

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**

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# Great Plains Trails Network

Fall 2015

Issue 121

## Completing the Streets

Many of our members will recall GPTN's efforts to help establish a Complete Streets policy in Lincoln. Complete Streets are streets that include some combination of appropriate infrastructure, as determined by the surrounding context, that accommodate all modes of transportation, including private vehicles, public transportation, walking, and bicycling.

In Fall 2013, Mayor Chris Beutler signed an Executive Order and Administrative Regulation establishing a Complete Streets policy. The goal of this policy is to encourage the design and operation of a transportation system that is safe and convenient for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation through the development of Complete Streets.

Since the policy establishment, a Complete Streets Committee comprised of the various City departments has been meeting monthly to discuss and coordinate projects. The committee identified studies and plans which have been

conducted that could be used to help inform the project review process. Although there are many studies which have been done, it is not clear how all of the different networks (auto, transit, freight, pedestrian and bicycling) are intended to tie together.

To address these shortcomings, the committee prepared a Complete Streets Gap Analysis and Implementation Strategy. The gap analysis is a snapshot of the current transportation network and outlines where gaps in the system are currently located.

In conjunction with developing the written study, an online and interactive map was launched. The map is a tool for the committee's use and is updated as projects are completed, new data becomes available, or new gaps are identified.

The online tool currently looks like the screenshot below. A separate interface for public's use and information will be developed in the future.

*Continued on page 3*

### Finishing N St Bikeway

*Construction of the N St Protected Bikeway is well underway and should be finished in November 2015. GPTN is still raising funds for this exciting project which will link the Jamaica North trail at 4th and J Street with the Antelope Valley Trail.*

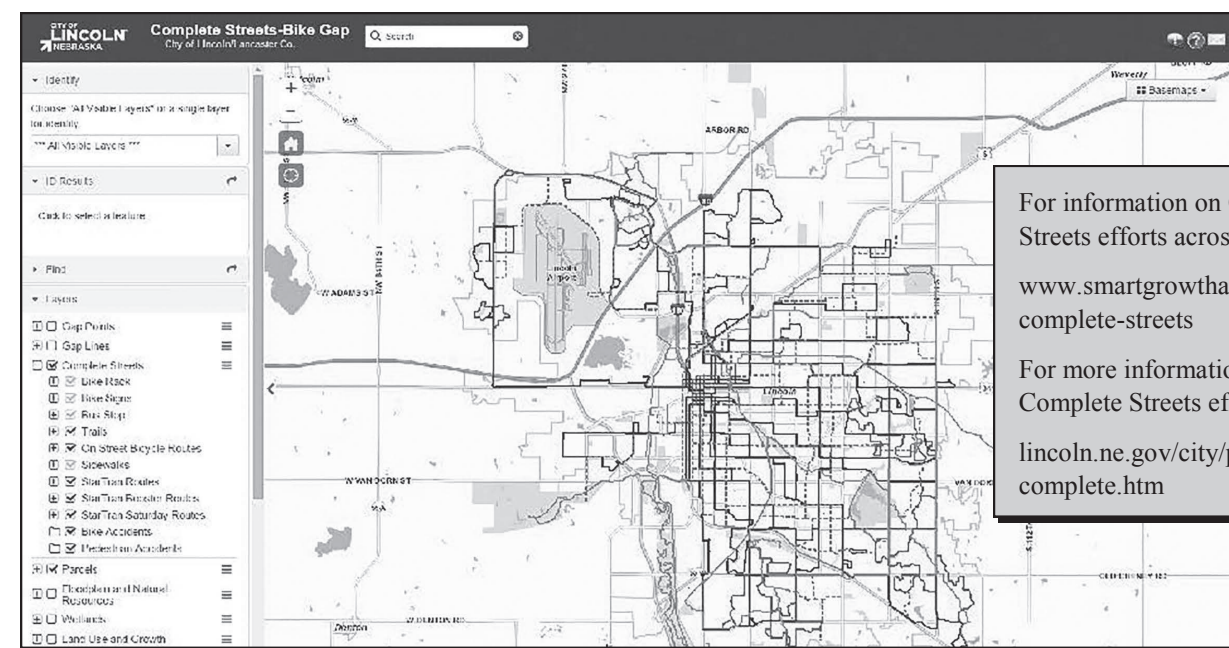
*The connection will offer easy, safe access to downtown businesses and the Haymarket district. Let's continue the Great Places legacy!*



