

Tips and Tricks for Writing a Successful State Trail Grant: Transportation Alternatives

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Kansas Dept. of Transportation

Oct. 29, 2026

Trail Exchange Day

Active Transportation Plan

February 2023









Kansas
Department of Transportation

Clockwise from top left: Two Hundred, Val Renault, Two Hundred, and LiveWell Douglas County

vision

Kansas will be a place where people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds have safe and convenient options to walk, bike, roll, and use other active modes for transportation and recreation.

Kansas
Department of Transportation

KS ATP Goals and Strategies Related to Trails

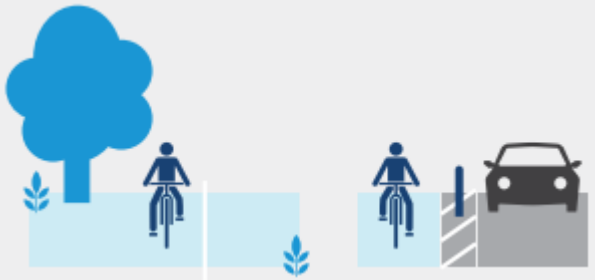
Mobility: Increase the regular use of walking, cycling, wheeling, and other active transportation modes.

M1.4 Identify opportunities for long-distance route connections between communities and facilitate the development of sidepaths, traditional trails, and rail-trail connections.

Community Health and Vibrancy: Promote active transportation activity and infrastructure to improve people's health, positively impact the environment, improve quality of life, and spur economic development.

HV1.3 Promote the development of "active tourism" across the state through technical assistance and resources for marketing, management, wayfinding, etc.

HV2.3 Promote and support state bicycle routes, trails, scenic & historic byways, and the communities along them.



Trails and **separated bike lanes** are viewed as the most comfortable bike facilities

The **top 3 places** that people would like to be able to reach using active transportation are:



Economic Benefits of Active Transportation

Active transportation is an important factor to consider for economic growth and investment. As part of the development of this ATP, the project team conducted an economic impact analysis that quantifies the benefits of active transportation facilities, details case studies from other peer states, and provides a toolkit for evaluating future active transportation projects.

The total benefit of active transportation in the State of Kansas (in 2021 dollars) includes:



