



# GPTN

## GREAT PLAINS TRAILS NETWORK

SPRING 2024

ISSUE 154

## Lincoln a Bicycle Friendly Community



Enjoying a "Tour de Lincoln" ride on the 14th Street overpass in May 2023.

As announced in early February by the City of Lincoln, our city has again been designated a Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. The silver level award recognizes Lincoln's commitment to improving conditions for cyclists through investments in bike education programs, events that promote and encourage cycling, pro-bike policies and bike infrastructure. The designation was given in 2023 and covers a four-year period. Lincoln also attained Silver Level status in 2019.

In August 2023, the City applied to renew its Bicycle Friendly Community status from the League of American Bicyclists. Criteria on which communities are rated include equity and accessibility, education, engineering, evaluation and planning, and encouragement. There are 480 Bicycle Friendly Communities nationwide.

Stephanie Rouse, Transportation Planner, said Lincoln's application required a coordinated effort to compile detailed documentation from the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department, Lincoln Parks

and Recreation, Lincoln Transportation and Utilities, and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department. In addition, staff from BikeLNK and members of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee provided helpful information and members of the

public gave meaningful feedback on the public survey.

The report indicates that our community is doing many things right, but we can always do better. Perhaps the key is greater cooperation by all the governmental and private entities which have a stake in building and maintaining a bicycle-friendly community. In this regard, The Great Plains Trails Network pledges to do its part by advocating for and supporting the Lincoln-Lancaster County trails network, and by sponsoring community outreach events such as Trail Trek. Working together we can go for the gold.

"This award is a testament to the dedication of the growing network of bicycle advocates working to make Lincoln a safe and welcoming space for all ages and abilities of bicyclists. The application is every four years, but it takes continuous effort from a variety of stakeholders and community members to achieve this designation," Rouse said.

We invite you to go to the Bicycle Friendly Community Report Card issued for Lincoln by the League. Go to: [bikeleague.org/wp-content/uploads/bfareportcards/bfc/Fall\\_2023/Lincoln\\_NE.pdf](https://bikeleague.org/wp-content/uploads/bfareportcards/bfc/Fall_2023/Lincoln_NE.pdf) Here you can see how Lincoln was evaluated and how they arrived at our level ranking. There's a lot of information on their website. Information for comparisons to other cities and ways we can improve our city to achieve the next level of Gold is included! You'll be especially proud of Lincoln's Silver Level accomplishment when you see where Nebraska is ranked as a bike friendly state.

The League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly America program sets the standard for how communities build and benchmark progress toward making biking better. The League strives to provide continual updates to the application as part of its commitment to help communities raise their standards for safety, equity, and accessibility.

For more information on the League of American Bicyclists, visit [bikeleague.org](https://bikeleague.org).

### Lincoln, NE

**Award: Silver | Fall 2023**

**Award History:** Silver since 2019;  
Previously Bronze since 2012;  
Honorable Mention in 2003



**SILVER LEVEL CITY**



## President's Note

Hello Trail Advocates,

I know we can all feel it, spring is in the air. The beautiful weather is drawing us all back outside to enjoy the weather. And so, we find the trails being crowded again. Being a year-round bike commuter, I get to witness the ebb and flow of trail use and users. A quick reminder about trail etiquette can keep our trails a friendly and welcoming place.

Why do you use the trails? I know I have used them for not only transportation to work and errands, but also to ride leisurely with my family and friends. You might walk your pet on some trails while others run or skate while training for a race, not to mention all those who are simply out for a walk to do some thinking. Given all these motivations, you are sure to encounter various speeds and expectations. When we remember how we use the trails in many different ways, it's easier to remember how vital, essential and important simple courtesy is.

One simple etiquette is to remember to stay to the right. This reminder goes for both individuals and our pets. Situating ourselves in this way helps as individuals travel at different speeds and enables the trail user to pass on the left. While passing, a common courtesy is to announce your presence. This can be done in many ways. Cyclists might use a bell while a runner may give a simple announcement of "on your left" or "good evening." A cheerful voice and smile as you pass is that much better.

A vibrant trail system depends on each of us being a good neighbor on the trail. Leash your pets. Monitor your speed. Announce your presence. Be aware of your interactions and leave the life on the trail better than you found it.

Jordan Messerer



# 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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# 2024 GPTN ANNUAL MEETING



Allison Speicher presents Lincoln Parks and Rec plans and updates on Lincoln's trails.