**Make contributions payable to:  
Nebraska Trails Foundation**

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

**Mail to: GPTN  
5000 North 7th St.  
Lincoln, NE 68521**



For information on Complete Streets efforts across the US:  
[www.smartgrowthamerica.org/complete-streets](http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/complete-streets)

For more information on Lincoln's Complete Streets efforts:  
[lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/bike/complete.htm](http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/bike/complete.htm)



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# Great Plains Trails Network

since 1988

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

2015

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE VP



We've had a great summer at the Great Plains Trails Network. Our group volunteered at events such as Peter Pan Park Party, Tour de Lincoln, Trail Trek, Streets Alive, Market 2 Market and Zoofari.

Each of these events took planning and preparation, but most of all volunteers. Along with raising money to help expand the trails in and around Lancaster County we are also out there supporting the Lincoln community. All of this takes people.

We need people to continue our mission. GPTN needs you, the members, to help us grow our membership. Do you have friends that use the trails in Lincoln, but are not members of GPTN?

If so, now is the time to talk to them about the benefits of becoming a member. Here are a few talking points to get you started:

- Membership in GPTN starts at just \$10
- Becoming a member is easy, just sign up online at [gptn.org](http://gptn.org)
- All memberships include quarterly newsletters with calendar of trails events, updates on trails news, and tips for trail users.
- Emails about upcoming events and trail dedications
- Knowing your dues go directly to supporting the trails

The success of GPTN depends on volunteers. The organization is completely volunteer run. It is through the dedication of the GPTN membership that we see success. So far this year we've dedicated the Jamaica North Addition, the Salt Creek Levee trail is complete, construction to fix and improve the Billy Wolff trail has begun, the N Street protected bikeway is in the finishing stages and many more exciting projects are underway all due to the work of GPTN members.

Please take the time to tell-a-friend to join GPTN today!

Dena Noe, GPTN Board Vice President

## GPTN NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

August—October 2015

Welcome to the following new GPTN members. Rod Anderson, Edward Bannister, Brynley DeRiese, Jeff Fassett, Kent Folsom, Ray Gebhard, Todd & Nancy Jarchow, Edith Matteson, Carrol Mickley, Jennifer Sedivy, Richard Westling, Sarah Disbrow & David Wishart.

Thank you to renewing members: Lee Anderbery, Catherine S. Angle, David Atkinson, Derek Augustine, Cathie Bailey & Dave Dinsmore, Dyron Barner, Monica Beck, Gary & Cara Bentrup, Phil & Barb Bohaty, Gene & Jane Boilesen, Judy & Perley Boucher, Dick Boyd, Mark Brohman, Larry & Ruth Cada, Chris Calkins, Kathryn Campbell, Stan Campbell & Marybell Avery, Walt Canney, Ron & Karen Case, Peggy & Eli Chesen, Julie Cole & Brian Sivill, Karin Coulter, Gerald & Karen Dimon, Pete & Christie Dionisopoulos, Dick Cuming, Alice Dittman, Opal & Eric Doerr, Garry & Kathy Duncan, Duteau Chevrolet-Subaru, Earl Dyer, Al & Vicki Eastman, Pam Edwards, Eugene Edwards, Judy Eicher, Marty & John Eischeid, Mick & Jeri Eschenbrenner, Mark & Bailey Feit, Howard Feldman, Peggy Forcier, Larry & Cindi Fosler, Holly Foster, Jarry Freeman, James & Sandra Gallentine, Sue & Scott Gardner, Bill Genuchi, Patrick Gilles, Mike Gloor, Ron & Connie Gormley, Dave & Beth Gosselin, Christine Grosh & David Pitts, Scott Grossenbacher, Tom & Sue Guild, Lil Gibson, William Glorer, Jocelyn & Brian Golden, Robin & Janet Goracke, Pat Hackley, Bob Haller & Mrcella Shortt, Pat

