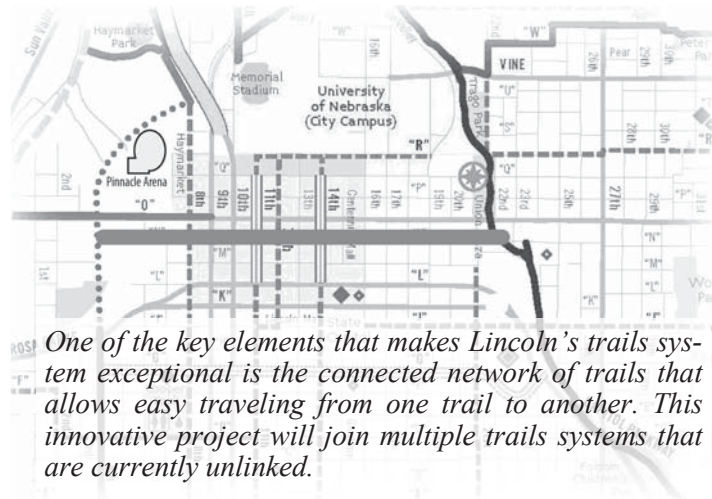


LINKING LINCOLN: THE N STREET LINK

The N Street Link will provide a two-way protected bike lane on N Street. It links the Jamaica North trail at 4th and J Street with the Antelope Valley Trail.

The connection will offer easy access to downtown businesses and the Haymarket district. GPTN is raising \$100,000 to support this once in a life time opportunity which will be matched with an equal amount from the Jayne Snyder memorial fund.



One of the key elements that makes Lincoln's trails system exceptional is the connected network of trails that allows easy traveling from one trail to another. This innovative project will join multiple trails systems that are currently unlinked.

Make contributions payable to: Nebraska Trails Foundation

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Designated Project: _____

Mail to: GPTN
5000 North 7th St.
Lincoln, NE 68521

Summer 2013

Issue 112

COMMUNITY SERVICES FUND

It has been a fantastic summer with all kinds of exciting activities going on including another successful Trail Trek this past June. As fall approaches, we hope that you have been able to get out and enjoy the trails that make Lincoln such a great place to live.

Before you dive into the rest of the newsletter talking about the events and news of trail upgrades, I wanted to remind you that along with football and back to school, fall is the time that many companies have their worksite giving campaigns. And, if the company you work for has a campaign that includes the Community Services Fund, did you know that your donations can be directed to help support our great trails network? Here is how it works.

Community Services Fund (CSF) is a non-profit federation. It was founded in Lincoln in 1981 by four non-profit agencies and has grown since that time to include 48 member agencies. CSF participates with United Way and Community Health Charities in workplace giving campaigns. The great thing about CSF is that with CSF you get to choose where your donations go and if you choose the Nebraska Trails Foundation (GPTN's tax deductible partner), you can be assured that your money will go directly to help support the campaigns that GPTN is currently sponsoring.

This year, GPTN is raising funds to help repair the Billy Wolff trail at 27th and Capitol Parkway so that the trail can be resurfaced and widened. This is a critical stretch of our trails network in Lincoln that has very high ridership. So if you are able to participate in a CSF campaign at your work, you can designate that your contributions go to the Nebraska Trails Foundation and your money will be directed to the trail repair fund.

Each year the donations collected for the Nebraska Trails Foundation are directed to GPTN's current trail projects. Last year, the CSF received over \$500,000 in donations and each dollar was designed by the donor to be distributed to one or more of the 48 member agencies. Last year alone, the Nebraska Trails Foundation received over \$15,000 in donations which is a significant amount for our organization and we thank all of you that contributed. If by chance, your employer doesn't have a workplace giving campaign, you can learn more about CSF and how your organization might start a campaign by going to www.communityservicesfund.org.

Thank you all for your continued membership and support for GPTN and I look forward to seeing you on the trails soon!

Karen Griffin



This year's CSF project: Billy Wolff repair at 27th and Capitol Parkway



Great Plains Trails Network

since 1988

dedicated to the goal of developing a network of commuter and recreational trails within Lincoln and Lancaster County

2013

PRESIDENT Karen Griffin
VICE PRESIDENT Ann Bleed
SECRETARY Bill Wehrbein
TREASURER Jamie Warren

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dale Arp	Nancy Loftis
Brett Baker	Karen O'Connor
Jason Bakewell	Rose Quackenbush
Gary Bentrup	David Scoby
Ann Bleed	Kris Sonderup
Jim Carveth	Ray Stevens
Parks Coble	Clayton Streich
Curt Donaldson	Beth Thacker
Marynelle Greene	Mary Torell
Elaine Hammer	Bob Torell
Chris Heinrich	Wes Trout
Damon Hershey	Joyce Vannier
Roger Hirsch	Jamie Warren
Corey Godfrey	Bill Wehrbein
Todd Kellerman	Oak Williams

MAILING ADDRESS

5000 NORTH 7th
LINCOLN NE 68521-4010

WWW.GPTN.ORG

Newsletter comments, questions, corrections
gbentrup68@gmail.com

CALL FOR M2M VOLUNTEERS

As a Charity Partner with the Market 2 Market Relay Nebraska, GPTN has agreed to supply volunteers for four checkpoints along the 78-mile relay running race. GPTN has been a partner with M2M since its inception, which is ran primarily along the MoPac Trail system. Volunteers are responsible for setup and takedown of exchange points, parking vans, and ensuring runner safety. The 2013 Market 2 Market Relay Nebraska is Saturday October 12th. GPTN is responsible for two points at the finish line in the Haymarket area of Lincoln, as well as exchange points in Eagle, NE and the Boy Scouts Camp near Walton, NE. Ten volunteers are sought for each point, with typically 2-hour shifts for volunteers.