Total Annual Tourism/Events Economic Benefits: $42,553,400



Total Annual Retail Economic Benefits: $41,635,400



Total Annual Transportation Economic Benefits: $70,868,000



Total Annual Facility Access Economic Benefits: $7,494,300



Total Annual Economic Benefits: $162,551,100

Active Tourism Toolkit

June 2022



Bike rider at BaseCamp in Humboldt, KS. Photo: Credit Beth Barlow

Kansas Active Transportation

Kansas Department of Transportation

2026 KDOT Transportation Alternatives Program

33 Projects were awarded a total of $36.5M in federal funds

Approximately $8.5M or nearly 25% of that will support trails



Augusta Redbud Trail Bridge over US-400

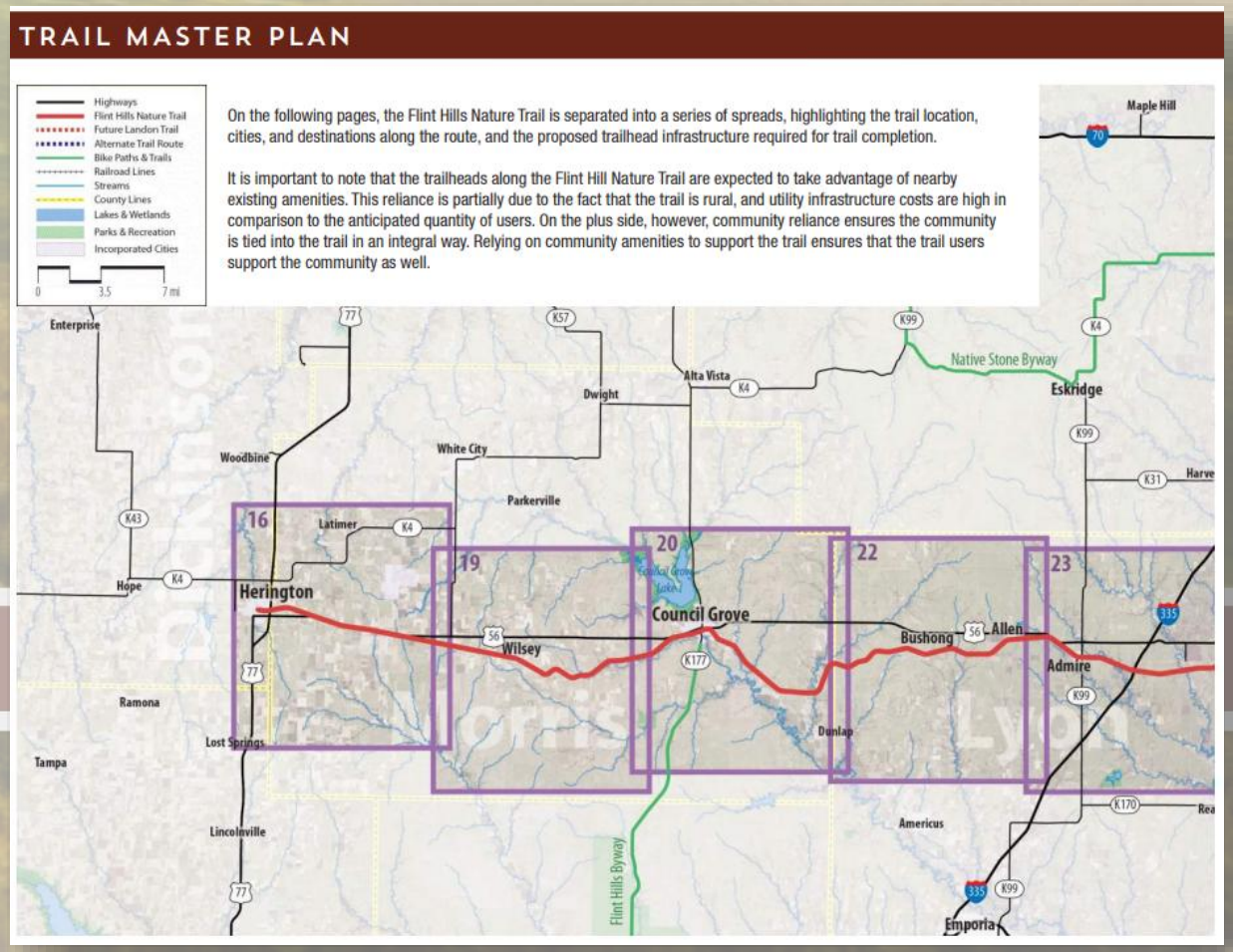


Examples of Trail Projects Funded with TA

- Downtown Lawrence Loop
- Landon Trail in Osage County
- Flint Hills Trail including new bridge west of Ottawa eliminating detour
- Wakarusa Boat Ramp Park connection in Eudora
- Blue River Rail Trail Corridor in Marysville
- Sunflower Santa Fe Trail in Canton
- Ped bridge over Whitewater River on the Redbud Trail in Augusta
- Sand Creek Bike Path Extension in Newton

Developing a Successful TA Application

- Proposal is based on a Plan and demonstrated need



FLINT HILLS NATURE TRAIL

MASTER PLAN

JANUARY 2017

Clear Scope and Benefits

Flint Hills Trail: Phase 12 Louisiana Terr. (FR Co.) to Iowa Rd. (FR Co.) Crossing BNSF Railroad
Project length: 2.3 miles

Scope:
Connect two improved sections of the trail, construct new bridge over active railroad to eliminate gravel road detour west of Ottawa.
Project will also include improvements on 3 bridges, including new decks, structural enhancements, and handrail, one concrete box removal and 6 pipe installations.

Existing Conditions:
This 2.3-mile section is impassable due to the crossing location of the BNSF Railroad and is completely overgrown with brush and trees.

