

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

For more information, contact: Elaine Hammer, 402-477-0242, or [www.gptn.org](http://www.gptn.org)



# Great Plains Trails Network

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

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# Great Plains Trails Network

Winter 2022

Issue 146



## GPTN Annual Meeting—Feb 19, 2022 By Mary Torell

Please mark your calendars for the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Great Plains Trails Network as we continue *Building New Paths*. Because of the Coronavirus, the meeting will be held **virtually** on Saturday, February 19, 2022 at 1:00 pm CST.

Robert J. Bartja, Park Planner for Lincoln Parks and Recreation, will give a comprehensive report on work completed on the trails, work in progress, and what trail items are on the horizon in the near future. Following the presentations, GPTN's annual awards and election of the 2022 Board of Directors will take place.

Lincoln's trails system consists of 134 miles of paved trails, which connect to rural routes that add another 100 miles

between northern Kansas and the Omaha area. And additional miles of dirt and mowed trails in wilderness and natural areas.

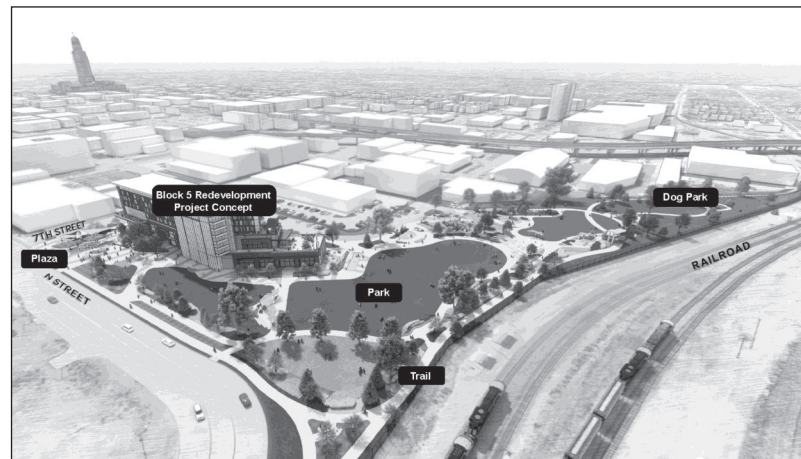
You are invited to a Zoom meeting. Register in advance for this meeting at: <https://tinyurl.com/ysxsfmts>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

For more information about the annual meeting, or the Great Plains Trails Network, contact Jim Krieger, President of GPTN at 402-840-5398 or visit our website at [www.gptn.org](http://www.gptn.org).

### Chris Beutler Trail

In the future South Haymarket Park, the Chris Beutler Trail will connect the N Street Protected Bikeway to the Jamaica North Trail at J Street. Estimated cost for the trail and easements is \$275,000. GPTN in partnership with NTF is raising funds to support this critical trail connection. Please consider donating to this exciting project. Thanks!



### Make contributions payable to: Nebraska Trails Foundation

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

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

## Building New Paths



Image by Cara Bentrup

### 2022 Proposed GPTN Board

Marybell Avery	Eli Frank	Jesse Petersen
Gary Bentrup	Corey Godfrey	Ann Ringlein
Noel Briseno	Jamie Granquist	Roy Rivera
Dwight Brown	Marynelle Greene	Shelby Robinson
Kyle Clouston	Rachelle Hadley	Greg Rosenboom
Mindy Diller	Elaine Hammer	Ray Stevens
Doug Dittman	Jim Krieger	Denise Teahon
Kerry Eagan	LaDonna Little Elk	Mary Torell
Cathy Ebers	Jordan Messerer	Bill Wehrbein
Sue Ferguson	Dena Noe	Ken Winston



# Great Plains Trails Network

since 1988

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

2022

**PRESIDENT** Jim Krieger  
**VICE PRESIDENT** Jordan Messerer  
**SECRETARY** Bill Wehrbein  
**TREASURER** Sue Ferguson

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marybell Avery	LaDonna Little Elk
Gary Bentrup	Jordan Messerer
Noel Briseno	Jerad Morris
Dwight Brown	Dena Noe
Kyle Clouston	Jesse Petersen
Parks Coble	Ann Ringlein
Doug Dittman	Roy Rivera
Sue Ferguson	Shelby Robinson
Eli Frank	Greg Rosenboom
Corey Godfrey	Ray Stevens
Jamie Granquist	Denise Teahon
Marynelle Greene	Mary Torell
Rachelle Hadley	Jamie Warren
Elaine Hammer	Bill Wehrbein
Jim Krieger	Ken Winston

