

Prairie Village Historic Trails 1840 – 1880

Westport Route – Southern Branch

Trail Signing of the Santa Fe/Oregon/California Trails



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Introduction and Foreword

The trail signing of the Historic Trails in Prairie Village started out in the summer of 2018 as a small neighborhood project in Corinth Hills, located just southwest of Harmon Park. For years, myself and others in Corinth Hills had known that the historic frontier Santa Fe/Oregon/California trail route went through Harmon Park where the old wagon train 'swale' is still visible today.....That same trail route also went through our Corinth Hills neighborhood, but we just weren't sure where! The initial concept was to identify where the Westport route of the Santa Fe/Oregon/California (SF/ORE/CAL) trails crossed our neighborhood, and develop appropriate marking/signing for its residents to learn of the historical significance of the historic trails routing through their neighborhood.

Contact was made with the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association (KCAHTA) President Gary L. Hicks, asking for any information, guidance and potential assistance he and KCAHTA could provide.

KCAHTA is a nationally recognized organization and has been in place for over 25 years, dating back to the early 1990's, and before. They are known for their expertise and research on all three trails in the Kansas City area and beyond. The founders of KCAHTA had over 40 years of experience of tracking every part of the Santa Fe Trail from Franklin, MO, all the way to Santa Fe, New Mexico (almost 900 miles!), including our area of Prairie Village!

An initial exploratory meeting was conducted in August, 2018, at the picnic shelter in Harmon Park (Santa Fe Trail Park) adjoining the routing of the historic trail through the park. Attending were myself Mark Morgan, KCAHTA President Hicks; Co-chair of its 'Signmasters Program Diane Cook, and renowned trails historian and KCAHTA Secretary Ross Marshall.

At the exploratory meeting, the concept of the historic trail signage project within the Corinth Hills subdivision was presented and discussed. It was discussed that KCAHTA's type brown signs are designated for only 'hard point' signage locations (where the historic trails cross section lines). Thus, it was proposed that the new signage tracing the route of the historic trail(s) through the Corinth Hill subdivision could be termed 'soft-point' signage. This was concurred by all.

KCAHTA and its Executive Committee fully embraced the neighborhood trail signing concept as a "first" in the metro area. They offered to help supply mapping information and updated trail research to identify these "soft" point trail crossings in Corinth Hills.

Further communications with Hicks were conducted as the project evolved. Information and data was exchanged, including the preparation of a detailed graphic map assessing where the trail alignment likely occurred across the Corinth Hills subdivision. This assessment evaluated NPS proposed alignment; KCAHTA's Historic Frontier Trails Map; Mr. Lee Kroh's (KCAHTA co-founder) mapping effort of the historic trail through Corinth Hills; with all evaluations and assessments made in comparison to the general grade contouring of the area. A consensus with Hicks was concurred as to the probable detailed alignment of the trail through the Corinth Hills Subdivision.

KCAHTA's "brown signs" where the trail crossed at "hard points" (based on original General Land Office (GLO) surveys conducted by Federal surveyors in 1854 -1856 of the newly created Kansas Territory) have been in place since the mid-1990's. These over 360 brown signs mark exact locations for trail crossings all over Johnson County; Wyandotte County and Leavenworth County in Kansas, plus a few in Kansas City, Missouri. KCAHTA brown signs in Leavenworth County are associated with the historic Ft. Leavenworth-to-Ft. Scott Military Road of the mid-1800s which traversed southeasterly through today's Johnson County, including the region of what became Prairie Village, Kansas! There are 'brown signs' at (2) section line locations where the historic frontier Military Road crossed through today's Prairie Village ... on Nall near 87th St. and on 95th St, west of Mission Road.

For more information on the KCAHTA organization, go to the following ...
www.kcahta.org

Johnson County has the most miles of the historic trails, with more than 114 miles, including branches of the trail(s). The Westport Route of the Santa Fe Trail, which includes both a Northern and Southern Branch, makes up more than 38 miles of these historic trails in Johnson County. There are five places in Prairie Village where KCAHTA brown signs are located: (71st St. east of Belinder and near Booth; Mission Road at 76th Terr; 79th St and just west of Roe Avenue; Nall at 82nd Terrace; and 83rd Street between Outlook and Dearborn where the trail route traverses into today's Overland Park, KS).

SEE THE FOLLOWING ...

KCAHTA*Trail Sign

Located at Trail
hard point crossing
In Prairie Village ...

- 1) 71st ST.; East of Belinder
- 2) Mission RD @ 76th Terr.
- 3) 79th St @ West of Roe
- 4) Nall @ 82nd Terrace
- 5) 83rd St near Outlook

*Based on original General
Land Office surveys by
Federal surveyors
in 1854-1856
of Kansas Territory*

**All 3 trails have been designated as
National Historic Trails**

*Kansas City Area Historical Trail Association



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Prairie Village Historic Trails
1840 – 1880

By early 2019, Corinth Hills Neighborhood Association had formed a small committee to explore the potential trail crossings with field research and mapping information, and to develop appropriate marking/signing of the Westport Route – Southern Branch of the three Historic Trails. The committee would correlate the 'soft point' routing of the trail with the 'hard-point' signage locations established from the 1850's GLO survey data by KCAHTA co-founder Lee Kroh. The purpose of the trail signs would be both informative and educational, allowing residents to connect directly with the history of where they live. This committee also engaged a graphic designer to develop signing concepts.

By mid 2019, positive feedback from PV residents and city members on the “neighborhood” concept of signing the trails, leads to expand the trail signing project from the Corinth Hills neighborhood to all of the City of Prairie Village. A total of nine PV neighborhoods are identified where the route of the trails went through, at a distance of almost 3 miles. With this expanded opportunity, KCAHTA provides old U.S. Geographical Survey Topographic Quadrangle Maps (“QUADS”), along with detailed notes from KCAHTA’s co-founder, Lee Kroh. This detailed information is the key to identifying all the historical trail crossings in Prairie Village.

By early to mid 2020, the historic trails and crossing locations in Prairie Village had been researched and mapped out. The result was over 30 “soft” point trail crossing locations in Prairie Village neighborhoods that directly connects to the National Historic “Swale” and National Park Service (NPS) wayside exhibits in Santa Fe Trail (Harmon) Park, as well as reference to ‘Nine Mile Point’ NPS exhibits at Weltner Park. These “soft” point trail crossings also connect to the five existing KCAHTA “hard” point trail crossings in Prairie Village. The SF/ORE/CAL trails enter Prairie Village in the 2400 block of West 71st Street east of Belinder, and approx. 3 miles further to the southwest, the trail route traverses from today’s Prairie Village ... crossing West 83rd Street between Outlook and Dearborn.

In the Fall of 2020, the Prairie Village City Council unanimously approved and adopted the concept of signing the SF/ORE/CAL Historic Trails in Prairie Village neighborhoods. Funding for the project is provided by the City of Prairie Village.

Note:

Following is the sign concept that is being installed during Summer, 2021 ... The 200th Anniversary of the start of the Santa Fe Trail (1821) is September 1, 2021! This concept has been vetted through the ‘soft-point’ signage committee, KCAHTA President Gary Hicks, and officials with the City of Prairie Village.

SEE THE FOLLOWING ...



Following are “chapters” to further tell the story and to give you more information on the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California Trails; the south branch of the Westport Route in Prairie Village neighborhoods; detailed maps; information on historical trail exhibits in neighboring communities; links to other organizations and more.

Explore and Learn More ... and enjoy “walking the historic trails” in Prairie Village!

Mark C. Morgan
Prairie Village, Kansas
August, 2021

Prairie Village Historic Trails 1840 – 1880

Westport Route – Southern Branch

Trail Signing of the Santa Fe/Oregon/California Trails



Acknowledgements

The trail signing of the Historic Trails in Prairie Village happened with the support of a lot of people and organizations. As the idea caught on and more people heard about it, many volunteered their time, ideas, and inspiration to make it a reality!

Thanks certainly go to the Kansas City Area Historic Trail Association (KCAHTA), and specifically their President, Gary L. Hicks and the entire KCAHTA Executive Committee. They supported this project from the onset and continued with their ongoing consulting and guidance. They provided research information, mapping documents, and links to reference material. KCAHTA's founder, Lee Kroh was aware of the Prairie Village trail signing initiative and supported it as well. Mr. Kroh passed away in early 2019, and left behind hundreds of old U.S. Geological Survey Topographic Quadrangle Maps with detailed information and his notes of the Santa Fe Trail. KCAHTA gave us copies of these maps for NE Johnson County and parts of KCMO, including Westport. This information was the key to identifying the historic trail crossings in Prairie Village.

Mark Morgan, Mike Sill and Kevin Murphy, residents of the Corinth Hills neighborhood, all volunteered for the initial Corinth Hills Historic Trails Signing Committee. They gave countless hours to meetings; field research; and signing concepts. Thanks to Kevin, we found Nigel Morley, a Graphic Artist in Overland Park. Nigel took our signing ideas and designed multiple versions of signing

concepts over several months ... ending in the trail sign being used today in Prairie Village.

And thanks to members of the City of Prairie Village staff and council members who embraced the concept of taking the trail's signing concept to go throughout the city. Keith Bredehoeft and PVPW's assistance were key factors with finding a sign vendor, confirming trail crossing sign locations, installing the signs, and general overall support of the trails signing concept and direction. Sheila Myers and Piper Reimer (City Council members for Ward 4) are commended for their overall support, guidance and recommendations throughout this project. And finally, thanks to all of the City Council and Mayor Eric Mikkelson for listening and approving the trail signing concept and the opportunity it brings to residents of Prairie Village.

Prairie Village Historic Trails 1840 – 1880

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Trail Signing of the Santa Fe/Oregon/California Trails



Summary

1) Long before Kansas became a state (1861); the County of Johnson was formed (1855); the city of Kansas City, MO. was incorporated (1853 ... being founded as The Town of Kansas in 1838); the Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails (1830's to 1870's) took settlers West through our area ... and LONG before the city of Prairie Village, Kansas was incorporated (1951) ... Native American people lived here. They established villages, hunted, farmed, reared families, and took care of the land.

Three tribes are notable with their presence in the area we live today: The Kanza (Kansa, Konza; or Kaws); The Osage; and The Shawnee.

The Kanza and Osage were here first. The Kanza lived along and or near the Kansas River, and would have also lived and hunted in N.E. Johnson County. Both our state and river are named in tribute to them. The Osage lived farther south, but this area was part of their hunting grounds.

In 1825, the Federal Government relocated 1400 S.E. Missouri based Shawnee to lands in Kansas. The Shawnee were given 1,600,000 acres that stretched from the Missouri border (East) to present day Junction City, KS (West) to the Kansas River (North) to present day Johnson/Miami County line (South). Included in this was all of present day Johnson County, including Prairie Village. This land was all previously occupied by the Kanza, as well as other tribes.

(For more information on Native Americans in NE Kansas, Go To Chapter 1).

2) The Santa Fe Trail was the most important route between the United States and new Country of Mexico. It traversed between Independence, Mo. (and later Westport Landing/Kansas City, MO.) and Santa Fe, Mexico. The famous trail was established in 1821 when William Becknell, now known as the *Father of the Santa Fe Trail*, led a small group of men on horseback from Franklin, MO. (north of present day Boonville, MO.) on September 1, 1821 to Santa Fe on a trading expedition. The length of the original trail from Franklin, MO. to Santa Fe was about 850 miles (100 miles shorter from Independence and Westport) along the more popular *Cimarron Route*. A 2nd route west of Dodge City was called the *Mountain Route* and was about 100 miles longer, but had more reliable water sources. Approximately 2/3rd's of the Santa Fe Trail was in present day Kansas. The Santa Fe Trail became a National Historic Trail in 1987.

The Oregon Trail had hundreds of thousands of people that emigrated to the western frontiers, laying claim to much of the West from the late 1830's to 1880's. It was a 2,000 mile route that initially started in Independence, Missouri and shifted to Westport Landing and Westport by early 1840's. The trail continued west and north to the Columbia River Valley in Oregon. The Oregon Trail became a National Historic Trail in 1978.

The California Trail is best known for the discovery of gold in California in 1848, and the Gold Rush to the Pacific that followed and changed everything. The California Trail used the same route as the Oregon Trail until they branched off from each other further west. As such, traffic was heavy on the California Trail from the late 1840's up until the mid 1860's. From Westport to Sacramento, California was 1,950 miles. The California Trail became a National Historic Trail in 1992.

All Three National Historic Trails used the same trail that came through Prairie Village from Westport, MO. on the "Westport Southern Branch" Route. The 3 trails split off from each other just southwest of present day Gardner, Kansas.

(For more information on History of the 3 Historic Trails, Go To Chapter 2).

3) In what is today the Kansas City metropolitan area, the Santa Fe Trail (as well as the Oregon and California Trails) evolved through three eras ...

1821-1827: Started with the blazing of the Santa Fe Trail by William Becknell in 1821 with five men on horseback from Franklin, MO, and transitioned from 'New Franklin' to Ft. Osage then Independence, MO. (founded in 1827) by the early

1830s. (Note: the town of New Franklin was established nearby following the destructive Missouri River flood of 1827-28 in Franklin, MO.) . The town of New Franklin continued its role as the eastern terminus of the Santa Fe Trail until the early 1830s during such period Independence became the primary outfitting locations for travelers connecting with the route to Santa Fe.

1828-1839: Independence, Mo. becomes the main start of the trail, with boats unloading at Independence Landing on the Missouri River.

1840-1880: By 1840, Westport (founded in 1834) was replacing Independence as the main starting point for the trails to Santa Fe, Oregon, California, and all points to the western frontier. Boat traffic from St. Louis could now go farther upstream and offload at Westport Landing.

From Westport, there were two trail routes for the three historic trails ...
Northern Branch – Crossed into Kansas Territory a block south of today’s Westport Road at State line Road; then traversed just north of 47th St. and Rainbow Blvd - today’s Westwood; passed on the north edge property of the *Shawnee Methodist Mission and Indian Manual Labor School* (today’s *Shawnee Indian Mission*); it traversed parts of Roeland Park and Mission, and then southwest through today’s Overland Park

Southern Branch – Crossed into Kansas Territory near 69th Terrace and State Line Road in Mission Hills, then through a ~3 mile section of Prairie Village (including the “Swale” of old wagon ruts in Santa Fe Trail Park, then into Overland Park.

(For more information on Kansas City and the Westport Route of the 3 Historic Trails, Go To Chapter 3).

4) Prairie Village has two significant National Park Service exhibits on the Historic Trails: the Harmon Park “Swale” in Santa Fe Trail Park and Nine Mile Point in Weltner Park. In addition, the most recent NPS exhibit is located in Mission Hills, just 2 blocks from Prairie Village.

- The Santa Fe Trail Park/Harmon Park “Swale”, in Prairie Village Kansas, where wagon train ruts (swale) from ~175 years ago are still visible. The swale and pavilion was dedicated on September 13, 1992, along with a KCAHTA/ NPS interpretive exhibit. In the Fall of 2018, the Santa Fe Trail Park/Harmon Park Swale was officially listed in *National Register of Historic Places*. A new interpretive trail-themed exhibit, developed by NPS (with assistance from KCAHTA) is being installed in the fall of 2021!

- “Nine Mile Point” – In 1822, William Becknell led 3 loaded wagons – the 1st wagons on the Santa Fe Trail from Missouri to Santa Fe. They crossed into the frontier and Kansas Territory, at Nine Mile Point at what is today Weltner Park located at 79th St. and State Line Road in Prairie Village.

(For more information on National Park Service Exhibits in Prairie Village and Mission Hills of the 3 Historic Trails, Go To Chapter 4).

5) The Trail Signing project and identifying the location of the Santa Fe/Oregon/California Trails through Prairie Village, KS involved detailed mapping research. This included old U.S. Geological Survey Quadrangle Topographic Maps with notes on the trail from KCAHTA Co-Founder Mr. Lee Kroh, and the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association (KCAHTA).

(For more information on the Mapping Research that identified where the 3 Historic Trails went through Prairie Village, Go To Chapter 5A).

6) Following completion of the mapping research of the Historic Trails, it was discovered that the Westport Route – Southern Branch of the Santa Fe; Oregon; & California Trails went through Prairie Village for approximately 3 miles. The trail enters Prairie Village from Mission Hills, crossing 71st Street, east of Belinder and near Booth. It leaves Prairie Village ~3 miles later, crossing 83rd Street (west of Nall) between Outlook and Dearborn, and into Overland Park.

The trail route traverses nine PV neighborhoods; across the grounds of 3 schools, and along the National Historic Site Harmon Park “Swale” at Santa Fe Trail Park. Prairie Village’s trail ‘soft-point’ signage program, that also references the Harmon Park “Swale” and “Nine Mile Point” in Weltner Park, will allow residents and their families to connect with the history of where they live.

(For more information on “Walking the Historic Trails Route in Prairie Village”, Go To Chapter 5B).

7) As the Historic Trails left Prairie Village at 83rd Street near Outlook (west of Nall), they crossed over to the south side of 83rd Street and into present day Overland Park. There are three notable NPS exhibits in Overland Park that are just a short distance west/southwest from Prairie Village ...

