

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.



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

WHEN August 21st, 2017

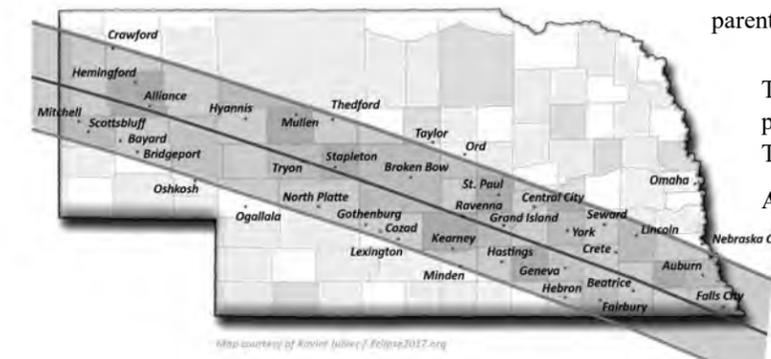
WHERE Roca Berry Farm. Parking available.
16531 S 38th Street, Roca, NE
Adjacent to the Homestead Trail

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



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**



Great Plains Trails Network

since 1988

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

2017

PRESIDENT Dena Noe
VICE PRESIDENT Greg Rosenboom
SECRETARY Steve Dunbar
TREASURER Jamie Warren

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dale Arp	John Paul "J.P." Jamison
Brett Baker	Jeff Kimble
Matt Baumeister	Jordan Messerer
Gary Bentrup	Dena Noe
Ron Case	Jesse Petersen
Parks Coble	Ann Ringlein
Charlene Dunbar	Shelby Robinson
Steve Dunbar	Greg Rosenboom
Kevin Fitzgerald	David Scoby
Marynelle Greene	Kris Sonderup
Karen Griffin	Ray Stevens
Elaine Hammer	Mary Torell
Chris Heinrich	Bob Torell
Kent Henning	Jamie Warren
Roger Hirsch	Bill Wehrbein
Corey Godfrey	

MAILING ADDRESS

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

Newsletter comments, questions, corrections
gbentrup68@gmail.com

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 the many volunteers that came out to make the event possible.

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 souvenir 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.

GPTN NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

April—July 2017

Welcome to new members:

Jill Alley, Elizabeth Cody, Marianne Day, Hildy Dickinson, Nancy & John Gerrard, Gerry & Barb Genrich, Rachel Greene, John Jankowiak, Jared Johnson, Matt Kataoka, Tanna Kinnaman, Rich Koehlmoos, Gina Dovanda, Jeff Madsen, Jason McLaughlin, Stephen Morin, Darrell Peters, Dean Rohwer, Oscar Sarafian, Fred Schlegel, Stephanie Spearman, Shaun Vickers, Loren Warren, Jake Wild.

Thank you to the following renewing members:

ABC Electric, Margaret Allington, Harry & Shirley Amen, Mary Andelt, Erik & Carol Ann Anderson, Dorothy Anderson, Wade Anderson, David Armknecht, Rod & Debbie Basler, Kelley Beasley, Anita Boeselager, Daryl Bohac, Dan & Becky Caldwell, Jim & Kim Carveth, Chris Cederberg, Jim & Judi Cook, Jennifer Davidson, Shirlene Davis, Judith DeGraff, Dave Dinsmore & Cathy Bailely, Paul Durbin & Barb Calder_Durbin, DuTeau Chevrolet, Patrick & Candace Dussault, Hess & Nancy Dyas, Eugene Edwards, Dean & Maria Eisenhauer, Deb & Paul Eisloeffel, Mark & Bailey Feit, David Florell, Barry & Lisa Forbes,