& Bruce Hammond, Elly Hardekopf, Nancy Harr, Brad & Beth Hartman, Klaus Hartmann, Jim & Laurie Haszard, Butch & Dobey Haws, Chris & Julie Heinrich, Emily Herrick, Steve Henrichsen, J. Herbert, Fred & Gloria Holvert, Highlands Animal Hospital, Gary Hill, Mary & Dan Howell, Greg & Denise Howell, Mark & Deanna Hutchins, Todd Johns, Nancy Johnson, Dan & Judith Keller, Kristin Kleve, John Kopischke, Robert Kuzelka, Dottie Ladman, Steve Loftis, Pat Lorenze, Linda Mahloch, Tyler & Denise Mainquist, Eric Matty, Karyn & Albert Maxey, Ed May, Susan Melcher, Mickey Metzger, Alan Meyer, Rick & Sharon Michaelson, Rosalind Morris, Ruthann Nahorney, John & Ann Neal, Marjorie Neill, Dena Noe, William Noel, Dennis Nuernberger, Sr., John O'Neill, Fred & Carol Ochsner, Scott Patterson, Greg & Brande Payne, Monte & Penny Pueppke, Bob Rau, Alan & Karen Reiners, Roger Renken, Steve Robb, Beverly Russell, Jim Schaffer, David & Teresa Schmidt, Milt & Linda Schmidt, Aaron & Edwina Schmitz, Dennis Schulte, Barbara & Steve Seglin, Time and Julia Shaw, Frank Sidles, Nadine Skupa, Chris & Vicki Sommerich, Kris & Julie Sonderup, Susan & Richard Spangler, Kate Speck, Anne Perlman & David Spinar, Tani & Dave Stempson, Linda Stephen, Jo Theis, Terry & Beverly Thiatt, Eric Umland, Rick & Penny Urwiler, Bill & Rose Marie Utley, Milda Vaitkus & Mike Dosskey, Vicki Valente, Bob & Marilyn Wagner, Dan & Krista Warren, Rita Weber, David Whetstone, Roger & Sylvia Wiegand, Robert Wikel, Ann Willet & Mark Butler, John Whitmer, John & Cyndi Woolam, J.J.Yost, Paul & Janet Zillig.

*Thank you from the 2015 GPTN Board of Directors. Your memberships are crucial to GPTN's efforts.*



Back row (L-R) Jordan Messerer, Corey Godfrey, Roger Hirsch, Steve Dunbar, Karen Griffin, Greg Rosenboom, Bill Wehrbein.

Middle row (L-R) David Scoby, Parks Coble, Marynelle Greene, Mary Torell, Gary Bentrup, Dale Arp, Beth Thacker.

Front row (L-R) Joyce Vannier, Carolyn Collier, Elaine Hammer, Ron Case, Dena Noe.

Not Pictured: David Burd, Jim Carveth, Chris Heinrich, Kris Sonderup, Ann Ringlein, Brett Baker, Damon Hershey, Bob Torell, Jamie Warren, Ray Stevens, Jr.

# 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, a one dollar (\$1.00) discount off the entry fee of each LTC road race. All memberships expire at the end of the calendar year (December 31).

## 2015 LTC Calendar

3/28	State Farm (10M/5K/1M)
4/11	Novartis (10K/2M)
5/2	Mayor's Run (1M)
5/3	Marathon/Half-Marathon
6/6	Havelock (10K/3K)
7/12	Lincoln Mile
7/19	Uplifting Athletes Run (5K/1M)
8/8	Thunder/KFOR (5K/1M)
9/13	Buffalo (5M)
10/25	Governors (15K/5K/1M)
12/6	Holiday Run (5K)

To join the Lincoln Track Club: <http://www.lincolnrn.org/>

## HELP A KID GET A BIKE!

The Lincoln Bike Kitchen (LBK) has had approximately 140 kids come out to our shop and select bikes to take home with them so far this year. They cannot take these bikes home until the bike is properly overhauled and refurbished to make sure the child is getting a safe, properly working bike.

