

The Skies Cleared and Trail Trek Ride.....

By Dena Noe, Co-chair of Trail Trek

The 17th annual Trail Trek started out with a drizzle after a night of rain, which then brought THE MUD. For some the mud was fun and for some it was frustrating, but boy did it make for some great photos. As the planners for the event we were moments away from cancelling as the storm clouds built and the radar turned red. But then, the Lincoln dome kicked in and the storm parted and we had a beautiful day to be on a bike. Sometimes you just get lucky.

I consistently ride parts of the trail in the city that I was not aware of. There is nothing to not like about the event. It is well organized and just plain fun.

This is a comment from one of our riders who took our survey. This is great to hear and exactly why we put on Trail Trek. We want people to have the opportunity to explore the city of Lincoln on two wheels. With 134 miles of trails many of us don't venture out beyond our "go to" trails. Trail Trek is all about developing new routes each year to showcase our network. Sometimes the trail you take might not be your favorite, but maybe you find out you like where it leads you. Most of all we want everyone to have fun.

I love that it is a family friendly event. The lunch at the end was great to sit and visit with my family after the event.

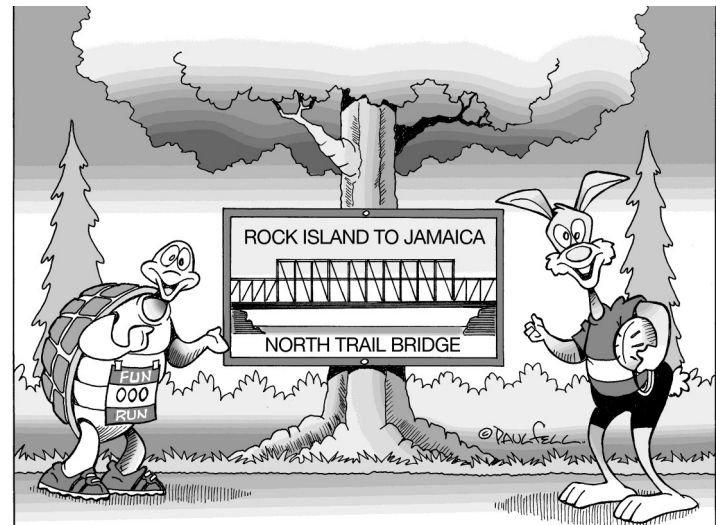
Another great comment from our survey. Our committee definitely discusses additions to Trail Trek that might increase our fundraising dollars, but in the end the roots of Trail Trek is the family. Each year we explore and discuss how can we get more families to come ride. Last year a dad mentioned that they wanted to bring their older kids, but the kids were all now over 16 increasing the cost. We listened and changed our child price to a student price that now covers ages 6-18. We also added the No Wear BMX Stunt team as entertainment after lunch. Lots of families stuck around to watch this great group perform their tricks.

This year we had 704 riders, which was up from 2018 and 96 volunteers. Trail Trek wouldn't be possible without all our wonderful volunteers. A big thank you to the Trail Trek committee: Rachele Hadley – co-chair, Greg Rosenboom, Matt Baumeister, Jesse Peterson, Marynelle Greene, Jeff Kimble, Edi Matteson, Connie Parish, Dale Arp, Roger Hirsch, Jon Taylor, Joy Patten, Tim Haegener and Kent Henning.

This year we will be giving \$23,928.58 to help build the Rock Island/Jamaica North Trail connecting bridge. The cost of the bridge increased significantly and these dollars will help get it built. We need to thank our 2019 sponsors as

Rock Island & Jamaica North Trail Connector

The City of Lincoln is building a pedestrian bridge over the BSNF Railroad to connect the Rock Island and Jamaica North Trails near Densmore Park and the Cooper YMCA. GPTN is raising \$600,000 to support this important trail connection. Please consider donating to this exciting project.



Make contributions payable to: Nebraska Trails Foundation

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Designated Project: _____

**Mail to: GPTN
P.O. 82902
Lincoln, NE 68501-2902**



Kids had fun getting their face painted at Antelope Park.