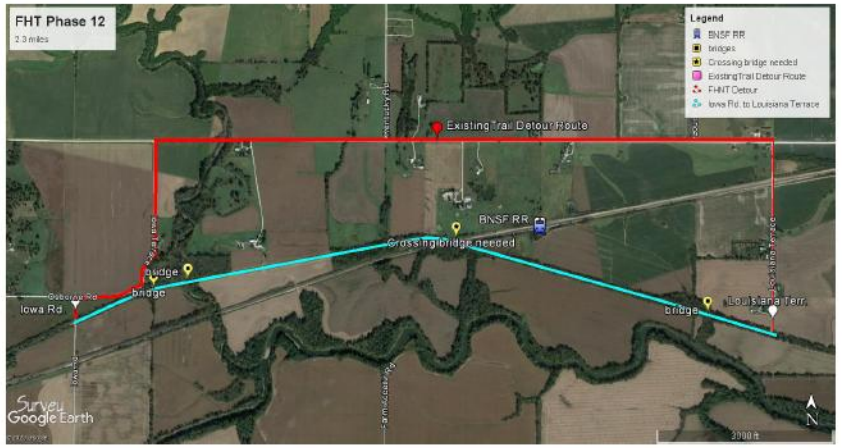
Benefits:
- Provides bicyclists, pedestrians, and equestrians an alternate route to avoid conflict with motorists and trains.
- Completes a connection from the City of Pomona to the City of Ottawa; benefitting the economy of Ottawa and aids in completion of the Franklin County Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan.
- Provides direct connection to Legacy Square in Ottawa and a bicycle shop that conducts multiple cycling events.
- The trail provides transportation opportunity for a variety of populations and visitor demographics.

