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

Total Eclipse on the Homestead Trail

On Monday, August 21st, the moon will pass between the Earth and the Sun, casting its shadow on the Earth’s surface. A narrow section of the shadow’s route will get to see a total solar eclipse — and Southeast Nebraska is lucky enough to have this opportunity. This doesn’t happen very often! The last time a total solar eclipse passed over the area was 575 years ago, and it won’t happen again for another 628 years.

Escape the city and experience a once-in-a-lifetime event with an unmatched view. Join the Great Plains Trails Network and the Great Plains Bicycling Club for a unique trek on the Homestead Trail south of Lincoln. There are multiple rides to choose from, ending at Roca Berry Farm, one of the best spots from which to observe this amazing event.

WHEN August 21st, 2017
WHERE Roca Berry Farm. Parking available.
16531 S 38th Street, Roca, NE
Adjacent to the Homestead Trail

EVENT DETAILS
Lunch available: 11:30 am – 12:40 pm
Lights out 12:45 – 1:15 pm for eclipse viewing.

ECLIPSE DETAILS (all times approximate)
Start of Partial Phase: 11:37 am
Total Eclipse: 1:02 – 1:04 pm
End of Partial Phase: 2:30 pm

BICYCLE RIDES: Check-in starts at 7:30 am

Eclipse rides start and finish at Roca Berry Farm, 16531 S 38th Street, Roca, NE. Start times depend on the tour you choose. Plan to reach Roca Berry Farm for lunch, which will be serviced from 11:30 am to 12:40 pm.

Riders taking the 12-mile tour should start between 10 and 11 am.
The 21-mile riders should start between 9 and 10 am.
Riders taking the 40-mile route should start between 8 and 9 am.
Riders may choose any of the distances above, or turn around at any point. This is not a race, so feel free to ride any of the distances at any pace that you find comfortable. All ages are welcome, however riders under 19 years old must ride with a parent or guardian.

This is a lightly supported ride. Riders should be prepared to fix minor mechanical issues on their own. Trail guides will be on hand to provide assistance.

All participants are required to wear helmets.

Register at GPTN.ORG
or entry form on p 3
A Note from the President

I’m in awe of the hard work and dedication of our Board members especially over the past three months. They accomplished amazing things with the help from the GPTN membership. In this newsletter, you can read about many of the events and fundraisers we participated in recently.

Thank you to all of you that generously gave during Give to Lincoln Day. We raised a record amount this year and with the match from the Jayne Snyder Memorial Fund we are one step closer to paving the Murdock trail. Thank you Gary Bentrup for chairing the fundraising committee.

Tour de Lincoln, which takes place over a four-week period and showcases trails in each quadrant of the city, saw increased participation this year. This FREE event doesn’t happen without our many volunteers. A big thank you to Mary Torell, Marynelle Greene and Jeff Kimble for your leadership on this event.

Great work was also done by the Trail Trek Committee which was co-chaired this year by Roger Hirsch and Dale Arp. In addition to Roger and Dale, committee members included Elaine Hammer, Jeff Kimble, Greg Rosenboom, Dena Noe, Joy Patten, Matt Baumeister, Jon Taylor, Don Dingman, Marynelle Greene, Edie Matteson, Jesse Petersen, Kent Henning, Tom Stine and Tim Haegener. Congratulations to the committee for a job well done and for raising more than we have in the past two years. A big thank you to all of our volunteers that came out to make the event happen without our many volunteers. A big thank you to

I would like to invite all of you to join us as we celebrate the Total Eclipse on Homestead Trail on August 21 at Roca Berry Farm. This is a great viewing area, a good place to take a bike ride and a yummy place to eat. Register and receive a free pair of eclipse glasses and a souvenier bag. Thank you to the planning committee and for Elaine Hammer for encouraging GPTN to host an event and for your management of this unique Nebraska opportunity.

A quick membership drive update – we are now at 897 members. We have a goal to reach 1,000 members by our annual meeting in February 2018. Please if you have friends, family members, or co-workers that use the trails, ask them to join GPTN. Also, don’t forget to follow us on Facebook and we are now on Instagram.

Welcome to new members:


Thank you to the following renewing members:


Thank you from the 2017 GPTN Board of Directors. Your memberships are crucial to GPTN’s efforts.

GPTN NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

April—July 2017

Welcome to new members:


Thank you to the following renewing members:

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).