Unfortunately our mechanics cannot keep up with this demand are currently over 30 bikes behind on refurbishing these. If you have any bike mechanic knowledge and would like to help us, you can do one of two things.

1. Come out to LBK on Sundays at noon or Mondays at 5:00 pm and work on one of these bikes. We have mechanics to help you and the required tools.

2. Check out a bike in need of refurbishing and take it home to overhaul in your garage. I have done about 20 bikes at my home this year and it is a fun way to spend an afternoon or evening.

If you don't have any mechanic knowledge and want to learn you can join me in my garage or come to LBK on a Sunday or Monday.

Thanks, Clayton Streich  
castreich@gmail.com  
[www.lincolnbikekitchen.org/](http://www.lincolnbikekitchen.org/)

402-730-4135



## COMPLETING THE STREETS

Continued from page 1

As a part of the Gap Analysis, a project prioritization strategy was developed. The committee will review potential projects on an annual basis and determine which projects will move forward to be funded. The Fiscal Year 2014/15 – 2019/20 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) included for the first time a budget item for Pedestrian and Bicycle Capital Program.

In each programmed year, \$50,000 has been appropriated for "Complete Streets" type projects bringing the six year total to \$300,000 for projects that fit within the Complete Streets scope. The current projects selected by the committee include:

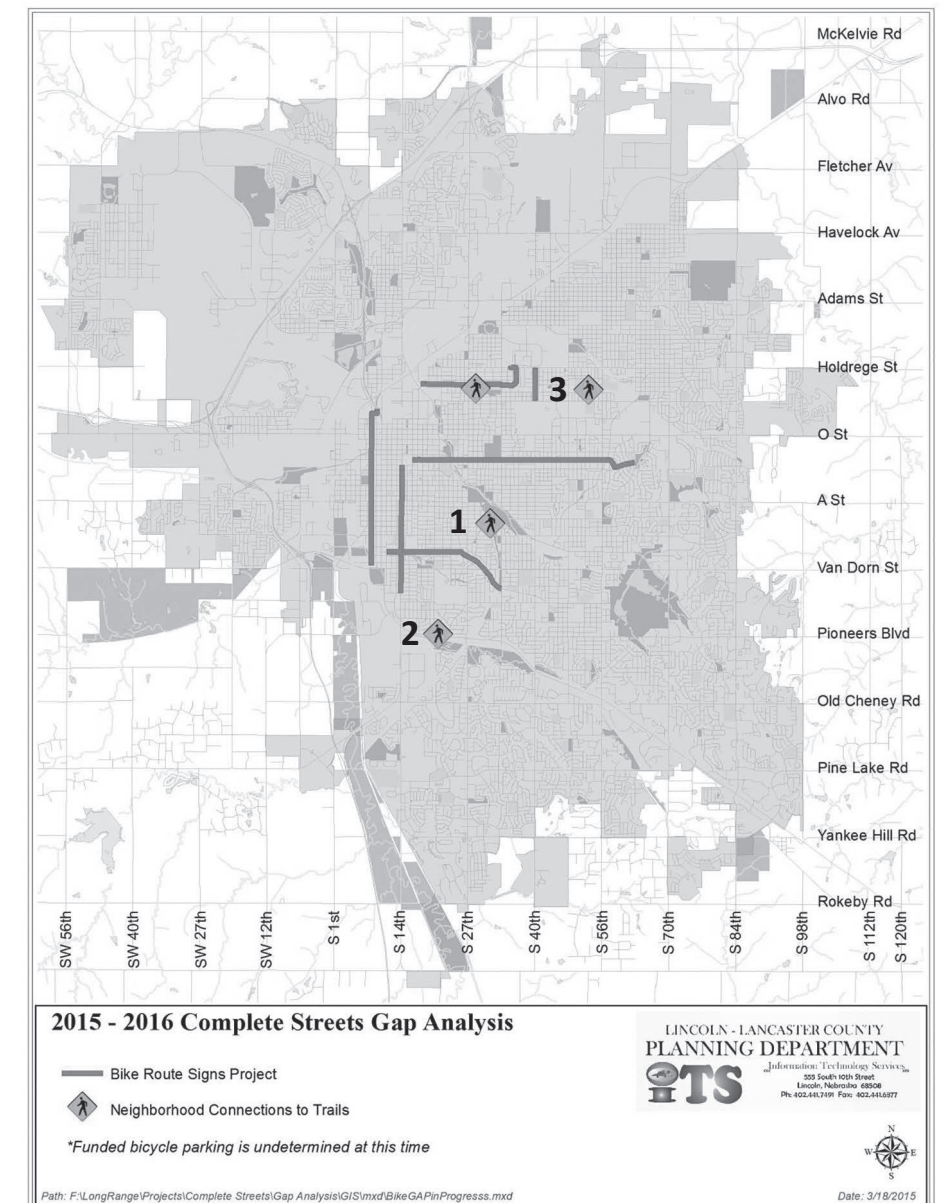
1. Arlington Street (north side) connection to the Rock Island Trail
  2. Dunn Avenue (west side) ADA and connection to Helen Boosalis Trail
  3. 52nd Street (east side) connection to the MoPac Trail
- Bike Route Signage along priority routes - \$10,000 allocated to 8th St, 14th St, J St, Y St, Idylwild Dr, 40th St, and Sheridan Blvd
  - Bike Racks (locations to be determined) - \$3,000 allocated

