

# Lincoln recreation presents variety, cheap leisure

■ Students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln can expect a large portion of the city's leisure activities to be aimed at them.

BY BRANDON SCHULTE  
Staff writer

It could be said that the UNL campus provides everything a student needs to survive. It offers food, athletic events, plays and concerts, but chances are students will want to get away from the campus once in awhile.

And the city of Lincoln is up to the challenge.

"The campus is an essential part of the community," Lincoln Mayor Don Wesley said. "With the sense of energy the students bring to the community we need to be hospitable to the university."

The city of Lincoln has taken strides in the past to be friendly to students, faculty and staff. Not only for the enthusiasm that they bring to the city but also for the money they bring to the economy.

"Twenty thousand people can amount to a large portion of the economy," Wesley said. "Individually they might not contribute much but as a whole they are a big part of the city's economy."

It is a winning situation for both parties: area businesses get much needed revenue while students have an opportunity to get away from the day-to-day rigors of class work.

As in most metropolitan areas the downtown area is the hub of Lincoln's night-life. With the campus located a few blocks from downtown, residents have a short commute to all of the restaurants, theaters, and bars as well as the Hay Market.

All five theaters in the mid-town area are owned by Douglas Theaters which offers a student I.D. discount at all of its complexes but it tries to attract students through other means.

"We try to draw student business with the student I.D. discount coupled with locations within walking distance of the university and later movie showings," Stuart Theatre assistant manager Brianna Greco said.

The downtown area isn't the only avenue for student involvement throughout the city however.

The Mayor's office along with the Parks and Recreation Department have several plans in the works to enhance community entertainment for students.

One is to use the Pine Wood Bowl, an outdoor amphitheater, to host concerts says Lincoln Recreation Manager Sandy Meyers.

"We are exploring the use of the Pine Wood Bowl at this time," Meyers said. "There have been concerts there in the past but the city can't put up the tax dollars for a concert on its own. An outside entertainment entity must foot the bill."

The Parks and Recreation Department also maintains Mahoney, Pioneers, Holmes Park and Highlands



ABOVE: CHAMPIONS FUN CENTER, 1515 Yolande, features family entertainment ranging from video games to go-carts. RICK TOWNLEY/DN  
RIGHT: LINCOLN'S BIKE TRAILS run throughout the city and provide opportunities for recreation and, with the addition of human-powered wheels, transportation. SCOTT McCLURG/DN



## Lincoln parks give outdoor fun

BY SARAH BAKER  
Senior staff writer

Get out while you still can. Soon books and classes will be more commonplace than shorts and sunglasses. But there is still plenty of time to take advantage of summer freedom while the days are still longer than the nights.

Although it may be surprising to some, Lincoln and the surrounding areas are lush with parks, trails and a variety of other recreational opportunities, most of which are free or have a minimal admission fee.

Many of the parks, recreational areas and trails around the area don't cater specifically to college students, but most do give students the chance to get outside while it's still warm to do something out of the ordinary.

Pioneers Park Nature Center, located just west of Lincoln, offers 700 acres of free, outdoor, year-round

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BECKY WITULSKI  
spokeswoman for Pioneers Park Nature Center

entertainment. Becky Witulski, a spokeswoman from Pioneers Park Nature Center, said the park aims its activities toward families, but it still remains a big draw for college students.

She said she was very interested in doing things to attract more students, but nothing has been discussed so far. "I don't know what college kids want to see, but I think it's a great idea to start doing more for them," she said.

Witulski said in the winter

months, Mahoney's sled run is one of the most popular attractions and draws snow enthusiasts of all ages. "We also attract cross-country skiers in the winter, and they are an older crowd," she said.

Pioneers Park also has picnic areas, biking and walking trails, a ball diamond and soccer field and wildlife such as bison, elk and deer. Get away from the city entirely

Please see FUN on 23

golf courses. All offer 18 holes and can be played on a sliding fee basis and depend on.

On weekends nine holes will cost 12 dollars all day long while before 1:30 p.m. 18 holes will cost 18 dollars while after that time it drops to 16 dollars a round.

Weekdays peak times are between 6-8 a.m. and 3-6 p.m. and will run 15 dollars and 12 dollars for 18 and nine

holes respectively. The rest of the day the fees are \$13.50 and 9.50.

Meyers says one of the most popular places for students is Holmes Lake. It offers the golf course, sand volleyball, fishing and picnic facilities.

Another of the city's attributes are its 75 miles of trails which are used for biking, hiking and running.

The vibrancy that the student body brings to the city can't be ignored therefore the municipality will do its part to enhance student life.

"The city is trying to build a healthy downtown," Wesley said. "We want to make it the entertainment center and the students make that possible. The city will do more to bring things to campus that will make Lincoln a fun and exciting place for students to be."

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ATP

The men of Alpha Gamma Rho would like to welcome all of the new students enrolled in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Our founders and members recognize the importance of agriculture and have held the tradition of the only all agriculture fraternity since 1904.

Over our long history of being recognized as an elite fraternity across the nation, Kappa chapter here in Lincoln has played an active role in the development of young men socially, academically and professionally. Our belief in brotherhood reinforces the success of our fraternity through many friendships and endless benefits of membership. Alpha Gamma Rho maintains that strong ties of friendship and leadership do not come from hazing but from working together as a team. This is why Alpha Gamma Rho has developed the Brotherhood Program which welcomes all members as equals and eliminates the groundless semester pledging program.

There are endless benefits in becoming a member of Alpha Gamma Rho and we would like to take the time to discuss them with you and answer any questions you may have about our house. Please feel free to give us a call to set up a time we could visit you at our place or yours.

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