Great Plains Trails Network

since 1988

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

2019

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gbentrup68@gmail.com

A Note from the President



It's not very original, but it is sure true that time flies when you're having fun. We've had a spectacular spring and summer at GPTN and it's hard to believe the kids are back in school, the evenings turn to night earlier, and there's a lot of talk of football. Before you know it, we'll have snow and ice, hopeful the weather holds out for our annual meeting. That makes you want to get out on the trails right now, doesn't it?

You'll read about a couple of our spring-summer events in this newsletter: The Tour de Lincoln rides in April and Trail Trek in June. One of the things I love about these events is hearing people say they get out to parts of the city trails they don't normally ride or where they have never been. It's good to get out and explore in your own city! These events provide a way to explore with others, but with others or on your own, to participate in and experience the amenities that make our city special encourages the sense of community.

Lincoln is fortunate that local businesses offer generous support. GPTN is a beneficiary of that generosity in many ways. With a fundraising event, like Trail Trek, we're able to draw on that support to help put on a successful event and with specific trail projects we can go to a number of businesses and they once again share their support for the trails. The last year or so it seems we're seeing an increasing number of businesses seek us out, hold their own special events, and donate part of their proceeds to GPTN. They sought us out, we didn't even ask! How about that? We appreciate the donations – thank you, thank you, thank you! That's what we do is find ways to help raise money to build and maintain our trails and these donations help that to happen. What I find so impressive is local business finding creative ways to give back to their community and in their efforts helping create and strengthen our community by connecting people. Bringing together their business supporters with our trail supporters and we're all better for it. What a wonderful, interesting way to support the trails and to bring together people with similar interests, or help those with similar interests find each other.

The weather will be what it will be. Dress appropriately is about all we can do. Community, however, will be what we make it. Go ride, walk, run, saunter, roller blade, gather on the trails, recognize each other for our shared love of the trails and continue to make Lincoln a special community. See you on the trails!

PS – continue to donate, become members of GPTN, encourage your friends to become members of GPTN, and donate too. We love that! Thank you

GPTN NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

May 1 to September 6, 2019

Welcome to new members:

Rey Alcalde, Gil Andersen, Michael Cameron, Jason Davis, Bryan Dowling, Amanda Fangmeier, Daniel Finn, Susan Hertzler, Sarah Kroenke, Mary McCall, Jacob Miller, Shauna Olsen, Michael O'Neill, David Smith, Tracey Smith, Jim Snyder, Susan Stieder, Dan & Becky Sudik, Adrian Valdivia.

Thank you to renewing members:

ABC Electric, Dorothy C. Anderson, Erik & Carol Ann Anderson, Wade Anderson, Mary Andelt, Andrew Cano, David Aremknecht, Donna Awtry, Charles Bacon, David Dinsmore & Cathie Bailely, Pam Baker, Byron Barner, Anne Beaurivage, Joe Billesbach, Anita Boeselager, Larry Bond, Judy & Perley Boucher, Chad Brassil, Gale & Becky Breed, Noel & Jenny Briseno, Jack & Lynette Broderick, Larry and Rith Cada, Dan & Becky Caldwell, Marybell Avery and Stan Campbell, Brian Catlin, Jeff Chevront, JoAnn Churley, Jim & Judy Cook, Cornhusker Bank, Judith DeGraff, Jay Douglas, Kerry & Deb Eagan, Jerry Easley, Al & Vicki Eastman, Jane Mack Edwards, Pam Edwards, Dean & Maria Eisenhauer, Deb & Paul Eisloeffel, Linda Faris, Howard Feldman, Jim Nora & Julie Filips, Ricke Fahrenbruck, Mark Feit, Barry & Lisa Forbes, Steve Fosbender, Larry & Cindi Fosler, Jeanen France, Amy Gammel, Ray Gebhard, Mildred Gardner, Judy Garlock & Tex Richters, Barb & Terry Genrich, Randy Gerke, Nancy & John Gerrard, Bob Geschwender, William Glover, Jane Goertzen, Jamie Granquist, Richard & Ursula Goodban, Robin & Janet Goracke, James Green, Lucas Habosky, Martin Hager, Bob Haller, Priscilla Handy, Yvonne R. Heakin, Gregory Heidrick, Craig Hellwege, K.A. Helzer, Tom & Candy Henning, Tim Henkel, Stephen & Patricia Henrichson, Steve Hensel, Emily Herrick, Dennis & Rosemary Hicks, Sandra Hilsabeck, Amy & Mike Hoffman, Doug Holle, Greg and Denise Howell, Steve Hubka, Dena Hupp, Mark & Dee Hutchins, Michael F. James, J.P. &

