

# Trails System Thriving In Lincoln

## 2017 Great Plains Trails Network and Nebraska Trails Foundation Annual Meeting

Lincoln's trails system is thriving and the Great Plains Trails Network (GPTN) will tell us how at its 28th Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 26, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at the CHI Health Nebraska Heart Medical Office, 7440 South 91st Street in Lincoln. Julie Harris, Executive Director of the Nebraska Bicycling Alliance (NeBA), will be the featured speaker. The public is invited.

The Nebraska Bicycling Alliance is a nonprofit corporation primarily supported by public donations, memberships and grants. Their mission is to cultivate a safer, more bicycle-friendly Nebraska through partnerships, education and advocacy. Their vision is: A Nebraska where bicycling is a safe and enjoyable part of the Good Life. Harris will discuss the progress the organization has made since it was formed three years ago.

Sara Hartzell, Park Planner II for Lincoln Parks and Recreation, will give an overview of the Lincoln Trails System, and will showcase the progress that has been made on the trails in 2016. Lincoln's trails system is 132 miles in length, and includes approximately 86 miles of Commuter/Recreation trails, and 46 miles of Hiker/Biker trails in parks.

John Blumer, from the Nebraska Trails Foundation will give a report of the Nebraska Trails Foundation, and conduct its Annual Meeting immediately following the GPTN Annual Meeting.

Following the presentations, GPTN's annual awards program and election of the 2017 Board of Directors will take place. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information about the Great Plains Trails Network or the annual meeting, contact Roger Hirsch, President of GPTN at 402-421-1018, rhirsch@neb.rr.com, or visit our website at www.gptn.org.

### 2017 PROPOSED GPTN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- |                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Dale Arp         | John Paul "J.P." Jamison |
| Brett Baker      | Jeff Kimble              |
| Matt Baumeister  | Jordan Messerer          |
| Gary Bentrup     | Dena Noe                 |
| Ron Case         | Jesse Petersen           |
| Parks Coble      | Ann Ringlein             |
| Charlene Dunbar  | Shelby Robinson          |
| Steve Dunbar     | Greg Rosenboom           |
| Kevin Fitzgerald | David Scoby              |
| Marynelle Greene | Kris Sonderup            |
| Karen Griffin    | Ray Stevens              |
| Elaine Hammer    | Mary Torell              |
| Chris Heinrich   | Bob Torell               |
| Kent Henning     | Jamie Warren             |
| Roger Hirsch     | Bill Wehrbein            |
| Corey Godfrey    |                          |

### Finishing the Murdock Trail: Jayne Snyder's Wish

The City of Lincoln is going to pave the Murdock Trail from 56th to 70th Street. A gravel trail for runners will also be constructed along side the paved trail. GPTN is raising \$250,000 to support this much needed improvement. Please consider donating to this exciting project.



### Make contributions payable to: Nebraska Trails Foundation

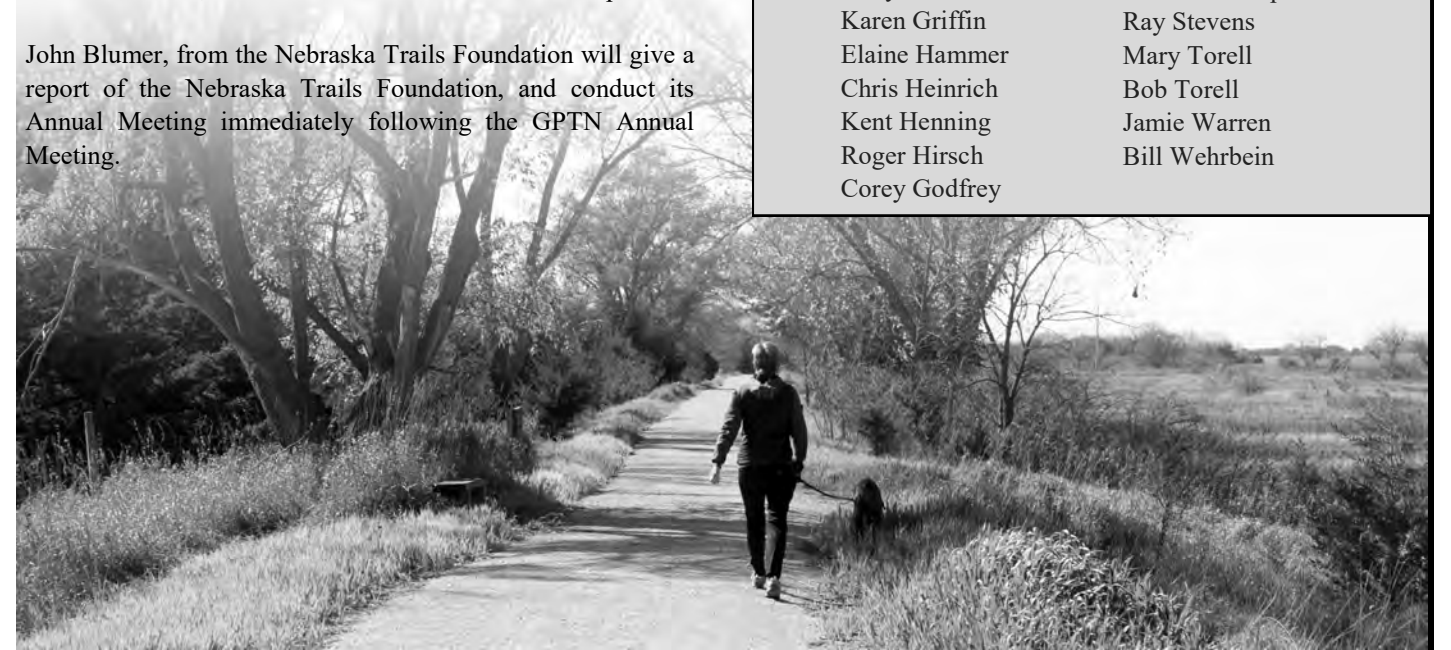
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Designated Project: \_\_\_\_\_