Julie Harris receives the Trail Boss Award.



Dena Noe (L) from the GPTN Board presents Mary Torell (R) with the Trailblazer Award.

BY DENA NOE AND MARY TORELL

A good crowd was on hand for the 35th Annual Meeting of the Great Plains Trails Network that was held February 10, 2024 at the Cornhusker Bank Community Center in Lincoln.

**Julie Harris**, the Executive Director of Bike Walk Nebraska, was the first speaker. She reflected on the achievements, commitment, and what Bike Walk Nebraska has accomplished this past decade. Bike Walk Nebraska cultivates and supports safe and accessible active transportation across our state by leading sound policy and advocating for best practices. They 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. Their vision is a Nebraska where bicycling and walking are a safe and enjoyable part of "The Good Life".

**Allison Speicher**, Trails and Natural Resources Coordinator from Lincoln Parks and Recreation, provided a comprehensive update on the many exciting trail projects. She coordinates the maintenance and growth of the City's trails network, helps manage and grow conservation areas and greenways including the saline wetlands, Wilderness Park and the Prairie Corridor.

Speicher announced that the Beal Slough Trail, a 2.2-mile trail connecting 56th Street and London Road to 70th Street and Yankee Hill Road, is set to be constructed in 2024-2025. Additionally, the Fletcher Landmark Trail, a 10-foot-wide concrete trail connecting North 14th Street Trail to North 27th Street near North Star High School, will be completed by 2024. An underpass on the Rock Island Trail at Old Cheney Road near South 14th Street was selected as one of two trail projects to use the Carbon

Reduction Program of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (NRD), in partnership with Lincoln Parks and Recreation, is set to continue the resurfacing of the Salt Creek Levee Trail. The project, which started in 2023, resurfaced the trail from Calvert Street to Van Dorn Street, will continue in 2024 and cover the remaining distance as far north as budgeted funds will allow. The Chris Beutler Trail, located in the new South Haymarket Park, will connect the Jamaica North Trail to the N Street Cycle Track and Pinnacle Bank Arena Trail, with completion expected in 2025.

The Rock Island Trail Widening project will involve the removal of the existing 8-foot-wide Rock Island Trail from A Street south to the Boosalis Trail near Nebraska Parkway. This trail will be replaced with an 11-foot-wide concrete trail. The Rock Island Trail is Lincoln's busiest trail with a high proportion of pedestrian uses. The 11-foot-wide platform is recommended for multi-use trails that meet these conditions. This project will include the replacement of the bridge over Garfield Street. Other segments being considered for future projects include the Billy Wolff Trail from A Street to South 56th Street and the Boosalis Trail from 48th to 56th Street.

The 2024 GPTN Board of Directors was installed with six new members: Paul Breitkreutz, David Gall, Colin Keierleber, John Mlinar, Ashley Nichols and Tedde Taege. President Jordan Messerer thanked Denise Teahon and Doug Dittman for their time given to the board as they completed their service.

The Board of Directors thanks everyone who attended our annual meeting as well as everyone's continued support of GPTN. We hope to see you all again at next year's meeting!

## GPTN ANNUAL AWARDS

### TRAIL BOSS AWARD

#### Julie Harris

Executive Director of Bike Walk Nebraska

*The Trail Boss Award is given to administrators, planners and others who take leadership in implementing trail projects or plans.*

Harris was recognized for her outstanding work in promoting active transportation and her decade-long dedication to making cycling and walking safe and enjoyable for all. Harris's tireless advocacy for active transportation has helped to make Nebraska a more bike and pedestrian-friendly state.

### TRAILBLAZER AWARD

#### Mary Torell

GPTN board member

*The Trailblazer Award is a significant recognition given sparingly to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the development of trails.*

Mary has been a tireless advocate for promoting trails and bike pedestrian issues, organizing the GPTN Annual Meeting for 21 years, coordinating the Tour de Lincoln bike rides, handling media releases, and supporting Lincoln's trails system. Her dedication and hard work have left a lasting and positive impact on the community. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mary Torell on this well-deserved honor.