Larry & Cindi Fosler, George & Barbara Gammel, Ron & Beth Goble, Richard & Ursula Goodban, Mike Griebel, Christine Grosh & David Pitts, Jeff & Amy Handeland, Matt & Amy Harris, Paul Harrison, Sharon Kennedy & Ralph Hartley, Yvonne R. Heakin, Tom & Candy Henning, Jack Herbert, Courtney Jerke, Jolene John-Beckstrom, Jeff & Heather Kimble, Terry Klein, John Krajewski, Lois Kriger, Doug & Diane Kuppig, Scott Leigh, Jim & Gail Linderholm, Richard Littrell, Matt Mau, Russ & Janine McClintock, Tammie Mead, Francis Moul, Mark Mundorff, Mike Murphy, Nebraska Sports Council, Jim Nora, Fred & Carol Ochsner, Sheppard Perkins, Chris Pro, Gerry & Karon Rehm, Alan & Karen Reiners, Ruth Rodden, Lynn & Dana Roper, Raymond & Bonnie Roth, David & Martha Rowe, Richard Ruby, Hink Sahs, & Heidi Schulz, Jay Schluckebier, Scott & Mary Senne, Cathy Seybold, Dave & Sharon Sinkler, Nadine Skupa, Linda Smith, Chris & Vicki Sommerich, Dick & Sue Spangler, Dan & Lynn Steinkruger, Robert Stoddard, Susan & Clayton Streich, Steve & Laurie Stromberg, Dave Swartz, Don & Sue Sylwester, Marilyn Tabor, Kristine Thoms, Jerry & Pat Trainer, Binh Tran, Candie Turner, Tom & Sharon Vandennack, Elizabeth Walter-Shea, Rex & Joy Walton, Rita Weber, Luke Wilke, Mary Winquest, Kathryn Witte, Larry Worth, Steve Zabel, Gary Zellweger, Greg Zimmer. Joel Zuerlein, Chris Zyguelbaum,

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



Back row (L-R) Dena Noe, Gary Bentrup, Shelby Robinson, Bill Wehrbein, Jeff Kimble, Jordan Messerer, J.P. Jamison, Kris Sonderup, Kevin Fitzgerald, Corey Godfrey. Front row (L-R) Greg Rosenboom, Charlene Dunbar, Steve Dunbar, Marynelle Greene, Mary Torell, Bob Torell, Elaine Hammer, Ron Case, Chris Heinrich, Roger Hirsch

Not Pictured: Matt Baumeister, Karen Griffin, Ann Ringlein, Damon Hershey, Jamie Warren, Ray Stevens, Jr., Kent Henning, Dale Arp, Jesse Peterson, David Scoby

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).

2017 LTC Calendar

- 3/25 State Farm (10M/5K/1M)
- 4/8 Tabitha (10K/2M)
- 5/6 Mayor's Run (1M)
- 5/7 Marathon/Half-Marathon
- 6/3 Havelock (10K/3K)
- 7/9 Lincoln Mile
- 7/16 Uplifting Athletes Run (5K/1M)
- 8/5 GSK (5K/1M)
- 9/10 Buffalo (5M)
- 10/22 Capital City (15K/5K/1M)
- 12/3 Holiday Run (5K/1M)

