

## Community Focus

### STAFF NEWS



#### Soni Cochran Receives State “Distinguished Extension Associate” Award

Extension staff member Soni Cochran received the 2001 “Distinguished Extension Associate” award at the Annual Nebraska Cooperative Extension Association’s annual conference in Omaha Nov. 13–15.

Soni annually handles more than 4,000 urban pest management and wildlife queries. She maintains an active schedule with community partners in environmental education programs including the earth wellness festival — an annual event that has reached nearly 20,000 Lancaster County fifth-graders and their teachers.

Congratulation Soni! (GB)



#### Dr. Boshra Rida Joins Staff

Dr. Boshra Rida joined the Lancaster County Extension Staff on Nov. 19. She joins Ali Alkharaji as a second AmeriCorps\*VISTA member on staff. AmeriCorps\*VISTA places full-time volunteers in local organizations for one-year terms.

Boshra has a highly interesting background and has much to offer extension. Her country of origin is Iraq and she spent nearly 22 years as a refugee in both Iran and Syria. She comes from a large family of seven brothers and five sisters, most of whom are currently in the United States. When her family was forced to leave Iraq, however, they left behind four brothers who have not been heard from since.

Boshra was a practicing general practitioner in Iran and Syria and was a resident in a pathology program for more than one year. Since coming to this country she has been working on getting her license to practice medicine and has already successfully passed two of the qualifying exams.

In addition to studying for her medical license, Boshra has worked as an Arabic and Farsi interpreter and translator and as a volunteer at Bryan LGH. She says she is most grateful to her family for the support they have given her over the years.

During her year as a VISTA with extension she will be working with the Character Education program as well as in outreach programming for Arabic and Farsi speaking refugee women in the community. (BR)

# What Will Lincoln, Lancaster County Be Like in 25 Years?

The Comprehensive Plan Committee has been working the past year to draw up a new map of the community’s future. A difficult and important task, the City Council and the Lancaster County Board look to adopting a new Comprehensive Plan in early 2002.

### Tiers of Growth and What They Mean

Future growth visions for Lincoln have been shown as “Tiers”:

#### Tier I

Tier I reflects the city’s growth, with full urban services, for the next 25 years. Land within this area should remain unencumbered with land uses, development forms, or conditions of property owner reticence that would present impediments to future urbanization of this area by the city.

#### Tier II

Tier II serves these purposes:

- Defines the area where the city is to grow beyond the initial 25-year planning horizon.
- Serves as the basis for long

term, advanced utility planning

- Acts as a reserve area for urban growth should the Tier I area develop more quickly than assumed for 25 years.

Tier II should remain unbridled with impediments to development.

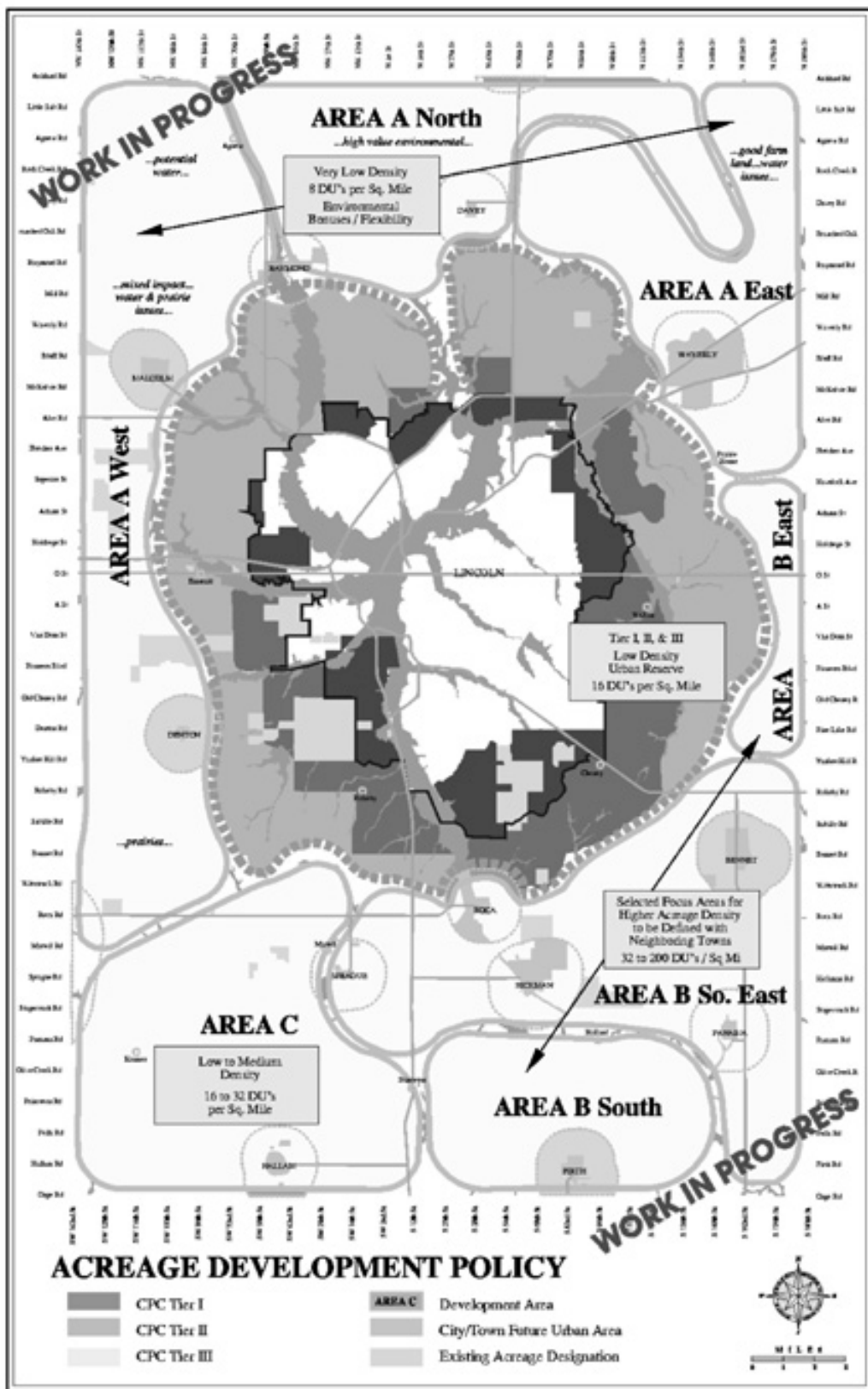
#### Tier III

Tier III plans for Lincoln’s extended long-term growth potential. While urbanization is expected, the Tier III area extends well beyond any urban development envisioned within the present plan. Tier III serves as a panoramic vision for expansion of the city well into the future.

No active planning nor development within Tier III should occur during the planning horizon.

Community input is welcomed! Here is how you can share your ideas:

- e-mail to [plan@ci.lincoln.ne.us](mailto:plan@ci.lincoln.ne.us)
- fax to 441-6377
- write to the Planning Department, 555 South 10 Street, Lincoln, NE 68508
- call the comment line: 441-9744 (English); 441-9745 (Vietnamese); or 441-9746 (Spanish)



## Planning Acreages

A proposed policy was brought to the Comprehensive Plan Committee related to acreage development. The draft copy of the Growth Map, includes areas for planned acreage development and

recognizes those areas already planned and developed.

Around six percent of the county population (15,000 persons) live on acreages. Those people live in 3,900 dwellings on 41 square miles of property.

If acreage growth were to continue at approximately six percent of the county’s population, that would represent about 6,780 additional persons and