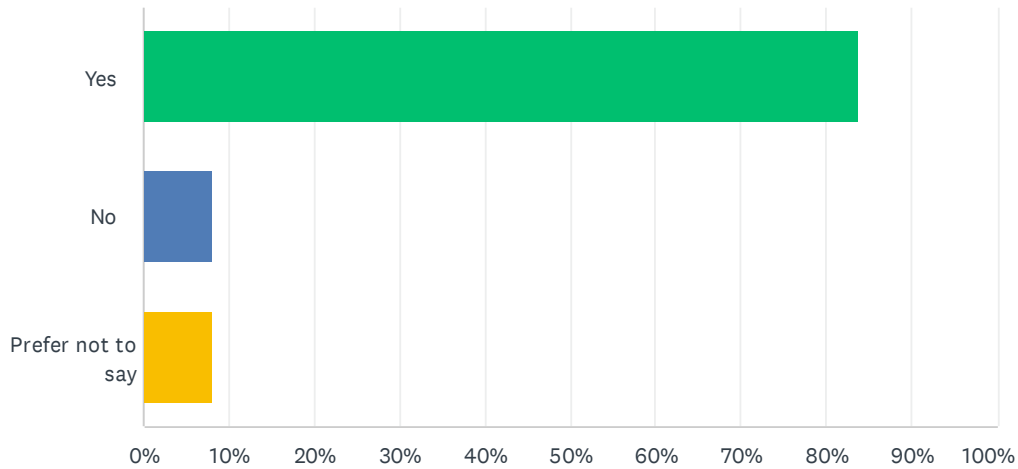
Answered: 137 Skipped: 0



	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	(NO LABEL)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	86.13% 118	8.76% 12	4.38% 6	0.73% 1	0.00% 0	137	1.07

Q7 If an early childhood center-based program was developed in the region, would you support it? Support can include using the program for childcare, donating to the program, volunteering, promotion, etc.

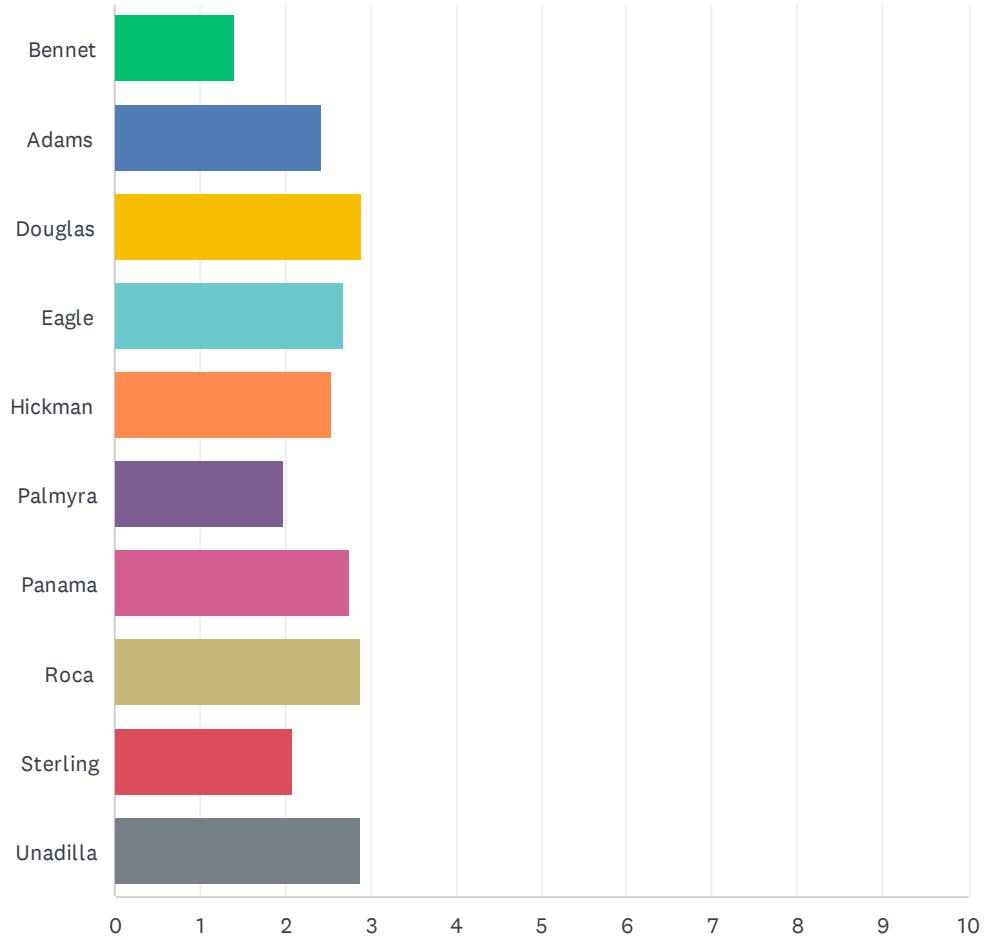
Answered: 135 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	83.70%	113
No	8.15%	11
Prefer not to say	8.15%	11
TOTAL		135

Q8 In which community in the region should an early childhood development center be located? (Please indicate your top 3 with 1 being the most preferred)

Answered: 125 Skipped: 12



Bennet Regional Childcare Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
Bennet	1	170	120
Adams	2	46	19
Douglas	3	32	11
Eagle	3	83	31
Hickman	3	66	26
Palmyra	2	186	94
Panama	3	55	20
Roca	3	23	8
Sterling	2	23	11
Unadilla	3	26	9
Total Respondents: 125			

#	BENNET	DATE
1	2	10/10/2023 5:57 PM
2	1	10/10/2023 5:09 PM
3	1	9/30/2023 10:59 AM
4	1	9/29/2023 5:43 AM
5	3	9/27/2023 1:12 PM
6	1	9/27/2023 9:53 AM
7	1	9/19/2023 9:38 AM
8	2	9/18/2023 8:31 AM
9	1	9/13/2023 7:35 PM
10	5	9/12/2023 9:32 AM
11	1	9/11/2023 8:07 PM
12	3	9/11/2023 7:15 PM
13	1	9/11/2023 9:48 AM
14	1	9/10/2023 2:22 PM
15	1	9/8/2023 2:49 PM
16	1	9/8/2023 2:36 PM
17	1	9/8/2023 12:52 PM
18	3	9/7/2023 2:23 PM
19	3	9/7/2023 11:39 AM
20	1	9/6/2023 10:40 PM
21	1	9/6/2023 6:50 PM
22	9	9/6/2023 6:19 PM
23	1	9/6/2023 6:13 PM

Bennet Regional Childcare Survey

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35	2	9/5/2023 9:03 AM
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39	1	9/4/2023 8:23 PM
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Bennet Regional Childcare Survey

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84	3	9/1/2023 2:49 PM
85	2	9/1/2023 2:48 PM
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91	1	8/31/2023 5:04 PM
92	3	8/31/2023 12:43 PM
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94	1	8/30/2023 9:21 PM
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96	2	8/30/2023 1:14 PM
97	1	8/30/2023 12:18 PM
98	1	8/30/2023 9:19 AM
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Bennet Regional Childcare Survey

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108	1	8/29/2023 1:24 PM
109	1	8/29/2023 1:22 PM
110	1	8/29/2023 12:54 PM
111	1	8/29/2023 12:48 PM
112	1	8/29/2023 12:47 PM
113	2	8/29/2023 12:47 PM
114	1	8/29/2023 12:42 PM
115	1	8/29/2023 12:39 PM
116	1	8/29/2023 12:37 PM
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5	2	9/7/2023 11:15 AM
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7	1	9/6/2023 6:19 PM
8	2	9/5/2023 10:47 AM
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10	2	9/2/2023 1:03 AM
11	2	9/1/2023 9:38 PM
12	3	9/1/2023 2:15 PM
13	3	9/1/2023 1:26 PM
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15	3	8/30/2023 7:36 AM
16	3	8/29/2023 2:54 PM

Bennet Regional Childcare Survey

17	3	8/29/2023 2:16 PM
18	3	8/29/2023 1:24 PM
19	3	8/29/2023 12:48 PM
#	DOUGLAS	DATE
1	3	9/18/2023 8:31 AM
2	4	9/12/2023 9:32 AM
3	2	9/6/2023 6:19 PM
4	3	9/4/2023 8:59 PM
5	3	9/3/2023 2:50 PM
6	2	9/2/2023 5:39 PM
7	3	9/1/2023 4:09 PM
8	3	8/30/2023 1:14 PM
9	3	8/29/2023 2:12 PM
10	3	8/29/2023 1:49 PM
11	3	8/29/2023 1:22 PM
#	EAGLE	DATE
1	3	10/10/2023 5:09 PM
2	2	9/12/2023 9:32 AM
3	1	9/11/2023 7:15 PM
4	1	9/8/2023 2:36 PM
5	3	9/6/2023 6:50 PM
6	3	9/6/2023 6:19 PM
7	3	9/6/2023 6:42 AM
8	3	9/5/2023 8:34 PM
9	3	9/5/2023 7:18 AM
10	3	9/3/2023 1:40 PM
11	3	9/3/2023 6:39 AM
12	3	9/2/2023 7:56 AM
13	2	9/2/2023 1:03 AM
14	3	9/1/2023 9:58 PM
15	3	9/1/2023 8:17 PM
16	2	9/1/2023 5:05 PM
17	3	9/1/2023 3:28 PM
18	3	9/1/2023 2:59 PM
19	3	9/1/2023 2:59 PM
20	2	9/1/2023 2:49 PM
21	3	8/30/2023 6:23 PM
22	2	8/30/2023 12:18 PM

Bennet Regional Childcare Survey

23	3	8/30/2023 9:19 AM
24	2	8/30/2023 7:36 AM
25	3	8/29/2023 5:02 PM
26	3	8/29/2023 3:42 PM
27	3	8/29/2023 2:19 PM
28	3	8/29/2023 12:47 PM
29	3	8/29/2023 12:47 PM
30	3	8/29/2023 12:44 PM
31	3	8/29/2023 12:27 PM
#	HICKMAN	DATE
1	3	9/29/2023 5:43 AM
2	3	9/19/2023 9:38 AM
3	1	9/12/2023 9:32 AM
4	3	9/11/2023 8:07 PM
5	3	9/8/2023 2:49 PM
6	1	9/8/2023 2:36 PM
7	3	9/8/2023 12:52 PM
8	10	9/6/2023 6:19 PM
9	3	9/6/2023 6:13 PM
10	1	9/6/2023 7:49 AM
11	1	9/5/2023 9:35 AM
12	1	9/5/2023 9:34 AM
13	1	9/5/2023 9:03 AM
14	3	9/4/2023 8:23 PM
15	2	9/4/2023 4:29 PM
16	3	9/3/2023 7:17 PM
17	2	9/3/2023 9:10 AM
18	3	9/2/2023 7:28 AM
19	3	9/2/2023 1:03 AM
20	1	9/1/2023 9:08 PM
21	3	9/1/2023 5:05 PM
22	3	9/1/2023 3:31 PM
23	3	8/31/2023 5:04 PM
24	3	8/29/2023 3:40 PM
25	2	8/29/2023 12:54 PM
26	1	8/29/2023 12:44 PM
#	PALMYRA	DATE
1	1	10/10/2023 5:57 PM

Bennet Regional Childcare Survey

2	2	10/10/2023 5:09 PM
3	2	9/30/2023 10:59 AM
4	2	9/27/2023 1:12 PM
5	2	9/27/2023 9:53 AM
6	2	9/19/2023 9:38 AM
7	1	9/18/2023 8:31 AM
8	2	9/13/2023 7:35 PM
9	3	9/12/2023 9:32 AM
10	2	9/11/2023 8:07 PM
11	2	9/11/2023 7:15 PM
12	2	9/11/2023 9:48 AM
13	2	9/8/2023 2:49 PM
14	2	9/8/2023 12:52 PM
15	3	9/7/2023 11:15 AM
16	2	9/6/2023 10:40 PM
17	2	9/6/2023 6:50 PM
18	8	9/6/2023 6:19 PM
19	2	9/6/2023 6:13 PM
20	1	9/6/2023 3:12 PM
21	2	9/6/2023 6:42 AM
22	2	9/5/2023 8:34 PM
23	3	9/5/2023 6:24 PM
24	3	9/5/2023 12:44 PM
25	2	9/5/2023 10:18 AM
26	2	9/5/2023 7:18 AM
27	2	9/4/2023 9:52 PM
28	2	9/4/2023 8:59 PM
29	2	9/4/2023 8:23 PM
30	2	9/4/2023 3:49 PM
31	2	9/3/2023 7:17 PM
32	2	9/3/2023 2:50 PM
33	1	9/3/2023 1:40 PM
34	3	9/3/2023 9:10 AM
35	2	9/3/2023 8:07 AM
36	2	9/3/2023 6:39 AM
37	1	9/2/2023 5:53 PM
38	3	9/2/2023 5:39 PM
39	2	9/2/2023 7:56 AM

Bennet Regional Childcare Survey

40	2	9/2/2023 7:32 AM
41	2	9/2/2023 7:28 AM
42	1	9/2/2023 1:03 AM
43	2	9/1/2023 11:53 PM
44	2	9/1/2023 11:01 PM
45	2	9/1/2023 10:31 PM
46	1	9/1/2023 9:58 PM
47	2	9/1/2023 9:57 PM
48	1	9/1/2023 9:26 PM
49	2	9/1/2023 9:22 PM
50	2	9/1/2023 8:35 PM
51	2	9/1/2023 8:17 PM
52	2	9/1/2023 6:38 PM
53	2	9/1/2023 5:07 PM
54	2	9/1/2023 4:09 PM
55	2	9/1/2023 3:36 PM
56	2	9/1/2023 3:31 PM
57	2	9/1/2023 3:28 PM
58	1	9/1/2023 3:09 PM
59	2	9/1/2023 3:06 PM
60	2	9/1/2023 3:00 PM
61	2	9/1/2023 2:59 PM
62	1	9/1/2023 2:59 PM
63	1	9/1/2023 2:49 PM
64	1	9/1/2023 2:48 PM
65	1	9/1/2023 2:46 PM
66	2	9/1/2023 2:15 PM
67	2	9/1/2023 12:41 PM
68	2	9/1/2023 10:22 AM
69	2	8/31/2023 5:04 PM
70	2	8/31/2023 12:43 PM
71	3	8/30/2023 10:41 PM
72	2	8/30/2023 9:21 PM
73	2	8/30/2023 6:23 PM
74	1	8/30/2023 1:14 PM
75	3	8/30/2023 12:18 PM
76	2	8/30/2023 9:19 AM
77	2	8/29/2023 5:02 PM

Bennet Regional Childcare Survey

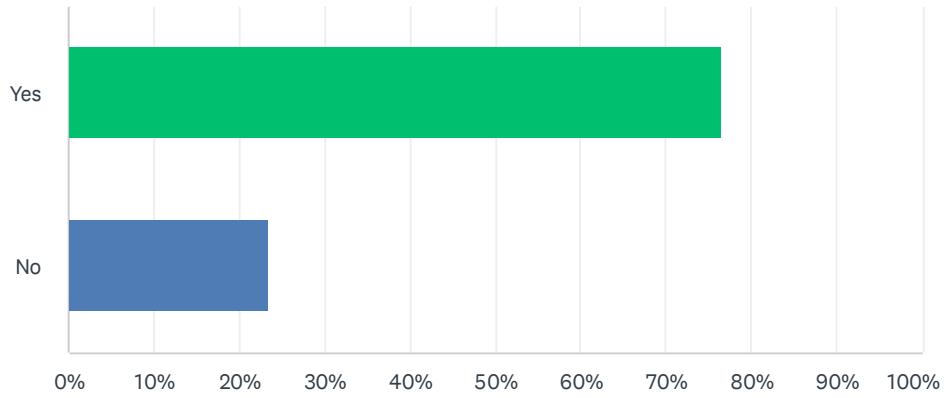
78	2	8/29/2023 3:42 PM
79	2	8/29/2023 3:40 PM
80	2	8/29/2023 2:54 PM
81	2	8/29/2023 2:19 PM
82	2	8/29/2023 2:16 PM
83	2	8/29/2023 2:12 PM
84	2	8/29/2023 1:49 PM
85	2	8/29/2023 1:24 PM
86	2	8/29/2023 1:22 PM
87	1	8/29/2023 12:47 PM
88	2	8/29/2023 12:42 PM
89	2	8/29/2023 12:39 PM
90	2	8/29/2023 12:37 PM
91	2	8/29/2023 12:35 PM
92	2	8/29/2023 12:30 PM
93	1	8/29/2023 12:27 PM
94	2	8/28/2023 4:54 PM
#	PANAMA	DATE
1	3	9/30/2023 10:59 AM
2	3	9/7/2023 1:09 PM
3	4	9/6/2023 6:19 PM
4	2	9/5/2023 6:24 PM
5	2	9/5/2023 12:44 PM
6	3	9/4/2023 4:29 PM
7	3	9/4/2023 3:49 PM
8	2	9/3/2023 7:23 PM
9	3	9/3/2023 8:07 AM
10	3	9/1/2023 11:01 PM
11	3	9/1/2023 10:31 PM
12	3	9/1/2023 9:57 PM
13	3	9/1/2023 9:26 PM
14	3	9/1/2023 3:06 PM
15	2	9/1/2023 1:26 PM
16	3	9/1/2023 12:41 PM
17	2	8/30/2023 10:41 PM
18	2	8/29/2023 12:47 PM
19	3	8/29/2023 12:35 PM
20	3	8/28/2023 4:54 PM

Bennet Regional Childcare Survey

#	ROCA	DATE
1	2	9/7/2023 1:09 PM
2	5	9/6/2023 6:19 PM
3	3	9/5/2023 9:35 AM
4	2	9/5/2023 9:34 AM
5	3	9/5/2023 9:03 AM
6	3	9/1/2023 6:38 PM
7	3	8/29/2023 12:54 PM
8	2	8/29/2023 12:44 PM
#	STERLING	DATE
1	3	9/27/2023 9:53 AM
2	1	9/7/2023 2:23 PM
3	1	9/7/2023 11:41 AM
4	1	9/7/2023 11:39 AM
5	1	9/7/2023 11:15 AM
6	6	9/6/2023 6:19 PM
7	1	9/5/2023 10:47 AM
8	3	9/3/2023 7:23 PM
9	1	9/1/2023 9:38 PM
10	2	8/29/2023 12:48 PM
11	3	8/29/2023 12:30 PM
#	UNADILLA	DATE
1	3	10/10/2023 5:57 PM
2	1	9/27/2023 1:12 PM
3	3	9/11/2023 9:48 AM
4	7	9/6/2023 6:19 PM
5	3	9/6/2023 3:12 PM
6	2	9/2/2023 5:53 PM
7	3	9/1/2023 3:36 PM
8	3	9/1/2023 2:48 PM
9	1	8/31/2023 12:43 PM

Q9 Do you have children ages birth through age 12 or plan to have children in the next five years?

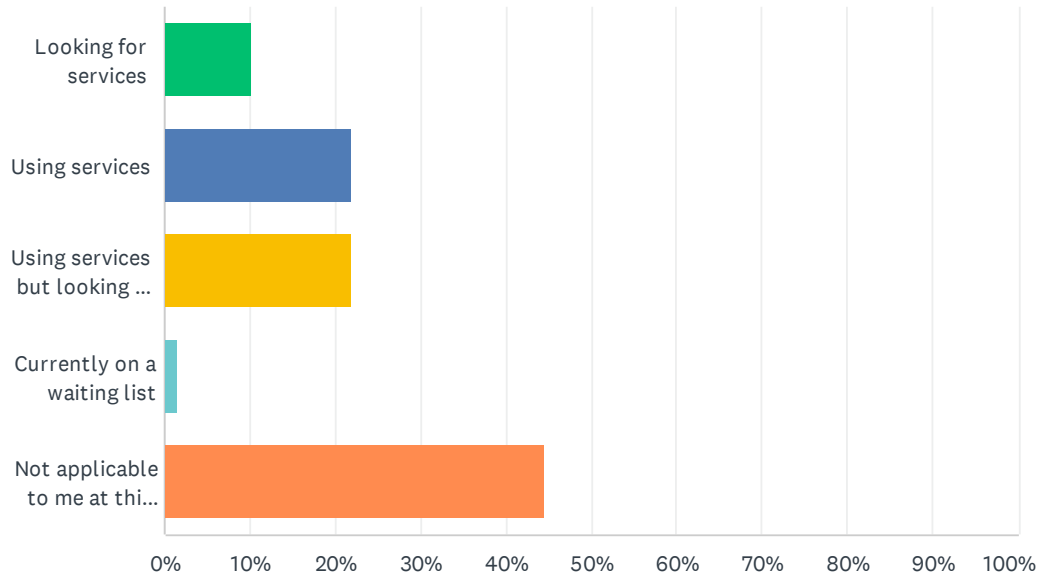
Answered: 137 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	76.64%	105
No	23.36%	32
TOTAL		137

Q10 Are you currently looking for or using childcare services? Including licensed or unlicensed (family/friend) care?

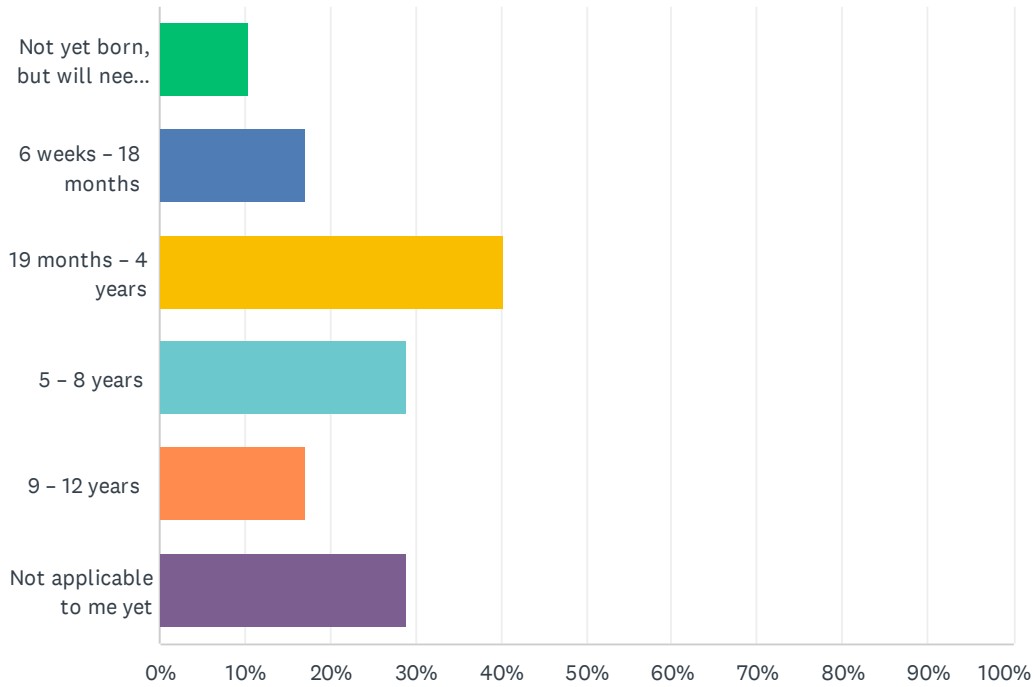
Answered: 137 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Looking for services	10.22%	14
Using services	21.90%	30
Using services but looking for another option	21.90%	30
Currently on a waiting list	1.46%	2
Not applicable to me at this time	44.53%	61
TOTAL		137

Q11 What are the ages of your children who would potentially need childcare in the future? (select all that apply)

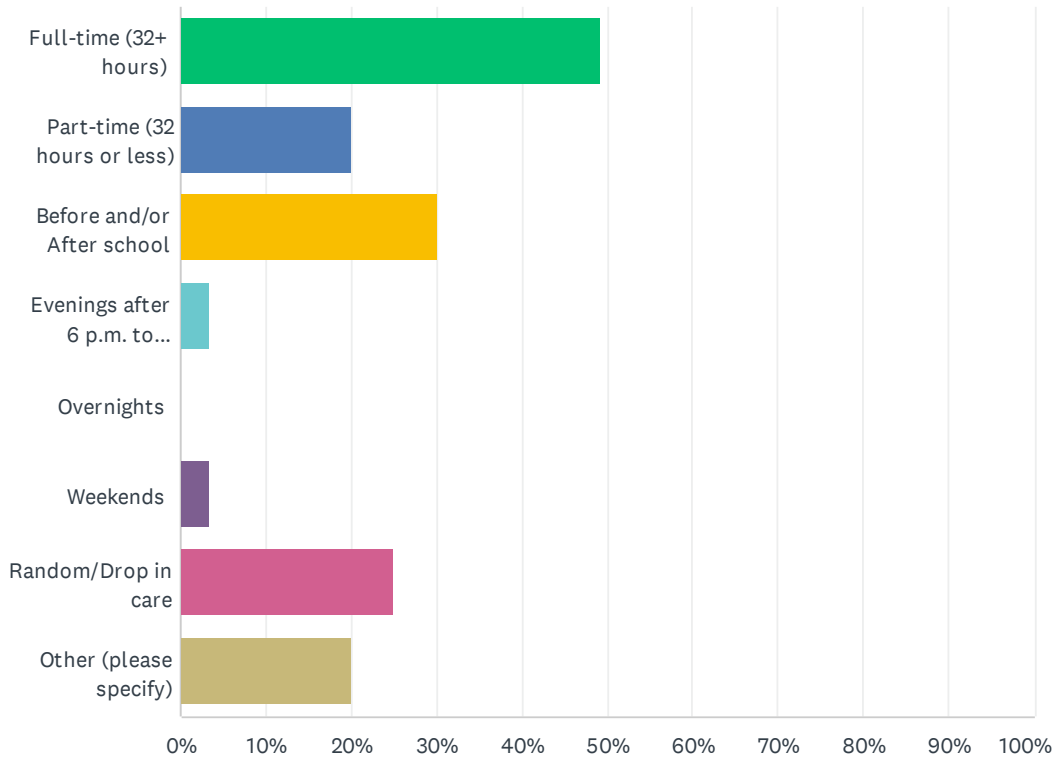
Answered: 134 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not yet born, but will need an infant spot in the next 6-9 months	10.45%	14
6 weeks – 18 months	17.16%	23
19 months – 4 years	40.30%	54
5 – 8 years	29.10%	39
9 – 12 years	17.16%	23
Not applicable to me yet	29.10%	39
Total Respondents: 134		

Q12 What are your anticipated childcare needs per week?

