

BILLY WOLFF TRAIL

Built in 1978 and named after Billy Wolff, a longtime downtown bicycle shop owner, the trail stretches just over 11 miles and includes numerous Lincoln landmarks. If you begin on the west end of the trail at Nebraska Innovation Campus, you'll immediately see the Bob Devaney Sports Center, home of the five-time national champion Husker volleyball team.

The trail skirts the east side of the university's main campus with a view of Harper, Schramm, Smith residence halls before passing through Trago Park. Between Antelope Parkway and 22nd street, Trago includes playground equipment and a splash pool for the kids.

Just a couple of blocks south of the park is the Jane Snyder Trails Center. Opened in 2012, it was named after Jayne Snyder, a business owner, physical therapist, lifetime runner, and City Council member. Snyder dedicated her life to helping people and serving our community. She helped spearhead Lincoln's trails network by chairing many fundraising campaigns. The Jayne Snyder Trails Center serves as a community meeting place, an event center with a small amphitheater, and a rest stop where one can enjoy the giant head sculpture, Groundwater Colossus. The head has embedded speakers that play two different sounds: trickling water to evoke the aquifer beneath it and clanging metal to represent humankind's jarring impact on the environment. Trail users can also take advantage of the fountains, rest room, or grab a bite to eat at The Hub Cafe.

From there you cross under O street and, after passing Elliott Elementary School and Lincoln High School, you reach 27th St. Across Capital Parkway on the west side of 27th is Lincoln's Sunken Gardens, listed in the National Geographic Guide to the 300 best gardens to visit in the U.S. As you continue on the trail, you pass the Lincoln Children's Zoo, one of the top rated in the country with giraffes, tigers, monkeys, the famous ZOO Express train ride, and more. Take a moment to view the Bicentennial Cascade Fountain and enjoy the fragrances of the Rotary Strolling Garden.

In 2011 the Billy Wolff Trail was upgraded as part of a joint project between the City of Lincoln and the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District. This included a new bridge over the Antelope Creek Channel just east of Randolph and Capitol Parkway and construction of a trail connection from the bridge with the Antelope Valley Trail just south of "J" St.

As you leave the Zoo behind, the trail follows Normal Boulevard southeast past Antelope Creek Park. Inside the park is the Veteran's Memorial Garden with over 21 military monuments. A place of solemn beauty, the garden allows peaceful reflection and serves as a permanent reminder of the sacrifices veterans have made to preserve our freedom.

Along Normal Boulevard is Jim Ager Memorial Golf Course. It's a 9-hole, par 3 course built in the 1960s and is considered one of the finer short courses in the country. Crossing South St., the trail moves through residential areas for a little over a mile passing two parks, Roose and Pansing, which sit on either side of Van Dorn St. A half-mile after crossing 56th St. is Holmes Lake Dam. This is the only noticeable incline on the path, but once at the top, you'll have a nice scenic view of Holmes Lake and the surrounding area.

The Billy Wolff trail continues along Normal until you turn south on 70th St. and take a steep, quick drop to go under the street. You emerge at the entrance to Rickman's Run/ Holmes Lake Dog Park. If you have pups, this is a great place to let them run off leash in a fenced 26-acre park.

Continuing southeast you travel by neighborhoods, go under Pioneers Boulevard, and then back into residential areas. Mendoza Park is along the way, after you cross Old Cheney Road. It's a nice little neighborhood park with swings and other playground equipment. From there, most of the trail is through residential areas with the occasional street crossing until you reach Pine Lake Road. This takes you along the east side of the Menard's/ Wal-Mart/ Sam's Club shopping area until you hit Highway 2 just past the Heart Hospital.

We hope you enjoy this long scenic and historic trail and all the stories it has to tell.

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