REPLACING WILDERNESS PARK BRIDGES

Wilderness Park is a crown jewel in Lincoln’s park system and the trails in the park are used extensively by hikers, runners, mountain bikers, bird watchers, and horseback riders.

Unfortunately, over half the park is not accessible due to the loss of two bridges in the summer of 2010. GPTN is raising $225,000 to help replace these vital bridges, reconnecting this treasure for the enjoyment of Lincoln’s residents.

Make contributions payable to the Nebraska Trails Foundation

Name: ___________________________________
Address:__________________________________
City, State, Zip:____________________________
Designated Project:_________________________

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

Trail Projects Make Lincoln A Rising Star!

Come to GPTN’s Annual Meeting to learn about new and proposed trail projects planned for Lincoln and Lancaster County.

Terry Genrich and Nicole Fleck-Tooze from the Parks and Recreation Department will present the proposed plans for the Haines Branch Prairie Corridor Project. Hear about the innovative N Street Protected Bikeway Trails Connector and other projects from Urban Development. Lincoln, already an outstanding city for its trails and bicycle plans will move up even further on that ladder with these exciting facilities.

Please join us on February 18 to hear more about these projects.

Great Plains Trails Network Annual Meeting

Monday, February 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
Jayne Snyder Trails Center
21 st and Q st
Lincoln, Nebraska
Trail Project Presentations
Awards Ceremony
Election of GPTN’s 2013 Board of Directors
Refreshments Provided

2013 PROPOSED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dale Arp                  Nancy Loftis
Brett Baker              Karen O’Connor
Jason Bakewell           Rose Quackenbush
Gary Bentrup             David Scoby
Ann Bleed                Kris Sonderup
Jim Carveth              Ray Stevens
Parks Coble              Clayton Streich
Curt Donaldson           Beth Thacker
Marynelle Green          Mary Torell
Elaine Hammer            Bob Torell
Chris Heinrich           Wes Trout
Damon Hershey            Joyce Vannier
Roger Hirsch             Jamie Warren
Corey Gedfrey            Bill Wehrbein
Todd Kelleman           Oak Williams
Bison Bridge Replacement

permits have been approved and the Bison Bridge replacement is now under construction. The old bridge has been completely removed and the City is projecting a mid-April completion date!

TRAIL UPDATES

Since 1988 dedicated to the goal of developing a network of commuter and recreational trails within Lincoln and Lancaster County.

Sept 2012 through December 2012

Welcome to new members:

Tom Armstrong, Scott Baird and
Larion Gaylor Baird, Byron Barlow, Peg O’Barlow, Pat Al Barlow,
Brett Baker, Karen Griffin O’Connor

An open house on the draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Capital Plan was held on Saturday, December 15, 2012 at the Jayne Snyder Trails Center at Union Plaza, 21st and “Q” Streets. Over hundred people attended the open house. To see the images uploaded to the meeting, go to:


The plan draft includes an assessment of current conditions for biking and walking in Lincoln and Lancaster County as well as short- and long-range proposals for capital improvements to the biking and walking networks. It also includes suggested priorities for the community to consider for implementing the most useful walking and biking capital projects.

Thank you to renewing members:


BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN CAPITAL PLAN

An open house on the draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Capital Plan was held on Saturday, December 15, 2012 at the Jayne Snyder Trails Center at Union Plaza, 21st and “Q” Streets. Over hundred people attended the open house. To see the images uploaded to the meeting, go to:


The plan draft includes an assessment of current conditions for biking and walking in Lincoln and Lancaster County as well as short- and long-range proposals for capital improvements to the biking and walking networks. It also includes suggested priorities for the community to consider for implementing the most useful walking and biking capital projects.

The City is finalizing the plan based on comments from the open house. Upon completion, the plan will become a technical support document for the Lincoln Metropolitan

RAY STEVENS

VICE PRESIDENT

ANN BLEED

TREASURER

COREY GODFREY

Dale Arp

V. T. Miller

Brett Baker

Karen Griffin O’Connor

Jason Baxley

Roxie Quach & Daniel Busch

Gary Bentur

Carol Rogers

Jim Carveth

Patrick Cole Parks

Carrie Underwood

Deb Fisher

Mary Torell

Maryann Green Boll Torell

Elaine Hamer

Wes Trout

Roger Hirsch Joyce Vannier Todd Kellerman David Kellerman Nancy Loftis

MAILING ADDRESS

5000 North 70th

LINCOLN NE 68521-4010

www.GPTN.org

Newsletter comments, questions, corrections gbentrup@windstream.net

Since 1988 dedicated to the goal of developing a network of commuter and recreational trails within Lincoln and Lancaster County.

TRAIL UPDATES

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2013

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SECRETARY

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TRAIL DEVELOPMENT 101
by Jamie Warren

Tracing the evolution of a new trail segment in Lincoln from its genesis as an idea to its ultimate completion can be a complex undertaking. The process may involve interactions between a number of different government and private organizations. Sources of funding are varied, and frequently the story of how one section of Lincoln’s trails came into existence might be quite different from another. Although this variability precludes a “one size fits all” description of trail development in Lincoln and Lancaster County, this article attempts to shed light on the typical process.

To the extent trails are to be developed on city-owned land, obtaining Federal funding to support contemplated projects is often critical. Even when the costs of trail development are supplemented by local government or by private donors, the price of many trail projects is simply prohibitive without Federal funding. To add to the challenge, Federal regulations stipulate that trail projects must be incorporated into the city’s transportation plan before they may be considered for grants under the available Federal programs.