To join the Lincoln Track Club: www.lincolnrun.org

**EVENT CALENDAR**

**AUGUST**

21—Total Eclipse on the Homestead Trail

**SEPTEMBER**

10—Streets Alive

30—Market to Market Relay

**TOTAL ECLIPSE ON THE HOMESTEAD TRAIL**

This event is for all with optional trail activities, and a short talk about the eclipse. Your entry fee includes special filtered glasses necessary for protecting your eyes from the sun, a souvenir shoulder bag with eclipse art, optional lunch. This is a rain-or-shine event. Registrations are non-refundable.

Entry fee: $15.00
Lunch: $5.00 (optional)

Donation for trails:  

Total Included:

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City/State/Zip: _________________________
Email: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________

I assume all risks associated with participating in this event. I waive and release Great Plains Trails Network and Great Plains Bicycling Club from all claims or liabilities of any kind arising out of my participating in the event.

Signature: ____________________________

Detach this form and mail with payment to:

Great Plains Trails Network
PO Box 82902
Lincoln, NE 68501

Needs to be postmarked by August 12 for lunch, and assurance of glasses and bag. After August 13, supplies are on a first come, first served basis. Limited to the first 1,000.

**Lincoln Track Club Membership Application**

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To join the Lincoln Track Club: www.lincolnrun.org
**GORGEOUS DAY GREETS TRAIL TREK RIDERS**

*By Roger Hirsch*

*It was a Top Ten day for Trail Trek 2017!*

A sunny day with gentle breezes greeted 800 registrants and about 100 volunteers as they spread out through Lincoln for the 15th straight year. Volunteers who arrived at 6:00 a.m. at the Haymarket were greeted by a chilly morning!

This year's proceeds will go to complete construction of the Murdock Trail between 56th and 70th St. That portion of Lincoln's network is currently a packed limestone trail that does not stand up to weather challenges, and is in need of paving. GPTN is working to raise up to $250,000 to pay for half of the estimated $500,000 cost of upgrading the trail. While we are still paying bills, it looks like this year's event netted nearly $15,000 for the Murdock Trail project.

There were four trails of varying lengths for this year's trekkers. The 11-mile trail – for families and short-trail riders – wound its way out the MoPac Trail to 40th, then north through the East Campus, and back to Haymarket via the John Dietrich and Salt Creek Levee trails. The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) hosted the SAG stop at Fleming Fields. A couple of detours – one of them last-minute – made the route a little bit of a challenge, but everyone made it back in fine shape.

GPTN again included a 14-mile round trip out to Pioneers Park and back to Haymarket via the Jamaica North and Bison trails. It was the third year for the popular Pioneers Park trek. The SAG stop at Pinewood Bowl included entertainment by Ken Winston and Cool Roots. This year GPTN included a 3-mile Fun Run, just to see how trekkers might respond to the addition of walking/jogging events. GPTN will continue to discuss a jogging event for future Trail Treks.

The 25-mile attracted the most riders. Trekkers headed south on the Rock Island Trail to the Helen Boosalis Trail, then used Old Cheney to connect up with the Billy Wolff Trail near 54th and Old Cheney. Riders then returned towards downtown on the Billy Wolff with a pause at the Holmes Lake SAG stop, where Joe Cockson provided entertainment. When trekkers neared Elliott School coming back on the Billy Wolff, they joined the 11-mile route back to the Haymarket.

The 14- and 25-mile trips started at the same time, and sponsor Alpha Media used a drone to record the 8 a.m. start. Then it was up and over the Haymarket ballpark bridge with no mishaps during the massive start. Lincoln Police officers were stationed at Arena Drive at the foot of the bridge and at 40th and Holdrege to help with street crossings.
Boooslis Trail
The westernmost section of the Helen Boooslis Trail along Nebraska 2 — from Brown Road, then north past of the state Department of Roads building to Burnham Street — will be replaced with concrete in late summer.

Billy Wolff Trail
A heavily used and cracked section of the Billy Wolff Trail along the north side of Holmes Lake Park will be replaced in late summer. The stretch from the top of Holmes Lake dam east to South 70th Street, roughly following Normal Boulevard, will be replaced with a wider trail. The work also includes the spur north along 70th from Normal to Van Dorn.

SHIFTING TRAFFIC FLOW THROUGH CITY CAMPUS
If you have been in the vicinity of 17th and Vine recently, you may have noticed significant changes to the flow of traffic.