“A Day on The Trail Wayside Exhibit” - Located at the northeast corner of Santa Fe Drive and West 80th Street in downtown Overland Park, this exhibit interprets

the two trail branches (Northern and Southern) from Westport that passed through Overland Park and also where they converged at today's Strang Park .

"Sapling Grove Park Exhibits" - Located at 83rd Street, between Grant and Farley Streets. New exhibits interpret this important historic trail site, and its association to the early Bidwell-Bartleson Party of more than 60 persons which assembled in May 1841 at Sapling Grove, being the first such to organize as a wagon train party for the trek to Oregon!

" Strang Park" - Located just south of the Johnson County Library, and just south of Santa Fe Drive, 9879 W. 88th Terrace, Strang Park is the area where the two trail branches from Westport joined back together and headed southwest to present day Gardner, KS.

(For more information on National Park Service Exhibits in Overland Park of the 3 Historic Trails, Go To Chapter 7).

.....

8) And finally, to "Explore and Learn More!", Go To Chapter 8 for a list of links to more information and organizations, including ... More information on the Historic Santa Fe, Oregon, and California trails; the Westport Route; Native American History in our area; NPS and KCAHTA Historic Trails Exhibits in Prairie Village and surrounding area; and other local organizations and places to visit for more information in the Kansas City area.

Chapter 1

Native American History in Kansas

Prior and During Westward Expansion/Settlement

*A Recognition of Native American People in the area that is now
N.E. Kansas; Johnson County & Prairie Village*

Long before Kansas became a state (1861); the County of Johnson was formed (1855); the city of Kansas City, MO. was incorporated (1853 ... found as The Town of Kansas in 1838); the Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails (1830's to 1870's) took settlers West through our area ... and LONG before the city of Prairie Village, KS was incorporated (1951) ... Native American people lived here. They established villages, hunted, farmed, reared families, and took care of the land.

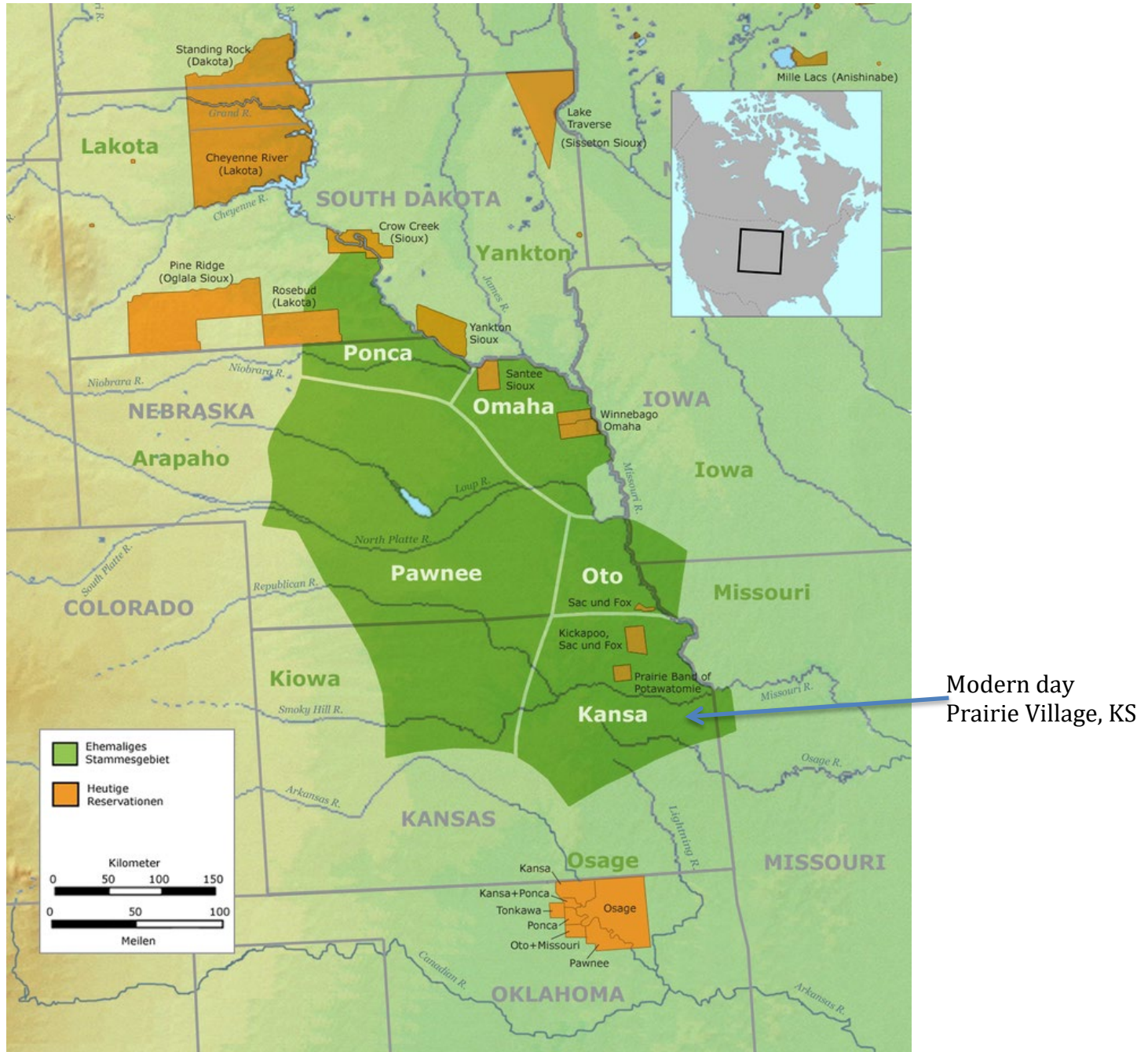
❖ Overall Native American History in our area ...

The Kanza; The Osage; The Shawnee

While there were numerous Native American tribes that were in our area over the many years prior to the westward expansion and settlement of European Americans, three tribes are notable with their presence in the area we live today: The Kanza (Kansa, Konza; or Kaws); The Osage; and The Shawnee. All three tribes would go through multiple treaties and agreements with the federal government ... and all three would generally be in receipt of promises not kept. As a result, all three tribes would endure multiple forced relocations to lands further west and southwest in Kansas Territory ... and ultimately to now Oklahoma.

The Kanza and Osage were here first. There are records dating back to the early to mid 1700's of their presence here, especially The Kanza. The Kanza lived along and or near the Kansas River and would have also lived and hunted in N.E. Johnson County. Both our state and river are named after them. The Osage lived farther south, but this area was part of their hunting grounds. In the early 1800's and sometime after both the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 and the Lewis & Clark Expedition reached our area in 1804, and prior to 1825, they entered treaties with the federal government and had to relocate ... the Kanza were given lands further west along the Kansas River, west of present day Topeka to Manhattan. The Osage were given land in southern Kansas Territory to the Oklahoma border.

Kanza Tribal Lands in what is now Kansas, early 1800's and prior 1820



In 1821, with Missouri gaining statehood, things started to change. That same year, was the birth of the Santa Fe Trail out of Independence, Mo. With these two events, the federal government decided it needed to relocate several Native American tribes from the East to the “frontier” ... Kansas and Nebraska Territories, to make room for migration and settlement of European Americans to Missouri. Beginning in the early 1820's, the area that would become Kansas was permanently set aside as Indian Territory by the U.S. government and was closed

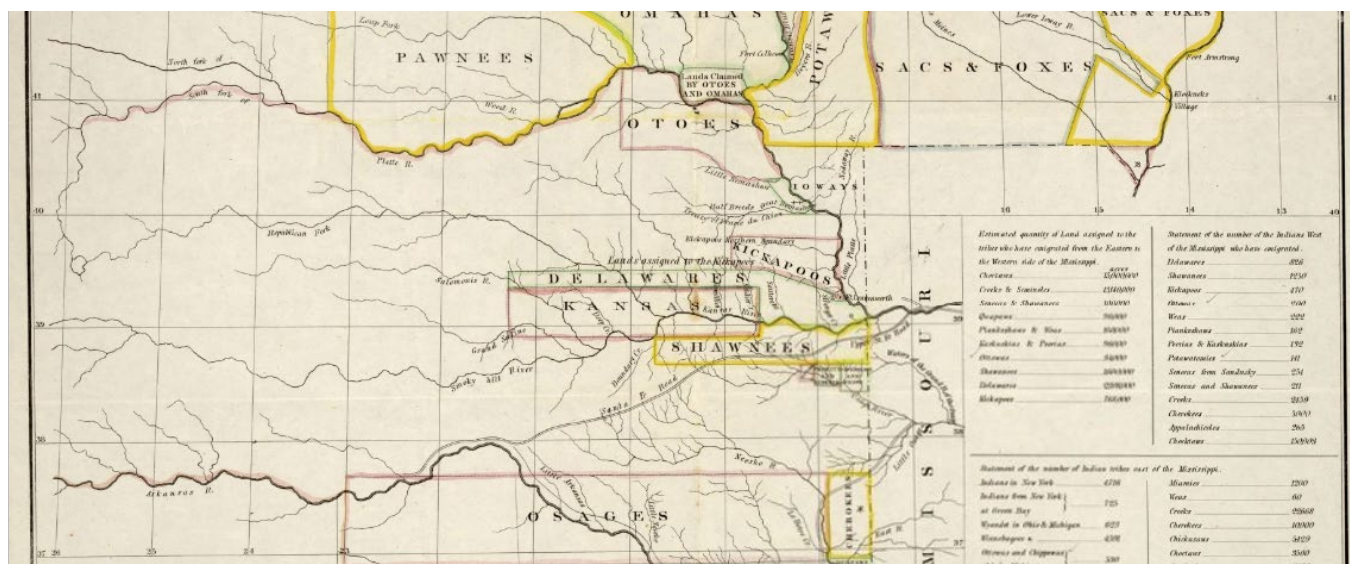
to settlement by whites. The government then began to resettle the Native American tribes already present in eastern Kansas to make room to move eastern tribes in to this area. In June 1825, the Kanza Nation, from whom the state took its name, ceded 20 million acres of their territory and were afterward limited to a Northeast/EastCentral Kansas reservation. In the same month, the Osage Nation was also limited to a reservation in southeast Kansas.

In 1830, the [Indian Removal Act of 1830](#) gave the government authority to designate specific Western lands for settlement by Indians removed from their native lands, and the Indian Intercourse Act of 1834 specifically set aside Kansas, [Nebraska](#), and Oklahoma as the Indian Territory and numerous tribes began to be moved westward. Some eastern and mid-western tribes signed treaties agreeing to move onto reservations in Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Kansas in exchange for undisputed ownership of the new lands.

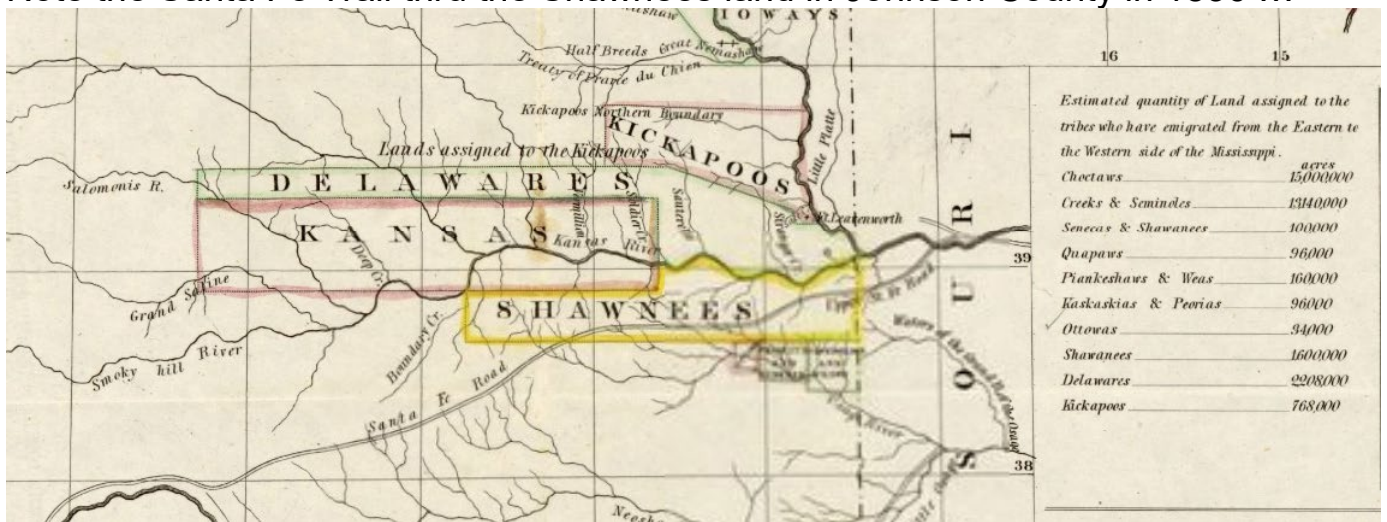
The Shawnee were part of this move. In 1825, the Federal Government negotiated the Treaty of St. Louis which removed 1400 S.E. Missouri based Shawnee to lands in Kansas. They gave them 1,600,000 acres that stretched from the Missouri border (East) to present day Junction City, KS (West) to the Kansas River (North) to present day Johnson/Miami County line (South). Included in this was all of present day Johnson County, including Prairie Village. This was all land that was previously occupied by The Kanza, as well as other tribes.

The following maps are from 1836, showing that all three tribes had been moved by the U.S. government ... The Kanza further west; Osage to the south; and the Shawnee moved from SE Missouri to eastern Kansas ...

Kansas Territory 1836 – Native American Reserves



Note the Santa Fe Trail thru the Shawnees land in Johnson County in 1836 ...



1854 Eastman Map of Kansas and Nebraska Territory – See the following map or link for map of relocations and reduced lands of Indian tribes with the passing of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854 ...

<https://www.kshs.org/km/items/view/209786>



For more information on the history of Native Americans in Kansas, including our area in NE Kansas, go to the following links ...

<https://legendsofkansas.com/native-american-history-kansas/>

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/american-indians-in-kansas/17881>

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❖ History of the Kanza (Kansa, Konza; Kaw)

Prior to the 1600's, The Kanza were part of a larger nation number of Siouan speaking people known as the Dhegiha Siouan group. They originated east of the Mississippi River and north of the Ohio River. In the 1600's 5 tribes of this group included the Kanza (Kaws), Osage, Omahas, Quapaws, and Poncas and by 1700 started a slow migration west.

The Kanza or Kaw tribe were known as "The People of the Southwind". They initially set up a village in present day Doniphan, KS ... on the Missouri River and just north of Atchison in the early 1700's. By the mid 1700's they had migrated south to just north of Leavenworth, and by mid-late 1700's they had villages along and south of Kansas River ... extending into NE Johnson County. By 1750, the "Wind People" were the predominant tribe in what became the state to which they gave their name. Their territory extended over most of present-day northern and eastern Kansas (including our area of NE Johnson County), with hunting grounds extending far to the west.

Treaties made with the U.S. government in 1825, 1846, and 1859 all resulted in relocations for the Kanza people. The Treaty of 1825 reduced their 20 million acre territory to a 2 million acre reservation that was 30 miles wide and began just west of modern day Topeka ... in the area we now call the Flint Hills. The Treaty of 1846 further reduced Kanza territory to 256,000 acres at present day Council Grove, KS ... reduced further to 80,000 acres outside of Council Grove in 1859. Finally in 1872, over the strong protests of Kanza Chief Allegawaho and his people, a federal act moved the Kanza people one more time ... to a 100,000 acre tract of land in Indian Territory (Oklahoma).

By 1872, the Kanza people population had been reduced from several thousands to 553.

The site of the last Kanza (Kaw) village in Kansas ... Little John Creek Reserve, is three and ½ miles southeast of Council Grove. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is being restored as Allegawaho Memorial Heritage Park to tell the story of the Kanza.

The last fluent speaker of the Kanza language, Walter Kekahbah, died in 1983. The last full-blood Kaw, William A. Mehojah, died in 2000.

For more information on the Kanza people, go to the following links ...

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/kaws-or-kanzas-kansas/17371>

<https://newprairiepress.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1090&context=sfh>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaw_people

The Kaw Nation, of Kaw City, Oklahoma has survived adversity and today is a federally recognized self-governing tribe of over 3500 members.



For more information, go to the following links ...

<https://kawnation.com/>

https://kawnation.com/?page_id=72

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❖ History of the Osage

The Osage, like the Kanza, originated in the Ohio River valley as part of the Dhegia Siouan speaking people. Like the Kanza, they migrated west and by the late 1600's occupied land in far now western Missouri, from the Missouri River south to now Arkansas. After the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, the Osage in 1808 ceded all lands in western Missouri in a treaty with U.S. government, and were moved to SE Kansas, and eventually in mid 1800's relocated to Indian Territory

(now Oklahoma). While few Osage would have lived in our area of NE Kansas, this was part of their hunting territory in 1700's up to 1808.

For more information on the Osage, see following links ...

