

SUMMER 2024

ISSUE 155

Hub & Soul Back for the 6th Year

Looking for a Friday evening full of fun, great food, invigorating music, a bit of dancing and perhaps a beverage of your choice - we've got the place for you! Hub & Soul is excited to be back bringing music, food, and fun to one of Lincoln's most beautiful parks - Union Plaza.

This music concert series consist of four free concerts taking place on the last Friday of each month during the summer. These concerts are community events designed for people of all ages and backgrounds to celebrate music, local food, and Lincoln's parks.

As in years past, the 2024 nonprofit partner

for the four-concert series is the Great Plains Trails Network. For the GPTN, Hub & Soul is more than just another music festival in Lincoln. This event provides the community with an opportunity to experience great music, great food, and camaraderie, all in the trail-friendly setting of the Jayne Snyder Trails Center and the Union Plaza Amphitheater. It also serves as an important fundraising event for GPTN to help continue our mission of supporting and growing Lincoln's 134 miles of trails. If you so choose, there will always be a donation bucket ready to provide you with the opportunity to help support the trails network.



Scenes from the fun and excitement at the 2023 Hub & Soul concert series.



While the event is free, there will be food prepared by The Hub Café and local food trucks, as well as local craft beer, hard cider and beverages available for purchase. However you choose to get to Hub & Soul, there will be parking options for you. Bikes can be locked up near the entrance and cars can be safely parked in the Assurity garage.

The first concert of this year's series took place on June 28th and the remaining Hub & Soul concerts will be held on July 26, August 30, and September 27 from 6:00 -9:00 pm at the Union Plaza Amphitheater.

The concert venue has a terrific outdoor location by the Billy Wolff Trail, The Hub Café and is walking distance of the University of Nebraska.

Since Hub & Soul

inception six years ago, The Hub Café has partnered with GPTN and many other wonderful sponsors to make this concert series free for the community. The Hub Café's new owners, Jake Thiessen and Crystal Bock Thiessen plan on continuing this partnership with GPTN to keep Hub & Soul as the centerpiece social gathering for the Lincoln and Lancaster County trails community. So please come out and support your community while enjoying a spectacular evening! There are still three concert dates left this summer. And remember, it's the great outdoors - plan accordingly and perhaps bring something for your seating comfort. See you there!

Check **hubandsoul.com** *for more information.*



President's Note

Hello Trail Advocates,

I have a confession to make. I have lived in Lincoln for 15 years, have been on the GPTN board for 10 years and have just now participated in my first Trail Trek. I know, this has been a terrible oversight on my part.

This is not a confession that I am not taking advantage of riding our trails system. In fact, for these 15 years I have worked at University of Nebraska. I have not bought a parking permit and have ridden my bike almost every day to work which includes riding our trails system. What my everyday ride to work does not include is the wonderful stories of the individuals who also ride our trails.

Today I met and rode with a former state senator and state epidemiologist as well as a farmer and their family members who all came to town to experience Trail Trek and our wonderful trails system. Of course, I also saw many friends who share the enjoyment of riding our bikes in our town.

This experience is not too different from the Tour de Lincoln ride I lead in May. On that ride, I met a young couple who just moved from San Francisco to attend law school in Lincoln and a family who uses our trails system to train for RAGBRI each year. Another couple, who has attended over 20 years of Trail Trek, used to pull their daughter along behind them and now she is pulling her own child in this annual event.

These stories all bring me joy and prompt me to think of all the stories of individuals who use our trails system. More than once I have heard our former mayor, Chris Beutler, say with a smile that when he was scheduled to discuss the Lincoln Trails System, he knew he would have a good meeting. I believe his smiles are from the same joy that I experience as I ride our trails system and meet others who are doing the same.

See you on the Trails.

Jordan Messerer GPTN President



This year's Give to Lincoln event on May 23 was another successful day for trails in our community.

Through the generosity of local trail users, over \$27,000 was raised to build and enhance trails in Lincoln which includes \$2,000 from the \$650,000 match fund provided by Lincoln Community Foundation and generous sponsors, including Presenting Sponsor, West Gate Bank. Since Give to Lincoln's inception in 2016, over \$290,000 have been donated to support trails.