The project, which is guided by a partnership between city and university leaders, will permanently close a three-block stretch of 17th Street, transition 16th Street to two-way traffic through campus, and add bike lanes along Vine and 16th streets. The work is an extension of the university’s master plan, which aims to position parking and direct vehicle traffic toward campus edges, and Lincoln’s Antelope Valley project.

Salt Creek Levee Trail
One of the city's newest extensions — the year-old stretch of Salt Creek Levee Trail that curves around the top of the North Bottoms — will be rerouted when the city replaces the North 10th Street bridge over the creek. That job is expected to start this summer and take 14 months. The trail travels beneath the bridge and will have signed detour.

On a more positive note, construction of the Salt Levee Trail from 14th Street to Comhasker Highway will begin this year.

TRAIL UPDATES
Trail Trek returned to Cortland for its 45-mile ride. Efforts to go to Cortland the previous two years were washouts. Literally. Heavy rains in 2015 left the Jamaica North impassable for two years, and it wasn't until this year that Trail Trek could use the trail to return to Cortland. Even then, a late-June storm with severe winds forced a detour around that portion of the Jamaica Trail where trees had fallen across the trail. Lincoln officials reported the trees so massive that they would be unable to clear Jamaica North in time, and closed the trail a week before Trail Trek. We detoured via the Rock Island Trail. Trail Trek mainstay Chris Sayre entertained at Cortland.

Organizers will discuss how to incorporate the village of Eagle into Trail Trek for the longer rides. Eagle came to Trail Trek's rescue for the years two portions of Jamaica North and Homestead trails were closed, and GPTN would like to return. Both Cortland and Eagle officials are glad to have Trail Trek come to town.

As of 2017, Alpha Media became the major media sponsor with all six of its stations – KFOR 1240AM/103.3FM, EAGLE 92.9, 106.3KFRX, ESPN 1480AM/101.5FM, 104.1BLAZE and KX 96.9 – supporting Trail Trek. In addition, Cycle Works and The Bike Rack again donated 20 bicycles to be given away to participants. Three of the bikes were given pursuant to radio station promotional advertising, and 17 were given at the conclusion of the event. Mayor Chris Beutler drew the names of the winners.

Sponsor Hy-Vee again provided lunch at the Haymarket and at Cortland, and supplied snacks and ice. Trail Trek dispensed water delivered in bicycle tanks by Springo. Cortland, and supplied snacks and ice. Trail Trek dispensed water delivered in bicycle tanks by Springo. GPTN again sponsored 103.3FM, ESPN 1480AM/101.5FM, 104.1BLAZE and KX 96.9 – supporting Trail Trek.

Thank You Volunteers!
Bruce Abemathy
Bruce Hammond
Joy Patten
Trevin Alberts
Dale Arp
Sam Harris
Matt Pearson
Byron Barner
Lisa Henning
Kent Henning
Sue Guild
Tricia Barthelman
Mike Heyl
Ann Reicks
Matt Baumann
Jayden Hile
Greg Reicks
Mike Buck
Steven Hile
Eric Reiner
Margaret Buck
Roger Hirsch
Ann Ringlein
Ron Case
Roddy Humeniak
Shelby Robinson
Donita Cornbruck
JP Jamison
Dalycée Ronnau
Anita Dingman
Lisa Janssen
Greg Roseneboom
Dave Dingman
Jeffim Kibile
David Scoby
Don Dingman
Owen Kimble
Bob Similar
Mike Dimsey
Timoree Klinger
Harold Smith
Nate Dorske
Timothy Kovar
Ken Snyder
Charlene Dunbar
Peggy Krasser
Shelley Sorensen
Steve Dunbar
Jim Krieger
Kate Speck
Laura Eberly
Lois Krieger
Beverly Sprouse
Deb Egan
John Leda
Tom Stine
Joyce Ely
Therese Liegl
Sam Harris
Sue Ferguson
Mike Long
Monica Morrison
Pat Gillies
Pat Lorenz
Michelle Cox
Fran Lundy
Tom Fossey
Suzan Manthey
Karen Foster
Anne Riley
Edie Matteson
Lisa Grimminger
Brenda Sand
Fran Maw
Lisa Henjes
Brooke Summers
Suzan Lundy
Linda Bonness
Mag Lien
Sue Ferguson
Dawn Buell
Malachi McArthur
Maryville Greene
Rivera Natae
Michael Cox
Monica Morrison
Pat Gillies
Suzan Manthey
Tom Fossey
Tiffany O'Neill
Karen Foster
Anne Riley
Brenda Sand
Brooke Summers
Lisa Henjes
Amy Zoller
And The Winners Are....!
Thanks to The Bike Rack & Cycle Works, 20 winners rode away on new two-wheelers:

Dawn Bonness
Mag Lien
Sue Ferguson
Bruce Abemathy
Dawn Buell
Malachi McArthur
Kevin Fitzgerald
Bob Green
Michael Cox
Monica Morrison
Pat Gillies
Fran Maw
Tom Fossey
Tiffany O'Neill
Karen Foster
Anne Riley
Jim Green
GPTN
Lisa Grimminger
Brenda Sand
Lisa Henjes
Brooke Summers
John Gabell
Maria Gibbons
Karen Foster
Sue Ferguson
Lisa Grimminger
Brenda Sand
Lisa Henjes
Brooke Summers
...and the three radio station bike winners: Alexa Fisher, Maria Gibbons, and Tami Nordman.

Other sponsors included GPTN, Pepsi, Allo, the City of Lincoln, Screen Ink, the University of Nebraska Federal Credit Union, Sutton & Ryan, Nebraska Bank of Commerce, O'Neil, Heinrich, Damkroger, Bergmeyer & Shultz, PC, LLO, Comhasker Bank, Uribe Refuse/Recycle Link, and the Lincoln Journal Star. As always, GPTN is very grateful for the contributions of local sponsors who support the development of Lincoln's trails network.

As always, our thanks go to the many volunteers who toiled as trail guides, SAG stop hosts, sign makers, Haymarket site workers, registration assistants, & ham radio communicators.

Plans are already underway for Trail Trek 2018. Let's hope next year's event matches 2017 for enthusiasm, participation....and great weather!

Adapted from 17th and Vine. © 2018 GPTN. All rights reserved. Printed by UNL Communications.
Capital Improvements

Capital improvements are those that are not typical repairs or maintenance and that add an asset with a lifetime of greater than 15 years. Replacement of a facility may be considered a capital improvement, depending on the scope of the project, but typically a capital improvement will be a new asset.

The two major sources of funding for capital improvements are the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Both of these use passthrough funding from the Federal Highways Administration, but the RTP is administered by Nebraska Game and Parks and the TAP is administered by Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) (now Department of Transportation).

The RTP is typically a little more flexible on the types of projects it funds. These have a “recreational” piece to them so they typically look at providing a link to a recreational asset, or are a recreational experience in and of themselves. However, the City has done several projects with RTP funding within their commuter system, because Lincoln’s trail system provides both commuter and recreational opportunities.

The TAP is more restrictive in that one must show that the project provides a link between where people live and where they work, go to school, or participate in commercial activities. It is unclear on whether TAP could be used to upgrade an existing trail or make a major repair. The City of Lincoln is allocated a set amount by NDOR as a Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPO). Currently, this amount is $381,000 per year.

Typically, the match for these funds, since 2004, has been Impact Fees. Impact Fees are a one-time, up-front charge paid by new construction only and are used on public projects within the district in which it is collected. About 21% of those Impact Fees are to go to trails and 79% to parks. The Trails Impact Fee currently generates approximately $100,000 annually.

Because of the administrative burden and strict adherence to AASHTO standards that these projects tend to have, TAP projects usually cost quite a bit more than the RTP projects. The LPSNRD is also eligible for TAP funds and other communities in Lancaster County can apply as part of the MPO as well.

Of course, with Complete Streets policy, the trails associated with arterial roadway improvements are typically constructed with the roadway project and are included in the total project cost. This has been a great improvement to the trails program and the Parks and Recreation department works with the Public Works and Utilities department to assure trails are built to meet the standards users have come to expect.

Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation is more than typical trail maintenance. These activities include replacement of significant segments of trail, major repair or replacement of bridges, but do not include small segment repair, or typical maintenance activities.

Funding for rehabilitation comes primarily from Keno funds and Cell Tower funds. These funds are also used for other Parks and Recreation repair and replacement projects, and so the amount dedicated to a trail project will vary from year to year depending on need.

The total of these two sources in the current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is about $1.6 million per year. The total for trail projects in the current CIP averages about $310,000 per year or about 20% of the total repair and replacement budget. Regular maintenance is funded through the district budgets and is estimated at about $1,300 per mile per year.

Funding Trails: Finding Coins in the Couch

Have you ever wondered about the public funding sources that Lincoln Parks and Recreation uses to build new trails and rehabilitate old ones? Sara Hartzell, park planner with Parks and Recreation, has provided a summary of the different sources of funding and how they can be used.

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