### PROJECT AWARDS

*A project award is given to individuals, organizations or corporations which made significant contributions in time or resources to a specific project.*

#### Roy Rivera and Jim Krieger

GPTN board members

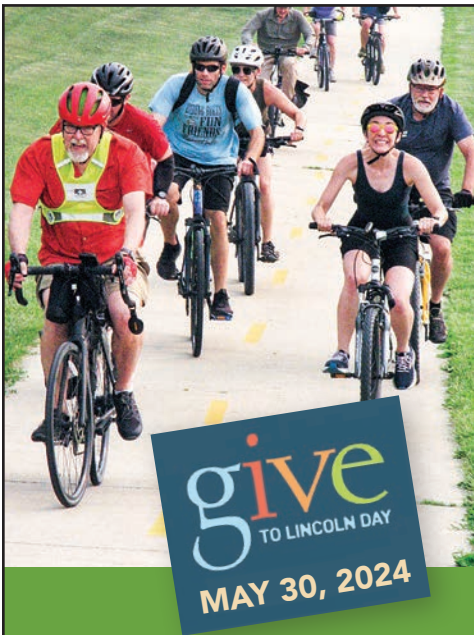
For their efforts in the 501(c)3 transition for GPTN.

#### Dale Minter

GPTN board member

For refreshing the GPTN newsletter.





This year, you can give directly to GPTN for Give to Lincoln Day!

Go to: [givetolincoln.com](http://givetolincoln.com) and search for Great Plains Trails Network to make your donation. There are multiple ways to donate including gifts from IRAs and Donor Advised Funds at Lincoln Community Foundation. Learn more at the above website.



**Great Plains Trails Network**

**give**  
TO LINCOLN DAY  
MAY 30, 2024

# 2024 Tour de Lincoln Bike Rides Celebrate National Bike Month in May



Every Thursday in May at 6:00 pm

**SOUTHWEST**  
THURSDAY, MAY 2  
6:00 PM - 15 MILES

**NORTHEAST**  
THURSDAY, MAY 9  
6:00 PM - 18 MILES

**SOUTHWEST**  
THURSDAY, MAY 16  
6:00 PM - 15 MILES

**NORTHWEST**  
THURSDAY, MAY 23  
6:00 PM - 12 MILES  
THURSDAY, MAY 30  
RAIN DAY MAKEUP

BY MARY TORELL

Join the Great Plains Trails Network (GPTN) as they celebrate May is National Bike Month with their annual Tour de Lincoln bicycle rides.

This is the 19th year that GPTN has sponsored Thursday evening bicycle rides designed to take participants to different quadrants of Lincoln. All rides start and end at the Jayne Snyder Trails Center at 228 North 21st Street (21st & Q Streets) Union Plaza Park, beginning at 6:00 pm. Look for Tour de Lincoln (TDL) maps at local bicycle shops, fitness centers and coffee shops. We also have Spanish TDL maps for our Spanish speaking friends!

Since there are five Thursdays in May this year, we have decided to use May 30th as a rainy day make up for any rides we may have to cancel due to inclement weather. New this year are two route changes modified to make the rides better!

Members of GPTN's Board of Directors lead each ride, provide mechanical support and make sure there are no riders left behind. The rides vary in distances from 12 to 18 miles each, and are designed to acquaint cyclists with

different trails, conditions and features. Refreshments will be available before the start and riders can enjoy popsicles after the ride. People of all ages and families are invited to come out and enjoy the rides. Several riders have expressed positive comments and how much they enjoyed past rides. Many 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.

"As we've done in past rides, we try to feature different trails when possible, during Tour de Lincoln rides," said event chairperson Mary Torell. "The most important thing is to expose bike riders to all quadrants of the city and allow them to discover Lincoln's great trails system. Our network of 134 miles of trails offers something for everyone, and these rides give people an opportunity to see portions of the city and trails they may not have seen or ridden." "We encourage people to get out and explore the trails and enjoy!"

No registration fees are required, but participants are required to wear helmets for all GPTN sponsored biking events. There will also be drawings for refreshments from The Hub Café (next to the Jayne Snyder Trails Center).

Weather cancellations will be announced on Facebook and on our web site at [GPTN.org](http://GPTN.org). Let's have some fun and get out and ride!



# Former GPTN Board Members Use the Trails to Prepare for a Pilgrimage



Milepost 0 at Fisterre, 'the end of the world' with the Atlantic Ocean in the background.

Steve and Charlene Dunbar reach the finish line at the Cathedral de Santiago.



to see the relics of St. James (Sant Iago in Spanish). We chose to walk the Camino Portugues because it hugged the Atlantic coast for about half the way, a chance for land-locked Nebraskans to see some ocean scenery.