Great Plains Trails Network

Since 1988

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

2024

President: Jordan Messerer Vice President: Jamie Granquist Secretary: Rachelle Hadley Treasurer: Roy Rivera

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Newsletter comments, questions, corrections: dalegptn@gmail.com

Another Year of Wonderful May Rides on Lincoln Trails



BY MARY TORELL

Lincoln cyclists had plenty of ways to celebrate National Bike Month in May, and enjoying the 2024 Tour de Lincoln Bike rides was one great way! GPTN had another successful year for the annual bicycle rides. Nearly 200 total bicyclists enjoyed the rides on Lincoln's trails system with beautiful weather each week.

For the past 18 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. We were lucky this year with only one flat tire! The rides varied in distances from 12 to 18 miles each, and were designed to acquaint the city's cyclists with different trails, conditions and features.

People of all ages attended and rode the routes. One family with four little children rode with their parents each week. They had lots of fun and loved the rides! Several positive comments were made by riders on how much they enjoyed this year's ride especially with a couple of route changes modified to make the rides better! Many riders have never ventured out on trails that are not near their residence, so they welcomed the opportunity to see where a new trail led 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. Popsicles and fudgesicles provided at the end of the rides were very popular and much appreciated! We hope to see you back on next year's rides!







Join the fun and enjoy de scenery!















A portion of the MoPac East Trail, connecting Lincoln and Omaha and several smaller communities in between is in the beginning stages of that connection project. The State of Nebraska allocated \$8.3M to construct the trail connection. A study is the first step in the development process. To follow the progress and get updates on the project go to:

mopac-east-connector-trail-study-lpsnrd.hub.arcgis.com



What Is BikeLNK?

BikeLNK is Lincoln's nonprofit bikeshare program. Since 2018 we have been delivering sustainable and affordable transportation to Lincolnites in and around the downtown area. Currently, our fleet consists of 21 docks and over 130 bikes open to the general public! Twenty-five of our bikes are class 1, pedal-assist ebikes, which can propel riders up to 20 mph!

Using the system is simple. Simply scan the QR code on the station kiosk, download the Bcycle application on your phone, and follow the instructions to purchase the membership length of your choice! Patrons can choose either a 1-day pass (Capital Cruiser) 3-day pass (Visiting Voyager), Monthly Member or year-long pass (Aluminum Access) for \$8, \$12, \$17 or \$100, respectively. Within the membership period, the user can embark on as many hour-long rides as they like! Each additional hour is another \$6 charge. Once you're finished with your ride, just dock the bike at any of our 21 stations, and you're done! Simple as that!

Friendly reminder that UNL students and staff receive a 75% discount on Aluminum Access passes when they use their UNL email address and code UNLBIKES2425.

Please feel free to reach out at **info@bikelnk.com** with any questions or comments!



bikelnk.bcycle.com

Prairie to Prairie: Run, Bike, Run



BY ANN RINGLEIN

What started out as a stormy morning, ended as the wonderful weather that goes hand in hand with Prairie to Prairie! What a wonderful day and event!

In case you don't know what Prairie to Prairie is – here is the scoop:

The Solidago Conservancy, in coordination with the Lincoln Parks Foundation, Pioneers Park Nature Center and Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center put on Prairie to Prairie. It is a Run, Bike, Run event that highlights the beauty of our Native Prairies and the future route of the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch Trail. All proceeds go towards Prairie Corridor.

The event consists of three legs – a 5k run at Pioneers Park Nature Center, a 15-mile gravel bike ride to Spring Creek Prairie, and a second 5k run at Spring Creek Prairie. Individuals can tackle all three legs, or each can be completed by a member of a 2- or 3-person team.

This is a non-timed event, which we feel, opens this up to many folks who would not participate if it was timed! We allow team members to take off early to get everyone off the Gravel roads by 11:00am. We allow you to do just part of the event if that is all that you are capable of that day. But what we find is people get out there and



really enjoy this event and finish their portion and are ready to sign up next year!

