Chris Beutler Trail

In the future South Haymarket Park, the Chris Beutler Trail will connect the N Street Protected Bikeway to the Jamaica North Trail at J Street. Estimated cost for the trail and easements is $275,000. GPTN in partnership with NTF is raising funds to support this critical trail connection. Please consider donating to this exciting project. Thanks!

Make contributions payable to:
Nebraska Trails Foundation

Name:______________________________________________
Address:___________________________________________
City, State, Zip:_____________________________________
Designated Project:_________________________________

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

GPTN Annual Meeting—Feb 19, 2022

Please mark your calendars for the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Great Plains Trails Network as we continue Building New Paths. Because of the Coronavirus, the meeting will be held virtually on Saturday, February 19, 2022 at 1:00 pm CST.

Robert J. Bartja, Park Planner for Lincoln Parks and Recreation, will give a comprehensive report on work completed on the trails, work in progress, and what trail items are on the horizon in the near future. Following the presentations, GPTN’s annual awards and election of the 2022 Board of Directors will take place.

Lincoln’s trails system consists of 134 miles of paved trails, which connect to rural routes that add another 100 miles between northern Kansas and the Omaha area. And additional miles of dirt and mowed trails in wilderness and natural areas.

You are invited to a Zoom meeting. Register in advance for this meeting at: https://tinyurl.com/ysxsfmts

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

For more information about the annual meeting, or the Great Plains Trails Network, contact Jim Krieger, President of GPTN at 402-840-5398 or visit our website at www.gptn.org.

2022 Proposed GPTN Board

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Image by Cara Bentrup
since 1988
dedicated to the goal of developing
a network of
commuter and recreational trails
within Lincoln and Lancaster County

2022
PRESIDENT Jim Krieger
VICE PRESIDENT Jordan Messerer
SECRETARY Bill Wehrbein
TREASURER Sue Ferguson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marybell Avery
Gary Bentrup
Noel Briseno
Dwight Brown
Kyle Clouston
Parks Coble
Doug Dittman
Sue Ferguson
Eli Frank
Corey Godfrey
Jamie Granquist
Marynelle Greene
Rachel Hadley
Elaine Hammer
Jim Krieger

LaDonna Little Elk
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Jesse Petersen
Ann Ringlein
Roy Rivera
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Greg Rosenboom
Ray Stevens
Denise Teahon
Mary Torell
Jamie Warren
Bill Wehrbein
Ken Winston

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

Newsletter comments, questions, corrections
gbentrup66@gmail.com

Great Plains Trails Network

GPTN NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

November 1, 2021 - January 9, 2022

Standard $10
David Atkinson, Mary Barry, Lori Blum, Bob Boyce, Jim & Barb Green, Garland Headrick, Jim Krieger, Lois Kriger, Ruthann Nahorny, Jim Peter, Frederick Rickers, Sandra Roche, John Slieter, Tedde Taege, Denise Teahon, Bob & Karen Trisko, Loren Warren


Associate $20

Trail Patron $100
Don Alvord, Byron Barnar, Rick Becker, Eric Buhs, Doug & Mary Campbell, Sean Carmichael, David Dinmore, Steve & Charlene Dunbar, Mark & Nanette Gokie, Jim Hawkins, Chris Heinrich, Tom King, Lynn & Marcia Knuth, Nancy Loftis, Mike Malloy, Robert & Kay Marshall, Bob Michaud, Katherine Putensen, David & Martha Rowe, Rick & Penny Urwiler

Trail Benefactor $250
Lynette Exum, Sue Ferguson, Joanne Gross, Ken Gross, Jeff & Amy Handeland, Brian & Gail Hinklley, Patti Lintel, Bill & Susan Macy

Thank You!

Image by Greg Rosenboom
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/

Bike Walk Nebraska cultivates and supports safe and accessible active transportation across the state by leading sound policy and advocating for best practices. We work across sectors in partnership with elected officials, municipalities, and organizations to ensure that biking and walking - whether for transportation or recreation - works for all Nebraskans.

