



MARCH 2022 Q1 NEWSLETTER

NCRPC NEWS

An update from the North Central Regional Planning Commission

50 YEARS

Serving Kansans since 1972

Celebrating 50 Years

Organization Celebrates Major Milestone in 2022

March marks the 50th year since the North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC) was organized.

The NCRPC was first formed in 1972 under K.S.A. 12-716 et seq. (now K.S.A. 12-744) as a multi-county planning organization headquartered in Beloit, Kansas.

In 1980 the NCRPC was designated an Economic Development District by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. Since that point the organization has evolved into a comprehensive community

development and planning group based on K.S.A. 12-744 and structured by K.S.A. 12-2901 et seq. that provides a variety of staff assistance to cities and counties within the traditional planning area at their request.

The NCRPC also provides contract services in a much broader area through various programs.

While much has changed over the years, we remain committed to serving communities across North Central Kansas. Thank you for your partnership — past, present and future!

Communities Awarded CDBG Grants

Several North Central Kansas communities learned last month that they will be receiving funding to help complete a variety of improvement projects across the region.

The awards come from the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce.

NCRPC staff assisted with the following projects and will provide project administration. Each of these grantees will be contributing matching funds from a variety of sources.

- City of Burr Oak — \$330,000 Water system improvements
- City of Cawker City — \$454,250 Water tower

- City of Concordia — \$560,000 Purchase of a fire ladder truck
- City of Glasco — \$323,530 Improvements to the lift station and sanitary sewer system
- City of Lincoln Center — \$300,000 Housing rehabilitation and demolition
- City of Mankato — \$600,000 Wastewater collection system repairs and improvements
- City of Marysville — \$600,000 Sanitary sewer treatment facility improvements
- City of Miltonvale — \$383,000 Wastewater collection system and treatment facility improvements

For more information about the CDBG program, visit the website at www.kansascommerce.gov/cdbg or contact the NCRPC staff.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Celebrating 50 Years
- Communities Awarded CDBG Funds for Projects
- Project Spotlight: City of Washington Water Project
- Free Training Events Continue Through June
- We are Hiring! Seeking a Community Development Representative to Add to Our Growing Team
- Interim Director John Cyr Leading During Transition
- Couple Relocates to Concordia to Open Restaurant

ABOUT US

Our primary service area includes 12 counties and 83 cities in North Central Kansas.

OUR MISSION

Advancing rural Kansas through comprehensive planning and development services.

CONTACT US

109 N. Mill, PO Box 565
Beloit, KS 67420 | 785-738-2218

[facebook.com/ncrpcbeloit](https://www.facebook.com/ncrpcbeloit)

Learn more about the NCRPC at:
www.ncrpc.org

If you have a story idea or would like to update your address, email us at:
communications@ncrpc.org.

Project Spotlight

City of Washington Completes Major Water Improvement Project

Reduced water loss, reduction of water main breaks, and minimal down time due to service interruptions are all benefits that the City of Washington's utility customers are enjoying after the completion of a major water improvement project in the city in 2021.

The City of Washington is located in North Central Kansas at the intersection of Kansas Highway 15 and U.S. Highway 36 and serves as the County seat. Nearly 80% of the city's water distribution system dated back to the original system installed in 1914. The original system with small, cast-iron lines had exceeded its useful life. Leaks, water main breaks, and repair expenses for streets that were disturbed in order to access lines were becoming increasingly troublesome.

Improving its water system was a high priority need for the community, but also a costly proposition. The city ultimately applied for funding assistance and was awarded \$600,000 through the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which is administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce. The City of Washington secured additional funds through a combination of a USDA Rural Development loan of \$6.3 million and grant of \$1.2 million. The city also committed \$200,000 in city cash to the project.

The resulting project updated critical infrastructure by installing new water lines, fire hydrants and an automated meter reading system. At the time the CDBG application was submitted (Fall 2018), the city had experienced 58 pipe failures in the previous 5 years. The city is now well positioned for minimal water distribution system maintenance for many years.

"The project has provided upgrades to our water supply system with decreased leaks and line breaks, along with less waste of precious resources. It has also provided improvements to fire protection," Caroline Scoville, City of Washington EMT, said.

Non funding key partners involved with the project were engineers BG Consultants, Manhattan, Kansas, and contractor Orr Construction Management, Raytown, Missouri ensuring project success. In addition, Kansas Rural Water Association completed a rate study analysis and CES Group P.A. Engineering Consultants, Marysville, helped the city complete the Low to Moderate Income Survey to qualify for funding. NCRPC staff provided project planning assistance, grant writing and administration.

The project took approximately two years from start to finish. Original costs were estimated at just over \$8 million, but actual project costs came in under the budgeted amount.



The City of Washington celebrated the completion of its water project with a ribbon cutting in June 2021. (Courtesy Photo)

"The upgrades to the system were funded by USDA and CDBG projects, including grant funding and low interest loans. This provided significant cost savings to the citizens over the life of the project, which ultimately affects quality of life for our residents," Scoville said. "The North Central Regional Planning Commission staff was extremely helpful working on this project, and provided valuable knowledge and assistance."

For more information about the funding sources used for this project or to discuss a project need, contact the NCRPC community development staff.

There are many great things happening in North Central Kansas. Project Spotlight shares stories from communities around the region and how they solved challenges.