Maps and Photos

SECTION B

Existing Conditions and Needs

Phase 12 BNSF Railroad Bridge Crossing



(P12) Farm crossing bridge - repairs needed

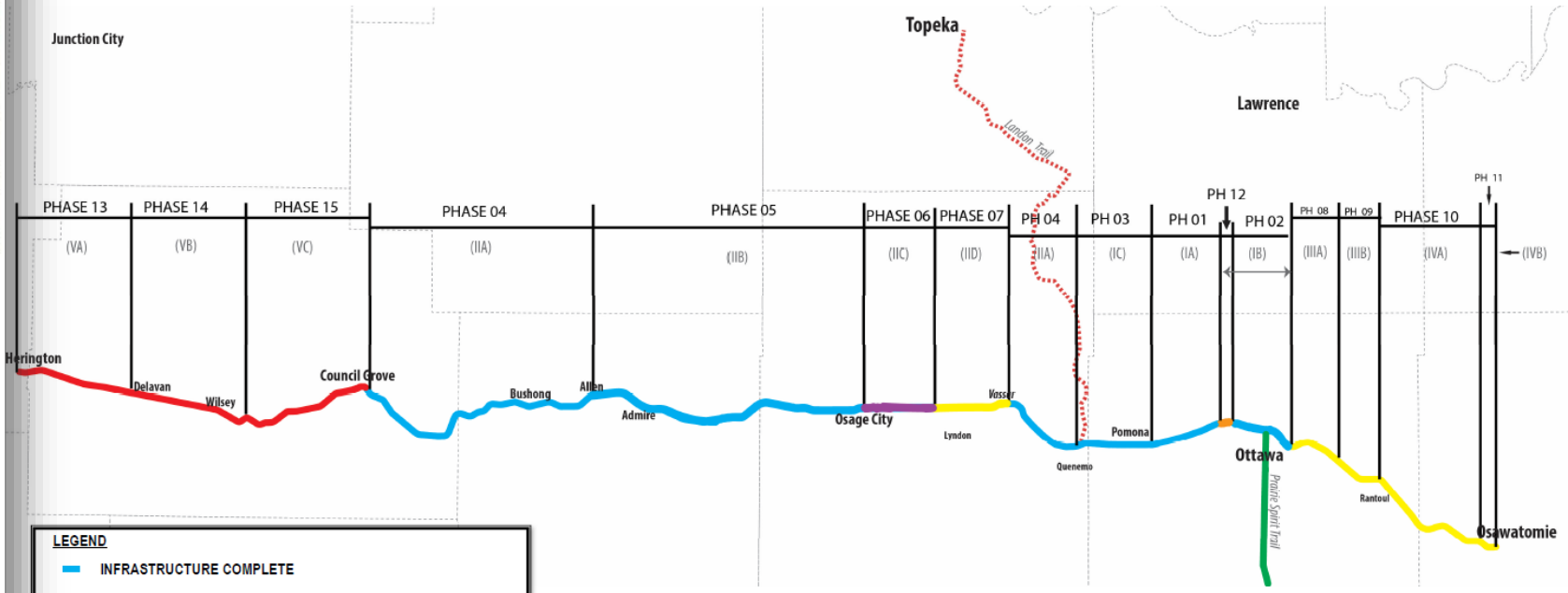




SECTION B

FLINT HILLS TRAIL

Herington to Osawatomie



LEGEND

- INFRASTRUCTURE COMPLETE
- PHASE 6 IMPROVEMENTS WITH TA FUNDING
- UNIMPROVED
- PASSIBLE WITH FUNDING NEEDED FOR IMPROVEMENTS
- BRIDGE OVER BNSF RAILROAD
- LANDON TRAIL (INCOMPLETE)
- PRAIRIE SPIRIT TRAIL (COMPLETE)

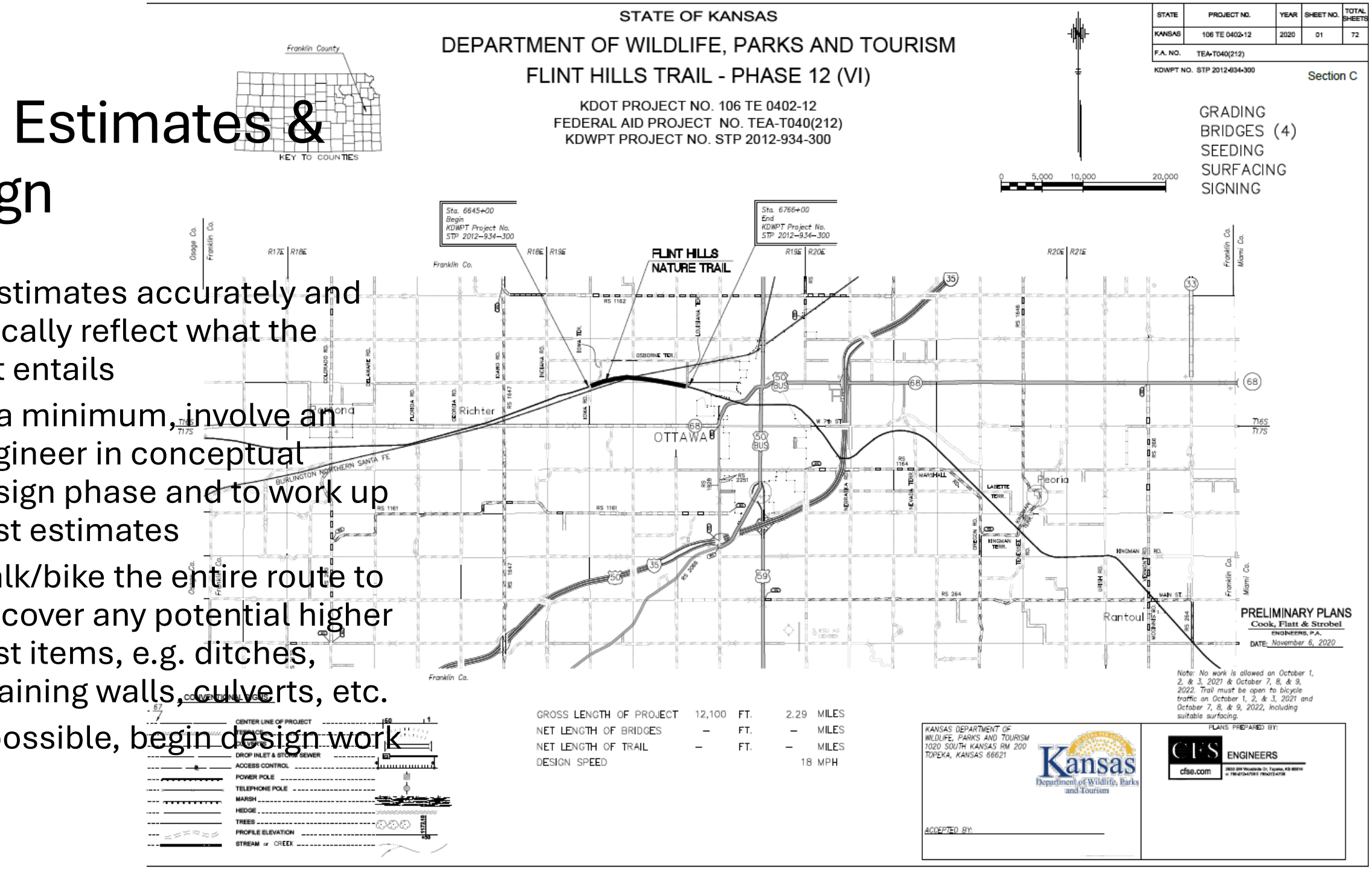
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