Nelle Jamison, Jolene John-Beckstrom, David Juliano, Brent & Lynn Kalemkierian, Barbara Keating, Kim Keister, Judith & Dan Keller, Ann & Brian Kitten, Jodi & Mike Kocher, Terry Klein, Rich Koehlmoos, Lois Kriger, Bobbie Kriz-Wickham, Doug & Dianne Kupig, and Robert Kuzelka, Pamela Lionberger, Tim & Lisa Loseke, Joseph Loudon & Michelle Manning, Jeff Madsen, Tyler & Denise Mainquist, Bob Mancuso, Pamela Manske, Matt Maw, Dallas McGee, Jane & Jack McVay, Alan Meyer, Rick & Sharon Michaelson, Carrol Mickley, Steve Miers, Dale Minter, Burke Morrow, Francis Moul, Mike & Lynn Murman, Mike Murphy, Bonnie Myer, Ann & John Neal, Nebraska Sports Council, Jim & Patty Neid, Rose Quackenbush, Carol & Fred Ochsner, John Oswald, Sheri Paneitz, Connie B. Parrish, Don & Joanne Pepperl, Don Pinkley, Dick & Jody Pitsch, Julie Pittenger, Karen & Alan Reiners, Roger Renken, Arlan Ristow, Ruth Rodden, Rich & Susan Rodenburg, Linda Roos, Larry & Pat Ruth, Susan Samson, Nick & Sherry Savener, Suzanne Schied, Jay Schluckebier, Anna Sahs & Heidi Schulz, David Schmidt, Ron Leslie Schroeder, Cathy Seybold, Nadine Skupa, John Slieter, Peter Smith, Steve & Kathy Smith, Susan & Richard Spangler, Tani Stempson, Martha Stoddard, Michelle Svehla, Albert Sherman, Jerry & Patty Shorney, David & Sharon Sinkler, Patricia Stehly, Dan & Lynn Steinkruger, Steve & Laurie Strombeg, John & Gloria Strope, Mark St. Clair, Joseph Sweeney, Don and Sue Sylwester, Marilyn Tabor, Kristine Thoms, Teri Tomasek, Bob & Mary Torell, Jerry & Pat Trainer, Dan Lynn & Beth Thacker, Penny & Rick Urwiler, Tom & Sharon Vandennack, Shaun Vickers, Tom & Sharon Vandennack, Monica Vandergrind, Denise Walter, James Warren, Dan Wheeler, Beth Whitaker, William Wehrbein, Mark Wilson, Mary Winquest, Paul Wisnieski, Scott Wobig, Phil & Mary Wolfe, Larry Worth, Steve Zabel, Gary Zellweger, Paul & Janet Zillig, Larry Zink, Greg Zimmer, Joel Zuerlein.



Back row (L-R) Ray Stevens, Marynelle Greene, Denise Teahon, Dale Arp, Shelby Robinson, Bill Wehrbein, Elaine Hammer, Steve Dunbar, Charlene Dunbar. Middle row (L-R) Kent Henning, Brett Baker, Jim Krieger, Jeff Kimble, Doug Dittman, Corey Godfrey, Greg Rosenboom. Front Row (L-R) Karen Griffin, Gary Bentrup, Mary Torell, Bob Torell, Dena Noe, Parks Coble.

Not Pictured: Marybell Avery, Matt Baumeister, Noel Briseno, Rachelle Hadley, Jordan Messerer, Jesse Petersen, Ann Ringlein, Jamie Warren.



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BICYCLINCOLN™

BicycLincoln is a community group that supports and promotes bicycling in the city of Lincoln. Our mission is to provide information and a unified voice for bicycle advocacy in an effort to make cycling in Lincoln more friendly, safe, easy, accepted, and "so that more people bike and bike more often."