The selected projects add up to a total cost of \$100,000. Initially these projects were selected to be completed in the first year of the CIP; unfortunately, the costs of project implementation were expensive. Since each of the projects selected were identified as a need, the projects will be done using the first and

second year of funding to complete. These projects will be started in the Fall 2015 and should be completed in 2016.

For more information on the City's efforts with Complete Streets, check out:

<http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/bike/complete.htm>



Locations of current Complete Street Projects. Numbers correspond to trail connections listed in the article.

## STREETS ALIVE!

by Cara Bentrup

A glorious, Nebraska fall day provided the backdrop for yet another fun afternoon at Streets Alive! This outstanding Lincoln activity started in 2010, and has given community members an opportunity to explore streets of several local districts on foot, or by bike. The Clinton, Hartley and East Campus neighborhoods co-hosted this year's event with Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln. A 2-mile festival route included parks, walking and biking trails and areas of neighborhood interest; and, was lined with booths representing various community organizations.

Essentially, Streets Alive! provides an opportunity for Lincolnites of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences to access free and useful information. Lincoln Streets Alive! festivals have included hundreds of diverse exhibitors that provide a wide variety health, wellness, fitness, support, care, and other information in an interactive and engaging way that include games, contests, and giveaways. Happening in September of each year, this event generally enjoys wonderful weather, an abundance of smiles and laughter. It only makes sense for GPTN to join the fun!

Touting its famous bike-powered smoothies, GPTN enjoyed this wonderful involvement opportunity, passing out trail maps, chatting with community members, and promoting our group to the fullest. Volunteers worked throughout the afternoon, pedaling hard to serve over 500 smoothies; kids came back for seconds, while others crinkled their faces in disgust. Some requested the recipe, while others guessed the ingredients. People walked, people rode; even dogs were welcome to attend the free festivities! All afternoon, patrons could explore a unique area of the community, while learning more about what Lincoln has to offer.

*A pop-up bike lane at Streets Alive to simulate how a protected bike lane will function. Photo by Barb Fraser.*

Of course, the day would be incomplete without participating in many enjoyable activities. Not only were there fitness and dance demonstrations; there was also a pop-up bike lane for people to practice their riding skills. Food trucks were spaced throughout the neighborhood, as were local music groups and health-promoting associations. Goodies and handouts abound, one did not go home empty handed. In fact this added to the spirit of the day, as folks passed by – fists full – children munching away on a healthy treat. Indeed, readers, this is not something to miss.





market-marketrelay

## NEBRASKA'S RUNNING ROAD TRIP

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## BICYCLING LINCOLN™

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

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

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 Wednesday: CLOSED  
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 Saturday: 10 AM – 6 PM  
 Sunday: 12 PM – 6 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/>

## TRAIL UPDATES!

**Billy Wolff Repair:** A short stretch of the Billy Wolff Trail from the underpass at 27th and Capitol Parkway to the new pedestrian bridge over the Antelope Creek is currently being replaced with a 10 feet wide trail. It is scheduled to be completed this fall. Better lighting will be added to the underpass in the spring.