We started walking just over the Portuguese-Spanish border at Oia, just yards from the beach. The first day we walked 17 miles to Baiona, a historic small port with a beautiful castle to protect the city and bay from pirates. Each day we walked between 15 and 20 miles. The Camino Portugues skirts several bays which finger into the west coast of Spain. Initially the path hugs the coast, then heads up to the end of the bay, climbing some bluffs, before descending again to the next bay. The path was generally level, except for the climbs in and out of the bluffs. A typical day started early in the morning, with 2 to 3 hours of walking, a short break for refreshments, a light lunch and another 2 to 4 hours of walking in the afternoon.

The Camino itself follows Roman roads, crossing rivers on medieval bridges at the same places the Romans first built bridges. The path is a mix of smooth paved village streets, cobblestone paths, crushed limestone lanes, country roads, forest tracks and even a segment through a vineyard. Sections of the Camino reminded us of the East MoPac, paths in the cities and villages had a surface like the Rock Island, and in some places, it was like walking on the Murdock east of 84th Street. Of course, the scenery wasn't prairie but instead a variety of coasts and bays, forest, Spanish villages, and vineyards.



The Dunbars enjoying their journey.

This section of the Camino de Santiago reminds Steve and Charlene Dunbar of the MoPac Trail in Lincoln.



So how did the trails of Lincoln help with training? Early in the summer of 2023 we began walking the trails in Lincoln. We started with shorter walks about 5 to 6 miles, often combining the walk with errands or outdoor summer concerts. We increased about a mile or two each week. For variety, we covered most of Lincoln's trails, giving us a tour of every quadrant of the city, our personal "Tour de Lincoln". At the end of the summer, we completed a 15 mile walk over the course of a day, giving us confidence that we had the endurance for our pilgrimage. Our training walks also gave us dedicated time to discuss our plans, test our trail shoes, practice carrying our water and daily provisions in a backpack, and helped determine our style of hiking.

Overall, we rate this experience as the best trip we've ever taken! We enjoy active hiking and biking vacations and the trails in Lincoln provide numerous opportunities to prepare.

BY STEVE AND CHARLENE DUNBAR

What's the best way to prepare for a 100-mile pilgrimage by foot to the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain? Well, by trekking the trails of Lincoln for practice first, of course.

From September 16 to September 25, 2023, we walked the famous Camino de Santiago along the Portuguese coastal route. The Camino de Santiago is actually a network of several routes each leading to Santiago in northwest Spain. The goal of each Camino is the ancient Cathedral de Santiago. The most well-known is the Camino Frances, which starts in southwest France, crosses the Pyrenees, then passes through north-central Spain to Santiago. All routes have been used since about 1200 by pilgrims

## REGISTER FOR LINCOLN TRAIL-A-THON 2024



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 fundraisers helps support trails!

Visit [gptn.org/lincolntrailathon](https://gptn.org/lincolntrailathon) to learn more.

*See how far you can go!!*







**YOU BELONG. JOIN US.**

No tryouts! No bench! 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](http://www.lancastermtb.com)



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



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

[www.lincolnrun.org](http://www.lincolnrun.org)

# Bike Drawing is Back at Trail Trek



## SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2024

SPEEDWAY VILLAGE | 345 SPEEDWAY CIRCLE

**Cost:**

\$30 Adult, \$10 Student  
5 and under FREE

**Packet Pick Up:**

June 22 at Auld Pavilion  
& June 23 at event

**Routes:**

8, 15, 21, 28, 35, 44 miles &  
Natural Surface  
Single Track Routes

**REGISTER TODAY**

Details, Routes, Times, Prizes

**GPTN.ORG**



Join us at Trail Trek 2024 on Sunday, June 23 for an exciting day filled with adventure and the opportunity to win a bike, thanks to Cycle Works and Trek of Lincoln. With seven different route options ranging from 8 to 44 miles, including an adventurous natural trail route in Wilderness Park, there's something for cyclists of all levels. Enjoy on-route snacks, a delicious meal by Hy-Vee and Pepsi at Speedway Village, and new kids' activities including face painting and games. All proceeds from this event go towards building more trails in Lincoln and Lancaster County, making your participation even more impactful. Don't miss out on the chance to have a memorable day while contributing to the community, and be sure to check out the unique t-shirt design by local artist Deb Lee Hart, a GPTN Board Member.



## Sunday, May 19, 2024

08:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Cost: \$40-\$80



Pre-registration at [bit.ly/prairie2prairie](https://bit.ly/prairie2prairie) is required.

