

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FACILITIES, & SERVICES

8.1 Introduction

The following chapter outlines Lincoln's public infrastructure, facilities, and services under the following categories:

- Town administration
- Health and Human Services
- Library and community services
- Public safety and emergency services
- Schools
- Solid waste and recycling
- Stormwater
- Wastewater
- Water supply

The Town anticipates changes that will impact services. The Comprehensive Plan is used to lay the groundwork for accommodating those impacts. Changes that need to be considered include increased numbers of residents, reliance on technology, diversifying populations, and the need to increase levels of services due to residents' heightened expectations and/or new state and federal requirements. Through a public survey and multiple public workshops, Town residents indicated that the Town offers a high level of services. Residents expressed concerns over wastewater and stormwater management in the future.

8.2 Existing Conditions

Lincoln runs its major public services out of the Town Hall, located at 100 Old River Road. Public infrastructure and facilities are mapped in Map 8-1. The Town has 19 departments that ensure the Town runs effectively and that residents receive adequate services:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| • Building | • Public Works |
| • Courts | • Purchasing |
| • Emergency Management | • Rescue Department |
| • Engineering | • School Department |
| • Finance | • "The Center" for Seniors |
| • Human Resources | • Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition |
| • Libraries | • Tax Assessor |
| • Parks & Recreation | • Town Clerk |
| • Planning | • Zoning |
| • Police Department | |

In addition to these departments, the Town has a variety of Boards and Commissions that meet regularly:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Board of Canvassers | • Juvenile Hearing Board |
| • Budget Board | • Library Board of Trustees |
| • Conservation Commission | • Lincoln Water Commission |
| • Housing Authority | • Parks & Recreation Commission |

- Personnel Board
- Planning Board
- Tax Assessor Board of Review
- The Board of Tenant Affairs
- Town Council
- Zoning Board of Review

Many of the Town's departments are housed in the Town Hall. Boards and Commissions also meet at the Town Hall. The Department of Emergency Management, Libraries, Department of Public Works, Rescue Department, School Department, and "The Center" for Seniors are housed at other locations, which are noted in their respective sections within this Chapter.

8.2.1 *Health and Human Services*

Lincoln offers health and human services to residents throughout the year. Senior services, recreational activities, and substance abuse programs are supported by the Town administration. The closest hospital is located over 5 miles away from the Town. Lincoln's health department, Community Health Lincoln, is housed in the local government.

Senior Services

"The Center" for Seniors is run by the Director of Senior Services and tasked with providing a concentrated network of services, resources, and social/community contacts for the elderly population. Weekly activities are offered at the senior center, at 150 Jenckes Hill Road, from Monday through Friday, ranging from arts and crafts to fitness programs, day trips, and educational programs. Health and safety workshops are also offered. Senior transportation is available and can be scheduled in advance for pickup to and from the center. Many of the events, programs, and services are organized through the Department of Parks and Recreation. Additional information can be found in Chapter 3 Open Space and Recreation.

Department of Parks and Recreation

The Lincoln Department of Parks and Recreation offers fitness classes, kickboxing classes, and pick up and organized basketball games at various facilities across the Town. Additional information can be found in Chapter 3 Open Space and Recreation.

Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

Substance abuse programs are offered monthly by the Substance Abuse Department to prevent substance abuse across the Town.

8.2.2 *Library*

The Lincoln Public Library is the primary library for the Town. Centrally located in the historic Blackstone Valley at 145 Old River Road, the library has serviced community members for almost 150 years at different locations. As part of the Ocean State Libraries consortium (OSL), the library has access to the collection of 50 other libraries from across the region.

The central location has been a cornerstone of the community with its in-person and online collection of eBooks, audiobooks, digital magazines, books, videos, and periodicals, and other specialty items. The library has a collection of 139,231 items, which include 119,414 books, 10,663 videos, 7,135 audios, 1,451 periodicals, and other specialty items including museum passes, Kindles, and hotspots.

The library is presently staffed by 5 full-time and 4 part-time professional librarians. They offer research assistance and run programs for all ages.