<https://osagenation.s3.amazonaws.com/B/B.1.a.AncestralLandsMap%20Poster.pdf>

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/osage/19289>

Osage Nation is now in Pawhuska, OK. For more information see their website ...

<https://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/>

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❖ History of the Shawnee

The Shawnee was a Native American people that lived in Johnson County and present day Prairie Village from the 1820's to the 1860's.

According to the [Shawnee Tribe's official website](#), Shawnee are an Eastern Woodlands tribe. In Sauk, Fox and many other Algonkian languages the name for the Shawnee, *Shawunogi*, and its variants means "Southerners." Before being forced west by European encroachment, the Shawnee lived in areas that include Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and South Carolina.

In 1793, the Shawnee received a Spanish land grant near Cape Girardeau, Missouri and a large group of Shawnee headed west for that land from Ohio. After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, that land became property of the United States government. Not long after 1824, the Missouri and Ohio Shawnee would find themselves being forced out of their homes and onto 1.6 million-acres in eastern Kansas, part of which is now Johnson County. Relocation of the Missouri Shawnee, numbered at 1400, started in 1826. The Ohio Shawnee, numbered at ~850, would move here in 1828.

The 1.6 million acre tract of land extended all the way west from the Missouri state line to present day Junction City, KS., and north to the Kansas River; south to the present day Johnson/Miami County line. Few of the Shawnee actually lived west of present day Lawrence, KS, with most residing in present day Wyandotte and Johnson Counties.

The spiritual leader of the Shawnee was Tensquatawa. He was called The Prophet, and was the younger brother of the legendary Shawnee leader, Tecumseh. Tensquatawa was among the Ohio Shawnee to come to this area in 1828. He died in 1837 and was buried on property he owned near a spring called White Feather Spring, located in the present Argentine area of Kansas City, KS.

Following is a map showing the initial Shawnee reservation of 1.6 million acres in Kansas from 1825 to 1854 ... including all of present day Johnson County and Prairie Village ...



With the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854, the new goal of the U.S. government was to open Kansas for settlers from the East. The government mandated the placement of the Native Americans who remained in Kansas Territory to be on individual allotments of land, rather than on large reservations. As such, the 1.6 million acres of land that belonged to the Shawnee was reduced to 160,000 acres ... individual grants of 200 acres each for each Shawnee man, woman, and child. These new land grants were all located within 30 miles of the Missouri border, including Johnson County.

The “Black Bob Band” of the Shawnee, less than 200 in total, under the leadership of a chief called Black Bob were traditionalists who rejected assimilation. They refused to accept individual allotments in 1854. The government set aside a tract of land totaling 33,000 acres for the Black Bob Band in southern Johnson County ... SE of Olathe and mostly south of present day 151st Street.

A year after the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, a territory in northeast Kansas is designated as Johnson County in 1855. In 1858, both Thomas C. Porter Sr. and Thompson A. Lewis arrived in Kansas City. They would become known as the 1st and 2nd families of what would become Prairie Village. They were related by marriage as Lewis was married to Porter’s sister, Betty. Within days they would purchase land.

Porter bought 160 acres between what is now 69th Street to 71st Street and bisected by Mission Road ... what is now the center of Prairie Village and includes the Village Shopping Center. Lewis followed with a purchase of 80 acres just north of Porter’s farm, and was from 67th Street to 69th Street and from Mission Road west to what is now Roe Avenue. This land was originally Shawnee land, owned by a descendant of the famous Shawnee Chief, Tecumseh.

Another early settler to Prairie Village was Henry Coppock. He bought land in 1865 from Shawnee Chief Graham Rogers, who was the grandson of the famous Shawnee leader, Tecumseh. In 1885 he sold the land to John Foster, son-in-law of George Milburn. This land is now occupied by the Milburn Country Club.

By the early to mid 1870’s, most all of the Shawnee in Kansas, including the Black Bob Band, had been relocated to Indian Territory (Oklahoma) on a joint Shawnee-Cherokee reservation.

For more information on the Shawnee history, including in Kansas, see the following links ...

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/shawnee-indians/19230>

<https://jocohistory.wordpress.com/2015/11/25/path-of-the-shawnee/>

<https://jocohistory.wordpress.com/2020/01/29/the-black-bob-band-of-the-shawnee/>

In 2000, Congress enacted the Shawnee Tribe Status Act. This Act restored the Shawnee Tribe to its position as a sovereign Indian nation.

The Shawnee tribe today is located in Miami, OK. For more information see...

<https://www.shawnee-tribe.org/>

<https://www.shawnee-tribe.org/history>

Prairie Village Historic Trails 1840 – 1880

Westport Route – Southern Branch

Trail Signing of the Santa Fe/Oregon/California Trails



Chapter 2

History of the Santa Fe, Oregon, & California Trails

The 'Westport Route-Southern Branch' of the historic Santa Fe, Oregon, & California Frontier Trails used the same single trace to traverse through Prairie Village. There was a 40-mile trail corridor through today's Kansas City region where the historic Santa Fe-Oregon-California Trails traversed. Just southwest of present-day Gardner, Kansas the Santa Fe Trail route splits from the Oregon-California Trail route. This historic site is called the 'Gardner Junction', and is interpreted with various exhibits and information panels at Hwy 56 southwest of Gardner!

❖ Santa Fe Trail

Beginning in 1821, the Santa Fe Trail became the most important route of commerce between the nations of Mexico and the United States. Its route initially began at Franklin, MO (not extant), then started further up the Missouri River to Independence, Mo. and then later Westport Landing (Kansas City, MO.) Its length from Franklin was about 850 miles, with a 100 miles shorter distance from Westport. Approximately two-thirds of the route was in Kansas. It also passed through portions of what is now Missouri, Oklahoma, Colorado, and New Mexico.

This famous trail was established in 1821 when William Becknell, now known as the *Father of the Santa Fe Trail*, led a small group of men on horseback from Franklin, MO (located north of today's Boonville, MO) on September 1, 1821 to Santa Fe on a trading expedition. Having recently declared its independence from Spain, Mexico threw off years of trade restrictions and the colonial trading village of Santa Fe welcomed Becknell whose trade goods included calico, printed cloth, and particularly manufacture goods such as tools and houseware. The Becknell party returned to Missouri on January 30, 1822. Later that year, in 1822, Becknell led the 1st three loaded wagons from Missouri to Santa Fe and crossed into the "Frontier" Kansas Territory at "Nine Mile Point" ... what is today Weltner Park in Prairie Village. Thus this trade route between two nations was opened, and for almost sixty years the wagon caravans kept rolling. The Santa Fe Trail saw traders, trappers and mountain men, gold seekers, soldiers and emigrants traveling its dusty trail, but it would find its most lasting legacy as a two-way Trail of Commerce, and referred to as America's 1st commercial highway.

With the advent of the *Transcontinental Railroad* its construction was completed in 1869 between Sacramento, CA and Omaha, NB. Just 2-months following the driving of the 'Golden Spike' in Utah, the first bridge across the Missouri river was completed here in Kansas City. Opening July 3, 1869, the *St. Joseph - Hannibal Bridge* was located near the Westport Landing, and was built by the *Kansas City and Cameron Railroad*, a subsidiary of the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad. This bridge allowed for the connection to the Kansas Pacific Railway, as an essential link for our national railway system. So for (3) years, before the Union Pacific completed its bridge over the Missouri River connecting Omaha and Council Bluffs in 1872, the new bridge at Kansas City was an all important link for cross-country rails connecting east and west along the *Transcontinental Railroad!*

Santa Fe Trail traffic moderated thru the mid to late 1870's following the arrival of the transcontinental railroad. As the railway system expanded across Kansas, railheads were established along the way further west especially accommodating rail transport for the cattle industry. The 1st train of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway arrived in Santa Fe in February, 1880, essentially ending commercial traffic on the Santa Fe Trail.

The Santa Fe Trail became a National Historic Trail in 1987.

The Santa Fe Trail is 200 years old in 2021! Learn More at ...

<https://santafetrail200.org/>

For more information on the Santa Fe Trail, Learn More at the following Santa Fe Trail Links ...

<https://www.santafetrail.org/states/kansas.html>

<http://www.newsantafe.org/>

<https://kchistory.org/week-kansas-city-history/way-santa-fe>

<https://www.legendsofamerica.com/ks-santafetrailjoco/>

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/santa-fe-trail/12195>

<https://www.santafetrail.org/chapters/mro/>

❖ **Oregon Trail**

It was a 2,000 mile route that initially started in Independence, Missouri and shifted to Westport Landing and Westport by early 1840's. The trail continued west and north to the Columbia River Valley in Oregon.

This road was also called the Oregon-California Trail until the trail to Oregon branched off at numerous places further west in Idaho to California. The Oregon Trail, as with the California Trail, was primarily an emigrant trail. Originally a route established by mountain men and fur trappers to and through the Rocky Mountains, by 1836 the Oregon Trail was being used by missionaries to Oregon Territory. By 1841, the emigrant traffic also included people bound for California. Even the Pony Express between St. Joseph, MO and Sacramento CA used part of the Oregon Trail in 1860-1861. However, the defining moment and lasting image of the Oregon Trail is of families in covered wagons seeking a dream in the west, starting in the early 1840's.

As the territory of Oregon opened to the westward migration an estimated 250,000 to 650,000 people "pulled up stakes" seeking a better life, cheap land, and patriotism, and headed west along the Oregon and California trails. About one-third immigrated to Oregon, one-third went west then south to the gold fields of California, and one-third to Utah, Colorado, and Montana, all laying claim to much of the West from the late 1830's to 1880's.

With the advent of Civil War and safer riverboat travel on the Missouri River, westward emigration from the Kansas City region diminished as new trailheads were established further up river at towns such as St. Joe, MO, Nebraska City,

NB, and Omaha, NB. (An 1856 General Land Office (GLO) survey map of Douglas County, Kansas even notes this same trail route as the California Road, likely due to diminished trail traffic to Oregon!

Kansas was not open to settlement during the early years of the Oregon Trail prior to 1854, and few who travelled across this area ever lived here. However, many wrote of the beauty and fertile land here. Their descriptions of the Kansas and Blue River valleys helped dispel the myth of the “Great American Desert” and encouraged others later to settle in Kansas.

In Kansas City and Prairie Village, the Oregon Trail followed the same route (trace) as the Santa Fe Trail, until it branched off on its own west of present day Gardner, KS.

The Oregon Trail became a National Historic Trail in 1978.

For more information on the Oregon Trail, Learn More at the following Oregon Trail Links ...

<https://www.nps.gov/oreg/index.htm>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon_Trail

<https://octa-trails.org/the-missouri-and-kansas-trails/>

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/oregon-california-trail/12161>

❖ California Trail and the California Road

Following the lure of gold discovered in California in 1848, for over a decade the trail to California served as the primary route to the gold field region of California. during the period 1848–the mid 1860s.

The California Road, was originally a route through the lands of the Shawnee Indians. It ran west from Westport through present-day Johnson and Douglas Counties. Throughout the 1830's and into the 1840's, this route was used primarily by several Indian tribes, missionaries, and surveyors. John C. Fremont led at least one of his famous expeditions to the west down this road. By the mid 1850's, the road was known locally as the “Westport to Lawrence Road”. However, from 1856 to the eve of the Civil War in 1860, it was also known as the California Road, as the perils of the local border guerilla warfare near southern Johnson County drove emigrant traffic north to this route. (An 1856 General Land Office (GLO) survey

map of Douglas County, Kansas notes this same trail Oregon-California Trail route as the California Road!)

The California Trail is best known for the Gold Rush traffic to the Pacific coast region that changed everything. The California Trail used the same route as the Oregon Trail until they branched off from each other further west. As such, traffic was heavy on the California Trail from the late 1840's up until the 1860's. From Westport to Sacramento, California was 1,950 miles. In the Kansas City area and through Prairie Village, the California trail followed the same route/trace out of Westport as did the Oregon and Santa Fe Trails. The California Trail became a National Historic Trail in 1992.

For more information on the California Trail, Learn More at the following California Trail Links ...

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Trail

<https://www.nps.gov/cali/index.htm>

<https://www.legendsofamerica.com/california-trail/>

Prairie Village Historic Trails 1840 – 1880

Westport Route – Southern Branch

Trail Signing of the Santa Fe/Oregon/California Trails



Chapter 3

Kansas City and the Westport Route

❖ Kansas City Metro and Westport Landing

In what is today the Kansas City metropolitan area, the Santa Fe Trail (as well as the Oregon and California Trails) evolved through three eras ...

1) 1821-1827: Started with the blazing of the Santa Fe Trail by William Becknell in 1821 with five men on horseback and ended in 1827 with the founding of Independence, MO. This era includes Becknell's return on the Santa Fe Trail in 1822 to follow his route with the first three loaded wagons on the trail, crossing into Kansas Territory at what is known today as "Nine Mile Point" in Prairie Village (79th and State Line Road).

2) 1828-1839: Independence, Mo. becomes the main start of the trail, with boats unloading at Independence Landing on the Missouri River. This era also includes the founding of Westport in 1834, which soon became a trailhead along with Independence.

From Matt Field – Spring, 1839 ... *"In the square you observe a number of enormous wagons into which men are packing bales and boxes. Presently the mules are driven in from pasture, and a*

busy time commences in the square, catching the fractious animals with halters and introducing them to harness for their long journey ..."

3) 1840-1880: By 1840, Westport was replacing Independence as the main outfitting and starting point for the trails to Santa Fe, Oregon, California, and all points to the western frontier. Boat traffic from St. Louis could now go farther upstream and offload at Westport Landing: Delaware Street to Grand Avenue in present-day Kansas City, MO. There was so much traffic on the trail out of Westport that by the mid-1850's the territorial government in Kansas Territory declared the Santa Fe Trail as the 1st official Territorial Road. With the beginning of the transcontinental railroad in 1869, trail traffic out of Westport started to wane in the 1870's. The 1st train of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway, reached Santa Fe in February, 1880, ending the ~60 year era of the Santa Fe Trail.

From The Liberty Tribune – April 7, 1848 ... *"This is going to be quite a flourishing town. Within a few months it has been gaining fast, both in trade and population. Some of the heaviest Santa Fe traders start now from this point. The landing is one of the best, if not the very best, on the Missouri river; there is a good road to the prairie, a good ferry, and a clever ferry-man-namely Mr. Calvin McCoy."*

[Learn More about Westport Landing at the following links ...](#)

<https://www.nps.gov/safe/learn/historyculture/westport-landing-town-of-kansas-exhibits.htm>

<https://kchistory.org/week-kansas-city-history/landing>

<http://www.santafetrailresearch.com/trail-photo-02/westport-pictures.html>

https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMGPJK_Three_Trails_from_Westport_Landing_Kansas_City_MO

❖ **Westport Route**

There were two trail routes out of Westport for the three historic trails ...
Northern Branch – Crossed into Kansas Territory a block south of today's Westport Road at State line Road; then traversed just north of 47th St. and Rainbow Blvd near today's Westwood; passed on the north edge property of the *Shawnee Methodist Mission and Indian Manual Labor School* (today's *Shawnee Indian Mission*); it traversed parts of Roeland Park and Mission, and then

southwest through today's Overland Park.

Southern Branch – Crossed into Kansas Territory near 69th Terrace and State Line Road in Mission Hills, then through a ~3 mile section of Prairie Village including the “Swale” of old wagon ruts in Santa Fe Trail Park (Hamon Park). This rare and important trail remnant was listed in 2018 in the National Register of Historic Places.

This branch of the trail continued southwesterly then into today's Overland Park, with both branches converging in Overland Park at the site of today's Strang Park, near W. 88th Terrace and Farley.