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



Tour de Lincoln 2017



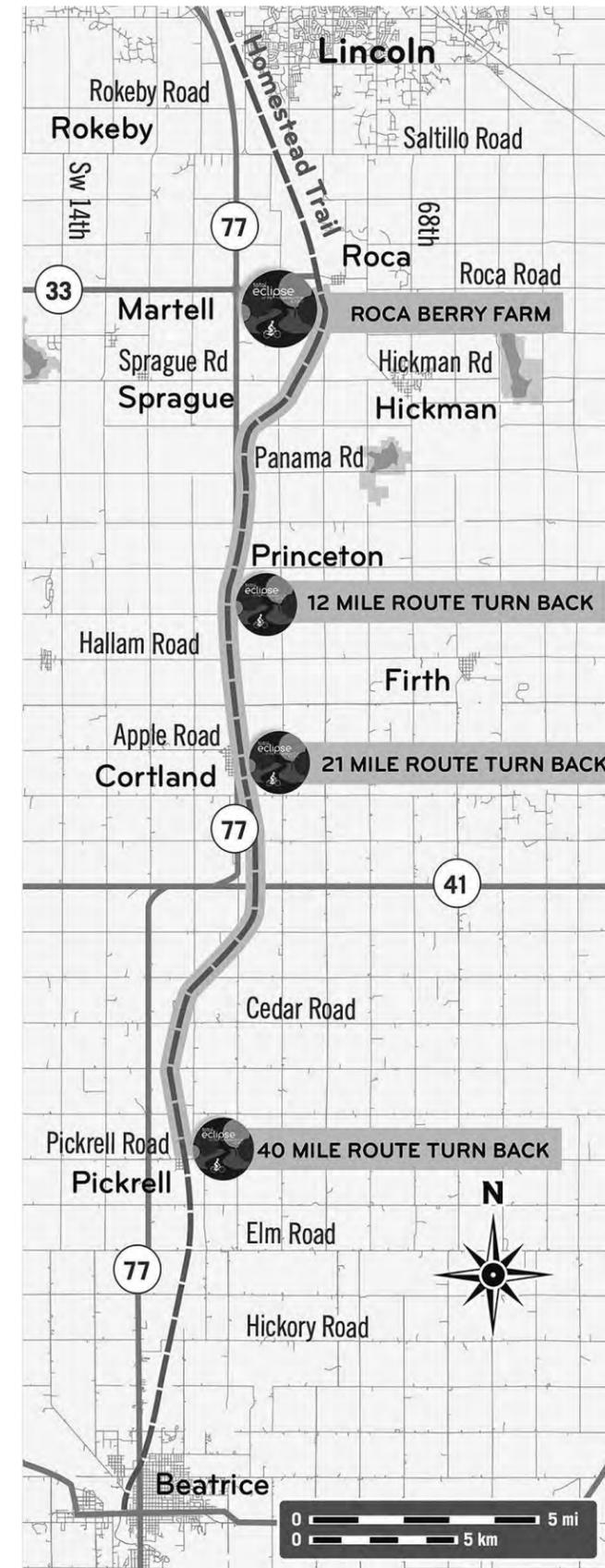
HUB CAFE

LINCOLN'S AUTHENTIC
FARM-TO-FORK CAFE AND BISTRO

250 N 21ST STREET | LINCOLN, NE 68508
TWO BLOCKS NORTH OF O STREET ON 21ST, JUST EAST OF UNL CITY CAMPUS

FREE DRIP COFFEE
or \$1 off a specialty coffee drink

HUBCAFELINCOLN.COM   @HUBCAFELINCOLN



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** Participants: _____

Lunch: \$5.00 (optional) Number: _____

Donation for trails: _____ (optional)

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.

GORGEOUS DAY GREET'S 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 84th 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.



Sustainable, Responsible, & Impact Investing



Tyler Mainquist, CAP®, CLTC®
Central Financial Services
6355 South 56th Street
Lincoln, NE 68516
402-423-4022
tmainquist@aicinvest.com

Financial Planning - Risk Management - Investment Strategies
Securities and investment advisory services offered solely through Ameritas Investment Corp. (AIC). Member FINRA/SIPC. AIC is not affiliated with GPTN or CFS. Additional products and services may be available through Tyler Mainquist, CFS, or GPTN that are not offered through AIC.

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/>



NEBRASKA Home Sales

Rich Rodenburg P.O. Box 6165, Lincoln, NE 68506
Partner, Associate Broker Rich@NebHomeSales.com
402-440-7570 www.NebHomeSales.com



The Canine Scrub



Self-Serve Dog Wash

4130 S. 48th St
Lincoln, NE 68502
(402) 477-2782



www.TheCanineScrub.com email@TheCanineScrub.com

HOURS:
Monday - Friday 10 AM - 6 PM
Saturday: 10 AM - 5 PM
Sunday: 12 PM - 5 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.



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

Boosalis Trail

The westernmost section of the Helen Boosalis Trail along Nebraska 2 — from Brower 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 the 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.

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 Cornhusker Highway will begin this year.

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.

