Santa Fe, Oregon, and California National Historic Trails

Lenexa: overview

As the Westport Route crosses over Lenexa’s boundaries with Olathe and Overland Park several times, approximately 2.75 or 3 miles of the historic route of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail is within or just adjacent to Lenexa. The planned route approximates the historic route within a half a mile or less, and navigates two major freeway crossings via existing road overpasses or underpasses.

The trail primarily overlaps public transit along College Avenue, with access to multiple bus lines available there.

Trail access may be provided at Trafalgar Park, Flat Rock Creek Park (also a known campsite and creek crossing on the Santa Fe Trail), and the Lackman-Thompson Farm. All of these sites, however, either have limited parking, limited hours, or both, so without major changes of purpose all three would likely be minor trailheads rather than primary points of access (Level I, page 162).

The final length of the proposed retracement routes within Lenexa is 4.93 miles.

Lackman house at Lackman-Thompson Farm (1885). Photo: NPS
Lenexa: selection considerations

Considerations in choosing the preferred routes within Lenexa included:
- linking Overland Park and Olathe’s preferred routes
- capitalizing on low traffic streets like 99th and 107th Streets
- using existing underpass on Pflumm Road under Interstate 435, and overpass on College Boulevard over Interstate 35 to navigate challenging highway crossings

W 103rd St near Flat Rock Creek Park, looking east. Photo: NPS

Pedestrian bridge on neighborhood trail over Flat Rock Creek, looking north. Photo: NPS
Lenexa: Segment 78

1.50 miles. South on Quivira Road between West 95th and 99th Streets. West on 99th to Lenexa Drive, then southwest on Lenexa Drive to beginning of neighborhood trail next to Providence Community Church parking lot.

ISSUES:
- Multi-lane traffic on Quivira Road, and only sidewalks available, no bike lanes
- Sidewalks only on West 99th Street, although there is a wide road right-of-way
- Currently there are no shoulders or sidewalks on Lenexa Drive

CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS:
- Connects to Rosehill Elementary School
- Connects to Trafalgar Park
- Connects to existing neighborhood multi-use path (segment 79)
- Connects to transit along Quivira Road and at West 95th Street

OPPORTUNITIES:
- Existing off-road neighborhood path between Lenexa Drive and Flat Rock Creek Park

RELATIONSHIP TO THE HISTORIC ROUTE:
This route approximates the historic route at a distance of 0.40 miles or less. It primarily deviates from the historic route to use existing road right-of-ways or connect to existing multi-use trail.
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Lenexa: Segment 79

1.19 miles. Neighborhood trail from Lenexa Drive to Flat Rock Creek Park, West 103rd Street from Flat Rock Creek Park to Pflumm Road, then south on Pflumm under Interstate 435 to West 107th Street.

ISSUES:
• Sidewalks only on West 103rd Street and Pflumm Road

CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS:
• Connects to Flat Rock Creek Park/Indian Creek Crossing, including the aquatic center and an exhibit interpreting the trail history of this site
• Connects to multi-use trails to the southeast into Overland Park and along Flat Rock Creek

OPPORTUNITIES:
• Existing neighborhood path between Lenexa Drive and Flat Rock Creek Park
• Flat Rock Creek Park has very limited parking, but its inclusion of a historic trail creek crossing with interpretation and access to the neighborhood trail makes it a good candidate for a minor national historic trail trailhead; there may also be an opportunity to develop an enhanced national historic trail experience at this location

RELATIONSHIP TO THE HISTORIC ROUTE:
This segment is to the northwest of the historic route, but no more than 0.25 miles away at any point. It follows this route to make use of existing neighborhood multi-use trail and the Pflumm Road underpass of Interstate 435.
1.21 miles. West on West 107th Street to West 108th Street, southwest along future proposed connection to Strang Line Road, Strang Line southwest to College Boulevard, then College west over Interstate 435/US Highway 50 to Santa Fe Trail Drive.

ISSUES:
- No sidewalks or shoulders on West 107th Street
- Sidewalks only on Strang Line Road
- Multi-lane traffic on College Boulevard, sidewalks only
- Conceptual alignment crosses private property between West 108th Street and Strang Line Road, and may need to be adjusted based on future area development

CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS:
- Connects to planned multi-use trail to northeast on Santa Fe Trail Drive
- Connects to transit along College Boulevard

OPPORTUNITIES:
- The College Boulevard bridge over Interstate 435 and railroad tracks already has protected walkways along both directions of traffic
- If further development occurs along Strang Line Road, developer could be required to assist in the implementation of trail elements

RELATIONSHIP TO THE HISTORIC ROUTE:
This route closely parallels the historic route at an average distance of around 0.25 miles.
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Lenexa: Segment 81

1.03 miles. Down slope from College Boulevard to Santa Fe Trail Drive; southwest on Santa Fe Trail Drive to boundary with Olathe.

ISSUES:
• No sidewalks or shoulders on most of this segment

CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS:
• Connects to proposed side paths on Santa Fe Trail Drive to the northeast, and West 113th Street to the west
• Travels alongside the Lenexa Chamber of Commerce and Lenexa Conference Center at the Lackman Thompson Farm
• Connects to transit at College Boulevard

OPPORTUNITIES:
• The Lackman Thompson Farm is a public facility owned by the City of Lenexa; although it is only open certain hours and has limited parking, it could be a good opportunity for a minor NHT trailhead
• The hillside southwest of College Boulevard overpass is largely undevelopable yet is currently covered with prairie vegetation; this area could help connect trail users to the historic landscape

RELATIONSHIP TO THE HISTORIC ROUTE:
This segment parallels the historic route on the opposite side of Interstate 35, approximately 0.25 miles away. This alignment (segments 80–82) was chosen by Lenexa and Olathe to capitalize on an existing safe crossing at College Boulevard in Lenexa, and utilize a relatively undeveloped road right-of-way along Kansas City Road (which offers opportunities for trail specific improvement in the long term).