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**P.O. 82902**  
**LINCOLN NE 68501-2902**  
**WWW.GPTN.ORG**

Newsletter comments, questions, corrections  
gbentrup68@gmail.com



Image by Greg Rosenboom



## A BENEFIT BIKE RIDE FOR LINCOLN'S TRAILS

**SUNDAY - JUNE 26**

SPEEDWAY VILLAGE  
345 SPEEDWAY CIRCLE

**REGISTRATION OPENS FEB 19**

VISIT [GPTN.ORG](http://GPTN.ORG)  
FOR DETAILS

## GPTN NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

November 1, 2021 - January 9, 2022

### Standard \$10

David Atkinson, Mary Barry, Lori Blum, Bob Boyce, Jim & Barb Green, Garland Headrick, Jim Krieger, Lois Kriger, Ruthann Nahorny, Jim Peter, Frederick Rickers, Sandra Roche, John Slieter, Tedde Taege, Denise Teahon, Bob & Karen Truko, Loren Warren

### Associate \$20

Carol & Erik Anderson, Lisa Anderson, Thomas Armstrong, Charles Bacon, Chris Baum, Jane & Gene Boilesen, Larry Bond, Mindy Diller, Mike Dosskey & Milda Vaitkus, Sheri Downey, Richard Draper, Mick & Jeri Eschenbrenner, Barb & Ted Fraser, Robin Goracke, Michael Hopkins, Steven Jones, Edith Matteson, Kent Mattson, Debra K. Morgan, Jered Morris, Jim Muggy, William J. Noel, David Oseka, Gregory & Brande Payne, Jesse Petersen, Curtis Schneider, Daniel Smith, Mary Smith, Kathy Spahr, Bill Swearingen, Dennis & Betty Vodehnal, Kenneth & Peggy Volker, Douglas Willman

### Trail Sustainer \$50

Lincoln Arneal, Jim Barger, Neil & Jo Bateman, Monica Beck, Kathryn Campbell, Jolleen Clymer, Parks Coble, Barbara DiBernard, Gerald B. & Kit Dimon, Andrea & Jason Faas, Dennis & Hayley Grabast, Jamie Granquist, Tom &

### Trail Patron \$100

Don Alvord, Byron Barner, Rick Becker, Eric Buhs, Doug & Mary Campbell, Sean Carmichael, David Dinsmore, Steve & Charlene Dunbar, Mark & Nanette Gokie, Jim Hawkins, Chris Heinrich, Tom King, Lynn & Marcia Knuth, Nancy Loftis, Mike Malloy, Robert & Kay Marshall, Bob Michaud, Katherine Putensen, David & Martha Rowe, Rick & Penny Urwiler

### Trail Benefactor \$250

Lynette Exum, Sue Ferguson, Joanne Gross, Ken Gross, Jeff & Amy Handeland, Brian & Gail Hinkley, Patti Lintel, Bill & Susan Macy



Image by Greg Rosenboom

**Thank You!**



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## 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 <http://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.

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).



## Lancaster Composite Mountain Bike Team *by Jesse Poore*



A Lancaster Composite Mountain Bike Team pre-season ride at Pioneers Park in 2021 led to winning the Nebraska State Championship. Preregistration for 2022 is open now for students in grades 6-12 this Fall.

The Lancaster Composite Mountain Bike Team is rolling into year three under the Nebraska Interscholastic Cycling League (NICL). We're the coed team of 6th-12th grade students from Lancaster County. In 2021 we had 19 student athletes from Lincoln Public Schools, Malcolm, Raymond, Waverly, Norris and home schools focused on riding trails, racing, and having fun. Interest in the team is growing and we had 24 adults attend our coach information meeting in early February. Now we're asking our friends with GPTN to help send more athletes our way!

Team pre-registration is free and open now through the front page link on our website [www.LancasterMTB.com](http://www.LancasterMTB.com) to let us know you're interested. NICL registration follows with six pre-season activities running April-May. These are low stress, inclusive rides in parks and trails around town. Anyone curious about the team is welcome to participate in one activity prior to registering. Bring a bike with 26" or larger tires and your helmet.