Table 8-1. Updates in Lincoln Library Budget						
Program	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	Total
Salaries	\$661,844	\$763,750				
Utilities	\$39,000	\$39,000				
Books, Magazines, Film	\$180,000	\$160,000				
Supplies	\$29,000	\$19,000				
Ocean State Library Service Facilities	\$40,000	\$43,754				
Computer Replacement/ Subscript. Fees	\$26,000	\$26,000				
Pensions	\$66,362	\$68,362				
Social Security	\$50,631	\$58,427				
Health Insurance	\$170,000	\$260,000				
Prof Memberships/ Programs	\$1,025	\$1,025				
Building Maintenance	\$14,000	\$10,000				
TOTAL	\$1,277,862	\$1,449,318				

Source: Town of Lincoln Annual Reports and Approved Budget, 2023, 2024

The library unveiled its Long-Range Plan in 2022 with a five-year time horizon. Its vision is primarily focused on integrating technology into the programs it offers youth, adult, and senior patrons. The library offers online classes and computer access to visitors in addition to traditional programs, including afterschool programs, arts and crafts for kids and adults, and movie nights.

8.2.3 Public Safety

Public safety comprises numerous services provided by the Town of Lincoln, including the Department of Emergency Management, Police Department, Rescue Department, and Lincoln Fire District.

Department of Emergency Management

The Department of Emergency Management is responsible for providing emergency services to Lincoln residents, coordinating relief and recovery efforts with local and state agencies, and sharing information on various threats to the Town. The Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is located at 115 Main Street in the village of Albion. The EMA Director is also the Chief of the Rescue Department, which ensures that coordination is centralized following a dangerous incident.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires municipalities to have an updated Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) to receive federal funding to respond to emergencies. The Town updated its HMP on April 1, 2022. This report provides detailed information on the numerous natural hazards that threaten Lincoln regularly as well as some that are less frequent. Neither this Plan, nor the HMP, cover human-caused hazards and technological hazards, but the EMA also has to contend with these threats. Human-caused and technological hazards include cyber security, chemical incidents, terrorism, biological incidents, radiological incidents, civil unrest, and infrastructure failure.

In addition to the detailed discussion of natural hazards and climate change found in the HMP, *Chapter 12, Natural Hazards and Climate Change*, also outlines the issues at hand.

Police Department

The Police Department is dedicated to ensuring the safety and security throughout Lincoln. The force is made up of five (5) separate divisions: patrol, detective, school resource officers, traffic enforcement, and animal control. The Department has access to 19 vehicles. The force currently has 40 officers, or a rate of 560 citizens per officer. The 2003 Plan cited concerns about office space and other facilities. The Department has made a concerted effort in recent years to fulfill the Department's vision of community-oriented policing through transparent communication, regular education, and public outreach.

Animal Control

The Lincoln Animal Shelter is located in the Industrial Park on Wellington Road and is large enough to contract services to other towns. Its hours are 11:00am to 2:00pm on weekdays and by appointment only on weekends. The Town website also details various fees for boarding and dog violations.

Detective Division

The Detective Division is responsible for investigating crimes against persons and property, including homicide, assault, sex crimes, child abuse and neglect, burglary, major thefts, fraud, and computer crimes. These officers also work with external law enforcement partners to gather and share intelligence information to protect the community.

Patrol Division

The Patrol Division is the primary component of the Department and is most visible to the public. These officers are tasked with responding to emergency and non-emergency calls to prevent and address crime throughout the Town.

School Resource Officers

School Resource Officers play an important role in ensuring the safety and security of students at both Lincoln Middle School and Lincoln High School. These officers work with the Town's other police divisions and school administration to educate students, maintain a safe learning environment, and deter crime within and around school buildings.

Traffic Enforcement

Traffic Enforcement is a top priority of the Lincoln Police Department, and their division is focused on providing residents with the ability to safely move throughout all neighborhoods. This division integrates traffic calming through three measures: education, engineering, and enforcement. The Town website indicates that speeding or traffic safety problems can be reported to traffic safety officers by mail, email, or telephone; a Traffic Calming Request form is available on the Town website.

TOP PRIORITY: SPEEDING

Residents at the initial Public Workshop expressed concern over pedestrian safety and speeding.

