Rock Island & Jamaica North Trail Connector

The City of Lincoln is building a pedestrian bridge over the BSNF Railroad to connect the Rock Island and Jamaica North Trails near Densmore Park and the Cooper YMCA. GPTN is raising $450,000 to support this important trail connection. 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

Trail Trek 2018 Explores New Horizons

The 16th annual Trail Trek event—Lincoln's largest cycling event—is in the books!

Event planners “rolled the bones” a little on this year’s June 23 event and tried some new things to keep the event fresh. The response is still being evaluated, but the results of the money-raising event were pleasing.

Trail Trek 2018 included an expanded number of sponsors, and once the bills are paid, a nice chunk of money will be deposited with the Nebraska Trails Foundation for the benefit of the Rock Island/Jamaica North Trail connecting bridge to be built across railroad tracks at the western edge of Densmore Park. The Great Plains Trails Network (GPTN) is involved in raising $1.3 million for the long-desired south Lincoln connection between the two trails. Once the bridge is in place, Trail Trek will be sure to include it on a future event ride.

Planners were forced into one experiment—shifting the event to Saturday—when a conflict arose with the Lincoln Saltdogs schedule. It doesn’t represent a permanent shift, and GPTN Trail Trek 2018 Explores New Horizons

will work closely with the Saltdogs on Trail Trek 2019. Participation was a little lighter than 2017’s event, but for the most part the results were the same. Some 647 riders, including 90 volunteers, again made the event a success.

Trail Trek 2018 also included a re-introduced Corporate Challenge, won by Lincoln Electric System riders, and that impacted trail selection. This year’s event had seven starting times in order to incorporate the Challenge, and make sure riders had a wide choice of trail lengths. This year the event took riders all the way to Elmwood for lunch, and some participants even went a little further towards Wabash on a 62.1 mile monster ride.

A 10-mile ride for families with children proved popular, and the Pioneers Park ride—an 18-mile ‘out-and-back’ trek—was again very highly attended. The Cool Roots entertained at Pioneers Park, and Chris Sayre—a Trail Trek mainstay—provided entertainment at Elmwood.

Drawing on statistics gathered from previous events, start times were carefully staggered to insure that as many riders participated on Saturday June 23rd.

Continued on page 4
Welcome to these new members:


Thank you to our Secretary:

Karen Griffin
Ron Case
Noel Briseno

Welcome to these new members:


Thank you to our Treasurer:

Jamison H. & L.P. Jamison, Corey Godfrey.

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 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.

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Support Lincoln Trails
By donating to the Nebraska Trails Foundation through the:

Lincoln cyclists had plenty of ways to celebrate National Bike Month in May, and enjoying the Tour de Lincoln Bike rides was one way! The Great Plains Trails Network (GPTN) and Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department had another successful year for the annual bicycle rides.

As they have done for nearly 14 years, GPTN and the Lincoln Parks & Recreation sponsored Thursday evening bike rides designed to take participants to different quadrants of Lincoln and explore the trails. All rides started and stopped at the Jayne Snyder Trails Center at Union Plaza Park. This year’s bike rides took place the last four Thursdays in May. At the start of the first ride on May 10 Joe Harris, KLKN Channel 8 TV reporter, did a live interview with Tour de Lincoln organizer, Mary Torell, as well as videotaped the riders for their evening broadcast.

Members of GPTN's Board of Directors lead each ride, provided mechanical support and made sure there were no riders left behind. The rides varied in distance from 12 to 16 miles each, and were designed to acquaint the city’s cyclists with different trails, conditions and features. People of all ages and families came out and enjoyed the rides. Lots of positive comments were made on how much cyclists enjoyed the rides. In spite of some hot weather days, there was a good turnout of people for all the rides, and there were approximately 200 total cyclists who participated. Popsicles provided at the end of the ride provided mechanical support and made sure there were no riders left behind. The rides varied in distance from 12 to 16 miles each, and were designed to acquaint the city’s cyclists with different trails, conditions and features. People of all ages and families came out and enjoyed the rides. Lots of positive comments were made on how much cyclists enjoyed the rides. In spite of some hot weather days, there was a good turnout of people for all the rides, and there were approximately 200 total cyclists who participated. Popsicles provided at the end of the ride.

IMPROVING 13TH FOR DRIVERS, PEDESTRIANS AND BICYCLISTS

The city plans to convert 13th Street, between Lincoln Mall and South Street, from four traffic lanes (two each way) to three lanes (with a center turn lane), making room for a bike path on each side of the street.