*Learn More about the **History of Westport at the following links ...***

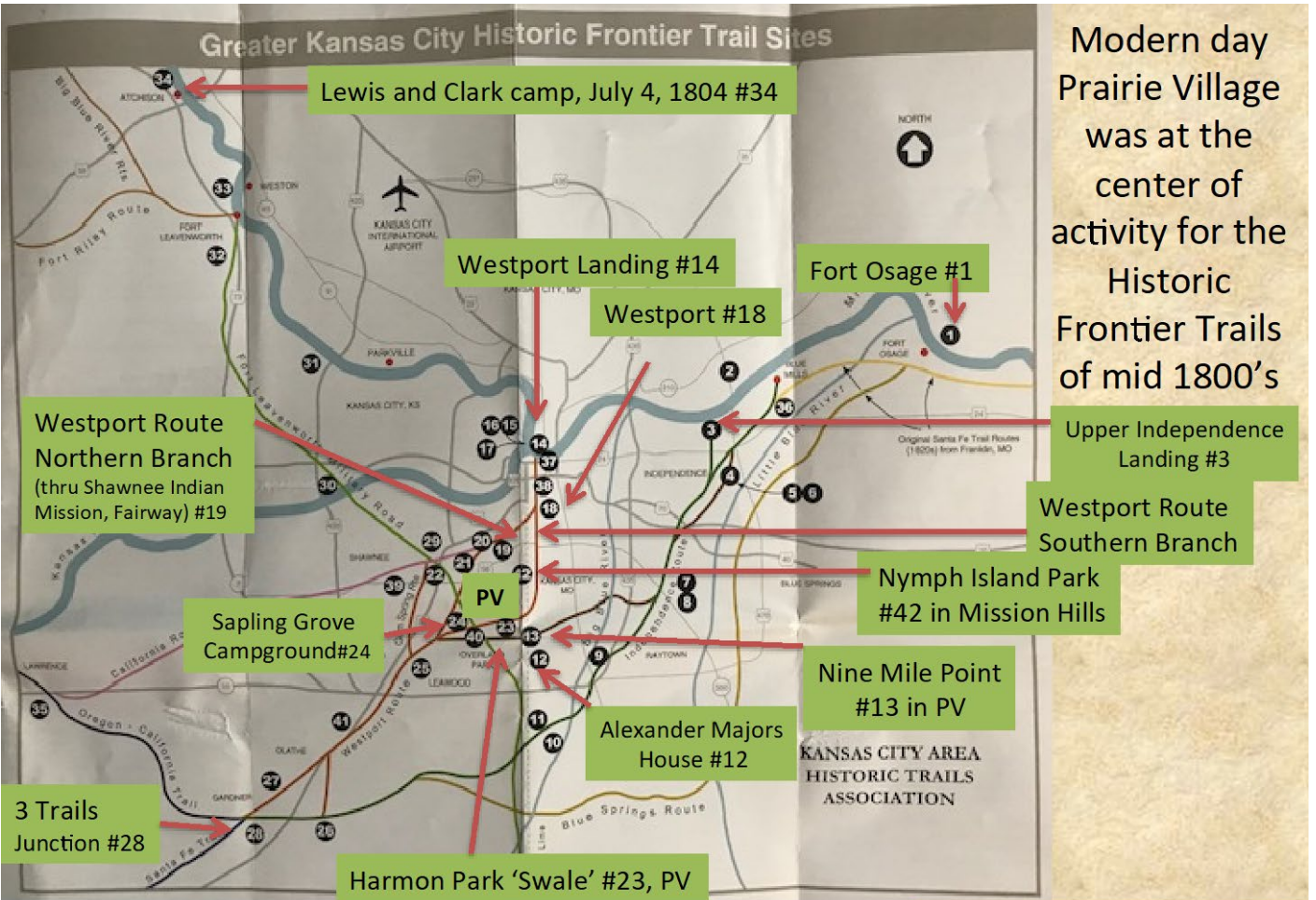
<https://www.westporthistorical.com/westport-history>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westport,_Kansas_City,_Missouri

<https://www.legendsofamerica.com/westport-missouri/>

SEE FOLLOWING ON THE GREATER KC HISTORIC FRONTIER TRAIL SITES..

Greater Kansas City Historic Frontier Trail Sites



Modern day Prairie Village was at the center of activity for the Historic Frontier Trails of mid 1800's

The Heritage League of Greater Kansas City and Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association

Prairie Village Historic Trails 1840 – 1880

- 1 Fort Osage**
105 S. Osage St., Sibley, MO
816-850-5737
- 2 Liberty Landing**
East from 291 Hwy on Old 210 Hwy to intersection of Liberty Landing Rd., Liberty, MO. Landing in area to east.
- 3 Upper Independence Landing**
Missouri River Overlook on Wayne City Road beyond end of North River Blvd. Sugar Creek MO
- 4 Independence Square**
Lexington & Liberty, Independence, MO
- 5 National Frontier Trails Museum**
318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO
816-325-7577
- 6 Bingham-Waggoner Estate & Swales**
313 West Pacific, Independence, MO
816-461-3491
- 7 Rice-Tremont House**
8801 East 66th St. Raytown, MO
816-333-3586
- 8 85th and Manchester Swales**
85th & Manchester, Raytown, MO
- 9 Heart Grove Campground**
97th & Hickman Mills Drive, Kansas City, MO.
- 10 Minor Park Swales**
In park off Red Bridge Rd. east of Holmes, Kansas City, MO
- 11 New Santa Fe**
940 West Santa Fe Trail, Kansas City, MO
816-942-5033
- 12 Alexander Majors House**
8201 State Line, Kansas City, MO.
816-333-5556
- 13 9-Mile Point on early Santa Fe Trail**
79th & State Line, KS-MO.
- 14 Westport Landing**
Delaware to Grand at the Missouri River, Kansas City, MO
- 15 Arabia Steamboat Museum**
400 Grand Ave., Kansas City, MO
816-471-4030
- 16 Lewis and Clark Point**
8th & Jefferson, Kansas City, MO
- 17 Kaw Point**
Lewis & Clark Historic Park at Kaw Point
1401 Fairfax Trafficway, Kansas City, KS
Turn east. Proceed 1 block to riverfront.
- 18 Westport**
Broadway & Westport Road Area, Kansas City, MO
- 19 Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site**
3403 W. 53rd St., Fairway, KS
913-262-0867
- 20 Shawnee Baptist Mission**
49th and Nail, Mission, KS
- 21 Friends (Quaker) Indian Mission**
100 yards east of 62nd & Hemlock, Merriam, KS
- 22 Turkey Creek**
Turkey Creek Streamway Park at 61st & Knox, Merriam KS
- 23 Harmon Park**
77th & Delmar, Prairie Village, KS
- 24 Sapling Grove**
Campground
82nd Terrace & Grant, Overland Park, KS
- 25 Indian Creek/Flat Rock**
Campground
103rd & Noland Rd. Lenexa, KS
- 26 Lone Elm Campground**
167th & Lone Elm Rd, Olathe, KS
- 27 Elm Grove Campground**
Old Hiway 56 at Cedar Creek Crossing, Olathe, KS
- 28 Trail Junction**
Three trails divide .2 of a mile west of 56 Hiway on 183rd St & .3 of a mile north of 183rd St, Johnson County, KS
- 29 Gum Springs**
10901 W. 59th Tr. and 6011 Melrose Lane, Shawnee, KS
- 30 Delaware Crossing**
Grinter Place State Historic Site 1420 S. 79th St., KCK and 7300 Douglas, Kansas City, KS
- 31 Lewis and Clark camp, June 30, 1804**
Near Wolcott, KS and the Missouri River
- 32 Pilot Knob**
10th St. & Halderman St., Leavenworth, KS
- 33 Fort Leavenworth Museum**
100 Reynolds Ave. 913-684-3186 /651-7440
Swale views - Wind southeast on Riverside Ave. to river.
- 34 Lewis and Clark camp, July 4, 1804**
Near Atchison, KS, Independence Creek at the Missouri River.
- 35 Bluejacket Crossing**
West of the County Rd 1057 over the Wakarusa River, Douglas County, KS

(36) Salem Park

19901 East Old Lexington Rd. At intersection of U.S. Hwy 24 & N. Blue Mills Rd., Independence, MO

(37) Orig. 'Town of Kansas' site

2nd and Main Streets, Kansas City, MO

(38) Penn Valley Park

SFT Mrkr & Wayside Exhibit, 1 Memorial Dr., KC, MO

(39) Pioneer Crossing Park

10300 Shawnee Mission Parkway, Shawnee, KS

(40) 'A Day on the Trail' Waysides/1906 DAR marker

80th and Santa Fe Streets, Overland Park, KS

(41) Historic Mahaffie Stage Coach Stop & Farmsteam

1200 E. Kansas City Rd., Olathe, KS

(42) Nymph Island Park

State Line Road at 69th Terrace, Mission Hills, KS

Learn More about the *Historic Trails in Johnson County, Kansas* at the following links ...

<https://shawneemissionpost.com/2016/03/16/santa-fe-trail-changed-over-the-years-leaving-multiple-imprints-in-nejc-48430/>

<https://shawneemissionpost.com/2016/04/29/more-than-100-miles-of-historic-trails-crossed-through-johnson-county-by-far-the-most-in-the-metro-50027/>

www.kcahta.org (Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association)

Prairie Village Historic Trails 1840 – 1880

Westport Route – Southern Branch

Trail Signing of the Santa Fe/Oregon/California Trails



Chapter 4

National Park Service (NPS) and KCAHTA Exhibits Prairie Village & Mission Hills

Prairie Village has two significant National Park Service exhibits on the Historic Frontier Trails: the “Swale” in Harmon/Santa Fe Trail Park, and in Weltner Park at Nine Mile Point. In addition, an NPS exhibit is located just 2 blocks from Prairie Village, north in Mission Hills at Nymph Island Park.

❖ Harmon Park / Santa Fe Trail Park Swale – Prairie Village

Officially dedicated as the *Harmon Park Swale*, this national historic landmark is located at Santa Fe Trail Park/Harmon Park in Prairie Village, Kansas. This ‘swale’ goes back to about 175 years ago, and located on the route of the combined Santa Fe, Oregon, and California trails as it headed southwest out of Westport, Missouri (approximately five miles to the northeast) to present-day Gardner, Kansas (approximately 25 miles to the southwest). This swale is a remnant of significant rutting along this route caused by significant traffic from hundreds of thousands of freighters, emigrants, and pioneers who traveled this historic route. It was dedicated along with a new pavilion and exhibit on September 13, 1992.

In August, 2018 the swale was nominated and approved by the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to be listed in the *National Register of Historic Kansas Places*. On November 19, 2018, the Kansas State Historical Society notified the City of Prairie Village that the Harmon Park /Santa Fe Trail Park Swale was approved and officially listed in *National Register of Historic Places*, effective September 21, 2018. See ...

<https://www.kshs.org/natreg/natreg%20listings/view/1816>)

The Harmon Park Swale looking southwest towards 78th Terrace at Delmar:

Harmon Park "Swale Ruts" in Santa Fe Trail Park ...



In the Fall of 2018, the Harmon Park Swale was officially listed in the *National Register of Historic Places*.



Swale is ~ 18' across ...
However, the "Trail" itself could be ~100-200+' wide!

*National Park Service
*Kansas City Area
Historic Trails Association

Harmon Park Swale of Prairie Village: This swale marks the route of the Oregon/California/Santa Fe Trail in the form of eroded or weathered depressions in the ground called 'swales'. This swale was once a much deeper and more well-defined path, most equivalent to a significantly used modern-day dirt road. It was created as thousands of oxen, horses, cattle, freighters, pioneers, and wagons traveled across the ground shown in this above picture, over many decades of usage in the Middle 1800s. They eroded and compacted the ground, which created ruts. Over time, the ruts were weathered into the more gently sloping swale visible today.



*Near Delmar and 78th St.
Facing East towards the Santa Fe Trail
and Harmon Park 'Swale'*

Prairie Village Historic Trails
1840 – 1880

The Harmon Park Swale is most visible from the parking area located just east and south of the water tower at 78th St. and Delmar. An adjoining sidewalk from the parking area leads to interpretive panels overlooking the historic swale ...



Santa Fe Trail Park/Harmon Park

Santa Fe Trail Wayside Exhibit*

Dedicated September 13, 1992 ...

Facing Southeast to Harmon Park 'Swale'

*National Park Service
*Kansas City Area
Historic Trails Association

Prairie Village Historic Trails
1840 – 1880



Santa Fe Trail Park/Harmon Park

Santa Fe Trail Wayside Exhibit*

Dedicated September 13, 1992 ...

Facing West to the Santa Fe Trail (left) and Santa Fe Trail Park Pavilion (right)

*National Park Service
*Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association

Prairie Village Historic Trails
1840 – 1880

Santa Fe Trail Park/Harmon Park

Santa Fe Trail Wayside Exhibit*

Dedicated September 13, 1992 ...

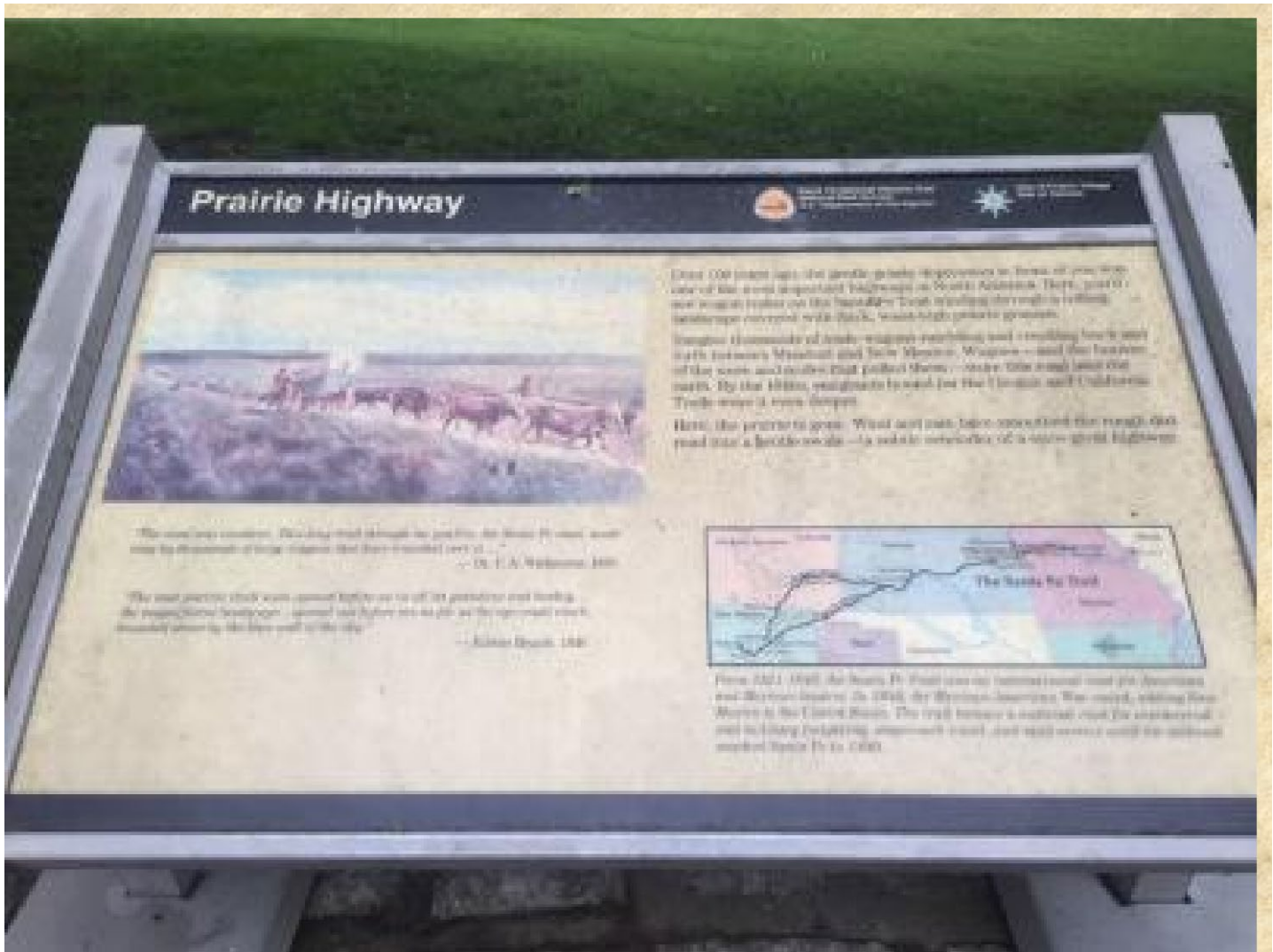


*National Park Service
*Kansas City Area
Historic Trails Association



Limestone Post marking
the Santa Fe Trail

Prairie Village Historic Trails
1840 – 1880



Pioneer Diary Excerpts from the *Prairie Highway* ...

From Dr. F. A. Wislizenus, 1846 ... *"The road was excellent. This long trail through the prairie, the Santa Fe Road, made only by thousands of large wagons that have travelled over it ..."*

From Edwin Bryant, 1846 ... *"The vast prairie itself soon opened before us in all its grandeur and beauty ... the magnificent landscape ... spread out before me as far as the eye could reach, bounded along by the blue wall of the sky."*



Santa Fe Trail Park/Harmon Park
Santa Fe Trail Pavilion
Dedicated September 13, 1992

Facing southwest towards the Santa Fe/Oregon/California Trail

Prairie Village Historic Trails
1840 – 1880



Limestone Post
marking the
Santa Fe Trail

Santa Fe Trail Park/Harmon Park
Santa Fe Trail Pavilion
Dedicated September 13, 1992 ...
Facing North to the Pavilion
from the actual historic trail -
Westport Route South Branch
Santa Fe/Oregon/California Trail

National Park Service
Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association

Prairie Village Historic Trails
1840 – 1880

Santa Fe Trail Park/Harmon Park

Santa Fe Trail
Pavilion Plaque*

Dedicated
September 13, 1992



*National Park Service

*Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association

The route of the historic Santa Fe-Oregon-California frontier trails in the Kansas City region were essentially one trace until they 'split' at what became known as Gardner Junction.

Learn More about the NPS Exhibit and the Harmon Park "Swale" in Santa Fe Trail Park/Harmon Park at the following links ...