The season revs up July 1 and runs 18 weeks through early November. There are no try outs and no bench. Everyone rides for the team. We hold weekly practices that mix mountain bike skill development, games, and training rides. All ability levels are welcome from new riders to seasoned

racers. Some teammates are focused on racing, but everyone is focused on building up community and having fun on bikes.

Four race weekends occur in late August through October at local and regional trails. Racing is optional, but encouraged. These weekends give us an opportunity to ride new trails, meet other teams, and push ourselves to achieve individual goals that may include finishing one lap without putting a foot down, clearing a rock garden, setting a new personal record, or bringing home a State Championship. In 2021, our teammates accomplished all of these monumental goals.

When we aren't riding, our teammates also help maintain natural surface trails, volunteer at community bike events, build bikes to give away, and participate in many other fall sports and activities. We'd sure love your support, to have a couple more local sponsorships, and to grow our team into solid spoke of the Lincoln area bicycle network. Schools interested in establishing a bike club can expand beyond Lancaster Composite to encourage more biking to school, promote environmentally sustainable transportation, and more recreational opportunities. Our team email address [LancasterMTB@gmail.com](mailto:LancasterMTB@gmail.com) and Facebook [@LancasterMTB](https://www.facebook.com/LancasterMTB) are the best ways to contact us for more information.

Regards, Coaches Jesse, Yun, and Whitney

**RICH RODENBURG**  
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[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

**BIKE WALK NEBRASKA**

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

Become a member at:

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

## The Journey Begins Again - Lincoln Trail-a-Thon 2022 By Dena Noe

The trails are open and ready for all of you to take on Lincoln Trail-A-Thon challenge 2022. We are again inviting everyone to complete all 78 miles of trails in Lincoln either running, biking or walking. We mixed up the route orders this year to try to help with seasonal trail conditions, but remember you can finish the routes in any order you wish. New this year is a scavenger hunt on the trails each month. An opportunity to have a little fun trying to solve the clues. As you complete each route, you'll record your progress and receive a locally designed magnet. The magnets are designed to be displayed together forming a map of the trails system.

This fun challenge was started to inspire individuals to be healthier by getting outdoors to enjoy the amazing trails system in Lincoln. But even more, it is to GIVE back, EXPLORE new trails and CONQUER a common goal. While Trail-A-Thon is a self-directed, family friendly event, once you complete all 78 miles you will feel like you have conquered the challenge, and you won't be alone. We will do it together. All proceeds go to building trails in Lincoln. Please consider registering today.

Register: [www.gptn.org/lincolntrailathon](http://www.gptn.org/lincolntrailathon)

Cost: \$25 (19+) | \$10 (6 – 18)

Thanks to our sponsors!

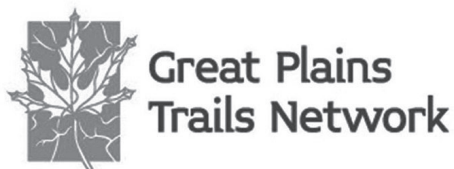


Image by Greg Rosenboom

## 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).

2022 LTC Calendar

Check LTC Website for Current Status



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




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### Support Lincoln Trails

By donating to the Nebraska Trails Foundation through the:



**Community Services Fund of Nebraska**

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

## Event Calendar

### FEBRUARY

19 — GPTN Annual Meeting

### MARCH

12 — Wilderness Park Run for the Bridges

### MAY

5 — Southeast Tour de Lincoln – 15 miles

12 — Northeast Tour de Lincoln – 16 miles

19 — Southwest Tour de Lincoln – 14 miles

26 — Northwest Tour de Lincoln – 12 miles

### JUNE

26 — Trail Trek

## 11TH ANNUAL RUN FOR THE BRIDGES



Saturday | March 12th, 2022 | Packet Pick Up at CycleWorks  
Wilderness Park South | Friday | March 11th, 2022  
(14th Street Trailhead) | 4 – 6pm

Staggered Start Time: 9:30am  
Register@getmeregistered.com



## Trail Updates

**South Beltway construction and utility relocation:** The Jamaica North Trail will remain open during construction, but temporary and periodic closures will be required in the area one-half mile south of Saltillo Road. This is a multi-year project.

**Beal Slough Trail from 56th to 70th St:** Design work continues on the Beal Slough Trail and construction should begin in 2022.

### CAN YOU CATCH THIS GUY?

Wouldn't it be fun to try?