For more information on the M2M Relay Nebraska go to: <http://nebraska.markettomarketrelay.com>.

To see time slots & sign up to volunteer, go to: <https://m2mne2013gptn.eventbrite.com/>
Questions?

Contact Jason at: jbakewell@markettomarketrelay.com



REMEMBERING LOVE ONES THROUGH MEMORIAL GIFTS

Eric Yule was an active trail user who served many years in the Great Plains Bicycling Club. When he recently passed away from cancer, his family decided to honor his memory and love for trails by donating his memorial gifts to support trail projects in Lincoln.

A memorial gift is a way to celebrate the life of someone special who has passed on. Families often establish memorials in honor of a loved one, and ask friends and relatives to make gifts to the memorial instead of sending flowers. Memorial gifts for GPTN trail projects are tax deductible when the gifts are made out to the Nebraska Trails Foundation. Please consider memorial gifts as a way to celebrate your love's one life.

GPTN NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

June to August 2013

Welcome to new members: Wade Anderson, Byron Barner, Jade Blacksher, Ariana Brocius, Marsha & Joe Busse, Dale Dahlin, Shirlene Davis, William & Terri Dimon, Tyrell Eichele, Mark Feit, Douglas Flagg, Cynthia Fosler, Jocelyn Golden, Terry Hiatt, Sheri Johnson, Kim Jungck, Ann Kitten, Robert Lane, Sherry Lawton, Melanie Mangers, Kevin McCaffrey, Dean Noe, Don Pinkley, Aimee Poor, Patti Robinson, Cynthia Rockwell, Clint & Kristin Runge, Theresa Sedivy, Jerry & Patty Shorney, Tim & Geri Shipley, Daria & Michael Springer, Lisa Stephens, Rebecca Tuttle, Alvin Sueper, & Linsey Ziebell.

Thanks to renewing members: Harry & Shirley Amen, Dorothy C. Anderson, David Atkinson, Marybell Avery & Stan Campbell, David Armknecht, Kevin & Julie Bachman, Linda Barger, Marlene Battelle, Eileen Bergt, Anita Boeselager, Daryl & Kris Bohac, Judy & Perley Boucher, Dick Boyd, Jack & Lynette Broderick, Jon Bruning, Tammie & Rich Burns, Larry & Ruth Cada, Dan & Becky Caldwell, Douglas Campbell, Mark Canney, Walter Canney, Richard Cartier, Peggy & Eli Chesen, Wes & Carol Christensen, JoAnn Churley, Brent Daugherty, Pete & Christie Dionisopoulos, Max Clegg, Steve & Patty Clements, Jim & Judi Cook, Steve Larrick & Janine Copple, Larry Corbett, Cornhusker Bank, Ray & Karin Coulter, Jen Davidson, Jason & Maggie Davis, Terri & Larry Day, Deb DeFruiter, Judith DeGraff, Barbara Di Bernard, Julie & Richard Diegel, Earl Dyer, Al & Vicki Eastman, De & George Edgar, Dean & Maria Eisenhauer, Richard Eisenmenger, Deb & Paul Eisloeffel, Richard & Katherine Endacott, Michael Eppel, Chuck & Mary Ann Erickson, Kit Minks, & Amy Fabricus, David Feingold, David Florell, Charles & Laura Focht, Jerry Freeman, Brent & Natalie Friesen, Matt & Ellen Fuller, James & Sandy Gallentine, George Gammel, Judy Garlock & Tex Richters, Jan Gauger, Lil Gibson, Pat Gilles, William Glover, Robert & Vanesa Gorman, Ron & Beth Goble, Richard & Ursula Goodban, John & Jan Gradwohl, Charles & Carolyn Gregorius, Patrick & Mary Grewe, Mike Griebel & Scott Grossenbacher, Mark & Karen Hakenkamp, Robert Haller & Marcella Shortt, Albert Halls, Jeff & Amy Handeland, George & Sandi Hansen, Lynn & Sara Haratzell, Yvonne Heakin, Heartland Optical, Craig & Jean Hellweg, Alica Helmink, Tim Henkel, Tom &

