

Nebraska Trails News

August 20, 2010

National Trails Day Grants

This year the Nebraska Trails Council Board allocated \$1,100 for eleven grants of \$100 each to go towards local events celebrating National Trails Day (celebrated the first Saturday in June). According to Karen Anderson, secretary of Nebraska Trails Council, "Events held across Nebraska on National Trails Day, June 5th ranged from a youth photography contest held on a community trail to a nature bingo trail walk. Several of the events were held after National Trails Day due to the rainy weather this year. One postponed event, a 12 mile bike race will be held sometime in September. Pictures of these events may be seen on our [FaceBook](#) page.

Development Grants Available

Nebraska Recreational & Parks Association is pleased to announce 2010 Development Grants. Grants provide up to \$1,000 for development of park and recreation facilities in Nebraska. Grant applications are due Oct. 31, 2010. Grant applications have been posted on the NTC [Facebook](#) page and on the Nebraska Trails Council website under "CALENDAR".

Dannebrog Trail

Nestled within Howard County is the small village of Dannebrog. This lovely central Nebraska community has a lot of heart and determination. In 1992 a group of citizens led by Shirley Johnson started developing and seeking funds for a trail system. Today this system covers over three miles and almost completes a circle through the village.

In speaking with Shirley Johnson, the pride she has for the village and the Dannebrog Trail is evident. One of her fondest places along the trail is the section that runs through Hannibal Woods next to a creek. Shirley explains that Hannibal Woods is named after the first family that settled in the area. She considers the area as historical woods because all of the original trees were planted by the Hannibal family.

Residents of Dannebrog enjoy seeing visitors from other areas stop by and enjoy their trail. Dannebrog is approximately 29 miles from Grand Island; travel north on Highway 281 then west on Highway 58/5th Ave. Shirley says she'll be waiting for you.

Other Trail News

- Only three weeks left to the family oriented "Great Parks Pursuit", co-sponsored by the [Nebraska Park & Recreation Assoc.](#) and [Nebraska Games and Parks.](#)

- The [Steamboat Trace](#) is now open from the Nebraska City OPPD trailhead to the city of Peru. The southern section from the Peru trailhead to Brownville remains closed due to flood damage.
- The West Van Dorn Bridge on the [Bison Trail in Lincoln](#) has been declared unsafe for all traffic which closes the trail and severs connections between Pioneers Park and other trails.

Americans with Disabilities Act and Trails

Everyone that has a passion for trails wants all Americans to enjoy and love trails. So when concerns are discussed within trail groups about the new changes to [The Americans Disability Act](#), proposed by the Department of Justice, the discussion often hinges on “How do we implement and enforce these changes”. See revised [ADA regulations](#).

The main change to [The Americans with Disabilities Act](#) trails advocates are most concerned about is not the use of electric wheelchairs on trails but rather the language of “other power-driven mobility devices”. Since most trails do not allow power-driven devices on their trails, local governments and trail sponsors will need to change their policies and determine how best to regulate these changes from being abused.

One of the main issues is the growing use of Segways and golf carts as mobility devices by persons with disabilities. How does one distinguish between a person requiring a mobility aid and someone who does not. Many trail blogs are debating these questions. If you want more information on this subject, [American Trails](#), a nonprofit trails organization has an in-depth discussion on this subject.

For more information on [Nebraska Trails Council](#) visit our website where you can also find a form for becoming an individual or organizational support member of Nebraska Trails Council.

Nebraska Trails Council is on [Facebook](#). We are always looking for more friends.

Please pass the word.