Check them out at <http://bicyclincoln.org/>



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Ride. Share.

That's what the Great Plains Bike Club is all about. We actively promote bicycling with rides for all levels of riders in and around Southeastern Nebraska.

Weekly rides with a leader | Show 'n go rides
Ice cream & coffee shop rides | Moon-lit rides
Hammering training rides | Trail rides

We sponsor the Spring Fling ride in April and Heatstroke 100 in August. We also promote bicycling safety through community-sponsored events. For more information and an on-line application to join the club, go to greatplainsbikeclub.org.



BIKE WALK NEBRASKA

Bike Walk Nebraska cultivates and supports safe and accessible active transportation across our state by leading sound policy and advocating for best practices. We work across sectors in partnership with elected officials, municipalities, and organizations to ensure that biking and walking - whether for transportation or recreation - works for all Nebraskans.

Become a member at:

<https://www.bikewalknebraska.org/>

THE SKIES CLEARED AND TRAIL TREK RIDE.....

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it is because of them that we can have a fun event and make such a significant contribution to our trails.

Thank you to Alpha Media, Bike Rack, Bryan Health, Bulu, City of Lincoln, Cornhusker Bank, Cycle Works, Enterprise Car Sales, Good Life Fitness, Great Plains Trails Network, Hy-Vee, Lincoln Electric Systems, Lincoln Journal Star, Nelnet, Olsson, Pepsi Cola of Lincoln, Screen Print Ink, Sutton Dermatology & Aesthetics, Union Bank and the University of Nebraska Federal Credit Union.

Thank you to Charlie Meyer and his crew at Haymarket Park. As always, we received lot of comments about the park and the wonderful, clean facility.

Planning will start on Trail Trek 2020 and we look forward to seeing you on the trails!

And The Winners Are....!

Thanks to The Bike Rack & Cycle Works, 20 winners rode away on new two-wheelers:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Tony Badalvco | David Lucas |
| Kevin Bell | Matt Marlow |
| Sam Craig | Robert Powers |
| Lily Dawes | Emily Raef |
| Kasey Edwardson | Libby Shonka |
| Barrett Eggerling | Matt Sperling |
| Larry Fosler | Cathy Sybold |
| Cindi Fosler | Elizeh Tarkian |
| Karen Foster | Marty Walton |
| Aiden Knopik | Jay Wesolowski |



The 2019 Trail Trek Bike Winners.

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, and a discount of an entry fee for a single LTC road race. All memberships expire at the end of the calendar year (December 31).

2019 LTC Calendar

- 3/30 Tabitha (10K/2M)
- 5/4 Mayor's Run (1M)
- 5/5 Marathon/Half-Marathon
- 6/1 Havelock (10K/3K)
- 7/7 Lincoln Mile
- 7/14 Nebraska Football Road Race (5K/1M)
- 9/8 Buffalo (5M)
- 12/8 Holiday Run (5K/1M)

To join the Lincoln Track Club: www.lincolnrun.org

Support Lincoln Trails

By donating to the Nebraska Trails Foundation through the:



Community Services Fund of Nebraska

www.communityservicesfund.org/

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2019 Tour de Lincoln Bike Rides Successful Again by Mary Torell

A number of bicyclists joined the Great Plains Trails Network (GPTN) along with Lincoln Parks & Recreation as they once again celebrated *National Bike Month in May* with the 2019 Tour de Lincoln bicycle rides on Lincoln's trails system. Approximately 50 riders participated in each ride with the exception of one ride due to inclement weather.

For nearly 15 years, GPTN has sponsored Thursday evening bike rides in May designed to take participants to different quadrants of Lincoln. All rides started and ended at the Jayne Snyder Trails Center at Union Plaza Park.

Members of GPTN's Board of Directors lead each ride, provided mechanical support and made sure there were no riders left behind. The rides varied in distances from 12 to 16 miles each, and were designed to acquaint the city's cyclists with different trails, conditions and features. People of all ages and various families attended and enjoyed the rides. Lots of positive comments have been made by riders on how much they enjoyed this year's ride and past rides. And they loved the treats before and after the rides, especially the popsicles during the hot weather!