Candy Henning, Steve Hensel, Emily Herrick, Steve Henrichsen, Gary Hill, Randy Holcomb, Jonathan Horrell, Mark & Dee Hutchins, Glenn & Elaine Johnson, Judith Keller, Jeff & Heather Kimblel, Bethany Grabow & David Koesters, Lori Kreimer & Kent Imig, Carey Taylor & Alison Krohn, Kathy Krone, Doug & Dianne Kuppig, Robert Kuzelka, Alice L. Lane, Joe Laughlin, Scott Leigh, Terry Klein, Dwaine Leonhardt, Max & Pat Linder, Joseph Loudon & Michelle Manning, Linda Lowe, Lower Platte North NRD, Linda Mahloch & Frank Blaha, Denise & Tyler Mainquist, Christine Marvin, David & Jan McChesney, Stuart McFarland, Dallas McGee, Jane & Jack McVay, Susan & James Melcher, Alan L Meyer, Steve & Patsy Meyer, Rich & Sharon Michaelson, Mark C. Miller, Heather Morrow, Dorothy Mathews, Ann & John Neal, Bob Mancuso, Bonnie Maschka, John Miyoshi, Philip Morgan, Rosalind Morris, Mike Murphy, Marjorie Neill, Diane Resser & Peggy Newquist, Don & Pattie Niven, Dennis Nuernberger, Doris O'Donnell, Fred & Carol Ochsner, Peg Ogea, Gerry Oligmueller, John Oswald, Scott Patterson, Walt Stroup & Ellen Paparozzi, Rich Peters, Charles M. Peterson, Jon Peterson, Joan Phelan, Carol Podwinski, Cody & Julie Ramel, Stephen Ramsay, Alan & Karen Reiners, Roger Renken, Bob Ripley & Stacy James, Jennifer Lyons & Bob Robinson, Ruth Rodden, Linda Roos, Lynn & Dana Roper, Bob & Marcia Roth, Raymond & Bonnie Roth, Dirk Brom & Kimberly Russel, Susan Samson, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Schelert, Suzanne Schied, Jay Schluckebier, Milt & Linda Schmidt, Dan & Marge Schlitt, David Schmidt, Ginny Schnabel & Mike Thew, Ron Schroeder, John & Teresa Seminara, Cathy Seybold, Dottie & Bob Shapiro, Albert Sherman, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Sidles, Julie Cole & Brian Sivill, Chris Smith, Ken Smith, Richard & Susan Spangler, Mr. & Mrs. Verle Stahr, Bob & Mary Ann Stallings, Dan & Lynn Steinkruger, Tani & Dave Stempson, Martha Stoddard, Clayton Streich, Steve & Laurie Stromberg, Gloria & John Strobe, Jr. Corey & Jeanette Stull, Dave Swartz, Don & Sue Sylwester, Marilyn Tabor, Sherry Taylor, John Thacker, Kristine Thoms, Joyce & Scott Tontegode, Ron & Darlene Tussing, Eric Umland, Tom Vandenaack, Paul VanDeWater, Ken Vice, Travis Wagner, Kevin Wailes, Jamie Warren, William Wehrbein, Dennis Wertz & Kate Adams, Dave White, John Whitmer, Robert Wikel, Amy & Dean Windle, Conrad & Carol Woerner, John & Cyndi Woollam, Tom Wood, Don & MaryLou Wright, Jennifer Wulf, Greg Zimmer.

Thank you from the 2013 GPTN Board!



BURRITO BIKE RIDE

UNL Outdoor Adventures and Chipotle Mexican Grill are teaming up to offer burrito bike rides through Lincoln.

The community rides are 5 to 7:30 p.m., on Wednesdays from Aug 28 to Oct 2. The rides leave from and return to the UNL Bike Shop at the Campus Rec Center. Along with the bike ride, the event includes a free burrito from Chipotle.

The event is free for UNL students and Campus Rec members, and \$5 for the general public/guests.

Register at: <http://crec.unl.edu/>

Registration deadline: 5:00pm on the day before each ride

TRAIL UPDATES!

- Jamaica North Trail out to bid this fall with a spring 2014 completion.
- Pioneers Park Trail construction will begin the middle of September with a November 2013 completion.
- Design has begun on the Wilderness Park Bike bridge between Pioneer Blvd. and Old Cheney. Expected completion by December 2014.
- Construction bids are out on the Boosalis Trail with the intent on completing it yet this year.

NEBRASKA Home Sales
 Rich Rodenburg
 Partner, Associate Broker
 P.O. Box 6165, Lincoln, NE 68506
 Rich@NebHomeSales.com
 402-440-7570
 www.NebHomeSales.com

Atoz PRINTING
 All Types of Printing
 Personal Service
 Creative Design
 Fast Turnaround
 8230 Cody Drive
 Lincoln, NE 68512
 402.477.0815
 atozprint.com
 Contact us to learn more about how we can help you make sustainable printing choices.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Market to Market Relay
 October 12, 2013

Streets Alive!
 September 29, 2013

Nacho Ride

Tuesdays 5:30 pm or later

This is a leaderless social ride. Start at the MoPac Trailhead on 84th St. Take the MoPac Trail to the "One Eyed Dog Saloon" in Eagle (540 S 4th St). Eat, drink and enjoy the company of other cyclists. Join the first ride group leaving at 5:30 or ride out with others at a time convenient to you. Some riders may choose to start at Walton (14 mile ride). Look twice before crossing A St. on the trail.