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





# Great Plains Trails Network

since 1988

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

2017

**PRESIDENT** Roger Hirsch  
**VICE PRESIDENT** Dena Noe  
**SECRETARY** Corey Godfrey  
**TREASURER** Jamie Warren

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### MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. 82902  
LINCOLN NE 68501-2902

WWW.GPTN.ORG

Newsletter comments, questions, corrections  
gbentrup68@gmail.com

## LINCOLN NUMBER ONE AGAIN!

No not in college football. Something even more important...  
**The 2016 National Bike Challenge!**

More than 2,000 Lincoln riders logged over 750,000 miles this summer, steering Lincoln into the top spot in the National Bike Challenge.

The nationwide event, organized by PeopleForBikes, is in its fifth year and runs from May through September. And from the inception of the Challenge, a rivalry was established between Nebraska and Wisconsin -- the two battling it out for the title. Lincoln achieved the top spot in 2013 but then Madison reclaimed the title during 2014-2015.

For the first time, both Lincoln and Nebraska claimed wins in the city and state categories, outpacing Madison and Wisconsin.

"We're really proud to get that win, because Lincoln gets overlooked for a lot of things," said Sarah Knight, a board member of BicycLincoln.. "People think Lincoln doesn't bike because it's too hot or it's too cold to ride most of the time. But we're out there and we're riding big miles."

Beyond trails and neighborhoods, Lincoln has gained attention for the city's protected bike lanes downtown and ranked among the top 50 bike-friendly cities in Bicycling magazine this year.

Recognition like this clearly demonstrates that Lincoln's investment in trails and other bicycling infrastructure is paying great dividends.



## GPTN NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

September — January 2016

Welcome to new members:

Donna Awtry, Joel & Glenda Austin, Brett Baker, Dawn Baker, Barbara Barnawell, Jerry Barnett, Patty H. Beutler, Joe Billesbach, James Blake, Heidi Harsin – Body Innovations, A.C.Emler & B.H.Bornstein, Pam Boyle, Carol Brozek, Sydney Brown, Todd & Jeannine Bryant, Brian Catlin, Pat Clare, Jody Cook, Don DeMars, Erin Dempsey, Mindy Diller, Doug Dittman, Robert Duncan, John Eggers, Mark & Barbara Engler, Kevin Fitzgerald, Lynne Fritz, Jeanne Garvin, Jane Goertzen, Charles & Carolyn Gregorius, Kyle & Tracy Haefele, Ted Hamann, Alica Helmink, Veryl Herr, Scott & Sarah Holmes, Margaret Jacobs, Lisa Janssen, Randy Kinney, M.Kujath, Shirley Laflin, Deb Larson, Roger Lempke, Fran Loftis, Christopher Marks, Edith Matteson & Esa Jarvis, Bryce & Samantha McBride, Chad McNeese, Kenneth Miller, Sharon Mohatt, Debra Morgan, Chris Nielsen, Dale & Sherri Neilsen, Ardeen Ott, Joe Perez, Jesse Petersen, Helen Raikes, Shelby Robinson, Daniel Schachtman, Joel Schlautman, Ronald Schwab, Tim & Geri Shipley, Paint Yourself Silly, Russ Smith, Steve Russell, Tina Rohrs, Susan Scott, Joseph Stefkovich, Cliff Trehearn, Robert & Sandra Tuma, Scott Wieskamp, Richard White, Donna Williams, & Joel Zuerlein.

Thank you to renewing members and support from:

Lee & Janet Anderbery, David & Kathy Anderson, Rod & Marlee Anderson, Wade Anderson, Catherine Angle Dave Armknecht, Derek Augustine, Kevin Bachman, Ardith Barber, Jim Barger, Byron & Elaine Barner, Mary Barry, Monica Beck, Pam & Mike, Bjerrum, Maxine Bishop, Raymond Bloomquist, Phil & Barb Bohaty, Bob & Lynette Boyce, Jane & Gene Boilesen, A. John Boye, Pat Bracken, Mark Brohman, Don & Trudy Burge, Larry & Ruth Cada, Chris Calkins, Jim & Liz Carney, James & Rosalind Carr, Ron & Karen Case, Christi & Doc Chaves, Tom & Mary Jo Cherry, Parks Coble, Alex Cohoon, Kath & Mike Conroy, Ed & Mary Copple, Karin Coulter, Ray Coulter, James & Valerie Crook,, Jenny & Joe Dauer, Barbara Day, Joan & Kirk Dietrich, Gerald & Kit Dimon, Alice M. Dittman, Opal Doerr, Milda Vaitkus & Mike Dosskey, Richard Draper, Sarah Gauger & Charles Duerschner, Steven & Charlene Dunbar, Theodore Durant, Al & Vicki Eastman, Jane Edwards, Judy Eicher, Tim Einspahr, Marty & John Eiseheid, Chuck & Mary Ann Erickson, Mick & Jeri Eschenbrenner, Gene & Colleen Eubanks, Linda Faris, Robert & Susan Ferguson, Deb & Dean Fisher Bruce & Lisa Forbes, , Barb & Ted Fraser, Barb & Chuck Francis, James & Sandra Gallentine Sue & Scott Gardner, , Ray Gebhard, Ben Genuchi, Joyce Gleason, Mike & Marie Gloor, Mark & Nanette Gokie, Ron & Connie Gormley, Dennis & Hayley Grobost, Steve & Nancy Green, Christine Grosh & David Pitts, Marynelle Greene & Ned Sharp, Pat Hackley, Karen & Mark Hakenkamp, Doyle Haney, Chad Hanthorn, Elly Hardekopof, Klaus Hartmann, Jim Hawkins, Garland Headrick, Nancy Heiser,