Table 8-2. Updates in Lincoln Police Department Budget

Program	2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024 ^c	
Expenses	Budget ^a	Audited ^b	Budget	Audited	Budget	Audited	Budget	Audited
Public Safety-Police	\$5,288,202	\$5,235,743	\$5,438,845	\$5,782,346	\$5,563,496	\$5,792,099 (Unaudited as of 6/30/2023)	\$5,347,162	\$3,568,089 (Expended thru 1/31/2024)
Public Safety-Animal Control	\$91,913	\$64,744	\$92,490	\$72,709	\$94,614	\$100,370 (Unaudited as of 6/30/2023)	\$72,482	\$51,039 (Expended thru 1/31/2024)
TOTAL	\$5,380,115	\$5,300,487	\$5,531,335	\$3,865,862	\$5,658,110	\$5,892,469 (Unaudited as of 6/30/2023)	\$5,419,644	\$3,619,128 (Expended thru 1/31/2024)

Source: Town of Lincoln Annual Reports and Approved Budget Fiscal Year 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025

Notes: ^a Budgets from FY2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 are representative of the proposed budget set forth at the beginning of the fiscal year

^b Actual revenues and total expenditures are representative of the total amount of realized revenues and expenditures, which may not accurately reflect those in the proposed budget.

^c 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 do not contain actual revenues or expenditures as this Comprehensive Plan was created prior to these statistics being made available.

Rescue Department

The Lincoln Rescue Service is the primary Emergency Medical Service (EMS) provider for Lincoln. The Rescue Department is headquartered at 115 Main Street in the village of Albion.

Fire Districts

The Town of Lincoln does not have a Fire Department housed within the government's jurisdiction. Before 2020, each village had its own respective Fire District: Albion, Lime Rock, Manville, Quinnville, and Saylesville. Following years of discussion, Albion and Saylesville combined to form the Lincoln Fire District in 2020. The 2003 Comprehensive Plan's public survey asked residents whether they would support the Town centralizing to create one large district. Only 45% of residents favored the change while 31% opposed it and 24% could be influenced either way. The Rhode Island General Assembly voted to consolidate the Albion and Saylesville Fire Districts into the new Lincoln Fire District. Bill H 5958 Substitute A was introduced in April 2019 and fully implemented by 2021.

Today, the Lincoln Fire District (Albion and Saylesville), Lime Rock Fire District, Manville Fire District, and Quinnville Fire District service their respective villages. The following graphic provides various statistics for all fire-related services in the Town of Lincoln.



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Table 8-3. Fire District Summary					
Fire District Name	Number of Stations	Number of Incidents ^a	Number of Personnel	Number of Vehicles	Hazmat Team?
Lime Rock	2	1,926		4	Yes
Lincoln (Albion and Saylesville)	1				
Manville	1		20	5	
Quinnville	1				
TOTAL	5				

Source: Lime Rock Fire District, 2023; Lincoln Fire District, 2023; Manville Fire District, 2023; Quinnville Fire District, 2023

Notes: ^a Total number of incidents in 2022

Table 8-4. Updates in Lincoln Fire District Budgets								
Program	FY 2021		FY 2022		FY2023 ^c		FY2024	
Revenues	Budget ^a	Actual ^b	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Lime Rock	\$2,788,109	\$4,451,963	\$2,919,397	\$2,791,520	\$3,041,490		\$122,093	
Lincoln								
Manville								
Quinnville								
Total Expenditures								
Lime Rock	\$2,788,109	\$4,058,740	\$2,919,397	\$2,418,930	\$3,041,490		\$122,093	
Lincoln								
Manville					\$473,531			
Quinnville								
TOTAL								

Source: Lime Rock Fire District, 2023; Lincoln Fire District, 2023; Manville Fire District, 2023; Quinnville Fire District, 2023

Notes: ^a Budgets from FY2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 are representative of the proposed budget set forth at the beginning of the fiscal year

^b Actual revenues and total expenditures are representative of the total amount of realized revenues and expenditures, which may not accurately reflect those in the proposed budget.

^c Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024 do not contain actual revenues or expenditures as this Comprehensive Plan was created prior to these statistics being made available.

8.3 School Facilities and Administration

The Town of Lincoln Public School Department is based out of 135 Old River Road and has a total inventory of five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. All four elementary schools offer full-day kindergarten while Northern Lincoln Elementary School offers a pre-school program. In addition to the six public schools, the Town also contains four private pre-schools. Each public school offers multiple school bus routes that start around 6:00am, 7:00am, and 8:00am for

high school, middle school, and elementary school, respectively. They run again starting around 2:00pm for high school students and 3:00pm for middle school and elementary school students.

As of 2024, Lincoln Public Schools serve 3,312 students with a student to teacher ratio of 9:1. Table 8-5, Current Enrollments and Estimated Pupil Capacities, provides a breakdown of enrollment and capacity information by school. Table 8-6 shows the projected enrollments until 2025, and Table 8-7 provides budget tallies from 2020 through 2024.