Many riders have never ventured out on trails that are not near their residence, so they welcome the opportunity to see where a new trail leads them. There is usually someone from each ride that tells us they are new to Lincoln and the trails, so *Tour de Lincoln* allows them the chance to learn about our trails, and this year was no exception.



Gathering for one of the 2019 Tour de Lincoln rides

TRAILS + EVENTS = WINNING

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community groups throughout the course. More specifically over \$30,000 dollars have gone directly to GPTN for trail projects.

The economic impact of the large scale events is also great for the State of Nebraska. Through a University of Nebraska-Lincoln economic impact study and using a conservative approach the Market to Market Relay is now estimated to have a \$1.5 million dollar economic impact annually. Another Pink Gorilla Event race, the Good Life Halfsy, is now a \$2.0 million annual economic impact.

Personally I love trails. But the bigger point that I am trying to get across is that events benefit from trails, trails benefit from events, and communities benefit from both.

I hope you can join us at one of the events and have active fun on trails.

-Ben Cohoon | Co-founder | Pink Gorilla Events | www.pinkgorillaevents.com

TRAILS + EVENTS = WINNING *By Ben Cohoon Pink Gorilla Events*

At Pink Gorilla Events our vision statement is “We create fun for active people”. Annually, our team puts on 10 events in Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota. In the process, we create fun and opportunities for socialization through healthful activities. Whenever we start an event, trails are a key component.

Market to Market Relay

This year marks the 12th Annual Market to Market Relay, a team running relay from Omaha to Lincoln. Teams of 6, 7 or 8 runners take turns running the 70 mile course. The event has become a staple in the Nebraska running calendar with about 5,000 runners participating in the running road trip. People love it. Facebook reviews contain several quotes like the following “*Fantastic race run! You have to do this one at least once - but you'll be hooked after one and come back for more!*” - Courtney

Market to Market Relay Nebraska is now the largest day-long relay in the nation. The tremendous network of trails from Omaha to Lincoln enable this event to be successful. The network continues to grow and the race now runs on about 75% trails and 25% roads. In the early years it was closer to 50/50.

Radler Bike Festival

This year, we started another completely unique event that used a large portion of the trail infrastructure called the Radler Bike Festival on August 3rd & 4th. The Radler Bike Festival is a full-service two day bike event with an adult day camp/music festival. It was the first event of its kind in the nation. Of course, we took bits and pieces from other events, but we attempted to combine a bike event, a music festival, and adult day camp into one unique offering.

The Radler started in downtown Lincoln where riders dropped off their luggage and began their journey. The route followed seven miles of closed traffic roads before arriving at Pioneers Park and used the Bison Trail and connected south with the Jamaica/Homestead Trail for the final 13 miles. Day one ended at Roca Berry Farms where participants had dinner, drinks showers, campsites, and a ton of activities to choose from including fan favorites: Live Bands, Cornhole Tournament, Bingo, Team Trivia, Paper/Rock/Scissors, Yoga and many more options.

At the end of the night, riders could choose to camp in tents, stay in hotel trailers or catch a shuttle back downtown to sleep in a hotel or their own bed. On day two, riders were served breakfast and rode 13 miles on the Jamaica/Homestead Trail back to Canopy Street. Participants seem to love the event saying things like “*It felt like summer camp, unlike many*

events, it seemed like the great stuff just kept coming and coming. The trail was also fantastic; much better than doing the same ride on closed streets.” Or “I can't get over how much swag there was and how many activities there were to do! Pink Gorilla usually does fantastic with events like this, but this was a new level. No part felt "cheap", there was an abundance of food and water and prizes that I didn't have to worry about something running out or having to limit my consumption. I loved how all the events at Roca were included in the event price so it felt more like a festival and less like a fair. There was a great mixture of indoor and outdoor activities and we could pick what we wanted to do and just enjoy ourselves. Camping at Roca was incredible and I loved the hot showers and it felt like a mini vacation that we biked to a separate world. I was overall blown away by this event and can't stop telling people about it a week later. I have made it my personal mission to convince more people to come and make this a Lincoln tradition. Thank you so much for doing this event and I'm already on the notice list for next year!”