<https://www.kshs.org/natreg/natreg%20listings/view/1816>

<https://www.nps.gov/places/harmon-park-trail-swale-prairie-village.htm>

<https://www.artspv.org/blog/prairie-village-public-art-series-vol-7>

<https://www.santafetrail.org/publications/wagon-tracks/pdf/V.%207%2092-93.pdf>

https://www.jocogov.org/sites/default/files/musOnline/overlandTrails/trail_2.htm

❖ Nine Mile Point at Weltner Park – Prairie Village

In 1822, William Becknell led 3 loaded wagons – the 1st wagons on the Santa Fe Trail from Missouri to Santa Fe. They crossed into the frontier, and what later became Kansas Territory in 1854, here at Nine Mile Point which is today Weltner Park located at 79th St. and State Line Road in Prairie Village.

Following are the Wayside Exhibits dedicated on November 25, 2013, by the National Park Service and Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association ...

Nine Mile Point*

Weltner Park

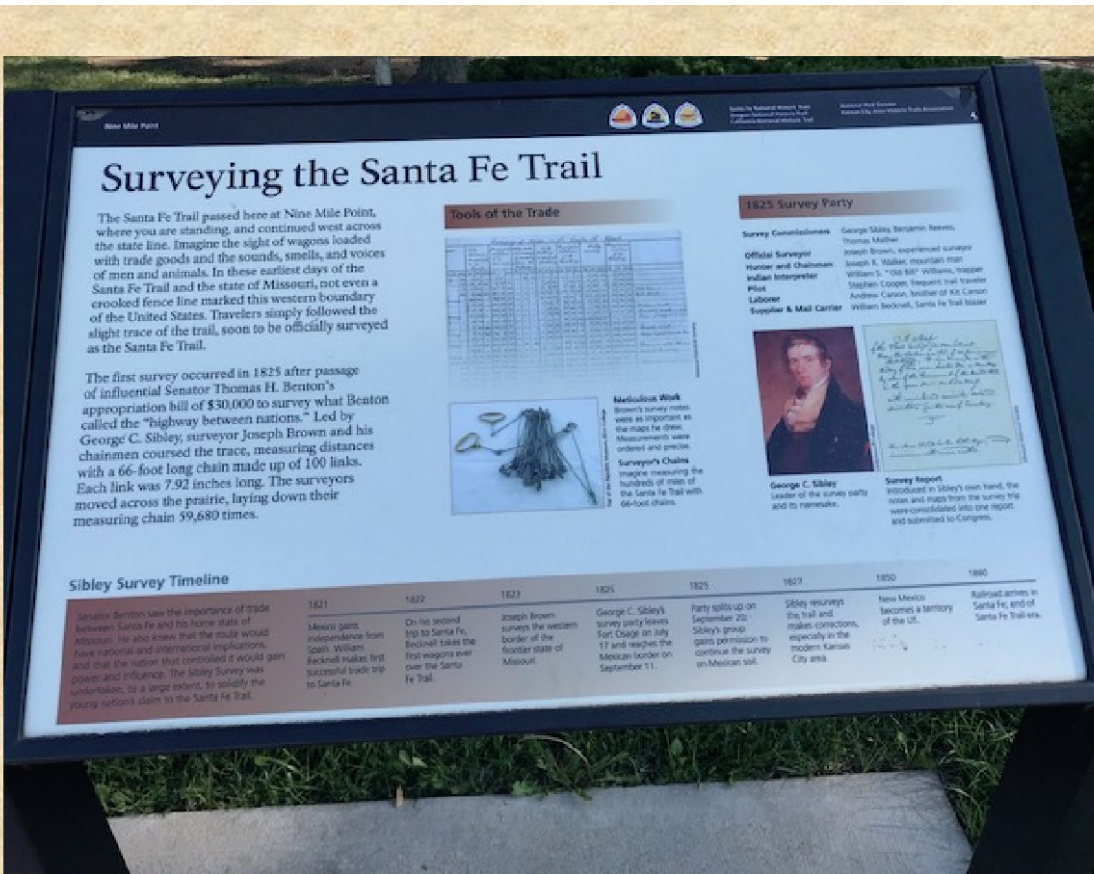
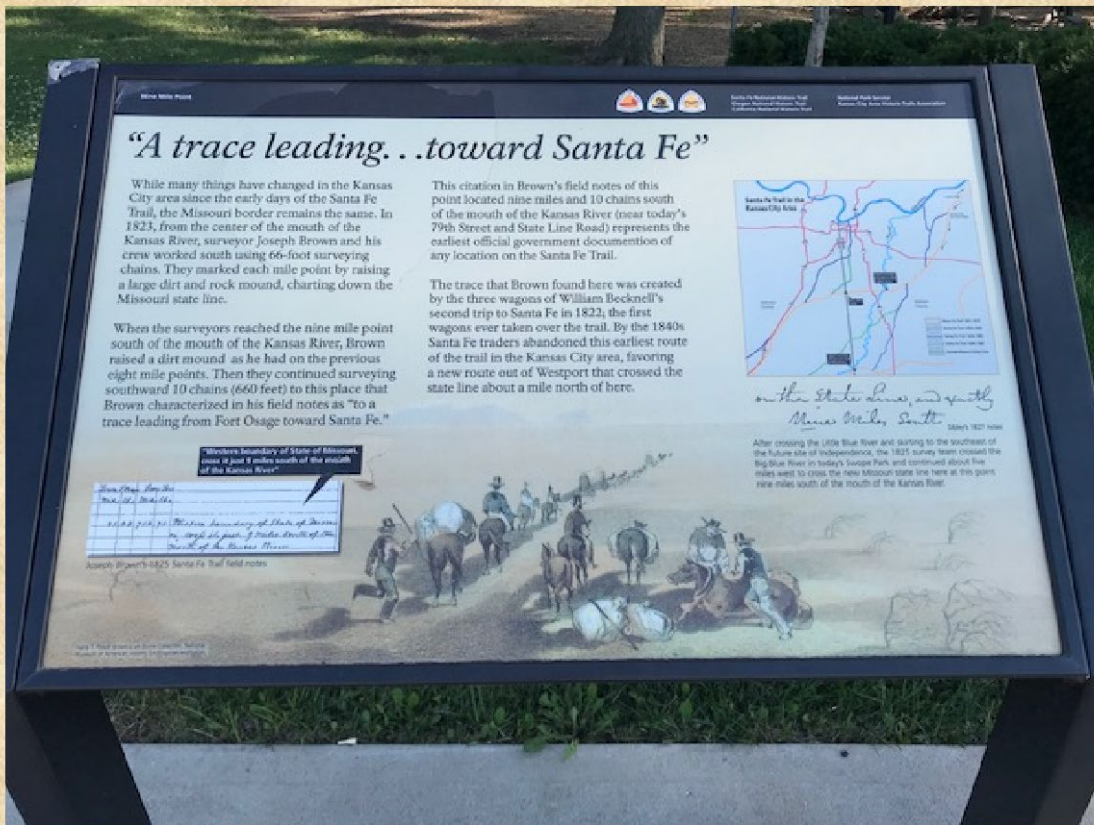
@ 79th St & State Line

Dedicated November 25, 2013




In 1822, William Becknell led 3 loaded wagons – the first wagons on the Santa Fe Trail, and crossed here at Nine Mile Point

*National Park Service
*Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association



Learn More about Nine Mile Point at the following links ...

<https://www.nps.gov/places/nine-mile-point-weltner-park.htm>

<https://www.pvkansas.com/Home/Components/News/News/803/601?navid=564>

<https://shawneemissionpost.com/2013/11/20/new-markers-recognize-historical-significance-of-prairie-villages-weltner-park-23115/>

<https://www.legendsofamerica.com/ks-santafetrailjoco/>

<https://www.2021sfts.com/otherevents.html>

❖ **Nymph Island Park – Mission Hills, KS**

State Line Road & 69th Terrace

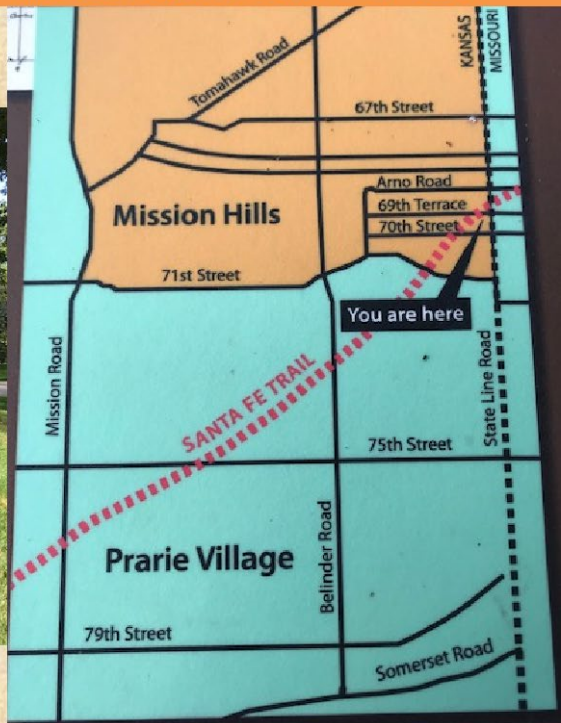
The Southern Branch of the route of SF/ORE/CAL Trails from Westport, travelled south along/near present Wornall Road to about 67th Street. At that point the trail turned west/southwest and crossed into today's State of Kansas at what is today Nymph Island Park, dedicated in 2018. A couple of blocks further, enters present day Prairie Village ...

Note: From 1821 to 1854 travelers on the trail who crossed west over the western state line border of Missouri, actually cross the boundary out of the United States onto lands dedicated to native American Indian tribal nations. It was not until 1854, through Congressional passage of the *Kansas-Nebraska Act* that the territory of Kansas was opened for settlement.

Treaties and agreements with the Native American Indians provided for passage of freighters and emigrants along the designated trails.

Nymph Island Park* Mission Hills @ 69th Terr & State Line

The Historic Trails from Westport, MO. enter Kansas here; 1/3rd mile later enter PV at 71st near Booth



Dedicated in 2018 *National Park Service
*Kansas City Area
Historic Trails Association



Prairie Village Historic Trails 1840 – 1880

Westport Route – Southern Branch

Trail Signing of the Santa Fe/Oregon/California Trails



Chapter 5A

Mapping Research Historic Trail Route in Prairie Village

Following is a list of the mapping research, including detailed old Quadrangle Maps with notes on the trail from Mr. Lee Kroh and KCAHTA , that show the Santa Fe/Oregon/California Trails as they went through present day Prairie Village, KS...

Research and Mapping Historic Trails in PV

- ❖ General Land Office Survey of 1855 by Federal Surveyors in Kansas Territory – Kansas Historical Society
- ❖ U.S. G.S. Lenexa Quadrangle Topographic Map (7.5 Minute Series) of 1957 – KCAHTA & Lee Kroh field notes
- ❖ U.S.G.S Grandview, MO – Kansas Quadrangle Topographic Map (7.5 Minute Series) of 1964 – KCAHTA and Lee Kroh field notes
- ❖ U.S.G.S Kansas City Missouri-Kansas Quadrangle Topographic Map (7.5 Minute Series) of 1964 – KCAHTA and Lee Kroh field notes
- ❖ U.S.G.S Shawnee Quadrangle Topographic Map (7.5 Minute Series) of 1964 – KCAHTA and Lee Kroh field notes
- ❖ Aerial Photographic Imaging 1941, of pre-developed PV, including Prairie Ridge, Corinth Hills, Pinecroft – Johnson County Aims Map
- ❖ Historic Frontier Trails Map of Johnson, Wyandotte & Leavenworth Counties, Kansas – 1997 KCAHTA
- ❖ Greater Kansas City Historic Frontier Trail Sites 2004 KCAHTA
- ❖ Google Maps 2019; City Map of PV 2019

Prairie Village Historic Trails
1840 – 1880



General Land Office Survey 1855

Kansas Territories
Township No. 12 South Range

From Westport ...

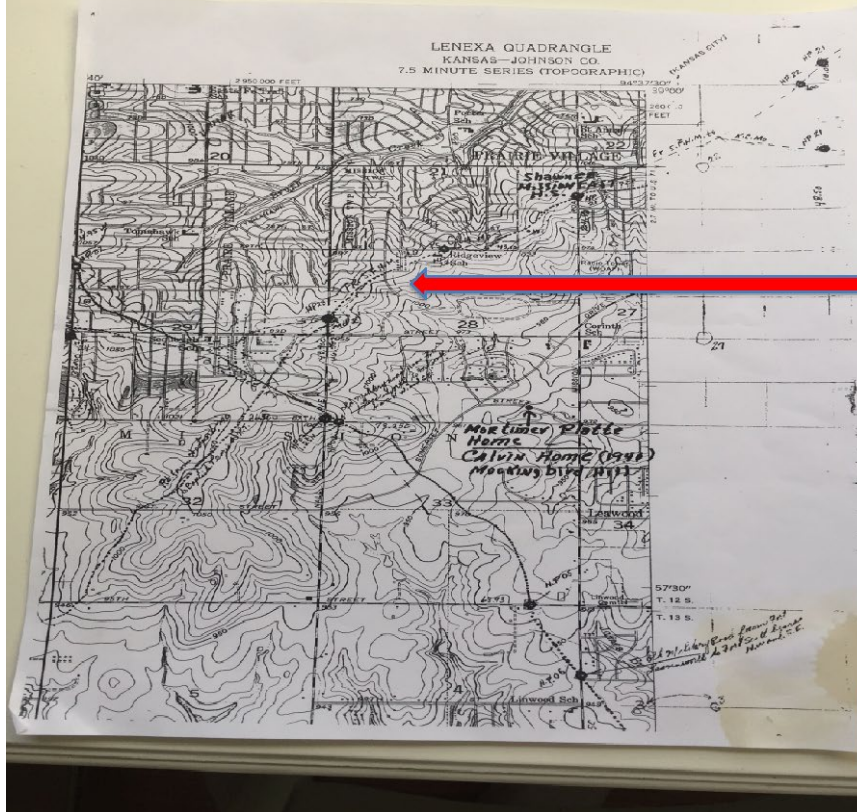
Entering Prairie Village

Santa Fe Trails Park, PV

Leaving Prairie Village

Prairie Village Historic Trails
1840 – 1880

1957 Lenexa Quadrangle Map



Santa Fe Trail*
through
Prairie Village

Prairie Village Historic Trails
1840 – 1880

* Lee Kroh from KCAHTA

The land that would become Prairie Village, KS., certainly has some historic frontier roots ...

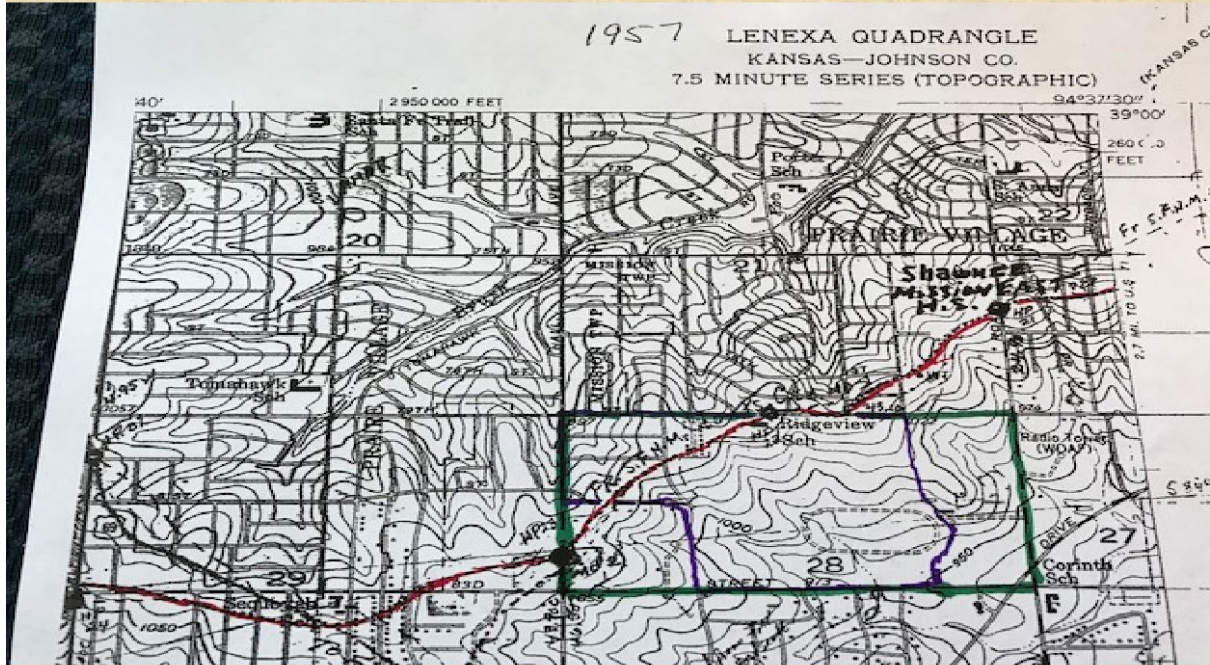
- ◆ From the 1850's to 1880's, the Santa Fe Trail went through land owned by Alexander Majors. Majors was a frontier businessman who was a partner in the Russell, Majors and Waddell (RM&W) freight company, which carried goods along the historical Santa Fe, Oregon, and California trails in the middle 1800's. These National Historic Trails actually crossed the north and western part of Majors' property, which extended from Mission Road west to Nall, and from present day 79th St., south to 83rd St.
- ◆ Majors had profound impact in our nation's westward expansion in the 19th century. His interests included private/ gov't freighting and the building of the U.P. Railroad in Utah; cattle, Overland Stagecoach Co.; drygoods; co-founder of the famed *Pony Express*; and silver mining in Utah. He gave legendary "Buffalo Bill" Cody (as an 11 year old in 1857) his 1st job as a messenger and rider for the RM&W freight company; he was involved in the creation of the National Cattlemen's Association in the late 1890's, and can be credited for developing the *Cowboy Code of the West*. In his own lifetime Majors was known as the *Great Freighter of the West* and *Christian Freighter of the Frontier !!!* *Many museums, memorials, and monuments give tribute to Alexander Majors!*

See the following map ...

