



Dena Noe &lt;noe.dena@gmail.com&gt;

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## Highlands, Superior, Roper Park Trails - Lincoln Trail-A-Thon

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**Great Plains Trails Network** <infogptn@gmail.com>  
Reply-To: infogptn@gmail.com  
To: noe.dena@gmail.com

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## Lincoln Trail-A-Thon

### Highlands Loop, Superior and Roper Park Trails



This month we are exploring trails on the northwest side of Lincoln. Congratulations, you've reached the half way point of our Lincoln Trail-A-Thon challenge.

I've definitely biked my way through these trails, but this is the first time I've had a chance to run them. Depending on how you have decided to tackle this

month's trails you might have been wondering if Alvo road was ever going to come to an end and don't even get me started on the hill. But, let's face it, that's the fun of exploring a new trail or maybe even a new area of Lincoln.

The Superior Street Trail isn't one of the most picturesque in Lincoln, but it does get you from point A to point B. An important piece in Lincoln's development of the

trails system has been working to connect them. In many other cities, you experience trails to nowhere. While we have a few, most of them are done in preparation of a long-term expansion plan for both the trails system and the City.

The Superior Street Trail was not without controversy as the City worked to build the 14th Street roundabout in 2011. The three-laned roundabout was the first of its kind in Lincoln and people were not welcoming the idea at one of the busiest intersections in the city. As part of the roundabout project the City put in underpasses so that students walking or riding their bikes to school could have safe passage. Many citizens were worried about the safety of those underpasses, concerned with assaults.

The roundabout was built, but modified to only two lanes. After a quick search and talking to people that use the trail, I learned there have been no issues with the underpasses. Once the roundabout was modified, the intersection saw fewer crashes and most agree a safer passage through the underpasses at this intersection.

The Highlands trail is a real treat if you haven't had a chance to explore it. The trail offers a pleasant, just under 3-mile loop, through Lincoln's Highlands neighborhood. Supporting its role as a community connector, the trail traverses Nebraska Technology Park on its south end and, on its north end, a spur off the loop leads to Fredstrom Elementary School. The route also passes the Highlands Golf Course.

Highlands Golf Course is an 18-hole, championship, public golf course designed in 1993 by Jeff Brauer. The course has matured beautifully and offers sweeping, rolling terrain that makes the course a pleasure to play. Varying wind conditions can offer a great challenge to the golfers. If you ask me the challenge on this golf course are the sand traps. Depending on where your ball lands, you feel you might be in the middle of the Sahara Desert. Question – do you have to count all the golf swings you use to get out of the desert?

Highlands Trail loop two is where you will experience the Alvo Road hill. Parts of this trail are newly completed and lead you to Kooser Elementary School, a nice place to take a break before you head south back to the Superior Street Trail.

Roper Park is a 144-acre park located in Northwest Lincoln along Interstate 180 from Superior Street to Adams Street. The park features vast open park areas with a disc golf course, playground, walking/biking trail, and picnic shelters.

Roper Park Trail provides an oblong loop around a creek. The narrow, paved pathway traverses a wide, grassy area dotted with trees. Short spurs along the way provide easy access to the trail for the surrounding neighborhoods.

Roper Park is known for its 27-hole disc golf course. Players of all abilities are put to the test on each of Roper Park's 27 holes. Shots over water, through trees, and off of steep slopes are just a few of the obstacles that await you. Long open



fairways are a "grip and rip's" dream, while several short holes offer the perfect opportunities for that elusive ace.

This course plays around a 15 ft. drop off creek. The front 18 holes are fairly flat with a few top-of-hill shots. Holes 20-25 have nice "Top of hill" shots down to the tee. Holes 5,6, and 9 are on some good hills as well.

Depending on how you decide to tackle this month's trail, Roper Park might be a trip all in itself so you can spend some time enjoying the scenery. Or maybe bring along your frisbee, as well as pack a lunch for the kids, and stay a while. That's the wonderful thing about the Lincoln Trail-A-Thon challenge, it's yours to plan, enjoy and explore.

[Downloadable Route Map](#)

## Cornhusker State Games Walk

Our friends at the Cornhusker State Games are moving ahead with their events. We wanted to let you know they have a fun walk that includes the Rock Island Trail, which just happens to be our trail for July. Please consider signing up and participating in this great Nebraska tradition. The walk is on Saturday, July 25. [Click here](#) to register.



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