GPTN & Pink Gorilla Events

GPTN has been a part of the Market to Market Relay race since 2008 providing runner support along the course in addition to helping to create the trails the race runs on. Overall, events like the Market to Market Relay and Radler Bike Festival are a huge win for trails because of the economic impact and exposing thousands of people to the trails.

To date over 35,000 runners have participated in Market to Market Relay. Runners come from Nebraska and 35 different states annually. That is a lot of exposure to the different trails that the course runs over. In addition to numbers, I have many conversations with people in our events that didn't know certain trails exist or have never been on them before. I can't count the number of times people tell me they discovered a section of the trail they would have never known about and then return to run or bike on it at other times of the year.

Pink Gorilla Events is a very charitable organization and is another part of the success of our events. In total, Pink Gorilla Events, participants and partners have given over \$500,000 to community groups and non-profits since 2008. The Radler continued with that trend and with the help of a matching corporate partner raised \$5,500 for Alex's Lemonade Stand. We are also very proud that this year's Market to Market Relay Nebraska will top over \$140,000 in donations since 2008. Those dollars go directly to local charities and

FALL 2019 BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

To help us gain a better understanding of local bicyclists' experiences in your community, the League of American Bicyclists would like your participation in an online survey. This survey should take approximately 10-15 minutes to respond to, and each question is optional. Aggregate survey responses will be shared anonymously with the applicant.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/app_BFC_FA19

The survey will remain open through Sunday, September 22.

2019 STREETS ALIVE!

Come join GPTN at this year's Street Alive! event on September 22 from 1 to 4:30 pm in the South Salt Creek/Cooper Park neighborhood. Streets Alive! is a mobile festival that moves to a new neighborhood every two years. Streets Alive! encourages people to get off the couch, go outdoors and move up and down a stretch of city blocked off from traffic.

Streets Alive! is a child, dog, and wheelchair friendly event. Visitors can bike, skate, walk, stroll, wheel (any kind of human powered traffic), or even dance their way down a route filled with exhibitors and entertainers. The 2019 Streets Alive! festival will be hosted by the South Salt Creek/Cooper Park neighborhood, just south of downtown.

The Streets Alive! festival route will be a part of the LiveWell Challenge! Participants can walk, bike, run, or skate their way through the route as a LiveWell Challenge event. For more information:

<https://www.healthylincoln.org/initiatives/streetsalive/whatisstreetsalive.html>



EVENT CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

19 —Hub and Soul Series @ Jayne Snyder Trails Center

22 —Streets Alive Festival

OCTOBER

12 —Market to Market Relay

17 —Nebraska Bike Walk Summit

COME VOLUNTEER AT MARKET2MARKET

GPTN helps out at M2M at an exchange point as well as at the recovery tent at the Shindig. We could really use your help. Please contact Dena Noe at 402-770-0032 if you can volunteer at the event on Saturday, October 12. Volunteer times for the exchange point are 11:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. (shifts can be worked out). Volunteer times at the recovery tent are 2:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.



CAN YOU CATCH THIS GUY?
Wouldn't it be fun to try?

Homestead Trail
Oak Creek Trail
MoPac East Trail



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH
natural resources district
www.lpsnrd.org





Nebraska Bike Walk Alliance is pleased to announce this year's Bike Walk Summit on October 17 in Lincoln, NE.

HANDLEBAR HAPPY HOUR - EVERYONE WELCOME!
 Wednesday, October 16, 5:30 pm
 Where: Code Beer Company, 200 S Antelope Valley Pkwy

For those interested in a ride, meet at the same time and place to collectively determine your route and time. Bike parking is available in front of Code Beer and a BikeLNK station is nearby if you need one.

2019 NEBRASKA BIKE WALK SUMMIT: SPOTLIGHT ON JUSTICE (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)
 Thursday, October 17, 2019, 8:45 am - 3:00 pm
 (optional mobile tour at 3:00 pm)
 Nebraska Innovation Campus Conference Center, 2021 Transformation Drive, Lincoln, NE 68508
 Bicycle and Vehicle parking is available at the conference center (bring a bike lock). A BikeLNK station is also located south of the conference center. Public transportation is convenient to the NIC Conference Center. Plan your trip here.

