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 up to $430,000 to support this much needed improvement. Please consider donating to this

Make contributions payable to:  
Nebraska Trails Foundation

Name: ___________________________  
Address: ___________________________  
City, State, Zip: ___________________________  
Designated Project: ___________________________  

Mail to:  GPTN  
P.O. 82902  
Lincoln, NE 68501-2902

So who do I make the check out to?  
By Jamie Warren

The leadership of the Great Plains Trails Network works diligently to ensure that GPTN members have numerous opportunities to make contributions to various trail projects in and around Lincoln. There are hundreds of you that routinely answer these calls by making financial gifts in support of various projects. We are extremely grateful for your contributions, as these wonderful projects simply would not come to fruition but for your generous donations.

When you decide to make a financial gift to support a specific project, we hope you notice that all correspondence from GPTN requires that your check be made payable to the "Nebraska Trails Foundation." Why do we ask that donation checks are endorsed to the Nebraska Trails Foundation? We are simply following legal formalities that allow for GPTN to most effectively pursue its mission, while ensuring that donations to specific trail projects retain their deductible status for Federal and state income tax purposes.

You are likely aware of the IRS designation of a “501(c)(3)” not-for-profit charitable organization. An organization granted tax-exempt status under IRS code section 501(c)(3) is eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions from donors. Although this designation is surely a boon for fundraising purposes, such an organization must adhere to a number of limitations in order to maintain its tax-exempt status. Of particular importance to those that are working to advance causes that are important to GPTN, a 501(c)(3) may not attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of its activities and it may not participate in any campaign activity for or against political candidates.

GPTN occasionally takes positions on legislation, and, although it has not done so for many years, earlier in its history the organization did at times endorse candidates for political office. For these reasons, the founders of GPTN organized as a not-for-profit entity, but did not seek 501(c)(3) status. This allows the organization the freedom to advocate for causes that align with the GPTN mission, even if those causes are politically-oriented, without jeopardizing its tax-exempt nature.

After securing the flexibility needed to best achieve the goals of the organization, how could GPTN maximize its fundraising efforts for specific trail projects by offering its members the ability to make tax-deductible contributions? By partnering with an existing 501(c)(3) charitable organization, the Nebraska Trails Foundation! The Nebraska Trails Foundation is a separate charitable organization with its own board of directors. The relationship with the Nebraska Trails Foundation began when GPTN was founded and continues today.

Continued on page 3
dedicated to the goal of developing a network of commuter and recreational trails within Lincoln and Lancaster County since 1988

2018

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

Great Plains Trail Network

Proclamation from Mayor Halvorson for Great Plains Trail Network

Welcome and thank you to these new members: Noel Bitziano, Jim Evans, Ann Heydt, Mark Holland, Jamie Granquist, Kara & Melanie Kugler-Weight, Gary Kraunland, Michael Laughlin, & Robert Marshall.


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

A Note from the President

I can’t believe it’s been almost a year since taking on the adventure of being president of GPTN. The journey has been wonderful because of the people on the Board and because of all the GPTN members.

Together we’ve accomplished a lot and thanks to the efforts of our fundraising committee we’ve reached our goal and the update to the Murdock trail will be moving forward. This is great news and will fulfill a long-time goal to have all the commuter trails in Lincoln paved.

Trail Trek will be moving to Saturday in 2018. The premier family biking event in Lincoln will be Saturday, June 24. We have some great routes planned and as you’ll read in this newsletter we are adding a Corporate Challenge. Registration will open for Trail Trek the day of the annual meeting, but you can sign up your organization today by visiting GPTN.org.

We appreciate your membership and if you would like to share any suggestions to make it better click on contact us at gptn.org. We’d love to hear from you.

GPTN NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS
November 2017—February 2018


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


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

Newsletter comments, questions, corrections gbentrup68@gmail.com
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 emailed 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

### 2018 LTC Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race Name</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/24 State Farm</td>
<td>10M/5K/1M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/7 Tabitha</td>
<td>10K/2M</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/5 Mayor’s Run</td>
<td>1M</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6 Marathon/Half-Marathon</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/2 Havelock</td>
<td>10K/3K</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/8 Lincoln Mile</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/15 Uplifting Athletes Run</td>
<td>5K/1M</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/4 GSK</td>
<td>5K/1M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/9 Buffalo</td>
<td>5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/21 Capital City</td>
<td>15K/5K/1M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/Holiday Run</td>
<td>5K/1M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2018 LINCOLN DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN EFFORT

Downtown Lincoln is an exciting and vibrant place that has experienced significant change. Over the years, there have been significant public and private investments in new building construction, renovations, and infrastructure. In order to capitalize on these collective investments, further development in the Downtown should be realized and guided by an overall plan.

The 2005 Lincoln Downtown Master Plan and 2012 Update have both served their purposes to guide the evolution of Downtown Lincoln. The City has completed numerous projects as recommended in the previous plans including the 16,000 seat Pinnacle Bank Arena and adjacent West Haymarket development, N Street Protected Bikeway, P Street Primary Retail Streetscape and Lincoln Community Foundation Tower Square.