Become a member at:
https://www.bikewalknebraska.org/

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COLDWELL BANKER
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The Lancaster Composite Mountain Bike Team is rolling into year three under the Nebraska Interscholastic Cycling League (NICL). We’re the coed team of 6th-12th grade students from Lancaster County. In 2021 we had 19 student athletes from Lincoln Public Schools, Malcolm, Raymond, Waverly, Norris and home schools focused on riding trails, racing, and having fun. Interest in the team is growing and we had 24 adults attend our coach information meeting in early February. Now we’re asking our friends with GPTN to help send more athletes our way!

Team pre-registration is free and open now through the front page link on our website www.LancasterMTB.com to let us know you’re interested. NICL registration follows with six pre-season activities running April-May. These are low-stress, inclusive rides in parks and trails around town. Anyone curious about the team is welcome to participate in one activity prior to registering. Bring a bike with 26” or larger tires and your helmet.

The season revs up July 1 and runs 18 weeks through early November. There are no try outs and no bench. Everyone rides for the team. We hold weekly practices that mix mountain bike skill development, games, and training rides. All ability levels are welcome from new riders to seasoned racers. Some teammates are focused on racing, but everyone is focused on building up community and having fun on bikes.

Four race weekends occur in late August through October at local and regional trails. Racing is optional, but encouraged. These weekends give us an opportunity to ride new trails, meet other teams, and push ourselves to achieve individual goals that may include finishing one lap without putting a foot down, clearing a rock garden, setting a new personal record, or bringing home a State Championship. In 2021, our teammates accomplished all of these monumental goals.

When we aren’t riding, our teammates also help maintain natural surface trails, volunteer at community bike events, build bikes to give away, and participate in many other fall sports and activities. We’d sure love your support, to have a couple more local sponsorships, and to grow our team into a solid spoke of the Lincoln area bicycle network. Schools interested in establishing a bike club can expand beyond Lancaster Composite to encourage more biking to school, promote environmentally sustainable transportation, and more recreational opportunities. Our team email address LancasterMTB@gmail.com and Facebook @LancasterMTB are the best ways to contact us for more information.

Regards, Coaches Jesse, Yun, and Whitney
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).

Lincoln Track Club Membership Application

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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).

To join the Lincoln Track Club: www.lincolnrun.org

Support Lincoln Trails

By donating to the Nebraska Trails Foundation through the:
**Event Calendar**

**FEBRUARY**
19 — GPTN Annual Meeting

**MARCH**
12 — Wilderness Park Run for the Bridges

**MAY**
5 — Southeast Tour de Lincoln – 15 miles
12 — Northeast Tour de Lincoln – 16 miles
19 — Southwest Tour de Lincoln – 14 miles
26 — Northwest Tour de Lincoln – 12 miles

**JUNE**
26 — Trail Trek

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**Trail Updates**

South Beltway construction and utility relocation: The Jamaica North Trail will remain open during construction, but temporary and periodic closures will be required in the area one-half mile south of Saltillo Road. This is a multi-year project.

Beal Slough Trail from 56th to 70th St: Design work continues on the Beal Slough Trail and construction should begin in 2022.

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**Can You Catch This Guy?**

Wouldn’t it be fun to try?

Homestead Trail
Oak Creek Trail
MoPac East Trail

LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district
www.lpsnrnd.org

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**LancasterMTB.com**

Interscholastic Mountain Biking Girls and Boys Grades 6-12

Preregistration open now!

Preseason Activities: April-June

Practice Season: July 1 - Nov 3

Four Race Weekends

Inclusive Community
No Tryouts
No Bench
All Skill Levels

LancasterMTB@gmail.com
fb@LancasterMTB

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**Tour de Lincoln**

By Mary Torell

Join the Great Plains Trails Network (GPTN) along with Lincoln Parks & Recreation as they celebrate National Bike Month in May with their annual Tour de Lincoln bicycle rides.