The Solidago Conservancy, in coordination with the Lincoln Parks Foundation, Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department, Pioneers Park Nature Center, and Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, is proud to present the 3rd annual "Prairie to Prairie" - a Run, Bike, Run event that will highlight the beauty of our Native Prairies and the future route of the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch Trail.

This is a Run-Bike-Run event that can be done as an individual, a 2 person team, or a 3 person team. 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.

At the conclusion of the race, there will be a celebration onsite at Spring Creek Prairie with food and drink available for purchase. Non-participating friends and family are welcome to attend.

Helmets must be worn during the bicycle portion of this event. • No race day sign up. • Packet Pickup will be at the Lincoln Running Co - Sat., May 18th - 10:00AM -5:00PM.

# Nebraska DEVO | Empowering Youth in the Heartland



Photos by Will Ramsey

BY JAMIE GRANQUIST

In our 14 year history, Nebraska DEVO's youth bike skills education program has grown to serve 5 unique parks and supports programming in 3 different communities. Focused on educating youth between the ages of 5-18 with safe bike riding, empowering over 40 highly skilled volunteer coaches to help more than 230 students last summer alone, creating outreach with a greater purpose. Through our proven educational programming & highly trained volunteer coaching staff, Nebraska DEVO increases cycling safety, skills, and awareness of our natural world through action and example. We model with intention & educate through our service. Kids learn by doing and we take a holistic approach to this important process. Nebraska DEVO actively partners with other local community service & outreach organizations, provides equity scholarships, actively engaging in collaborative partnerships with the Cities of Lincoln, Omaha, & Norfolk, on trails advocacy, development, volunteering, stewardship, and maintenance.

The program meets weekly on Monday evenings, the season begins the first Monday in June for eight week sessions. The cost is \$125 per child, with sibling discounts & scholarships available.

Bikes with gears and hand brakes are preferred to get the most out of their DEVO experience. All riders must have the ability to ride their bicycle unassisted in order to register for the Nebraska DEVO program, with our youngest riders having completed kindergarten prior to

registering for their first season. Additionally, all bikes are required to undergo a safety check prior to the first night of the session. Nebraska DEVO partners with local bike shops who offer this basic safety check-up & minor adjustment free of charge but do appreciate your patronage to their business, so please stop & shop. Helmets are required in class.

The Nebraska DEVO program is arranged in a building block style, starting with basic bicycle handling skills and gradually working up to advanced off-road techniques. The progression allows riders to learn the skills they need while gaining confidence on their

bikes in a positive, encouraging environment. Riders are assessed on the first night of practice and are grouped according to ability. Each group will work on the same set of skills required to move on to the next level. Once a level is mastered, a new set of skills is introduced and practiced out on the trail.

## Foundational Drills

At the beginning of each level of our curriculum, skills are introduced, modeled and practiced on grass before using any of our features or hitting the trail. Each skill builds on the next, preparing riders to utilize their skills once they put wheels to dirt.

## Skill Drills

Once a skill is mastered on the grass we use various features to replicate situations where the skill may be used out on the trails. From cones to picnic tables and logs, riders have the chance to dig in a little deeper.

## Skills Application

The trails provide all the opportunities the kids need to apply and practice the skills they have learned. From log crossings to technical sections and descents, hitting the trails is favored by all.

Nebraska DEVO helped build and continues volunteering in order to maintain the natural surface trails throughout our local communities, along with adopting all of Van Dorn Park and a section of Wilderness Park through the Adopt-a-Park/Trail Program with the City of Lincoln. We are honored to support &

utilize the local area natural surface facilities with collaborations with land managers, municipalities, local advocates, and volunteer organizations who advocate and build trails for our community. Activating the youth and our community through bikes, outdoor stewardship, volunteering, and togetherness.

Nebraska DEVO is proudly powered by 100% volunteer efforts. We have a talented group of experienced mountain bike riders graciously donating their time to coach our youth. Trained in First Aid, CPR, coach/child interaction and mountain biking skills, we depend on the volunteer efforts of about 50 coaches every year in Omaha, Lincoln, and Norfolk. The minimum age to coach is 18 years old and all coaches complete mandatory background checks. We gladly accept student volunteer ambassadors, ages 15-18, with parental consent.

If you would like to help our program succeed, please consider helping out in one of the following ways:

**Volunteer:** If you would like to get involved as a coach or in another volunteer capacity, AWESOME! (it truly takes a village!). We'd love to have you!

