



GPTN

GREAT PLAINS TRAILS NETWORK

WINTER 2026

ISSUE 161

TRAILS, SIDEPATHS, CYCLETRACK, AND CROSSWALK SAFETY

BY JENNA NOE & JOE DAUER

The Mayor's Office has convened a cross-departmental team to review and update the City of Lincoln's Municipal Code related to motorized vehicles on trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes. The goal is to improve safety, clarify enforcement, and ensure consistent regulations across the city's multiuse transportation network.

Currently, inconsistencies in definitions and code applications can create confusion for users and enforcement alike. To address this, representatives from Lincoln Parks and Recreation, Lincoln Transportation and Utilities, the Lincoln Police Department, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, the City Attorney's Office, Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning and Development, Urban Development, and the Mayor's Office will collaborate to align regulations with practical trail use and federal funding requirements.

Because the issue touches education, signage, and enforcement, the work will take place in multiple phases. Key topics under review include appropriate speed limits, clear identification of which types of multimodal vehicles are permitted or prohibited, and effective communication of these rules to the public.

Improving signage will be a major component, as current signage can be unclear or inconsistent. The team aims to create standardized, easy-to-understand regulations and signage across all trail and pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure. The Municipal Code cleanup will focus on ensuring that speed regulations and allowed vehicle types are consistent



across all facility types, improving safety and predictability for all users.

Safety of all transportation system users has been of concern for Lincoln.

Vision Zero Safe Streets Lincoln is a local initiative aligned with the national Vision Zero movement, which strives to eliminate traffic fatalities. Lincoln's effort centers on developing a comprehensive Vision Zero Action Plan aimed at eliminating all roadway deaths and reducing serious injury crashes by 60% by 2045 on all locally maintained streets.

Vision Zero recognizes that safe mobility is influenced by many factors, including street design, vehicle speeds, user behavior, technology, and public policy. Through this initiative, Safe Streets Lincoln establishes clear goals and coordinated strategies to create safer streets for all who walk, bike, roll, and drive.

The Safe Streets Lincoln Community Task Force has met regularly over the past year as JEO Consulting prepares to present its recommendations to the City Council in support of the city's Vision Zero goal. The Task Force includes community members representing neighborhood organizations,

health centers, libraries, faith communities, schools, and the Lincoln Police Department.

JEO Consulting has gathered extensive data, including crash history, projected traffic changes, and public input collected through several outreach events held during the summer. The Task Force continues to review this information and provide feedback as recommendations are developed across three focus areas: system users, user behavior, and the transportation system itself. These recommendations address the safety of all transportation system users, including trail users.

The final recommendations are expected to be presented to the City Council in spring 2026.

Wrap up:

This review and collaborative process will take time. Great Plains Trails Network has Board members participating in several City of Lincoln committees and initiatives, ensuring continued representation as these efforts move forward. To stay informed about progress and to follow local advocacy related to bicycle and pedestrian issues—particularly those affecting trails—please visit the City's Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee page and Safe Streets Lincoln page to learn more.

www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Parks-and-Recreation/About-Us/Boards-and-Commissions/Pedestrian-Bicycle-Advisory-Committee

www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/LTU/Transportation/Traffic-Engineering/Safe-Streets-Lincoln#vision-zero-plan



President's Note

Hello GPTN Friends!

As we reflect on the end of 2025, I can't help but think of all the ways trails connect us throughout the year. Maybe you enjoy a weekend walk to one of the many dog parks within the Lincoln community with our furry family members big and small. Perhaps your kiddo rides their bike to and from school, as mine does, enjoying the wider smoother ride that trails enable between home and school. Or that beginning of the day run, winding the way around our city, lit by headlamp or handheld lamp, on a cool pre-dawn weekday morning.

Our memories, our experiences, our life occurs on these trails everyday. And it takes every single one of us to make these spaces and place the best they can be.