Fortunately, several groups have worked diligently to make sure the needs of trail users are well-represented in the city’s current transportation plan. These groups include the Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee, a group formed to provide advice and recommendations to city government on the development of a comprehensive trails plan, and the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department, among others. For anyone with questions or concerns about the existing trail system, or with ideas for improvements or new trail projects, these organizations and their members, along with GPTN, are on the front lines when it comes to trail development in and around Lincoln.

Once a project is incorporated into the transportation plan, more formal plans for development can be entertained. At present, the transportation plan includes a prioritized “to do” list of pending trail projects. When a project is slated for city-owned land, shepherding these projects from infancy to completion becomes the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Department. Trail development on county-owned land is handled by the Natural Resource District having jurisdiction over the project.

These organizations are generally responsible for obtaining funding for the trail projects over which they have oversight. This process begins by the organization writing a grant application for Federal funds, either under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Act or through the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Grants received under MAP-21 are administered by the Nebraska Department of Roads. These grants are available for new projects and are capped at $1 million. RTP grants are administered by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. RTP grants are available for new projects or projects designed to rehabilitate existing trails and are capped at $250,000.

Often, monies associated with these Federal programs are only available to the extent the applicant can show additional funds have been raised from other sources. The amount the applicant must raise is typically based on a percentage of the Federal grant sought. In these instances, the project developer might look to local government for a portion of the support needed, or groups like GPTN may be recruited to help generate funds in the form of private donations.

After funding sources are obtained, the Parks and Recreation Department coordinates the actual physical development of city-owned projects, including engaging engineering and construction services, and obtaining all requisite Federal approvals that are needed along the way. Natural Resource Districts perform the same functions for county-owned projects. After completion, trails owned by the city are maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department, or by the Public Works Department. Natural Resource Districts perform needed maintenance of county-owned trails.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>More Information</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GPTN Annual Meeting</td>
<td>February 18, 2013</td>
<td>Jayne Snyder Trails Center 21st &amp; Q Street</td>
<td>More information to come</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trail Trek</td>
<td>June 23, 2013</td>
<td>More information to come</td>
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NEW TRAIL SIGNS

Have you noticed something new along the trails? That’s right! There are new colored coordinated trails signs for the major trails in Lincoln. GPTN raised over $2,000 to help support this project. The color of the signs corresponds to the navigation of the local trails network. In the future, additional wayfinding information such as distances to trail destinations will be added to the sign posts.

We actively promote bicycling with weekly rides ranging from 20 to 100 miles. We have ice cream or coffee shop easy-paced rides, hammering training rides, moon-lit rides, trail rides, and show ‘n’ go rides. We sponsor the Spring Fling in April and the Heatstroke 100 in August. We also promote bicycling safety through community-sponsored events. For more information and an application, see our website http://greatplainsbikeclub.org.

$10/person and $15/family.
A Busy Fall!

UNION PLAZA GRAND OPENING

The grand opening of Union Plaza was held in September and drew several hundred people to celebrate Lincoln’s newest destination attraction. This first of its kind six-acre urban park is located north of “O” Street between 21st and 22nd Streets and is the central piece of the Antelope Valley flood and roadway project. The Jayne Snyder Trails Center is located in the heart of Union Plaza and is a great addition to the trails system.

MARKET TO MARKET RELAY

The Market to Market Relay was held once again on the MoPac Trail, drawing runners from around the region. GPTN provided volunteers and hosted an exchange station. In return, GPTN receives a generous donation from the relay’s

STREETS ALIVE!

This year’s Streets Alive Festival was a fantastic success! Over three miles of Lincoln’s streets were closed to motorized vehicles and opened to walkers, runners, bikers, and roller-bladers. GPTN was there with Wes Trout’s bike-powered blender and we cranked out over 1,500 free smoothies. Hope to see you at next year’s Streets Alive event.

www.healthylincoln.org/initiatives/streetsalive.html

WILDERNESS BRIDGES FUNDRAISING

Wilderness Park is a crown jewel in Lincoln’s park system and the trails in the park are used extensively by hikers, runners, mountain bikers, bird watchers, and horseback riders.

Unfortunately, over half the park is not accessible due to the loss of two bridges in the summer of 2010. GPTN is raising $225,000 to help replace these vital

‘N’ STREET BIKEWAY TRAILS CONNECTOR FUNDRAISING

One of the key elements that makes Lincoln’s trails system exceptional is the connected network of trails that allows easy traveling from one trail to another. An innovative project is before us that will join multiple trails systems that are currently unlinked. The N Street Bikeway Trails Connector will provide a two-way protected bike lane on N Street, linking the Jamaica Trail with the extensive Antelope Valley Trail system. Running from Pinnacle Bank Arena Drive to 23rd Street, this connection will offer great access to downtown businesses and the Haymarket district.

GPTN is raising $100,000 to support this once in a lifetime opportunity which will be matched with an equal amount from

Please consider donating to one or both of these exciting projects! Your tax-deductible contribution will enhance the outstanding trails system, encourage an active, healthy lifestyle, and promote economic vitality in and around the community of Lincoln. Donations can be made out to the Nebraska Trails Foundation and mailed to GPTN, 5000 North 7th St., Lincoln, NE 68521.