City Campus Traffic Flow Changes

Vine Street (16th Street to Antelope Valley Parkway)

- Outside driving lanes converted to bike lanes
- Traffic signals to be removed at 16th and 17th streets
- No stop signs for east-west traffic at 17th Street
- Four-way stop control at 16th Street

17th Street (Q to approximately S streets)

- Converts traffic flow from one-way northbound to two-way (both directions)
- Traffic signal at R Street replaced by four-way stop control

16th Street (Q to X streets)

- Converts traffic from one-way southbound to two-way (both directions)
- Includes addition of a bike lane in each direction
- Maintains metered parking along curbs
- Provides designated loading zones and bus stops
- Traffic signals to be replaced by multi-way stop control

17th Street (approximately S to Vine streets)

- Closed to through traffic
- Access areas for loading/unloading at nearby buildings

Graphic courtesy of UNL Communications

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 two years 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 with bottled water this year at some of the SAG stops, opting instead for water delivered in bicycle tanks by Springo.

And The Winners Are....!

Thanks to The Bike Rack & Cycle Works, 20 winners rode away on new two-wheelers:

Dawn Bonness	Mag Lien
Dawn Buell	Malachi McArthur
Michael Cox	Monica Morrison
Tom Fossey	Tiffany O'Neill
Karen Foster	Anne Riley
John Gabell	Brenda Sand
Lisa Grimminger	Brooke Summers
Lisa Henjes	Amy Zoller

...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'Neill, Heinrich, Damkroger, Bergmeyer & Shultz, PC, LLO, Cornhusker 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!

Thank You Volunteers!

Bruce Abernathy	Bruce Hammond	Joy Patten
Trevin Alberts	Sam Harris	Matt Pearson
Dale Arp	Kent Henning	Jesse Petersen
Byron Barner	Lisa Henning	Bob Rauner
Tricia Barthelman	Mike Heyl	Ann Reicks
Matt Baumeister	Jayden Hile	Greg Reicks
Mike Buck	Steven Hile	Eric Reiner
Margaret Buck	Roger Hirsch	Ann Ringlein
Ron Case	Roddy Humeniak	Shelby Robinson
Donita Consbruck	JP Jamison	Dalyce Ronnau
Anita Dingman	Lisa Janssen	Greg Rosenboom
Dave Dingman	Jeff Kimble	David Scoby
Don Dingman	Owen Kimble	Bob Sindlar
Mike Disney	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	Bev Sprouse
Deb Egan	John Leduc	Tom Stine
Joyce Ely	Therese Liegl	Greg Stubbendieck
Sue Ferguson	Mike Long	Jon Taylor
Kevin Fitzgerald	Pat Lorenz	Penny Urwiler
Pat Gilles	Fran Lundy	Rick Urwiler
Pat Gilles	Suzan Manthey	Sandra Villa
Beth Goble	Edie Matteson	Kenneth Volker
Barb Green	Matt Maw	Peggy Volker
Jim Green	Ron Mayhew	Cathy Ward
Tammy Geen	Wendy Mayhew	Mike Ward
Marynelle Greene	Robert Nazarens	Loren Warren
Sue Guild	Dena Noe	Bill Wehrbein
Elaine Hammer	Connie Parrish	Mike Willkins
		Kaitlyn Young

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.

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.



Bison Bridge Replacement

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. In general, one would not be able to use RTP funding for an on-street facility. The City has used RTP funding on projects that are more of a replacement than a new trail, when the replacement can be shown to increase the recreational opportunities by providing access to additional users – meeting ADA requirements – or increasing capacity on heavily used trails.

RTP has a limit of \$250,000 per project, which the City of Lincoln has often been successful in acquir-

ing over the years. Generally, the match for RTP funds (minimum of 20%) has been provided by donations, often from GPTN. The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD) also often applies to RTP for funds and many of their trails are within the Lincoln/Lancaster County community. RTP is a competitive grant program and there is about \$850,000/year for the state of Nebraska.

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.



Haines Branch Trail