The proposed improvements to 13th Street include:

- Adding a center two-way, left-turn lane
- Enhancing crosswalk safety
- Adjusting on-street parking to meet local needs
- Adding bike lanes in additional street area
- Converting street lights to energy-saving LEDs
-Replacing aging or diseased trees

Cities don’t build many four-lane undivided streets any more, because it is not a good street design for safety and for operations said Lonnie Burklund, assistant director of transportation for the city.

To understand how a three-lane street would perform, Lincoln residents only need to travel further south on 13th Street.

At South Street, 13th Street turns into a three-lane street with a two-way, left-turn lane. Side-by-side comparisons of four-lane 13th Street with three-lane 13th Street show the potential for increased safety and increased traffic volumes with a three-lane design. The portion of South 13th Street that is already three lanes carries 40 percent more traffic and is 3x safer.

For more information: https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/pworks/projects/13th/lincoln-mall-south/#s

To join the Lincoln Track Club: www.lincolnrun.org
TRAIL TREK 2018 EXPLORES NEW HORIZONS

Continued from page 1

as possible returned to Haymarket Park for lunch and the bike drawing. Attendance at the drawing and lunch affirmed this experiment. Mayor Chris Beutler again attended to help with the bike drawing.

And The Winners Are....!

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

Margaret Buck
Theresa Codr
Ty Eichle
Ryan Fosler
Fred Helmink
John Kredjci
Tim Loseke
Brenda Love
Michelle Manning
Heather Niemeyer
Nicole Peterson
Terry Read
David Riggs
Clint Range
Stephanie Schriner
Tim Stentz
Frank Tate
William Taylor
Sara Werner

Pepsi provided water and sodas, and Screen Ink made the popular t-shirts. Trail Trek’s presenting sponsor was Lincoln Electric Systems. Platinum sponsors were Allo, Sutton Dermatology & Aesthetics, Great Plains Trails Network, and the University of Nebraska Federal Credit Union. Other sponsors included Olsson Associates, Union Bank, Good Life Fitness, Enterprise Car Sales, Cornhusker Bank, OHDBS, and Genesis Health Clubs.

The event also profits greatly from the use of the Haymarket Park staging area, and thanks go to the Saltdogs for the use of that area.

The City of Lincoln and GPTN were the primary sponsors, with GPTN members providing much of the coordination and volunteer assistance.

Planning for Trail Trek 2019—precise date not known at press time—begins immediately, after the planning committee gets its breath back.

And, oh yes...the weather was perfect!

Many, many thanks go to the sponsors of this year’s event. Bike shops Cycle Works and The Bike Rack again donated bicycles for the popular free bike drawing at the conclusion of the event. Hy-Vee provided lunch, ice and snacks for riders at the Haymarket and SAG stops. Promotional services were donated by AlphaMedia: KFOR 103.3FM/1240AM, EAGLE 92.9, KFRX106.3, 104.1BLAZE, ESPN 101.3FM/1480AM, and KX96.9. The Lincoln Journal-Star also helped with promotions.

BicyclingLincoln 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."

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

Mayor Chris Beutler with the 2018 Trail Trek Bike Winners.
Murdock Trail Renovation
The City of Lincoln will be paving the Murdock Trail from 56th to 70th Street this September. An adjacent gravel sidepath will also be constructed for runners and walkers who prefer a softer surface. An open house for the project will be held on August 30th from 5:30 to 6:30 at the Easterday Recreation Center, 6130 Adams Street.

Wilderness Park South Bridge
The City of Lincoln has submitted a grant application to aid in funding the replacement of the South Bridge in Wilderness Park. Construction is expected to begin in 2019.

33rd and Cornhusker
The BNSF railway currently carries nearly 65 trains daily on the double-track mainline railroad through northeast Lincoln, resulting in at least 3.5 hours per day that each of the at-grade railroad crossings at N. 33rd Street and Adams Street are blocked to vehicular traffic.

The Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) is leading the charge to make travel in this vicinity safe and efficient for all transportation types, including pedestrians and bicyclists. Find out more about this project at: https://www.33rdcornhusker.com/.

EVENT CALENDAR
SEPTEMBER
23 — Streets Alive
30 — GPTN’s 30th Anniversary Celebration (see below)

OCTOBER
6 — Market to Market Relay
14 — Historic Bike Ride to Pioneers Park (stay tune for more information)

GPTN 30th Anniversary Open House
Jayne Snyder Trails Center
Sunday, September 30, 2018
2:00 pm — 4:00 pm