Answered: 120 Skipped: 17



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Full-time (32+ hours)	49.17%	59
Part-time (32 hours or less)	20.00%	24
Before and/or After school	30.00%	36
Evenings after 6 p.m. to midnight or later	3.33%	4
Overnights	0.00%	0
Weekends	3.33%	4
Random/Drop in care	25.00%	30
Other (please specify)	20.00%	24
Total Respondents: 120		

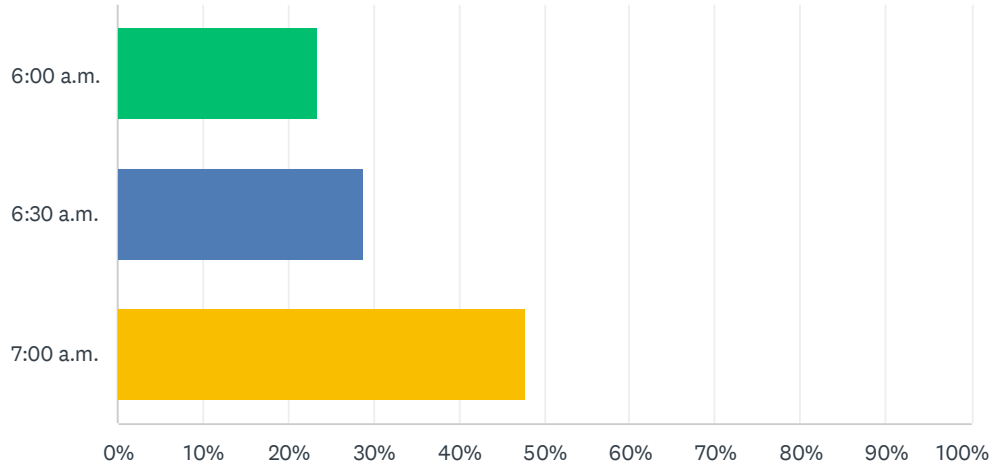
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	NA	9/30/2023 10:59 AM
2	None	9/29/2023 5:43 AM
3	Half day for preschool	9/6/2023 3:12 PM
4	NA	9/6/2023 8:01 AM

Bennet Regional Childcare Survey

5	Summer	9/4/2023 9:52 PM
6	Summer care	9/2/2023 7:56 AM
7	None	9/1/2023 8:35 PM
8	Not needed	9/1/2023 5:05 PM
9	N/a	9/1/2023 3:36 PM
10	Summer	9/1/2023 2:48 PM
11	None.	9/1/2023 1:26 PM
12	I am a provider	9/1/2023 10:22 AM
13	Not applicable	8/31/2023 5:04 PM
14	none	8/30/2023 1:14 PM
15	None, my children are school age and don't need childcare	8/30/2023 9:19 AM
16	None	8/29/2023 5:02 PM
17	Not applicable to me yet	8/29/2023 3:42 PM
18	My children are adults.	8/29/2023 2:54 PM
19	Summer Care	8/29/2023 2:12 PM
20	N A	8/29/2023 1:49 PM
21	NA	8/29/2023 1:22 PM
22	None, my children are over the age of 13	8/29/2023 12:48 PM
23	i do not need care	8/29/2023 12:44 PM
24	N/A	8/29/2023 12:35 PM

Q13 What time would you prefer a childcare center open to meet your childcare needs?

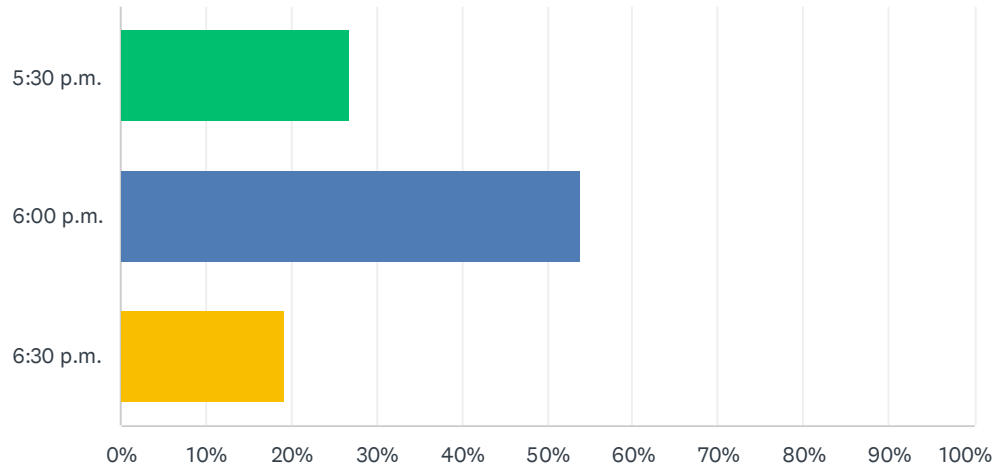
Answered: 115 Skipped: 22



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
6:00 a.m.	23.48%	27
6:30 a.m.	28.70%	33
7:00 a.m.	47.83%	55
TOTAL		115

Q14 What time would you prefer a childcare center close to meet your childcare needs?

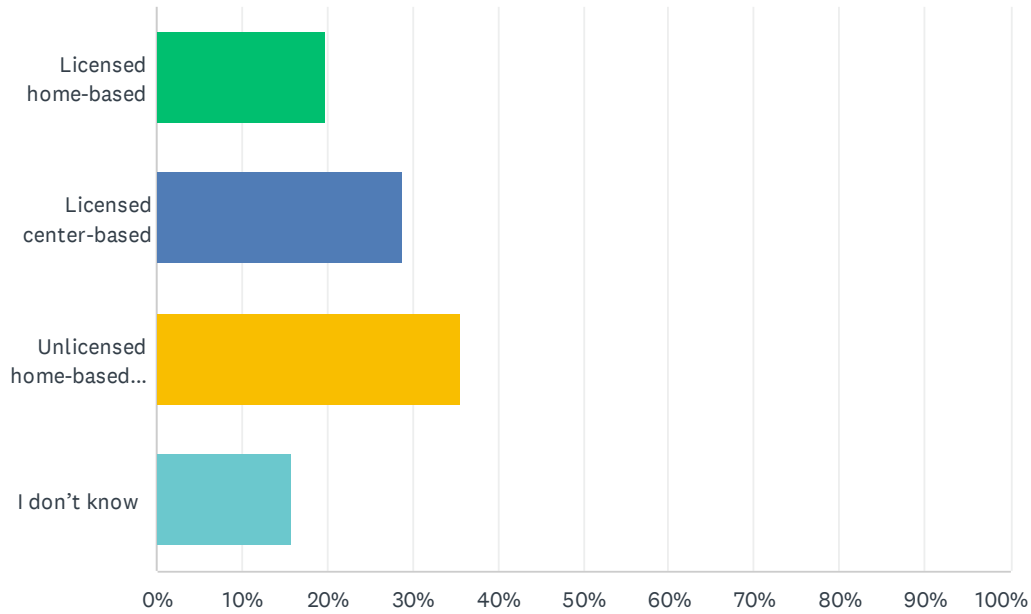
Answered: 115 Skipped: 22



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
5:30 p.m.	26.96%	31
6:00 p.m.	53.91%	62
6:30 p.m.	19.13%	22
TOTAL		115

Q15 What type of childcare provider are you using?

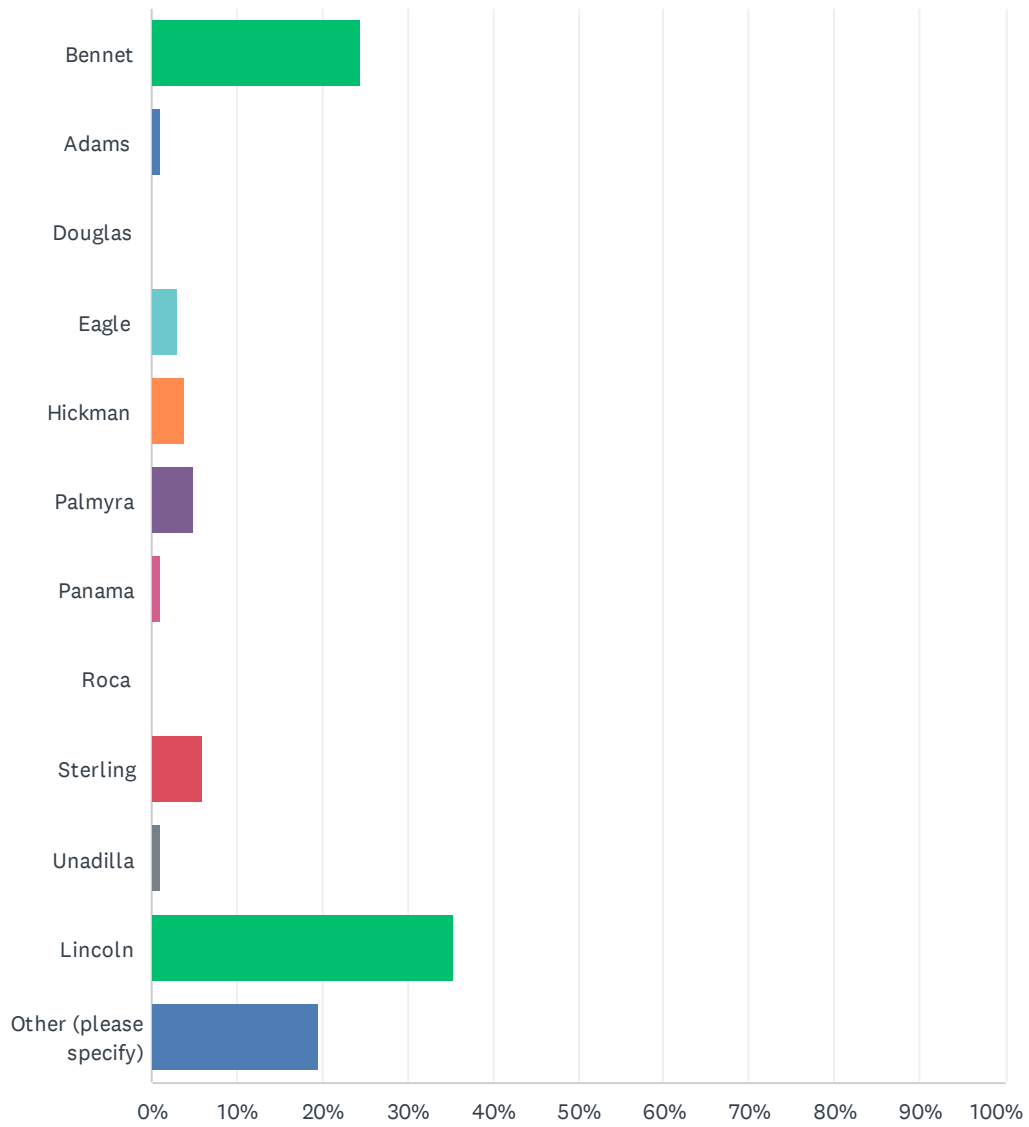
Answered: 101 Skipped: 36



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Licensed home-based	19.80%	20
Licensed center-based	28.71%	29
Unlicensed home-based (family/friend)	35.64%	36
I don't know	15.84%	16
TOTAL		101

Q16 In what community is your childcare provider located in now?

Answered: 102 Skipped: 35



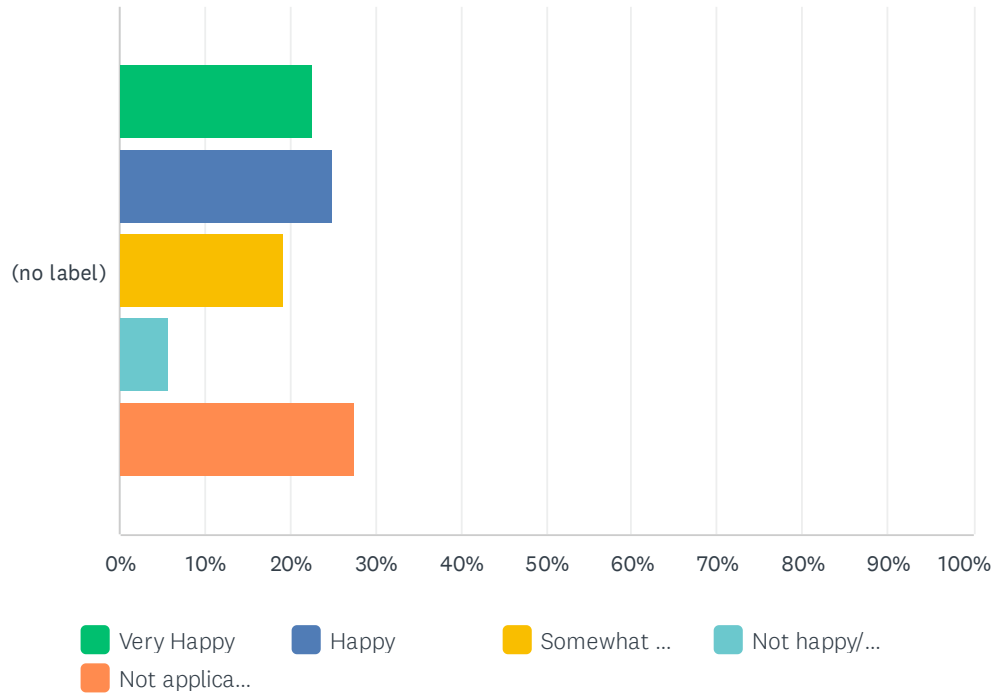
Bennet Regional Childcare Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bennet	24.51%	25
Adams	0.98%	1
Douglas	0.00%	0
Eagle	2.94%	3
Hickman	3.92%	4
Palmyra	4.90%	5
Panama	0.98%	1
Roca	0.00%	0
Sterling	5.88%	6
Unadilla	0.98%	1
Lincoln	35.29%	36
Other (please specify)	19.61%	20
TOTAL		102

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Doesn't apply	9/29/2023 5:43 AM
2	Nebraska City	9/27/2023 6:09 PM
3	Still looking	9/11/2023 7:15 PM
4	Parents are working opposite shifts to avoid daycare costs at this time.	9/8/2023 2:49 PM
5	Carson	9/6/2023 6:50 PM
6	Firth	9/6/2023 6:13 PM
7	Syracuse	9/6/2023 3:12 PM
8	Hallam	9/1/2023 9:08 PM
9	Not using one	9/1/2023 5:05 PM
10	Omaha, family member	9/1/2023 1:09 PM
11	Elmwood	8/31/2023 12:43 PM
12	None	8/29/2023 5:02 PM
13	Not applicable to me yet	8/29/2023 3:42 PM
14	I do not need childcare.	8/29/2023 2:54 PM
15	Palmyra but travels to my home in Bennet.	8/29/2023 2:12 PM
16	NA	8/29/2023 1:22 PM
17	none	8/29/2023 12:48 PM
18	Waverly	8/29/2023 12:47 PM
19	NA	8/29/2023 12:39 PM
20	N/A	8/29/2023 12:35 PM

Q17 How happy are you with your current childcare arrangements?

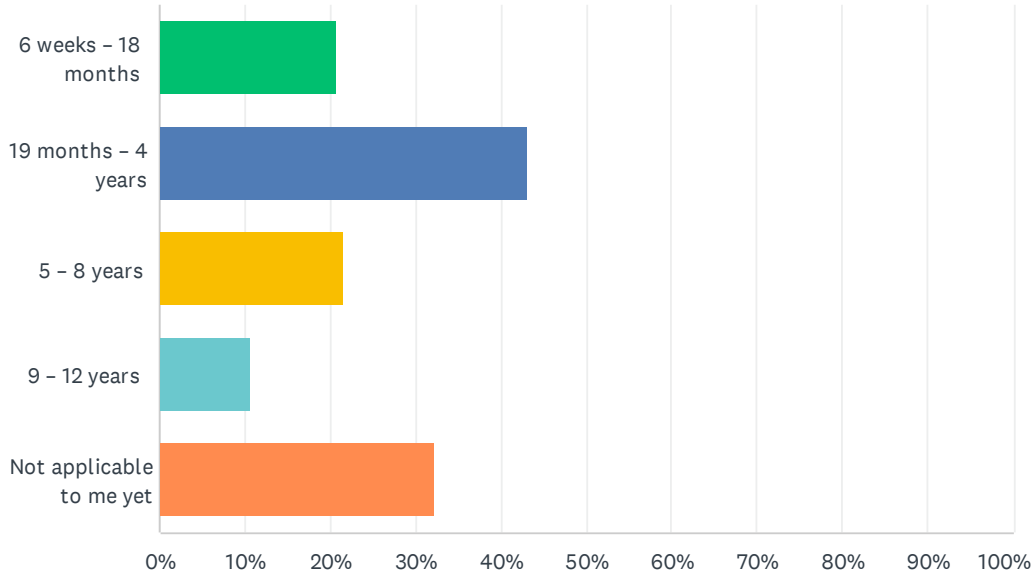
Answered: 120 Skipped: 17



	VERY HAPPY	HAPPY	SOMEWHAT HAPPY	NOT HAPPY/DISSATISFIED	NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	22.50% 27	25.00% 30	19.17% 23	5.83% 7	27.50% 33	120	2.91

Q18 What are the ages of your child or children that are in childcare now? (select all that apply)

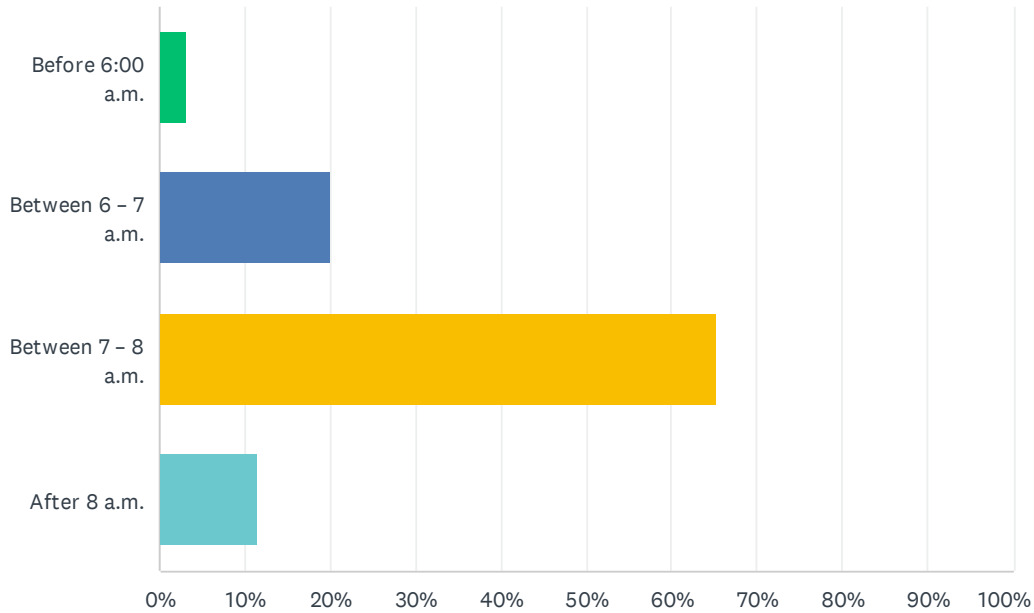
Answered: 121 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
6 weeks – 18 months	20.66%	25
19 months – 4 years	42.98%	52
5 – 8 years	21.49%	26
9 – 12 years	10.74%	13
Not applicable to me yet	32.23%	39
Total Respondents: 121		

Q19 What time do you generally drop your children off in the morning for childcare?

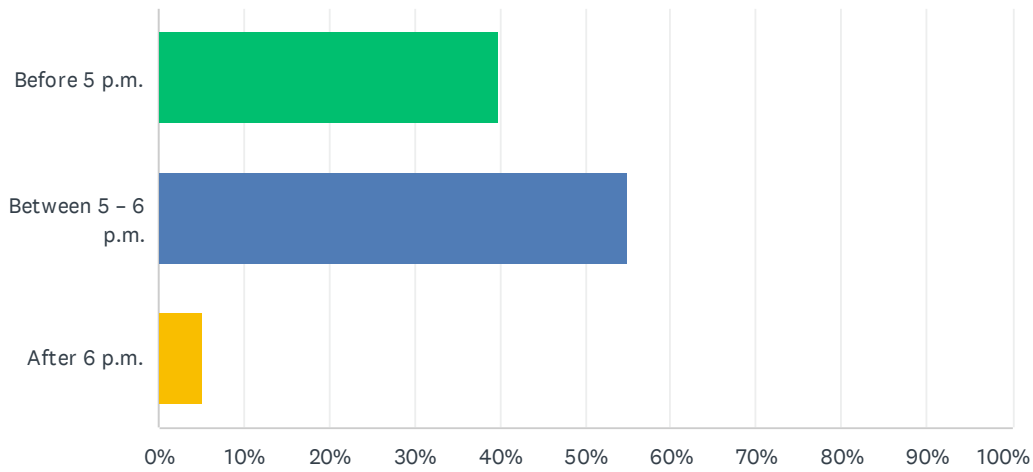
Answered: 95 Skipped: 42



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Before 6:00 a.m.	3.16%	3
Between 6 – 7 a.m.	20.00%	19
Between 7 – 8 a.m.	65.26%	62
After 8 a.m.	11.58%	11
TOTAL		95

Q20 What time do you generally pick your children up from childcare?

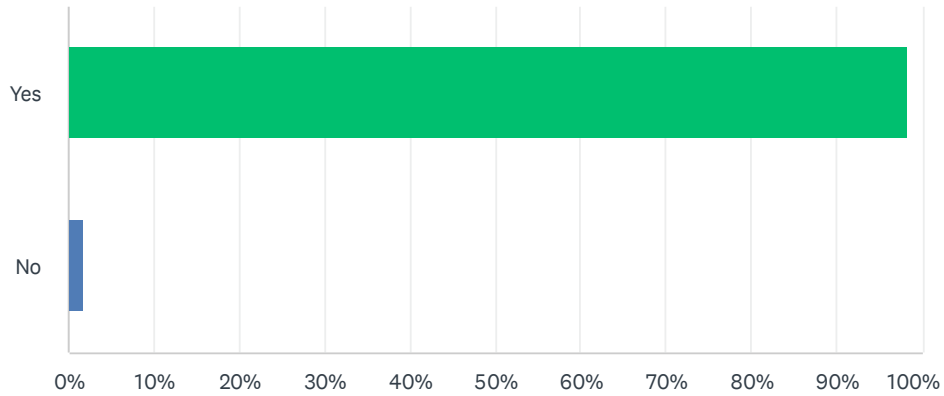
Answered: 98 Skipped: 39



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Before 5 p.m.	39.80% 39
Between 5 – 6 p.m.	55.10% 54
After 6 p.m.	5.10% 5
TOTAL	98

Q21 Whether you are using or looking for a childcare program, is it difficult to find a program locally?

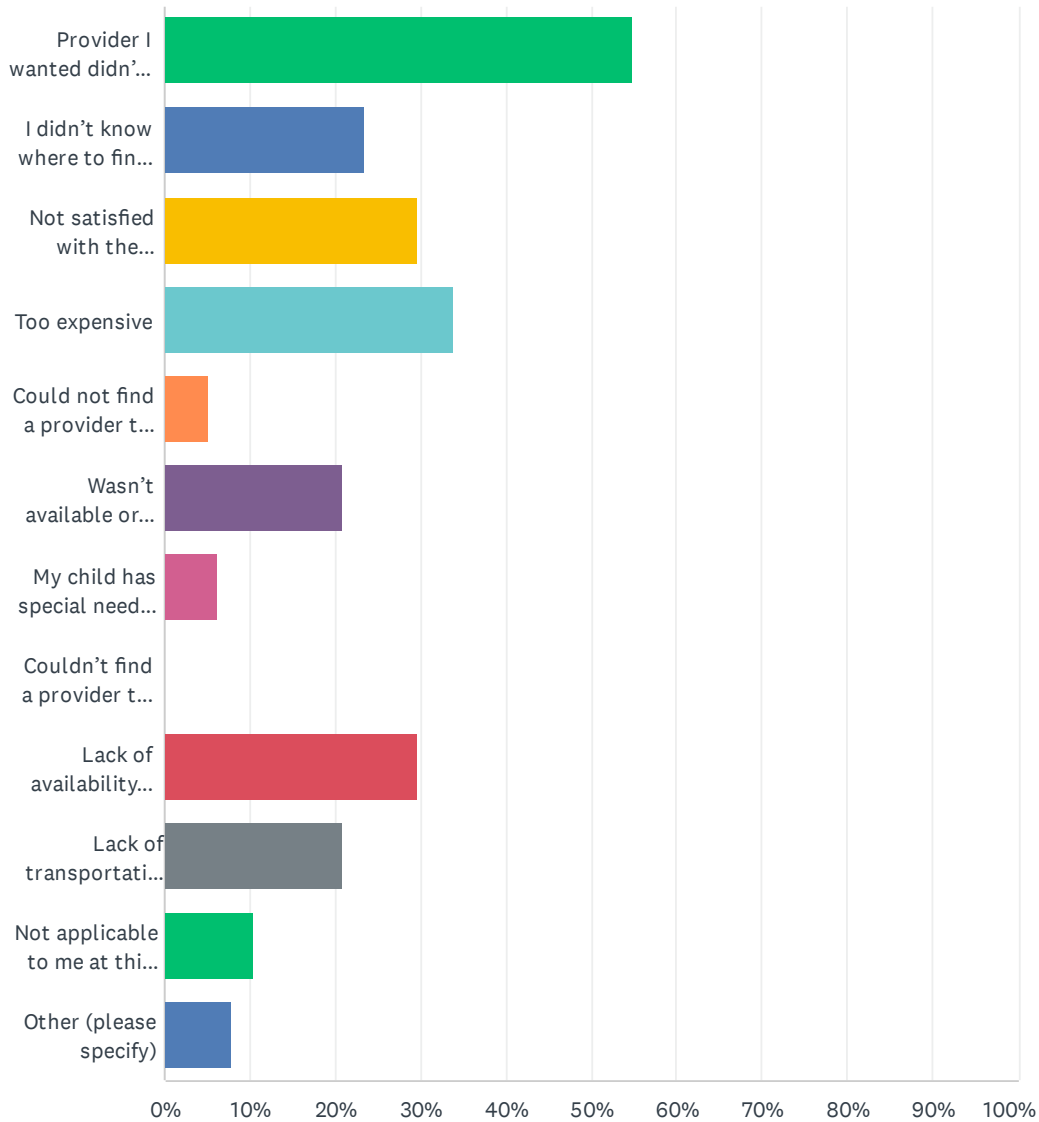
Answered: 117 Skipped: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	98.29%	115
No	1.71%	2
TOTAL		117

Q22 If yes, please indicate why finding childcare (either currently or in the past) was difficult? (select all that apply)