EVENTS

NCRPC Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, March 31, 2022
2 p.m.

Find more on the web »

Events: www.ncrpc.org/news/events
Funding sources and deadlines:
www.ncrpc.org/funding

NOTICE OF NEWSLETTER CHANGE

Beginning with this issue, we are switching to a quarterly newsletter format. Previously NCRPC News was produced six times per year.

Now is the perfect time to like us on Facebook so that you get the most up-to-date news, notices about funding sources and deadlines, and more in between newsletter issues!

 facebook.com/ncrpcbeloit



North Central Regional
Planning Commission
Serving Kansans Since 1972

Training Opportunities

Upcoming Free Training Opportunities for Residents, Businesses, Nonprofits in North Central Kansas

Listed below are just a sampling of the upcoming free classes available from now through June. The training is made possible, in part, through the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration's CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant awarded to the NCRPC.

March 22 | Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Board Members and Officers, via Zoom

March 24 | Developing a Business Plan for Your Business or Nonprofit, via Zoom

March 29 | Canva Training: Creating Attractive Graphics on a Budget, via Zoom

March 31 | Creating and Implementing a Strategic Plan, via Zoom

April 6 | Website Building Workshop, Concordia, KS



See the Full List of Available Courses and Register for a Session:
www.ncrpc.org/resources/trainings/

Help Wanted

The NCRPC is growing and we are excited to add a community development position.

Job Title: Community Development Specialist

The North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC) located in Beloit, Kansas, has an immediate opening for someone interested in becoming a Community Development Specialist. Interested candidates should possess the following.

- An interest in public and private sector engagement, creative and technical writing, problem solving, and an ability to speak to small groups.
- The ability to manage multiple projects at one time.
- A willingness to regularly travel to surrounding cities and counties and to attend evening meetings.
- A valid Kansas Driver License and a clean driving record.
- A proficiency with Adobe Acrobat and Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint).

All candidates should have a Bachelor's Degree from Arts and Sciences (e.g., Community Development, Planning, Geography, Political Science, or Economics) or Business. Associate's Degrees in similar fields with preferably three (3) years' experience working in a community-oriented setting are also acceptable. Prior experience with community development is useful, but not mandatory.

Compensation includes a monthly salary commensurate with the candidate's experience plus health insurance for both candidate and family and retirement benefits.

Submittal Requirements: If interested, submit a cover letter and resume with three professional references to North Central Regional Planning Commission, P.O. Box 565, 109 N Mill, Beloit, KS 67420-0565 or e-mail to interimdirector@ncrpc.org - Subject Line: CDR Employment Opportunity. Contact NCRPC at (785) 738-2218 with questions. Position is open until filled.



Interim Director John Cyr Leading During Transition

At its December meeting, the NCRPC Executive Board of Directors approved the selection of John Cyr as Interim Executive Director effective January 3, 2022. Cyr previously worked for the NCRPC for 34 years in a variety of roles including 22 years as NCRPC Executive Director.



John Cyr

Emily Benedick stepped down as Executive Director effective December 31 to take a new position as Mitchell County Community Development Director.

The NCRPC contracted with Next Move Group, LLC to lead recruiting efforts for a new Executive Director. A hiring committee made up of four NCRPC Executive Board members and Cyr has been supporting the process and providing input on behalf of the organization.

The NCRPC Executive Board and staff wish to extend appreciation to John for his guidance during this period of transition.



North Central Regional Planning Commission

109 N. Mill | PO Box 565
Beloit, KS 67420 | www.ncrpc.org

Couple Relocates to Concordia to Open Restaurant

Maverick's Steakhouse Recently Celebrated its First Year in Business

When Steven and Brittany Salgado began looking into the startup of a new steakhouse restaurant in Concordia, they were not planning on the extra challenge of navigating that process through a pandemic.

The couple lived in Kansas City and had several years of experience in the industry including 2+ years as chefs with upscale restaurants there before making the decision to relocate to North Central Kansas.

"We were looking into this before the pandemic hit. We had already signed papers and everything," Brittany said. "As we were celebrating, Kansas City shut down due to COVID."

Maverick's Steakhouse, located at 103 W. 7th Street in Concordia, opened on February 1, 2021. Relocating to Concordia was returning home for

Brittany who came to Concordia her freshman year and graduated from Concordia High School. Brittany now spends most of her time working in the front end of the business while Steven spends the majority of his time in the kitchen. There have been ups and downs, but the couple is optimistic as the business as it enters its second year.

"We are figuring out what brings people out and experimenting with new menu items and comfort foods," Brittany said. "We are looking forward to a good year in 2022."

In addition to offering steaks and a full menu, daily specials are featured including burgers on Tuesdays, fried chicken on Wednesdays, prime rib on Thursdays, drink specials on Friday/Saturday and breakfast on Sundays. The restaurant also hosts private events.



The business startup project was made possible with investment by the owner as well as funding from The Citizens National Bank, Concordia, a Get in the Cloud Grant, and the NCK-Four Rivers Business Down Payment Assistance Loan Program. For more information about the financing programs used, contact NCRPC Business Finance Director Debra Peters at 785-738-2218 or visit www.ncrpc.org/services/business.

For details about the business, visit www.maverick-steakhouse.com or find them on Facebook.