

Nebraska Trails News

September 20, 2010

Web Sites Offer New Features

The [Nebraska Games and Parks Commission](#) recently revealed an exciting new tool on their web site that all trail supporters will enjoy. Whether you are a biker, hiker, equestrian, water and motorized trails users, check out the [Commission's new GIS \(Geographic Information System\)](#) page. This page provides an interactive map detailing trails and their amenities at Eugene T. Mahoney State Park, Platte River State Park and Branched Oak State Recreation Area. Be sure to check back for updates as more park area trails are added.

According to Nebraska Game and Parks this page also includes a very helpful feature for those looking for special trail events. Listed under the Trails home page, go to Resources, then Trail Events. To have an event added to the list, email ngpc.trails@nebraska.gov.

Who uses [Google Maps](#)? Did you know that there is a new feature bicycle users will find very appealing? Google has started including bike routes in many U.S. cities including Omaha and Lincoln. Go to <http://maps.google.com> type in Lincoln or Omaha, on the More tab pull down and select Bicycling. The bike routes will show up as green lines. #

Fremont/Pathfinder Trail System

The City of Fremont's trail system is a work in progress according to John Schmitz, director of Fremont Parks and Recreation. Currently, three trails on the east and west sides of town and one connector trail are completed. Finished trails are the FEVR/Airport Trail (1.5 miles), Military Trail (1 mile) and the Johnson Lake Trail with a connector (1.1 miles total).

There are three projects in the planning stage that have been awarded grants with completion, possibly one to three years away. When these projects are complete, a continuous trail system will run from Johnson Park on the east side of Fremont to the State Lakes, west of Fremont. Additional plans, exists so that the trail system leading to the south and east will eventually connect to the Western Douglas County Trail System near Valley.

A local favorite of the existing trails system is located within Johnson Park where the trail and connector loop around Johnson Lake and through the arboretum. The beauty of natural elements on this section is attractive enough to have gotten first time users outdoors and on the trail.

The trails system in [Fremont](#) has had such a huge impact on healthy living trends in the town that planning for additional trails to be built in the future will continue. Swing by Fremont to get a little exercise and relaxation, and maybe find a favorite fishing hole.

NEBRASKA TRAILS COUNCIL RECEIVES AWARD#

Annually, [Nebraska Recreation and Parks Association \(NeRPA\)](#) presents awards to professionals, organizations and park projects that merit recognition. On Monday, September 13, [Nebraska Trails Council](#) and [Papio-Missouri River NRD](#) were awarded the “Benefits are Endless Award”. Accepting the award for NTC was Secretary Karen Andersen.

In 2009, a joint conference at Ponca State Park, “A Natural Fit”, was successfully sponsored by all three organizations. NeRPA thanked NTC and the NRD for their commitment to enriching park and recreation opportunities for Nebraska through the numerous educational opportunities that both provide.

Other Trail News

- The [Steamboat Trace](#) in southeast Nebraska has been completely reopened from the Nebraska City trailhead to the city of Brownville. There are still a few rough spots from flooding between Peru and Brownville. A big thank you to Nemaha NRD for getting this great resource back on line as soon as possible.
- The Nebraska Games and Parks reports that clean-up efforts from flooding on the [Cowboy Trail](#) are continuing. Some repairs and bridge work are awaiting FEMA and other federal agencies funding. The Cowboy Trail remains open safely open from O’Neil to Valentine which is a total of 123 open trail miles. The trail clean-up and repair crews really deserve all of our thanks, as well as the leadership of the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission.
- The [Coalition for Recreational Trails \(CRT\)](#) recently sent a letter of support to members of congress for the [Recreation Trails Program \(RTP\)](#) that is up for congressional approval. Nebraska Trails Council was one of many prestigious groups and/ or individuals that sent their support for the RTP and were thanked by CRT for adding their name to the list of supporters.
- The September 10th edition of the “Kansas Trails News” reported that the [Oregon-California Trails Association](#) will be hosting a symposium in Maryville, KS on Oct. 8– Oct. 10. The main goal of this symposium is to increase awareness and protection of historic trails in Kansas and Nebraska. For more information call (888) 811-6282.
- FYI - There is a group attempting to raise awareness for bicycle supporters. You can help [People for Bikes](#) reach their goal of 1 million united bicycle supporters by going to their website and signing the pledge. Nebraska has just 626 pledges of the 73,708 currently supporting the effort.

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

Please pass the word.