CFS ENGINEERS

20200924

Cost Estimates & Design

- Cost estimates accurately and realistically reflect what the project entails
  - At a minimum, involve an engineer in conceptual design phase and to work up cost estimates
  - Walk/bike the entire route to discover any potential higher cost items, e.g. ditches, retaining walls, culverts, etc.
  - If possible, begin design work



Kansas Bike Map 2026-28

BICYCLING RESOURCES AND TOURIST INFORMATION

These links are provided as information only. The Kansas Department of Transportation makes no representations or warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, about the completeness, accuracy, reliability or suitability of the information presented in these websites.

Biking and Cycling in Kansas - From gravel grinders to mountain biking, Kansas has more trails than you think!

Kansas Travel Guide - The Official Kansas Travel Guide is your ultimate guide to all things adventure in the Sunflower State. Plan with the guide online or download it to have a guide on the go!

Bike Walk KC - A non-profit organization that works to make the Kansas City region a safer and more accessible place to walk, bicycle, live, work and play.

Bike Walk Wichita - A non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of safe, active transportation within Wichita and south central Kansas.

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks - A state agency dedicated to promoting activities in Kansas, including state parks and wildlife areas.

Kansas Tourism - Ready for adventure? Kansas Tourism is your one-stop shop to find things to do and places to explore while visiting Kansas.

Adventure Cycling Association - Known as "America's Bicycle Travel Experts," it provides information about the United States Bicycle Route System (USBRS), including USBR76 through Kansas, which mostly follows the Trans-America Trail.

OFFICIAL STATE BICYCLE MAP

KANSAS

2026-2028



FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION | 1.800.2.KANSAS

ADDITIONAL BICYCLING RESOURCES AND TOURIST INFORMATION

Biking Across Kansas - An annual eight-day bicycle tour across Kansas usually held every June.

Bicycle Map Contact Information
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Hearing Impaired - 711

To order more maps, visit

For a collection of interactive cycling maps published online by KDOT, go to:

Acknowledgments
Editor: Jerry Kramer, KDOT
Cartographer: Elaine Bryant, KDOT
Cover Photo: Matthew Messina, KDOT
Bridge over an active BNSF railroad line on the First Hills Trail just West of Ottawa.

Produced by the **Kansas Department of Transportation**
For more bicycling and pedestrian information, including digital maps, safety tips, and state statutes.

