

## REPLACING PIONEER'S PARK TRAILS

The Parks and Recreation Dept. is in the process of seeking funds to begin the replacement of the aging (1972) asphalt trails in Pioneer's Park. If funding is secured this will be the first step of a long-term, multi-stage project to replace all the existing trails with 8 foot, concrete trails. GPTN has agreed to provide some of the necessary matching funds.



### Make contributions payable to the Nebraska Trails Foundation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to GPTN 5000 No. 7th St.  
Lincoln NE 68521



# Great Plains Trails Network

Winter 2011

Issue 107

## BILLY WOLFF REWORKED

If you have a chance to ride or walk south from the Antelope Valley Trail, cross the creek on the new bridge just south of Randolph and pass through the tunnel under 27<sup>th</sup> and Normal you will discover the improvements to the Billy Wolff Trail which extend to just south of the new A Street bridge. The first thing you will notice is that the steep grade formerly encountered when exiting the tunnel is no more. All grades meet ADA specs of 5% or less.



This entire section of the trail has been lowered as a part of a stream widening project undertaken by the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District. A part of the Antelope Valley Project, widening the channel has removed approximately 100 structures from the flood plain. It also offered an opportunity to improve this section of the Billy Wolff, one of the oldest of Lincoln's Trails. Lowering the trail

will not increase closure due to high water since flooding would occur first at an even lower point in the tunnel under 27<sup>th</sup> Street. Plans are in place to post signs alerting trail users to use the detour in case of high water.

A new connection to the Rock Island Trail is provided by a branch or "switchback" curving to the northwest and then back to the south. The structure at the former junction of the two trails has been enclosed and is now used for equipment storage.



provides access to an overlook complete with benches and a drinking fountain. A bit farther south the substantial retaining walls feature large, precast concrete units with vertical metal stabilizing beams and have

been painted to match the prevalent earth tones of other Antelope Valley structures.

The trail passes through a new box passageway under the new bridge on A Street and rises gradually to join the existing trail adjacent to



Antelope Park. A second box culvert on the east allows for increased stream flow at high water.

*Continued page 3*



*Billy Wolff Continued*

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The GPTN Newsletter is published whenever there is enough news to justify an issue. It is distributed to GPTN members and interested others.

5000 North 7th • Lincoln, NE 68521

For more information, contact: Elaine Hammer, 477-0242, or www.gptrn.org



Great Plains Trails Network

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*since 1988*

*dedicated to the goal of developing  
a network of  
commuter and recreational trails  
within Lincoln and Lancaster County*

**2011**

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**NOTE FROM GARY**

*December 2011*

**A**s winter's embrace is fast approaching, so is the conclusion of my two-year tenure as GPTN president. It has been an exceptional ride and I believe we have achieved some exciting milestones along the way due to unending support from our many partners. We are extremely fortunate to have public allies, such as the City of Lincoln and the Lower Platte Natural Resources District, who work tirelessly through red-tape and politics to bring trail projects to fruition. Hopefully these public entities can serve as role models for other agencies, passing along a greater understanding of the vital social-economic role that bicycling and pedestrian facilities fulfill within our community.

The Great Plains Bicycling Club, Lincoln Track Club, and other fellow organizations are also deeply valued comrades in our efforts to expand and integrate the trails network into a larger community fabric. Of course, these accomplishments continue to remain possible because of the thirty-one GPTN board members who invest significant time and effort in making this a wonderful organization. Last but not least are GPTN's members and other trail enthusiasts, who offer unwavering support through volunteering, membership fees and generous donations to trail projects, even during times of lower economic bounty. Clearly, our trails system is the result of a wonderful collaboration of many individuals and groups who believe in building a priceless treasure for our community.

This journey was also punctuated by great sadness in the passing of Jayne Snyder; a lifelong trails advocate who helped in the creation of GPTN. She and several other dedicated trail supporters mortgaged their homes to provide collateral for a loan in order to purchase the MoPac easement, so that it could be converted to a multi-purpose trail. This selfless act highlights the amazing commitment of our original founders, drawing up a blueprint for efforts and leadership, which will forever be remembered at the Jayne Snyder Trails Center.

