Lincoln, Nebraska

The capital of Nebraska, Lincoln, was named in memory of President Abraham Lincoln and replaced the town's original name, Lancaster. This name change was not uniformly popular, as residents had mixed sentiments regarding who should have won the Civil War.

Lincoln's Haymarket district is a renovated historical site filled with shops, restaurants, and an old railway station. Lincoln offers many cultural opportunities. The campus of University of Nebraska–Lincoln is the site of many museums, including the Sheldon Museum of Art; University of Nebraska State Museum; the Mueller Planetarium; the Kruger Collection, which has a collection of miniature furniture and accessories; the Lentz Asian Cultural Center; Eisentrager Howard Gallery; the Great Plains Art Museum; the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery; the International Quilt Study Center and Museum; and the Larsen Museum, which exhibits advancements in agricultural technology. Other attractions are the Lincoln Children's Museum; Frank H. Woods Telephone Pioneer Museum; National Museum of Roller Skating; Red Wing Pottery Museum; Germans from Russia Museum; the home of William Jennings Bryan; and the Thomas P. Kennard House, the home of Nebraska's first secretary of state and the oldest residence in town. Elder Gallery is on the campus of Nebraska Wesleyan University.

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln hosts symphonies, ballets, Broadway shows, and other performances in the Lied Center; student-produced shows in the University Theatre and Theatrix; and the Nebraska Repertory Theatre, a regional professional summer theatre. Other theaters include Haymarket Theater, which specializes in children's performances; Lincoln Community Playhouse; Rococo Theater; and TADA Theater. The McDonald Theater is on the Nebraska Wesleyan University campus.

The Nebraska State Capitol, the second tallest of all United States capitol buildings, has a 14th-floor observation deck.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Residents of downtown live in single-family detached dwellings, condominiums in high-rise buildings, penthouses atop office buildings, and apartments. This neighborhood has a frequent turnover of residents because it serves a university and government community. The Near South neighborhood, located immediately south of Lincoln's downtown, is one of the city's oldest and most historically significant residential areas and was the first historic district in the city listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It features sizable and well-maintained mansions from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Country Club neighborhood contains the Boulevards Historic District, with houses ranging from stately mansions to more modest Craftsman bungalows. The University Place neighborhood, which contains the Nebraska Wesleyan University campus and is adjacent to the East Campus of University of Nebraska–Lincoln, offers late 19th- and early 20th-century homes and many rental properties.

Many new developments are underway in Lincoln, particularly in the southeast area. Single-family homes, townhomes, and apartments are available in new southeast mixed-use communities such as Wilderness Heights, Woodlands at Yankee Hill, the Preserve at Antelope Creek, and Village Gardens. In the northwest, Fallbrook is a planned residential and commercial neighborhood. The Links is a large apartment complex in the same area.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Lincoln's 125 parks include 128 miles of trails, 7 recreation centers, 5 golf courses, 2 fenced dog parks, 2 skate parks, lakes, swimming pools,

picnic facilities, playgrounds, an observatory, and a tennis complex. Wilderness Park, the largest park, features over 22 miles of bridle, hiking, and biking trails. The man-made lake is the central feature of Holmes Park and is popular for nonmotorized boating, picnicking, fishing, and ice skating. This park also has baseball diamonds, a playground, golf course, and Hyde Memorial Observatory. Hazel Abel is a quaint park that includes a gazebo, fountain, play area, and benches, all surrounded by an ornate cast-iron fence. Pioneers Park has a Nature Center, public art, an outdoor amphitheater, picnic areas, hiker and biker trails, ponds, a sled run, and a golf course. Veterans Memorial Gardens has more than 21 memorials and over 3,000 "Bricks of Remembrance" honoring veterans of foreign wars. The University of Nebraska–Lincoln Botanical Gardens and Arboretum has more than two dozen garden areas that present the best plants for Nebraska gardens.

In addition, the Lincoln Children's Zoo is designed specifically for children, with viewing areas at a child's height, animals that are within reach, and easy-to-read signs.

Professional sports teams include the Lincoln Stars (ice hockey) and the Lincoln Saltdogs (baseball).

EDUCATION

Lincoln Public Schools educate more than 35,000 students in 61 schools. In addition to 37 elementary schools, 10 middle schools, and 6 high schools, the school district has 4 focus programs for high school students and 4 high school programs for students with special needs.

Lincoln provides many opportunities for higher education. The largest is the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, which offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs. Nebraska Wesleyan University has bachelor's and master's programs. Undergraduate degree programs also are available from Union College, a Seventh-Day Adventist institution, which also has a master of physician assistant studies program; BryanLGH College of Health Sciences; Bellevue University–Lincoln satellite campus; College of St. Mary's Weekend University for Women; Doane College–Lincoln branch; and Kaplan University–Lincoln branch. Southeast Community College–Lincoln offers associate's degrees.

HEALTH CARE

Lincoln has almost 1,000 licensed beds in three acute-care facilities. In addition, Lincoln is served by several specialized hospitals, including a surgical hospital, a heart hospital, and two rehabilitation facilities.

CITY STATS	2007
City Population	248,744
Metropolitan Statistical Area	291,248
Per Capita Personal Income, Lincoln, Nebraska (MSA)	$35,254

Photograph courtesy of Lincoln Convention and Visitors Bureau.