

More green space will benefit UNL, city of Lincoln

It's a warm spring day. You have a couple of hours between your biology lab and your Spanish class, and you need to finish a worksheet.

You could go to the library, but it's so formal and stuffy.

You could go to the Union, but you'd rather be outside enjoying the warm sunshine and cool grass.

You could try and get a spot in the "green space," but you're still nursing a bump from the last time, when an errant Frisbee hit you in the head.

Where to go?

If the city of Lincoln has its way, in the not-too-distant future there will be a park practically in our backyard with fountains, art, seating, a manicured lawn and more.

What more could a student ask for?

Lincoln already enjoys an abundance of parks and green spaces scattered throughout the city, primarily in residential areas that students don't frequent. Large parks, like Antelope Park and Holmes Lake Park, provide an excellent scene for all sorts of outdoor recreation and relaxation, but they aren't conveniently accessible from campus for students without cars.

There are green spaces planned in downtown Lincoln — including on the corner of 13th and P streets — but for now, those are just parking lots.

The thought of having even more green space on campus, especially on the predominantly gray and industrial outskirts of campus, is incredibly inviting.

The park is roughly planned to run from Vine Street to O Street between the Beadle Center and the Malone Center, or what will be Antelope Parkway and 22nd Street.

Numerous other features have been proposed, including basketball courts, fountains, picnic areas, an art wall, a bike trail, a festival plaza and an amphitheater.

We fully support the creation of more green space, especially when it's so close to our campus. As downtown expands, with talk still circulating concerning a new convention center, we think the simultaneous development of a public park is not only beneficial but necessary.

The Vision 2015 group has already committed to raising \$3.1 million of the necessary \$7 million to build the park, according to the Lincoln Journal Star. The city will contribute an additional \$3 million, and fundraising efforts will be undertaken in the spring for the remainder of the cost.

UNL's master plan ensures the amount of green space on campus will not be decreased, and while it's not practical for the city to do likewise, the addition of a central city park in the vein of Chicago's Millennium Park is a great idea.

This plan will make Lincoln — and especially the university — a better place to live.

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