Kay Hesse, Richard Hekl, Craig & Jean Hellweg, Phyllis & Gary Hergenrader, Terry Hiatt, Dennis & Rosemary Hicks, Gary Hill, Brian & Gail Hinkley, Roger Hirsch, Doug Holle, Holly Holle, Dan & Mary Howell, Rose Holz & Eric Buhs, Michael Hopkins, Phil & Ann Hovis, Eric Hunt, Sarah Janiak Todd & Nancy Jarchow, Wayne & Judy Jensen, Glenn & Elaine Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Sheri Johnson, Con & Barbara Keating, Todd & Heidi Kellerman, Mary & Chris Kingery, Kirk & Jo Kinberg, Randy Kinney, Don Knop, Lynn & Marcia Knuth, Dan Kounovsky, Steve & Diane Kraus, Jim Krieger, Cindy Kugler, Ted & Mary LaGrange, Phyllis Larsen, Susan Leach, Lynn Lightner, Max & Pat Linder, Pamela Lionberger, Mary Jo Livingston, Nancy Loftis, Steve Loftis, Cindy Loope, Pat Lorenze, Kylie Lowe, Lower Platte North NRD, Bill & Susan Macy, Galen Madsen, Chris & Erin Masada, Jay Marshall, Kent & Shelley Mattson, Eric Matty, Ed May, David & Jan McChesney, Robert McCollough, Steve Miers, Jon & Carol Morgenson, Glen Moss & Nancy Sutton -Moss, Jim Muggy, Robert & Phyllis Narveson, James Nau, Joe Nigro, Howard & Marla Nissen, William Noel, Chuck & Pilar O'Connor, Jim & Gail O'Hanlon, Rich & Barb Ollenburg, David Palm, Brande & Greg Payne, Jim & Denise Petr, Rich Peters, Cary & Lisa Peterson, Todd Pfeil, Dick & Jody Pitsch, Rose Quackenbush, & Ann Quinlan, Mike & Peggy Rasmussen, Robert & Donna Rau, Robert & Lisa Rauner, Fred & Margaret Rickers, Jeff & Kathy Richner, Ann Ringlein, Steve Robb, Bruce Robins & Gary Kreick, Sandra Roche, Linda Roos, Greg Rossenboom, Terry R. Rush, Richard Russer II, Larry Ruth, Alisa & Bruce Sandahl, Cathy & Chris Sayre, Jim Schaffer, Tim & Barb Schepers, Rosina Paolini & Karl Schlitt, Marge & Dan Schlitt, Milt & Linda Schmidt, Ginny Schnabel & Mike Thew, David & Rhonda Schoenmaker, Barbara & Steve Seglin, Rebecca & Sharad Seth, Tim & Julie Shaw, Jim E. Shonka, Scott & Marla Shaw, Robert & Betsy Shipley, LeRoy Sievers & Joyce Furry-Sievers, Bert & Karlene Smith, Paul Smith, Kris Sonderup, Robert & Nancy Sorensen, Brad & Jackie Southwick, Michael Spadt, Bill & Sandy Spielman, David Spinar & Anne Perlman, Daria Springer, Nancy & Dennis Stara, Faye Stevens, Ray & Karen Stevens, Eleanor Hardin & Jordan Stump, Greg & Margaret Sutton, Ron & Cammy Svoboda, Ray & Katie Taddeucci, Tedde Taege, Denise Terry, Jo Theis, Michelle Thompson, Ralph Thompson, Margene Timm, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Timme, Bob & Karen Truba, Margaret Tyler, Bill & Rose Marie Utley, Vicki Valente, Dave & Sue Van Horn, Jim & Nancy VanKirk, VerJean Vannier, Dennis & Betty Vodehnal, Peggy & Ken Volker, Dennis & Betty Vodehnal, Bob & Marilyn Wagner, Dusty & Stacey Walsh, Jane & Ron Wasserman, Bill & Naomi Wayne, Pamela Whisenhunt, Alan Wickman, Bobbie Kris-Wickham & Kevin Wickman, Mike & Sue Wilkins, Margaret Williams, Mark Butler & Ann Willet, Dayle Williamson, Mark Wilson, Phil & Mary Wolfe, Roy & Carolyn Wolgamott, John & Cyndi Woollam, J.J.Yost, Laurel & Larry Zink.