Answered: 115 Skipped: 22



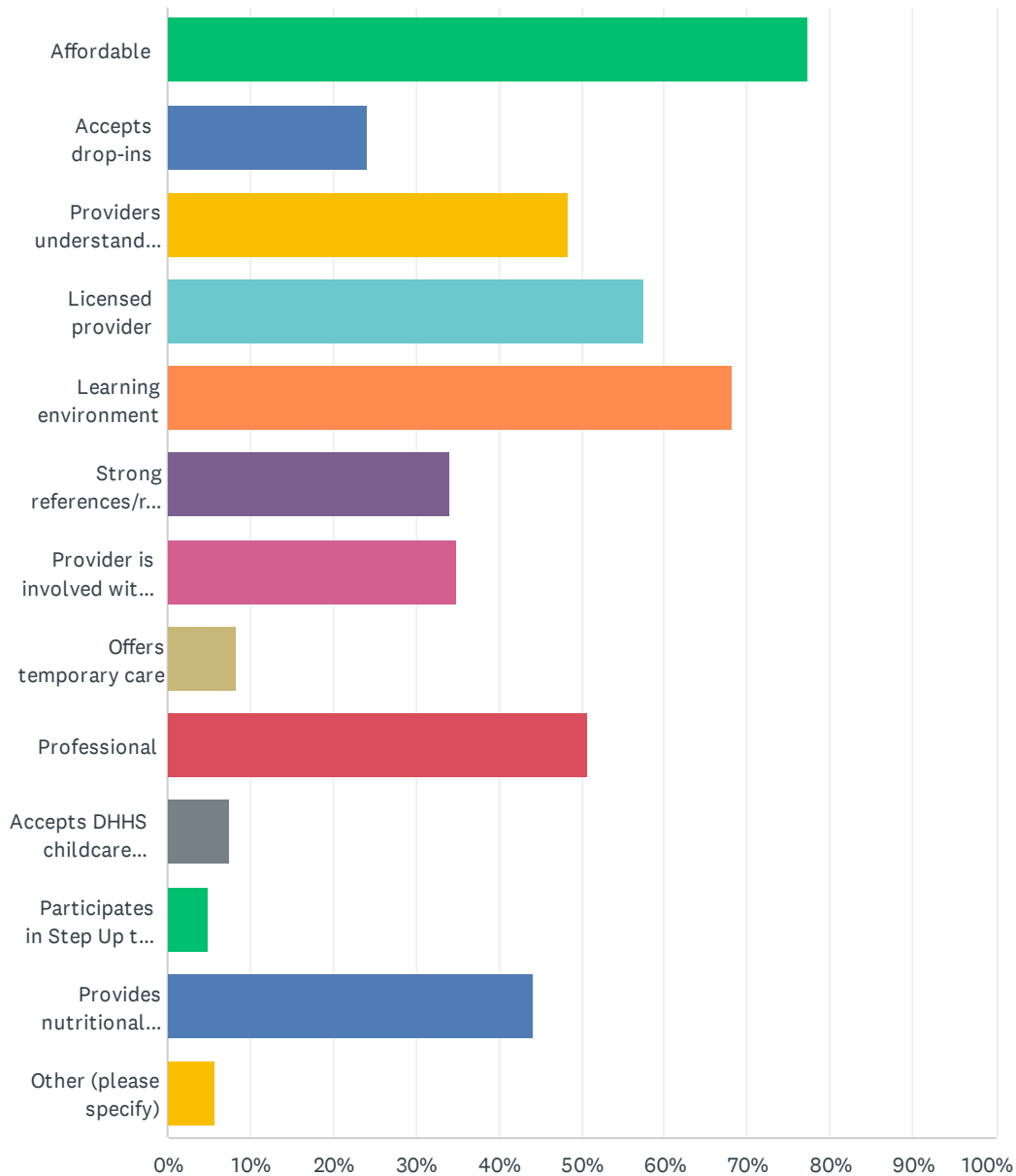
Bennet Regional Childcare Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Provider I wanted didn't have any openings	54.78%	63
I didn't know where to find a childcare program	23.48%	27
Not satisfied with the options available	29.57%	34
Too expensive	33.91%	39
Could not find a provider that takes DHHS Childcare Subsidy	5.22%	6
Wasn't available or accessible during the hours or days I work	20.87%	24
My child has special needs and I couldn't find a provider to serve their needs	6.09%	7
Couldn't find a provider that spoke my language/shared my culture	0.00%	0
Lack of availability for all my children to go to one location	29.57%	34
Lack of transportation assistance to utilize childcare option	20.87%	24
Not applicable to me at this time	10.43%	12
Other (please specify)	7.83%	9
Total Respondents: 115		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	None in the area	9/7/2023 1:09 PM
2	No Openings Anywhere. Lack of options.	9/5/2023 9:34 AM
3	There aren't many	9/1/2023 11:01 PM
4	None available outside of Lincoln	9/1/2023 9:57 PM
5	Serious lack of quality providers in the area	9/1/2023 3:09 PM
6	None in the area so forced to travel more than 30 miles to find a provider with availability for both my kids when they were little.	8/30/2023 6:23 PM
7	The only providers in Bennet are full.	8/30/2023 7:36 AM
8	Lack of part time options	8/29/2023 12:54 PM
9	N/A	8/29/2023 12:35 PM

Q23 What are the most important qualities you would look for in a childcare provider if/when you needed one? (select the five most important)

Answered: 120 Skipped: 17



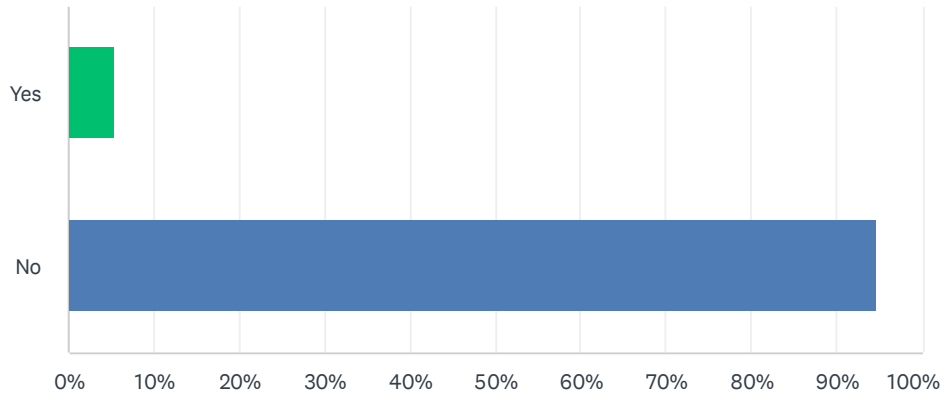
Bennet Regional Childcare Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Affordable	77.50%	93
Accepts drop-ins	24.17%	29
Providers understand social/emotional development	48.33%	58
Licensed provider	57.50%	69
Learning environment	68.33%	82
Strong references/resume	34.17%	41
Provider is involved with continuing education/training	35.00%	42
Offers temporary care	8.33%	10
Professional	50.83%	61
Accepts DHHS childcare subsidy	7.50%	9
Participates in Step Up to Quality (NE quality rating scale)	5.00%	6
Provides nutritional meals/participate in federal food programs	44.17%	53
Other (please specify)	5.83%	7
Total Respondents: 120		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Transports to local pre school	9/4/2023 12:53 PM
2	Allows for part time care	9/1/2023 9:26 PM
3	Limited screen time and maximum outdoor play	9/1/2023 9:22 PM
4	NA	8/29/2023 1:22 PM
5	Child Development Center; Trusted Providers w/ experience	8/29/2023 12:54 PM
6	Safety	8/29/2023 12:47 PM
7	N/A	8/29/2023 12:35 PM

Q24 Are you completing the survey as a licensed or unlicensed childcare provider?

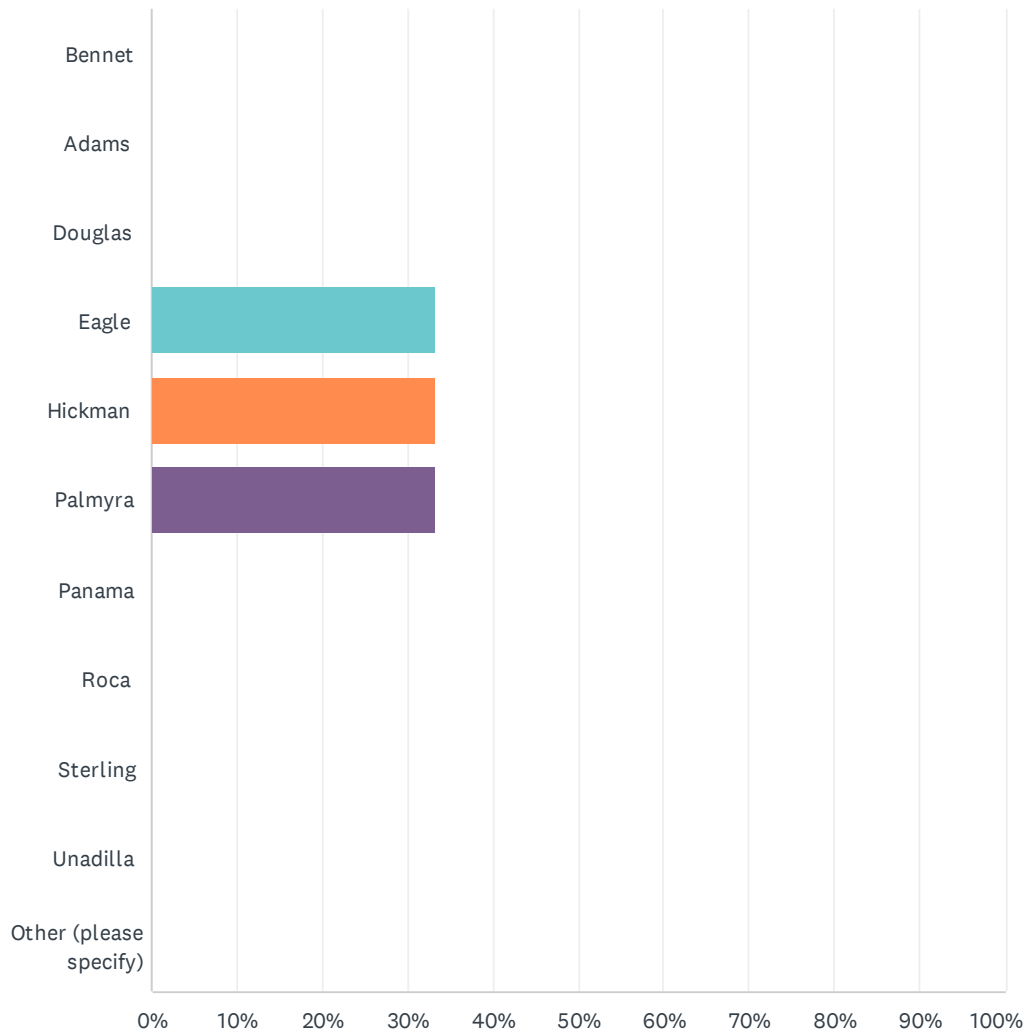
Answered: 133 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	5.26%	7
No	94.74%	126
TOTAL		133

Q25 If licensed, where is your childcare currently located?

Answered: 3 Skipped: 134



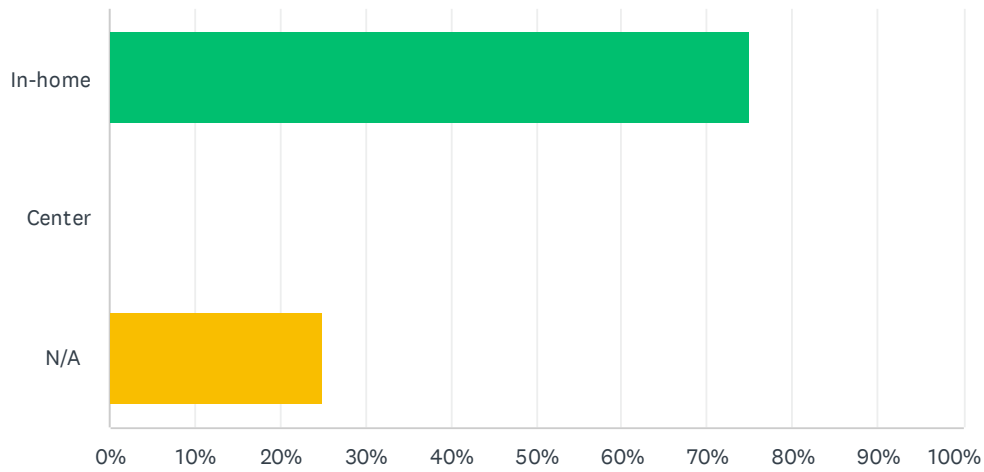
Bennet Regional Childcare Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bennet	0.00%	0
Adams	0.00%	0
Douglas	0.00%	0
Eagle	33.33%	1
Hickman	33.33%	1
Palmyra	33.33%	1
Panama	0.00%	0
Roca	0.00%	0
Sterling	0.00%	0
Unadilla	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
TOTAL		3

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
	There are no responses.	

Q26 If licensed, do you have an in-home childcare or center?

Answered: 4 Skipped: 133



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
In-home	75.00%	3
Center	0.00%	0
N/A	25.00%	1
TOTAL		4

Q27 How many children do you have in each age category?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 132

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
6 weeks – 18 months	60.00% 3
19 months – 4 years	80.00% 4
5 – 8 years	60.00% 3
9 – 12 years	0.00% 0

#	6 WEEKS – 18 MONTHS	DATE
1	3	10/13/2023 10:11 AM
2	1	9/1/2023 11:35 PM
3	2	9/1/2023 10:32 PM

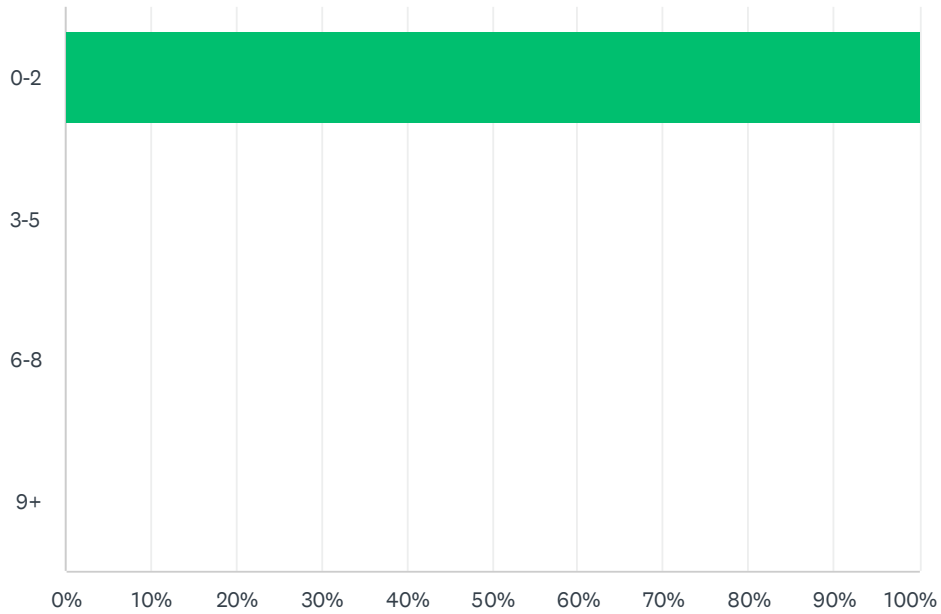
#	19 MONTHS – 4 YEARS	DATE
1	4	10/13/2023 10:11 AM
2	6	9/6/2023 8:03 AM
3	5	9/1/2023 11:35 PM
4	2	9/1/2023 10:32 PM

#	5 – 8 YEARS	DATE
1	4	9/6/2023 8:03 AM
2	1	9/1/2023 11:35 PM
3	1	8/29/2023 7:40 PM

#	9 – 12 YEARS	DATE
There are no responses.		

Q28 How many staff do you currently have?

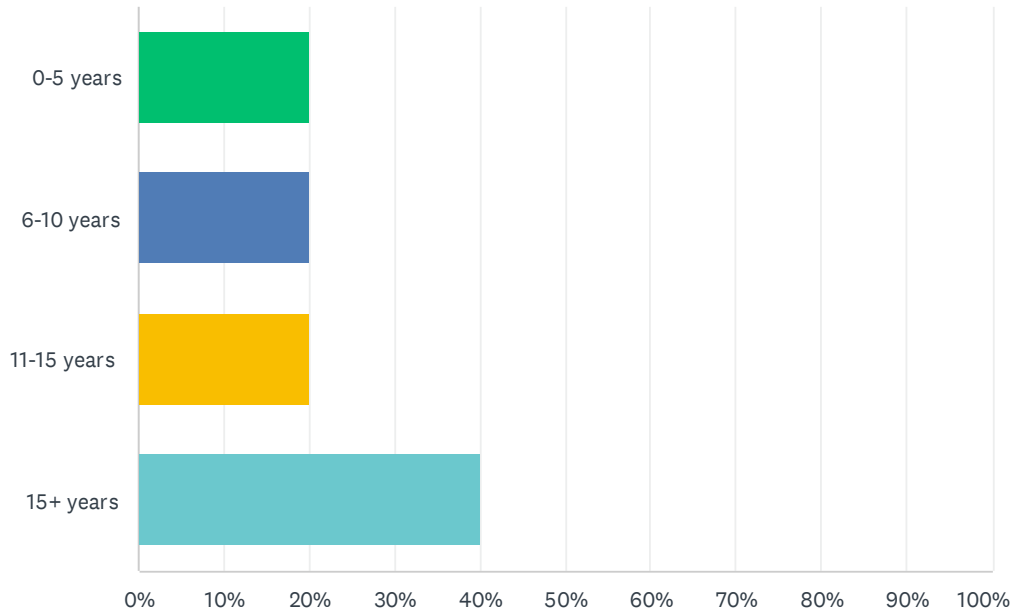
Answered: 5 Skipped: 132



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-2	100.00%	5
3-5	0.00%	0
6-8	0.00%	0
9+	0.00%	0
TOTAL		5

Q29 How long have you been in operation?

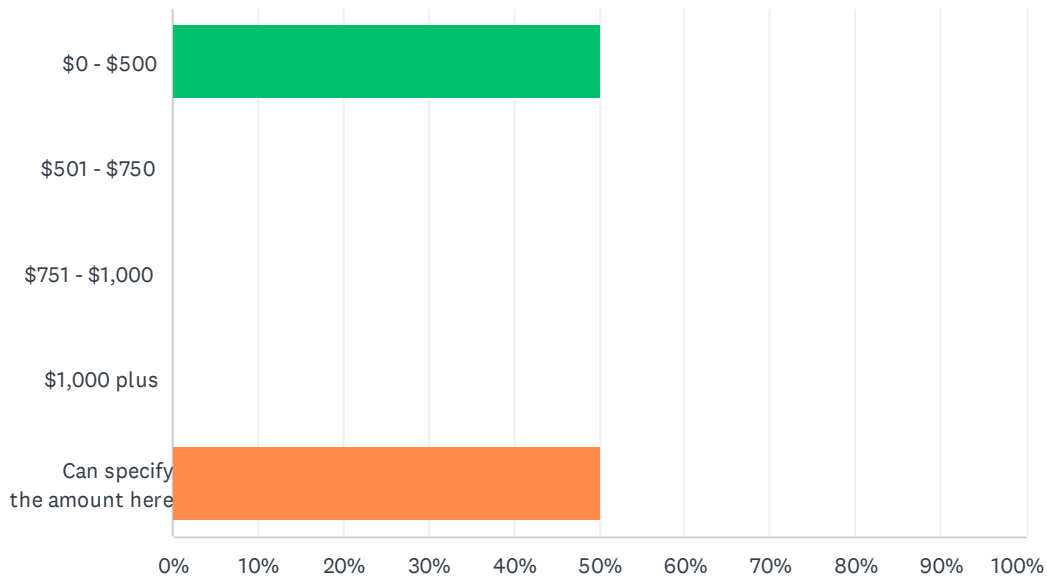
Answered: 5 Skipped: 132



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
0-5 years	20.00% 1
6-10 years	20.00% 1
11-15 years	20.00% 1
15+ years	40.00% 2
TOTAL	5

Q30 On average, how much do you charge in tuition per child?

Answered: 4 Skipped: 133

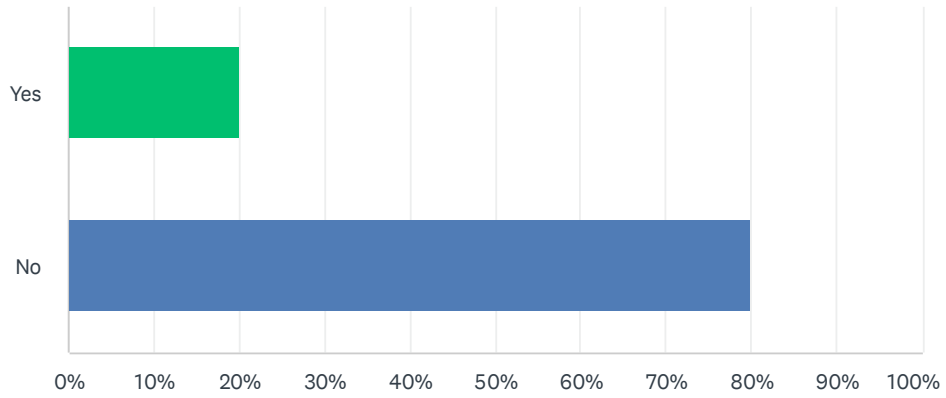


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
\$0 - \$500	50.00%	2
\$501 - \$750	0.00%	0
\$751 - \$1,000	0.00%	0
\$1,000 plus	0.00%	0
Can specify the amount here	50.00%	2
TOTAL		4

#	CAN SPECIFY THE AMOUNT HERE	DATE
1	145.00 week	9/6/2023 8:03 AM
2	\$2.50 per hour	8/29/2023 7:40 PM

Q31 Do you have capacity to expand your current operation?

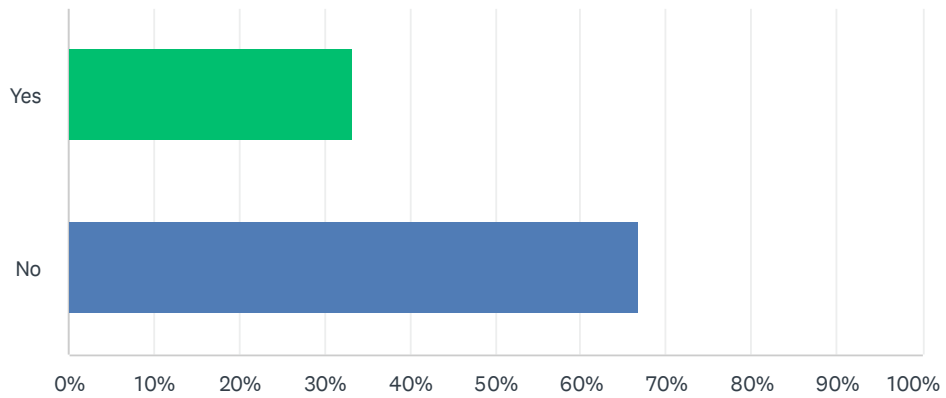
Answered: 5 Skipped: 132



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	20.00%	1
No	80.00%	4
TOTAL		5

Q32 If yes, is that something you would pursue if financing was available?

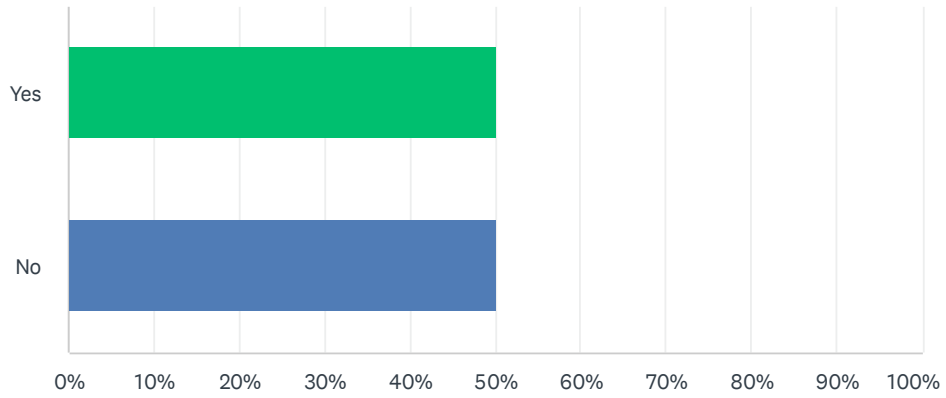
Answered: 3 Skipped: 134



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	33.33%	1
No	66.67%	2
TOTAL		3

Q33 Are you currently an un-licensed childcare provider?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 131



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	50.00%	3
No	50.00%	3
TOTAL		6

Q34 How many children do you have in each age category?

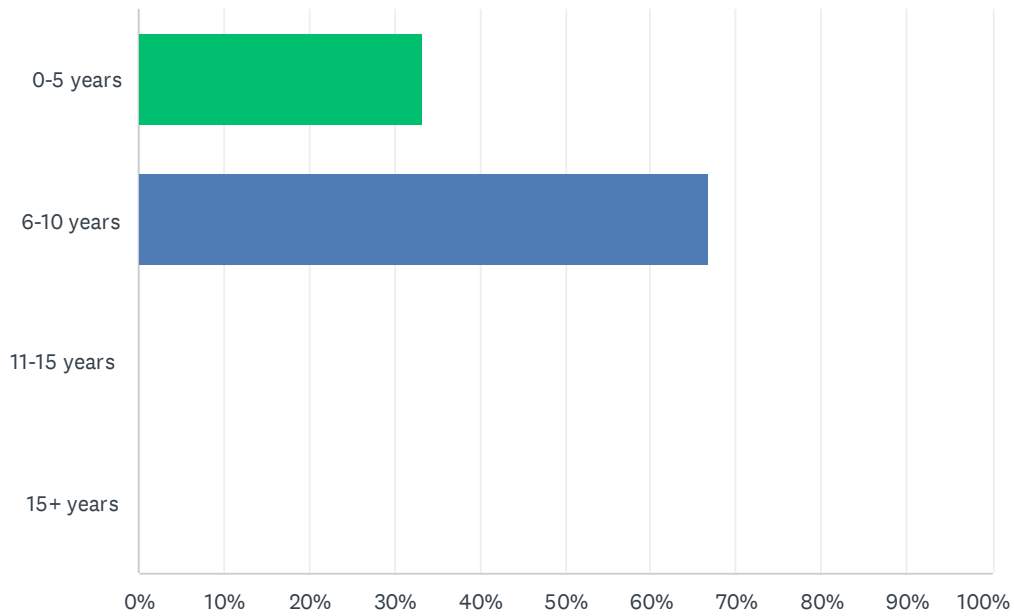
Answered: 3 Skipped: 134

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
6 weeks – 18 months	66.67%	2
19 months – 4 years	66.67%	2
5 – 8 years	66.67%	2
9 – 12 years	0.00%	0

#	6 WEEKS – 18 MONTHS	DATE
1	2	9/1/2023 10:33 PM
2	1	9/1/2023 10:24 AM
#	19 MONTHS – 4 YEARS	DATE
1	2	9/1/2023 10:33 PM
2	2	9/1/2023 10:24 AM
#	5 – 8 YEARS	DATE
1	2	9/1/2023 10:24 AM
2	1	8/29/2023 7:41 PM
#	9 – 12 YEARS	DATE
	There are no responses.	

Q35 How long have you been in operation?

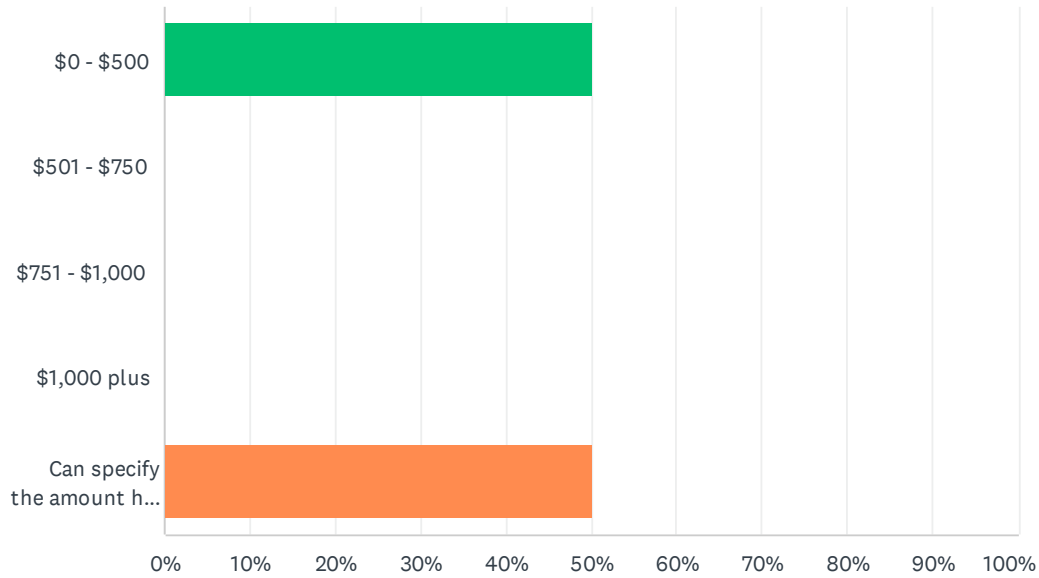
Answered: 3 Skipped: 134



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
0-5 years	33.33% 1
6-10 years	66.67% 2
11-15 years	0.00% 0
15+ years	0.00% 0
TOTAL	3

Q36 On average, how much do you charge in tuition per week per child?