**Homestead Trail**  
**Oak Creek Trail**  
**MoPac East Trail**



**LOWER PLATTE SOUTH**  
natural resources district  
[www.lpsnrd.org](http://www.lpsnrd.org)



## LancasterMTB.com

Interscholastic Mountain Biking  
Girls and Boys Grades 6-12

### Preregistration open now!



**LANCASTER  
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Preseason Activities:  
April-June

Practice Season:  
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Four Race Weekends

Inclusive Community  
No Tryouts  
No Bench  
All Skill Levels




[LancasterMTB@gmail.com](mailto:LancasterMTB@gmail.com)  
fb @LancasterMTB

## Tour de Lincoln By Mary Torell

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

For the past 17 years, GPTN has sponsored Thursday evening bike rides designed to take participants to different quadrants of Lincoln. GPTN plans to host the rides with safety precautions in place due to the Coronavirus. All rides start and end at the Jayne Snyder Trails Center at 228 North 21 Street (21st & Q Streets) Union Plaza Park, beginning at 6:00 pm. This year's bike rides are scheduled each Thursday in May as follows:

May 5 – Southeast Tour de Lincoln – 15 miles

May 12 – Northeast Tour de Lincoln – 16 miles

May 19 – Southwest Tour de Lincoln – 14 miles

May 26 – Northwest Tour de Lincoln – 12 miles

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 16 miles each, and are designed to acquaint cyclists with different trails, conditions and features. Refreshments will be available before the start. People of all ages and families are invited to come

out and enjoy the rides. Lots of positive comments have been made by riders on 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.

“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 continues to grow, 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 have fun”!

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 <http://www.gptn.org/>. Let's all get out and ride!



Image by Greg Rosenboom

## Tuxedo Cats in the Window on MoPac By Cara Bentrup

We walk around the same time most mornings; those folks I regularly see, we greet one another in the camaraderie of solitude. Off on our respective, individual paths towards whatever happens to be that unitedly brings us to these sidewalks. Most of the time I do not know their names. Sometimes we nod. Other moments a brief weather-themed conversation transpires quickly in passing. Of course, there are new quiet acquaintances in the mix; not to mention those warmer days of winter when many stagger out of their house to enjoy a rare afternoon of warm sunshine on a weekend.



As I continue to grow up with Lincoln's trails, I have come to appreciate their steadfastness. Their ability to give me a privacy that I crave, while at the same time filling a void of loneliness and separation. Quiet moments with my thoughts, flitting by thoughts of a passerby. I suspect some of them are thematically similar. Curiosity that I might see Lola, a long-haired gray and white cat I retrieved from a tree early last summer. She scampered quickly with thankfulness back to her home across from where I found her. The two tuxedo cats in a basement window along MoPac; they are often watching birds that forage around pine trees nearby. My favorite spring and summer bird feeder; soon I will see those bright orange Baltimore orioles coming back to visit for our warmer months.

Community is all around, right ahead, and even behind us in that moment we snap our bike cleats, lace up our sneakers, grab the dog leash or load up the stroller, nurturing ourselves as a ubiquitous collective, despite continued unknowns and isolation. Gathering via nature and movement; seeking out familiar faces. Familiar places. Constant. Reliable. A comfort knowing that we are all in this together; each one of us adventuring to the breath of fresh air, tree-lined oases, and other peoples' pets (because if you know me, you know me). I could not fathom such a treasured asset as this one.

What or who do you look for on your favorite trail?

## Legislative Update

Senator Robert Hilke has introduced LB 981 which will revive the Trail Development Assistance Act and make a one time transfer of \$15 million to the fund to be used for maintenance of rail-trails in Nebraska. If passed, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission could draw down up to \$750K per year to maintain the Cowboy Trail and future rail-trails under their purview. The fund would be solvent until approximately 2048.

Senator Hilke has also introduced LB 813 to fund trail development and improvement along the designated national rail-trail route through the State of Nebraska

The MoPac Alliance (Bike Walk Nebraska, Nebraska Trails Foundation, Great Plains Trails Network), along with friends Northwest Nebraska Trails Association been working hard on this, and we are grateful to see it move forward! Stay tuned for information on how you can lend your support!