The State of Kansas is an Equal Opportunity Employer. View employment opportunities at

Rail-Trails of Kansas



1 Blue River Rail Trail
2 Burroughs Creek Trail
3 Discovery Trail
4 Downtown Walking Path
5 First Hills Trail
6 Heskett Rail Trail
7 Hospital Trail
8 Hutchinson Rail Trail
9 Iron Horse Trail
10 Katy Hike & Bike Trail
11 Landon Trail
12 Linear Trail
13 Marshall Rail Trail
14 Marquette Pioneer Trail
15 Meadowlark Trail
16 Missouri Pacific Recreational Trail
17 Newton Rail Trail
18 Osage Cuestas Trail
19 Prairie Spirit Rail Trail
20 Prairie Sunset Trail
21 Redbud Trail
22 Santa Fe Street Rail Trail
23 Sherwin-Williams Trail
24 Southwind Rail Trail
25 Sunflower Santa Fe Trail
26 Valkommen Trail
27 Walnut Trail
28 Whistle Stop Linear Park Trail

Basecamp Humboldt
Humboldt
https://www.facebook.com/BaseCampHumboldt

Includes fishing, electric and water, primitive camping, camping cabins, reservable sites, shelter houses, drinking water, trails, shower facilities, kayak rental, bicycle skills course, fire pits, grills, and picnic tables and shelter.

Basecamp First Hills
Allen
https://www.basecampfirsthills.com

Includes electric and water, primitive camping, reservable sites, drinking water, trails, shower facilities, fire pits, picnic tables and shelter.

Open Rail-Trail
Trail operational; open to the public and requires only ongoing maintenance. Some trails run adjacent to active rail lines and are called "rail-with-trail."

Rail-Trail Project
Corridor ownership has been transferred to a trail management agency. Funding has been dedicated to the project and design or construction is underway.

For a comprehensive list of rail-trail systems across the state, visit the Sunflower Rail-Trails Conservancy at https://kansasrailtrails.org

KANSAS RAIL TRAILS

The rail Kansas experience is full of the enjoyable, the charming and the breathtaking. Adding these stops to your journey will make it unforgettable. Make plans to experience each one and check them off as you go.

A few of the longer trails include:

Blue River Rail Trail, Marysville



Photos courtesy of Lindsborg Convention & Visitors Bureau

First Hills Trail, Council Grove to Osawatomie



Photos courtesy of Kansas Rail-Trails Conservancy

Willowcreek Trail, Lindsborg



Photos courtesy of Kansas Tourism

Redbud Trail, Andover



Photos courtesy of Andover-Augusta Rail Trail Initiative

Prairie Sunset Trail, Wichita



Photos courtesy of Prairie Travelers

Landon Trail, Topeka



Photos courtesy of Kansas Tourism

Meadowlark Trail, McPherson



Photos courtesy of Kansas Tourism

KANSAS TRAILS
TO THE HORIZON

ESTABLISHED AS THE FIRST STATEWIDE NON-PROFIT SOLELY DEDICATED TO TRAILS.

OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE THE RESOURCES, SUPPORT, AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS NEEDED TO MAKE KANSAS TRAILS ACCESSIBLE, SUSTAINABLE AND THRIVING FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

FIND TRAILS
Discover the best trails across Kansas with accurate maps and expert recommendations.

BUILD TRAILS
Get the resources and guidance you need to plan, design and construct sustainable trails.

SUPPORT TRAILS
Help protect and maintain Kansas trails by joining our community of trail advocates.

PROMOTE TRAILS
Showcase and share the trails you love to inspire more people to explore the outdoors.

EXPERT MAPS, TRAIL-BUILDING SUPPORT AND A THRIVING OUTDOOR COMMUNITY.

OUR IMPACT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF—THROUGH DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS, COUNTLESS HOURS OF EFFORT AND MILES OF TRAILS, WE'RE BUILDING A STRONGER OUTDOOR COMMUNITY IN KANSAS.