Answered: 4 Skipped: 133

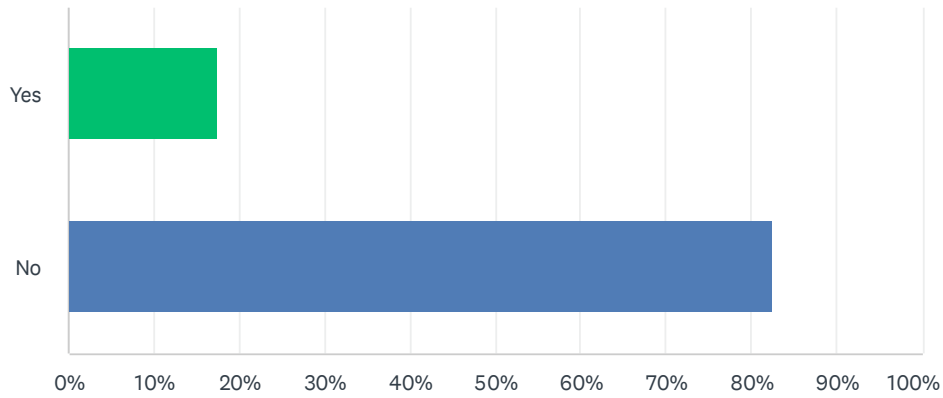


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
\$0 - \$500	50.00%	2
\$501 - \$750	0.00%	0
\$751 - \$1,000	0.00%	0
\$1,000 plus	0.00%	0
Can specify the amount here	50.00%	2
TOTAL		4

#	CAN SPECIFY THE AMOUNT HERE	DATE
1	\$150	9/1/2023 10:24 AM
2	\$2.50 hr	8/29/2023 7:41 PM

Q37 Are you an owner or operator of a business located in the region and/or do you hire or supervise employees for a business located in the region?

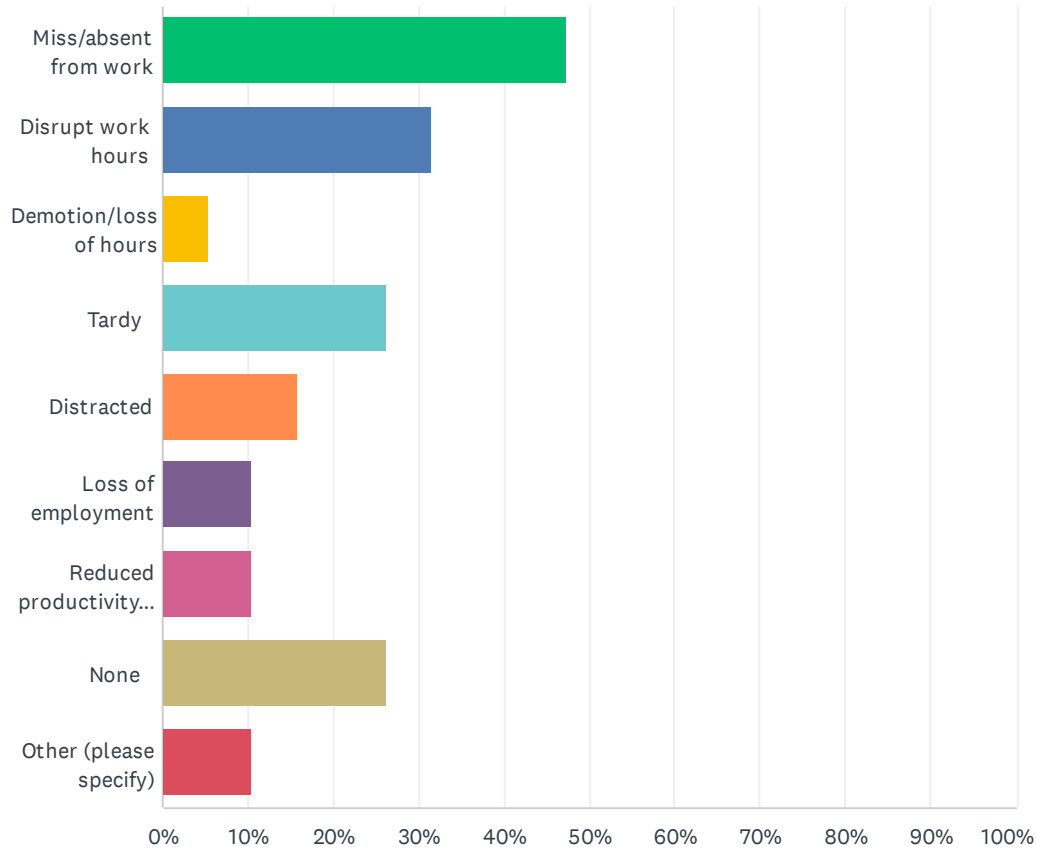
Answered: 132 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	17.42%	23
No	82.58%	109
TOTAL		132

Q38 Has a lack of childcare caused any of the following for your employees? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 19 Skipped: 118



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Miss/absent from work	47.37% 9
Disrupt work hours	31.58% 6
Demotion/loss of hours	5.26% 1
Tardy	26.32% 5
Distracted	15.79% 3
Loss of employment	10.53% 2
Reduced productivity/performance	10.53% 2
None	26.32% 5
Other (please specify)	10.53% 2
Total Respondents: 19	

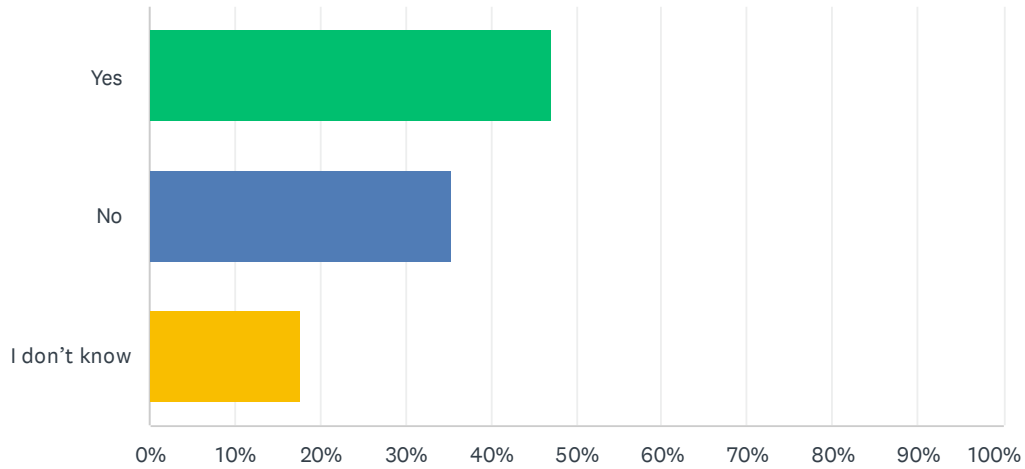
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
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Bennet Regional Childcare Survey

1	NA	9/6/2023 8:05 AM
2	Evening hours for employees due to lack of childcare	8/29/2023 12:55 PM

Q39 Has a lack of available childcare for your current/ potential employees affected your ability to grow your business?

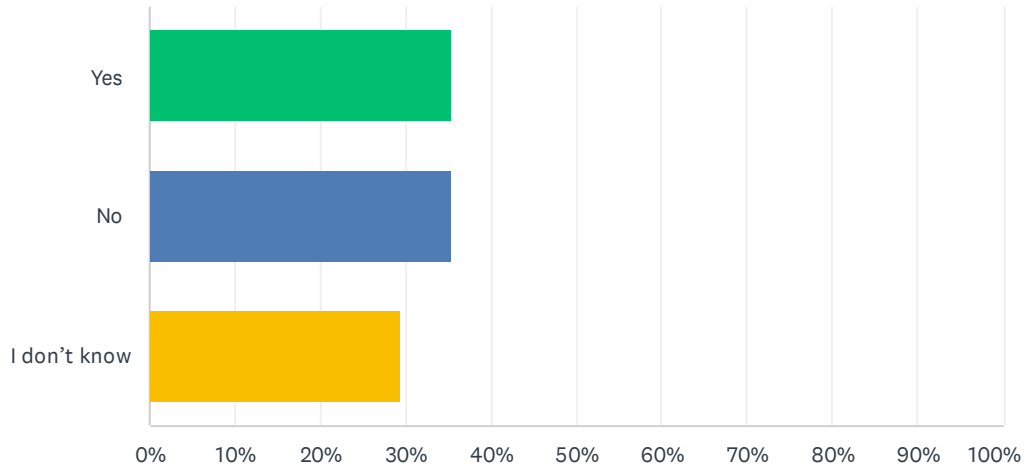
Answered: 17 Skipped: 120



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	47.06%	8
No	35.29%	6
I don't know	17.65%	3
TOTAL		17

Q40 Has a lack of available childcare ever affected your ability to hire your candidate of choice?

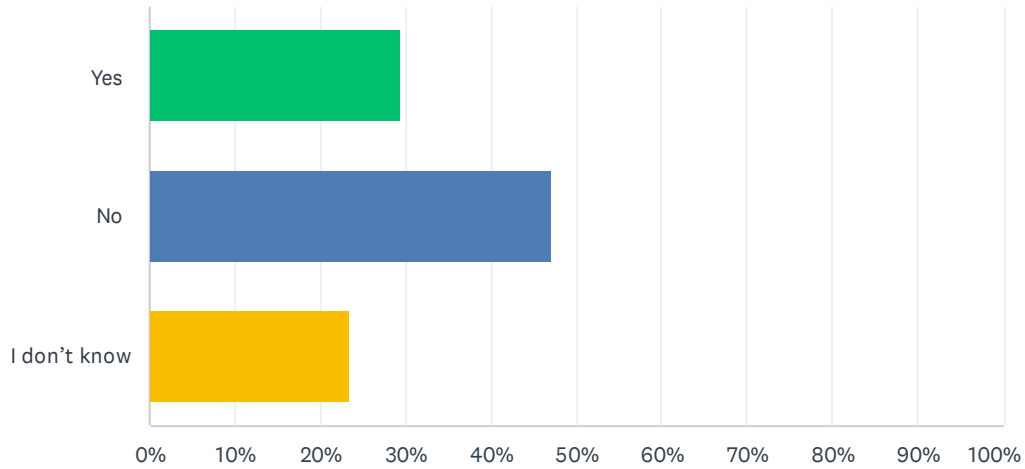
Answered: 17 Skipped: 120



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	35.29%	6
No	35.29%	6
I don't know	29.41%	5
TOTAL		17

Q41 Has a lack of available childcare ever effected your ability to retain employees?

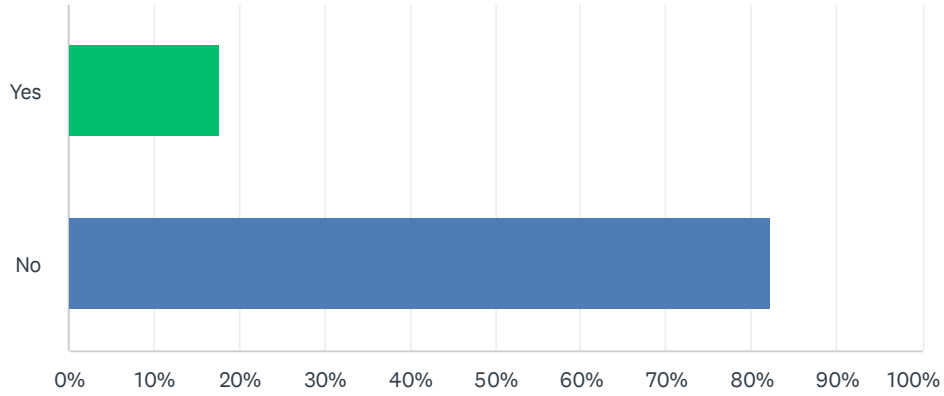
Answered: 17 Skipped: 120



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	29.41%	5
No	47.06%	8
I don't know	23.53%	4
TOTAL		17

Q42 Is childcare for your employees' part of your business plan or one of your business priorities?

Answered: 17 Skipped: 120



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	17.65%	3
No	82.35%	14
TOTAL		17

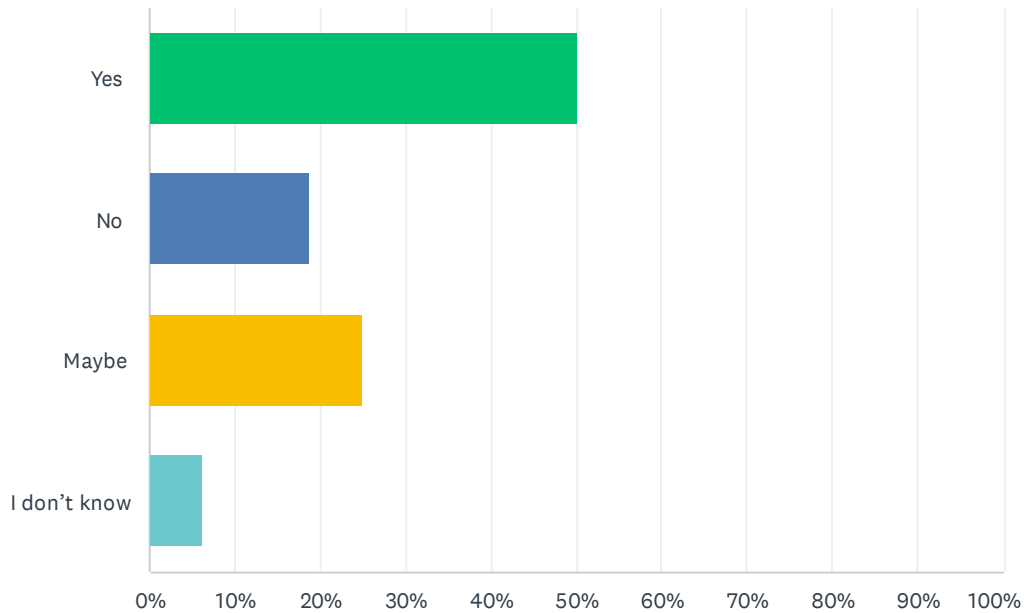
Q43 If yes, how is childcare for employees' part of your business plan or one of your business priorities?

Answered: 2 Skipped: 135

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	supplement employee's childcare expenses and flex scheduling availability	9/5/2023 9:06 AM
2	Be able to work	8/29/2023 1:24 PM

Q44 Would you consider partnering with other community organizations/businesses to support the effort to increase quality childcare capacity/availability?

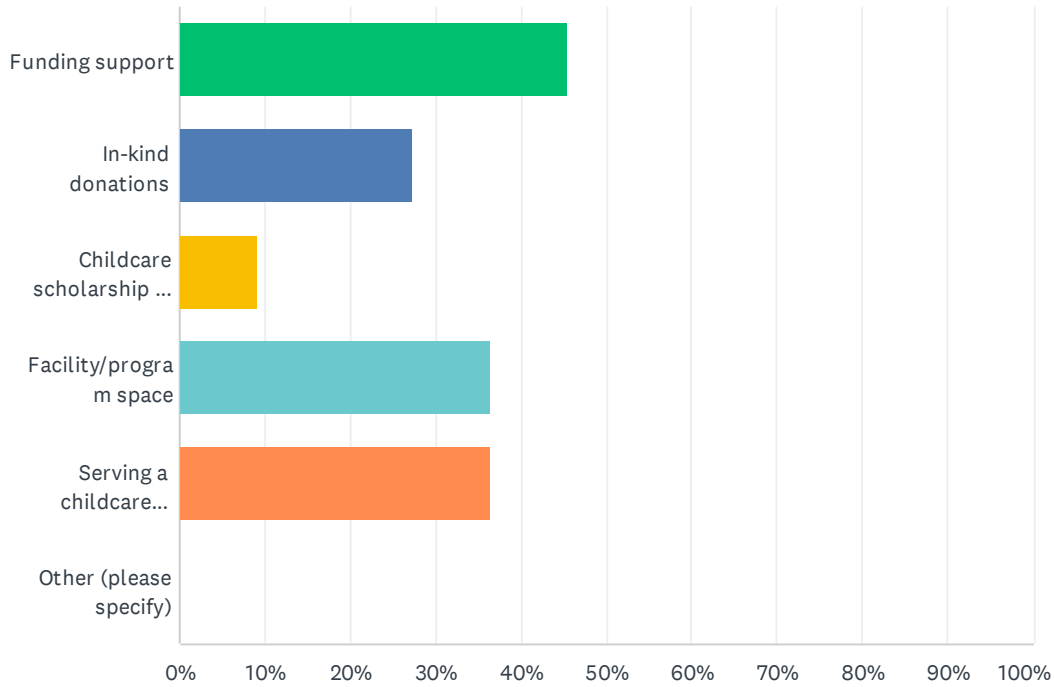
Answered: 16 Skipped: 121



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	50.00%	8
No	18.75%	3
Maybe	25.00%	4
I don't know	6.25%	1
TOTAL		16

Q45 If yes or maybe, how could/would you be able to support the effort? (select all that apply)

Answered: 11 Skipped: 126



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Funding support	45.45%	5
In-kind donations	27.27%	3
Childcare scholarship for employees	9.09%	1
Facility/program space	36.36%	4
Serving a childcare committee	36.36%	4
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 11		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
	There are no responses.	

Q46 Please feel free to share any additional comments about services, opportunities, barriers or your experiences in the region, related to early childcare & education.

Answered: 25 Skipped: 112

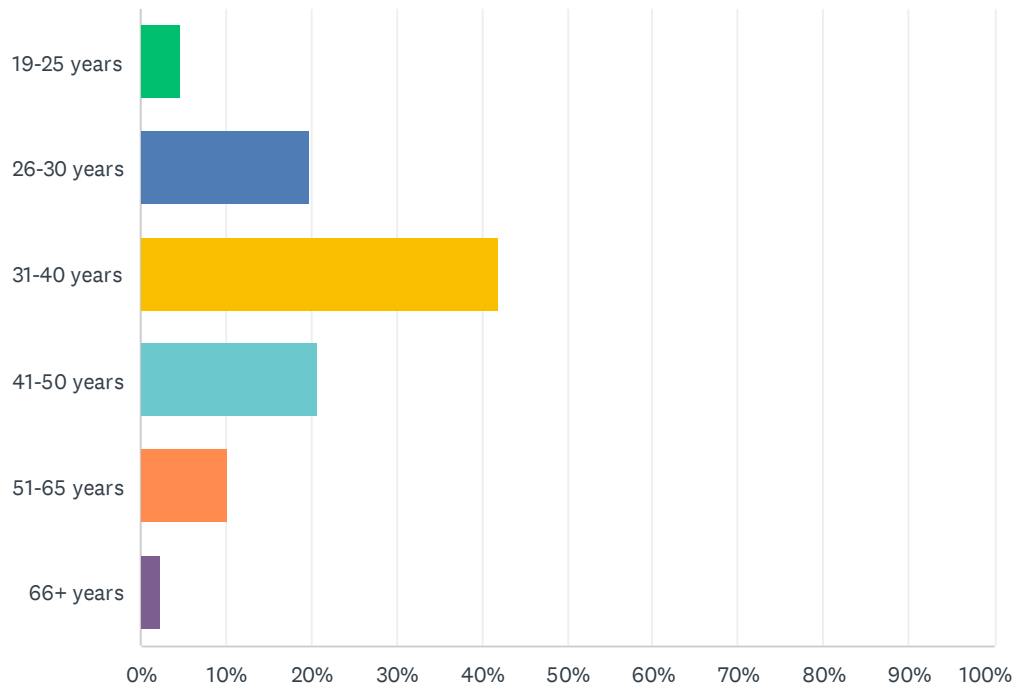
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	There are quite a few unlicensed daycares that are over capacity	10/13/2023 10:13 AM
2	Day care is very much needed in this area as well as every where else. It would be very helpful for the school system to recruit and retain employees and for the working people of this area.	9/30/2023 11:02 AM
3	None	9/27/2023 1:13 PM
4	NE	9/13/2023 7:36 PM
5	I have 1 child now and hoping to have more, I would love a close to home place for childcare or like before and after school programs since a lot of people work in Lincoln we have to leave early to get places on time.	9/12/2023 9:38 AM
6	There is zero child care providers in our area	9/7/2023 11:42 AM
7	Our town of Sterling is growing rapidly and more of child care opportunities are closer to Lincoln. We desperately need something in our town area.	9/7/2023 11:18 AM
8	slay	9/6/2023 6:50 PM
9	The lack of childcare in the area made it extremely difficult for care until my first child started kindergarten. We now have daycare for our youngest in Syracuse, but when he starts preschool next year, we will no longer be able to utilize that care.	9/6/2023 3:14 PM
10	It's only myself caring for my kids	9/6/2023 8:05 AM
11	The lack of professionalism displayed by District OR-1 would make me hesitant to inquire or feel comfortable sending my children to a childcare facility associated with the school. There seems to be a mountain of problems that are happening within the district that have yet to be addressed. I would like to see the district focus on fixing staffing issues, professionalism, accountability of administrators, teachers, and paraprofessionals, as well as making sure the teachers are teaching what they're supposed to in order to ensure academic success before the district adds another thing to manage. I'd like to see the district do things well, rather than with the mediocrity that has been accepted in the past few years. At the present moment, my significant other and I contemplating whether or not we will send our Children to Bennet or Palmyra, or if we will opt out of the district and into one of the school districts nearby.	9/5/2023 8:45 PM
12	NE	9/5/2023 6:26 PM
13	Nebraska	9/5/2023 10:49 AM
14	Numerous inhome daycares have closed in Hickman within the last year. Wait lists for daycares within 20 miles of Hickman are over 2 years long. My grandmother is watching my son currently as I am on waitlists from February 2022. We need something that is affordable, available, and treats the children in a professional and respectful manner.	9/5/2023 9:37 AM
15	Families need to adjust their lifestyles to allow one parent to stay home & childcare would not be such a huge need.	9/3/2023 3:10 PM
16	Would also be beneficial to care for children over 12 as my oldest has disabilities and will age out of care and I will still be stuck in this predicament	9/2/2023 5:41 PM
17	Cost is a large factor in our family's ability to pay for childcare. We do not qualify for assistance and pay the full amount which leads us to make cuts in other aspects of our life. With two full time working parents it is appalling how much we pay for childcare.	9/2/2023 7:33 AM

Bennet Regional Childcare Survey

18	The Bennet school buses need to transport to this daycare. Especially the preschool bus. I know a lot of kids aren't using the preschool program because of transportation issues.	9/1/2023 9:29 PM
19	Why aren't parents taking care of their own kids? Why are tax payers who do not have kids attending schools or daycares responsible for paying for others kids?	9/1/2023 5:10 PM
20	Need child care for after pre-k hours	9/1/2023 1:12 PM
21	Bennet is in major need of a child care center especially with our young community growing fast	9/1/2023 10:25 AM
22	Our community needs more in daycare options or a educational center. Especially to offset our schools 1/2 day preschool program.	8/29/2023 2:16 PM
23	Not enough child care providers in the area	8/29/2023 1:24 PM
24	NE	8/29/2023 12:45 PM
25	When my children were small, I really struggled to find daycare for all three of my kids, especially on a part time basis.	8/29/2023 12:44 PM

Q47 Please select the age range of the person completing the survey?

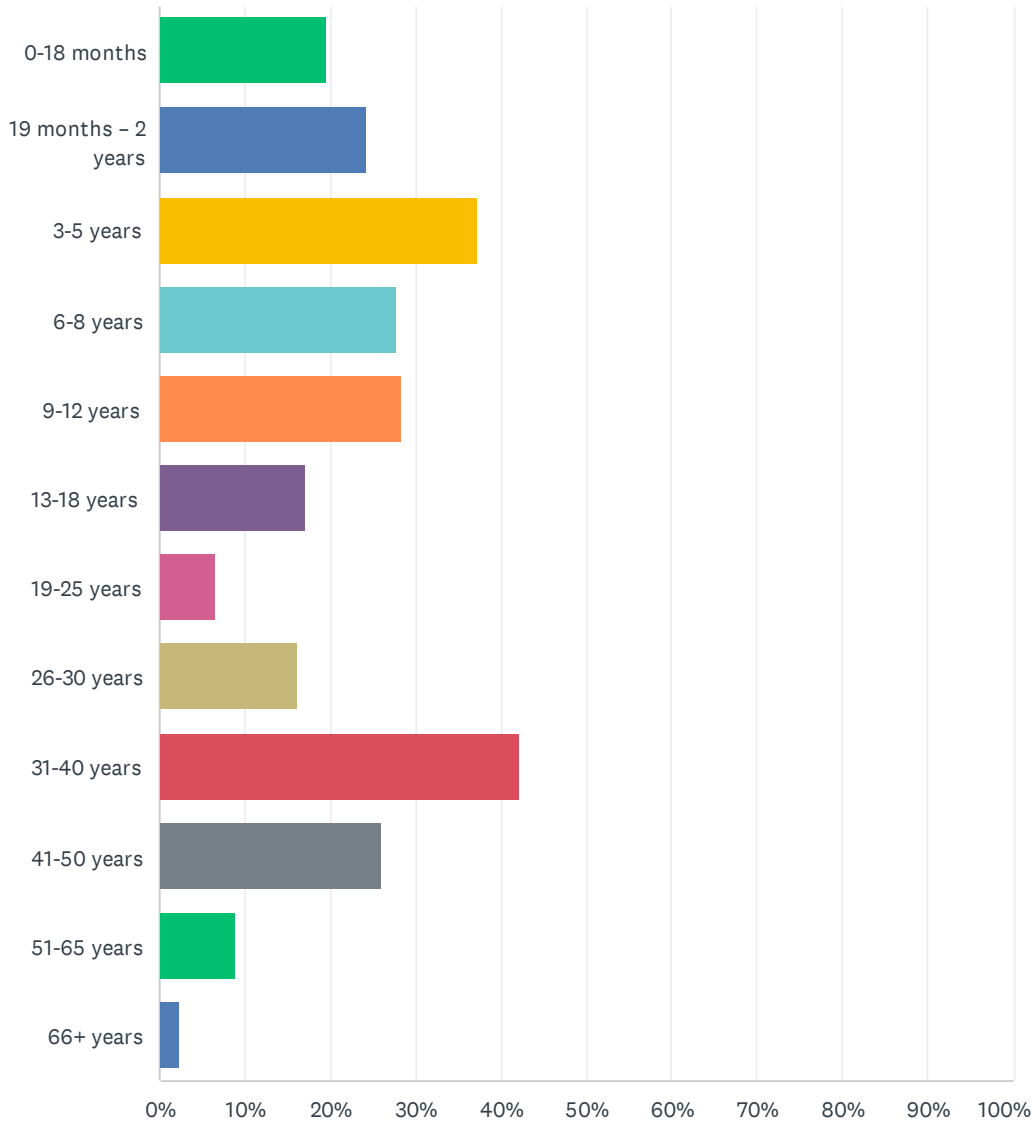
Answered: 126 Skipped: 11



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
19-25 years	4.76%	6
26-30 years	19.84%	25
31-40 years	42.06%	53
41-50 years	20.63%	26
51-65 years	10.32%	13
66+ years	2.38%	3
TOTAL		126

Q48 Please select the age range for EACH of the other members in your household.