*Thank you from the 2016 GPTN Board of Directors. Your memberships are crucial to GPTN's efforts.*



Back row (L-R) Brett Baker, Roger Hirsch, Jordan Messerer, Karen Griffin, Chris Heinrich, Corey Godfrey, Jeff Kimble, Kris Sonderup, David Scoby

Middle row (L-R) Ron Case, Parks Coble, Matt Baumeister, Gary Bentrup, Dale Arp, Greg Rosenboom, Steve Dunbar, Bob Torell

Front row (L-R) Elaine Hammer, Marynelle Greene, Dena Noe, Charlene Dunbar, Courtney Jerke, Mary Torell

Not Pictured: David Burd, Ann Ringlein, Damon Hershey, Jamie Warren, Ray Stevens, Jr., Bill Wehrbein, Carolyn Collier, Kent Henning

# 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).

## 2017 LTC Calendar

- 3/25 State Farm (10M/5K/1M)
- 4/8 Tabitha (10K/2M)
- 5/6 Mayor's Run (1M)
- 5/7 Marathon/Half-Marathon
- 6/3 Havelock (10K/3K)
- 7/9 Lincoln Mile
- 7/16 Uplifting Athletes Run (5K/1M)
- 8/5 GSK (5K/1M)
- 9/10 Buffalo (5M)
- 10/22 Capital City (15K/5K/1M)
- 12/3 Holiday Run (5K/1M)

To join the Lincoln Track Club: [www.lincolnrun.org](http://www.lincolnrun.org)



## RUN FOR THE BRIDGES

PRESENTED BY STEWARDS OF WILDERNESS PARK

March 11th Saturday  
8:30 Start Time at 1st and Park Street  
1/2 marathon, 10K, and 1.8mile  
Register at: [getmeregistered.com](http://getmeregistered.com)

.....

All proceeds go to build & replace bridges in Wilderness Park  
The next bridge to be funded is the Sattillo Bridge

For more information go to: [getmeregistered.com](http://getmeregistered.com)

### Sponsored By:









# Lincoln's Bicycle Friendly Application — Building on Bronze

Lincoln was named a League of American Bicyclists (LAB) Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community in 2016. The City was awarded the Bronze level in 2012 and was hoping that recent efforts would bump the City up to the Silver level. But alas, it was not in the cards. Recommendations from the 2012 application suggested the following steps to achieve Silver.

- 1) Increase the on-street bikeway network with good connectivity to the off-street system.
- 2) Implement a bike share program.
- 3) Create an official full time bicycle and pedestrian coordinator position.

Since 2012, the City has made some headway on #1 with the N Street Protected Bikeway and #2 with new bike share program coming this year to Lincoln, which counted in the 2016 application. In regards to #3, the City has taken a more comprehensive approach by having several City staff members in various departments involved with bike/ped activities. This was deemed to be a more effective strategy than a single coordinator position.

However, the League's 2016 recommendations indicate that they do not place as much value on this collaborative approach. Undeterred, the City, GPTN, and it's many partners are looking forward to building on this report and working together to move Lincoln to the next level.



**BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY**  
Fall 2016  
THE LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS

## LINCOLN, NE

TOTAL POPULATION	POPULATION DENSITY	# OF LOCAL BICYCLE FRIENDLY BUSINESSES	5
277348	3005.8	# OF LOCAL BICYCLE FRIENDLY UNIVERSITIES	1
TOTAL AREA (sq miles)			
92.3			

### TO BUILDING BLOCKS OF A BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

	Average Silver	Lincoln
High Speed Roads with Bike Facilities	47%	11%
Total Bicycle Network Mileage to Total Road Network Mileage	51%	13%
Bicycle Education in Schools	GOOD	GOOD
Share of Transportation Budget Spent on Bicycling	14%	3%
Bike Month and Bike to Work Events	VERY GOOD	EXCELLENT
Active Bicycle Advocacy Group	YES	YES
Active Bicycle Advisory Committee	MEETS EVERY TWO MONTHS	MEETS AT LEAST MONTHLY
Bicycle-Friendly Laws & Ordinances	AVERAGE	ACCEPTABLE
Bike Plan is Current and is Being Implemented	YES	YES
Bike Program Staff to Population	1 PER 89K	1 PER 92 K

### CATEGORY SCORES

<b>ENGINEERING</b> <i>Bicycle network and connectivity</i>	5/10
<b>EDUCATION</b> <i>Motorist awareness and bicycling skills</i>	5/10
<b>ENCOURAGEMENT</b> <i>Mainstreaming bicycling culture</i>	7/10
<b>ENFORCEMENT</b> <i>Promoting safety and protecting bicyclists' rights</i>	3/10
<b>EVALUATION &amp; PLANNING</b> <i>Setting targets and having a plan</i>	4/10

### KEY OUTCOMES

	Average Silver	Lincoln
<b>RIDERSHIP</b> <i>Percentage of Commuters who bike</i>	2.8%	1.7%
<b>SAFETY MEASURES CRASHES</b> <i>Crashes per 10k bicycle commuters</i>	498	631
<b>SAFETY MEASURES FATALITIES</b> <i>Fatalities per 10k bicycle commuters</i>	8	0

