
Prairie Sunset Trail Overview

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Description

The Prairie Sunset Trail is a former railroad corridor that has been railbanked by various organizations from Hoover Road in Wichita to Garden Plain, Kansas. The corridor is generally located between Kellogg (US-54) and Pawnee Street. Below is a listing of the railbanked portions of the corridor, the organizations that have railbanked them, and the status.

Corridor Segment Description	Railbank Organization	Status
Hoover St. – 119 th St.	City of Wichita	Undeveloped
119 th St. – 135 th St.	Sedgwick County	Undeveloped
135 th St. – 167 th St.	City of Wichita	Undeveloped
167 th St. and further west	Prairie Travelers	Developed

Transportation Improvements

As part of the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan recommended Bicycle Network, the Prairie Sunset Trail will extend off-street bicycle facilities west from Hoover Street, connecting Wichita to Goddard and Garden Plain. Below is a listing of destinations along the project corridors.

Trip Origins and Destinations

Employment Centers

Along the trail corridor from Hoover Street to 167th Street the bikeway will provide access from residential areas to employment centers. According to 2008 employment data, approximately 370

places of employment with approximately 11,333 employees are located within 0.5 miles of the proposed bikeway. The top 5 employment centers are listed below.

- Learjet
- US Post Office
- Precision Pattern
- Walmart
- Sharpline Converting

Entertainment and Cultural Destinations

The new bikeway could provide access to Wichita entertainment and cultural destinations, including Pawnee Prairie Park, Air Capital Park, and others.

Residential Neighborhoods/Districts

This project could provide access to Granview, Turkey Creek, and the Flatcreek homeowners associations.

Percentage of a community, region, or state population benefits, access

According to the 2010 Census, 39,952 people reside in the 28 Census block groups within 1.5 miles of the proposed bikeway corridor from Hoover Street to 167th Street. This accounts for approximately 10 percent of the City's 2010 population (382,368 residents).

Background

On **October 23, 2001**, the Wichita City Council approved railbanking the abandoned Central Kansas Railway corridor from Hoover Street to 119th Street.

On **November 19, 2002**, the Wichita City Council approved railbanking two miles of the abandoned Central Kansas Railway corridor from 135th Street to 167th Street.

On **June 23, 2011**, the City of Wichita received the results of a Phase II Brownfields Targeted Assessment indicating that contamination and toxic substances were not found on the corridor above acceptable RSK levels.

On **February 5, 2013**, the Wichita City Council unanimously endorsed the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan (Bike Plan) as a guide for future planning and decision making regarding public infrastructure investments, operations, and policies. The Bike Plan identifies three levels of priorities for bikeways in Wichita:

- Wichita Bicycle Network
- Wichita 10-Year Priority Bicycle Network
- Wichita Top Ten Recommended Priority On-Street and Side Path Bicycle Facilities
- Wichita Top Recommended Priority Off-Street (Shared-Use Path) Bicycle Facility

The Prairie Sunset Trail is identified in the Bike Plan as part of the Wichita Bicycle Network. The planning process for the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan lasted more than two (2) years, and included more

than 50 public meetings and events. More than 4,000 people were engaged in the planning process. The planning process included presentations to multiple neighborhood associations and other organizations; and multiple outreach efforts. More information about the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan can be found on the City of Wichita [web page](#).

On **October 13, 2014**, representatives from Prairie Travelers presented information about the Prairie Sunset Trail to the Wichita Board of Park Commissioners (Park Board) and requested that the City enter into a memorandum of agreement (MOU) to develop the City railbanked portions of the corridor. The Park Board recommended that staff meet with representatives of Prairie Travelers to discuss the details of a potential MOU.

Project Contacts

If you have any questions or would like additional information about the proposed MOU, please contact Larry Hoetmer at (316) 268-4179, or via email at lhoetmer@wichita.gov.

If you have any questions about the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan please contact Scott Wadle at (316)352-4855, or via email at swadle@wichita.gov.