Answered: 123 Skipped: 14

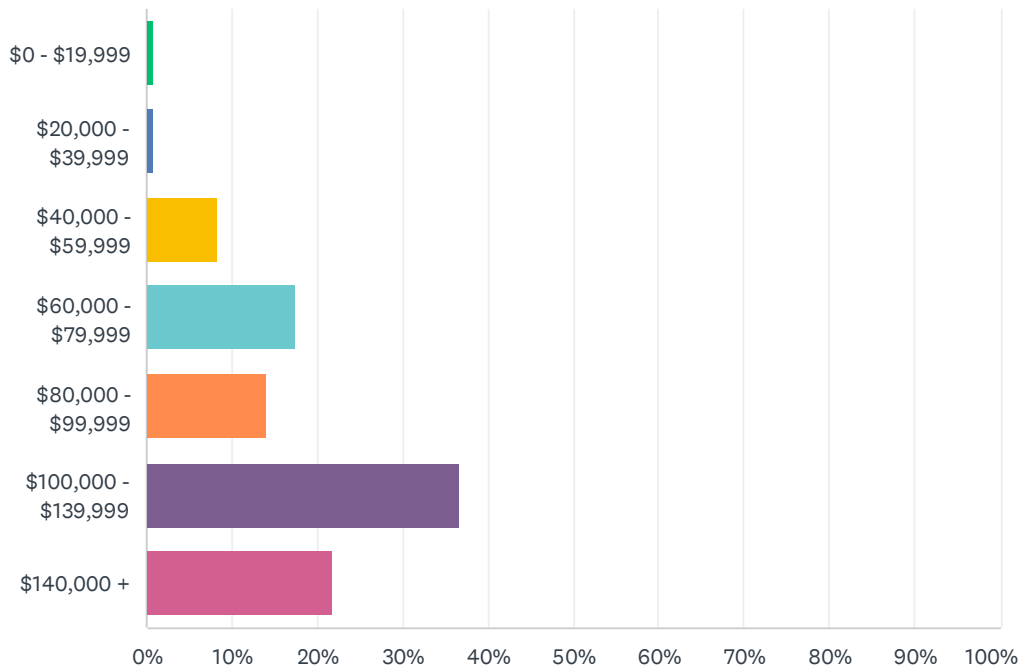


Bennet Regional Childcare Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-18 months	19.51%	24
19 months – 2 years	24.39%	30
3-5 years	37.40%	46
6-8 years	27.64%	34
9-12 years	28.46%	35
13-18 years	17.07%	21
19-25 years	6.50%	8
26-30 years	16.26%	20
31-40 years	42.28%	52
41-50 years	26.02%	32
51-65 years	8.94%	11
66+ years	2.44%	3
Total Respondents: 123		

Q49 Select the total, combined household annual income.

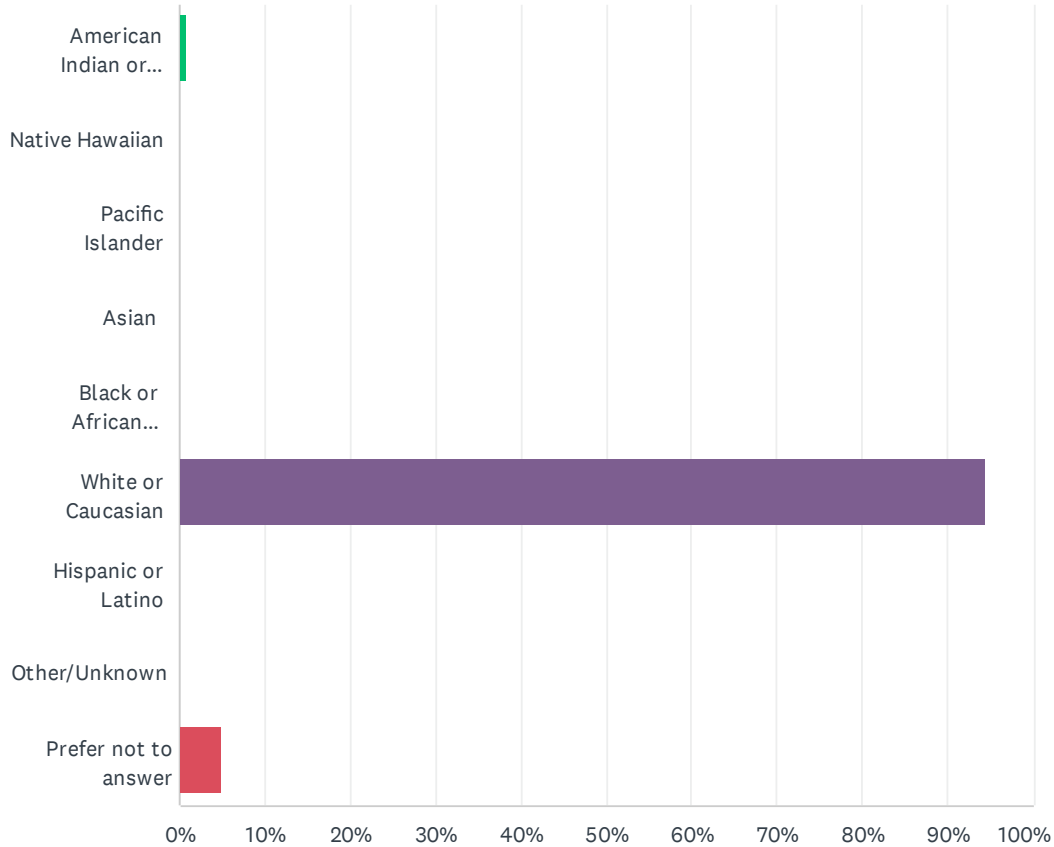
Answered: 120 Skipped: 17



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
\$0 - \$19,999	0.83%	1
\$20,000 - \$39,999	0.83%	1
\$40,000 - \$59,999	8.33%	10
\$60,000 - \$79,999	17.50%	21
\$80,000 - \$99,999	14.17%	17
\$100,000 - \$139,999	36.67%	44
\$140,000 +	21.67%	26
TOTAL		120

Q50 As the person completing this survey, what Race/Ethnicity do you most identify as? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 124 Skipped: 13



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.81%	1
Native Hawaiian	0.00%	0
Pacific Islander	0.00%	0
Asian	0.00%	0
Black or African American	0.00%	0
White or Caucasian	94.35%	117
Hispanic or Latino	0.00%	0
Other/Unknown	0.00%	0
Prefer not to answer	4.84%	6
Total Respondents: 124		

Bennet Community Survey Summary

The community survey shows that 49% of residents have been living in Bennet for 10 or less years, with the largest age group being 35-44 years old (35.5%). Of the respondents, 78.8% indicated that they are employed full-time or self-employed and 16.5% said that they are retired. Those who completed the survey are generally well educated with 84% having some form of post-secondary education or training.

Respondents have a good overall view of Bennet. 51.9% said that Bennet is a quality place to live, 40.7% said they are indifferent, and only 5.6% rated it as a low quality place to live. This is reflected in their outlook with 61.3% being confident in the future of Bennet.

According to respondents, the most important services to focus on for the future economic development of Bennet are better broadband, daycare-children, and restaurants. Each of these services was rated as either important or very important by 94% or more of the respondents. Currently, the least available services were indicated to be restaurants, healthcare, and a grocery store. Each of these were rated to be less available or not available by 61% or more of respondents. The sectors with the highest preference for future economic development are agriculture, retail and wholesale trade, and technology. The sectors with the lowest preference are manufacturing/assembly, energy, and mining (89.6% responded with a 4 or 5 to mining).

Regarding a new downtown area, 64% responded that they support the idea of establishing a new downtown area. 64% also indicated a preference towards this new downtown being placed within the city's core area as opposed to the north side of town.

In general, responses showed a desire for more reasons to visit downtown. Respondents commonly indicated wanting more restaurants/coffee shop, a grocery/general store, and unique retail. Additionally, beautification of the downtown area seems to be a high priority including new sidewalks with planters and an outdoor area that could be used as a gathering space.

Q1 How long have you lived in Bennet?

1-5 years – 33.02%

6-10 years – 16.04%

11-15 years – 13.21%

21-30 years – 11.32%

I don't live in Bennet – 6.13%

Q2 Please tell us your age?

25-29 years – 7.01%

30-34 years – 11.21%

35-39 years – 19.63%

40-44 years – 15.89%

45-54 years – 14.02%

55-64 years – 14.49%

65-74 years – 10.75%

Q3 What do you identify as?

Resident – 89.72%

Business owner – 6.54%

City leadership – 1.87%

Q4 Please tell us how many children you have?

2 children – 39.62%

3 children – 23.58%

0 children – 18.40%

Q5 What grade level are your children?

Daycare/Preschool – 23.94%

K-5 – 36.17%

6-8 – 22.87%

9-12 – 19.15%

College – 11.17%

Grown adult – 34.04%

Q6 My children live...

At home – 65.61%

Grown-Living in Nebraska – 29.10%

Grown-Living out-of-state – 15.34%

Grown-Living in Bennet – 8.47%

At school/college – 4.76%

Q7 My education choice for my children...

Public – 75.90%

Private – 12.31%

NA – 9.23%

At home – 5.64%

Q8 Employment

Full-Time – 65.57%

Part-Time – 5.19%

Self-Employed – 13.21%

Home Maker – 7.06%

Unemployed – 0.00%

Retired – 16.51%

Q9 Primary income industry...

Education, health, and social services – 27.83%

Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental/leasing – 15.57%

Retired – 13.68%

Construction – 11.32%

Q10 Do you work in Bennet?

Yes – 23.94%

No – 76.06%

Q11 How far is your commute to work?

Less than 15 minutes – 28.31%

15-45 minutes – 39.15%

45-60 minutes – 3.77%

Work from home – 11.79%

Q12 Highest level of education?

4-year college/university – 33.02%

Community/Technical/Vocational – 28.30%

Graduate/advanced degree – 22.64%

High school/GED – 18.40%

Q13 What brought you to Bennet?

Family – 33.02%

Work – 10.80%

Other (please specify) – 45.07%

Comments: School district, small town environment, to raise kids, large lot size/acreage/rural

Q14 Is Bennet a quality place to live?

Quality – 51.87%

Indifferent – 40.65%

Low Quality – 5.6%

Q15 I plan to retire in Bennet.

Yes – 59.72%

No – 40.28%

Q16 I am confident in Bennet's future.

Yes – 61.32%

No – 38.68%

Q17

Majority agree with:

- I would start or invest in a small, local business
- It's hard for small business to survive here
- Should offer tax incentives to fill vacant buildings
- History and architecture should be preserved
- Old buildings and houses should be cleaned up or torn down
- Focus on developing technology and energy resources
- Be more proactive in supporting existing industries and businesses in Bennet
- Middle school kids don't have anything to do with their free time
- Should be more places for kids to hang out with their friends
- I would support a program to repair/clean-up homes and lawns
- Developers should pay for new water lines and other infrastructure including enhancing roads and bridges
- Quality education is available
- Retaining current businesses is key to Bennet's economic survival
- Growth and development should be carefully managed

Q17

Majority disagree with:

- New business should be along the northern HWY corridor instead of downtown
- Should keep all new business development within city limits
- I would pay extra taxes for improvements to downtown
- Wind and solar farms will strengthen our economy and be attractive
- There are enough part-time jobs for high school students, they have too far travel
- Bennet has a variety of housing options
- There is enough rental property
- Roads are in good condition
- Childcare is affordable and available
- I often use the community center and/or walk-n-bike paths, tracks, or trails
- There are adequate adults and senior citizens activities

Q18

Respondents indicated which of the following regional communities they go to for 21 different activities

Bennet, Lincoln, Waverly, Syracuse, Nebraska City, Omaha, Gretna, Ashland

Q18 According to respondents...

Bennet Activities:

- Outdoor exercise
- Gas/Convenience items shopping
- Community clubs or groups 19.44%
- Antiques 14.52%

Lincoln Activities:

- Entertainment
- Play Sports
- Indoor exercise
- Swimming
- Cultural Events
- Festivals
- Grocery shopping
- Furniture shopping – divided with Omaha
- Clothes
- Vehicle
- Farm equipment – divided with Syracuse
- Hardware/lumber
- Other shopping
- Movie rentals
- Dining out – fast food and dine-in
- Community clubs

Q19

Respondents rated 15 services on a scale, rated from very important to not important

Daycare - children, daycare - adults, grocery store, banking, tech support, tourism, arts and culture, mainstreet retail, restaurants, recreational facilities, more jobs, youth retention, senior housing – including assisted living, healthcare, better broadband

According to respondents...

Important – Very Important:

- Better Broadband – 97.88%
- Daycare-Children – 94.44%
- Restaurants – 95.14%

Less/not Important:

- Tourism – 48.23%
- Arts & Culture – 35.46%
- Tech Support-Computers – 42.95%

Q20 Access to quality goods and services is important. How available are these to you?

Respondents rated 16 services on a scale, rated from very available to not available

Daycare - children, daycare - adults, grocery store, banking, tech support, tourism, arts and crafts, nursing home facilities, assisted living facilities, meals on wheels, senior services, main street retail, restaurants, healthcare facilities, recreational facilities, and agricultural support

According to respondents...

Most available:

- Banking, 59.6%
- Grocery store, 30.3%
- Restaurants, 20.5%

Least available:

- Restaurants, 68%
- Healthcare, 63.6%
- Grocery store, 61.3%

Q21 What is/will be your plan for retirement?

Stay in Bennet - 49.28%

Seek a nearby location - 8.70%

Stay in Nebraska - 12.32%

Move to another state - 17.39%

Q22 In regard to economic development, the City should concentrate efforts in which area?

High preference - Agriculture, Retail and Wholesale Trade, and Technology

Low Preference - Manufacturing/Assembly, Energy, and Mining

Q23 Please rate the following governmental entities.

Highest rated (1 or 2) - Elementary (66.2%) and Secondary schools (46.4%),
Local Fire Department (86.7%)

Lowest rated (4 or 5) - Code compliance (39.3%), Planning & Zoning (47.9%),
Clerk's office (36.4%), City Council (37.1%)

Q24 Please prioritize the following critical items Bennet should focus on in the future.

Highest priority - Street improvements, economic development, pedestrian friendly development, planning policies guiding the future of the city

- Each was rated by 35-40% of respondents as highest priority (1)

Lowest priority - Public parking and pedestrian scaled street lighting

- Rated as a 4 or 5 by 42.3% and 34.5% of respondents, respectively

Q25 Do you support the idea of establishing a new downtown area in Bennet?

Nearly 2 to 1 in favor of a new downtown area

Yes - 64.34%

No - 35.66%

Q26 Which area would you prefer to establish a new downtown area in Bennet?

Plan A: a place within the city's core area, near the City's Fire Department - 63.97%

Plan B: a place in north side of the city, near the Nebraska First Bank area - 36.03%

Q27 What is your vision for the downtown area in the next 10 years (2023-2033)? (top comments)

Quaint small town vibe that is welcoming and special

A downtown area that is central around the post office with a grocery store or a multipurpose store with a little of everything

I would like to see a downtown area that would be inviting for people to stop in the area and not just drive through downtown

Restaurants, shops, convenience store

Q28 What can we do as a community to make Downtown the place we want it to be? (top comments)

Make it easier for people to just "hang out" and reduce barrier to entry for businesses

An attractive lighted outdoor space where people can gather and enjoy food and drink

Recruit new businesses and support the business already here

Give tax incentives to bring in new business and retain current

Q29 What do you like about other downtown areas that you have visited and/or lived in?

Lots of flowers/landscaping, clean, drink/eat options, cute boutiques

Variety types of businesses that offer different things to do and shop for

They have a community center that can be used by all and is big enough for multiple events

Cozy small shops, food, walkable from most areas of town, good sidewalks and good lighting

Q30 Would you like to see the city's water tower property be developed into a city park?

Yes - 68%

No - 32%

Q31 If so, what amenities would you like to see in the park?

Over 50% of respondents indicated either wanting a basketball court, walking trail loop, or playground

Other amenities mentioned include tennis/pickleball court, dog park, sand volleyball, and a pool

Q33 If a city-wide trail network were developed, what activities would you use it for?

General activity/exercise (86%)

Walking/biking to city parks (50%)

Walking/biking to businesses (35%)

Walking/biking to school (34%)

Q34 List the one most important quality of Bennet that must be preserved. (top comments)

Small town friendly atmosphere

Small town vibe

Small town living

Small town feel and close community

It has a strong community of young families. Providing opportunities for the young families will be vital

Q35 List the one thing that most needs to be changed about Bennet. (top comments)

Water supply

Beautification along main road

Infrastructure

Business growth

Q36 What makes Bennet a comfortable place to live? (top comments)

Quiet, close to Lincoln without losing home town feel

Sense of community

Nice, welcoming residents. Easygoing atmosphere

Safe and quiet

Q37 What's your big idea for the future of Bennet? (top comments)

Pool! Pool! Pool!

Grants to help residents improve properties and start local businesses

Become the "model city" for small town America, STAND OUT, have crazy food ideas, unique businesses and make EVERY citizen feel like they are heard and belong

Q38 What is your vision for Bennet? (top comments)

More water, cleaner neighborhoods. New friendly businesses.

Better roads

Improved walk-ability with more youth activities.

Desirable bedroom suburb of Lincoln.

Q39 What type(s) of outdoor recreation are most important to you? (top comments)

Walking, biking

Swimming pool, fishing pond

Basketball, walking, sand volleyball



MASTER AGREEMENT WORK ORDER

This exhibit dated February 7, 2024 is hereby attached to and made a part of the Master Agreement for Professional Services dated August 31, 2020 between City of Bennet (“Owner”) and Olsson, Inc. (“Olsson”) providing for professional services. Olsson’s Scope of Services for the Agreement is as indicated below.

GENERAL

Olsson has acquainted itself with the information provided by Owner relative to the project and based upon such information offers to provide the services described below for the project. Owner warrants that it is either the legal owner of the property to be improved by this Project or that Owner is acting as the duly authorized agent of the legal owner of such property.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

Project will be located at: Bennet, Nebraska

Project Description: SCADA Services

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Olsson shall provide the following services (Scope of Services) to Owner for the Project:

Design Services (\$4,040)

1. Engineering Request For Proposal (RFP) and Scope of Services documents for bidders to reference while drafting their respective bid packages. This will include the following items:
 - a. Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP)
 - i. PLC Upgrade to CompactLogix system.
 - ii. OIT replacement with 7” PanelView Plus 7.
 - iii. Radio & Antenna upgrade to support an Ethernet network architecture.
 - iv. Integration of Lift Station & Water Tower
 - b. Lift Station
 - i. Radio & Antenna upgrade to support an Ethernet network architecture.
 1. Integrated into vendor pump control enclosure.
 - c. Water Tower
 - i. PLC Upgrade to Micro820 or Micro85.
 - ii. Radio & Antenna upgrade to support an Ethernet network architecture.
1. Opinion of Probable Cost (OPCC)
 - a. Prepare OPCC for project construction work to include potential alternate bid items.
2. Alternate Bid Items
 - a. SCADA PC at the WTP with minimal SCADA features such as alarming and text/email callout.
 - b. VPN at the WTP for secure remote access.
3. Deliverables

- a. Network Architecture Drawing
- b. RFP
 - i. Alternate Bid Items Separated
- c. Bidder Scope of Services
 - i. Alternate Bid Items Separated
- d. OPCC

Bidding Services (\$1,260)

1. Attend pre-bid meeting to clarify design intent.
2. Provide responses to question from bidders.
3. Prepare and issue updated documentation as necessary for correction and clarification of bid documents.

Construction Services (\$3,080)

1. Attend pre-construction meeting to reiterate design intent.
2. Review shop drawings and provide response to contractor.
3. Catalog and respond to RFIs from the general contractor.
4. Coordinate substantial or final completion walkthrough with Owner and/or Contractor.
 - a. One (1) site visit included for construction services.
5. Provide project close-out and as-built/record documentation review.

Should Owner request work in addition to the Scope of Services, Olsson shall invoice Owner for such additional services (Optional Additional Services) at the standard hourly billing labor rate charged for those employees actually performing the work, plus reimbursable expenses if any. Olsson shall not commence work on Optional Additional Services without Owner's prior written approval.

Olsson agrees to provide all of its services in a timely, competent and professional manner, in accordance with applicable standards of care, for projects of similar geographic location, quality and scope.

SCHEDULE FOR OLSSON'S SERVICES

Unless otherwise agreed, Olsson expects to perform its services under the Agreement as follows:

Anticipated Start Date: 2/19/24
Anticipated Completion Date: 8/19/24

Olsson will endeavor to start its services on the Anticipated Start Date and to complete its services on the Anticipated Completion Date. However, the Anticipated Start Date, the Anticipated Completion Date, and any milestone dates are approximate only, and Olsson reserves the right to adjust its schedule and any or all of those dates at its sole discretion, for any reason, including, but not limited to, delays caused by Owner or delays caused by third parties.

COMPENSATION

Olsson's Scope of Services will be provided on a time-and-expense basis not to exceed **\$8,380**.


TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

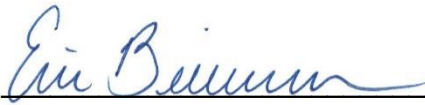
We have discussed with you the risks, rewards and benefits of the Project, the Scope of Services, and our fees for such services and the Agreement represents the entire understanding between Owner and Olsson with respect to the Project. The Agreement may only be modified in writing signed by both parties.

Owner's designated Project Representative shall be _____.

If this Work Order satisfactorily sets forth your understanding of our agreement, please sign in the space provided below. Retain a copy for your files and return an executed original to Olsson, 601 P Street, Suite 200, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508. This proposal will be open for acceptance for a period of 30 days from the date set forth above, unless changed by us in writing.

OLSSON, INC.

By 

By 

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have full authority to bind Owner to the terms of the Agreement. If you accept this Work Order, please sign:

CITY OF BENNET, NE

By _____
Signature

Print Name _____

Title _____

Dated: _____

The Bennet Community Builders Association is sponsoring a fund drive to install preschool play ground equipment in the Bennet City Park.

Why:

- There are many young families in our growing Bennet community with preschool children who need age appropriate play opportunities in our city park.
- This is in the 2016 Bennet Park Master Plan.

When

- Summer 2024 installation planned.

How:

- Civic fund raising
- Bennet Builder Burger Sales
- City funds
- Grant funds
- Volunteer efforts

We are asking you to help support this much needed addition to the city park. The estimated cost is \$40,000 for: (1) the playground unit, (2) crumb rubber impact surface, (3) concrete sidewalks around the unit and connecting it to the current playground, and (4) site preparation and post construction reseeding of disturbed areas. A representation of the playground unit location is shown on the figure below.

Thank you for your consideration of this addition to the city park. We have been working for this for several years. Thanks to those who have already donated. With more support it will be accomplished this year.

Larry Kramer

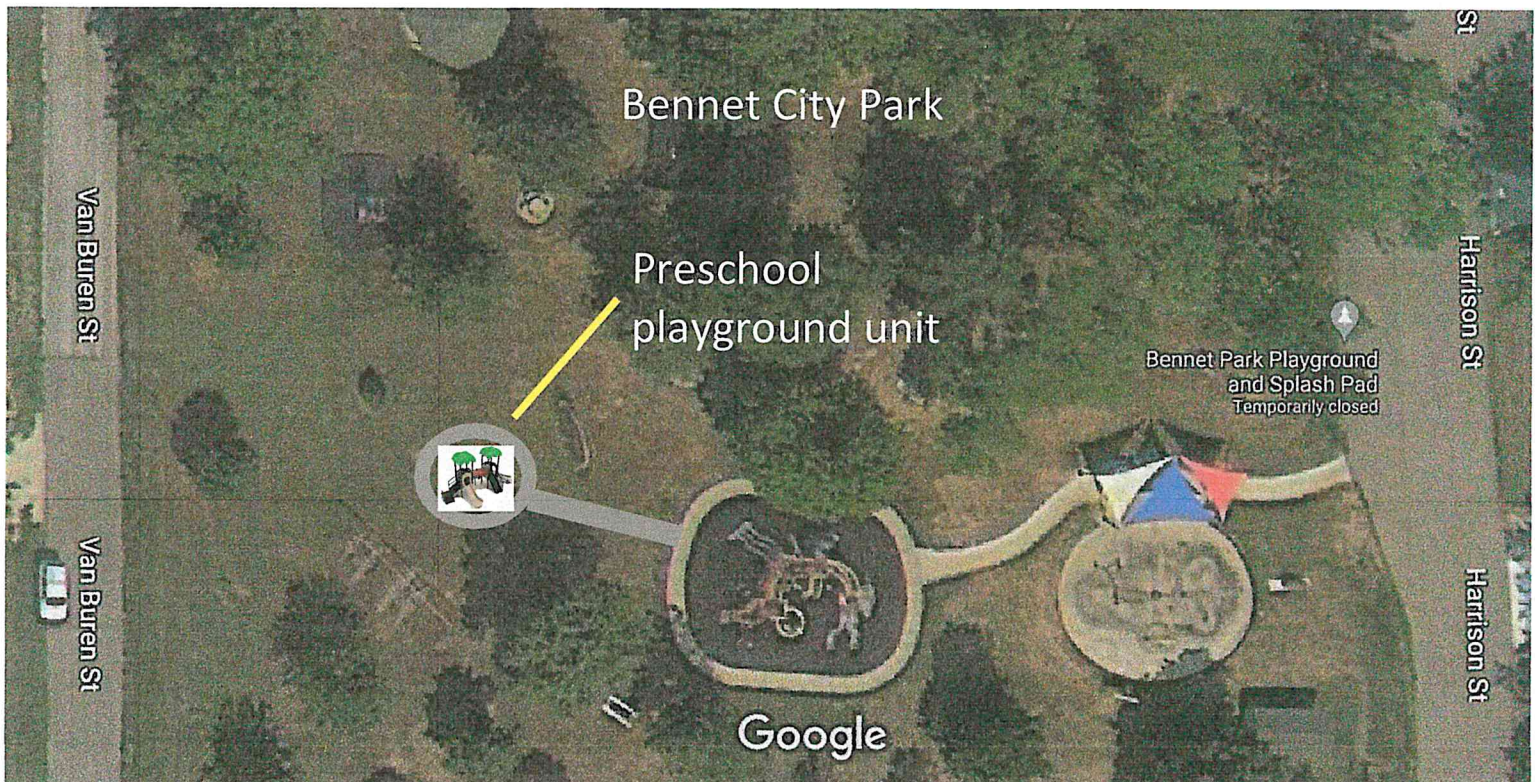
President, Bennet Community
Builders Assoc.