Table 8-5. Current Enrollments and Estimated Pupil Capacities			
School	Capacity	Grades	School Year Enrollment
Central Elementary School	450	K-5	423
Saylesville Elementary School	300	K-5	310
Northern Elementary School	613	PK-5	526
Lonsdale Elementary School	300	K-5	284
Lincoln Middle School	1,000	6-8	775
Lincoln Senior High School	850	9-12	994

Table 8-6. Public Schools Projected Enrollment				
School Year	PK-3	4-8	9-12	Total District Enrollment
2022-2023	1,035	1,259	982	3,278
2023-2024	1,034	1,284	988	3,306
2024-2025	932	1,277	1,011	3,220

Table 8-7. Updates in Lincoln Public Schools Budget								
Program	2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-2023 ^c		2023-2024	
Expenses	Budget ^a	Audited ^b	Budget	Audited	Budget	Unaudited	Budget	Unaudited
Town School Dept. Appropriation	\$42,454,172	\$42,454,172	\$42,578,175	\$42,578,175	\$43,345,860	\$43,345,860	\$44,437,403	\$44,437,403
State Education Aid	\$14,418,820	\$15,193,312	\$16,138,953	\$16,222,871	\$16,143,252	\$17,047,513	\$16,859,067	\$17,690,755
Medicaid	\$765,000	\$494,500	\$625,000	\$663,571	\$625,000	\$622,516	\$625,000	\$500,800
Local Miscellaneous Revenues	\$260,000	\$199,463	\$235,000	\$252,264	\$225,000	\$438,707	\$226,000	\$420,768
TOTAL	\$57,897,992	\$58,341,447	\$59,577,128	\$59,716,881	\$60,339,112	\$61,454,596	\$62,147,470	\$63,049,726

Source: Town of Lincoln Annual Reports and Approved Budget Fiscal Year 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025

Notes: ^a Budgets from FY2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 are representative of the proposed budget set forth at the beginning of the fiscal year

^b Actual revenues and total expenditures are representative of the total amount of realized revenues and expenditures, which may not accurately reflect those in the proposed budget.

^c 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 do not contain actual revenues or expenditures as this Comprehensive Plan was created prior to these statistics being made available.

The Lincoln Public Schools' Strategic Plan was published in 2016 to forecast improvements to the school system through 2019. A Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) that included dozens of

parents, school officials, and Town officials helped to inform the Strategic Plan. They were tasked with proposing a mission statement, vision statement and providing a set of core values, goals, strategies and a specific list of actions.

2016-2019 Strategic Plan Findings

Mission: Lincoln Public Schools is committed to excellence. In partnership with all members of the Lincoln community, we inspire and empower each student to excel personally and intellectually, embrace social and individual responsibility, and lead with integrity.

Core Values:

- Commitment to academic excellence
- Commitment to local and global community
- Value and acknowledgement of successes
- Individuality and diversity
- Communication
- Continuous learning
- Productive effort
- Ethical Behavior

Vision: The Lincoln Public Schools is committed to inspire and engage all members of the Lincoln community in the pursuit of excellence.

Goals:

- Enhance academic achievement for all students.
- Strengthen communication and partnerships between home, school, and community.
- Maximize the potential of students, staff, parents and community through effective use of resources.

The 2003 Comprehensive Plan referenced a study that supported the construction of a new middle school. The new middle school, located at 152 Jenckes Road, was built in 2006. In 2017, the Town commissioned a Facility Condition Assessment which found that there was a need for additional cafeteria or library/media space. The total cost of these upgrades was estimated to be \$1,146,539.

After the completion of the improvements to the middle school, the town focused on the elementary schools. On November 7, 2023, a referendum was proposed to Lincoln voters that would allocate \$25 million (\$13 million of which would be paid for by the State) to upgrade Lincoln's elementary schools. This bond would allow officials to invest over \$6 million in each elementary school, build new gymnasiums at each school, convert existing gyms into modern cafeterias or learning spaces, and create specific rooms for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math).

8.4 Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is located at 94 Old River Road and offers various services for the Town. Solid waste management, recycling, and sewer are the primary concerns of the DPW, but they are also in charge of the following departments: Building, Engineering, Highway (local roads only), and Parks and Recreation. The

8.4.1 Solid and Hazardous Waste Management

The Department of Public Works (DPW), located at 94 Old River Road, provides solid waste collection services for the entire Town. The collection is divided by village each day.

