

# Cool off by splishin' and splashin' at city pools

By Stephanie Zink  
Staff Reporter

Local pools have been getting larger turnouts than usual, thanks to the warm weather, Terry Reger, project coordinator of athletics and aquatics for Lincoln Parks and Recreation, said.

Lincoln has nine public pools which were attended by a total of 269,600 people last summer, Reger said.

All of the pools have at least two diving boards and a wading pool with the exception of Woods Memorial Pool.

## Take five at the park

By Deb Pederson  
Senior Reporter

Pioneers Park ranks among college students as the most popular city park with Holmes Lake running a close second, said Herb Cords, Lincoln Assistant Superintendent of Parks and Facilities.

Outside Lincoln, Pawnee Lake attracts slightly more visitors than Branched Oak Lake, said Daryl Holmberg, Branched Oak Park Superintendent.

Cords said Pioneers Park, located a half mile south of Van Dorn and Coddington streets, is popular because of its partially wooded 606.7 acre country locale.

"There's room to play frisbee, lay back in the trees with a girlfriend, study or play football," Cords said.

The park has bridle and biker/hiker trails, a golf course, concessions stand, picnic facilities, the Pinewood Bowl outdoor theatre and softball diamonds.

Holmes Lake, 70th and Normal Boulevard, is popular for its sand and gravel beach and the marina, Cords said. The park also has a golf course, bridle and hiker/biker trails and picnic facilities. It spans 555 acres.

Lakes outside Lincoln also appeal to college students. Holmberg said water sports are the main attraction.

Branched Oak Lake has 1,800 acres of water, a marina with boat rentals, bait and tackle, a restaurant, two beaches, modern and primitive campgrounds and four boat ramp areas, he said.

Pawnee Lake, 12 miles from Lincoln and north of Emerald, has similar facilities but is smaller, Holmberg said. Branched Oak Lake is 25 miles from Lincoln, north of Malcolm and west of Raymond.

Both parks require a state park permit. Permits are \$2 for one day or \$10 for one year. Permits are sold in Lincoln department stores and at the parks, Holmberg said.

Woods is the largest with a total capacity of over 1,000 people. Besides the Olympic size 50-meter pool there is also a 25-meter warm-up pool and a three-level diving tower.

Woods is one of the largest pools in the Midwest, and will host the National AAU Junior Diving Meet June 28-August Reger said.

Woods will also be the site of the Great Plains Swim Meet in July.

Local swimming and diving teams

are organized at each pool for those 18 and under. The teams allow children the chance to compete with other local teams, Reger said.

Red Cross classes will be offered in swimming, basic rescue and lifesaving. There are also classes for parents and young children.

The pools are open from 1:00-8:00 p.m. everyday and are \$1.25 for adults, 65¢ for those 7-17 years old, and 30¢ for children 6 and under.

Family passes are available for \$79 and individual passes for adults run \$46. Passes are good only at one pool unless an extra fee is paid.

Discount coupon books can be used at any pool.

An alternative to public swimming pools is the Abel pool at 860 N. 17th.

Amy Dickerson, an Abel employee, said the pool has one diving board and is open from 2:00-10:00 p.m. From 7:00-8:00 p.m. there is lap swimming.

Pool use is free to those students living in UNL housing and employees of UNL housing.

Students not living in the dormitories are allowed to use the pool for 75 cents. Individual passes can be purchased for \$7 and family passes for \$20.

For the general public costs are 40¢, individual passes \$10, and family passes are \$25. Passes can be purchased at Abel Hall or Smith Hall, 1120 N. 14th.

# Bike trails lead travelers in and around town

By Deb Pederson  
Senior Reporter

A 30-mile network of bicycle routes and hiker/biker trails weave throughout the city's eleven parks combining outdoor fun and transportation for many people, said the Lincoln Parks and Recreation assistant superintendent

for planning and construction.

The most popular bike trail is the Billy Wolff bikeway, Lincoln's first commuter trail, Robert E. Wright said.

Opened in 1979, the 8-foot wide concrete trail runs about four miles alongside Normal Boulevard from 24th and N streets to Holmes Park.