Lately, the world has been heavy with community losses of those who loved and used the trails that ribbon the community we call home. So many people care about these places and spaces, safety is of paramount importance. Many of our GPTN Board members are working with the City of Lincoln on various committees and working groups to address these concerns.

What we can each do, ourselves, is continue to model safe & appropriate behavior, make good choices when we are out on the trails, educate other users with grace and positive intent, and stay engaged with processes to come. Annually, over a million trips cumulatively, are taken on our community trails. It has taken a village to build the trails system we have in Lincoln and that process never stops.

Know that we hear you and see you!

Jamie Granquist
GPTN President



Great Plains Trails Network

Since 1988

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

2025

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Congratulations

to the 2025 Trail-A-Thon participants that completed all 92 miles of trails.
(As of November 30, 2025)

Mat Beckmann	Jared Buskirk	Kit Keller
Barb Bohaty	Emily Case-Buskirk	Tom Langston
Phil Bohaty	Alexis Chavez	Doris Lewis
Wendy Bonaiuto	Richard Hekl	Dale Minter
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HUB & SOUL: Wraps Up The Summer

On a wonderful, warm summer evening the Hub & Soul wrapped up their 2025 concert series in September. With performances by Rascal Matinez and Church of Blues, the Union Plaza Amphitheater was amped up. The weather provided a perfect summer eve for Lincolniters to enjoy the final free concert of the Hub & Soul series with some great music, great food and a beverage of their choice! Then it got better! The audience's energy created a little soul sweating, stress-freeing dance explosion. It was a fine night to be in Lincoln enjoying one of it's many treasures.

The Great Plains Trails Network,

as the non-profit partner of Hub & Soul, was presented with a symbolic donation check of \$10,000, signifying the money raised through sponsors and donations on behalf of GPTN during the 2025 Hub & Soul season. GPTN uses this money for developing commuter and recreational trails within Lincoln and Lancaster County.

The GPTN Board wishes to thank all the Hub Cafe employees, Eleanor Creative and GPTN volunteers who make this event possible. Special thanks to Jake and Crystal, the owners of Hub Cafe. We are eager for next year's Hub & Soul concerts.



Representing the groups that bring Hub & Soul to you. L to R: Maggie Stuckey-Ross, Dena Noe, Dan Lee, Randy Gordon, Crystal Bock Thiessen, Mackenzie Slivka, Jake Thiessen and Emma Lauterbach.



Rascal Martinez gets the crowd going!



The Church of Blues (keyboards/top; guitar/left) has the crowd dancing the night away!

Thank You - 2025 Partners/Sponsors



Tribute to Peggy Fletcher

"She could see potential and beauty in all things."

— Mavis Fletcher, daughter of Peggy Fletcher.



Max and Susan Rodenburg (left) with Peggy and Dr. Larry Fletcher (right) at the announcement of the MoPac East Trail (1992).
Photo courtesy of Susan Rodenburg

BY SUSAN RODENBURG

GPTN lost one of its early leaders on Oct. 21, when Peggy Fletcher passed away at the age of 86.

Peggy and her husband, Dr. Larry Fletcher, a pediatrician, were among the charter board members of the Great Plains Trails Network. Together, they played a vital role in building support for both the MoPac East Trail and the Oak Creek Trail.

Peggy deeply understood the importance of natural

spaces and the special value that trail corridors hold—especially for young children. The Fletchers were also part of a small group of dedicated individuals who co-signed a loan to purchase the land for the MoPac East Trail. They then worked tirelessly with others to raise funds to pay off that loan and to build the 22-mile trail stretching from 84th Street to Wabash.

Their devotion to trails, prairies, and the natural

world is a legacy that continues to enrich our community. Peggy's work will never be forgotten and will serve as an enduring inspiration to us all.

The next time you ride or walk by "Larry and Peg Fletcher Prairie," located south of the MoPac East Trail west of Walton, take a moment to think of Peggy—and the lasting impact she and Larry have had on the trails we all enjoy today.