## 2017 NEW GPTN BOARD MEMBERS



**Shelby Robinson**

My name is Shelby and I'm a runner who would rather be out on the winding trails of Wilderness Park than on the car-filled streets of Lincoln. I'm from North Platte and attended Wesleyan many moons ago. I served 2.5 years in the Peace Corps in Moldova as a health education and life skills teacher in a local school. While in grad school in San Diego, I began working for

Road Runner Sports as a store leader and then as their corporate trainer. While that job was really fun and living in San Diego was pretty glorious, I realized I really did miss The Good Life—seasons, good people, lower cost of living and friends and family. In August of last year I jumped ship at RRS and took a job with a small software company named Pen-Link where I work as their senior trainer in charge of curriculum and content development. My current joy of running comes from captaining Ragnar Relay teams—getting a group of equally-loco friends together to run 200-ish miles in different parts of the country. And because Lincoln's trail system is so stellar, I've started dabbling in cycling and did the first day of RAGBRI last year. I'm honored and excited to be part of an organization that helps make Lincoln one of the healthiest cities in the country!



**John Paul "J.P." Jamison**

J.P. lives in Lincoln, Nebraska with his spouse, Nelle (Woods) Jamison and their two children. J.P. is an outdoor enthusiast who takes full advantage of the Lincoln trails system, riding his cross-bike on the paved and limestone trails, and his mountain bike through Wilderness Park. J.P. enjoys traveling with his family,

visiting the National Parks throughout the U.S., and with friends on biking and skiing adventures. J.P. is a retired pilot, who enjoys restoring automobiles and working on his bikes. He is looking forward to serving on the GPTN board to help grow the great trails network in the Lincoln area.



**Kevin Fitzgerald**

Kevin is the creative director for Carson+Co Global, a marketing and communications firm focusing on sustainability. Kevin brings more than a decade of graphic design experience building distinctive brand visuals, creative processes, and marketing campaigns for nonprofit and commercial organizations. A Lincoln native, he grew up riding the trails for both fun and travel to work and school. That habit continued on to his time as art director for Thought District (now Agent), through which he designed GPTN's first edition fold-out trails map to coincide with the opening of the Jayne Snyder Trails Center. Kevin has volunteered for environmental groups both local (Lincoln Green by Design), and in Portland, Oregon (350 PDX, Oregon Climate). After living five years in the proud biking mecca, Kevin, his wife Sarah, and their son Rowan returned to Lincoln in 2016, where they thoroughly enjoy Lincoln's fine parks and trails.



**Jesse Peterson**

Jesse is a family man, cyclist and graphic designer, — in that order. When he's not pedaling he enjoys cheering for his wife at Lincoln Track Club events. Jesse's passion for riding bikes has steered him toward designing, building and maintaining off-road trails. As Nebraska's former State Rep. for IMBA (International Mountain Bike Assoc.) he volunteered as area trail leader for local trail group THOR (Trails Have Our Respect). Jesse has worked with race directors, grant applications, and land managers — organizing volunteer groups making designs on paper into a reality. Jesse has utilized the network of trails in and around Lincoln for the past 27 years. He hopes to preserve and promote these community resources for future generations of trail users.

### Sustainable, Responsible, & Impact Investing



**Tyler Mainquist, CAP®, CLTC®**  
Central Financial Services  
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Lincoln, NE 68516  
402-423-4022  
tmainquist@aicinvest.com

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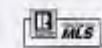
## BICYCLING LINCOLN™

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



### The Canine Scrub

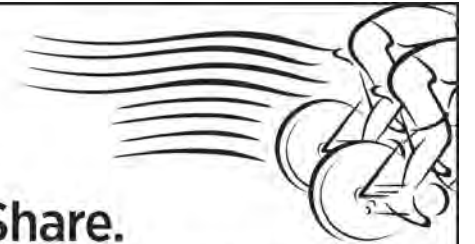


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4130 S. 48th St  
Lincoln, NE 68502  
(402) 477-2782



[www.TheCanineScrub.com](http://www.TheCanineScrub.com) email@TheCanineScrub.com

**HOURS:**  
Monday - Friday 10 AM - 6 PM  
Saturday: 10 AM - 5 PM  
Sunday: 12 PM - 5 PM



## 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](http://greatplainsbikeclub.org).



The Nebraska Bicycling Alliance is a nonprofit corporation primarily supported by public donations, memberships and grants. Our mission is to promote health and safety for all who ride bicycles in Nebraska.

The vision of the Nebraska Bicycling Alliance does not compete with existing clubs or organized bicycling groups, but rather enhances and supports all of these groups, bike shops, health and safety groups, city planners, policy makers and NDOR. We plan to promote bicycling in Nebraska when needed at the State and local levels in any way we can with project design, seeking federal funding, promoting safe routes for kids, and public education.

Learn more at: <http://www.nebike.org/>

## EVENT CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

26 — GPTN Annual Meeting (see front cover for more info)

### MARCH

11 — Run for the Bridges (see advertisement in newsletter)

23-24 — Nebraska Bike/Walk Summit (see adjacent column)

### MAY

1 — National Bike Challenge Begins

11 — Tour de Lincoln (more information in next newsletter)

15-19 — National Bike to Work Week

18 — Tour de Lincoln

18 — Give to Lincoln Day

25 — Tour de Lincoln

### JUNE

1 — Tour de Lincoln

25 — Annual Trail Trek

### AUGUST

21 — Total Solar Eclipse



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LINCOLN'S AUTHENTIC  
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TWO BLOCKS NORTH OF O STREET ON 21ST, JUST EAST OF UNL CIVIL CAMPUS

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The first Nebraska Bike/Walk Summit will be held March 23 – 24, 2017 at the Embassy Suites Lincoln. This event, sponsored by the Nebraska Bicycling Alliance, in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Walkable Communities project and S & G Endeavors, is the beginning of our journey to bring biking and walking advocates and professionals together each year to learn, network and plan.