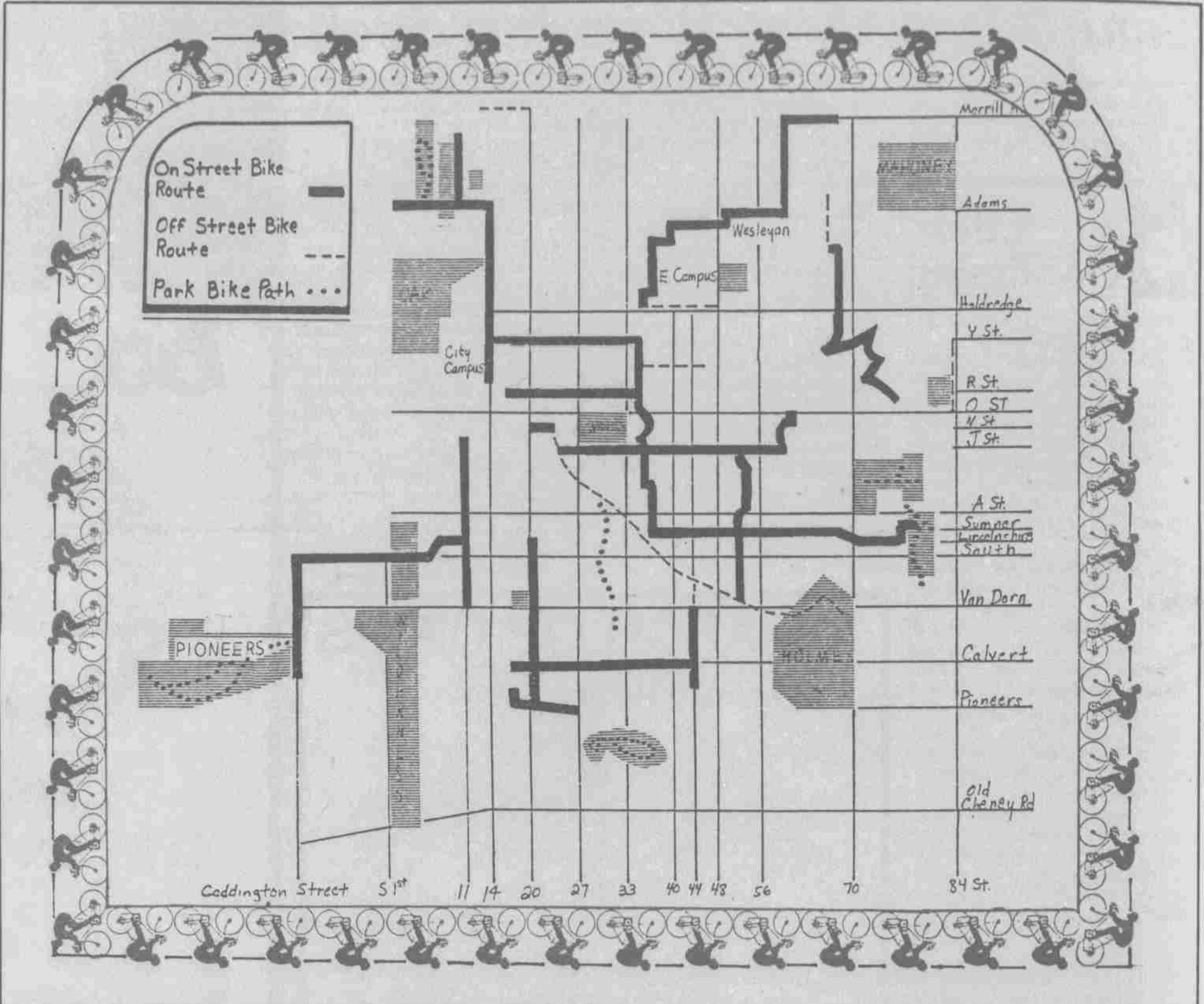
Two more commuter trails will soon

be completed, Wright said. The John Dietrich bikeway runs from 28th and Leighton streets to 48th and Fremont streets. The other trail runs along the north side of Highway 2 from 17th and 56th streets, he said.

Other bike trails in parks like Pioneers and Antelope are narrower and designed primarily for recreational

rather than commuter purposes, he said. Street bike routes are identified by green and white signs.

In keeping with the expansion of Lincoln's bike trails, the city is buying the Rock Island train line through town in order to build a "recreational corridor" running from R street to Wilderness Park, Wright said.



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