The Canine Scrub
 Self-Serve Dog Wash
 2774 South Street
 Lincoln, NE 68502
 (402) 477-2782
 www.thecaninescrub.com email@thecaninescrub.com
 HOURS: Monday: 10 AM - 7 PM
 Tuesday: CLOSED
 Wednesday: CLOSED
 Thursday: 10 AM - 7 PM
 Friday: 10 AM - 7 PM
 Saturday: 10 AM - 6 PM
 Sunday: 12 PM - 6 PM

GREAT PLAINS
 bicycling club
 We actively promote bicycling with weekly rides ranging from 20 to 100 miles. We have ice cream or coffee shop easy-paced rides, hammering training rides, moon-lit rides, trail rides, and show 'n' go rides. We sponsor the Spring Fling in April and the Heatstroke 100 in August. We also promote bicycling safety through community-sponsored events. For more information and an online application, see <http://greatplainsbikeclub.org>. \$15/person and \$20/family.

OH, WHAT TO DO WHILE VISITING LINCOLN?

by Roger Hirsch

Just when we thought winter would hang around forever, May 14 served up a 100-degree day....too hot for biking?

Not for six visitors from Southeast Asia, who joined with some members of GPTN's Board of Directors to experience a small taste of Lincoln's excellent network of trails.

Officially, our visitors were in Lincoln under the auspices of the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program, as arranged by World Learning, a non-profit organization based in Vermont that focuses on development, education and exchange programs. One object of the project was to see how governments and civil society use new media at various government levels to pursue economic and social development goals through public outreach and community building.

Unofficially, we like to think they were here for the trails. Once they learned of Lincoln's trail structure—itsself based on strong government and community economic and social development cooperation—they wanted to experience a bike ride first-hand.

The visitors were Zheng Xi "Remy" Choo of Singapore, Chanthya "Thyda" Chor of Cambodia, Sze Ying Goh of Malasia, Hong Thi Minh Hoang of Vietnam, Han Hu "Tiger" Lim of Brunei, and Klai Kong Vaidhyakarn of Thailand. For most it was a first-time visit to the United States, and for all, it was a first-time visit to Lincoln. Other stops included Jacksonville, Florida and Seattle, Washington.

They were led on the bike ride by GPTN Board members Elaine Hammer, Roger Hirsch and Beth Thacker. Beth's husband Dan Thacker also joined the bike ride. Elaine Hammer pooled the necessary resources—bikes quickly rented from Cycle Works, helmets and water—and at 7:00 p.m. the group took off from the Jane Snyder Trails Center.

Fortunately a cool front chose that time to move through Lincoln, and the heat broke for a breezy ride punctuated by a blazing Great Plains sunset.

The group first pedaled north on Billy Wolff Trail to Military Ave., then reversed course and headed south, back through Antelope Valley's winding trails and underneath O Street. Passing by Elliott School's west elevation, the riders saw Lincoln High in the distance, crossed the intersection at 27th and Capitol Parkway, and raced down Billy Wolff past the Children's Zoo. At Antelope Memorial Park, the group turned and headed back to the Trails Center, this time taking the underpass at 27th and Capitol Parkway, screaming in delight all the way through the darker passageway.

The ride took 45 minutes and covered six miles.

Six miles...that's ten kilometers!" said Hong Hoang. "That was a long way."

Whatever the distance, however measured, six visitors from Southeast Asia left Lincoln the next day with a great impression of Lincoln's growing network of hiking and biking trails—a vivid example of how government and private resources can be combined to boost economic activity and community building in Nebraska—and took it back to home turf in Southeast Asia.



NATIONAL BIKE CHALLENGE UPDATE

The National Bike Challenge is heading into the final month and Lincoln is currently in first place for communities over 200,000 in population. That's right! Lincoln is ahead of cycling cities like Madison, WI.

Lincoln has about 1,000 riders that have logged 508,000 miles since May 1. Yes, if you do the math that means every rider is averaging over 500 miles. Well, not everyone is averaging 500 miles. Lincoln has some serious riders. For instance, Lincoln's top rider is Randy Reed who has logged over 8,200 miles and is in seventh place as an individual rider in the U.S.

Lincoln's riders have saved an estimated 246,000 lbs of CO2 and have burned 12,800,000 calories. The State of Nebraska is also doing well and currently is in third place behind Vermont and Wisconsin.

The competition ends on September 30. Right now we are neck in neck with Madison so we need everyone to log their miles. <http://www.endomondo.com/campaign/national/>

POPULAR TRAIL TREK PUSHES BEYOND LINCOLN, BEATS THE WEATHER

by Roger Hirsch

Trail Trek pushed the envelope of official trails up a notch in 2013. But the true test would come with the bikers, and whether they accepted the new challenge offered by one of Lincoln's major outdoor events...and the weather.

Sunday, June 23rd, 2013 broke dawn with a thunderstorm. Heavy rain pelted the local trails as the skies darken, and organizers and volunteers were concerned with the impact on the 11th annual Trail Trek. Volunteers huddled in vehicles and pondered a major issue—do we unload the bananas now or wait for a break in the rain?

Weather is the bane of all planned outdoor activities, but Trail Trek decided that the show must go on. Fortunately, western skies started to clear before some bikers were even out of bed. While rain and lightning slowed preparations and delayed start times from Haymarket Park, it was bikers who flooded the starting area west of the ballpark, not water. Some 1,175 bikers and 95 volunteers registered, and the vast majority showed up—bananas or no bananas.

Weather challenge accepted.