It is my hope that we will be able to cultivate similar involvement and enthusiasm in the next generation of trail leaders. The last two years have provided me insight on the dynamic role of this leadership, combining the insight of many individuals and groups who are working towards a common vision. For progress and innovation to occur, we must listen and incorporate the many voices that share in this cause. As I turn my duties over to another, I plan on continuing to be involved in this work and hope to embrace it with a greater understanding.

Now it is time to throw on my hat and gloves, lace up my running shoes, and enjoy what we have worked diligently to achieve. Hope to see you on the trails!

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**GPTN NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS**

*September 15 – December 1, 2011*

Welcome to the following new members: Charles Bacon, Kurt & Amy Behrhorst, Jane & Eugene Boilesen, David Burd, Kathryn Campbell, Jim & Liz Carney, Michele Casanova, Barb Chmelka, Clarissa Christensen, Hanna Day-Woodruff, Brian Dickey, Dillon & Cassandra Dittmer, Kathryn Dolan, Deb Drewel, Todd & Kristen Eggerling, Mary & John Eischeid, Joy Elliot, David & Kathy Ells, Lezlie Ferguson, Natalie Friesen, Mike Griebel, Mark & Karen Hakenkamp, Patrick Hanson, Jim Hawkins, Damon Hershey, Roger & Bette Hinrichs, Gene Hogan, Randy Holcomb, Charles Horner, Jonathan Horrell, Sarah Howell, William & Nancy Ingham, Pat Johnson, Sharon Johnson, Susan Krenk, Lois Kriger, Jim & Meg Lauerman, Tess Lesoing, Richard Littrell, Galen Madsen, Michele May, Carla McCullough & Alan Boldt, Keetn & Katie Miller, Melanie & Shane Miller, Kathy Naber, Sheri Pfeil, Glenda Pierce, Teella Poppe, Daryoush Razavian, Vonn & Deb Roberts, Travis & Sally Schroer, Marjorie Shriver, Paul Siebert, Debra Smedra, Mary Snocker, Daria & Michael Springer, Jamie Tallman, Larry Toalson, Scott & Joyce Tontegode, Rick & Penny Urwiler, Cheryl Vajgrt, Paul VanDeWater, Jerald Varner, John Wagner, Jane & Ron Wasserman, Bill Wayne & Naomi Wayne, Tom Wool.

Thank you to renewing members: Kevin Bachman, Brett Baker, Jim Barger, Earl & Barbara Barnawell, Sean Barry, Betty & Arlen Beam, Monica Beck, Barb & Phil Bohaty, Pat Bracken, Scott Braly, Linda Breen, Mark Brohman, Robert & Ann Brown, Mark Brunner, Eric Buhs & Rose Holz, Don & Trudy Burge, Dale & Clay Capek, Aaron Carnes, Ron & Karen Case, Betty Castan, Frank Chavira, Sheryl Chisholm, Alan & Roseann Christensen, Mary Commers, Jason Conrad, Larry Corbett, Rick & Jean Cotton, James Crook, Barbara Day, Maggie Dayton & Jason Davis, Brian Dickey, Alice M. Dittman, Richard Draper, Garry & Kathy Duncan, Robert Duncan, Barb Calder-Durbin & Paul Durbin, DuTeau Chevrolet, Earl Dyer, Mick & Joi Eschenbrenner, Barry & Lisa Forbes, Debbie Fisher, Peggy Forcier, Holly Foster, Fraser Family, Don Freeman, Matt Fuller, Larry Fuerst, Sue & Scott Gardner, Benjamin & Elaine Gelber, Bill Genrich, Vincent Goeres, Janet & Robin Goracke, Dennis & Hayley Grobast, Kimber Green, Steven & Nancy Green, Marynelle Greene & Ned Sharp, Scott Grossenbacher, Christine Grosh & David Pitts, Gary Gustafson, Marcella Shortt & Robert Haller, Rachael Hamilton, Doyle Haney, Chad Hanthorn, Elly Hardekopf, Nancy Harr, Paul Harrison, Brad & Beth Hartman, Klaus Hartmann, Jim & Laurie Haszard, John Hauner, Heidrick, Greg & Mary Heidrick, Richard & JoAnn Hekl, Phyllis & Gary Hergenrader, Dennis & Rose Mary Hicks, Ronald Hill, Brian & Gail Hinkley, Ward Hoppe, Betty Howe, Marilyn Hutchinson.