**Sheridan Street Penny Bridges project:** The Rock Island Trail between Calvert and South Streets is still closed while the Sheridan Street Bridges are being replaced. Trail should be opened this fall.

**Pioneers Park Trail – Phase III:** is in the initial phase of design. This project will provide a connection along the southern edge of Pioneers Park with the western edge of the park. Expected completion is August 2016.



**N St. Protected Bikeway:** The bikeway should be completed by the end of November 2015. Once completed, the bikeway will be open but the grand celebration is scheduled for April 2016 to coincide with Earth Day Celebrations. Stay tuned for more information. *GPTN is still raising funds for this project.*

## TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION UPDATE

*Article adapted from original story by Algis Laukaitis for the Lincoln Journal Star (10/23/15).*

Flood-damaged sections of the Homestead Trail could reopen to hikers, walkers and bicyclists by the end of the year. The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Board recently approved a \$135,650 bid from Gana Trucking and Excavating Inc. to repair the trail. "They plan to have it done by the end of the year," said Paul Zillig, assistant manager of the Lincoln-based NRD.

May floods caused extensive surface and bridge damage to a section of the trail from just south of Saltillo Road to Firth Road. Floodwaters washed out culverts, bridge abutments and large sections of the limestone surface. Some rock ballast, which forms the base of the trail, was also lost.

The NRD has budgeted about \$1.5 million to repair damage to dams and trails caused by spring floods and will use some of those funds to fix the Homestead Trail, Zillig said.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency also have given the district tentative approval to use some federal disaster money for trail repairs, he said.

The Homestead Trail runs from just south of Saltillo Road for about 60 miles to Marysville, Kansas. Trail segments from Lincoln to Beatrice and in Kansas are complete. Work on a 19.5-mile section from just south of Beatrice to the Nebraska-Kansas border is being done.

The Jamaica North Trail, a 6.5-mile-long route that connects to the Homestead Trail and runs along the edge of Wilderness Park, remains closed. May floods washed away large sections of limestone surface and rock ballast. The Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department has completed its preliminary work with FEMA and is getting ready to send out requests for proposals to hire an engineering firm to do a more detailed assessment of the flood damage, said Sara Hartzell, a planner with the department. The goal is to start construction on the Jamaica North Trail by spring 2016.

For information and videos on how this new infrastructure will work, check out the following website.

<https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/bike/>



# WANTED



**GPTN IS LOOKING FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

**REWARD**

**SATISFACTION FROM WORKING ON LINCOLN'S AWESOME TRAIL SYSTEM WITH A GREAT GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS**



**REWARD**

**SKILLS & INTERESTS WE ARE LOOKING FOR:**

- ACCOUNTING
- FUNDRAISING
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- FINANCE
- PUBLIC RELATIONS
- OTHER

**FOR INFORMATION: ROGER HIRSCH  
RHIRSCH@NEB.RR.COM**

## VOLUNTEERING AT M2M IS FUN FOR ALL

*by Dena Noe*

October 3 was a great day to be out on the trails volunteering for Market2Market (M2M). With over 560 teams running there was never a dull moment. We had 14 volunteers at the 262<sup>nd</sup> street exchange point helping out on behalf of GPTN. And we absolutely needed every one of them. We arrived about 11:00 a.m. and our first running group came through about 11:30 a.m. The running teams were having a great time. We had a group dressed as characters from the Wizard of Oz and Forest Gump, as well as a band called Run Jovi.

While volunteering at M2M is fun, it is also a challenge. Basically you have a steady stream of teams coming through the exchange point, but as you head toward early afternoon the bubble swells and you have traffic and people everywhere. Our goal is to keep the runners safe and help them have a great race experience. We are the greeters, the traffic directors, the announcers and the fun patrol. By the

time the runners reach our exchange point, which is just outside of Eagle, some of them have already been on the road eight hours. They are tired and not always as alert as they should be. So it's our job to be good directors and help them pick up their runner and get on with the race.