Participants will have the chance to hear from dynamic speakers, learn about what others are doing around the state and region, and receive skills training needed as we work to enhance the Good Life in Nebraska through biking and walking. Fun social gatherings also will provide time to network with others and enjoy time in Lincoln..

**Keynote Speaker: Chuck Mahron, Strong Towns**  
Chuck is the author of *Thoughts on Building Strong Towns* (Volume 1) and *A World Class Transportation System*.

**Plenary Speakers: The Topeka Story**  
Since 2011, our neighbors to the south in Topeka, KS have strategically and systematically transformed their city into a bicycle friendly community. Hear their story from the perspective of the Public Works director, city planner, city council member, and the consultant that helped shaped the present and future.

Breakout session topics will include:

- Analysis of state bike/ped crash data
- Bicycle tourism
- Worksite wellness success stories
- Trail development
- Bike sharing
- Walkable Communities initiative update
- Safe Routes to School

To find out more and to get registered, check out:  
<https://www.nebikewalksummit.org/>



The Nebraska Bicycling Alliance has received approval to begin selling these organizational license plates in Nebraska. They have to pre-sell (and collect the funds for) 250 plates before they will be created and distributed. Check out the Nebraska Bicycling website for all of the details.

<http://www.nebike.org/>

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

When this newsletter went to the printer, no proposed bills have been introduced to the Nebraska Unicameral that directly affect trail development or trail users. However, there are a couple of bills that might be of interest to GPTN members. GPTN has not taken a stand on either of these bills.

LB 339 was introduced by Transportation and Telecommunications chair Curt Friesen, on behalf of Governor Ricketts. This bill would "... merge the Department of Aeronautics into the Department of Roads; to create the Division of Aeronautics; to rename the Department of Roads as the Department of Transportation..." Nebraska is the only state with a Roads Department instead of a Transportation Department.

LB 471 was introduced by Senator Rick Kolowski. The intent of the bill is "to provide for the enforcement of the prohibition against using a handheld wireless communication device as a primary action; and to repeal the original section." In other words, this bill would change texting while driving from a secondary offense to a primary offense.

## AUG 21 –TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

Mark your calendar for August 21, 2017! That is when the U.S. will be experiencing a total solar eclipse and Nebraska happens to be one of the best places in the country to watch it. A particularly good location will along the Jamaica and Homestead Trails. GPTN and others will be organizing an eclipse watching party on the trails. Stay tune for more information on this once in a lifetime event. More information on the 2017 total solar eclipse can be found at: [http://www.eclipse2017.org/2017/path\\_through\\_the\\_US.htm](http://www.eclipse2017.org/2017/path_through_the_US.htm)

## AMERICAN DISCOVERY TRAIL AWARD TO FORTENBERRY AIDE

The American Discovery Trail Society presented its highest award to Alan Feyerherm for his work for legislation to add the American Discovery Trail to the National Trails System. Feyerherm is deputy chief of staff and legislative director for Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-Neb.), who has been a consistent sponsor of the National Discovery Trails Act.

It was the support from Rep. Fortenberry and his predecessor, Doug Bereuter, that brought the American Discovery Trail to Nebraska—and so each year the trail brings increasing numbers of travelers and tourists to enjoy the natural beauty and historic sites of the state.

The nation's only coast-to-coast trail, the American Discovery Trail is unique among long-distance trails—it passes through not only pristine wilderness but also communities and cities. It links together a patchwork of towns and parks and makes local trails like Nebraska's MoPac East, Oak Creek, and Johnson Lake trails part of a nationwide network.

"Alan Feyerherm has worked for years to raise the profile of the American Discovery Trail and bring its benefits to the people of Nebraska as well as all Americans," said Eric Seaborg, president of the American Discovery Trail Society. "This kind of support has been indispensable to the success of the trail."

The American Discovery Trail enters the state from the east on the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge and follows the footsteps of pioneers through the state. It connects sites from Ash Hollow State Park to Fort Kearny State Historical Park and roughly follows the routes of several historic trails.