DISCOVER BEAUTIFUL TRAILS IN KANSAS AND TRACK YOUR PROGRESS ALONG THE WAY. VISIT THE MAP APP HERE!
HTTPS://MAP.KSTRAILS.ORG/

4,611 MILES OF TRAILS AND ROUTES
3,415 MILES OF GRAVEL ROUTES
1,154 MILES OF NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS
719+ MILES OF WATER ROUTES

TO THE *Adventurous*

The purpose of the U.S. Bicycle Routes (USBRs) system is to connect bicycle routes across the country for safer, long-distance cycling. Thousands of cyclists ride these routes through Kansas every year. They offer great scenic opportunities for the communities they pass through, especially rural towns. USBR 50, USBR 55, USBR 76, and USBR 66 through Kansas are designed for experienced cyclists capable of sharing the road with cars and trucks. For more information about USBRs through Kansas, visit

U. S. BICYCLE ROUTES

Places on or within a few miles of these routes include:

USBR 50 AND USBR 55

The Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum, Atchison

Located in Amelia Earhart's hometown, the Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum pays tribute to this iconic pilot's aviation legacy through memorable exhibits that highlight her daring and adventurous life.



USBR 55

Haskell Cultural Center and Museum, Lawrence

The Haskell Cultural Center and Museum serves as a steward of living tribal materials, traditions and cultural arts, and conveys the story of Haskell's evolution from a government boarding school to its present day fully accredited university status.



Ellis City State Park, Independence

Ellis City State Park is a scenic, day-use park that features a blend of dense oak-hickory woodlands and rolling grass meadows. The park offers campgrounds, shelters, hiking and a cautiously-oversighted trail system.



Prairie Spirit Trail State Park, Garnett

Garnett is the starting point of the Prairie Spirit Trail State Park, a 50-mile linear park situated along a former railroad bed between Iola and Ottawa. Visit the park office at the Garnett Area Chamber of Commerce building.



Prairie Spirit Trail State Park, Iola

The Prairie Spirit Trail is a managed, 50-mile pedestrian and cyclist trail that follows the path of a former railroad. The trail is hard-packed limestone in rural areas and paved with asphalt through Garnett, Iola, and Ottawa.



Honeybee Branch, Humboldt

Located in downtown Humboldt, Honeybee Branch Arts offers a collection of delightful brunch and lunch dishes, served with Midwest hospitality.



Lansing Historical Museum, Lansing

The Lansing Historical Museum, housed in a restored 1867 Arthurdale, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway depot, provides a comprehensive and immersive experience of local history.



USBR 66

The Rainbow Bridge, Baxter Springs

Designed by James Barney Marsh, the Brush Creek Bridge (AKA the Rainbow Bridge) was built in the open airport of a project to connect the existing communities of Galena, Riverton and Baxter Springs with a concrete road. Marsh built many bridges in Kansas using the same unique, patented design.



Cars on the Route, Galena

Cars on the Route is known for being home to the two trails that inspired the character "Mater" from Pixar's animated movie "Cars." Mater," along with several other lovable vehicles, are next to a gift shop and restaurant located in a restored gas station.



Historic Lake Scott State Park, Scott City

This 1,200-acre park, situated in the western Kansas prairie, features rugged bluffs, remarkable natural springs and wooded canyons. The spring-fed, 100-acre lake is the focal point of the park, fantastic for fishing and other water activities.



Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, Hesston

Over two species of Kansas native grasses, shrubs and wildflowers thrive in the gardens of Dyck Arboretum of the Plains. The arboretum also hosts the largest native plant sale in Kansas.



USBR 76

Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, Great Bend

Located south of Great Bend, Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area is the largest marsh in the inland United States and is one of the most important stops for bird migration in the country.



Chicken Annie's, Pittsburg

This restaurant has been family-owned and operated since 1934, when Anna Pulsifer known as "Chicken Annie," started serving unique and delicious chicken dinners after her husband last work due to a coal mining injury.



Photos courtesy of Kansas Tourism

U. S. Bicycle Route System through Kansas



Route from Nebraska/Kansas border to Atchison using Adventure Cycling Lewis & Clark route on the basis

Route from Nebraska/Kansas border to Kansas/Oklahoma border

Route connecting Galena, Riverton and Baxter Springs on Historic Route 66

Route from Greeley County to Crawford County, following the Transamerica Bicycle Trail



WALK BIKE ROLL KANSAS

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT

Save the Date!

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

September 22-23, 2027

Salina, KS

walkbikerollks.com



Thank You!

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