Trail Trek tries to sponsor newly opened trails every year, blending them in with other popular routes to give bikers a choice between old favorites and new experiences. The ages and preferences of participants means that short trails are developed, and some longer ones too for the older and sturdier bikers.

Larger trail signs in 2013 were greatly appreciated.

This year the short trail was a 10-miler that took participants on a circle tour through the UNL East Campus area, visting five parks in six neighborhoods.

The Toasted Ponies entertained at Peter Pan Park. From little legs grow big bike riders, and judging by the number of Trail Trek kids Lincoln's trails will be crowded in the future.

The medium length trail was a 20-miler that took riders out to 84th St. along the MoPac Trail, then south to the Billy Wolff trail, and back to Haymarket Park along Lincoln's oldest trail. Riders on that trail went by the Jayne Snyder Trails Center in Union Park Plaza. The Billy Wolff generally follows the Antelope Creek valley corridor and gives riders lots of flatland, green areas, parks and neighborhoods...and the zoo.

But the real challenge was the 45-miler from Haymarket Park through the southern downtown area, neighborhoods along the railroad corridor, and then onto limestone trails to Cortland in Gage County—Trail Trek's first visit beyond Lancaster County. Forests, creeks, prairies, farmlands—all of them were on the route. The rain meant that the backs of biker shirts were occasionally bisected by dirty water and mud spots, but everyone just laughed it off and praised the condition of the limestone trail.

Trail Trek reached out to Beatrice, and our neighbor to the south responded with a pack of riders who came north to Cortland's park, pausing for a planned rest stop in Pickrell. Welcome on board, Beatrice!

Continued on page 5



UNL BIKE VALET FOR HUSKER FOOTBALL

Forget those Husker game day traffic jams. Hop on a bike and park for free. A free bike valet service, a joint venture of the Bike Shop at UNL Campus Recreation, BikeUNL and Nebraska Athletics, will be offered for the first time during Husker football season.

Home game attendees who bike to campus can keep their bikes safe in Cook Pavilion, just one block from Memorial Stadium. Donations will be accepted, and the proceeds will be used to install on-campus bike pumps and workstations.

"We have worked with Nebraska Athletics to create a great alternative to driving to Husker football games," said Jordan Messerer, assistant director for UNL Outdoor Adventures. "With the bike valet service, fans can enjoy the event without worrying to find a parking space. With a free, safe place to store their bikes during the game, our hope is that more people will opt to ride to campus."

The game day bike valet service will open two hours prior to kickoff and conclude one hour after the final whistle. All bikes will be supervised by UNL Bike Shop staff. To verify bike owners, staff will take photos of the cyclists and their bikes at drop-off.

Organizers are hoping the new service also alleviates heavy game-day traffic. For their safety, Bike Valet patrons are encouraged to use bike routes that avoid heavy traffic. These routes can be found on the Bike Valet website, <http://bike.unl.edu/bikevalet>.

NEW ROUTE AND ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR STREETS ALIVE!

VegFest and Biketacular join third annual event

The third annual Streets Alive! event is schedule from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, September 29 and will include a new route and new activities. The three-mile route generally runs from Lincoln High School at 22nd and "J" to Everett Elementary School at 11th and "C." The route is closed to vehicular traffic so families can safely bike, walk, run, or skateboard.

New activities this year include VegFest, a farmer's market organized by Community Crops, and Biketacular, a celebration of all aspects of biking in the community with activities for adults and children. The free event also features entertainment and displays along the route. Participants may enter the event at any location along the route.

"This is a community-friendly event for people of all ages and mobility levels," said Maria Salinas Sherffius, Board President of Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln. "Last year's event attracted over 3,000 people and more than 100 exhibitors representing everything from tasty and healthy snacks and health education to Zumba dancing."

More information on Streets Alive! is available at: healthylincoln.org/streetsalive.

TRAIL MAP SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

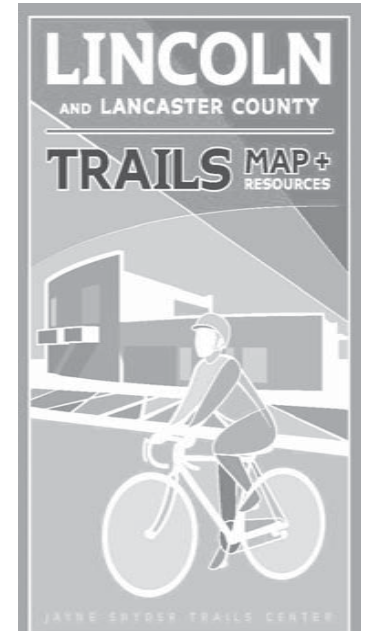
Would your business like to connect with thousand of trail users in the Lincoln area?

If so, your company can become a proud sponsor of GPTN's full-color trail map.

We will be printing 20,000 copies so you know you will be reaching a large audience for your advertising dollars. As always, GPTN will be distributing this map free of charge.

For \$1,000, your company's logo will be placed on the prominent back panel of the map, the first place customers will see when they turn over the map. There are only 8 spots available, so don't hesitate.

If interested, please contact Gary Bentrup, gbentrup68@gmail.com or 402-570-1390.



NEW BISON TRAIL BRIDGE HISTORY GOES WAAAAY BACK!

by Roger Hirsch

Another trail bridge...another jewel in Lincoln's crown of excellent hiker-biker trails.