Thank you to renewing members: Clyde Johnson, Wayne & Karole Kaldahl, Scott & Debby Kerr, Sarah Kahlhof, Karen Knap, Dan Kounovsky, Stan Krause, Kent Imig & Lori Kreimer, Mike Kreikmeier, Ted & Mary LaGrange, Jean Lake, Beth Lau, Ed Lincoln, Delfs Linder, Marion Lindgren, Cindy Looper, Patrick Lorenze, Bernie Lyons, Margene Jacobs & Tom Lynch,

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**GPTN \$\$\$\$\$**

GPTN gets nearly 100% of its revenue from membership dues. Funds from Community Service Grants, although designated for GPTN, are normally assigned to a designated project. The following is a summary of GPTN expenditures for the past 12 months

Projects	\$6,188	31%
Map redesign		
Bison Bridge		
Postage	4,040	20%
Maps	3,600	18%
Newsletter	2,355	12%
Electronic service	1,097	5%
Sponsorships	500	2.5%
Awards	487	2%
Miscellaneous	1,908	9.5%

**TRAIL TREK \$\$\$\$\$**

Trail Trek revenue in 2011 (\$23,500) came from two sources; sponsorships 31% and entry fees 69%. Expenses were:

Barbecue	\$ 5,239
Shirts	4,645
Promotion*	
Printing	864
Postage	392
Mailing	115
Entertainment	275
Police	477
Signage	64
	<u>\$12,071</u>

Over \$11,000 was designated for trails projects.

\*A major in-kind promotional contribution from the Lincoln Journal-Star in the form of newspaper publicity was not included. Their support was vital in the success of this project.



## TRAIL PROXIMITY AFFECTS PROPERTY VALUES

Source: University of Cincinnati News.

Location, location, location – it is often touted as affecting the value of residential property. Now, new University of Cincinnati research suggests that location near nature trails could hold a financial benefit for homeowners and ultimately neighboring communities.

Two University of Cincinnati researchers, Rainer vom Hofe, an associate professor of planning, and Olivier Parent, an assistant professor of economics, have examined how the Little Miami Scenic Trail – a 12-mile southern stretch of the trail that runs through the Cincinnati metropolitan region – impacted residential property values in Hamilton County, Ohio. The scenic, multipurpose trail beckons walkers, hikers, skaters and bicycle enthusiasts and also has horseback riding paths.

“For the ‘New Urbanist,’ multipurpose trails provide the potential for bicycle commuting; help alleviate noise, pollution and congestion, and expand the means for green transportation and a community’s walkability,” write the authors.

Using a research model they developed, Parent and vom Hofe found that from a real estate perspective, trails can have significant, positive spillover effects on property values when these properties are located within reasonable distances to the trails. To be more specific, housing prices went up by nine dollars for every foot closer to the trail entrance. Ultimately, the study concluded that for the average home, homeowners were willing to pay a \$9,000 premium to be located one thousand feet closer to the trail.

The researchers say their study is among the first to quantify the impact of multipurpose trail proximity on residential property values while isolating the results from the biasing effect of nearby property values.

The research used street network distances between residential properties and the closest trail entrance, in addition to standard parameter estimation. The average home studied was about 40 years old and had an average 2,203 square feet of living space. The average price was \$263,517.

As a planner, vom Hofe adds that even amid tough economic times and tough budget decisions by local governments, the research emphasizes that investment in infrastructure and public amenities is a solid investment that will result in a positive return for communities. Parent adds that their future research will examine how the effect of the location of green spaces and transportation infrastructure on residential property prices has changed over the last decade in Hamilton County.

The research was supported by a \$21,000 interdisciplinary grant awarded in 2010 by the University Research Council at UC. The University Research Council Interdisciplinary Grant Program blends the diverse expertise of UC researchers and lays the groundwork for research that could open opportunities for federal funding. The researchers say the majority of that funding was invested in developing a database of housing characteristics of

some 300,000 properties over a 10-to-12 year period for use in this and future studies. The current study focused on 1,762 residential properties located within 10,000 feet of the trail.

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## SNOW DAYS

by Jason Bakewell

Its official, winter has arrived in Lincoln. For many, the frigid temps and snowy conditions mean putting the bike in the garage, placing the running shoes on the shelf and forgetting about the trails until at least April.