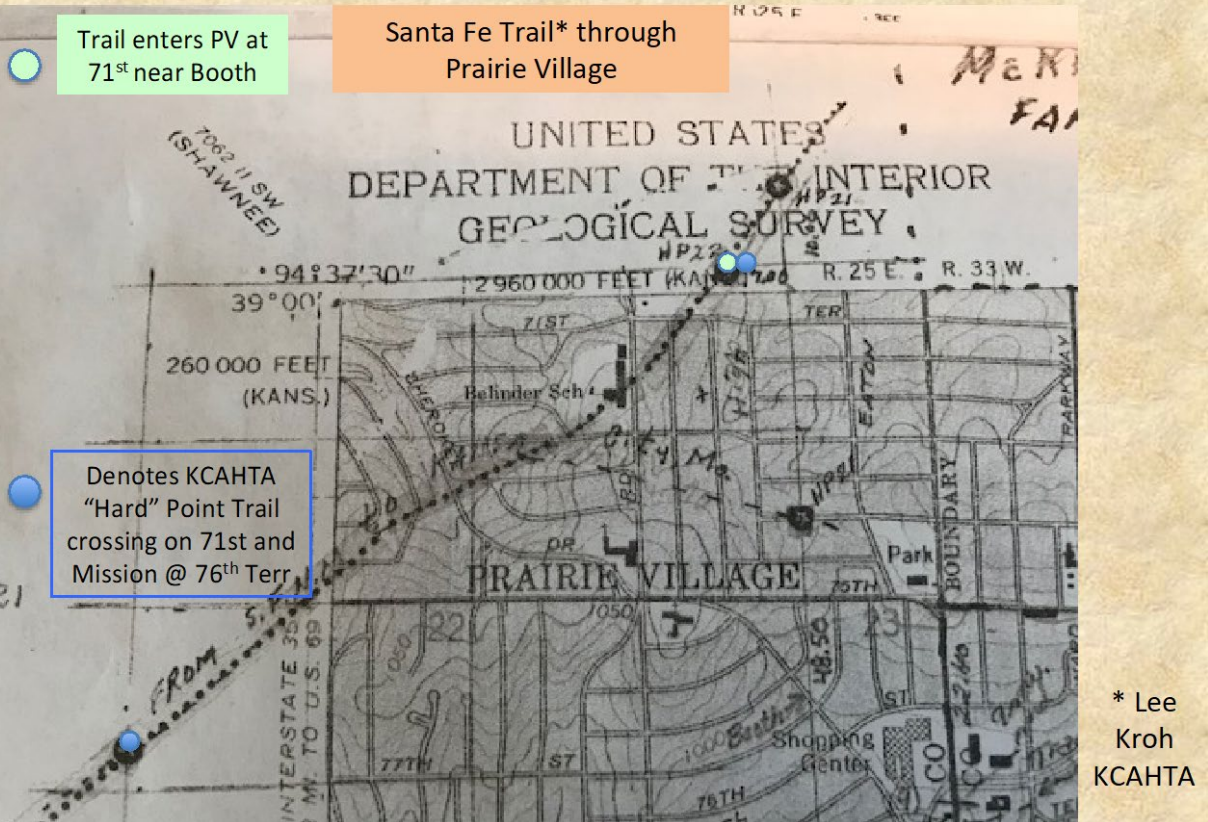
1957 Lenexa Quadrangle Map – Prairie Village

Green = Alexander Majors Property Mid 1800's

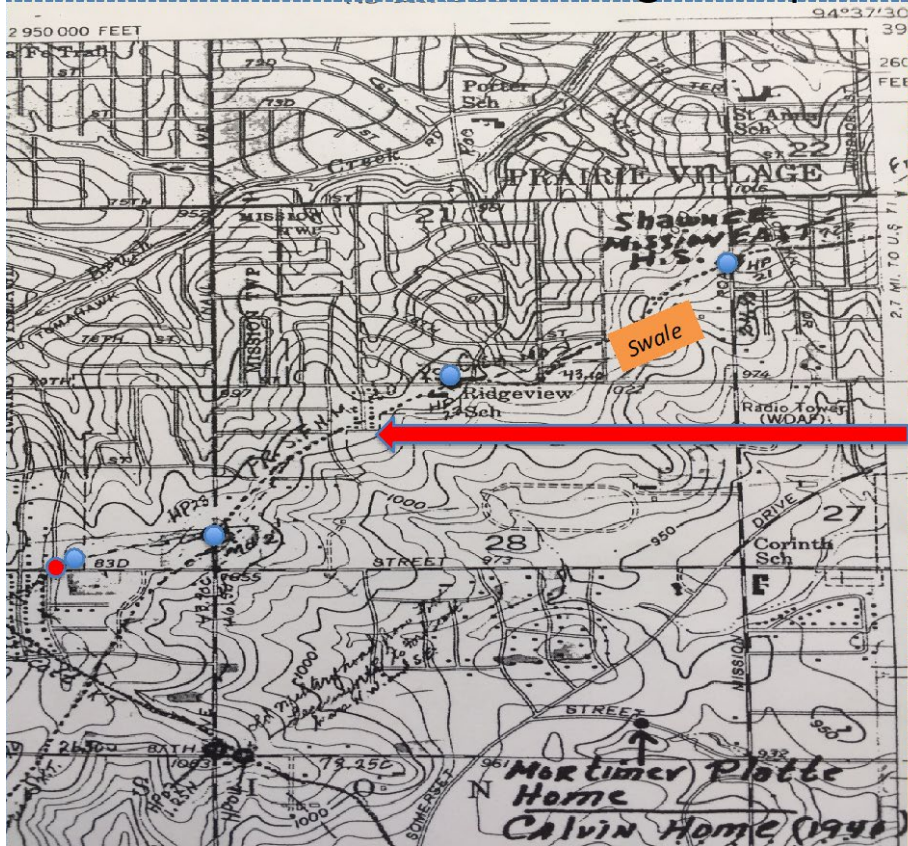
Red = Santa Fe/Oregon/California Trails 1840 ~ 1880



1964 Grandview Quadrangle Map – PV East



1957 Lenexa Quadrangle Map – PV West



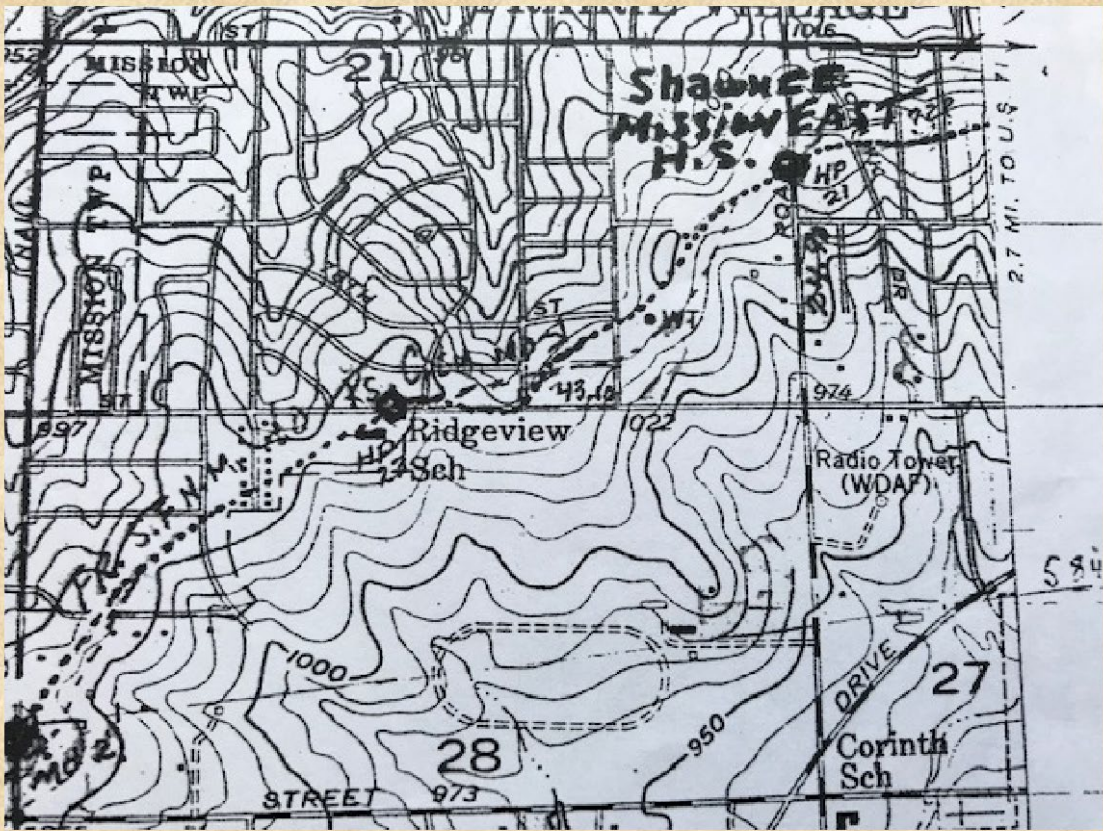
● Denotes KCAHTA
 "Hard" Point Trail
 crossing @ ...
 Mission Rd/76th Terr
 79th/W of Roe
 Nall/82nd Terr
 83rd near Dearborn

Santa Fe Trail*
 through
 Prairie Village

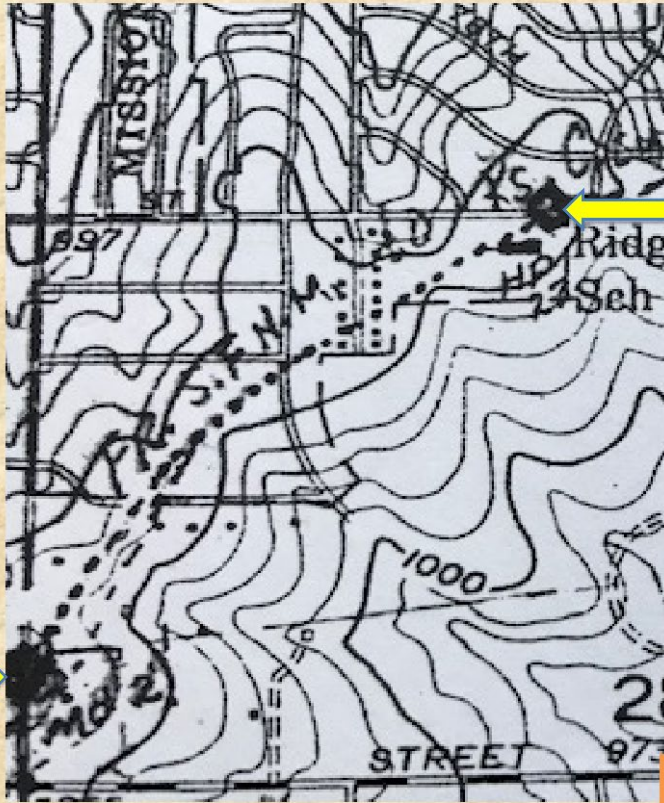
● Trail leaves PV at
 NE corner of
 83rd & Dearborn

* Lee Kroh - KCAHTA

Prairie Village Historic Trails
 1840 – 1880



1957 Lenexa Quadrangle Map – Corinth Hills

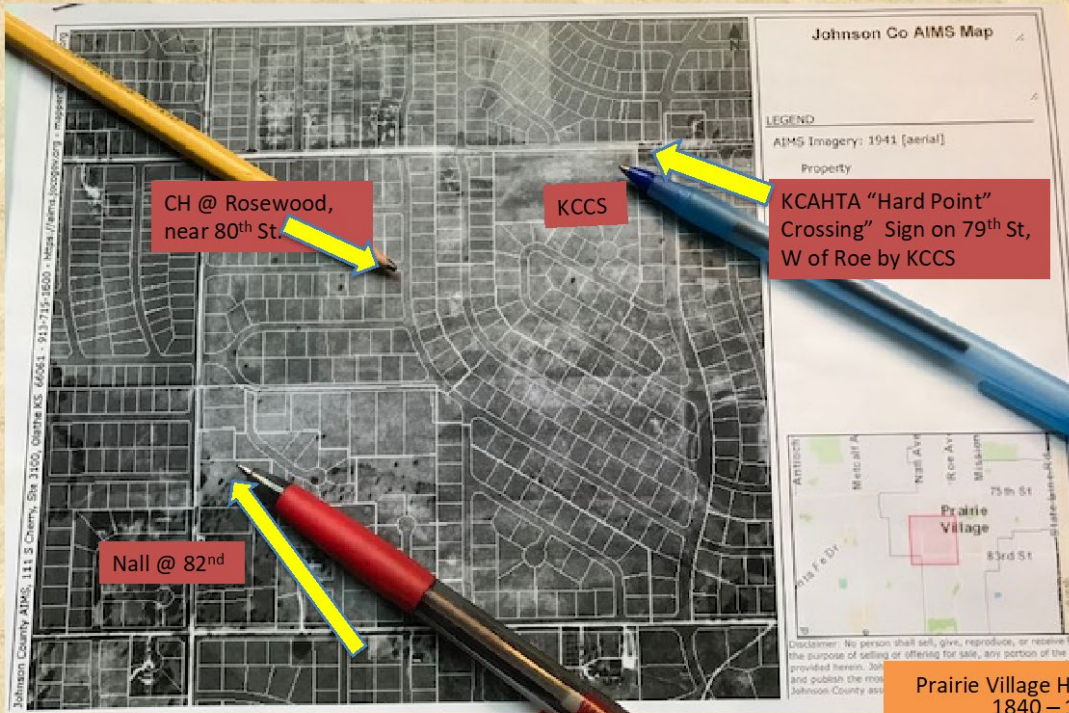


KCAHTA "Hard Point" Crossing
Sign on 79th St, W of
Roe by KCCS

KCAHTA "Hard Point" Crossing
Sign on Nall @
82nd Terrace

Prairie Village Historic Trails
1840 – 1880

An old remnant of Santa Fe Trail in Corinth Hills? from 1941 Aerial Photograph of Pre-Prairie Village



A snapshot of Santa Fe Trail in Corinth Hills ..from 1957 Lenexa QUAD Map to 2019 Google Earth Map



Prairie Village Historic Trails 1840 – 1880

Westport Route – Southern Branch

Trail Signing of the Santa Fe/Oregon/California Trails



Chapter 5B

Walking The Historic Trail Route in Prairie Village

After all the mapping research of the Historic Trails was completed and field research was conducted, it was discovered that the Westport Route – Southern Branch of the Santa Fe; Oregon; & California Trails went through Prairie Village for approximately 3 miles.

The trail enters Prairie Village, from Mission Hills, crossing 71st Street, east of Belinder and near Booth. It leaves Prairie Village approx. 3 miles further crossing 83rd Street (west of Nall) between Outlook and Dearborn, and into Overland Park.

Neighborhood trail signing in Prairie Village directly connects to the National Historic “Swales” and NPS wayside exhibit in Santa Fe Trails (Harmon) Park and references “Nine Mile Point” in Weltner Park. The ‘soft-point’ trail signing also connects to the five existing Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association (KCAHTA) sign locations in Prairie Village. The trail signs now in PV neighborhoods will allow residents and their families to connect with the history of where they live.

Along the way, the 3 mile Trail Route with ~ 30 trail crossings, connects ...

❖ 9 Prairie Village Neighborhoods ...