After the participants' amazing feat, they were treated to music – drinks – food trucks and camaraderie at Spring Creek Prairie. Everyone that ran the 5k route at Spring Creek was cheered on by the Spring Creek cattle on the ridge! It was the cows best day ever!

Mark your calendar, for sometime in May of 2025, to participate in Prairie to Prairie and help get the Prairie Corridor built!



Do a little running, add a bit of biking and a little more running!



Throw in some music!



Wrap it up with great food and good friends!

Photos courtesy of Ann Ringlein

Check the LTC Website for the 2024 Calendar and other information.

www.lincolnrun.org

It was a Great Day for the 2024 Trail Trek



OK 8-milers - Get Ready! Set! Pedal!

BY DENA NOE

Trail Trek 2024, GPTN's premier fundraising event, took place at Speedway Village in Lincoln on Sunday, June 23. It was a resounding success with nearly 500 cyclists participating! The goal for this year was to utilize the northern trails. The event offered seven different routes to appeal to all levels of cyclists.

While the weather was predicted to be either rain or extreme heat fortunately, we didn't experience either. The morning started out with a cool breeze as the 44 milers headed to Eagle. Soon after the 35, 28, 21 and 15 milers headed out on their trek heading north on the Jamaica



The 15-milers getting their spacing just right.

North Trail. Our last trek to leave was our youngest riders heading out to Oak Lake Park for 8 miles.

Along with the exciting treks, our participants came back to Speedway Village to enjoy the sounds of the Back Alley Betties, face painting and balloon animals. After a great meal provided by Hy-Vee and Pepsi, a fun drawing took place giving away a children's bike won by a young boy who sat in his bike seat on his mom's bike for the 15-mile trek! After the kids' prizes were handed out including prizes for the scavenger hunt at Oak Lake Park, three bikes were given away each provided by Speedy Pete's E-Bikes, Cycle Works and Trek of Lincoln.



Making the turn at the Haymarket.

A great time was had by all thanks to over 100 volunteers who guided the treks, put out signs, helped with packet pick up, set up and tear down, and of course our fun volunteers at each of the rest stops. With the help of our sponsors listed below, Trail Trek will be providing \$20,000 to build more trails in Lincoln!

Thanks to all the riders for supporting the trails. Thank you to the Trail Trek committee: Kent Henning, Lisa Henning, Jamie Granquist, Marynelle Greene, Roy Rivera, Dale Arp, Dena Noe, Cathy Ebers, Joy Patten, Eli Frank, Jon Taylor and Mindy Diller that works all year long to plan Trail Trek.



Oak Lake rest stop and fun zone!



Settling in for the long haul.



Big bubble send-off!

Thank you 2024 Trail Trek Sponsors!



Join the summer **Nacho Ride** every Tuesday.

It's a fun ride on the East MoPac Trail to Eagle and it's open to everyone.

Start at the 84th Street trailhead for a 20-mile roundtrip or at the Walton trailhead for a 14-mile roundtrip.

The ride starts at 5:30 pm or whenever you're ready to go. Please wear a helmet and ride at your own pace.

In Eagle you can enjoy nachos or other food and beverages at Bailey's Local (inside or outside).

For updates on rides check Nacho Ride Lincoln page on Facebook.

Elaine Hammer Mile Recognition on the Prairie Corridor



BY SUSAN LARSON RODENBURG

Next time you're at Pioneers Park, venture out to the Prairie Corridor Trail just west of the park to see the newly installed Elaine Hammer Mile marker and memorial boulder bench. Lincoln Parks & Recreation staff designed the recognition for donations to the



Prairie Corridor from Elaine Hammer's memorial gifts and the Great Plains Trails Network.

The donations helped fund the conservation of 310 acres of native prairie north of Spring Creek Audubon Center, believed to be one of Lancaster County's largest unprotected tracts of prairie. The Prairie Corridor is a collaborative effort with many partners that include the City of Lincoln, Solidago Conservancy, Lincoln Parks Foundation, and the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District.