The great thing about volunteering for M2M is that the fun crew at Pink Gorilla Events donates to our organization for the help. Along with the great group of volunteers at the exchange point we also had 14 volunteers at the athlete recovery area at the end of the race. For our time GPTN will receive a check for \$1,750, plus we had 63 people make donations to our cause. It's really a win, win situation. We are out supporting the trails we love by volunteering and at the same time earning money to maintain and expand the trails system in and around Lancaster County. A big thank you for all our volunteers for sharing their time and talent for the wonderful event.



*“As I looked about me I felt that the grass was the country, as the water is the sea. The red of the grass made all the great prairie the colour of winestains, or of certain seaweeds when they are first washed up. And there was so much motion in it; the whole country seemed, somehow, to be running.”*

— Willa Cather, *My Ántonia*

Only remnants of the vast tallgrass prairie that once covered Nebraska exist today. Three years ago, City of Lincoln officials envisioned the creation of a prairie corridor along Haines Branch, a tributary of Salt Creek that would capitalize on the natural resources and opportunities in the area. Today, the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch is taking shape.

The Prairie Corridor is a tallgrass prairie passage and trail that will build on our nationally recognized trail and greenway system and will link two of Lincoln and Lancaster County’s premier environmental resource and education centers. It will follow the Haines Branch from the Pioneers Park Nature Center, to the Conestoga Lake State Recreation Area, extend down through the Village of Denton and on to the Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center.

The Corridor will support economic development, build on Lincoln’s nationally recognized trail system, support environmental education and promote the enhancement and preservation of one of Nebraska’s most valuable resources—tallgrass prairie.

Major components of the Prairie Corridor include:

**1. Economic Opportunity.** Implementation of the Prairie Corridor plan will support economic development efforts by celebrating the natural heritage of the "Prairie Capital" with an outstanding tallgrass prairie experience and 20 mile roundtrip trail ride that will encourage visitors to come to and/or stay an extra day in Lincoln.

Nicole Fleck-Tooze, special projects administrator for Lincoln Parks and Recreation, said that once the Prairie Corridor is completed, it is expected to attract 124,000 out-of-town and 61,000 local visitors each year. It is expected to earn nearly \$6 million annually for the city and county based on the 17,000 hotel room nights it is expected to generate each year.

**2. Conservation.** Preservation of natural resources through land and easement acquisition is planned. Resources include tallgrass prairies, riparian woodlands, wetlands and the stream corridor. The partners want to conserve about 1,600 acres that are within the floodplain of Haines Branch, which is upstream from Lincoln. Protecting that land from development would help reduce runoff from heavy rains, NRD General Manager Glenn Johnson said.

**3. Habitat Development.** In addition to preservation, enhancement of native prairie and grassland areas, re-establishment of native prairie, riparian woodland plantings, freshwater and saline wetland enhancement is planned.

**4. Trail Corridor.** Establishment of a trail connection from Pioneers Park west to Conestoga Lake, and south through the Village of Denton to Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center.

**5. Education and Outreach.** Education and outreach focusing on the importance of tallgrass prairies will be developed with materials and interpretive signage along the corridor. Those programs would build on what is being accomplished already at the two nature centers.

**6. Research.** Through partnerships with UNL School of Natural Resources, the project will increase the knowledge base regarding preservation and enhancement of tallgrass prairie, with an initial focus on native pollinators and the design of the corridor for habitat diversity.

The project recently received a \$90,000 grant from the Lancaster County Visitor Improvement Fund, which will supplement other grants and donations the city has gotten or hopes to get, including \$900,000 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust that the Parks and Recreation Department has applied for Phase 2 of the project, and will receive in April 2016 if successful. The Visitors Improvement Fund grant will pay for the trail portion of the project.

The corridor project received a major boost a couple of years ago when Parks and Rec received a \$900,000 grant over three years from the Nebraska Environmental Trust to implement the first phase. Most of that supported land conservation and trail easements. Nearly two-thirds of the 7,400 acres needed for the corridor were already in public or conservation ownership, or have been acquired through conservation

Twenty-three government agencies, foundations, nonprofit organizations and recreational trail supporters have agreed to help finance the project with money and in-kind donations, including staff time and services.