Market to Market Relay – 2025

BY DENA NOE

We had a beautiful day at the 18th running of the Market to Market (M2M) Relay. The wind was light, and the temperature was perfect for the runners and volunteers alike. Ben Cohoon even remarked in his Pink Gorilla blog it may have been the best weather in all the years of the race!

The M2M Relay is a roughly 75-mile team relay from the Omaha metro to downtown Lincoln. Runners complete a series of 3–5-mile stages along trails, paved roads, and gravel backroads. The event blends athletic challenge with fun, featuring costumes, camaraderie, and a lively finish for a memorable, full-day experience.



GPTN Volunteers Ella Nixon, Catherine Nixon, Brenda Weyers and Kim Clouston hand out medals at the finish line on a spectacular relay day.

Over the years, members of the GPTN board have coordinated groups of volunteers for exchange points, the after-party hydration booth, and many other roles. Dale Arp, former GPTN board member and dedicated Trail Trek committee member, served as an exchange point coordinator and wore countless hats for the event throughout the years.

In recognition of Dale's tireless work not only for M2M but also for the Halfsy, he received Pink Gorilla's first-ever Lifetime



GPTN volunteers (L-R) Al Koontz, Marlene Swanson, Kim Clouston, Dena Noe, and Carla Steadman

Achievement Award this past June. Congratulations, Dale!

Because of the volunteer support provided by GPTN, Pink Gorilla has donated a check to GPTN every year. These contributions have helped us continue building more trails in Lincoln. In addition, GPTN is the chosen charity for the M2M Relay, with our logo proudly displayed on the event pages.

Thank you to our 2025 M2M volunteers: Victor Beach, Paul Breitkreutz (team leader), Sage Breitkreutz, Kim Clouston, Tammy Green, Ben Green, Elly Hardekopf, Rachelle Hadley, Al Koontz, Dale Minter, Catherine Nixon, Ella Nixon, Krista Potter, Carla Steadman, Marlene Swanson, Mary Torell, Bob Torell and Brenda Weyers.



Check the LTC Website for the 2026 Calendar and other information.

lincolnrun.org



BY MARY
TORELL

Please be sure and Save the Date for the 37th Annual Meeting of the Great Plains Trails Network. The meeting will be held Saturday, February 7, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at Cornhusker Bank in their Community Room at 8310 O Street (84th & O) in Lincoln. (Enter on the north side of the building). The public is invited.

2026 GPTN Annual Meeting

We are excited to have Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Executive Director of Solidago Conservancy, join Travis Jensen, Community Conservation Coordinator, also from Solidago Conservancy, and Alex Duryea, Planning and Construction Trails Manager for Lincoln Parks and Recreation as our guest speakers. Fleck-Tooze and Jensen will provide a collaborative update about the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch. Their project partners will also be recognized.

In addition, Duryea will give "State of the Trails" overview of Lincoln's Trails System. It will be a comprehensive report on current projects, and what trail items are on the horizon in the near future.

Lincoln's trails system now consists of 184 miles of trails, which connect to rural routes that add another 100 miles between northern Kansas and the Omaha area. And there are additional miles of dirt and

mowed trails in wilderness and natural areas.

Following the presentation, the GPTN's annual awards program and election of the 2026 Board of Directors will take place. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information about the annual meeting, or the Great Plains Trails Network, contact Mary Torell at **402-429-5753**, or visit our website at **GPTN.org**.

Jamie Granquist, GPTN President, Receives Hero Award



BY DENA NOE

Heroism is often imagined as a single, defining moment, a leap into danger, a dramatic rescue, a triumphant victory. But real heroism is usually quieter and far more complex. It lives in the tension between fear and action: in the moment when someone acknowledges their vulnerability yet chooses to act for the sake of others anyway.

A hero isn't someone who feels no fear; it's someone who moves forward despite it. It's the person who steps in when help is needed, who listens without judgment, who gives time, strength, and compassion without expecting anything in return.