The City is partnering with experts to create a new Downtown Lincoln Master Plan that will guide public and private investments to elevate Downtown Lincoln as the premier urban neighborhood in the region. Pedestrian and bicycling facilities are an important component in this master planning effort and there will be multiple opportunities for public input. Some of the upcoming public meetings include:

**Community Open House and Global Trends Presentation**

Apr. 10, 2018 - 6:00 p.m.
Location TBD

This meeting will include background information about the Downtown Master Plan effort and provide opportunities for public input on a variety of topics. The consultant will present research on Global Trends Affecting Downtowns and discuss implications for Downtown Lincoln.

**Community Open House**

May 23, 2018 - TBD
Time and Location TBD

Additional opportunities for public input will occur throughout the summer at various downtown events. Details about specific events will be posted on the City’s website. GPTN will strive to keep the bike/ped community informed about these opportunities as they arise.

SO WHO DO I MAKE THE CHECK OUT TO? Continued from page 1

When the Great Plains Trails Network commits to fundraise for a specific trails project, the Nebraska Trails Foundation creates a new fund to house contributions. Donors to the GPTN-supported projects like you make your contributions directly to NTF and NTF holds these donations in a segregated project fund account until such time when the moneys are distributed in accordance with the needs of the project. When a donation is accompanied by your designation of a specific trails project, you ensure your gift will only be used to support that project.

If you ever have questions about the specific trail projects for which GPTN is actively raising funds, please contact us. The GPTN fundraising committee works closely with the City of Lincoln, particularly with the Parks and Recreation department, the regional Natural Resources Districts, and with other trails project stakeholders to stay informed with respect to project needs, issues and projected completion dates. And don’t forget to make your specific trail project donations payable to the Nebraska Trails Foundation!
**NEW FOR TRAIL TREK 2018…**

**A CORPORATE CHALLENGE…**

and a date change

Trail Trek will for the first time be held on a Saturday. Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 23. Along with the change to Saturday, the committee is introducing a new and fun way to participate with a Corporate Challenge. Anyone registering for Trail Trek will be able to go online to join a team. The Trail Trek rider will have the option to select one company team and/or one organization to support. The rider does not have to be an employee or member of the company or organization to make the selection.

Riders in the Corporate Challenge will be able to select any currently registered team. If the team or organization has yet to register, the rider will be able to register the company or organization if they are willing to be a team captain. A team captain’s role is primarily to provide required company/organization information and employment and/or membership counts. Each person on a team will need to register independently. Once registered, each team captain will receive a link to the Corporate Challenge rules which explains how we define a company or organization, and suggestions as to how to improve their chance to win the contest.

Attention! GPTN members we would appreciate your help in 1) Getting companies and organizations registered as soon as possible so they are available to select when event registration opens, 2) Serving on the Corporate Challenge Committee to help tailor it for best success in its first year, 3) Securing sponsorships for awards, website improvements, and other related costs, and 4) Volunteering to help out on event day. To help in any of these ways, please send an email to TrailTrekCC@gmail.com and indicate the ways you can help.

Trail Trek 18 will feature 10, 14, 25, 33 and 53 mile routes with food, fun and entertainment. Registration will open Saturday, February 24 by 1:00 p.m. Please share this information with friends, particularly to help get teams registered.

**BRAVE NEW BREW RUNNING CREW**

The Brave New Brew Running Crew is the brainchild of Justina McConnell who has partnered with Zipline Brewing to combine running, love of good beer, and making a difference in one’s community. Justina coordinates a 5K fun run on a monthly basis to benefit local charities. The Crew gathers for a run on the trails after which they regroup at a Zipline location for a beer.

To participate, runners donated to a designated charity. Since August 2014, the Brave New Brew Running Crew has run forty-one 5Ks and in the process has raised over $21,000 for 39 local charities along the way.

In 2018, Justina decided it would be more strategic to select one charity a year to maximize impact. GPTN is honored and excited to be the selected charity for the Crew in 2018! This year, memberships will be sold to participate in the runs. The cost is $60 per person for an annual membership. From the membership fee, $10 will go to administrative costs and $50 will go to the charity of the year. One can donate more than the $60 and every donation will receive a receipt.

With a 1 year membership, one will receive 20% off on all Zipline Beer and merchandise at every Zipline location in Lincoln and Omaha for an entire year. Justina will be selling memberships at each run this year and to learn about the next run, check out the Brave New Brew Running Crew Facebook page or email Justina at bravenew@brewrunningcrew.com.

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**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, accepted, and “so that more people bike and bike more often.”

Learn more at: http://bicyclincoln.org/

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Learn more at: http://bicyclincoln.org/

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**NEBRASKA BICYCLING ALLIANCE**

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 Visionaries Named 2017 Doppelt Family Rail-Trail Champions

Modified article from Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Two life-long visionaries who were instrumental in building some of Nebraska's most treasured pathways were named Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's (RTC's) 2017 Doppelt Family Rail-Trail Champions.