One of the first steps in the Prairie Corridor trail development is the 1.7-mile trail segment on the southwest edge of Pioneers Park. GPTN has committed to raising \$60,000 which will be used to construct this trail and it is slated for completion in fall 2016. GPTN has also committed to raising another \$60,000 for additional trail development in the Prairie Corridor.

The city is serving as the lead agency, coordinating partnership activities and pursuing grants and private funding. In addition to supporting the project, the NRD's primary role would be land management and trail maintenance and paying for some of the costs of both.

Discussions have been held with the village of Denton to develop an in-town trail that would connect with the corridor. Future projects could include trail access to Conestoga Lake, managed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

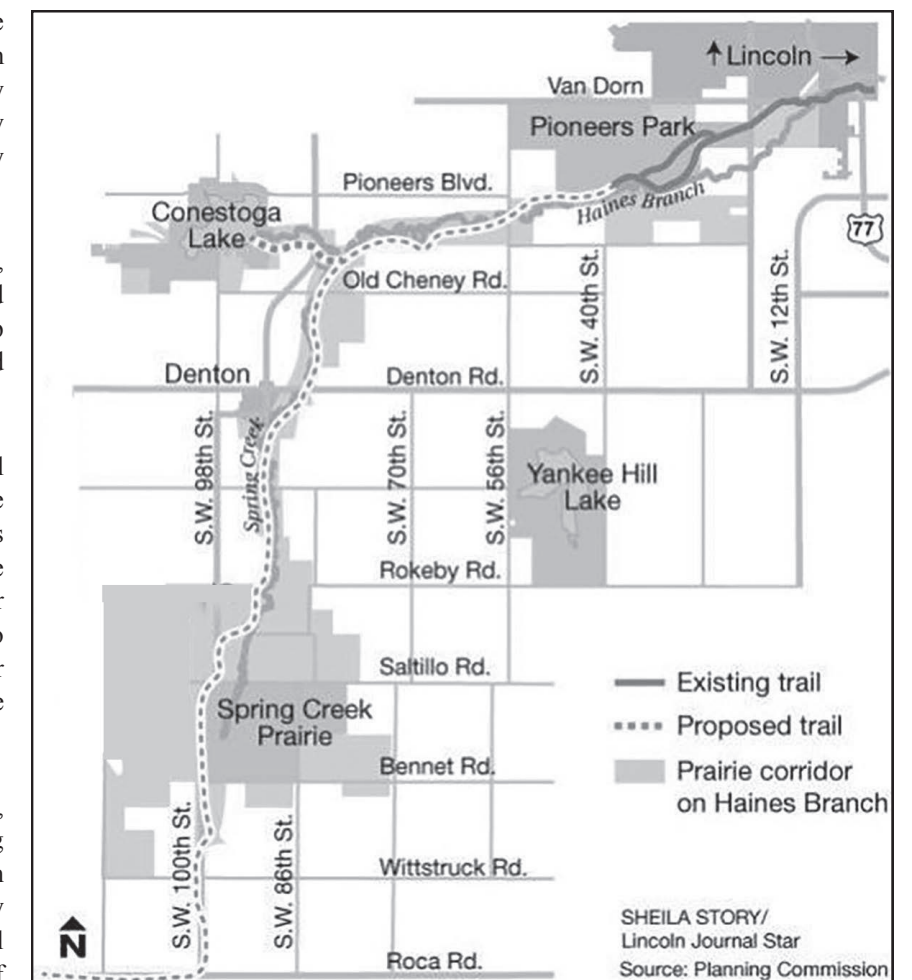
“The project’s starting to get some momentum, and we’re looking to build on that now,” said Nicole Fleck-Tooze, special projects administrator for Lincoln Parks and Recreation.

For more information:

<http://prairiecorridor.org>

[http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/parks/programs/info/links/4.FinalExecSummary\\_Aug.pdf](http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/parks/programs/info/links/4.FinalExecSummary_Aug.pdf)

To make a tax-deductible donation to this project, make your check payable to the Nebraska Trails Foundation and send to GPTN, 5000 North 7th St., Lincoln, NE 68521



General location of the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch..