



LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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August 28, 2018

Mark Brohman, Executive Director
Nebraska Environmental trust
P.O. Box 94913
Lincoln, NE 68509-4913

RE: Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch Phase 3 Project

Dear Mr. Brohman:

The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners strongly supports the City of Lincoln's proposed Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch Phase 3 project. The Prairie Corridor project is a tallgrass prairie passage and trail that will build on our nationally recognized trail and greenway system and will link two of Lincoln and Lancaster County's premier environmental resource and education centers.

The County has been a partner since the first phase of this project. We recognize that the Prairie Corridor Trail will be an opportunity to connect people with nature. The interpretive features will help people understand the natural world and the benefits of the tallgrass prairie ecosystem. In addition, the trail will offer a unique tallgrass prairie experience easily accessible from I-80, and a 20-mile roundtrip trail ride that will encourage visitors to stay another day in Lincoln and Lancaster County. In fact, the Prairie Corridor has the potential to become a significant attraction for the Lincoln area that will result in notable economic benefits.

As evidence of Lancaster County's commitment toward the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch Phase 3 project, we are dedicating \$40,000 per year, for a total of \$120,000 toward the recreational trail element of the project. The Lancaster County Board is looking forward to being part of the public-private partnership in support of Phase 3 of the Prairie Corridor, and we encourage the Board of the Nebraska Environmental Trust to support this important project.

Sincerely,

Todd Wiltgen, Chair
Lancaster County Board of Commissioners

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