Thank You To Our Many Trail Trek Volunteers!
Marge Abelbeck  Phil Bohaty  Marynell Green  Jeff Kimble  Dena Noe  Bob Torell
Bruce Abernathy  Noel Briseno  Sue Guild  Jim King  Sven Noe  Mary Torell
Kim Albright  Ron Case  Rachelle Hadley  Mary Bruce King  Heather Nunn  Barry Urdel
Jill Alley  Parks Cable  Paul Hadley  Dave Kleeper  Connie Parrish  Rick Urwiler
Dale Arp  Charlene Dunbar  Elaine Hammer  Timothy Kovar  Joy Patten  Penny Urwiler
Charley Bacon  Steven Dunbar  Kent Henning  Jim Krieger  Jesse Petersen  Sandra Villa
Brett Baker  Deborah Eagan  Lisa Henning  Therese Liegl  Ave Pickering  Peggy Volker
Noelle Baker  Joyce Ely  Mike Heyl  Nancy Loftis  Ann Reicks  Kenneth Volker
Byron Barnet  Sue Ferguson  Steven Hile  Jerry Ludtke  Greg Reicks  Loren Warren
Matt Baumeister  David Fikar  Jayden Hile  Judy Ludtke  Dabye Romau  Jamie Warren
Michael Bayne  Deb Fisher  Roger Hirsch  Edie Matteson  Greg Rosenboom  Bill Wehrbein
Cara Bentrup  Dean Fisher  Roddy Humenik  Eva Mattson  Katie Shepard  Amy Windle
Gary Bentrup  Kevin Fitzgerald  Lisa Janssen  Kent Mattson  David Sinker  Roy Wolgamott
Mike Bernoltz  Mark Forster  Stan Johnson  Gretchen Monroe  Ken Snyder  Carolyn Wolgamott
Barb Bohaty  Tammy Green  Owen Kimble  Robert Nazarenus  Jon Taylor  Kaitlyn Young

And Thank You To Our Many Trail Trek Sponsors!

GPTN 30th Anniversary Celebration

The Great Plains Trails Network turns 30 this year and we’re going to celebrate! GPTN was founded in December 1988 to help develop and maintain a trail system in and around Lancaster County, Nebraska. Here we are in 2018 with over 131 miles of wonderful trails and GPTN still working hard to make improvements and expand the trail system. There have been so many people over the years who donated their time, ideas, and financial support to make this all happen and we want to celebrate these accomplishments and thank you for making them possible.

Come join current and former GPTN Board Members for cake and ice cream, coffee and conversation to reflect on the good times and the hard work over the last 30 years!
LINCOLN’S BIKE SHARE PROGRAM ON A ROLL

Launched in April, Lincoln’s bike share program called BikeLNK offers 100 short-term rental bikes available at 19 kiosks across the city. Since the launch, ridership has exceeded expectations according to Jamie Granquist, manager of the BikeLNK program. In July, an average of over 100 rides a day was recorded. The service is accessible through the BikeLNK website, app and kiosks. Passes range in price from $3 for a 30-minute “Quick Tripper” to $80 for an annual membership. The annual pass is available for $10 to University of Nebraska–Lincoln students, faculty and staff. For more information: https://bikelnk.bcycle.com

July Numbers
- 3,352 trips taken
- 10,153 lbs of CO2 offset
- 10,754 miles ridden
- 426,935 calories burned

GIVE TO LINCOLN DAY RAISES OVER $22,000 FOR THE BRIDGE

This year’s Give to Lincoln Day on May 31st was a huge success. We received over $20,000 from 164 donors plus over $2,000 from the Lincoln Community Foundation Challenge Fund. Final take-home amount was $22,276 which will be used to support the Rock Island and Jamaica North Trail Connector Bridge. Thank everyone for your generous donations!

CONNECTING ROCK ISLAND & JAMAICA NORTH TRAILS!

For many years, trail users have asked for a connection between the Rock Island Trail and the Jamaica North Trail in south Lincoln near the Cooper YMCA and Densmore Park. That wish is now becoming reality!

The City of Lincoln, the Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD), and GPTN are partnering together to provide a 350-foot pedestrian bridge over the BSNF railroad, safely connecting the two trails. The City of Lincoln is providing $250,000 while GPTN is raising the remaining $450,000 for this $1.3 million dollar project.

Construction should begin in Fall 2019 and take eight or nine months, if the weather cooperates. Currently, the project is referred to as the Rock Island and Jamaica North Trail Connector Bridge, however it will likely have a snappier name by the time it opens.

See the back panel of this newsletter for more information on how to donate to this exciting project or go online to www.gptn.org. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

LOCATION OF THE TRAIL CONNECTOR BRIDGE NEAR COOPER YMCA

ARCHITECTURAL RENDERING DEPICTING THE ROCK ISLAND AND JAMAICA NORTH TRAIL CONNECTOR BRIDGE NEAR COOPER YMCA

ARCHITECTURAL RENDERING DEPICTING THE ROCK ISLAND AND JAMAICA NORTH TRAIL CONNECTOR BRIDGE NEAR COOPER YMCA