What a Difference an "E" Makes

BY DEB MINTER

As a resident of Lincoln for nearly 30 years, I've extolled the virtues of living here to so many people over the years. Some of the things I love about this place come from experiences I've had first-hand, such as great independently owned businesses and restaurants where friendly owners and employees are welcoming and helpful. (Shout out to Lincoln Running Company, EVERY coffee shop I visit, Rose Joy [Floral and Gifts] and many more!) Some of what I've pitched are points of interest I've mostly known via reading about it – like the miles of trails available in and

around Lincoln. Though my husband is an avid bike rider who frequently participates in group rides as well as individual treks, my trail time has involved mostly short walks.

That changed when I got an e-bike last year. Since then, I've had an absolute blast riding around town! I have a class 1 e-bike which is exactly the biking experience I was hoping

for. It gives me a light assist when I need help climbing a



Deb's first e-bike ride to Rock-N-Joe Coffee.

hill or keeping up with my more experienced bike buddy. Without it, I was biking "for exercise," anticipating the

inevitable huffing and puffing (and, frankly, often skipping bike rides when my energy level was low). Now, with the e-bike, I plan longer nature rides or shorter coffee runs. I even hopped-on for a run to the grocery store. And all these various adventures are possible thanks-not only to the e-bike (and my bike-riding partner) but also to the great network of trails around Lincoln. Now when I talk with folks about the great amenities

our city offers, I talk about the miles of trails from personal experience!

Embracing E-Bikes



Article courtesy of Bike Walk Nebraska

We've been in the bicycle advocacy business

for a long time, with many hours spent sitting at information booths chatting with folks and answering questions about a smattering of topics - until we emerged from the pandemic.

Now, the one thing everyone wants to talk about is electric bikes. Today, it is common to see all kinds of e-bikes in addition to traditional designs.

As with any conversation about bicycling, there is no shortage of opinions about e-bikes: "They're wonderful! They're a menace! They aren't allowed! Yes, they are allowed! Throttles! Speed limits! Oh, the humanity!"

Indeed, as we learned while chatting with many communities at a recent League of Nebraska Municipalities conference, even the smallest of towns have e-bike riders.

We enthusiastically support e-bikes. Having an electric assist while pedaling knocks down several barriers keeping people from riding: hills, fitness, sweat, convenience, and enjoyment, to name a few. E-bikes also allow people to continue getting physical activity as they age. More people on bikes means better physical and mental health, cleaner air, improved road conditions, and more accessible transportation options. Unfortunately, how one defines the term "e-bike" is not clear-cut. Seeing the rapidly changing landscape, Bike Walk Nebraska worked with State Senator Jane Raybold earlier last year on a bill to update the definition of an "electric bicycle" within state statute. The bill included a nationally recognized framework defining what an e-bike is vs. isn't:

What it is:

- A bicycle, with fully operating pedals, having a battery-operated motor to provide assistance;
- A battery-operated motor not exceeding seven hundred fifty watts of power;
- An e-bike falling within the guidelines of the best practice, 3-tier classifications

What it isn't:

- A device that looks like a bicycle, but lacks pedals;
- Or a device equipped with an after-market, gas-powered engine;
- Or anything 100% dependent on throttle for power (i.e., scooter or moped).

Where you can ride an e-bike within Nebraska is dependent on the trail and city ordinances. People who use e-bikes are subject to the same laws, regulations, and trail etiquette norms as everyone else. Regardless of what type of bike, we must follow the rules of the road and ride safely according to our surroundings.

CLASS 1

Equipped with a battery-operated motor that provides assistance **only when** the rider is <u>peda</u>ling.



20-MPH Maximum pedalassisted speed.

CLASS 2

Equipped with a battery-operated motor that **may be used exclusively** to propel the bicycle.

> 20-MPH
> Maximum pedalassisted speed.

CLASS 3

Equipped with a battery-operated motor that provides assistance **only when** the rider is pedaling.

> 28-MPHMaximum pedalassisted speed.

Encourage a bike friendly community.