Disposal of solid waste is at the Central Landfill in Johnston. Long-term waste reduction strategies remain the responsibility of the Town, despite the state's management of the removal of generated solid waste.

The Town does not offer collection for residential, commercial, or industrial hazardous waste. Household hazardous waste, including antifreeze, batteries, compact fluorescent lightbulbs, fluorescent light tubes, motor oil and filters, paint, and sharps/needles can be disposed of at the Eco-Depot in the Town of Johnston (RIRRC, 2023). Commercial and industrial hazardous waste is subject to the laws set forth by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIRRC, 2023).

8.4.2 Recycling

The Town's contractor collects recycling every other week on the same day as residents' solid waste collection. The State of Rhode Island General Laws § 23-18.9-1 mandates a 35% recycling rate and 50% diversion rate goals (R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-18.9-1). Table 8-8 Municipal Waste Management Data suggests that the Town has experienced a relatively steady rate of municipal waste and recycling between 2018 and 2022. The number of tons of trash per household was significantly higher in 2020 and 2021. These rates may have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic stay-at-home orders. This trend returned to only slightly above pre-pandemic levels in 2022.

The amount of rejected recycling is seeing a steady increase. The Town's recycling and diversion rates place it in the middle of Rhode Island towns (RIRRC, 2022).

Table 8-8. Municipal Waste Management Data

Year	Tons of Trash Landfilled per HH	MRF Recycling Rate	Mandatory Recycling Rate	Overall Diversion Rate	Pounds of Rejected Recycling per HH
2018	1.20	23.2%	27.8%	28.4%	N/A
2019	1.19	23.6%	28.7%	29.3%	N/A
2020	1.29	23.4%	27.0%	27.5%	8
2021	1.32	21.9%	30.2%	30.7%	29
2022	1.24	21.5%	28.2%	28.7%	44

Source: Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation, 2023

Note:

- Trash Landfilled per HH:** Total Tons of Trash Landfilled / Reported Number of Households Served
- MRF Recycling Rate:** Total Tons of Mixed Recyclables / Above Numerator + Trash Ton
- Mandatory Recycling Rate:** Total Tons of Mixed Recyclables + Composted + Clothing + Scrap Metal / Above Numerator + Trash Tons
- Overall Diversion Rate:** Total Tons of All Materials Kept Out of Landfill / Above Numerator + Trash Tons
- Rejected Recycling per HH:** Total Pounds of Rejected Recycling / Reported Number of Households Served

8.4.3 Stormwater and Wastewater Resources Facilities

Stormwater

The Engineering Department, housed within the DPW, is tasked with ensuring stormwater is effectively managed. The Town is required to submit an MS4 annual report to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Office of Water Resources. With the launch of the Town's new website, a dedicated webpage for improved stormwater management and education was created. The Town hired BETA Group to inspect all Town catch basins and map connectivity between stormwater structures. When illicit discharges are suspected, the complaint is forwarded to the Town Engineer or Director of Public Works to conduct a field inspection. If an illicit connection is found, the property owner is sent a written notice with directions to eliminate the connection by a specific date. One illicit connection was found in 2022.

Wastewater Services

The DPW maintains the wastewater system for the Town. Once wastewater is collected into the sewer system, it is sent to the Narragansett Bay Bucklin Point Wastewater Treatment Facility in East Providence. A series of 31 pump stations have been constructed to pump flow through the municipal system to the Narragansett Bay Commission's interceptors. As of the 2003 Plan, approximately 98.5% of homes were serviced with 1.5% being scattered homes. The Town expressed an interest in slowly extending the system to these unconnected buildings. Today, the system serves most of the Town, including the Lincoln Mall and all industrial sites (See Map 8-2 Sewer Service Areas Map).

The 2003 Comprehensive Plan noted that 80% of the 31 pumping stations at the time were ten years old. The Town has more pumping stations than any community in the state. Initially, the Town developed small pump stations to serve particular subdivisions with limited expansion potential to meet future capacity. The 2003 Plan mentioned that this aging infrastructure needed to be updated and modernized as the population continued to grow. To alleviate the financial strain of expanding and maintaining aging sewer infrastructure, the Town encouraged developers to utilize gravity flow sewerage systems for new construction and add new pumping stations to better serve the community.