Ho-hum, right?

Officially, for the record, the new Bison Trail Bridge was opened in May and dedicated on June 30th in a ceremony led by Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler. The 153-foot steel truss and concrete trail bed cost \$439,100. Its predecessor, a concrete motor vehicle bridge on West Van Dorn Street, was built in 1936 as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project but had been closed for over three years even to pedestrians.

Funding for the new trail bridge came in the form of a \$250,000 grant from the recreational trails program administered by the Nebraska Game and Parks commission, \$50,000 from the Great Plains Trails Network (GPTN) and the balance by the City of Lincoln from capital improvement funds.

The bridge is on easy-going Bison Trail which extends barely two miles from the Salt Creek Levee Trail near First and West Van Dorn Sts. to the east entrance of Pioneers Park—only a few yards from the locally famous bronze bison that gives the trail and the new bridge their names. It has a 10-ton load limit and crosses Haines Branch creek, a tributary of Salt Creek.

All well and good. But there's something else that's *really* interesting about that new bridge and our beloved bison:

Think April, 1930. America was plunging into the world-wide depression that would give the decade its name. Local newspapers were filled with news about world, U.S. and local events.

One of those local events in 1930 was the completion and planned dedication of Pioneers Park—and the installation of its signature item, the bronze bison, in Harris Circle. When the dedication ceremony rolled around in May, an image of the sculpture was planned for the covers of 20,000 ceremonial programs.

According to Lincoln Historian Jim McKee, land west of the city was purchased in 1928 and deeded to the city in 1929 by John F. Harris with the help of George Woods. The original park land was 500 acres. He wanted to dedicate it to the memory of his parents—George Harris, president of the Burlington Railroad, and Sarah Harris, editor of the *Lincoln Courier*. Thousands of trees were planted, and Harris was so impressed by the layout created by Park Superintendent Chet Ager and architect Ernst Heminghaus, he purchased and deeded an additional 100 acres to the city. He also decided that the park should be dedicated to the memory of all pioneers, not just his parents. Thus was born Pioneers Park (1,268 acres today).

Harris threw in a sculpture of a bronze bison too. He commissioned internationally-renowned sculptor Georges Gardet to

create the bison in bronze in Paris, France, where Gardet lived and worked. Gardet, whom Harris claimed as a close friend, specialized in animal sculptures.

On February 1st, 1930, the bison's base was in place at the east entrance, and it would stand empty until April 14th.

On March 17th, 1930 the *Lincoln Evening Journal (LEJ)* reported the bison was on an ocean liner “somewhere in the Atlantic, and should be in place in 2-3 weeks.” That journey would subsequently be reported as having been very treacherous with the liner barely surviving storms and heavy seas. The bison made it to the U.S....but it was close!

On March 31st, 1930, *LEJ* reported that the two-ton bronze bison would arrive April 4th in Lincoln and be placed on its pedestal on April 6th. But it wouldn't be. The article also stated that Park Commissioner E.M. Bair “made arrangements to have the statue removed from the depot to the park.”

The bison was held up briefly in Baltimore, where it had been shipped, by customs requirements. It was not to be opened and inspected until it arrived in Lincoln, but papers had to be signed. It was then reported on April 5th to be “on its way” and arrival in Lincoln was imminent. Huzzah!....except it wasn't.

On April 10th, the *Lincoln Star* ran a front page lost and found ad—“Lost-Two Ton Buffalo Finder Notify Lincoln.” No reward was offered. On April 12th, *LEJ* reported in its headline: “Buffalo Seeing America.” Our bronze tourist was scheduled to arrive in Lincoln on Burlington Railroad out of Chicago. After noting that the bison was last spotted April 11th in Indianapolis, Indiana, *LEJ* reported that “the buffalo struck down toward St. Louis and its present location is unknown.”

It was enough to worry Commissioner Bair. The bison had not been turned over to Burlington yet, and was apparently lost. Except that it wasn't. (One thing that did show up via train on April 12th was The Sower!)

April, 1930 was a very wet month. It seemed like it was always raining that month. Farmers couldn't get into the fields

to plow, streams were flooding, wet hazards would spring up on newly created Pioneers Park golf course where they weren't supposed to be, and Indian Lake at the park would not stay within its borders. There was mud everywhere.

According to the April 14th, *Lincoln Star*, a Monday, “Huge Buffalo Statue Ready (to) Put In Park.” The bison was here. The sculpture was to be taken to the park that afternoon and installed. On that day it was on its way from Lincoln to Pioneers Park, where it would be placed on its pedestal. The installation in Harris Circle at the east entrance to the new park would be witnessed by Lincoln's Mayor Donald L. Love (an NU benefactor for whom the UNL library is named), the entire Lincoln City Council, all but two or three of the city's departmental chiefs, members of the public, school children and scads of newspaper reporters.



The Bronze Bison at six years old in March, 1936--“Boy, am I glad to be here!”
Source: McDonald Collection, Nebraska Historical Society

As the bison approached Pioneers Park, here's how the *LEJ* reporter tells the story in its April 15th article about the journey the previous day:

“It (the bison) nearly met its fate at a bridge. The wooden span across Haynes (sic) Branch creek on the road to the park barely survived the heavy load, and before it was across much anxiety was evidenced among the group escorting the statue.”