For others, winter is just the next season to be outside and enjoy the trails with a bit more solitude. It always amazes me how a few inches of fresh snow can transform even an urban landscape into an apparent wilderness and create a sense of peaceful isolation right here within Lincoln’s city limits. And what better way to enjoy this landscape than to fill a thermos with your favorite warm beverage, head out to a local park, and glide your way to freedom on a pair of skinny cross country skis.

Lincoln may never be confused for a Nordic winter sport destination, but there are plenty of miles of trail to explore just a stones throw from home and usually several weeks to enjoy them on skis. Favorite local hot spots include skiing the woodlands of Wilderness Park, tackling the rolling hills of Pioneers Park, or making fresh tracks across the frozen waters of Holmes Lake.

Wherever you go, you’ll be glad you made the effort. Whether its a quick solo ski after work or an all Saturday morning epic with your normal cycling or running crew, cross country skiing can be a great way to stay outside, keep those holiday pounds at bay and get the most out of winter. Who knows, maybe when April finally rolls around, you’ll actually be hoping for one last dump of snow rather than longing for warmer temperature and to drag the bikes and running shoes out from storage.

Interested in giving cross country skiing a try? Ski and snowshoe rentals are available from UNL Outdoor Adventures located at 841 North 14th street. Make reservations in person or by calling [402.472.4777](tel:402.472.4777)

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### GPTN Newsletter Advertising Rates

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Political ads not accepted

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Prepared and provided in quantity by the advertiser.

Trails related	\$75
Commercial/Political	\$200

## THANK YOU DONORS FOR GIVING THROUGH COMMUNITY SERVICES FUND

Larry Fletcher—Board Member CSF, NTF

The Nebraska Trails Foundation (NTF) is grateful for the financial support it receives from the 200 donors who donate, year after year, through their Community Services Fund (CSF) Work Site Giving Campaign. The NTF has received \$125,000 over the past 10 years from CSF Donors Campaigns. All of these funds have been designated for Great Plains Trails Network (GPTN) projects. CSF contributors have been a major donor in all GPTN trail projects for the past 10 years.

The NTF is a non-profit organization as are the 31 other agencies belonging to the CSF. All of these agencies are dedicated to improving our community’s standard of living. The CSF Work Site Giving Campaign gives every donor the opportunity to pledge to the agencies of their choice. If it were not for the effort of the CSF administrative staff and CSF Board Members there would not be an opportunity to make a pledge to the NTF.

I want to urge GPTN members to consider pledging, through the CSF Work Site Giving Campaign, to the NTF. If the CSF pledge card is not available at your work site, ask your superior to provide the CSF pledge card. If you are a business owner give your employees the opportunity to make a pledge to NTF by using the CSF pledge card during your giving campaign.

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## GPTN ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 19, 2012,

Brian-LGH College of Health Sciences  
3035 Everett St.

PLAN TO ATTEND

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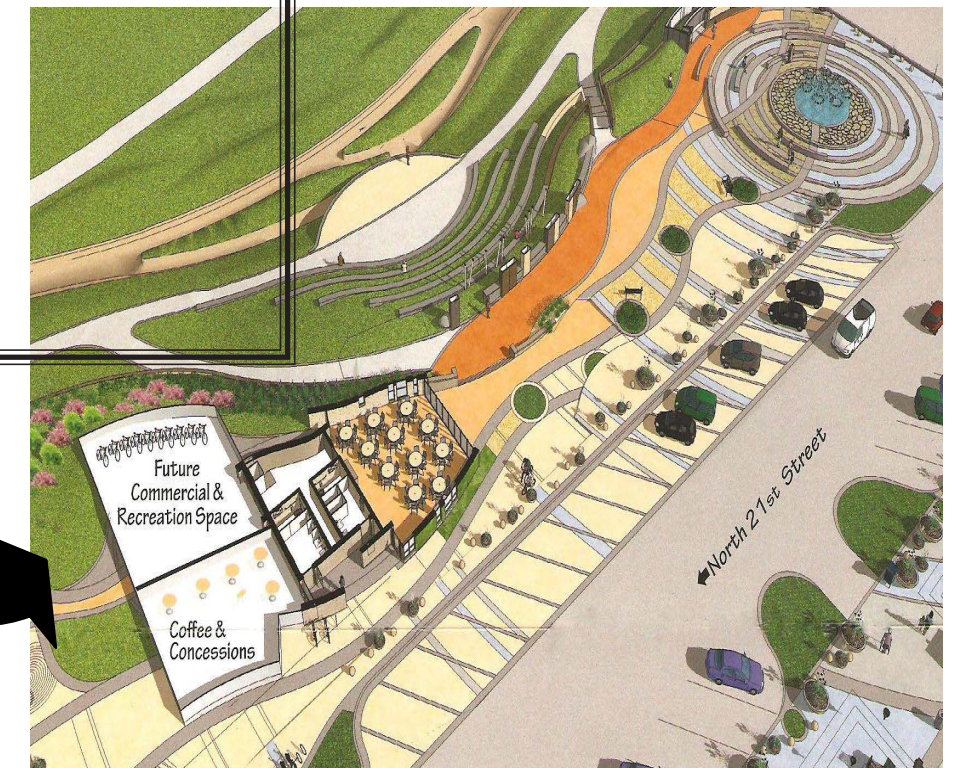
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## TWENTY YEARS OF TRAILS