Real bike friendliness comes with creating routes connecting people to/from key destinations, including trailheads. Consider working with a consultant or local officials to identify low-traffic, slower-speed streets that can be used as bike routes.

Building a community culture that embraces bicycling will add to bike friendliness. Organize groups to participate in events during National Bike Month (May) or Bike to School Day. Local businesses can get involved by adding bike parking,

Regardless of what type of bike, we must follow the rules of the road and ride safely according to our surroundings.

planning social rides in the summer, or giving discounts to customers who arrive on bikes. (Talk to Eagle, NE about how much money local businesses bring in each summer from Lincoln residents participating in the weekly Nacho Ride!)

Ultimately, bicycling is self-promoting: when people start seeing more folks riding, they will be inspired to join in the fun.

At the end of the day, we encourage Nebraskan communities to embrace e-bikes. Using a bicycle for running errands or making trips to the coffee shop is a great alternative, especially when the weather is nice.

Let us Help You!

Bike Walk Nebraska is happy to be a resource. If we can't help, we likely know someone who can. Stay tuned to our social media, plan to attend our annual Bike Walk Nebraska Summit, or find more information and resources on our website bikewalknebraska.org.

According to BloombergNEF, Light Electric Vehicle Association, Argonne National Laboratory -

"E-bike sales in the U.S. overtook electric vehicles in 2019."

In 2022 it was reported that **1,100,000** e-bikes were sold compared to **928,884** electric vehicles.

Event CALENDAR

JULY 26 Hub & Soul 6 - 9 pm

AUGUST 30 Hub & Soul 6 - 9 pm

SEPTEMBER 27 Hub & Soul 6 - 9 pm



REGISTER FOR LINCOLN TRAIL-A-THON 2024

It's not too late!



Lincoln Trail-A-Thon is a year-long challenge to encourage participants to ride, run, jog or walk all 92 miles of trails within the city limits of Lincoln. If you haven't tried this challenge yet, 2024 is a good time to participate. Each participant will receive a Lincoln Trail-A-Thon drawstring bag. To help with your progress we have developed monthly suggestions to cover the trails. This fundraiser helps support trails!

Visit gptn.org/lincolntrailathon to learn more. See how far you can go!!



New GPTN Board Members



PAUL BREITKREUTZ Employed as an Information Systems Developer in the Office of the UNL

I love the outdoors and getting my two daughters out on the

Registrar

trails in and around Lincoln. The trails are a great asset for our community and I'd love to do my part to serve our trails system that has served my family and I so well.

Favorite trail: The stretch of the MoPac that goes from Elmwood to Wabash. The portion of the MoPac east of Eagle is a close second because of the bench where you can take a break for a picnic.



DAVID (DAVE) GALL Employed at Union Bank & Trust, College Savings Plan Division

I am excited to help with efforts to continue to offer the best trails in Lincoln

and the surrounding area. It is one way I can give back for all the miles I've put on over the years. I am very grateful for our trails system. HORSTER DOLLAR

COLIN KEIERLEBER Employed with Allplan, Principal Engineer

My family and I have enjoyed the trails of Lincoln for years. It is one of the reasons that we love Lincoln.

JOHN MLINAR

Retired, School

My family has used

the trails for years

and enjoy the scen-

ery and community

of cyclists. We use

Principal

I want to help keep the trails network a thing that families of Lincoln will enjoy for years to come.

Favorite trail: I use the Billy Wolff trail the most, but my favorite trail is the MoPac.



the trails frequently and because of that I wanted to get involved to help out with logistics of maintenance along with growing the trails system and get to know other cycling enthusiasts.

Favorite trail: Our favorite trail is The Homestead Trail.

ASHLEY NICHOLS

Employed at First State Bank Nebraska as a HR Specialist/ Branch Manager

Joining the Great Plains Trails Network board holds great significance

for me as I am passionate about promoting outdoor connectivity and community engagement.

Favorite trail: The Tierra-Williamsburg Trail stands out as my favorite, holding a special place in my outdoor experiences.