- Country Club View
- Prairie Hills
- Mohawk Hills
- Prairie Ridge
- Corinth Hills
- Evergreen
- Pinecroft
- Prairie Estates
- Prairie Fields

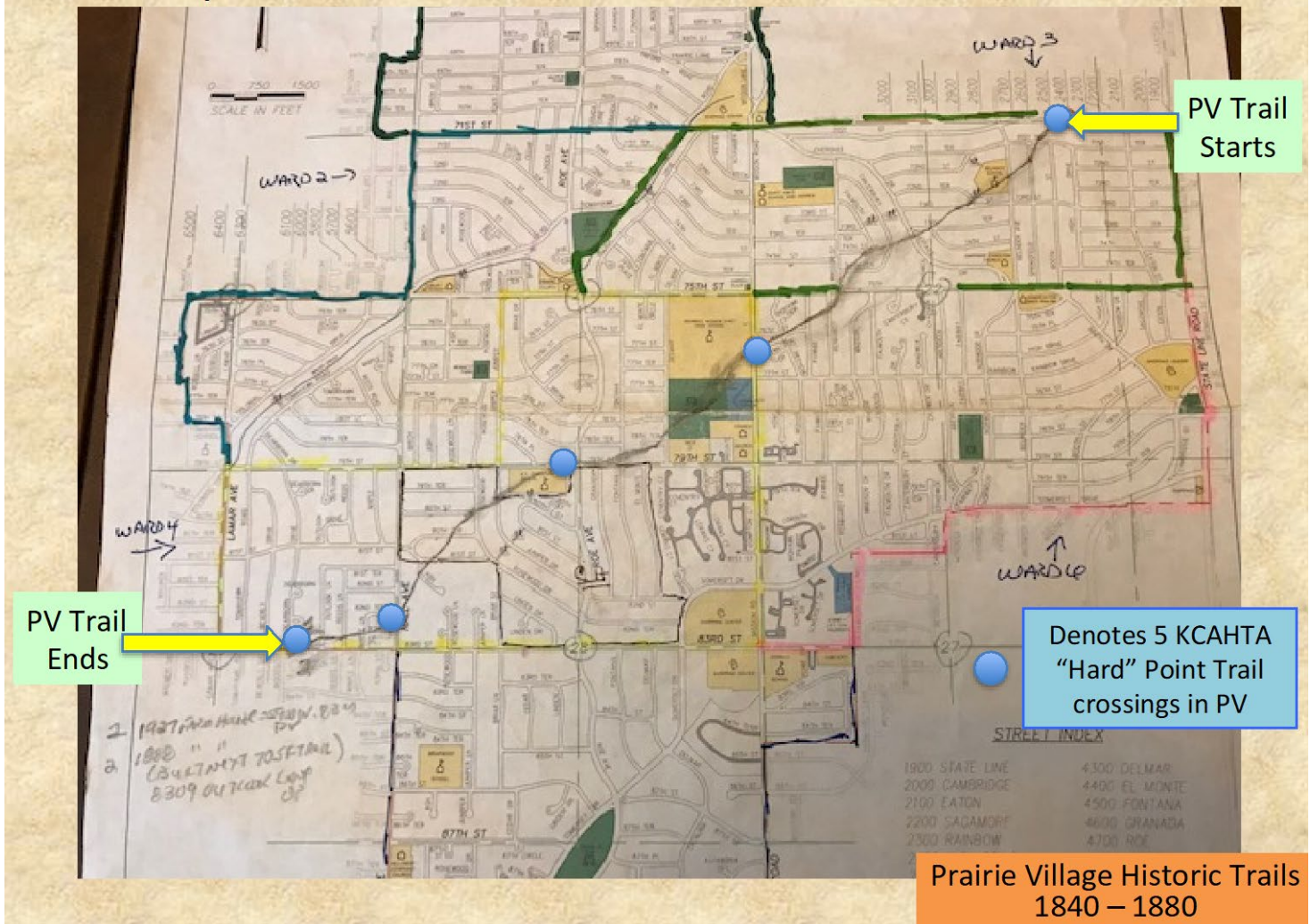
❖ 3 Schools (Belinder; SME; KCCS)

❖ Santa Fe Trail Park/Harmon Park National Historic Site "Swale"

❖ Prairie Village City Complex

See the following 2019 City of Prairie Village Street Map for the Santa Fe; Oregon; & California Historic Trails route ...

Westport Route Southern Branch Historical Trails in PV



Take a walk along the Historic Trails in Prairie Village! ...

PV Historic SF/ORE/CAL Trail Neighborhood Crossings

Prairie Hills

~ 3 Miles!

Prairie Fields

Where the trail starts in PV ...

2400 block W. 71st St.

crosses left to right

Where the trail leaves PV ...

83rd St between Outlook and Dearborn, at a 1927 farm house with old stone wall and posts



Prairie Village Historic Trails
1840 – 1880

The 'soft-point' trail signage shall be mounted with brackets, typically to light poles or telephone poles along the route where the trail traverses across Prairie Village.

PV Historic SF/ORE/CAL Trail Neighborhood Crossings Country Club View

7200 block Belinder, across from Belinder School
crosses right to left



Prairie Village Historic Trails
1840 – 1880

PV Historic SF/ORE/CAL Trail Neighborhood Crossings

Prairie Hills

73rd Terr at 74th
crosses left to right



72nd Terr at 73rd
crosses left to right



Prairie Village Historic Trails
1840 – 1880

PV Historic SF/ORE/CALTrail Crossings – Mohawk Hills



Pawnee near 76th
crosses left to right

Mohawk Drive Circle
crosses right to left



Prairie Village Historic Trails
1840 – 1880

PV Historic SF/ORE/CAL Trail Neighborhood Crossings



Rosewood near 80th
crosses left to right

Corinth Hills

W. 80th Terrace
crosses right to left



Prairie Village Historic Trails
1840 – 1880

Many of the old and historic homes that are 100+ years old in Prairie Village, and surrounding area were built adjacent or near the Santa Fe Trail, as it provided easy access to a “road” ...



Where the Historic Trails leave Prairie Village ..83rd Street between Outlook and Dearborn, at a 1927 farm house with old stone wall and posts ...

Prairie Village Historic Trails
1840 – 1880



.. And across the street, where the Historic Trails enter Overland Park.. south side of 83rd Street on Outlook , at a 1888 historic farm house that was built “adjacent to the Santa Fe Trail” ...

Prairie Village Historic Trails 1840 – 1880
Westport Route – Southern Branch
Trail Signing of the Santa Fe/Oregon/California Trails

Chapter 6

The Historic
Trail Signing
in Prairie Village



1840

HISTORIC

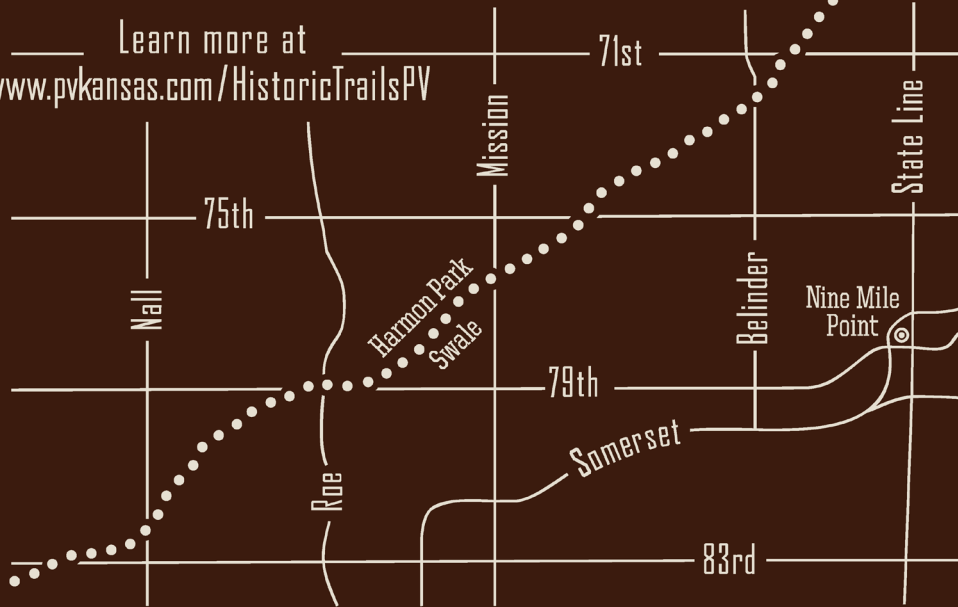
1880

TRAIL

WESTPORT ROUTE SOUTHERN BRANCH

Santa Fe, Oregon & California
trails crossed this way

Learn more at
www.pvkansas.com/HistoricTrailsPV



Prairie Village Historic Trails 1840 – 1880 Westport Route – Southern Branch Trail Signing of the Santa Fe/Oregon/California Trails



Chapter 7

National Park Service (NPS) and KCAHTA Exhibits Overland Park

As the Historic Trails left Prairie Village at 83rd Street near Outlook (west of Nall), they crossed over to the south side of 83rd Street and into present day Overland Park. Following are three of the more notable NPS exhibits in Overland Park that are just a short distance west/southwest from Prairie Village ...

❖ A Day on The Trail – Downtown Overland Park

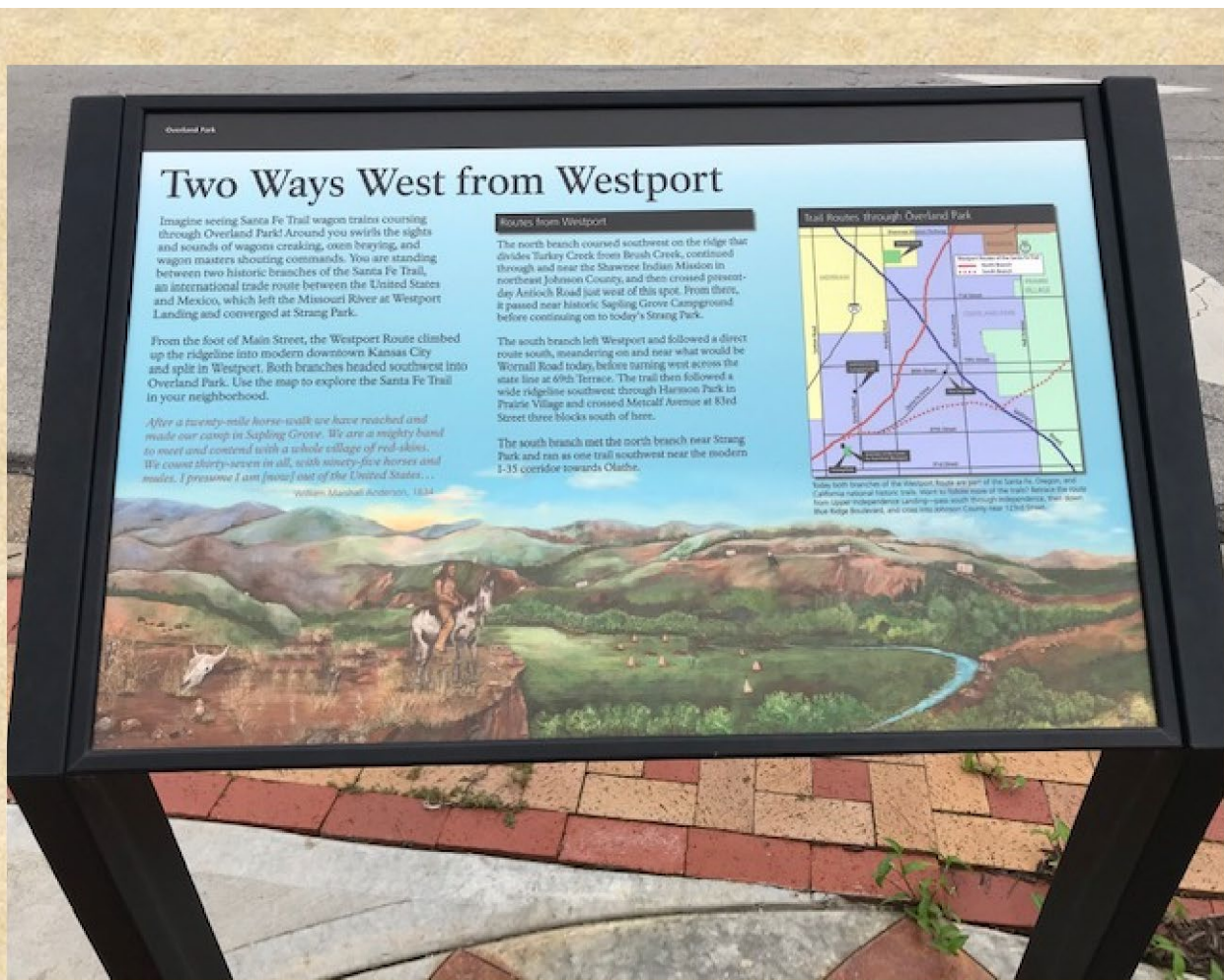
Located at the northeast corner of Santa Fe Drive and West 80th Street in downtown Overland Park, this exhibit interprets the two trail branches (Northern and Southern) from Westport that passed through Overland Park and also where they converged at today's Strang Park (88th Terr & Farley). The exhibit was dedicated on November 13, 2015 with a ceremony hosted by KCAHTA.

A Day on The Trail Wayside Exhibit*
Downtown Overland Park
NE Corner of Santa Fe & 80th Street



Notes:

1. This project was sponsored by Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association.
2. The artwork represented on the (2) wayside exhibit panels was photographically produced from the large 'A Day On The Trail' mural which had been painted on the west face of the brick of wall of the business located just east of Overland Park Drive and W. 80th Street, Overland Park. This mural failed due to incompatibility of the mural's paint and the brick! In recognition of the effort by artist who painted the mural, its historic record is preserved in the (2) exhibits.
3. The City of Overland Park designed the 'Sunflower' motif tinted into the concrete paving.
4. The DAR marker was repositioned a few feet to its current location.
5. A new lanyard was installed on the 'Old' flagpole!



*National Park Service and Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association

Note: The image of the mural was so long that its photographic image needed to be displayed into two segments. This image being the left half of the mural!

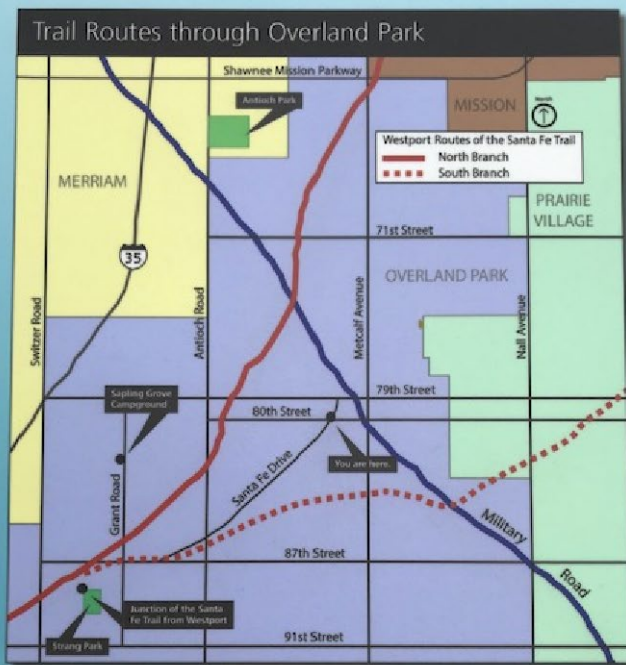
The mural image displayed on the following page is the right half of the mural!

The mural was 94-foot long and 17-ft high!



*National Park Service and Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association

Santa Fe/Oregon/California Trails from Westport



Today both branches of the Westport Route are part of the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California national historic trails. Want to follow more of the trails? Retrace the route from Upper Independence Landing—pass south through Independence, then down Blue Ridge Boulevard, and cross into Johnson County near 123rd Street.

*National Park Service

*Kansas City Area

Historic Trails Association

Two Ways West from Westport

The **North Branch** coursed southwest from Westport on the ridge that divides Turkey Creek from Brush Creek, continued through and near the Shawnee Indian Mission in present day Fairway, then thru parts of present day Roeland Park and Mission, and then crossed just a few blocks west of here at 80th St., east of Antioch Road. From there, it passed near historic Sapling Grove Campground before continuing on to today's Strang Park at 9879 W. 88th Terrace (@Farley).

The **South Branch** left Westport and followed a direct route south, meandering on and near what would be Wornall Road today, before turning west across the state line into Kansas at 69th Terrace in Mission Hills. A 1/3rd of a mile later it entered present day Prairie Village. The trail then followed a wide ridgeline southwest through Harmon Park "Swale" in PV. And then crossed Metcalf at 83rd Street 3 blocks south of here at 80th and Santa Fe Drive. The South and North Branches meet up at Strang Park.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) placed 96 granite markers along the Santa Fe Trail in Kansas in 1906. This marker at Santa Fe Drive and 80th Street in downtown Overland Park was the most easterly of all the Kansas markers. It was originally placed across the street in 1906 and moved to this corner in 1925.