Ross Greathouse and Lynn Lightner—who have been friends and fellow trail builders for nearly four decades, and who are avid runners and cyclists—helped lay the early groundwork for the Nebraska Trails Foundation and for playing significant roles in the fundraising for, and completion of, most of the trails now supported by the foundation. Greathouse and Lightner were recently honored for their work on Nebraska’s trails at a private ceremony sponsored by RTC at the Jayne Snyder Trails Center.

“What sets Greathouse and Lightner apart is that their volunteerism, their steadfast commitment, their drive to build trails—even under tough circumstances—has never waned,” said Jeff Doppelt, the benefactor of the Rail-trails.

To date, Lightner has overseen the construction of 40 trail bridges and 30 volunteer work crews, and his work extends to Iowa, where he helped raise money and complete a bridge on the Wabash Trace Nature Trail, part of RTC’s national Rail-Trail Hall of Fame. Greathouse estimates having helped raise $2.5 million for trails, and has also contributed to the planning of major trails and networks such as: the 219.3-mile Cowboy Trail, which has been decades in the making and will stretch more than 321 miles when complete; and the Quad-State Trail and Missouri Statewide Trails Plan, an extensive trail system in Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri and Iowa.

Both point to the recently completed 22.9-mile Chief Standing Bear Trail, which now spans from Beatrice to the Nebraska-Kansas border, as their greatest accomplishment. Named after the Ponca Tribe's legendary leader, Chief Standing Bear, the trail serves as a lasting landmark for the tribe and its history. Lightner and Greathouse helped facilitate the transfer of ownership of 19.5 miles of the trail to the tribe in May 2017.

Rachelle Hadley

Rachelle Hadley’s passion is helping others find joy in embarking on a life-long path to health and wellness. She serves this passion in many ways through her full-time job as a wellness specialist, part-time kickboxing trainer, conquering races like 5Ks, 10Ks, half-marathons, relay races like Market to Market and Rag-Nar relays and an occasional sprint triathlon. Her biggest reward in life is watching her two sons grow into productive, self-sustaining adults—a reward she happily shares with her husband, Paul. A unique fact about Rachelle is that for the past four years she has completed her own personal triathlon to commemorate her birthday.

Support Lincoln Trails

By donating to the Nebraska Trails Foundation through the:

Community Services Fund of Nebraska

www.communityservicesfund.org/
THE JOURNEY UP FROM 50TH PLACE BEGINS NOW

We know that you were as disappointed and frustrated (although probably not surprised) when the news came out last fall about Nebraska’s 50th place spot in the Bicycle Friendly Rankings. Nebraska should never rank last in any category, especially one that deals with the safety of the citizens.

Because of this unique opportunity, we are revamping the format of this year’s Nebraska Bike/Walk Summit. We’ll still have some great keynote speakers, but we’ll spend more time doing hands on work to hear from participants about what barriers and challenges exist in different parts of Nebraska and what priorities NeBA should focus on going forward.

So, needless to say, we need YOU to join us at the University of Nebraska at Kearney for the Nebraska Bike/Walk Summit March 2-3, 2018. Kearney is about a 2 hour drive from Lincoln, an easy day trip if you don’t want to stay over. Check out the event website (and check back often for updates) and register today at www.nebikewalksummit.org.

BIKE-SHARING PROGRAM COMING TO LINCOLN

Phase one of BikeLNK is underway. That’s the name of the community bike-sharing service coming to Lincoln this spring. “Lincoln has been talking about bike sharing a long time, and we’re closer today than we’ve ever been,” said Jamie Granquist, BikeLNK City Manager.

A total of 19 stations and 100 bikes will be available as a part of the first phase of BikeLNK, beginning with the installation of stations and kiosks in late February and culminating in a literal “rolling out” of bikes as a part of a public celebration on April 6 (see next page).

Thirteen of the stations are located in the Downtown area from the West Haymarket over to the Telegraph District, with an additional 5 stations located on the University Of Nebraska’s City and East Campuses, as well as 1 station at Nebraska Innovation Campus.

“You get a card or a fob and then that allows you to walk right up to the bike that you want, press a button, swipe your card and the bike comes out,” Granquist said. “We’re talking less than five seconds and you’re off riding.” Users can also pay with a debit or credit card, as well as an app. The first 30 minutes of every ride are free, with a $3 charge every half hour after that. The service caters to casual riders, with prices ranging from a one-time use to monthly and yearly subscriptions.

Heartland Bike Share, a non-profit that will operate the program in Lincoln, says they’ve seen great results with it in Omaha - and say Lincoln is a perfect fit as well. You can find more information by visiting BikeLNK.com.

EVENT CALENDAR

MARCH
2-3 — Nebraska Annual Bike/Walk Summit (Kearny)

APRIL
6 — Launch Date for BikeLNK

MAY
10 — Tour de Lincoln Ride #1
17 — Tour de Lincoln Ride #2
24 — Tour de Lincoln Ride #3
31 — Tour de Lincoln Ride #4

JUNE
23 — Trail Trek