The article continues: “But it made it safely. There is a railroad crossing just past the bridge.

The truck stopped in the middle of the track and the escort detrained for a few minutes to congratulate one another on the safe journey when a passenger train tooted its whistle a scant 300 yards down the track. The truck was started and slowly moved off. When it was barely a rod (about five and one-half yards) from the crossing the train rushed by.”

Wait a minute! Read that again! A bridge with a wooden span...across Haines Branch...and *on the road to the park?* And there was a railroad crossing *just past* the bridge?

According to the Lancaster County Engineer's office, the 1936 concrete predecessor to Bison Trail Bridge was itself preceded by a steel truss bridge. It had a wooden deck, or span. And portions of Bison Trail used to be West Van Dorn Street...and West Van Dorn was “the road to the park” (as it remains today, but relocated!)

Apparently there's another good reason to call it the Bison Trail Bridge—the mud and muck of Haines Branch underneath our new Bison Trail Bridge almost became a resting spot for the bronze bison that gives the bridge its name!

Nearly lost at sea...then just lost in America...a near victim to Haines Branch at the precise point where the trail bridge for which it is named crosses the creek today, and almost hit by a train—oh, the humanity!

Rains Monday afternoon sent onlookers home after the statue had been set on the pedestal, uncrated but still on its wooden pallet. It took five men over two hours to get the crated figure from the truck onto the pedestal and uncrated. Lincoln customs official A.W. Pinkerton was the first to see the statue after climbing up on the crate after the top was removed, said the *Lincoln Star*. Local officials fretted that “the French sculptor might not know what a Nebraska buffalo looks like”, but upon exposure declared it to be a “perfect likeness”. Only a couple of officials remained to see the bison actually set up—15 minutes after exposure from inside the crate, the skies opened up and “baptized” the bison with a Nebraska spring rain, and sent the crowd scurrying back to the vehicles. On Tuesday, April 15th, the bronze bison was set on the pedestal. (Nine days later, on April 24th, the Sower would be raised to the top of Nebraska's new capitol.)

A further indignity awaited the bison. On Monday night, vandals carved initials in the bison's nose, a hind leg and the north end of the base. It was also plastered with mud. A reward was offered. Two young boys confessed to scarring the beast with nails and were sent to the detention home for a couple of days to ponder their futures. Investigators said others, thought to be men, had done damage before the boys, and an investigation ensued. (News articles never reported the outcome of this investigation—apparently the hunt for the real defacer with the initials of “LBV” continues.)

The bison was repaired with bronze paint, and an examination today discloses no initials or scarring from nails—although there are fresh marks from bullets or pellets in the bison's torso on the south side. Oh, on-going woe be to the bison.

The park and the bison were dedicated on May 17th, 1930, but planned ceremonies at the park were relocated to the dining room of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce. You guessed it. More rain. Numerous dignitaries included Harris, who just arrived by train.

By May 18th, 1930, it had dried out enough so benefactor Harris could get his first glimpse of the bronze bison he had commissioned and donated to the city. As he walked up to the sculpture, he probably passed his fingers over the sculpture's base and flanks—and we like to think he reflected on the bison's tortured journey to its final resting spot. He no doubt crossed the bridge where the wood span nearly splintered underneath the two-ton beast, and maybe shivered at the thought of the near loss of his Parisian gift to an ignoble plunge into the murky depths of Haines Branch, Nebraska, USA.

Perhaps he gazed into the roaring depths of the muddy creek and imagined seeing an angry face of the beast peering back at him as he stood on the wooden span of the bridge—just as you can imagine today by pausing on the new, modern Bison Trail Bridge and gazing over the side into Haines Branch...a railroad crossing “just past” the western end of the bridge.

Consider joining our friends!

Lincoln Track Club Membership Application

The Lincoln Track Club, Inc. was established in 1975 by an eager group of track enthusiasts. Although our title contains the reference to track, we have become a distance oriented club. Our membership includes some of the nation's finest road racers as well as a great number of fun runners.

In essence, our club is a nonprofit community service organization, established to promote running throughout this area and provide educational assistance for its runners. Our quarterly newsletter has become an informational running publication for local runners. The LTC is a member club of both the Road Runners Club of America (RRCA) and USA Track and Field.

The Lincoln Track Club is not just about running. It's also about volunteering. This is the one ingredient that makes LTC work. The whole organization is made up of volunteers and we can always use more. Please consider joining one of Nebraska's finest volunteer-run organizations.

LTC members receive entry forms for all LTC races, *FastTimes* (our newsletter, which is e-mailed quarterly), an invitation to our annual meeting, a one dollar (\$1.00) discount off the entry fee of each LTC road race. All memberships expire at the end of the calendar year (December 31).