Between 1991 and 2011, over \$2,250,000 has been raised to support an area-wide trails system. Private gifts have helped to buy land and develop these trails for public use. All of the trails are owned either by the City of Lincoln or the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District. With the added signs, maps and the Jayne Snyder Trails Center, the system will be ready for thousands more users. It will be more user-friendly and available to tourists and riders from all over this area.

The following Individuals, businesses, foundations, groups and governments have played a major role in contributing to this tremendous effort. On the front face of the Trails Center (21st Street side) these names will be inscribed on metal (aluminum) plates that will be mounted into recessed panels on the brick façade.

If there are errors, corrections or additions, please let Elaine Hammer (elaine.hammer@windstream.net) know. We can make changes up until the end of the year. Then the list will go for inscription. Hopefully, this will be an inspiration for many years to come.

### Business Recognition \$10,000 or more

Alfred Benesch & Company  
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The Bike Rack  
Cornhusker Bank  
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Pinnacle Bank  
Sandhills Publishing  
Southpointe Pavilions  
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### Foundation Recognition \$10,000 or more

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Lincoln Community Foundation  
Lincoln Family Foundation  
Mosby Lincoln Foundation  
Olivia Garvey Lincoln Memorial Trust  
Olsson Associates & Olsson Family Foundation  
Rogers Foundation  
TierOne Foundation

### Groups & Government \$10,000 or more

Great Plains Trails Network  
Lincoln Track Club  
  
Lancaster County  
City of Lincoln

### Individuals \$5000 or more

John & Catherine Angle  
John & Jan Blumer  
Daryl & Kris Bohac  
Gale & Becky Breed  
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Gregory E & Margaret Kontras Sutton  
Dan Lynn & Beth Thacker Family  
Lyle & Joyce Vannier  
Dave Woll  
John & Cyndi Woollam

Lincoln Cares  
Community Services Fund, Designated gifts

Some of the adjacent slopes have been planted to grass with the earlier planting well established. Others will show little green until spring. The present grass is a cover crop but the permanent variety will be a mixture of native grasses that should minimize mowing. While the major participant in this project was the NRD with additional funds coming from City of Lincoln Stormwater



Management, Parks and Recreation cooperated in the planning. The City also provided matching funds for a Recreational Trails Grant to pay for the new section of the trail from J Street to the new bridge over Antelope Creek. The NRD provided matching funds for a separate Recreational Trails Grant to construct the bridge.

Perhaps this project can provide a model for improving trail sections that adjoin it.

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### BIKES+SHORT TRIPS=SAVINGS

A recent study by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences provided statistical results related to the elimination of auto travel for round trips of 8 kilometers or less in 11 metropolitan areas of the Upper Midwest. This area included 37,000 square miles populated by 31 million people.

They reported that improvements in air quality as a result of making 50% of such short trips by bicycle would yield an estimated savings of \$3.8 billion/year in avoided mortality and reduced health care costs. The combined benefits of improved air quality and physical fitness would exceed \$7 billion/year.

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### HOMESTEAD PROGRESS

The state has accepted bids on the Pickrell to Cortland segment. Pavers Inc. is being awarded the project for \$492,000 with construction in the spring (April/May.)

Shortly thereafter the trail will be completed from Lincoln to Beatrice.





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