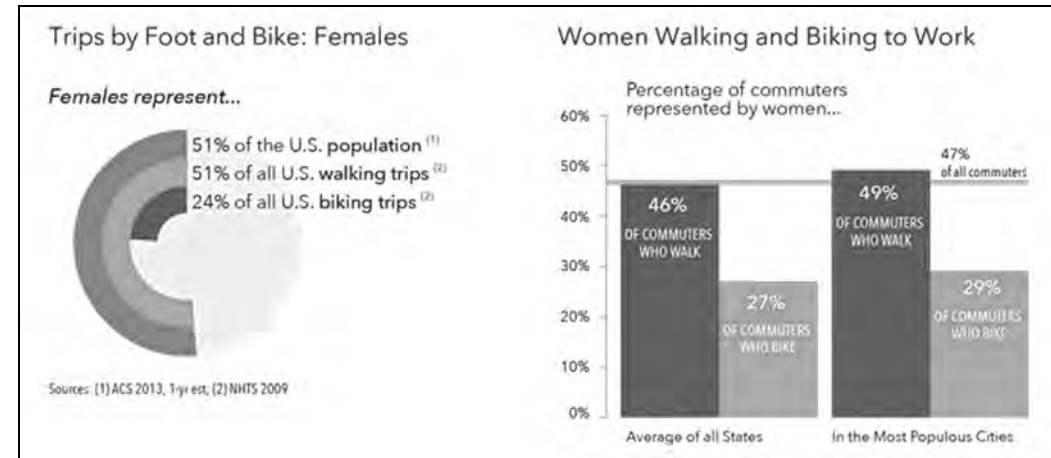
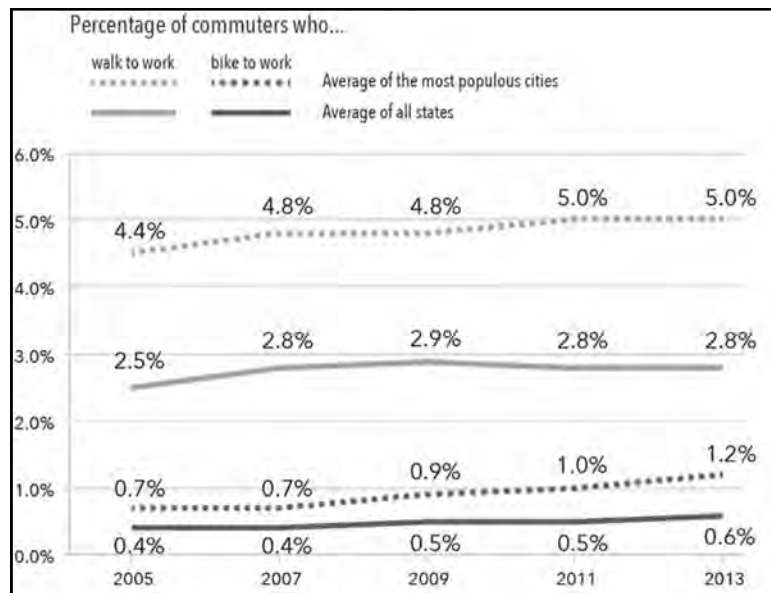
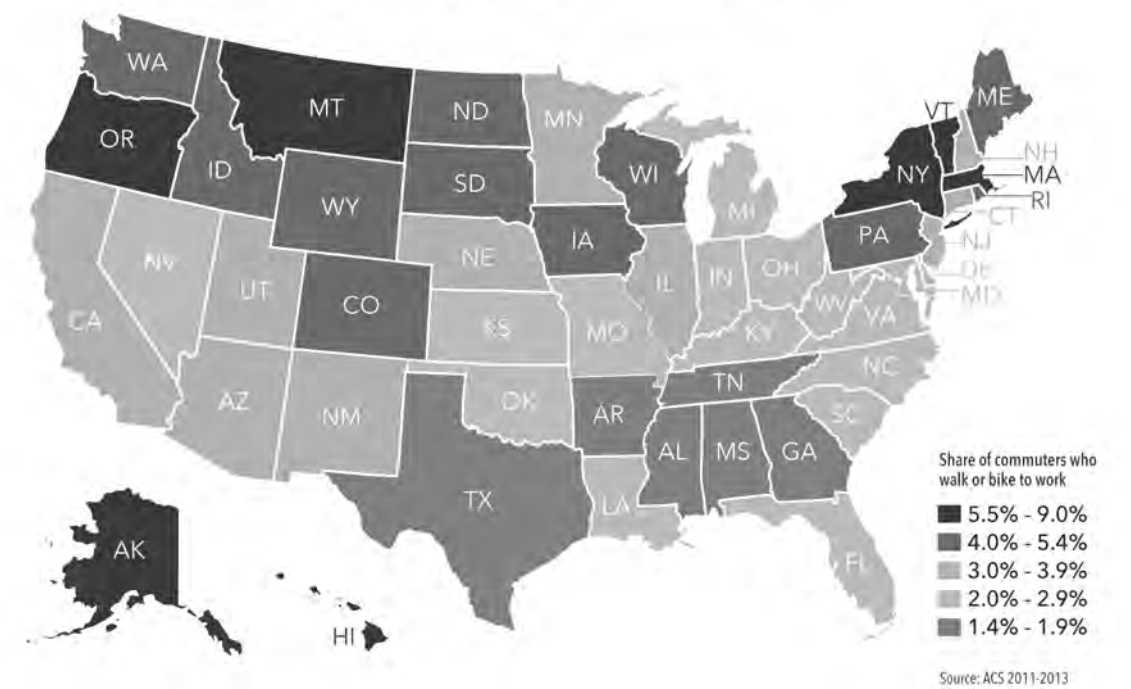


Alan Feyerherm receives American Discovery Trail Society's Happifoot Award at Capitol Hill ceremony. From left to right: Neb. Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, ADTS Coordinator Elizabeth Lyttleton, ADTS President Eric Seaborg, Alan Feyerherm, and ADTS Legislative Liaison Peter Schoettle.