TEDDE (TED) TAEGE



Employed with the State of Nebraska Department of Revenue as a Lead Developer

I choose to focus my energy on GPTN because I have a

genuine interest in making trails better. I have participated in other groups, but GPTN matches my goals for giving back.

Favorite trail: My favorite trail is Jamaica North/Homestead Trail-mostly for the amazing cinnamon rolls at Paper Moon in Cortland.

Favorite trail: The MoPac to Eagle trail.



Support Lincoln Trails

By donating to the Nebraska Trails Foundation through the:



www.givenebraska.org/





RICH RODENBURG

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South NRD LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NRD



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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 **bicyclincoln.org**/



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.

For more information and an on-line application to join the club, go to

greatplainsbikeclub.org





YOU BELONG. JOIN US.

Get outside and ride! Join the community having the most fun on mountain bikes! Students entering grades 6-12 in the fall are welcome. No experience necessary. Preseason starts April 1st. Weekly team practices start July 1st.



Begin your registration at www.lancastermtb.com



INTERSCHOLASTIC NEBRASKA CYCLING LEAGUE

Lancaster Composite is a part of the Nebraska Interscholastyic Cycling League, a state-wide youth development program aimed at building strong minds, bodies, character and communities throughout Nebraska.

GPTN NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS March 1, 2024 - May 31, 2024

Standard \$10

Mark Brohman Jessica Corman Mindy Diller Donald Dingman Jack Edson Darren Furasek Debra Hart Kirk & Jo Kinberg Alan Meyer Adam Miller Bill Miner Lois Paschke Jim Peter

Associate \$20

Gerry Adams Roger Adams Gil Andersen Pamela Baker Wes Boggs Noel Briseno Andrew Chisholm Tanner Clark Lawrence Cook Eric Fuentes-Ruiz Topher Hansen Jonathan Jasinski Lori Kitzing Allan Koontz Dan Kounovsky Galen Madsen Cheri Miller Kristi Newcomb Ashley Nichols John Oswald Krista Potter Gerald Rehm Carla Seeba Dennis Seeba Robert Shanahan Mary Torell Barry Urtel Lyle & Joyce Vannier Wanda & Dennis Vodehnal Denise Wiemer Donna Williams **Richard Wright**

Trail Sustainer \$50

Kathryn Campbell Dean & Maria Eisenhauer Peg & Larry Fletcher Matthew Gaffey Corey Godfrey Karen Griffin & David Wood **Rachelle Hadley** Philip Hovis Dan & Mary Howell Wayne & Judy Jensen Jeff & Heather Kimble Chris & Mary Kingery Jim & Doris Lewis Mike Mallov Peter & Lori Morin Jim & Patty Neid Dave Palm Becki Roberts Ruth Rodden Terry Schoonover **Richard Sutton Bob** Torell Ken Winston Joel Zuerlein

Trail Patron \$100

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Trail Benefactor \$250

Jack & Lynette Broderick Doug & Carla Dittman Michael Germer Jeff & Amy Handeland Charles & Jean Kasson Glenn Moss & Nancy Sutton-Moss David & Sharon Sinkler Michelle L. Smith Steve & Laurie Stromberg

Lincoln's Trails need your support!





If you know others that enjoy running, walking or riding on Lincoln trails, please encourage them to become a GPTN members. GPTN is a non-profit focused on funding the growth and maintenance of our trails network. By becoming a GPTN member, you help support the tremendous trails network that adds so much to our community!



Go to: gptn.org click on "Memberships" and join the GPTN team!



P.O. Box 82902 • Lincoln, NE 68501-2902

The **GPTN Newsletter** is published quarterly and is distributed to GPTN members and other interested parties.

For more information:

www.gptn.org



We Need Your Support!

Prairie Corridor Trail

The Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch is a tallgrass prairie passage and trail that will build on our nationally recognized trail system, linking Pioneers Park Nature Center and Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center. Please consider donating to this exciting project. The approximately 10-mile greenway is a once in a lifetime project. Please consider donating. *Thanks!*



Make contributions payable to: Great Plains Trails Network

Name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Designated Project:	

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