**BikeLNK 2021**

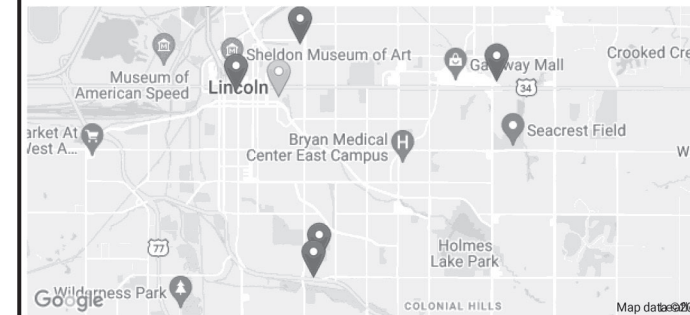
- MEMBERSHIPS SOLD: 4,536
- TRIPS TAKEN: 36,020
- CARBON OFFSET SAVED: 79,168 LBS
- MILES TRAVELED: 83,551
- CALORIES BURNED: 3,315,797
- SMILES PRODUCED: COUNTLESS!!

## Lincoln Trail Usage 2021

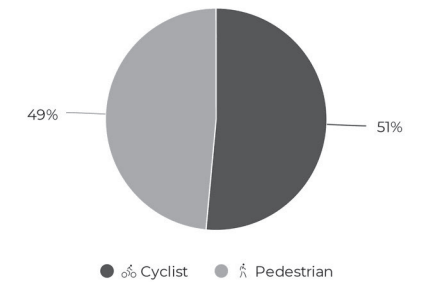
Community Indicators [Go to www.lincoln.ne.gov/Home](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/Home) and search "Trail Counts" for more information

January 1, 2021 → December 31, 2021

### Permanent Counter Locations



### Pedestrian-Bicyclist Share



### Total Activity

Total  
**876,570**

### Average

Daily Average  
**2,402**

### Cyclists

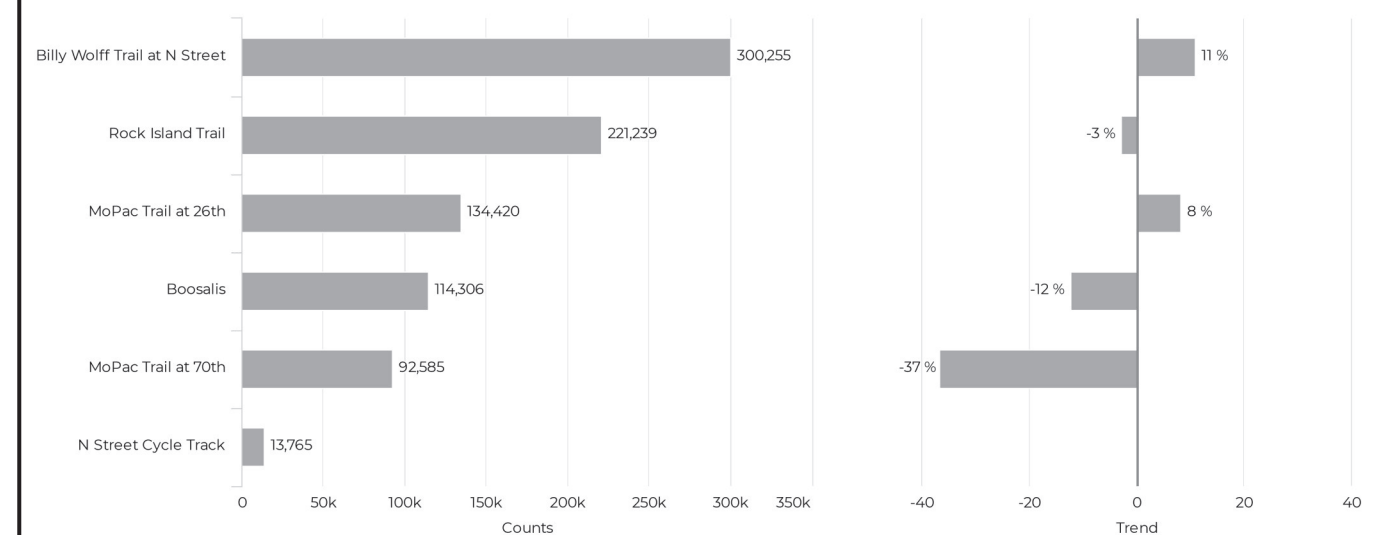
Total  
**447,736**

### Pedestrian

Total  
**422,111**

January 1, 2021 → December 31, 2021

### Annual Trail Use with Percent Change from Previous Year



### Annual Trail Usage by Month