These are the everyday heroes among us, and each year, Roper & Sons honors them through an annual **Here's to the Heroes Award**, recognizing local individuals who embody courage, service, and kindness in remarkable ways.

At the final Hub & Soul event of 2025, Jamie Granquist was honored with the **Here's to the Heroes Award**. The tribute shared on roper-andsons.com beautifully captures the heart of our remarkable GPTN president—a quiet, steady leader who uplifts those around her and listens with openness to every perspective. Alongside her dedication to GPTN, Jamie brings that same passion to the cycling community, where she teaches youth and helps raise funds to support local trails.

Jamie's selection for this award is deeply tied to her extraordinary heroism during an accident in 2020. Her swift action saved the life of Tom, a moment that alone would have earned her a nomination. But Jamie didn't stop there. Recognizing that Tom lacked a strong support system during his recovery, she stepped forward without hesitation visiting him in the hospital, keeping watch over his well-being, and serving as the bridge between Tom and his distant family when he couldn't communicate on his own. When journalist Cindy Lane-Kubick later asked Tom who Jamie was, his answer said everything: "She's my angel."

Congratulations, Jamie, on this well-deserved recognition and thank you for reminding all of us that even in a sometimes-mixed-up world, kindness and compassion continue to shine through.

Registration Open for the 2026 LINCOLN TRAIL-A-THON!



Take on the challenge to ride, run, jog, or walk 92 miles of Lincoln's scenic trails in 2026 plus some bonus trails nearby for our first 100 mile event! Trail-A-Thon is a yearlong event designed to keep Lincoln moving and healthy while enjoying our incredible trails system. Plus, a portion of your entry fee directly supports the Great Plains Trails Network's efforts to expand and enhance local trails.

Participants who complete the monthly routes will be entered to win drawings throughout the year. Complete all the routes by December 31, 2026, and you'll be entered for a chance to win the grand prize!

Not sure where to start?

We've created monthly routes to guide your progress. We'll check-in throughout the year to keep you motivated and moving.

Visit **gptn.org/lincolntrailathon** to learn more.

Let 2026 be your year to conquer the first ever 100 mile Trail-A-Thon!

Event CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

7 GPTN Annual Meeting

MAY

7 Tour de Lincoln

14 Tour de Lincoln

21 Tour de Lincoln

28 Tour de Lincoln

JUNE

20 Trail Trek Packet Pick-up at AULD

21 Trail Trek



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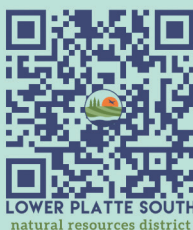
Bike Walk Nebraska cultivates and supports safe and accessible active transportation across our state by leading sound policy and advocating for best practices. We work across sectors in partnership with elected officials, municipalities, and organizations to ensure that biking and walking - whether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

Become a member at:

www.bikewalknebraska.org

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GPTN NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

September 1, 2025 - November 30, 2025

Standard \$10

Jason Bringenberg
Jessica Dean

Associate \$20

Steve Bryant
Randy Johnson

Trail Sustainer \$50

James Cook
Max Fennewald

Trail Patron \$100

Jim Heinlen
Wayne & Judy Jensen



BICYCLINCOLN™

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

Check them out at
bicyclincoln.org/



Ride. Share.

That's what 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.



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The [GPTN Newsletter](#) is published quarterly and is distributed to GPTN members and other interested parties.

For more information:

www.gptn.org



Printed on recycled paper

GPTN Annual Meeting February 7, 2026

Details on page 5

We Need Your Support!

Prairie Corridor Trail

The Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch is a tallgrass prairie passage and trail that will build on our nationally recognized trails 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!**

Mail donation to:

GPTN

P.O. 82902

Lincoln, NE 68501-2902

Make contributions payable to:

Great Plains Trails Network

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Designated Project: _____



Don't let this lonely bench be the end of the Pioneer Park trail. Help keep this trail moving all the way to the Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center!