Prairie Village: overview

The City of Prairie Village includes approximately 2.75 miles of the historic Westport Route (Santa Fe National Historic Trail). The planned route is organized primarily around the two known historic trail sites in Prairie Village (9 Mile Point at Weltner Park and the trail swales at Santa Fe Trail Park/Austin Harmon Park) and capitalizing on existing trail and other recreation infrastructure that already exists within the city.

Aside from the north-south segment along Mission Road to make the connection with a potential future extension of the upper Westport Route, the proposed trail route parallels the historic route at an average distance of around 0.75 miles. However, 9 Mile Point was identified as a historic site through study of the 1823 Joseph Brown survey of the Kansas-Missouri line. At 9 Mile Point, that survey found signs of the passage of the wagons in the first train to Santa Fe in 1822. Although the route followed by the planned trail is somewhat distant from the congressionally designated historic route of the Santa Fe NHT, east of Mission Road it is still approximating one of the earliest routes used in trading between Missouri and Santa Fe.

The trail connects to public transit at State Line Road near Weltner Park and at Nall Avenue and West 91st Street on the boundary with Overland Park.

Trail access may be provided at Weltner Park, Austin Harmon Park, Franklin Park, and/or Meadowbrook Park. Weltner Park in particular has limited parking available so would be a minor trailhead (Level I, page 162), but offers NHT interpretive exhibits and could be a good opportunity to access the trail via public transit along State Line Road.

The final length of the proposed retracement routes within Prairie Village, including both alternatives on West 79th Street and Somerset Drive, is 6.86 miles.
Prairie Village: overview
Prairie Village: Segment 67

1.00 miles. Mission Road from West 63rd Street to Tomahawk Road, then Mission Lane through Prairie Village shopping center to West 71st Street.

ISSUES:
• A sidewalk exists along the west side of Mission Road throughout this segment, but no side paths or bicycle infrastructure

CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS:
• Connects to various existing or planned multi-use trails to the west into Prairie Village, along Delmar Drive, West 67th Street, Oxford Road, West 71st Street, and the Brush Creek Trail/Tomahawk Road
• Connects to Indian Hills Middle School and Prairie Elementary School, which could benefit from additional pedestrian connections to surrounding neighborhoods
• Provides pedestrian/bicycle access to the businesses at Prairie Village shopping center

RELATIONSHIP TO THE HISTORIC ROUTE:
This segment is between the upper and lower Westport Routes and over 0.5 miles away from either at its closest point. However, it is included in the plan as a proposed connector between the two routes.
Prairie Village: Segment 68

1.00 miles. South on Mission Road proposed side path between West 71st and 79th Streets.

CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS:
- Connects to Santa Fe Trail Park/Austin Harmon Park, where there are visible trail swales and some historic trail interpretation
- Connects to St Ann Elementary School and Shawnee Mission East High School
- Connects to additional existing or planned multi-use paths at West 71st and 75th Streets, and in Austin Harmon Park
- Connects to the nearby Prairie Village aquatic center and YMCA in Harmon Park
- Connects to transit at West 75th Street

OPPORTUNITIES:
- An 8 foot wide side path already exists on the west side of Mission Road throughout this segment
- Santa Fe Trail Park/Austin Harmon Park offers visible trail resources, interpretation, and park facilities such as parking and restrooms. It is an opportunity for a national historic trail trailhead and development of an enhanced NHT experience or additional interpretation

RELATIONSHIP TO THE HISTORIC ROUTE:
This segment intersects the lower Westport Route, although it runs directly north-south where the historic route runs northeast-southwest. Modern street and neighborhood development does not offer a route which continuously follows the historic route closely through this area.

LEGEND
- Proposed NHT alignment
- Proposed NHT alignment - other segments
- Approximate historic trail route
- City boundaries
- Bike lane
- Marked bike route
- Marked share the road
- Unmarked share the road
- Pedestrian hiking trail
- Shared use path
- Mountain bike trail
- Equestrian trail
- Bus & public transit routes
- NHT sites
- NHT trailhead opportunities
- Schools
- Bus stops
- Adjacent segment number

Mission Rd at W 74th St looking south. Photo: NPS
Mission Rd at W 73 Terr looking south. Photo: NPS
Trail swales in Austin Harmon Park/Santa Fe Trail Park. Photo: NPS
Prairie Village: Segment 69

1.18 miles. West 79th Street from Weltner Park at Booth Drive to Mission Road.

**ISSUES:**
- Segment is a two lane street with sidewalks on both sides, but no bike lanes or side paths; the city’s long-term goal is to build trails along this segment

**CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS:**
- Connects to Weltner Park and 9 Mile Point interpretive exhibits
- Connects to Meadow Lake Park
- Connects to proposed side paths on Booth Drive and Mission Road (segments 66 and 71)
- Connects to transit at State Line Road

**OPPORTUNITIES:**
- Weltner Park/9 Mile Point is a historically named place with existing trail interpretation; it is a small park with limited parking or other park facilities, but could be an opportunity for a minor trailhead (Level I, page 162)

**RELATIONSHIP TO THE HISTORIC ROUTE:**
This segment is south of the designated alignment of the lower Westport Route, but was the preferred alignment for Prairie Village as it connects to a known and interpreted trail location within the city, 9 Mile Point.
Prairie Village: Segment 70

1.35 miles. Along planned multi-use path on Somerset Drive from Weltner Park at Booth Drive to Mission Road.