The Town of Lincoln is required by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to develop and implement, or update, a Wastewater Facilities Plan (WWFP) at a minimum of every twenty years. A WWFP is a document that serves as an important planning tool for the Town as well as a basis for action to correct existing problems and improve existing sewerage facilities. The WWFP identifies and evaluates the need for projects. A WWFP is intended to be a broad-based planning document, evaluating the wastewater-related needs of a community well into the future. The Town's most recent WWFP was written in 2006. The Plan recommended that extensive construction be undertaken to replace existing gravity facilities and provided a roadmap for rehabilitating the Town's pump stations.

8.5 Lincoln Water Commission

Planning for water supply means determining how water is being delivered to residents and businesses, assessing issues with the supply of potable water, and setting a course of action for the proper management and protection of potable water resources. Planning for water supply also involves determining what will be done if drought conditions arise and how the municipality will respond to water-related emergencies. While the end goal is to ensure that water is available for

consumption, there are many uses of potable water, such as irrigation and cooling, that should be considered when assessing availability.

8.5.1 *Water Supply Existing Conditions*

Water Supply-Related Natural Features

The Town has relied on Providence Water (ProvWater) for nearly all of its potable water supply since about 1985. Groundwater aquifers represent the only water supply-related features in the Town of Lincoln; however, no groundwater is used in the Town's existing water supply. Potable water delivered from ProvWater is provided to users in Town through underground piping maintained by the Lincoln Water Commission.

Emergency water is available via interconnections with the Woonsocket Water Supply Board and the Town of Cumberland Water Department. Previously, the Town's water supply had included several wells. These well fields, which were mostly within Town boundaries, are no longer available for drinking water use due to contamination.

Water Service Areas

The service area of the Lincoln Water Commission, which is a quasi-municipal agency, continues to be coincident with the political boundaries of the Town of Lincoln. The boundaries of the service area include approximately 20 square miles. The Lincoln Water Commission provides water service to 98% of the Town of Lincoln. The remaining 2% within the service area boundaries are supplied by private wells. The Commission's service area has not changed in the last decade.

Water Supply Systems

Drinking water from all sources is delivered to the consumers in Lincoln through a distribution system that includes five pumping stations, five storage tanks, and 133 miles of pipes. Water is available for firefighting through more than 1,000 public and private fire hydrants.

The Lincoln Water Commission's water system evolved from several independent water supply systems that were combined into a single system. The development of this system provided for the water supply and fire protection needs of the residents of Lincoln in the 1950s. In 1985 the Lincoln Water Commission completed a connection to ProvWater to replace the previous groundwater supplies, which were identified as contaminated.

The Lincoln Water Commission

The owners of the quasi-municipal Lincoln Water Commission are the qualified electors of the Town of Lincoln. The qualified electors are eligible to vote for the members of the Commission; which consists of five members, one from each voting district in Lincoln. The Commission is vested with the power and authority to construct and maintain a water works system for the Town of Lincoln. The Lincoln Water Commission operates as a true "enterprise fund" within Town government. The Commission has the authority to set rates and expend funds to complete its purpose.

As noted above, the Lincoln Water Commission obtains its water by direct wholesale purchase from ProvWater. The Commission has one supply connection with ProvWater. The supply can provide a

up to approximately 3.3 million gallons per day (mgd).¹ Based on information from the *Lincoln Water Commission Water Supply System Management Plan*, the present transmission capacity of the ProvWater system interconnection appears to be adequate for current usage; however, in the longer term (i.e., over the next 20 years), shortages may arise if future usage increases. Discussions have occurred with ProvWater to provide additional capacity; however, the Town would be required to fund upgrades and the system would continue to have up-system limitations. The Town has also reached out to the Pawtucket Water Supply Board to discuss interconnections with them. These discussions are ongoing.

The Lincoln Water Commission continues to evaluate existing sources of supply and anticipated demand. Generally, these efforts have been concentrated on improving and strengthening existing interconnections with neighboring water systems.

Quality of Potable Water Resources

The Commission receives treated water from ProvWater and does not provide any additional treatment.

The Lincoln Water Commission previously used five wells as their primary source of potable water. In the 1980s, the Commission found slight contamination of the Manville Wells Site. No contamination was found in the Lonsdale Wells Site, but it was considered that there was a potential for contamination there. The Commission discontinued—but did not abandon—the use of its Quinville and Manville well sites. Wishing to protect them from further degradation, and also to protect their status as available for emergency use, the Lincoln Water Commission has requested that these well sites be included in the Rhode Island Wellhead Protection Program. Being part of this program makes Lincoln eligible for State assistance with certain analyses and programs relating to maintaining or upgrading the wells sites as necessary to provide safe drinking water. Working with the Department of Health, the Commission monitors the wells by the “Safe Drinking Water Act” requirements.