# Bicycling and Walking in the United States: 2016 Benchmarking Report

The Alliance for Biking & Walking creates, strengthens, and unites state and local bicycling and walking advocacy organizations. In conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Healthy Community Design Initiative, the Alliance publishes the biennial Benchmarking Report to collect and analyze data on bicycling and walking in all 50 states, the 52 largest U.S. cities, and a select number of mid-sized cities. The Report combines original research with over 20 government data sources to compile data on bicycling and walking levels and demographics, safety, funding, policies, infrastructure, education, public health indicators, and economic impacts. It's an essential go-to resource for public officials, advocates, decision makers, and researchers. Here are a few highlights from this informative report which is available for free at <http://www.bikewalkalliance.org/index.php>

Levels of Bicycling and Walking to Work in the United States



## Gender and Commuting

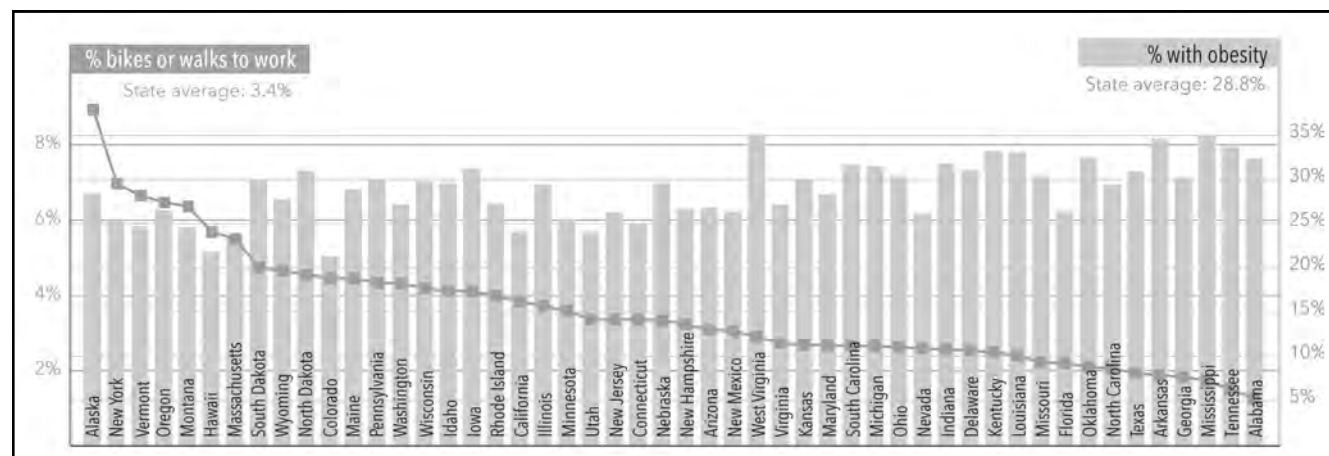
Women walk to work in relatively equal proportion to their percentage of all commuters. In fact, in the 50 most-populous cities women are slightly overrepresented, with females making up 49% of walking commuter and only 47% of overall commuters. That trend doesn't hold for bicycling. Despite rising advocacy efforts to engage more female riders, even in the most-populous cities, women are vastly outnumbered by men, making up just 29% of commuters who bike.

## Community Size & Mode Share

While biking and walking are seeing a steady increase in mode share nationwide, the most rapid advances are happening in cities—most notably the larger cities. For instance, among the most populous cities, the percentage of commuters walking to work has always been higher than the average across states.

## Health & Active Commuting

While a growing body of research has proven the health benefits of biking and walking, data from the states and cities continues to show a correlation between active transportation and critical health issues.



## Pedestrian Fatalities, by Select Demographics

State	Youth (under age 16)		Seniors (age 65 and older)		People of color or Hispanic/Latino <sup>(1)</sup>	
	Percentage in total population	Percentage of all pedestrian fatalities (2005-2013)	Percentage in total population	Percentage of all pedestrian fatalities (2005-2013)	Percentage in total population	Percentage of all pedestrian fatalities (2005-2013)
Louisiana	8%	22%	8%	13%	94%	40%
Maine	6%	18%	33%	17%	4%	6%
Massachusetts	4%	18%	33%	14%	23%	25%
Michigan	7%	20%	15%	15%	41%	24%
Minnesota	10%	21%	24%	14%	21%	18%
Mississippi	7%	22%	12%	13%	51%	42%
Missouri	8%	21%	14%	15%	28%	19%
Montana	6%	20%	21%	16%	27%	13%
Nebraska	10%	22%	20%	14%	25%	19%
New Hampshire	10%	18%	38%	15%	7%	8%
New Jersey	6%	20%	24%	14%	44%	42%
New Mexico	5%	22%	12%	14%	71%	60%

TABLE KEY: Highlighted cells within the table denote a value that is higher than the percentage in the total population.

SOURCES: FARS 2005-2013 (annual data); ACS 2007, 3-yr est; ACS 2010, 3-yr est; ACS 2013, 3-yr est

## Age and Safety

Like the 2014 report, the 2016 report shows a continued uptick in fatalities for people who walk or bike — and this burden falls disproportionately on low-income, seniors and people of color populations. In 36 states, a higher percentage of seniors are killed while walking than their representation in the general population.

While youth make up 21% of the population, they account for 39% of bike trips — but in 12 states youth are overrepresented among bicyclist fatalities than their representation in the general population. People of color are vastly overrepresented in bicyclist and pedestrian fatalities with 35 states showing higher rates than the general population for walking deaths and 18 states showing higher rates than the general population for bicycling deaths.