

# Nebraska Trails News

January 2011

## South Sioux City to Expand Trail System

What started with one mile of trail development in the late 1970's has steadily evolved into an expansive system in South Sioux City. The [Al Bengtson Trail System](#), at 19 miles, will expand in spring 2011 with the development of an additional mile. Parks Director Gene Maffit clears snow throughout the winter to ensure users can enjoy year round access.

South Sioux City's [trail system](#) links users with Dakota City and the [Tri-State Trail](#). Connecting to Sioux City, Iowa and North Sioux City, South Dakota provides an additional 57 miles of trail opportunities. Maffit would like to see these trail opportunities expanded in the future by connecting to [Ponca State Park](#).

Development of the current system can be attributed to hardworking, tenacious Councilman Al Bengtson. South Sioux City honored the late councilman's devoted trail work and advocacy by dedicating the system to him in 2002. His wife continues trail advocacy efforts as a [Nebraska Trails Council](#) Board Member.

## Departing NTC Board Members Honored for Service

Nebraska Trails Council Board of Directors honored four departing board members for their decades of dedicated service at the December meeting in Lincoln. Leaving board members include Neal Lewis of Kearney, Ross Greathouse of Lincoln, Steve Paustian of Grand Island and Steve Woerth of Brownville. Their passion and support has ensured the development of some of Nebraska's best trails.

Five new NTC Board of Directors were installed to replace outgoing members. The new board members are Gary Gebhard of Omaha, Rick Zubrod of Lincoln, Buzz Douthit of Grand Island, Brian Coyle of Lincoln and Harry Ackerson of Aurora.

After closing out a successful 2010 action plan, outgoing NTC President John Royster handed over his position to Tim Montgomery. The Nebraska Trails Council would like to thank John for his dedication to Nebraska trails and progressive term as President.

# TRAIL HEROES

Honoring  
**Ross Greathouse**  
**Steve Woerth**  
**Steve Paustian**  
**Neal Lewis**

Thanks  
for your decades  
of trail advocacy  
and leadership  
for all Nebraskans.

**John Royster**  
Immediate Past President  
Nebraska Trails Council

[Nebraska State Park  
Permits now available  
online.](#)

## NTC Announces New Logo

Nebraska Trails Council's Board of Directors voted to adopt a new logo at their December board meeting. The new logo includes a trail running through one of Nebraska's diverse natural landscape while showcasing our wide-open sky.



### Recreational Trails Program Motorized Funding

[Nebraska Game and Parks Commission](#) (NGPC) administers the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The federal assistance program is an 80/20 match to provide funds to political subdivisions for land acquisition, development and/or renovation of recreational trails and trail related support facilities.

FHWA requirements ensure distribution of RTP funds are divided into three categories: 30% for motorized projects such as OHV or snowmobile trails, 30% for non-motorized projects such as hiking or biking trails and 40% for diversified projects that promote mixed **trail use such as** hiking and biking.

According to program administrator Michelle Stryker with NGPC, there have been no applications for motorized projects the last two years. Since the money is carried over for six years before it is reverted to FHWA, \$502,200 is currently available for motorized trail project within the state. "There is tremendous opportunity for sponsors to develop excellent motorized trail projects with the available funds" said Stryker.

The [grant application](#) deadline is October 1, 2011 for the fiscal year 2012 funding cycle. Contact Michelle for more information on RTP grants at (402) 471-5425 or [michelle.stryker@nebraska.gov](mailto:michelle.stryker@nebraska.gov).



#### YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Governor:  
Dave Heineman

U.S. Senate:  
Mike Johannes  
Ben Nelson

U.S. Representatives:  
1<sup>st</sup> District- Jeff Fortenberry  
2<sup>nd</sup> District- Lee Terry  
3<sup>rd</sup> District- Adrian Smith

Government website:  
[www.usa.gov](http://www.usa.gov)  
[www.nebraska.gov](http://www.nebraska.gov)

## **Other Trail News**

- State Farm Youth Advisory Board distributes grants to schools that partner with Youth Service Leadership programs and community projects. To find out how to become part of the youth advisory board go to <http://www.statefarmyab.com>. For grant applications go to the YAB home page, scroll down and click on National Grants.
- Wondering what to do this winter? Indian Cave State Park along the Missouri River in Southeast Nebraska has an extensive trail system available for winter recreation activities. For more information on the park and trails visit <http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/nebland/articles/parks/indiancave.asp>
- The Cowboy Trail pedestrian bridge is one step closer to being replaced. From the Norfolk Daily News  
<http://www.norfolkdailynews.com/main.asp?SectionID=3&SubSectionID=104&ArticleID=27131>

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LIKE INCLUDED IN FUTURE ISSUES OF  
NEBRASKA TRAILS NEWS PLEASE SEND THEM TO  
[netrailscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:netrailscouncil@gmail.com)**

For more information on the Nebraska Trails Council visit our website at <http://www.nebraskatrails.org>.  
The Nebraska Trails Council is on Facebook. We're always looking for more friends, please pass the word.

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