For the past 17 years, GPTN has sponsored Thursday evening bike rides designed to take participants to different quadrants of Lincoln. GPTN plans to host the rides with safety precautions in place due to the Coronavirus. All rides start and end at the Jayne Snyder Trails Center at 228 North 21 Street (21st & Q Streets) Union Plaza Park, beginning at 6:00 pm. This year's bike rides are scheduled each Thursday in May as follows:

May 5 – Southeast Tour de Lincoln – 15 miles
May 12 – Northeast Tour de Lincoln – 16 miles
May 19 – Southwest Tour de Lincoln – 14 miles
May 26 – Northwest Tour de Lincoln – 12 miles

Members of GPTN’s Board of Directors lead each ride, provide mechanical support and make sure there are no riders left behind. The rides vary in distances from 12 to 16 miles each, and are designed to acquaint cyclists with different trails, conditions and features. Refreshments will be available before the start. People of all ages and families are invited to come out and enjoy the rides. Lots of positive comments have been made by riders on how much they enjoyed past rides. Many have never ventured out on trails that are not near their residence, so they welcome the opportunity to see where a new trail leads them.

“We try to feature different trails when possible, during Tour de Lincoln rides,” said event chairperson Mary Torell. “The most important thing is to expose bike riders to all quadrants of the city and allow them to discover Lincoln’s great trails system. Our network of 134 miles of trails continues to grow, and these rides give people an opportunity to see portions of the city and trails they may not have seen or ridden.” “We encourage people to get out and explore the trails and have fun”!

No registration fees are required, but participants are required to wear helmets for all GPTN sponsored biking events. There will also be drawings for refreshments from The Hub Café (next to the Jayne Snyder Trails Center).

Weather cancellations will be announced on Facebook and on our web site at http://www.gptn.org. Let’s all get out and ride!
Senator Robert Hilkemann has introduced LB 981 which will revive the Trail Development Assistance Act and make a one-time transfer of $15 million to the fund to be used for maintenance of rail-trails in Nebraska. If passed, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission could draw down up to $750K per year to maintain the Cowboy Trail and future rail-trails under their purview. The fund would be solvent until approximately 2048.

Senator Hilkemann has also introduced LB 813 to fund trail development and improvement along the designated national rail-trail route through the State of Nebraska. The MoPac Alliance (Bike Walk Nebraska, Nebraska Trails Foundation, Great Plains Trails Network), along with friends Northwest Nebraska Trails Association, have been working hard on this, and we are grateful to see it move forward! Stay tuned for information on how you can lend your support!

As I continue to grow up with Lincoln’s trails, I have come to appreciate their steadfastness. Their ability to give me a privacy that I crave, while at the same time filling a void of loneliness and separation. Quiet moments with my thoughts, flitting by thoughts of a passerby. I suspect some of them are thematically similar. Curiosity that I might see Lola, a long-haired gray and white cat I retrieved from a tree early last summer. She scampered quickly with thankfulness back to her home across from where I found her. The two tuxedo cats in a basement window along MoPac; they are often watching birds that forage around pine trees nearby. My favorite spring and summer bird feeder; soon I will see those bright orange Baltimore orioles coming back to visit for our warmer months.

Community is all around, right ahead, and even behind us in that moment we snap our bike cleats, lace up our sneakers, grab the dog leash or load up the stroller, nurturing ourselves as a ubiquitous collective, despite continued unknowns and isolation. Gathering via nature and movement; seeking out familiar faces. Familiar places. Constant. Reliable. A comfort knowing that we are all in this together; each one of us adventuring to the breath of fresh air, tree-lined oases, and other peoples’ pets (because if you know me, you know me). I could not fathom such a treasured asset as this one.

What or who do you look for on your favorite trail?

**Legislative Update**

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