ISSUES:
• Segment is a two lane street with sidewalks on both sides, but planned side path is not yet constructed; the city’s long-term goal is to have trails along this segment

CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS:
• Connects to Weltner Park and 9 Mile Point interpretive exhibits
• Connects to Somerset Elementary School, and Corinth Elementary School via proposed side path on Mission Road, and passes alongside Highlawn Montessori School
• Connects to proposed side paths on Booth Drive and Mission Road (segments 68 and 71)
• Connects (via short detour on local streets and/or State Line Road) to the Alexander Majors House, a historic home affiliated with the Santa Fe NHT
• Connects to transit at State Line Road

OPPORTUNITIES:
• Weltner Park/9 Mile Point is a historically named trail place with existing trail interpretation; it is a small park with limited parking or other facilities, but could be a good opportunity for a minor trailhead (Level I, page 162)

RELATIONSHIP TO THE HISTORIC ROUTE:
This segment is south of the designated alignment of the lower Westport Route, but was the preferred alignment for Prairie Village as it connects to a known and interpreted trail location within the city, 9 Mile Point.
Prairie Village: Segment 71

1.17 miles. South on proposed side path on Mission Road from West 79th Street to Somerset Drive, then southwest on side path on Somerset Drive to Franklin Park at Roe Avenue.

CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS:
- Connects to Santa Fe Trail Park/Austin Harmon Park
- Connects to Franklin Park
- Connects to several additional existing or proposed multi-use paths, including on Mission Road to the south, along Roe Avenue to both the north and south, and the loop trail within Franklin Park
- Connects to Corinth Elementary and Mission Valley Middle Schools via proposed side path on Mission Road
- Passes near Johnson County Library
- Connects shopping and commercial area at Mission Road and West 83rd Street to surrounding neighborhoods

OPPORTUNITIES:
- An 8 foot wide side path exists along the west side of Mission Road
- Franklin Park offers parking and recreational facilities along the proposed trail; it is an opportunity for a minor trailhead (Level I, page 162)

RELATIONSHIP TO THE HISTORIC ROUTE:
This segment is south of the designated alignment of the lower Westport Route, but was the preferred alignment for Prairie Village as it links various existing or proposed recreational trails and/or park facilities, and roughly parallels the Westport Route at a distance of approximately 0.5–0.75 miles.
Prairie Village: Segment 72

0.64 miles. South on planned side path on Roe Avenue from Somerset Drive to northeast corner of Meadowbrook Park (formerly Meadowbrook Golf Course), near West 91st Street.

CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS:
- Connects to Franklin Park
- Connects to Meadowbrook Park, currently in development
- Connects to several additional existing or proposed multi-use paths, including along Roe Avenue to the north, along Somerset Drive both to the northeast and southwest, and the loop trail within Franklin Park

OPPORTUNITIES:
- An 8 foot wide side path connects Franklin and Meadowbrook Parks
- Franklin Park offers parking and various recreational park facilities directly along the proposed trail; it is a good opportunity for a minor trailhead (Level I, page 162)
- Meadowbrook Park is a project of Johnson County Parks and Recreation District and is planned as a major regional destination; it is an opportunity for an NHT trailhead (see segment 73)

RELATIONSHIP TO THE HISTORIC ROUTE:
This segment is south of the designated alignment of the lower Westport Route, but was the preferred alignment for Prairie Village as it links various existing or proposed recreational trails and/or park facilities, and roughly parallels the Westport Route at a distance of approximately 0.75–1 mile.
Prairie Village: Segment 73

0.52 miles. Future trail through Meadowbrook Park (formerly Meadowbrook Golf Course) from Roe Avenue to Nall Avenue. Route shown is not exact, final alignment is dependent on future park planning and development.

ISSUES:
• A signalized pedestrian crossing of Nall Avenue exists near the west end of Meadowbrook Parkway, but is approximately 0.2 miles south of the proposed trail connection with segment 74 at 91st Street

CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS:
• Connects to Meadowbrook Park, currently in development, which may provide additional walking trails and park amenities when completed
• Connects to several additional existing or proposed multi-use paths, including along Roe Avenue to the north (segment 72), along Somerset Drive to the northeast, and Nall Avenue to the south
• Connects to transit at Nall Avenue

OPPORTUNITIES:
• Meadowbrook Park is a project of Johnson County Parks and Recreation District and is planned as a major regional destination; it is an opportunity for a national historic trail trailhead

RELATIONSHIP TO THE HISTORIC ROUTE:
This segment is south of the designated alignment of the lower Westport Route, but is the preferred alignment for Prairie Village as it links various existing or proposed recreational trails and/or park facilities, and roughly parallels the Westport Route at a distance of approximately 1–1.2 miles.