402-326-6485

kramerlarry@earthlink.net

Mailing address: BCBA, 895 Cottonwood, Bennet, NE 68317

Address checks to: BCBA



Section 10-08-08



RESOLUTION NO. 2024-2.2

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MASTER FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE CITY OF BENNET.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA, that Addendum A, Master Fee Schedule shall be approved.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 12th day of February 2024

City Clerk/Treasurer
City of Bennet, NE

Mayor
City of Bennet, NE

(SEAL)

Master Fee Schedule - Addendum A		Fee
Dog, Cat, and Other Animal Fees		
Dogs and Cats Annually (up to 3)		10.00
License for each additional cat (4 or more Dogs are considered a kennel and they are not permitted)		55.00
Delinquent Dogs and Cats (for 1-3 animals)		20.00
Delinquent Cats (for 4+ cats)		55.00
Impoundment Fee for Dogs and Cats (No charge if Less than 8 hours)		25.00 per day, plus any cost incurred by City
Animal Permit Large (Annual Fee)		50.00
Animal Permit Small (Annual Fee)		10.00
Guide and Hearing Dogs		Exempt
Shelter Reservation/Damage Deposit		
Reservations/Damage Deposit. Which is Returned Upon Satisfactory Inspection		100.00 Deposit
Nuisances Abatement		
300.00 per hour including equipment? Just a flat fee?		300.00 per hour
Peddlers Permit		
Annual Peddlers Permit with Completed Application (Good for one year)		25.00
Food Vendor/Food Trucks		
Food Vendors Truck with Completed Application (Good for one year)		25.00
Utility Related Fees		
Transfer/Voluntary Disconnection		25.00
Utility Reconnect for non payment		100.00
Water Usage Rate		5.60
Water Rate-Monthly		28.50
Sewer Usage Rate		6.00
Sewer Rate- Monthly		24.00
Replacement of Antenna on meter due to breakage. Cost may change		240.26
Separate Premises: one meter shared between properties. Minimum water service fee		10.00 per month

Master Fee Schedule - Addendum A		Fee
Dog, Cat, and Other Animal Fees		
Dogs and Cats Annually (up to 3)		10.00
License for each additional cat (4 or more Dogs are considered a kennel and they are not permitted)		55.00
Delinquent Dogs and Cats (for 1-3 animals)		20.00
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Guide and Hearing Dogs		Exempt
Shelter Reservation/Damage Deposit		
Reservations/Damage Deposit. Which is Returned Upon Satisfactory Inspection		100.00 Deposit
Nuisances Abatement		
300.00 per hour including equipment? Just a flat fee?		300.00 per hour
Peddlers Permit		
Annual Peddlers Permit with Completed Application (Good for one year)		25.00
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Sewer Rate- Monthly		24.00
Replacement of Antenna on meter due to breakage. Cost may change		240.26
Separate Premises: one meter shared between properties. Minimum water service fee		10.00 per month

Subdivisions Tax - Commercial or Industrial	4000 per acre
Change of Use	250.00
Conditional Use Permit	250.00
Board of Adjustment	50.00 Application
Zoning Change	Notification 250.00
Payport Usage Fees	
E-Check	1.75
Debit Card	2.95
Credit Card	2.49% of Total
Demo Permit	55.00
Insufficient Funds	
Checks, ACH	20.00 plus bank fees
Hobbyist Permit Fee	
For inoperable, dented, damaged vehicles resident wants to fix up. 180 days	50.00
Renewal (one time only) of Hobbyist Permit	50.00
Bulk Water Fees	
\$500.00 refundable deposit to city for water meter provided/refund after return of water meter	500.00
Usage of first 1,000 gals water	48.00
Per additional 1,000 gals of water	5.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-2.2

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MASTER FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE CITY OF BENNET.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENNET, NEBRASKA, that Addendum A, Master Fee Schedule shall be approved.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 12th day of February 2024

City Clerk/Treasurer
City of Bennet, NE

Mayor
City of Bennet, NE

(SEAL)

Master Fee Schedule - Addendum A		Fee
Dog, Cat, and Other Animal Fees		
Dogs and Cats Annually (up to 3)		10.00
License for each additional cat (4 or more Dogs are considered a kennel and they are not permitted)		55.00
Delinquent Dogs and Cats (for 1-3 animals)		20.00
Delinquent Cats (for 4+ cats)		55.00
Impoundment Fee for Dogs and Cats (No charge if Less than 8 hours)		25.00 per day, plus any cost incurred by City
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Animal Permit Small (Annual Fee)		10.00
Guide and Hearing Dogs		Exempt
Shelter Reservation/Damage Deposit		
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Utility Reconnect for non payment		100.00
Water Usage Rate		5.60
Water Rate-Monthly		28.50
Sewer Usage Rate		6.00
Sewer Rate- Monthly		24.00
Replacement of Antenna on meter due to breakage. Cost may change		240.26
Separate Premises: one meter shared between properties. Minimum water service fee		10.00 per month

Garbage Related Fees	
Non-Residential (Annual)	300.00
Residential- (Annual)	20.00 per month
Commercial - (Annual)	23.00 per month
One Time Dump Fee	35.00 Per Level Pickup Load
Replacement Refuse Site Permit	10.00
Brush and Compost Permit with tag	Free with permit
Building Permit Related Fees	
Building Permit	60.00
Plan Review	55.00
Zoning	5.00
All On Site Inspections: Plumbing, HVAC, Foundation, Framing, Final Building etc	55.00 each
Plumbing Permit	35.00
HVAC (Mechanical)	35.00
Fuel Gas Permit	35.00
Permanent Pool Permit	50.00
Fence permit- Property pins marked, fence location marked, on site inspection	15.00
Building Permit Related Fees continued	
Sewer Hook-up	1000.00
Water Hook-up	1000.00
Sewer Tap	100.00
Water Tap	100.00
Meter Pit and Lid (cost may change due to availability of equipment)	1251.00
Private Sewage Disposal System Extra Territorial Jurisdiction - ETJ	100.00
Curb Cut (Deposit Only)	250.00
Moving Building Permit (Fee according to location and damage due to moving)	
Fee is established by resolution adopted by City Council	
Zoning/Subdivision	
Subdivision Application (Preliminary or Final)	500.00
Administrative Minor Plat	250.00
Subdivisions Tax - Residential	1000 per Lot

<i>Subdivisions Tax - Commercial or Industrial</i>		4000 per acre
<i>Change of Use</i>		250.00
<i>Conditional Use Permit</i>		250.00
<i>Board of Adjustment</i>	50.00 Application	15.00
<i>Zoning Change</i>	Notification	
		250.00
<i>Payport Usage Fees</i>		
<i>E-Check</i>		1.75
<i>Debit Card</i>		2.95
<i>Credit Card</i>		2.49% of Total
<i>Demo Permit</i>		55.00
<i>Insufficient Funds</i>		
<i>Checks, ACH</i>		20.00 plus bank fees
<i>Hobbyist Permit Fee</i>		
<i>For inoperable, dented, damaged vehicles resident wants to fix up. 180 days</i>		50.00
<i>Renewal (one time only) of Hobbyist Permit</i>		50.00
<i>Bulk Water Fees</i>		
<i>\$500.00 refundable deposit to city for water meter provided/refund after return of water meter</i>		500.00
<i>Usage of first 1,000 gals water</i>		48.00
<i>Per additional 1,000 gals of water</i>		5.00

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-24
MASTER FEE SCHEDULE**

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE AMOUNT OF CERTAIN FEES AND TAXES CHARGED BY THE CITY OF HICKMAN FOR VARIOUS SERVICES INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: BUILDING PERMIT & INFRASTRUCTURE FEES, ZONING FEES, OCCUPATION TAX, PUBLIC RECORDS, RESPONSE TO CODE VIOLATIONS & OTHER INCIDENTS, RECREATION, ANNUAL FEES & LICENSES, RETURNED CHECK FEE; MUNICIPAL UTILITIES INCLUDING WATER, SEWER AND ELECTRICAL FOR RESIDENTIAL USERS AND COMMERCIAL USERS (INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL USERS) OF THE CITY OF HICKMAN AND TO PROVIDE THE EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF, AND ORDERING THE PUBLICATION OF THE ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HICKMAN, LANCASTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Hickman has determined that the fee structure for services and products provided by the City shall be as follows;

1. BUILDING PERMIT & INFRASTRUCTURE FEES

A. NEW RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION FEES (WITHIN CITY LIMITS)

Sewer Fees:

Sewer Connection Fee	\$400.00	<u>\$520.00</u>
Sewer Infrastructure Fee*	\$600.00	<u>\$780.00</u>

Water Fees:

Water Connection Fee:		
5/8" to 3/4" (includes Meter & Ball Valve)	\$650.00	
1" (includes Meter & Ball Valve)	\$750.00	<u>\$975.00</u>
>1" (includes Meter & Ball Valve)	\$500.00	<u>\$650.00</u>
		+ Actual Cost of Meter & Valve
Water Infrastructure Fee*	\$800.00	<u>\$1,040.00</u>

Electrical Fees:

Electrical Connection Fee	\$600.00	<u>\$780.00</u>
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Streets Fees:

Streets Infrastructure Fee*	\$400.00	<u>\$520.00</u>
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Parks Fees:

Parks Infrastructure Fee*	\$700.00	<u>\$910.00</u>
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*Exemption from Infrastructure Fees: The replacement of a residential building or structure that meets the definition of a dangerous building, per Hickman Municipal Code 3-507, with a new building or structure of the same use, provided the rebuilding or replacement occurs no later than ten years after the demolition or removal of the previous building or structure, shall be exempt from all infrastructure fees. The connection fees shall be paid during the replacement of a dilapidated, destroyed or partially destroyed structure only when new tap or connection is necessary.

B. NEW COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION FEES (WITHIN CITY LIMITS)

Sewer Fees:

Sewer Connection Fee	\$500.00	<u>\$650.00</u>
Sewer Infrastructure Fee	\$700.00	<u>\$910.00</u>

Water Fees:

Water Connection Fee:		
1" (includes Meter & Ball Valve)	\$750.00	<u>\$975.00</u>
>1" (includes Meter & Ball Valve)	\$500.00	<u>\$650.00</u>
		+ Actual Cost of Meter & Valve
Water Infrastructure Fee	\$800.00	<u>\$1,040.00</u>

Ordinance No. 2021-24 - Master Fee Schedule

Electrical Fees:
 Electrical Connection Fee ~~\$2,500.00~~ \$3,250.00
 (Includes Transformer Vault)

Streets Fees:
Streets Infrastructure Fee ~~\$400.00~~ \$520.00

Parks Fees:
Parks Infrastructure Fee ~~\$700.00~~ \$910.00

C. NEW CONSTRUCTION FEES (OUTSIDE OF CITY LIMITS WHEN CONNECTING TO CITY SERVICE)

Sewer Fees:
 Sewer Connection Fee ~~\$1,600.00~~ \$2,080.00

Water Connection Fee:
~~5/8" to 3/4" (includes Meter & Ball Valve) ~~\$2,500.00~~~~
 1" (includes Meter & Ball Valve) ~~\$3,000.00~~ \$3,900.00
 >1" (includes Meter & Ball Valve) ~~\$1,600.00~~ \$2,080.00
 + Actual Cost of Meter & Valve

Electrical Fees:
 Electrical Connection Fee ~~\$1,000.00~~ \$1,300.00

D. INSPECTIONS FEES

Residential Plan Review	\$50.00 per hour
Commercial Plan Review	\$50.00 per hour
Foundation	\$50.00
Framing Rough-In	\$50.00
Plumbing Ground Work	\$50.00
Plumbing Rough-In	\$50.00
Plumbing Finished	\$50.00
Fuel Gas Piping Rough-In	\$50.00
Fuel Gas Piping Final	\$50.00
HVAC Rough-In	\$50.00
HVAC Final	\$50.00
HVAC Deco Fireplace	\$50.00
Temporary Electrical	\$50.00
Electrical Rough-In	\$50.00
Electrical Final	\$50.00
Electrical Service (Panel)	\$50.00
Finish Building	\$50.00
Re-inspection Fee	Fee as listed above

E. NEW CONSTRUCTION, REMODEL OR REPAIR VALUATION PER SQUARE FOOT

Per Square Foot of Main Floor	X\$80.00
Per Square Foot of Finished	Upper/Lower Floors X\$65.00
Per Square Foot of Unfinished	Upper/Lower Floors X\$40.00
Per Square Foot of Garage	X\$40.00
Per Square Foot of Carport	X\$20.00
Per Square Foot of Agriculture Building	X\$18.50
Per Square Foot of Deck/Patio	X\$25.00
Per Square Foot of Remodel/Finish	X\$25.00
Per Square Foot of Addition	X\$40.00

CITY OF BENNET - DEVELOPMENT FEE CALCULATOR (HICKMAN TEMPLATE)

Cedar Brook Development

Proposed Development Land Uses

Residential	15	Units
Commercial	0	Units

Street Infrastructure Fee

Residential	15	Units	\$520	\$/Unit	\$7,800.00
Commercial	0	Units	\$520	\$/Unit	\$0.00
Total					\$7,800.00

Sewer Infrastructure Fee

Residential	15	Units	\$780	\$/Unit	\$11,700.00
Commercial	0	Units	\$910	\$/Unit	\$0.00
Total					\$11,700.00

Water Infrastructure Fee

Residential	15	Units	\$1,040	\$/Unit	\$15,600.00
Commercial/Industrial	0	Units	\$1,040	\$/Unit	\$0.00
Total					\$15,600.00

Park Infrastructure Fee

Residential	15	Units	\$910	\$/Unit	\$13,650.00
Commercial/Industrial	0	Units	\$910	\$/Unit	\$0.00
Total					\$13,650.00

Total Fees Due Prior to Plat Approval:	\$0.00
Estimated Fees Due Prior to Building Permit Approval:	\$48,750.00

CITY OF BENNET - DEVELOPMENT FEE CALCULATOR (HICKMAN TEMPLATE)

Evergreen Place Development

Proposed Development Land Uses

Residential	44	Units
Commercial	0	Units

Street Infrastructure Fee

Residential	44	Units	\$520	\$/Unit	\$22,880.00
Commercial	0	Units	\$520	\$/Unit	\$0.00
Total					\$22,880.00

Sewer Infrastructure Fee

Residential	44	Units	\$780	\$/Unit	\$34,320.00
Commercial	0	Units	\$910	\$/Unit	\$0.00
Total					\$34,320.00

Water Infrastructure Fee

Residential	44	Units	\$1,040	\$/Unit	\$45,760.00
Commercial/Industrial	0	Units	\$1,040	\$/Unit	\$0.00
Total					\$45,760.00

Park Infrastructure Fee

Residential	44	Units	\$910	\$/Unit	\$40,040.00
Commercial/Industrial	0	Units	\$910	\$/Unit	\$0.00
Total					\$40,040.00

Total Fees Due Prior to Plat Approval:	\$0.00
Estimated Fees Due Prior to Building Permit Approval:	\$143,000.00

RESOLUTION NUMBER 22-22

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING INFRASTRUCTURE FEE SCHEDULE AND REVISION OF MUNICIPAL APPLICATIONS AND FORMS

WHEREAS, the City of Waverly, Nebraska (“City”) previously adopted Resolution Number 22-03 authorizing and directing the Mayor and City Building Inspector to study the feasibility of assessing an additional administrative fee on all new residential and nonresidential building permit applications within City limits that shall not exceed one percent (1%) of the cost of construction; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Building Inspector have conducted such study and have designed an infrastructure fee in such a manner so as to allocate the revenue generated by such infrastructure fee for use by the City for the administration of water and sanitary wastewater systems, streets, parks and trails and other such public works in accordance with Nebraska law; and

WHEREAS, with the City’s continued growth the City continues to incur administrative and other costs in processing applications for residential and nonresidential development that are not fully recouped through the assessment of current fees; and

WHEREAS, the protection of the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the City requires that the public facilities of the City be expanded to meet the demand of development for public facilities; and

WHEREAS, on May 24, 2022, the City’s Governing Body adopted Ordinance 22-04 allowing for the establishment of infrastructure fees for the recoupment of municipal costs and to offset costs for additional demand on public facilities created by development and construction and such ordinance authorized the City to establish and adopt infrastructure fees schedules by resolution; and

WHEREAS, the City has determined it is necessary to amend and restate the infrastructure fees previously set forth in Resolution 22-03 based on current data and the City’s needs for the administration of water and sanitary wastewater systems, streets, parks and trails and other such public works.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WAVERLY, NEBRASKA THAT:

- A. An Infrastructure Fee shall be assessed on all new residential and nonresidential building permit applications submitted to the City. Such Infrastructure Fee shall be in addition to any other applicable fees to be assessed as set forth in the Municipal Code;
- B. The Infrastructure Fee shall be calculated as follows:
 - a. For Residential, one percent (1%) of the cost of construction as reflected on the building permit application.
 - b. For Multiple-Family Residential, one-dollar and twenty-five cents (\$1.25) per one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) of the cost of construction plus a per unit charge as reflected on the building permit application.
 - i. The per unit charge shall be: one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) per unit, up to and including ten (10) units; one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) per unit, eleven (11) to twenty (20) units; and five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per unit, twenty-one (21) and over units.

c. For Commercial, two dollars (\$2.00) per one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) of the cost of construction as reflected on the building permit application.

C. Fees generated from the Infrastructure Fee shall be allocated as follows:


Sewer	0.0004
Water	0.0003
Parks	0.0030
Building & Zoning	0.0040
Streets	0.0013
	0.01

These numbers should add up to 0.01 but they do not.

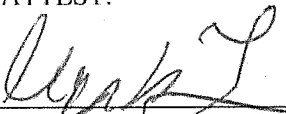
- D. City staff are directed to revise all City building permit applications and other forms to accurately reflect the assessment and calculation of the Infrastructure Fee and all other fees to be assessed.
- E. The City's Governing Body reserves the right to adjust the Infrastructure Fee and its allocation in the future by resolution.

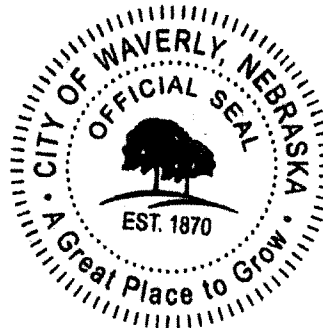
The additions and changes in the above stated sections shall be in full force and effect and is hereby adopted as policy.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 13TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2022.


William D. Gerdes, Mayor

ATTEST:


Megan K. Frye, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer



(SEAL)

CITY OF BENNET - DEVELOPMENT FEE CALCULATOR (WAVERLY TEMPLATE)

Cedar Brook Development

Proposed Development Land Uses

Residential	\$400,000	Building Permit Valuation (Average Per Lot)
Residential	15	Units
Multi-Family		Building Permit Valuation
Multi-Family		Units
Commercial		Building Permit Valuation

Infrastructure Fee

Residential	\$6,000,000	Const. Cost	1.00%	%/Valuation	\$60,000.00
Multi-Family	\$0	Const. Cost	0.125%	%/Valuation	\$0.00
Multi-Family	0	Units	\$1,000	\$/Unit	\$0.00
Commercial	\$0	Const. Cost	0.200%	%/Valuation	\$0.00
Total					\$60,000.00

Infrastructure Fee Allocation

Streets	13.00%	\$7,800.00
Sewer	4.00%	\$2,400.00
Water	13.00%	\$7,800.00
Parks	30.00%	\$18,000.00
Building/Zoning	40.00%	\$24,000.00
Total	100.00%	\$60,000.00

*Note: Math is incorrect on Waverly's allocation table. I added the balance to the water fund for our use.

Total Fees Due Prior to Plat Approval:	\$0.00
Estimated Fees Due Prior to Building Permit Approval:	\$60,000.00

CITY OF BENNET - DEVELOPMENT FEE CALCULATOR (WAVERLY TEMPLATE)

Evergreen Place Development

Proposed Development Land Uses

Residential	\$400,000	Building Permit Valuation (Average Per Lot)
Residential	44	Units
Multi-Family		Building Permit Valuation
Multi-Family		Units
Commercial		Building Permit Valuation

Infrastructure Fee

Residential	\$17,600,000	Const. Cost	1.00%	%/Valuation	\$176,000.00
Multi-Family	\$0	Const. Cost	0.125%	%/Valuation	\$0.00
Multi-Family	0	Units	\$1,000	\$/Unit	\$0.00
Commercial	\$0	Const. Cost	0.200%	%/Valuation	\$0.00
Total					\$176,000.00

Infrastructure Fee Allocation

Streets	13.00%	\$22,880.00
Sewer	4.00%	\$7,040.00
Water	13.00%	\$22,880.00
Parks	30.00%	\$52,800.00
Building/Zoning	40.00%	\$70,400.00
Total	100.00%	\$176,000.00

*Note: Math is incorrect on Waverly's allocation table. I added the balance to the water fund for our use.

Total Fees Due Prior to Plat Approval:	\$0.00
Estimated Fees Due Prior to Building Permit Approval:	\$176,000.00

ORDINANCE NO. 1054

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE AMOUNT OF CERTAIN FEES AND TAXES CHARGED BY THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD FOR VARIOUS SERVICES INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO BUILDING AND USE, ZONING, LIBRARY, OCCUPATION LICENSING, PET LICENSING, WATER AND SEWER USE RATES, SEWER AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS AND FACILITIES OF THE CITY FOR RESIDENTIAL USERS AND COMMERCIAL USERS OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, NEBRASKA

Section 1.

MASTER FEE SCHEDULE

ANIMAL CONTROL

All fees listed in this section are collected by the contracted Animal Control Authority, currently the Nebraska Humane Society. The Animal Control Authority sets and collects fees for the following: Impoundment (including a per day boarding fee), Veterinary Expenses, Euthanasia Expenses and Removal Costs.

- 1. Dog & Cat Licenses
 - a. Spayed or Neutered: \$5.00 annually
 - b. Intact: \$15.00 annually
 - c. License Handling/Issuance Fee: \$5.00 per license

*No dog and cat license fees will be charged for senior citizens (65 or older) who own a spayed or neutered dog or cat.

- 2. Pot-Belly Pig License: \$35.00 annually
License Handling/Issuance Fee: \$5.00 per license
- 3. Fine for not being licensed by March 15: Double licensing fee
- 4. Impound fees (excluding the per day boarding fee):
 - a. Altered Dog, Cat or Pot-Belly Pig:
 - \$35.00 first redemption
 - \$70.00 second redemption within 24 months of the first redemption
 - \$140.00 third redemption within 24 months of the first redemption
 - +\$50.00 for subsequent redemptions
 - b. Unaltered Dog or Cat:
 - \$100.00 first redemption
 - \$300.00 second redemption within 24 months of the first redemption
 - \$600.00 third redemption or any subsequent redemption within 24 months of the first redemption
 - c. Reimbursement for animals sterilized and micro-chipped within 90 days of the date of redemption:
 - \$65.00 first redemption
 - \$230.00 second redemption
 - \$460.00 third redemption
- 5. Boarding Fee: \$16.00 daily

6. Rabies Quarantine Fee \$16.00 daily

BUILDING SERVICES

The City of Springfield contracts with the Sarpy County Building Inspector for inspection services. Before issuing a permit for the building of any new building or any alteration or remodeling of any building, the city shall charge and collect a fee. Building Permit Fees are based on Project Valuation calculated using the per square foot construction costs in the Sarpy County Building Valuation Data Table attached. Please also refer to the Sarpy County Permit Fee Schedule and Electric, Mechanical, and Plumbing Fixture Fee Tables attached.

Residential Dwelling:

Finished Area Above Grade	\$104.00 per sq. ft.
Finished Area Below Grade	\$30.00 per sq. ft.; \$35.00 w/walkout
Unfinished Above/Below	\$20.00 per sq. ft.; \$25.00 w/walkout
Attached Garage	\$25.00 per sq. ft.
Deck/Patio	\$15.00 per sq. ft.; \$25.00 per sq. ft. w/roof + elec/mech/plumb fixture fees
Residential Addition	Same as new construction
Residential Basement (Below Grade) Finish	\$35.00 per sq. ft. + elec/mech/plumb fixture fees
Residential Garage Addition (Attached or Detached)	\$25.00 per sq. ft.
Residential Plumbing Permit	\$30.00 base fee + fixture fee
Residential Mechanical Permit	\$30.00 base fee + fixture fee
Residential Electric Permit	\$30.00 base fee + fixture fee
Deck	Greater of Estimated Cost or \$15.00 per sq. ft.; or \$25.00 per sq. ft. w/roof
Sheds	\$5.00 per sq. ft.
Fences	\$5.00 per lineal foot
Swimming Pools:	
Above Ground	\$30.00
Below Ground	Estimated Project Valuation + fixture fee
Spas	\$30.00 + fixture fee
Lawn Sprinkler System:	
In addition to new construction permit	\$30.00
As a separate permit	\$42.00

Commercial Building:

Permit Fee is based on Project Valuation calculated on a per square foot construction cost based on Occupant Use and Construction Type in the 2012 Building Valuation Data Table. Refer to the Sarpy County Building Valuation Data Table and Fee Schedule attached.