**Sponsor:** If you're an organization or business and would like to invest in the Nebraska DEVO program as a sponsor with equipment, training, professional services, or financial considerations please reach out to us so we can connect in the best ways to support the unique communities we serve.



**Donate:** Donations help us pay for insurance, First Aid/CPR training for coaches, skills training for coaches, outreach efforts to underserved communities, along with equipment like bikes/helmets and discounted student registrations.

Please reach out to [info@nebraskadevo.org](mailto:info@nebraskadevo.org) and THANK YOU for your support!

To learn more our website is: [NebraskaDEVO.org](http://NebraskaDEVO.org)



# Event CALENDAR

## MAY

- 2 Southeast Tour de Lincoln 15 miles
- 9 Northeast Tour de Lincoln 18 miles
- 16 Southwest Tour de Lincoln 15 miles
- 19 Prairie to Prairie • Run-Ride-Run
- 23 Northwest Tour de Lincoln 12 miles
- 30 Give to Lincoln Day!

## JUNE

- 23 Trail Trek
- 28 Hub & Soul 6 - 9 pm

**2024 SCHEDULE:**

**JUNE 28**

**JULY 26**

**AUGUST 30**

**SEPTEMBER 27**

6-9 PM • 21ST & Q ST

**BIKE. WALK. GIVE.**

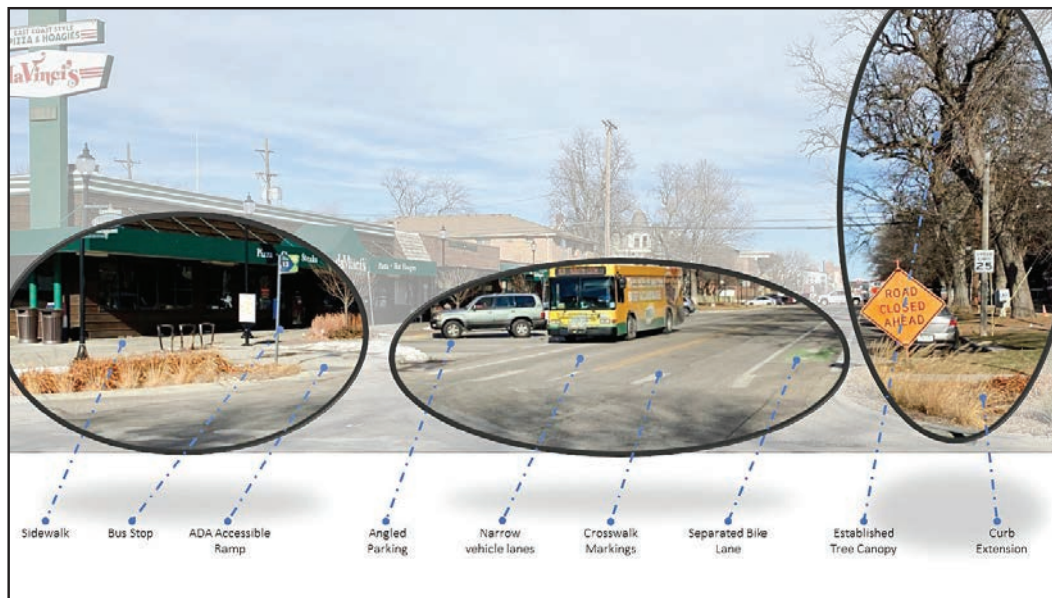
April 16, 2024

**A 24 HOUR GIVING EVENT  
FOR NEBRASKA'S ACTIVE  
TRANSPORTATION NONPROFITS**

Give where you live, and support biking and walking in Nebraska.

[bikewalkgive.org](http://bikewalkgive.org)

# Complete Streets in Lincoln



or cause construction of public or private streets between City of Lincoln departments.

Complete Streets accommodate all users including walkers, mobility impaired, bicyclists, bus riders, and drivers and are designed specifically for each street's unique conditions. A complete street is comfortable, connected, multimodal and improves safety. Roadways should be designed for more than just cars, they should accommodate all users. Because of site specific context and varying land uses, not all elements of a complete street will be on every street.