FREE MOBILE TOUR (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)
 3:00 pm at the conclusion of the Summit
 Meet right outside the Conference Center
 Bring a helmet and your own bike or we'll arrange to have a BikeLNK bike available for you.

For more information and to register, go to:
<https://www.bikewalknebraska.org/what-we-do/summit.html>

Hope to see you there!

GIVE TO LINCOLN BREAKS RECORD

The 2019 Give to Lincoln Day on May 30 was a huge success this year and surpassed previous fundraising records. In total, there were 21,398 donations totaling \$5,581,588 which greatly surpassed the \$4.6 million raised in 2018.

For NTF/GPTN, 2019 was a record-breaking year as well. We raised \$30,870 from 177 donations and that was matched by the Lincoln Community Foundation with an additional \$2,929 for a grand total of \$33,799! This passes last year's total by over \$10,000. Funds raised are going to the Rock Island—North Jamaica Trail Bridge Connector.

Thanks for your support!

ROCK ISLAND—JAMAICA NORTH TRAIL BRIDGE UPDATE

Plans for constructing a pedestrian and bicycle bridge from Densmore Park to Wilderness Park along the former Rock Island Railroad alignment will provide a much needed, safe connection over the active BNSF railroad tracks. The original estimated cost of this project was \$1.3 million, which was secured this past April through a combination of City, GPTN, and Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) funding. Unfortunately, rising steel prices and geo-technical issues have driven the cost to \$2.2 million.

We have been working hard to make up this difference, and have made significant progress through the generosity of donors and cooperative efforts by the City, RSTD and GPTN. We are very grateful for a \$100,000 donation from the Scheels Foundation as well as the many other donations. The shortfall has been reduced to \$150,000, but the urgency of raising the balance is still pressing.

The City hopes to release the construction contract for public bidding in September and plans to open bids in October. The City has 120 days from the time bids are received/opened until it either awards a contract or rejects bids. Assuming a bid opening on or about October 1, a decision as to whether or not to award a contract does not have to be made until as late as the end of January.

Since the City cannot enter into a contract without being able to demonstrate that 100% of the funding has been secured, we still need to help the City close the remaining gap. Thanks again for your support and please consider a fall donation to this exciting project.

HUB AND SOUL: A NEW MUSIC SERIES THIS SUMMER AT UNION PLAZA

Presented by Assurity, Hub & Soul is a free community event designed for people of all ages and backgrounds to celebrate local musicians, local food and Lincoln's parks. The event is being held on six consecutive Thursdays from 5-8 p.m. at the three-block Union Plaza, home to the Jayne Snyder Trails Center and the hub for Lincoln's 134-mile trails network. The series was scheduled to begin on Aug 15 but due to weather the first one was held on August 22. The series will run through September 19. The event has already been a major success with 250-400 people attending each of the first three concerts.

"We are very excited to offer this new music series that celebrates Lincoln's local food and music as well as our parks and trails. We hope that everyone will come out, kick back and relax in one of Lincoln's most beautiful parks," said Susan Larson Rodenburg of the event team which includes Doug Dittman of The Hub Café and Spencer Munson, local music promoter.

Supporting sponsors include The Hub Café, Lincoln Parks Foundation, KZUM Radio, Eagle Printing and Sign and Eleanor Creative. The series is part of the Party in the Parks program sponsored by the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department.

The 2019 nonprofit partner for the six-week series is GPTN. The event is free but donations are being accepted for the Rock Island – Jamaica North Trail Bridge. Cornhusker State Bank has stepped up to the plate and is matching donations 1 to 1 raised at this event, up to \$5,000. Thanks Cornhusker State Bank! Local food prepared by The Hub Café, as well as local craft beer, hard cider and beverages, will be available for purchase.

With several major trails intersecting Union Plaza, bicycling and walking to the event is encouraged. Bicycle parking will be available and there is also a BikeLNK station at 21st and Q. Assurity parking garage at 20th and Q will be available after 4:30 p.m.

For more information, please go to HubandSoul.com or call the Lincoln Parks Foundation at 402-441-8258.