Commercial Addition	Same as new construction
Commercial Remodel	2012 ICC BVD Schedule
Commercial Electrical	\$30.00 base fee + fixture fee
Residential Plan Review and Processing Fee	Based on Permit Valuation \$0-\$624.99 = 8% of permit value \$625.00-\$2,499.99 = \$50.00 \$2,500.00 and above = \$100.00
Commercial Plan Review Fee	Greater of \$100 or 25% of Permit Fee whichever is greater External Review: Cost + 25%
Revised Plan Review (copy of stamped plan)	
Residential	\$50.00
Commercial	\$100.00
Change of Occupancy	\$100.00 + applicable building permit fees
Grading Permit:	
Less than 10 acres	\$500.00
10 acres or more	\$1,000.00
*Sites less than 1 acre do not require grading permit.	
Building Relocation / Moving Permit	\$100.00 + applicable building permit fees
Demolition Permit:	
Accessory structure less than 1,200 sq. ft.	\$50.00
Single-Family Dwelling	\$100.00
Commercial Structure	\$250.00
Park Capital Facilities Fee	\$200.00
*applied to all new construction residential and commercial permits	
Septic Permit	\$100.00
Well Permit:	
New Well	\$100.00
Repair	\$50.00
Decommission	\$50.00
Curb Cut (New Opening; does not include curb grind):	
Fee	\$50.00 (covers inspection services)
Deposit	\$125.00 (refundable upon final inspection)

Street Opening	\$10.00 per sq. ft., \$600.00 minimum
Sign Permit	\$.30 per sq. ft., \$40.00 minimum
Penalty Fee for No Permit	Triple permit fee
Expired Building Permit Renewal	One-half of new building permit fee
Refund Policy	80% of permit fee
Re-Inspection Fee (assessed upon third and any subsequent re-inspect)	\$60.00
Inspection Fee outside of normal business hours (two hour minimum)	\$60.00
Inspections for which no fee is specifically indicated (minimum charge – 1 hour)	\$50.00 per hour

CITY FACILITIES RENTAL

1. Community Building	
a. Hourly	\$10.00 residents and business owners within corporate limits \$25.00 non-residents 4 hour maximum rental period
b. Daily (entire building)	\$75.00 residents and business owners within corporate limits \$300.00 non-residents
c. Daily (gym <u>or</u> basement only)	\$150.00 non-residents
d. Deposit	\$150.00 (refundable)
2. Library Meeting Room	
a. Daily	\$25.00
b. Deposit	\$150.00 (refundable)

ELECTION SERVICES

1. Election Filing Fees (See Ordinance)	1% of annual salary
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LIBRARY SERVICES

1. Damaged & Lost	
a. Books	Replacement Cost
b. Magazines	Replacement Cost
c. Audio Tapes	Replacement Cost
d. Videos	Replacement Cost
2. Fines	
a. Books and Magazines	\$.10 per day
b. Audio Books	\$.10 per day
c. Videos/DVDs	\$1.00 per day

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|------------------|
| 3. | Inter-Library Loan | \$2.00 |
| 4. | Non-resident Library Card | \$35.00 annually |

MISCELLANEOUS

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Copy of City Map | \$3.00 |
| 2. | Fee for Returned Checks (NSF) | \$30.00 |
| 3. | Handicap Parking Permit (State Statute) | No charge |
| 4. | Property Cleanup Service Fees (including but not limited to mowing/lawn service, snow removal and tree trimming) | \$300.00 per hour per city employee (not prorated) |
| | Lien for Property Cleanup Services | Amount owed for services rendered plus applicable lien recording and releasing fees |
| 5. | Request for Records (State Statute) | \$5.00 per half hour over 4 hours, plus copy costs |

OCCUPATION FEES / FRANCHISE FEES / IN LIEU OF TAXES
(State Statute requires these fees be set by Ordinance)

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------------------|
| 1. | Advertising Bench | |
| | a. Application | \$10.00 |
| | b. Renewal application | \$10.00 |
| 2. | Billiards, Pool Tables | \$10.00 annually |
| 3. | Electric Companies | \$0 annually |
| 4. | Fire Insurance Companies (State Statute) | \$5.00 annually |
| 5. | Fireworks Stands | |
| | a. June 25 – July 4 Selling Period | \$2,500.00 |
| | b. December 29 – 31 Selling Period | \$500.00 |
| | c. Deposit | \$500.00 (refundable) |
| 6. | Franchise Fees/In Lieu of Taxes | |
| | a. Electricity | 5% of gross revenues |
| | b. Gas (State Statute §14-2139) | 2% of gross revenues |
| | c. Cable Television (State Statute sets ceiling) | 3% of gross revenues |
| 7. | Liquor Establishments | |
| | a. Class A – Beer On Sale Only | \$150.00 |
| | b. Class B – Beer Off Sale Only | \$150.00 |
| | c. Class C – All Alcoholic Liquor On & Off Sale | \$500.00 |
| | d. Class D – All Alcoholic Liquor Off Sale Only | \$300.00 |

e.	Class I – All Alcoholic Liquor On Sale Only	\$375.00
f.	Class L – Craft Brewery (Brew Pub)	\$375.00
g.	Class W – Wholesale Beer	\$750.00
h.	Class X – Wholesale Liquor	\$1,125.00
i.	Class Y – Farm Winery	\$375.00
j.	Class K – Catering	\$150.00
8.	Mechanical Amusement Devices	\$10.00 annually
9.	Sexually Oriented Business	
a.	New Application	\$500.00 plus professional fees
b.	Annual Fee	\$500.00
10.	Special Liquor Licenses	\$50.00 per day plus State Fee \$500.00 deposit (refundable)
11.	Tattoo Parlor	
a.	New Application	\$500.00 plus professional fees
b.	Annual Fee	\$500.00
12.	Telephone Occupation Tax	3% of gross receipts as defined by ordinance
13.	Tobacco License (State Statute)	\$10.00 annually
14.	Mobile Home Park	
a.	New Application	\$500.00 plus professional fees
b.	Annual Fee	\$10.00 per pad
15.	Vendor/Hawker/Peddler	
a.	Annually	\$150.00 per person
b.	Per day	\$50.00 per person

PLANNING SERVICES

1.	Administrative Plat (lot split/consolidation)	\$300.00
2.	Annexation Requests	\$100.00 plus professional services costs (legal, engineering, planning, and administration)

3.	Arterial Street Improvement Policy Fees	
a.	For all new agricultural construction, including single family dwellings and buildings for uses permitted in the Agricultural Residential District, a fee of 0.75% of the building permit valuation shall be charged at the time the building permit is issued.	
b.	For all new residential construction, including single family dwellings, town homes, and duplexes, a fee of 0.75% of the building permit valuation shall be charged at the time the building permit is issued.	

- c. For new mobile home pads, a fee in the amount of \$1,000.00 per unit shall be charged when the site is permitted.
- d. For new multi-family residential construction, a fee in the amount of \$5,000.00 per development acre shall be charged one-half upon approval and execution of final plat and one-half at the time the building permit is issued or at the time agreed to by the Springfield City Council in an approved developer or subdivision agreement.
- e. For new civic, public facility, office and commercial use type construction, as defined in the City of Springfield Zoning Code, a fee in the amount of \$5,000.00 per development acre shall be charged one-half upon approval and execution of final plat and one-half at the time the building permit is issued or at the time agreed to by the Springfield City Council in an approved developer or subdivision agreement.
- f. For new industrial construction, a fee in the amount of \$1,000.00 per development acre shall be charged one-half upon approval and execution of final plat and one-half at the time the building permit is issued or at the time agreed to by the Springfield City Council in an approved developer or subdivision agreement.

4. Board of Adjustment / Variance Request \$250.00

5. Connection-Capital Facilities Fees*

a. Sewer Connection-Capital Facilities Fees

City of Springfield Connection Fees:

Residential - Single Family	\$3,500.00 per unit
Residential - Duplex	\$3,500.00 per unit
Residential – Mobile Home	\$3,500.00 per unit
Residential - Multi Family	\$2,980.00 per unit
Commercial/Industrial	\$17,500.00 per acre

Sarpy County and Cities Wastewater Agency Connection Fees:

<u>Property Use</u>	<u>FY 2020-2021</u>	<u>FY 2021-2022</u>	<u>FY 2022-2023</u>	<u>FY 2023-2024</u>	<u>FY 2024-2025</u>
<u>Single-family Residential lots located in the Urban Reserve Zone (“URZ”)¹ consisting of three acres or less, and approved for development through applicable Member build-through or similar type zoning and/or subdivision regulations</u>	<u>\$4,181.62 per parcel/ tract/lot</u>	<u>\$4,307.48 per parcel/ tract/lot</u>	<u>\$4,437.14 per parcel/ tract/lot</u>	<u>\$4,570.70 per parcel/ tract/lot</u>	<u>\$4,707.36 per parcel/ tract/lot</u>
<u>Single-family Residential parcel/tract/lots located in</u>	<u>\$4,181.62 per parcel/ tract/lot</u>	<u>\$4,307.48 per parcel/ tract/lot</u>	<u>\$4,437.14 per parcel/ tract/lot</u>	<u>\$4,570.70 per parcel/ tract/lot</u>	<u>\$4,707.36 per parcel/ tract/lot</u>

<u>the URZ consisting of twenty acres or more, and approved for development through applicable Member large-lot or similar type zoning and/or subdivision regulations</u>					
<u>All other Residential uses that do not fall within the residential uses described in the two rows immediately above</u>	<u>\$20,906.06 per acre</u>	<u>\$21,533.25 per acre</u>	<u>\$22,179.24 per acre</u>	<u>\$22,844.62 per acre</u>	<u>\$23,529.96 per acre</u>
<u>Commercial</u>	<u>\$20,906.06 per acre</u>	<u>\$21,533.25 per acre</u>	<u>\$22,179.24 per acre</u>	<u>\$22,844.62 per acre</u>	<u>\$23,529.96 per acre</u>
<u>Industrial</u>	<u>\$20,906.06 per acre</u>	<u>\$21,533.25 per acre</u>	<u>\$22,179.24 per acre</u>	<u>\$22,844.62 per acre</u>	<u>\$23,529.96 per acre</u>
<u>Civic</u>	<u>\$20,906.06 per acre</u>	<u>\$21,533.25 per acre</u>	<u>\$22,179.24 per acre</u>	<u>\$22,844.62 per acre</u>	<u>\$23,529.96 per acre</u>

* Single-family residential lots located in the URZ consisting of (i) three acres or less and approved for development through applicable Member build-through or similar type zoning and/or subdivision regulations, or (ii) twenty acres or more and approved for development through applicable Member large lot or similar type zoning and/or subdivision regulations shall pay a flat connection fee in accordance with the schedule above.

¹ As defined pursuant to the Agency's Growth Management Plan initially adopted by the Agency on June 26, 2019 pursuant to Resolution No. 2019-004, as amended from time to time.

b. Water Connection-Capital Facilities Fees

Residential - Single Family	\$750.00 per unit
Residential - Duplex	\$750.00 per unit
Residential - Multi Family	\$500.00 per unit
Residential - Park or Common Area	\$250.00 per acre
Commercial/Industrial	\$1,500.00 per acre

*Refer to Springfield Municipal Codes §3-105.03 and §3-209.03 for applicability and payment due date.

6.	Comprehensive Plan Amendment	\$500.00
7.	Conditional Use Permit (1 acre or less)	\$300.00
8.	Conditional Use Permit (over 1 acre)	\$500.00
9.	Conditional Use Permit Amendment / Renewals	\$150.00
10.	Conditional Use Permit Annual Fee	\$30.00
11.	County Filing Fees (if filed by City)	\$50.00 plus actual costs
12.	Design Review Fee (applicable to zoning districts with overlay design standards)	\$250.00 or 20% of building permit fee, whichever is greater

13. Final Plat \$500.00 plus \$10.00 for each lot

14. Flood Plain Development Permit \$500.00

15. Park and Open Space Fee .04 acres per unit at Final Plat
 Cash in Lieu of Land Fee \$30,000.00 per acre*

*This fee applies to residential development only. Calculated on the basis of each dwelling unit constituting .04 acres. In satisfaction of a subdivider's required dedication of land for parks, playgrounds, trails or recreational uses per City Subdivision Regulations and/or the subdivider's required in lieu of fee, the City may, in its discretion, accept in whole or in part, the cost of park/recreational improvements installed and paid for by the subdivider, such as pedestrian/bike trail improvements, trees, and other park/recreational improvements as set forth in a City approved park/recreational improvement plan incorporated into a subdivision agreement. Such dedications, in lieu of fee payment, or accepted park/recreational improvements are to be made or paid by the subdivider and shall not be made, paid or reimbursed by a sanitary improvement district.

16. Preliminary Plat \$750.00 plus \$10.00 per lot
 a. Revised Preliminary \$250.00

17. Replat \$750.00 plus \$10.00 per lot

18. Site Plan Review \$150.00 less than 1 acre
 (amount added to building permit, as necessary) \$300.00 1-5 acres
 \$500.00 over 5 acres

19. Subdivision Agreement 250.00 Amendment Request
 750.00 Rescission and Replacement of a Previously Recorded Agreement

19. Tax Increment Finance Project Fee 1 ½ % of project cost to be
 Tax Increment Financed

20. Vacation of Plat \$150.00

21. Vacation of Public Right-of-Way \$150.00

22. Watershed Fees

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY2023	FY2024
Fee Category	July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020	July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021	July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
Single Family Residential per dwelling unit (also includes low-density multi-family up to 4-plexes)	\$931	\$954	\$978	\$1,002	\$1,027
High-Density Multi-Family Residential per gross acre (beyond 4-plexes)	\$4,095	\$4,197	\$4,302	\$4,410	\$4,520
Commercial/Industrial/Institutional per gross acre	\$4,963	\$5,087	\$5,214	\$5,345	\$5,478

CITY OF BENNET - DEVELOPMENT FEE CALCULATOR (SPRINGFIELD TEMPLATE)

Cedar Brook Development

Proposed Development Land Uses

Agricultural	\$0	Building Permit Valuation
Residential	\$400,000	Building Permit Valuation (Average Per Lot)
Residential	15	Units
Residential	7.8	Acres
Mobile Home	0	Units
Multi-Family	0	Units
Multi-Family	0	Acres
Commercial	0	Acres
Industrial	0	Acres
Park Dedication?	No	

Arterial Street Improvement Fees (Due prior to Building Permit Approval)

Agricultural	\$0	Valuation	0.75%	%/Valuation	\$0.00
Residential	\$6,000,000	Valuation	0.75%	%/Valuation	\$45,000.00
Mobile Home	0	Units	\$1,000	\$/Unit	\$0.00
Multi-Family	0	Acres	\$5,000	\$/Acre	\$0.00
Commercial	0	Acres	\$5,000	\$/Acre	\$0.00
Industrial	0	Acres	\$1,000	\$/Acre	\$0.00
Total					\$45,000.00

Sewer Connection-Capital Facilities Fees (Due prior to Plat Approval)

Residential	15	Units	\$3,500	\$/Unit	\$52,500.00
Mobile Home	0	Units	\$3,500	\$/Unit	\$0.00
Multi-Family	0	Units	\$2,980	\$/Unit	\$0.00
Commercial/Industrial	0	Acres	\$17,500	\$/Acre	\$0.00
Total					\$52,500.00

Water Connection-Capital Facilities Fees (Due prior to Plat Approval)

Residential	15	Units	\$750	\$/Unit	\$11,250.00
Mobile Home	0	Units	\$750	\$/Unit	\$0.00
Multi-Family	0	Units	\$500	\$/Unit	\$0.00
Commercial/Industrial	0	Acres	\$1,500	\$/Acre	\$0.00
Total					\$11,250.00

Watershed Management Fees (Due prior to Plat Approval)

Residential	15	Units	\$1,002	\$/Unit	\$15,030.00
Multi-Family	0	Acres	4410	\$/Acre	\$0.00
Commercial/Industrial	0	Acres	5345	\$/Acre	\$0.00
Total					\$15,030.00

Park/Open Space Fees (Due prior to Plat Approval)

Residential Dedication; OR	15	Units	0.04	Park Acres/Unit	0.60
Residential Fee	0.60	Acres	\$30,000	\$/Park Acre	\$18,000.00

Total Fees Due Prior to Plat Approval: \$96,780.00

Estimated Fees Due Prior to Building Permit Approval: \$45,000.00

CITY OF BENNET - DEVELOPMENT FEE CALCULATOR (SPRINGFIELD TEMPLATE)

Evergreen Place Development

Proposed Development Land Uses

Agricultural	\$0	Building Permit Valuation
Residential	\$400,000	Building Permit Valuation (Average Per Lot)
Residential	44	Units
Residential	10.64	Acres
Mobile Home	0	Units
Multi-Family	0	Units
Multi-Family	0	Acres
Commercial	0	Acres
Industrial	0	Acres
Park Dedication?	No	

Arterial Street Improvement Fees (Due prior to Building Permit Approval)

Agricultural	\$0	Valuation	0.75%	%/Valuation	\$0.00
Residential	\$17,600,000	Valuation	0.75%	%/Valuation	\$132,000.00
Mobile Home	0	Units	\$1,000	\$/Unit	\$0.00
Multi-Family	0	Acres	\$5,000	\$/Acre	\$0.00
Commercial	0	Acres	\$5,000	\$/Acre	\$0.00
Industrial	0	Acres	\$1,000	\$/Acre	\$0.00
Total					\$132,000.00

Sewer Connection-Capital Facilities Fees (Due prior to Plat Approval)

Residential	44	Units	\$3,500	\$/Unit	\$154,000.00
Mobile Home	0	Units	\$3,500	\$/Unit	\$0.00
Multi-Family	0	Units	\$2,980	\$/Unit	\$0.00
Commercial/Industrial	0	Acres	\$17,500	\$/Acre	\$0.00
Total					\$154,000.00

Water Connection-Capital Facilities Fees (Due prior to Plat Approval)

Residential	44	Units	\$750	\$/Unit	\$33,000.00
Mobile Home	0	Units	\$750	\$/Unit	\$0.00
Multi-Family	0	Units	\$500	\$/Unit	\$0.00
Commercial/Industrial	0	Acres	\$1,500	\$/Acre	\$0.00
Total					\$33,000.00

Watershed Management Fees (Due prior to Plat Approval)

Residential	44	Units	\$1,002	\$/Unit	\$44,088.00
Multi-Family	0	Acres	4410	\$/Acre	\$0.00
Commercial/Industrial	0	Acres	5345	\$/Acre	\$0.00
Total					\$44,088.00

Park/Open Space Fees (Due prior to Plat Approval)

Residential Dedication; OR	44	Units	0.04	Park Acres/Unit	1.76
Residential Fee	1.76	Acres	\$30,000	\$/Park Acre	\$52,800.00

Total Fees Due Prior to Plat Approval: \$283,888.00

Estimated Fees Due Prior to Building Permit Approval: \$132,000.00

Tues
12/19

Bennet Refuse Site Log

Tues
12/19/24

12-7pm Date: ~~11-16-23~~

Attendant:

Permit #	Trash	Metal	Compost	Brush	Comments
5225	✓				
1057	✓				
5130	✓				
<hr/>					
1116	✓				11:48 am
5228	✓				11:58 am
1045	✓				12:05 pm
1209	✓				12:10 pm + 12:18 pm
4964	✓				12:20 pm
1180	✓				12:25 pm
12141	✓				12:30 pm
5197	✓				12:40 pm
5252	✓				12:40 pm
1000	✓				12:50 pm
5152	✓				12:50 pm
5214	✓				12:55 pm
5087	✓				1:00 pm
4918	✓				1:00 pm
1022	✓				1:15 pm
1191	✓				1:15 pm

2-19

2:15

12/19

1

Bennet Refuse Site Log

Attendant: Michael Kucera

Date: 12-19-22

Permit #	Trash	Metal	Compost	Brush	Time	Comments
1242	✓				1:16 pm	
5206	✓				1:25 pm	
1036	✓				1:30 pm	
4965	✓				1:40 pm	
1262	✓				1:43 pm	
5219	✓				1:43 pm	
1099	✓				1:47 pm	
1134	✓				1:50 pm	
1265	✓				1:52 pm	
1198	✓				1:55 pm	
4902	✓				1:55 pm	
1271	✓				2:00 pm	
1186	✓				2:01 pm	
4961	✓				2:10 pm	
1048	✓				2:11 pm	
0037				✓	2:20 pm	
4909	✓				2:20 pm	
4985	✓				2:20 pm	
1017	✓				2:43 PM	
5045	✓				2:48 pm	

12/19

Bennet Refuse Site Log

Attendant: Michael Kucera

Date: 12-19-23

Permit #	Trash	Metal	Compost	Brush	Time	Comments
5028	✓				2:50 pm	
4976	✓				2:55 pm	
5112	✓				3:20 pm	
5140	✓				3:25 pm	
4938	✓				3:35 pm	
1179	✓				3:40 pm	
4931	✓				3:40 pm	
4996	✓				3:41 pm	
1157	✓				4:00 pm	
5052	✓				4:00 pm	
4909	✓	✓		✓	4:00 pm	
5234	✓				4:10 pm	
1086	✓				4:10 pm	
5048	✓				4:25 pm	
1041	✓				4:25 pm	
5125	✓				4:25 pm	
4977	✓				4:50 pm	
5261	✓				5:00 pm	
5121	✓				5:00 pm	
4901	✓	✓			5:00 pm	

12/19
3.

Bennet Refuse Site Log

Attendent: Michael Kucera

Date: 12-19-23

Permit #	Trash	Metal	Compost	Brush	Time	Comments
1160	✓				5:03 pm	
1057	✓				5:05 pm	
1218	✓				5:06 pm	
1227	✓				5:07 pm	
1128	✓				5:15 pm	
5250	✓				5:15 pm	
4953	✓				5:20 pm	
5094	✓				5:20 pm	
1195	✓				5:30 pm	
4943	✓				5:30 pm	
1193	✓				5:50 pm	

12/19
4

Bennet Refuse Site Log

THURS

4-7pm

Date: 12/21/24

Attendant:

Permit #	Trash	Metal	Compost	Brush	Time	Comments
5193	✓				3:58	
4950	✓				3:59	
1228	✓				4:00	
4948	✓				4:01	
1281	✓				4:07	
4979	✓				4:08	
4982	✓				4:09	
1180	✓				4:09	
1107	✓				4:10	
5148	✓				4:10	
4907	✓				4:10	
5181	✓				4:11	
5108	✓		✓		4:12	
1506	✓				4:13	
1230	✓				4:13	
1041	✓				4:15	
5074	✓				4:17	
4996	✓				4:20	
1117	✓				4:23	
5219	✓				4:25	

12/21

Bennet Refuse Site Log

Attendant:

Date:

Permit #	Trash	Metal	Compost	Brush	Time	Comments
4959	✓				4:27	
5205	✓				4:29	
4989	✓				4:30	
4953	✓				4:30	
4949	✓				4:33	
5774	✓				4:35	
1083	✓				4:35	
4905	✓				4:35	
4970	✓				4:40	
5223	✓				4:47	
1067	✓				4:50	
5120	✓				4:52	
1057	✓				4:53	
5159	✓				4:54	
1100	✓				5:00	
5051	✓				5:00	
1179	✓				5:01	
5155	✓				5:05	
5207	✓				5:05	
4900	✓				5:07	

12/21
2.

Bennet Refuse Site Log

Attendant:

Date:

Permit #	Trash	Metal	Compost	Brush	Time	Comments
1227	✓				5:07	
5141	✓				5:10	
1193	✓				5:15	
5225	✓				5:17	
5244	✓				5:22	
4569	✓				5:25	
5812	✓				5:26	
1197	✓				5:30	
1204	✓				5:40	
5124	✓				5:45	
1100	✓				5:45	
1252	✓				5:47	
1248	✓				5:48	
1151	✓				5:50	
1115	✓				5:50	
5153	✓				6:03	
1009	✓				6:05	
4932	✓				6:10	
5156	✓				6:12	
5037	✓				6:13	

12/21
3.

Bennet Refuse Site Log

Tuesday

Attendent:

Judds

12-70M

Date: ~~12~~-1-2-24

Permit #	Trash	Metal	Compost	Brush	Comments
1199	✓				11:50
1073	✓				11:55
1177	✓				12:00
1130	✓				12:01
1293	✓				12:00
1294	✓				12:00
1180	✓				12:07
1101	✓				12:14
1241	✓				12:16
1155	✓				12:25
1114	✓				12:38
1183	✓				12:45
1260	✓				12:47
1246	✓				1:00
1209	✓				1:04
1211	✓				1:19
1153	✓				1:21
1012	✓				1:25
1275	✓				1:25
1115	✓				1:30

1/2
1

Bennet Refuse Site Log

Attendent: Judds

Date: 1/2/24

Permit #	Trash	Metal	Compost	Brush	Comments
1201	✓				1:40
1020	✓				1:42
1230	✓				1:45
1232	✓				1:51
1246	✓				2:00
1290	✓				2:05
1048	✓				2:15
1021	✓				2:27
1259	✓				2:28
1186	✓				2:30
1054	✓				2:31
1242	✓				2:35
1250	✓				2:37
1048	✓				2:40
1117	✓				2:44
1228	✓				3:00
1274	✓				3:20
1085	✓				3:25
1055	✓				2:34
1041	✓				2:35

1/2/24

Bennet Refuse Site Log

Attendent: Judds

Date: 1/2/24

Permit #	Trash	Metal	Compost	Brush	Comments
1123	✓				11 3:34
1176	✓				3:36
1004	✓				3:40
1261	✓				4:03
1094	✓				4:04
1097	✓				4:06
1272	✓				4:30
1191	✓				4:30
1103	✓				11 4:32
1093	✓				4:35
1090	✓				4:50
1179	✓				5:00
1189	✓				5:06
1086	✓				5:11
1292	✓				5:13
1811	✓				5:17
1106	✓				5:20
1193	✓				5:22
1057	✓				5:27
1229	✓				5:30

1/2
OVER → 3.

Bennet Refuse Site Log

THURS

Attendent: Judds

Date: 1/4/24

Permit #	Trash	Metal	Compost	Brush	Comments
1069	✓				1:22
1153	✓				1:24
1099	✓				1:31
1066	✓				1:32
1083	✓				1:40
1123	✓				1:52
1078	✓				2:04
1245	✓	✓			2:22
1176	✓				2:29
1120	✓				2:34
1100	✓				3:04
1163	✓				3:07
1228	✓				3:27
1218	✓				3:27
1298	✓				3:28
1186	✓				3:31
1225	✓				3:46
1277	✓				3:57
1181	✓				4:01
1236	✓				4:05

1/4

OVER →

Bennet Refuse Site Log

Attendant:

Judds

Date:

1/4

Permit #	Trash	Metal	Compost	Brush	Comments
1017	✓				4:05
1239	✓				4:05
1292	✓				4:08
1077	✓				4:18
1009	✓				4:21
1227	✓				4:32
1236				✓	4:32
1021	✓				4:35
1224	✓				4:44
1008	✓				5:09
1197	✓				5:16
1193	✓				5:29
1091	✓				5:43
1170	✓				5:45
1215	✓				6:40
1191	✓				6:58

1/4
2

Bennet Refuse Site Log

9-5

Saturday

Attendant: Judds

Date: 1/6/24

Permit #	Trash	Metal	Compost	Brush	Comments
1142	✓				9:05
1085	✓				9:10
1248	✓				9:14
1004	✓				9:20
1164	✓				9:30
1007	✓				9:43
1010	✓				9:46
1208	✓				10:00
1134	✓				10:10
1185	✓				10:15
1218	✓				10:15
1267	✓				10:30
1175	✓				10:34
1237	✓				10:38
1011	✓				11:06
1275	✓				11:10
1252	✓				11:11
1056	✓				11:13
1161	✓				11 11:20
1003	✓				11:38

1/6

1

Bennet Refuse Site Log

Attendent: *Judds*

Date: *1/6*

Permit #	Trash	Metal	Compost	Brush	Comments
1293	✓				11:59
1050	✓				12:18
1204	✓				12:34
1186	✓		✓		12:54
1072	✓		✓		12:59
1073	✓				12:59
1264	✓				1:04
1254	✓				1:06
1289	✓				1:08
1022	✓				1:29
1270	✓				1:42
1220	✓				1:47
1251	✓				1:51
1194	✓			✓	1:55
1251				✓	2:05
1236	✓			✓	2:05
1144	✓				2:10
1303	✓			-	2:17
1249	✓				2:23
1000	✓				2:41

Bennet Refuse Site Log

Attendant: Judds

Date: Judds

Permit #	Trash	Metal	Compost	Brush	Comments
1202	✓				2:54
1217	✓				2:59
1202	✓				3:07
1221	✓				3:10
1059	✓				3:22
1002	✓				3:22
1030	✓				3:43
1205	✓				3:44
1046	✓				3:52
1042	✓				4:01
1196	✓				4:08
1219	✓				4:10
1289	✓				4:12
1195	✓				4:16
1052	✓				4:39
1282	✓				4:45

1/6

3.