8.5.2 Existing and Future Issues Concerning Water Supply

Adequacy of Existing Water Supply

As noted above in section 10.3.3, the existing water supply is adequate; however, adequacy is uncertain over the 20-year planning horizon. The Town is currently dependent on water supplied by ProvWater. The Town is in discussions with neighboring water suppliers to address this.

Projected Waterline Replacement Needs

The Commission developed a Rehabilitation Plan that projects the system needs 25 years, focusing on water main rehabilitation and cleaning of the water pipes. A capital improvement plan and hydraulic model were developed in 2023. The town has established a budget of approximately \$15 million for improvements and is in the process of addressing debt service requirements. The Town also plans to update its current rate structure to account for the proposed borrowing and expenses.

¹ Although the supply connection is designed to deliver up to 5 mgd, up-system constraints limit supply capacity to approximately 3.3 mgd.

Lincoln's drinking water is supplied by surface water resources (i.e., ProvWater). The primary projected impacts of meteorological drought are periods of very high fire danger and reduced drinking water supplies. Extended droughts are rare in Rhode Island, with a record of six major droughts (those lasting for more than one year) since 1929. The longest and most severe drought occurred in 1963-67 and affected most of the northeast. Water shortages affected most communities in Rhode Island and several municipal-supply wells were drilled to augment declining public supplies.

The Commission uses voluntary conservation (e.g., lawn-watering reduction measures) each summer to facilitate a reduction in peak demand from its users. As a wholesale customer of ProvWater, the Commission complies with any demand restriction they impose.

8.5.3 *Current Regulatory and Policy Measures*

The Lincoln Water Commission regularly reviews its Rates, Rules, and Regulations. The last revision to the rules and regulations and rates was completed on August 8, 2018. An update of the rules and regulations is presently being undertaken.

The Lincoln Water Commission plays a role in the residential and commercial planning of new projects within the Town of Lincoln. The Town of Lincoln Zoning Ordinance and the Land Development and Subdivision Regulations describe the steps involved in the planning and approval process. Members of the Lincoln Water Commission regularly participate in reviewing applications at the early stages of review and coordinate closely with the various Town departments including Planning, Sewer, Public Works, Engineering, and Building. Towards this end, the Commission specifically addresses all aspects of water availability and supply for future development through periodic reviews of plans and other support documentation, as administered through the Town of Lincoln Planning Department.

8.6 Goals and Policies

Goals and their corresponding policies reflect the desired changes of Lincoln residents for the next ten years, as gathered from a public workshop held in May 2024. The goals reaffirm the importance of a well-maintained public facilities system, ranging from waste collection to school administration. Residents believe in high-quality education for students, adequate staffing in all essential Town programs, and the continued and enhanced provision of public works services. As the population is expected to grow and diversify, these goals emphasize ensuring that Town services and programs are maintained and strengthened.

Table 8-9. Goals and Policies	
Goals	Policies
SF1. Town Wide Provide orderly and efficient public services and opportunities for all residents that support existing and future needs.	SF1.1. Town Wide Support the School Department and School Committee in their efforts to provide students access to a high-quality educational environment and experience.
	SF1.2. Town Wide Provide the necessary infrastructure and tools to maintain and enhance a strong educational program.
	SF1.3. Town Wide Ensure that public safety services and facilities are well maintained and adequately staffed throughout the Town.

	SF1.4. Town Wide Provide Town departments with adequate staff and resources to provide a high level of service to the community.
	SF1.5. Town Wide Promote recycling in municipal buildings and by all residents by providing up-to-date information in Town Hall and on the Town's website to reach State-mandated recycling and diversion rates.
	SF1.6. Town Wide Protect the integrity of existing water supply connections through compliance with all applicable laws and regulations and promotion of the efficient use of water.
	SF1.7. Town Wide Pursue grant funding to support Town activities.

REFERENCES

- Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation. "2023 Municipal Summary (Detailed)". 2023.
<https://rirrc.org/sites/default/files/2023%20Municipal%20Summary%20Detailed%20with%20Charts%2020240401.pdf>.
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