



Lincoln Trail-A-Thon

Rock Island Trail

In July 1988 the Lincoln Journal ran an invitation for the public to walk two routes proposed for the new Rock Island Trail. "Hammer, chairwoman of the Great Plains Trails Network, said the Great Plains Trails Network group is eager to promote the creation of recreational and commuter trails in Lincoln, particularly along the abandoned Rock Island and Missouri Pacific Railroad rightways; find ways to link present and proposed trails." On August 12, 1988 the City Council approved the route we see today, and our trail system was born.

Article and Photos by Cara Bentrup -

From the ethereal wintertime tunnel to the glorious fall color, budding spring trees and a Nebraska summer's familiar yet comforting haze, the long time resident Rock Island Trail is a testament to Lincoln trails' bounteous history. Constructed on a right of way acquired in 1985, the trail connects the Children's Zoo along Capitol Parkway with Densmore Park south of 14th & Old Cheney.



It travels through Antelope Park, Bishop Heights Park, Peterson Park and provides a connection to Tierra Park. It also connects to the Billy Wolff Trail on the north, Boosalis and Tierra/Williamsburg Trails near Highway 2 and Densmore Park west of South 14th Street.



Once a childhood thoroughfare turned teenage refuge, then an adult collection of memories old and new, the heart of Lincoln's trail system, the Rock Island Trail travels through and connects to several Lincoln neighborhoods. It provides access to Rosseau Elementary School, Southeast High School (by way of Van Dorn Street), Star City Shores, Ruth Hill Elementary School, the Cooper Y, Southwest High School, as well as many other parks and valuable community assets. This popular commuter trail will be acquiring a connector bridge later this year, joining Rock Island to North Jamaica Trail at Densmore Park.





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