Bennet Refuse Site Log

Attendant: Judds

Date: 1/9

Permit #	Trash	Metal	Compost	Brush	Comments
1032	✓				12:10
1233	✓				12:54
1032	✓				1:17
1052	✓				2:13
1012	✓				3:55
1218	✓				4:06
1186	✓				4:13
1067	✓				4:42
1282	✓				5:04
1079	✓				5:10
1294	✓				5:14
1190	✓				5:20
1178	✓				5:27
1066	✓				5:35
1172	✓				5:47
1021	✓				6:04
1191	✓	✓			6:13

Bennet Refuse Site Log

Attendant:

Judds

Date:

1/11/24

Permit #	Trash	Metal	Compost	Brush	Comments
1180	✓				12:10
1228	✓				12:11
1177	✓				12:15
1241	✓				12:15
1311	✓				12:22
1159	✓				12:23
1155	✓				12:25
1300	✓				12:56
1191	✓				1:27
1115	✓				1:33
1284	✓				1:35
1061	✓				1:40
1100	✓				1:48
1139	✓				1:48
1085	✓				1:49
1185	✓				1:55
1186	✓				2:00
1060	✓				2:15
1259	✓				2:15
1299	✓				2:20

1/11

OVER 1

Bennet Refuse Site Log

Attendant:

Judds

Date:

4/11

Permit #	Trash	Metal	Compost	Brush	Comments
1056	✓				2:45
1305	✓				2:50
1294	✓				2:51
1050	✓	✓			2:51
1003	✓				3:27
1197	✓				3:31
1234	✓				3:40
1162	✓				3:50
1262	✓				3:50
1282	✓				4:00
1286	✓				4:05
1135	✓				4:25
1016	✓				4:25
1101	✓				4:30
1216	✓				4:30
1046	✓				4:31
1221	✓				4:45
1093	✓				5:05
1268	✓				5:15
1304	✓				5:20

1/4
2.

Bennet Refuse Site Log

Attendant:

Judds

Date:

1/13

Permit #	Trash	Metal	Compost	Brush	Comments
1199	✓				9:15
1073	✓				9:30
1052	✓				9:41
1153	✓				9:52
1175	✓				11:00
1176	✓				11:28
1208	✓				11:31
1105	✓				11:44
1055	✓				12:05
1161	✓				12:45
1177	✓				1:10
1237	✓				1:30
1106	✓				1:30
1293	✓				1:46
1218	✓				2:48
1103	✓				3:04
1193	✓				3:47
1249	✓				4:15
1190	✓				4:15
1080	✓				4:20

OVER

Bennet Refuse Site Log

Attendant:

Judds

Date:

2/3

Permit #	Trash	Metal	Compost	Brush	Comments
1307	✓				11:05
1075	✓				11:15
1151	✓				11:20
1056	✓				11:33
1224	✓				11:40
1318	✓				11:41
1102	✓				11:41
1304	✓				11:50
1180	✓				11:50
1209	✓				11:55
1187	✓				12:00
1176	✓				12:04
1277	✓				12:08
1221	✓				12:10
1293	✓				12:16
1090	✓				12:17
1234	✓				12:35
1148	✓	✓			12:40
1302	✓				1:00
1191	✓				1:07

Bennet Refuse Site Log

Attendant:

Judds

Date:

2/3

Permit #	Trash	Metal	Compost	Brush	Comments
1310	✓				9:00
1004	✓				9:02
1279	✓				9:07
1007	✓				9:10
1098	✓				9:12
1169	✓				9:20
1093	✓				9:41
1022	✓				9:42
1317	✓				9:49
1012	✓				10:02
1134	✓				10:09
1083	✓				10:10
1073	✓				10:10
1010	✓				10:12
1060	✓				10:19
1153	✓				10:31
1085	✓				10:45
1313	✓				10:48
1028	✓				11:00
1195	✓				11:01

2/3

1

OVER



Bennet Refuse Site Log

Attendant: Judds

Date: 2/3

Permit #	Trash	Metal	Compost	Brush	Comments
1214	✓				1:23
1228	✓				1:27
1183	✓				1:31
1308	✓				1:36
1152	✓				1:55
1152	✓	✓			2:06
1114	✓				2:19
1294	✓				2:24
1024	✓				2:47
1005	✓				2:59
1196	✓				3:04
1190	✓				3:07
1189	✓				3:42
1290	✓				3:52
1217	✓				4:01
1154	✓				4:05
1081	✓				4:11
1282	✓				4:15
1092	✓				4:30
1206	✓				4:45

2/3
3.

OVER
→

Maintenance Report February 12, 2024

Water

During the month we:

- Performed the routine monthly water test.
- Took water meter readings for the month.
- One water service shut off due to lack of payment. It is turned back on.

Wastewater Treatment

During the month we:

- Completed effluent testing and delivered to the lab in Omaha.
- Received an *exceeding limit* of ammonia on our January test at the wastewater treatment plant. I filed the required report with the NDEE and took a sample in February. We are still pending the results.
- Received call about a sewer back up at 600 Jackson St. Reviewed the manholes upstream and downstream of the residence. Visual inspection showed the sewer main was flowing at that time. Nebraska Rural Water cameraed the sewer main and it showed the homeowner had tree roots inside their sewer service line.

Dump

- Pushed up the brush and compost pile.
- A new employee has been hired for the dump duties.

Street

- Snow removal was efficiently cleared from streets and around fire hydrants. Recommend re-reviewing the policy surrounding fire hydrants to match Lincoln.
- Installing post and signs around the school and Hackberry Street.
- Lancaster County hauled rock onto Cottonwood. They contacted us after the rock went down. I contacted the street committee to ask if we should have more applied. Was advised to wait until the frost came out and the county had a chance to blade the rock that got push off to the side of the with our snow removal and recrown the road to allow for better drainage into the ditch.

General

- General maintenance of all Village owned properties.
- Installed new safety lights and door pins on Sierra truck.
- Replaced LED lights on the old bathrooms at the park.
- This is my last board report. It has been an honor to be part of this team. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions during the transition time.

Sincerely
Russ Jones Utility Superintendent

Overtime Worked				
01-01-2024 to 01-31-2024				
Deputy	Start - End	# Hours	Date	OT Type
/2298 HORALEK, DEREK	1630 - 1930	3.00	01-19-2024	SUPL CONTRACT-BENNET
/2298 HORALEK, DEREK	1430 - 1730	3.00	01-23-2024	SUPL CONTRACT-BENNET
/2298 HORALEK, DEREK	0800 - 1200	4.00	01-29-2024	SUPL CONTRACT-BENNET
		<u>10.00</u>		
/22141 HANSEN, MICHAEL	1115 - 1345	2.50	01-10-2024	SUPL CONTRACT-BENNET
/22141 HANSEN, MICHAEL	1120 - 1350	2.50	01-20-2024	SUPL CONTRACT-BENNET
/22141 HANSEN, MICHAEL	1115 - 1345	2.50	01-26-2024	SUPL CONTRACT-BENNET
/22141 HANSEN, MICHAEL	1115 - 1345	2.50	01-31-2024	SUPL CONTRACT-BENNET
		<u>10.00</u>		
		Total: 20.00		



Lancaster County Sheriff's Office



Report of Contract Deputy Horalek
 Activity for the Village / Town / City of Bennet
 Date Worked 01/19/24
 Start of Shift: 1630 End of Shift: 1930

Type codes: REF – referred by City Offices BUS – business / area check SEL – selective enforcement F/U – follow-up
 HBO – handled by officer UTL – unable to locate GOA – gone on arrival F/I – field interview
 O – other

Time (s)	Type	Location	Remarks
1630	--	--	Code 11
1648	BUS	Baseball field	Area check
1740	SEL	Monroe and Apple	Start - Traffic selective
1830	SEL	" "	End - Traffic selective
1839	BUS	Legion Club	Security check
1851	BUS	Coop	Security check
1905	BUS	Bank	Security check
1930	--	--	Code 9

# of Citations Issued: <u>0</u>	Warning / Defect Citations Issued: <u>0</u>
Total hours worked this date: <u>3</u>	Vehicle number: <u>0953</u>
	Total mileage for this shift: <u>18</u>

Deputy Reporting 90298

Supervisor Approving [Signature]



Lancaster County Sheriff's Office



Report of Contract Deputy Horalek
 Activity for the Village / Town / City of Bennet
 Date Worked 01/23/24
 Start of Shift: 1430 End of Shift: 1730

Type codes: REF – referred by City Offices
 HBO – handled by officer
 O – other

BUS – business / area check
 UTL – unable to locate

SEL – selective enforcement
 GOA – gone on arrival

F/U – follow-up
 F/I – field interview

Time (s)	Type	Location	Remarks
1430	--	--	Code 11
1453	O	City Office	Checked in - Misc Info.
1518	O	Post Office	Misc
1540	SEL	Monroe and Apple	Start - Traffic selective
1604	SEL	" "	T/S - Expired plates - warning
1610	SEL	" "	End - Traffic selective
1627	UTL	Elementary School	Reported dog at large (C4000657)
1638	BUS	Baseball field	Area check
1719	BUS	Legion Club	Security check
1724	BUS	Coop	Security / Area check
1730	--	--	Code 9

# of Citations Issued: <u>0</u>	Warning / Defect Citations Issued: <u>1</u>
Total hours worked this date: <u>3</u>	Vehicle number: <u>0953</u>
	Total mileage for this shift: <u>17</u>

Deputy Reporting 90298

Supervisor Approving [Signature]



Lancaster County Sheriff's Office



Report of Contract Deputy Horalek
 Activity for the Village / Town / City of Bennet
 Date Worked 01/29/24
 Start of Shift: 0800 End of Shift: 1200

Type codes: REF – referred by City Offices
 HBO – handled by officer
 O – other

BUS – business / area check
 UTL – unable to locate

SEL – selective enforcement
 GOA – gone on arrival

F/U – follow-up
 F/I – field interview

Time (s)	Type	Location	Remarks
0800	--	--	Code 11
0800	SEL	Jefferson and Dogwood	Start - Area Selective (School)
0840	SEL	" "	End - Area Selective
0912	O	City Office	Checked in - Misc info.
1000	SEL	Monroe and Apple	Start - Traffic Selective
1011	SEL	" "	T/S - No plates / papers (warning)
1020	SEL	" "	End - Traffic Selective
1023	TOT	1155 Cottonwood	Medical - C4000804
1100	SEL	Monroe and Apple	Start - Traffic Selective
1103	SEL	" "	T/S - Speeding (Warning)
1120	SEL	" "	End - Traffic Selective
1134	BUS	Baseball Field	Area check
1137	HBO	Hwy 43 and Garden	T/S - Unauthorized use of UTV (warning)
1200	--	--	Code 9

# of Citations Issued: <u>0</u>	Warning / Defect Citations Issued: <u>3</u>
Total hours worked this date: <u>4</u>	Vehicle number: <u>0953</u>
	Total mileage for this shift: <u>16</u>

Deputy Reporting 1/1 90298

Supervisor Approving [Signature]



Lancaster County Sheriff's Office



Report of Contract Deputy M. Hansen 902141
 Activity for the Village / Town / City of Bennet
 Date Worked 01-31-2024
 Start of Shift: 1115 End of Shift: 1345

Type codes: **REF** – referred by City Offices
HBO – handled by officer
O – other

BUS – business / area check
UTL – unable to locate

SEL – selective enforcement
GOA – gone on arrival

F/U – follow-up
F/I – field interview

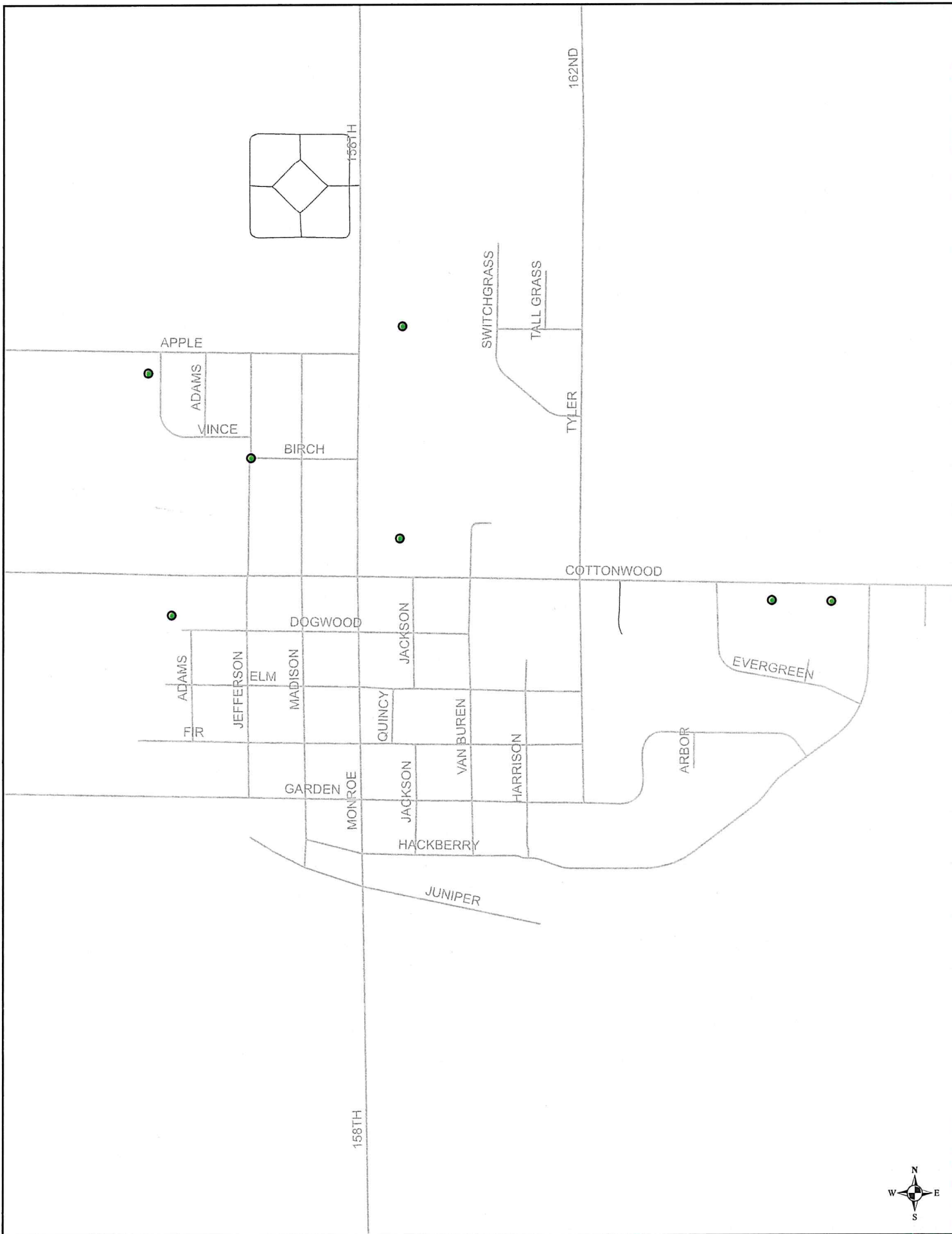
Time (s)	Type	Location	Remarks
1115		Start of shift	Mileage 14250.9
1120	SEL	Park	
1140	SEL	Downtown	
1155	SEL	Cemetary	
1200		General town patrol	
1345		End of shift	Milelage 14261.2

# of Citations Issued: _____	Warning / Defect Citations Issued: _____
Total hours worked this date: <u>2.5</u>	Vehicle number: <u>967</u>
	Total mileage for this shift: <u>20.3</u>

Deputy Reporting M. Hansen

Supervisor Approving *[Signature]*

Lancaster County Sheriff's Office - Bennet- January 2024



Lancaster County Sheriff's Office - Bennet - 2024

Location	CASE	INC	INC_ABBR	DATE	TREC	DEPNAME
BIRCH ST & JEFFERSON ST	C4000148	35222	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	1/7/2024	1026	22171 CHANCE
100 MONROE ST	C4000413	3111	ACC PROP DMG	1/14/2024	2026	22105 OSTERHAUS
50 DOGWOOD ST	C4000657	44000	ANIMAL OTHER	1/23/2024	1617	2298 HORALEK
1015 COTTONWOOD ST	C4000741	56000	MEDICAL EMERG OTHER	1/26/2024	2050	22196 UZZELL
65 APPLE ST	C4000778	24000	MISC OTHER	1/28/2024	950	22176 SARNES
1155 COTTONWOOD ST	C4000804	56000	MEDICAL EMERG OTHER	1/29/2024	1024	2298 HORALEK
260 MONROE ST	C4000815	31222	OPS OTHER	1/29/2024	1731	22155 BUTTERS



To: City of Bennet Clerk and City Council

New information

Olsson Action Item

City Action Item

Re: February 2024 City Engineering Report

Street Maintenance Plan

- **Asphalt seal coating: Olsson coordinating cost/plan for seal coating. Work recommended to be done on a rotating 5-year schedule. Recent bids received from Fairbury.**
 - Apple: Hwy to Vince.
 - Cottonwood: Hwy to Van Buren
 - Cottonwood: Hwy to School
 - Dogwood: Hwy to School
 - Elm: Hwy to Adams
 - Fir: Hwy to Adams
 - Garden: Hwy to Railroad
 - Vince: Apple to Jefferson
 - Adams: Apple to Vince
 - Adams: Dogwood to Fir
 - Quincy: Elm to Fir
- Asphalt crack sealing: **Olsson to check with other towns for interest in cost sharing.**
 - **Olsson sent product and pricing info in January.**
 - **City to decide if interested.**
- Additional Repairs for future improvements project.
 - Van Buren from Cottonwood to Elm: These repairs were in our street improvement plans but we ran out of funds and had to cut them out.
 - 1065 Hackberry/35 Tallgrass Cir/Arbor Cir: Pavement settlement

Water Supply Analysis

- Rural Water Coordination
 - Currently approved developments can be adequately served by existing LRW contract. Additional development will require expanded capacity.
 - May Water Usage
 - Monthly: 3,494,000 gal. (63% of capacity)
 - Ave. Daily: 112,709 gal. (63% of capacity)
 - Max. Daily: 157,665 gal. (88% of capacity)
 - June Water Usage
 - Monthly: 3,748,000 gal. (70% of capacity)
 - Ave. Daily: 124,933 gal. (70% of capacity)
 - Max. Daily: 170,000 gal. (95% of capacity)
 - July Water Usage
 - Monthly: 2,846,000 gal. (51% of capacity)
 - Ave. Daily: 91,806 gal. (51% of capacity)
 - Max. Daily: 170,000 gal. (95% of capacity)
 - August Water Usage (28 days only)
 - Monthly: 2,542,000 gal. (51% of capacity)
 - Ave. Daily: 90,785 gal. (51% of capacity)
 - Max. Daily: 100,000 gal. (56% of capacity)
 - Excludes fire dept. testing and hydrant flushing.
- **Olsson to schedule meeting with RWD to discuss contract terms, upcoming projects, future capacity, etc. (Ryan, Pete, Josh, David, Michele, Brian)**
 - **Meeting scheduled for February 12th.**

Water Main Design

- Project has been on hold until SRF funding potential is known. State indicated that no funding will be available until at least 2024.
- Project to move forward for 2024 construction. \$150K of ARPA funds have been set aside.
 - Needs to be complete prior to paving of Cottonwood & Tyler.
- **Olsson to finish design in 2023 and bid in early 2024 once SRF funding has been determined.**
- Water fund is in good shape financially and should be able to finance the improvements.

Sewer Improvements/Rates

- Asbestos sewer lining/replacement.
 - **Phase I lining work is complete. Olsson to review pre and post-lining videos once received. Olsson sent follow up email on 12/7 and 2/7.**
- Infiltration of Pipe/Manholes
 - Johnson Services manhole repair work is complete. Warranty info to be sent.
 - **Olsson to follow up on warranty info. Olsson sent follow up email on 12/7 and 2/7.**
 - Sump Pump Discharge into Sewer Main
 - May revisit legal strategy after implementation of other measures.
- Olsson is keeping track of improvements on a sewer map. **Map has been updated.**
 - **Olsson to get contract for Phase 2 lining in 2024 for approval at March meeting.**
- Sewer Cleaning: 39,800 LF of sewer mains to be cleaned on a rotating schedule.
 - **City to get pricing and determine schedule.**
- SCADA System Improvements
 - Olsson has submitted work order submitted for design/bidding.

Miscellaneous

- **NDEE Needs Surveys has been submitted for the 2024 cycle.**
- **Olsson to coordinate culvert at 480 Cottonwood Street, to eliminate the low point in the ditch. Culvert to drain south beneath Cottonwood.**
- Highway allocation is \$98 per capita, below the average of \$169 per capita.
 - Look into lane mile equation to see if widening makes sense.
 - Michelle Pietzek with Olsson is currently researching this.
 - **Olsson received info from state. Will run financial analysis.**
- Gravel road washouts:
 - 2 washouts on Cottonwood/Bennet. County to repair. Contacted 5/31.
 - **Repairs have not been performed. Olsson to follow up.**
 - Small washout above Tyler St. box culvert. Monitor. No action at this time.
- **Coordinate sketch/proposals for area inlet at SE corner of Garden & Van Buren.**
- Coordinate with state about security grant for water and sewer GIS mapping.
 - This will be done as part of the needs survey submittal to NDEE in December.
 - Needs surveys are not being submitted in 2023 due to lack of NDEE funding.
- Street Shop: Project on hold due to potential of acquiring an existing building.
- Water Tower Park
 - Comp plan survey includes questions about community interest and desired amenities for Water Tower Park.
 - **Olsson to prepare a master plan sketch based on survey results.**
- Daycare Facility
 - School has requested assistance with a daycare facility to help teacher retention.
 - City has asked SENDD to prepare a regional survey for interest in the facility.
 - Other communities have gone through a similar process. Some have a foundation managing the facility.

Development Reviews

- Elementary School: under construction.
- Cedar Brook: under construction.
- Cochrane Corner: under construction. Grading to begin soon. Silt fence has been installed.
- Evergreen Place: under construction.
- Henry Addition: plats are on the agenda for the February meeting. All engineering comments have been addressed.
- **Olsson to provide punchlist of items to be resolved before escrow is released, such as storm sewer cleaning, ditch grading and seeding, low spots in pavement, etc.**

Code Updates

- Downtown Economic Development Plan (Dec-Jan)
 - City working with UNL Community and Regional Planning Program.
- Comp Plan (Marvin)
 - Scheduled for completion in Spring of 2024
- Subdivision Regulations
 - Olsson submitted templates from other communities for consideration.
 - **City to decide on development fee schedule before next subdivision.**

Trails

- Master plan will be incorporated into the new comp plan.
 - **Update master plan to show Jefferson street/water tower park trail.**
 - **Update map to show along cottonwood and behind houses. Show NW along creek as well.**
- Potential Funding Sources:
 - State Funding
 - Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
 - Transportation Alternatives: General trail projects.
 - Safe Routes to School: School related trail projects.
 - This used to be a stand-alone program, but is now included as an eligible project type within TAP.
 - Recreational Trails Program: Recreational trail projects
 - This is different than the RTP through NE Game & Parks.
 - Funding window is currently closed. May be 2-5 years before a new funding notice is issued.
 - Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
 - Administered through NE Game & Parks, separate from TAP.
 - **Olsson to review grant requirements, discuss potential projects w/ City, and determine if grant app to be submitted in 2023 or 2024.**
 - Federal Funding
 - Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)
 - Application for Action Plan grant was submitted.
 - Rebuilding American Infrastructure Sustainably and Equitably (RAISE)
- NDOT reached out to Olsson to discuss options to make pedestrian crossing at Dogwood Street safer across the highway. Olsson has followed up but not received a response. **Will continue to follow up.**

Tyler & Cottonwood Street Paving (info from 2021)

- Project Cost: \$1,250,000
 - \$95,000/year for 15 year bond at 1.75%
 - \$105,000/year for 15 year bond at 3.00%

- Current Levy Rates
 - Bennet: 0.304020
 - Adams: 0.475267
 - Hickman: 0.430992
 - Springfield: 0.500000
- Current village valuation: \$87.5 million
 - Project would require additional 0.11 village levy.
- Projected village valuation: \$103.1 million
 - After Evergreen Place, Cedar Brook, and Cochrane Corner.
 - Project would require additional 0.09 village levy.
- Cost of waiting:
 - Interest rate risk.
 - Material price increases.
- Benefit of waiting:
 - Potential infrastructure bill funding.
- Additional considerations
 - Funding for trails, etc.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve your community as the City Engineer.

Sincerely,



Brian Schuele, PE

Bennet Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2024

The Bennet Planning Commission held a regular meeting on January 17, 2024, at 7:00 PM, at City Hall, 685 Monroe Street in the City. The session was open to the public and proceeded by advance publicized notice duly given in strict compliance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 84, Article 14, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska by posting at the City Clerk Office, the Post Office, and First Nebraska Bank.

Chairperson Greg Pohl called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and announced the Open Meetings Act was posted. City Clerk/Zoning Administrator Michele Lincoln conducted roll call and recorded the minutes. Roll call: **Present:** Boyd Batterman, Josh Buck, Kevin Hiatt, Greg Pohl, **Absent:** Marilyn Maney, Matt Tyler. A quorum being present, and the meeting duly commenced, the following proceedings were taken while the meeting remained open to attendance by the public.

Hiatt moved and Batterman seconded a motion to approve the November 1, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes. Roll call: Batterman, Hiatt, Buck, Pohl voted yes. Motion carried.

Pohl declared that public comment would be received on Agenda Item #7, review of the Future Land Use Map and #8, review of the draft Comprehensive Plan with a five-minute time limit.

Keith Marvin and Mason Herrman with Marvin Planning Consultants (MPC) were in attendance to review the Future Land Use Map and the draft Comprehensive Plan with the Planning Commission. Some corrections to the Future Land Use Map were pointed out. Chapters 1-10 of the draft Comprehensive Plan were reviewed.

Chapter 1 – Introduction

Chapter 2 – Community Engagement: This section explains what was done to seek community engagement (project website, postcards, stakeholder interviews, open house & survey). It includes the input results from the open house and community survey.

Chapter 3 – Population: Marvin pointed out that we had a good dependency ratio which meant that we are growing in the right age categories, meaning income producers.

Chapter 4 – Housing: The lack of rental units within the community is something we could address under our Goals & Policy's section.

Chapter 5 - Economic Profile: This section shows that Bennet's 2020 median household income of \$83,125.00 greatly exceeds the state's median household income of \$63,015.00. Bennet had the highest number of residents with bachelor's degrees or higher than other communities in Lancaster County (not including Lincoln). The Employment section shows the majority of the residents are employed in educational services, health care, and social assistance and the majority commute 30-34 minutes to work. Most of the workforce within Bennet commute from Lincoln and south and southwest of Bennet.

Chapter 6 – Public Facilities: Need to include water shortage in the Utilities section.

Chapter 7 – Public Safety.

Chapter 8 – Energy.

Chapter 9 – Hazards: Basically, a reproduction of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Bennet Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2024

Chapter 10 – Land Use: Reflects the existing zoning districts and supports the Zoning Ordinance. Herrman shared the Transportation Component created by Kyle McLaughlin for the Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Economic Development Plan. This will be reviewed at the next meeting. He pointed out that this is a lengthy document and that the first 20 pages are the most essential to review.

Buck moved and Batterman seconded a motion to move the December 2023 Downtown Economic Development Plan drafted by the UNL CRPL 990 Planning Studio team forward for City Council adoption which will open funding opportunities for plan initiatives. Roll call: Batterman, Hiett, Buck, Pohl voted yes. Motion carried.

Buck moved and Batterman seconded a motion to adjourn 8:12 pm. Roll call: Batterman, Hiett, Buck, Pohl voted yes. Motion carried.

Michele Lincoln, CMC
City Clerk/Zoning Administrator