BY: STEPHANIE ROUSE  
*Transportation Planner with the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department*

Lincoln's Complete Streets program was launched in September 2013 to accommodate all modes of transportation in the design of public and private streets in Lincoln. Complete Streets efforts provide our community increased transportation choices

and a more resilient transportation system. The Complete Streets Committee, comprised of various city departments, implements the policy goals. The policy sets out to coordinate projects relating to the design, planning, construction, reconstruction, or rehabilitation of public and private streets, or development projects which would substantially impact

The graphic above highlights the elements of a complete street at the intersection of G Street and South 11th Street. On the left is a bus stop at an accessible ramp. The ADA accessible ramps provide safe access through the intersection, along with the curb extensions which reduce the street width for pedestrians to cross. Delineated bike lanes provide safe access for bicyclists,



while the narrow vehicle travel lanes slow cars down. Angled parking also helps to slow traffic as drivers must pay attention while pulling into or backing out of the stalls.

The Complete Streets program achieves many City Goals including:

- A transportation network designed to promote safe travel for everyone and provide options for residents to choose walking, biking, and taking transit will support individual health and contribute to a safe and healthy city.
- A vibrant economy and increased quality of life is supported by street designs that promote efficient traffic flow while encouraging travelers to stop at local businesses and take their time strolling along well-connected sidewalks in a pleasant environment.
- A strong and resilient city is one that allows residents the opportunity to choose how they want to get around day to day with options that lead to lowering transportation costs and improve air quality.

- A network of roadways designed to offer transportation choice across all parts of the community with improvements that meet ADA guidelines and allows community members of all ages and abilities to thrive, moves us toward a more equitable and inclusive city.
- By continuing to research and employ updated transportation technologies, Lincoln is advancing towards an innovative and operationally excellent city.

The Fiscal Year 2014/15 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) included, for the first time, a budget item for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Capital Program. In each year since, \$50,000 has been appropriated for projects that work towards creating a "complete street" network. Sample projects include improvements that support pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and vehicular safety such as new ADA compliant sidewalk connections, bicycle route signage and bike rack installation, data transfer for the trail counters, and safety installations at street crossings.

Some examples of Complete Streets funded projects include sidewalk connections to

the MoPac Trail from 52nd Street, to the Rock Island Trail at Arlington Street, to the Boosalis Trail from Dunn Avenue. The accessible pedestrian crossing of the railroad tracks on Old Cheney Road to access the Jamaica Trail, and a trail connection from Fox Hollow to the Billy Wolff Trail. In 2023 a bike rack request program was created which targeted installation of 33 racks primarily in neighborhood business districts. A handful of previously requested rack locations were also included.

Projects planned for future construction including the B Street Bicycle Boulevard which will run from 11th to 27th Streets to be built in 2025 with assistance from CDBG funding. A second project is a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon planned for the Williamsburg Trail crossing at Old Cheney Road planned for this construction year. Behind the scenes, staff will continue to work on policy updates to support active transportation and outreach and education to promote Complete Streets in Lincoln.



*Elaine Peters  
12-8-23*

### *GPTN Directors*

*My husband, Rich Peters, died this fall, at age 83. For more than forty years he biked the Lincoln Trails and bragged about them to everyone, near and far. He rode 20-25 miles three or four times a week, being very physically fit at 80.*

*Unfortunately, he suffered from Alzheimer's Disease for years. Long after he had to give up the car keys, he could still ride, because his muscle memory for his route was so strong. Biking was one of his greatest pleasures – something he could still do. Our family is grateful.*

*Our son, David Peters, suggested GPTN as a fitting memorial tribute to Rich. Many friends and family mentioned they sent memorials directly to GPTN. Enclosed find ones that were sent to our home, totaling \$885.*

*With a Grateful Heart,  
Elaine Peters*

## **Remembering Rich Peters**

BY RAY STEVENS JR.

The Great Plains Trails Network is appreciative of the family of Rich Peters for including GPTN as a recipient for memorials given in his name. Rich was an avid biker and devoted to his family and friends. As my friend for over 50 years, I knew him as a man of integrity and dedicated to honoring his responsibilities. We often passed each other on the bike paths and occasionally rode short distances together. We also socialized together with our wives. We miss Rich and perhaps we can all ride an extra mile to make up for the miles that the trails will miss from his regular rides. Thank you, Peters family, for sharing Rich with our community.

# BICYCLING COLN™

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/](http://bicyclincoln.org/)



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FOR THE CITY OF LINCOLN

Search your internet browser for:  
**"2023 Annual Trails Report,  
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# Great Plains Trails Network

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For more information:  
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Details on page 6



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### 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!*



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