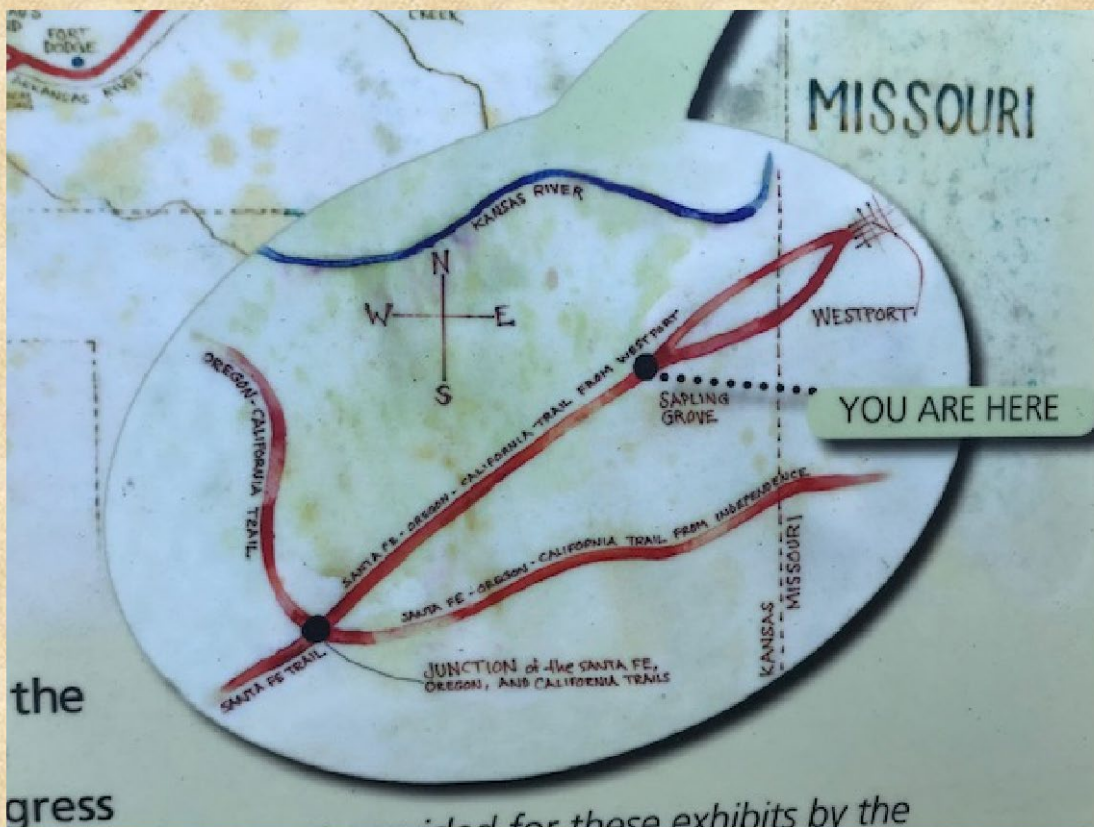


Kansas City Area
Historic Trails
Association

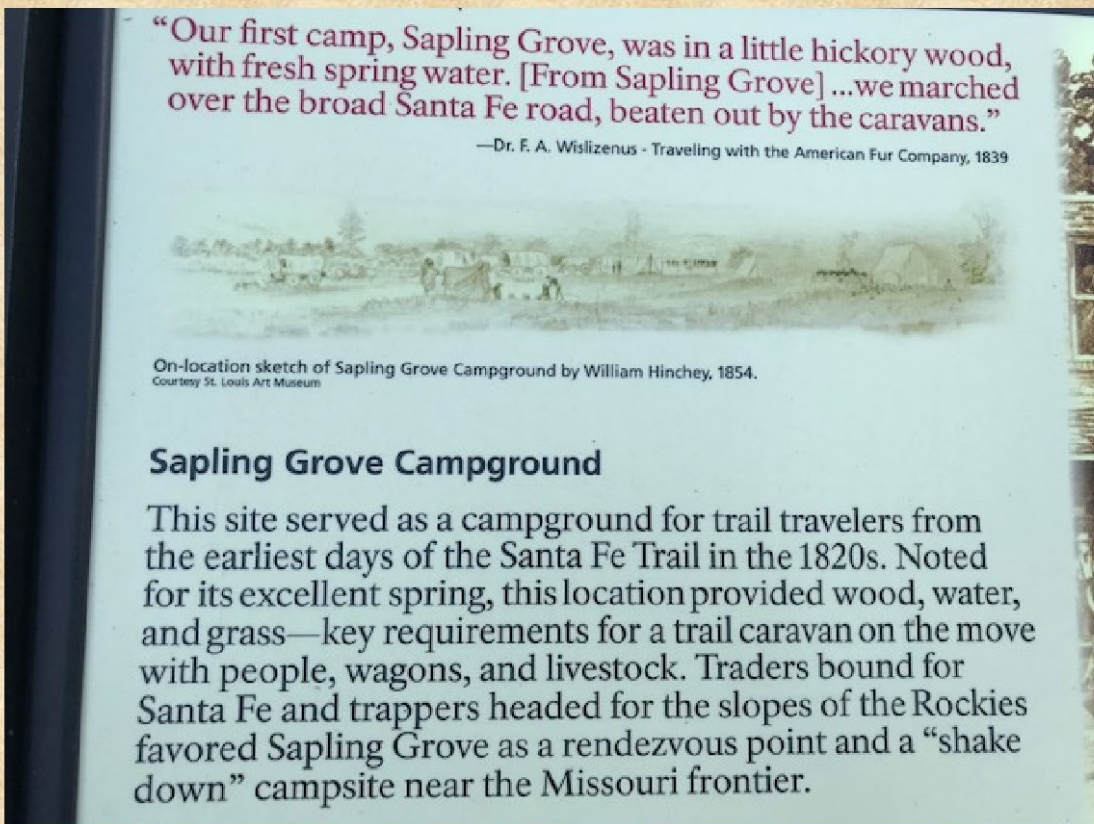
❖ Sapling Grove Park – Overland Park (82nd Terr & Grant)



Since the late 1820s, Sapling Grove, located on the headwaters of Turkey Creek, was a significant campsite on the Santa Fe Trail. George Sibley, an Indian agent who was commissioned to survey the trail in 1825-27, included Sapling Grove on his list of campsites. Sapling Grove was the rendezvous point for the infamous Bidwell-Bartleson group, the first caravan of families to head west on the trail in 1841 to California. Overnight travelers camped on the hill where Comanche Elementary School now stands. This 21-acre park was known in recent years as Comanche Park. In 2003, however, the city of Overland Park renamed the park after a local teenager petitioned for a name change to honor the Sapling Grove campground.



*National Park Service and Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association



*National Park Service and Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association



Sapling Grove Wayside Exhibit*

*National Park Service and Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association

❖ Traders and Trappers

Sapling Grove was used by Santa Fe Trail traders from the earliest decade of the trail's use. This site was mentioned in the 1827 field notes of George Sibley, a federal government surveyor. Sibley noted that Sapling Grove had ...

" ... an excellent fountain Spring, a very good place to camp."

In 1834, Westport was founded eight miles east of here. It functioned as a favorite outfitting point for Santa Fe traders, as well as mountain men and fur trappers. From the 1830's through the 1850's, caravans of white-topped wagons started out from Westport and rolled through Sapling Grove.

Mountain man William Sublette, brought a group of trappers to Sapling Grove in 1834. Traveling with them, William Marshall Anderson noted in his diary;

"May 5, 1834 - we are encamped at the Sapling grove, about 20 miles from Independence. We are about 37 men strong - 95 horses. I am now out of the U.S. for the first time."

During the late 1830's Sapling grove was the first night's camp for the westward bound spring caravan of the American Fur Company, led by such famous mountain men as Andrew Drips, Moses "Black" Harris, and Etienne Provost. Seeking precious beaver pelts in the cold streams of the Rocky Mountains, mountain men and trappers left from Sapling Grove and ...

"marched over the broad Santa Fe road beaten out by the caravans."

The pelts the trappers sought were to fulfill the huge demand at the time, in both the United States and Europe, for men's tall beaver felt hats.



Traders and Trappers

The Santa Fe Trail was founded in 1821 by William Becknell and a small group of men from the Missouri frontier. Heading west to trade with the American Indians on the plains, they instead found their way to Mexico's colonial outpost of Santa Fe. Commodity starved residents of Santa Fe received these Missouri traders with open arms, and this trail of commerce—the Santa Fe Trail—opened between Mexico and the United States.

Sapling Grove was used by Santa Fe Trail traders from the earliest decade of the trail's use. This site was mentioned in the 1827 field notes of George Sibley, a federal government surveyor. Sibley noted that Sapling Grove had "...an excellent fountain spring, a very good place to camp."

By 1834 Westport was founded eight miles east of here. It functioned as a favored overwintering point for Santa Fe traders, as well as mountain men and fur trappers. From the 1830s through the 1850s, caravans of white topped wagons started out from Westport and rolled through Sapling Grove.

The Kansas Territory opened for settlement in 1854, and soon the traders destined for Santa Fe chose other routes away from Sapling Grove—effectively ending its use by the Santa Fe traders and their big freight wagons.

Fur trappers heading for the Rocky Mountains to trap beavers in the 1820s and 1830s passed through modern Johnson County. They followed the trail southwest until turning west onto the Oregon Trail west of present-day Gardner. Sapling Grove was their first camp site and rendezvous point west of the outlying point of Westport.

Seeking precious beaver pelts in the cold streams of the Rockies, small independent groups of mountain men and trappers, along with larger enterprises like the American Fur Company, left from Sapling Grove and "marched over the broad Santa Fe road, beaten out by the caravans." The pelts the trappers sought were to fulfill the huge demand at the time, in both the United States and Europe, for men's tall beaver felt hats.



A trapper and his dog.
By Howard Chandler Christy



This type of beaver felt hat, fashionable in America until the early 1860s, owes the fur trade in the West to the trappers. By the early 1860s, fashion was changing, and the demand for pelts declined sharply, ending the heyday of the fur trade.

Mountain man William Hutchins brought a group of trappers to Sapling Grove in 1834. Trading with them, William Ashland Anderson noted in his diary, "Jan 5, 1834 - we are encamped at the Sapling Grove, about 20 miles from Independence. We are about 17 men strong - 15 horses - 1 mule out of the pack, for the best ones."

During the late 1830s Sapling Grove was the first night's camp for the westward Fur Company, led by such famous mountain men as Andrew Drips, Missouri "Black" Harts, and Francis Pendergast.



A Pack Train to Santa Fe.
By Frederic Remondet

*National Park Service and Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association

❖ Emigrants and Missionaries

By 1838 the Santa Fe Trail in the modern Kansas City area was used by emigrants and missionaries to reach the junction with the Oregon Trail near present-day Gardner. The emigrants were seeking land and a new life in the Pacific Northwest. Joel P. Walker, brother of mountain man Joseph R. Walker, brought his family through Sapling Grove in April, 1840, before emigrating to Oregon Territory.

In 1841 the first group of emigrants destined for California, known as the Bidwell-Bartleson party, followed the trail through Sapling Grove. Their caravan of wagons was the 1st wagon train on the trail to California.

From John Bidwell, who led the first Emigrant Train to California ...

"A pledge was drawn up in which every signer agreed to purchase a suitable outfit, and to rendezvous at Sapling Grove in what is now the State of Kansas ..."

Missionaries were the first to travel to the Pacific Northwest in the 1830's. Many came through Sapling Grove. By 1838, missionary travel on the trails was well under way. That year missionaries William Gray and Cushing Eells and their wives stayed at Sapling Grove. Gray described the campground as ...

"... eight miles from Westport, and where a little stream ran northwest ..."

In 1854, Bishop Jean-Baptiste Lamy came through Sapling Grove destined for Santa Fe – probably the last missionary to pass on the trail through here. William Hinchey, who was with Bishop Jean-Baptiste Lamy here in 1854 wrote ...

"At the camp today Monsieur Eguillon shot his hand and was driven to Westport to a doctor ... Of course, this made a great confusion in the camp."



*National Park Service and Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association

Learn More about Sapling Grove at the following links ...

<https://www.nps.gov/places/sapling-grove-overland-park.htm>

https://www.jocogov.org/sites/default/files/musOnline/overlandTrails/trail_5.htm

❖ Strang Park – Overland Park (88th Terrace and Farley)

Located just south of the Johnson County Library, and just south of Santa Fe Drive, Strang Park is the area where the two trail branches from Westport joined together ...

Strang Park* 9879 W. 88th Terr, Overland Park
Where the North & South Branches of the SF/ORE/CAL Trails
from Westport meet up and become one Trail



*National Park Service
*Kansas City Area
Historic Trails Association

Learn More about Strang Park at the following link ...

<https://www.nps.gov/places/strang-park-overland-park.htm>

Prairie Village Historic Trails 1840 – 1880

Westport Route – Southern Branch

Trail Signing of the Santa Fe/Oregon/California Trails



Chapter 8

Links to Explore and Learn More!

Access the following list of web address for more information on the Historic Santa Fe, Oregon, and California trails; the Westport Route; Native American History in our area; NPS and KCAHTA Historic Trails Exhibits in Prairie Village and surrounding area; and other information on local organizations and places to visit in the Kansas City area.

❖ ***Kansas City Area Historic Preservation Organizations & Places to Visit***

Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association (KCAHTA) ...

<https://www.kcahta.org/>

KSHS Website (kansasmemory.org): Digital Collection of a series of 262 digitized U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Topographical Maps Mr. Lee Kroh used to delineate historic frontier trails (Incl. SF/Ore/Cal + Mil Rd + Area territorial roads)

<https://www.kansasmemory.org/locate.php?query=kroh+maps>

The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City

(Monument / historical markers in tribute to Kansas City's heritage)

<https://www.nsdkc.org/monument>

<https://www.nsdkc.org/markers>

National Frontier Trails Museum ...

<http://www.ci.independence.mo.us/nftm>

Heritage League

<https://heritageleaguekc.org/>

Trailside Center ...

<https://kcparks.org/places/trailside-center/>

❖ Native American History in NE Kansas

For more information on the history of Native Americans in Kansas, including our area in NE Kansas, go to the following links ...

<https://legendsofkansas.com/native-american-history-kansas/>

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/american-indians-in-kansas/17881>

1854 Eastman Map of Kansas and Nebraska Territory – See the following map or link for map of relocations and reduced lands of Indian tribes with the passing of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854 ...

<https://www.kshs.org/km/items/view/209786>

For more information on the Kanza Nation, go to the following links ...

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/kaws-or-kanzas-kansas/17371>

<https://newprairiepress.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1090&context=sfh>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaw_people

The Kaw Nation of Kaw City, Oklahoma today is a federally recognized self-governing tribal community of over 3500 members. For more information, go to the following links ...

<https://kawnation.com/>

https://kawnation.com/?page_id=72

For more information on the Osage Nation, see following links ...

<https://osagenation.s3.amazonaws.com/B/B.1.a.AncestralLandsMap%20Poster.pdf>

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/osage/19289>

Osage Nation is now in Pawhuska, OK. For more information see their website ...

<https://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/>

For more information on the Shawnee Nation, including in Kansas, see the following links ...

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/shawnee-indians/19230>

<https://jocohistory.wordpress.com/2015/11/25/path-of-the-shawnee/>

<https://jocohistory.wordpress.com/2020/01/29/the-black-bob-band-of-the-shawnee/>

The Shawnee tribe today is located in Miami, OK. For more information see...

<https://www.shawnee-tribe.org/>

<https://www.shawnee-tribe.org/history>

❖ ***The 3 Historic Trails***

Santa Fe Trail Links ...

https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/american_latino_heritage/Santa_Fe_National_Historic_Trail.html

<https://santafetrail200.org/>

<http://www.santafetrail.org/>

<https://www.santafetrail.org/states/kansas.html>

<http://www.newsantafe.org/>

<https://kchistory.org/week-kansas-city-history/way-santa-fe>

<https://www.legendsofamerica.com/ks-santafetrailjoco/>

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/santa-fe-trail/12195>

<https://www.santafetrail.org/chapters/mro/>

Oregon Trail ...

<https://www.nps.gov/oreg/index.htm>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon_Trail

<https://octa-trails.org/the-missouri-and-kansas-trails/>

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/oregon-california-trail/12161>

California Trail ...

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Trail

<https://www.nps.gov/cali/index.htm>

<https://www.legendsofamerica.com/california-trail/>

❖ *History of Westport Landing and Westport*

Westport Landing ...

<https://www.nps.gov/safe/learn/historyculture/westport-landing-town-of-kansas-exhibits.htm>

<https://kchistory.org/week-kansas-city-history/landing>

<http://www.santafetrailresearch.com/trail-photo-02/westport-pictures.html>

[https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMGPK Three Trails from Westport Landing Kansas City MO](https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMGPK Three_Trails_from_Westport_Landing_Kansas_City_MO)

History of Westport ...

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westport,_Kansas_City,_Missouri

<https://www.legendsofamerica.com/westport-missouri/>

<https://www.westporthistorical.com/westport-history>

❖ **Historic Trails in Johnson County, KS**

<https://shawneemissionpost.com/2016/03/16/santa-fe-trail-changed-over-the-years-leaving-multiple-imprints-in-nejc-48430/>

<https://shawneemissionpost.com/2016/04/29/more-than-100-miles-of-historic-trails-crossed-through-johnson-county-by-far-the-most-in-the-metro-50027/>

❖ **Historic Trails Exhibits in Prairie Village, KS.**

Santa Fe Trail Park/Harmon Park ...

<https://www.kshs.org/natreg/natreg%20listings/view/1816>

<https://www.nps.gov/places/harmon-park-trail-swale-prairie-village.htm>

<https://www.artspv.org/blog/prairie-village-public-art-series-vol-7>

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