2013 LTC Calendar

3/23	State Farm (10M/5K/1M)
4/20	Novartis (10K/2M)
5/4	Mayor's Run (1M)
5/5	Marathon/Half-Marathon
6/1	Havelock (10K/3K)
7/7	Lincoln Mile
8/10	Thunder/KFOR (5K/1M)
9/8	Buffalo (5M)
10/20	Governors (15K/5K/1M)
12/1	Holiday Run (5K)

Type of Membership:

Student/Senior: \$10
(under 22 or over 62)

Single: \$12

Family: \$16

Patron: \$35

The Century Club: \$100

Check if NEW member:

Make checks payable to
LTC and mail to:

Michelle Bivens
5841 Box Canyon Circle
Lincoln NE 68516

Name: _____

Birthdate: _____ Sex: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Family Members (for Family level memberships or above)

Name	Birthdate	Sex	Email

Club Membership Application Waiver:

I know that running and volunteering to work in club races are potentially hazardous activities. I should not enter and run in club activities unless I am medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of a race official relative to my ability to safely complete the run. I assume all risks associated with running and volunteering to work in club races including, but not limited to, falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather, including high heat and/or humidity, the conditions of the road and traffic on the course, such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts, and in consideration of your acceptance of my application for membership, I, for myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release the Road Runners Club of America, the Lincoln Track Club and all sponsors, their representatives and successors from all claims or liabilities of any kind of arising out of my participation in these club activities even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons named in this waiver. I understand that bicycles, skateboards, baby joggers, roller skates or blades, animals, and radio headsets will not be allowed in LTC races and I will abide by this guideline.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature (if under 18): _____ Date: _____

Perennial favorite and multi-talented Chris Sayre entertained and provided announcements in Cortland's city park, where sponsor Hy-Vee set up a luncheon stop. Short-wave radio volunteers set up communications with Haymarket Park so Cortland riders could participate in the drawing for bicycles, courtesy again of The Bike Rack and Cycle Works.

The first rider pulled into Cortland's park around 10 a.m., and other 'trail warriors' soon followed, trickling into the park from 10:15 until nearly 1 p.m. Organizers didn't think the trail would appeal to younger riders, but volunteers on-site reported counting maybe a dozen youngsters in the company of older family members. Knowledgeable riders helped others with minor bike repairs while volunteers fetched water and treats prior to lunch.

The Lincoln Bike Club took care of a major stop on Saltillo Road where Homestead and Jamaica North trails meet.

And how many riders pursued the Cortland destination along Jamaica North and Homestead trails? Hy-Vee representatives reported that they served around 150 meals.

Cortland trail challenge accepted. You can expect a return to the Cortland route in the future.

Other sponsors included the Great Plains Trails Network, KX96.9, the Lincoln Journal-Star, Lincoln Surgical Hospital, Pepsi, and John Blumer Wells Fargo Advisors.

Next year's 12th Annual Trail Trek is set for June 22nd. Lincoln's new arena, Pinnacle Arena, may be on the new trail list along with an old friend—Pioneers Park!

Take the challenge!

THANKS TRAIL TREK VOLUNTEERS

Joanne Allen, Byron Barner, Jason Berlowitz, Dick Boyd, Jim Carveth, Brook Carveth, KimCarveth, Patti Claussen, Brian Claussen, Steve Clements, Casey Collins, Donita Consruck, Jon Curran, Judy Dillon, Don Dingman, Mike Disney, Mindee and Nate Dorwart, Andy Drake, Charlene Dunbar, JP Duryea, Alex Duryea, Nancy Dyas, Hess Dyas, Joyce Ely, Garrett Ely, Steve Englebrecht, Ben Fischer, Debbie Fisher, Dean Fisher, Janell Folkerts, Peggy Forcier, Dana Ford, Barbara Fraser, Larry Frisch, Ken Gonzales, Marynelle Greene, Elaine Hammer, Paul Harrison, Damon Hershey, Mike Heyl, Jack Higgins, Stephen Hile, Roger Hirsch, Chuck Jones, Alysia Karlan, JT Karlan, Bryce Keller, Timothy Kovar, Therese Liegl, Nancy Loftis, Mike Long, Brennan Long, Pat Lorenze, Dave Loss, Jerry Luedtke, Dan Lynn, Kurt May, Brandon May, Rich McLaughlin, V.T. Miller, Dena Noe, Rosina Paolini, Judy Pearce, Brian Peterson, Jack Peterson, Don Poysa, Byron Rahn, Byron Rahn, Dalcyce Ronnau, Michael Ryan, Chris Sayre, Colleen Schoneweis, John Schoneweis, Katie Schoneweis, Scott Schwisnow, David Scoby, Vi See, Alisa Shonka, Beth Sorensen, Bob Spindlar, Jerry Stanley, Bruce Steyer, Nathan Swanson, Jon Taylor, Beth Thacker, Lauren Thacker-Lynn, Margaret Tyler, Del Wardlaw, Jean Wardlaw, Jamie Warren, Bill Wehrbein



And The Winners Are....!

Thanks to The Bike Rack and Cycle Works, twenty winners rode away on new two-wheelers at the conclusion of Trail Trek 2013.

Penny Urwiler	Craig Coleman
Julie Krueger	Greg Broshears
Jessica Svehla	John Grubb
Seth Meyer	Denise Drake
Spencer Bolte	Larry Dinkie
Dave Herbers	Abigail Horner
Janet Scott	Danny Jablonski
Dixie Pearson	Jett Jakota
Kyren Kunz	Emily Schamber
Keith Elliott	April Hilpert-Whitney

