

## A TREASURE OF TRAILS

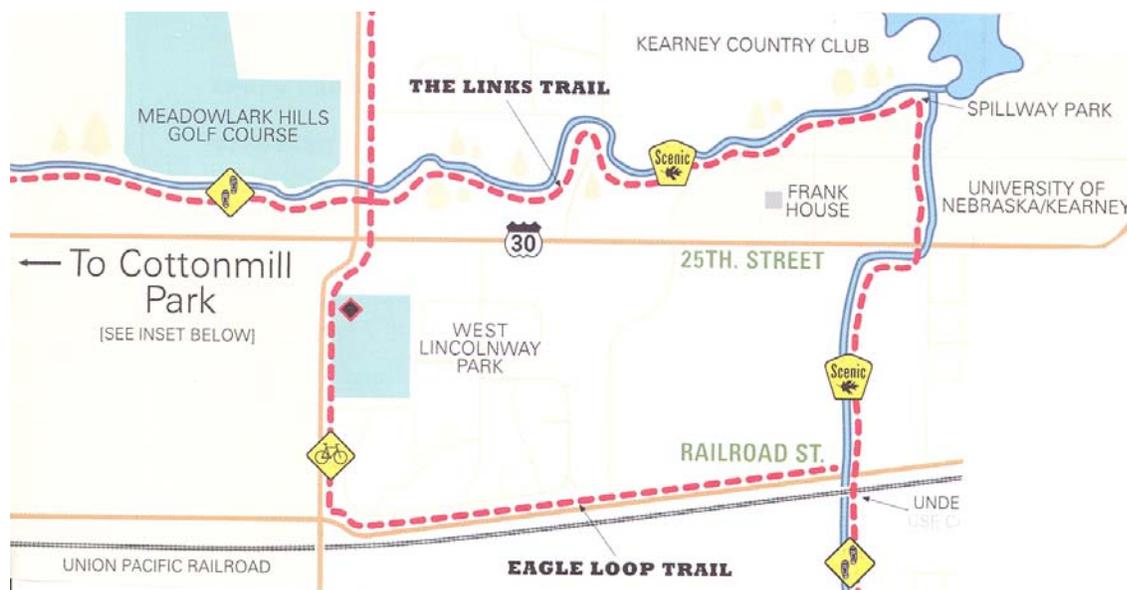
Kearney has the historical significance of providing a haven for pioneers traveling the Oregon and Mormon Trails, and presently provides that same hospitality for the numerous travelers on I-80. You will find Kearney has not only historic trails, but community trails that total 17 miles. The 8" wide, concrete paths have beautiful scenery and have contributed to the quality of life that people enjoy today.

### COTTONMILL TO FT. KEARNY TRAIL (WEST TO EAST)

#### THE LINKS - 2.77 miles (5,540 steps)

This portion of the Cottonmill to Fort Kearny Trail was named due to the two golf courses that the trail passes on its way to Highway 30. The Link begins at Cottonmill Park and goes to Highway 30. This section is largely flat, and is perched just above the NPPD canal. Meadowlark Hills Golf Course, the Kearney Country Club, Spillway Park, and UNK can be seen along "The Link".

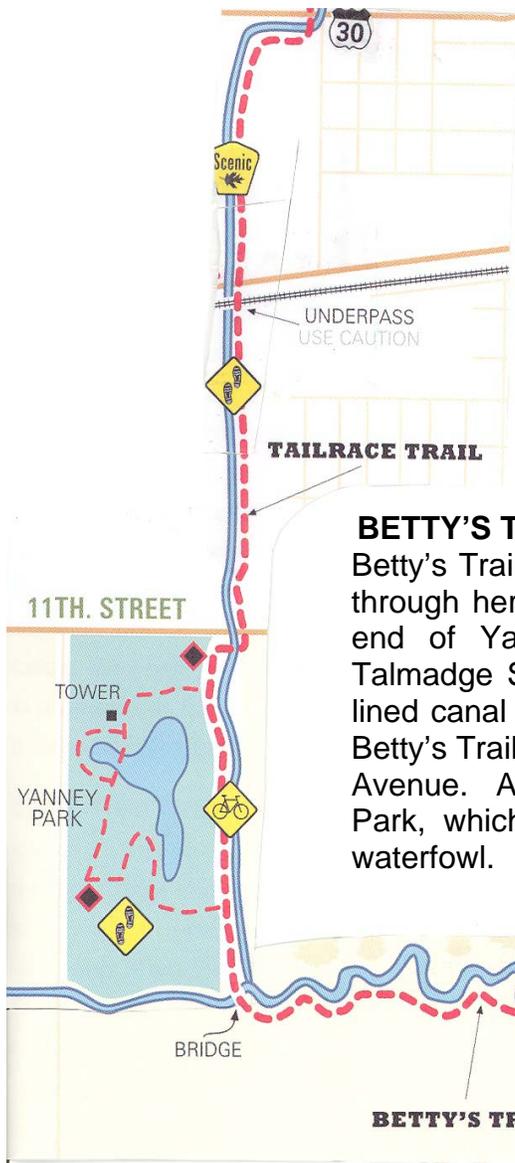
**Trailhead:** Cottonmill Park, 2795 Cottonmill Avenue - parking, drinking water, restrooms, picnic shelters, swim lake, fishing, playground, and cross country skiing, sledding, ice skating and ice fishing permitted during winter months.



#### EAGLE LOOP – 3.07 miles (6,140 steps)

You can begin this trail loop at the West Lincolnway Park Trailhead, going south on 30th Avenue to Railroad Street where you will turn East until you connect with the Tailrace Trail portion, then you can follow the Tailrace Trail north towards UNK, and a portion of The Links Trail until you are back to 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue just north of West Lincolnway Park.

**Trail head:** West Lincolnway Park parking lot. Parking, restrooms, picnic shelter, water fountains, playground, soccer fields, baseball/softball fields.



**TAILRACE TRAIL – 1.11 miles (2,220 steps)**

This portion of the trail runs along the canal from Highway 30 to 11<sup>th</sup> Street, on the north side of Yanney Park. Tailrace Trail includes some rolling hills near UNK, and a railroad underpass.

**BETTY'S TRAIL – 1.77 miles (3,540 steps)**

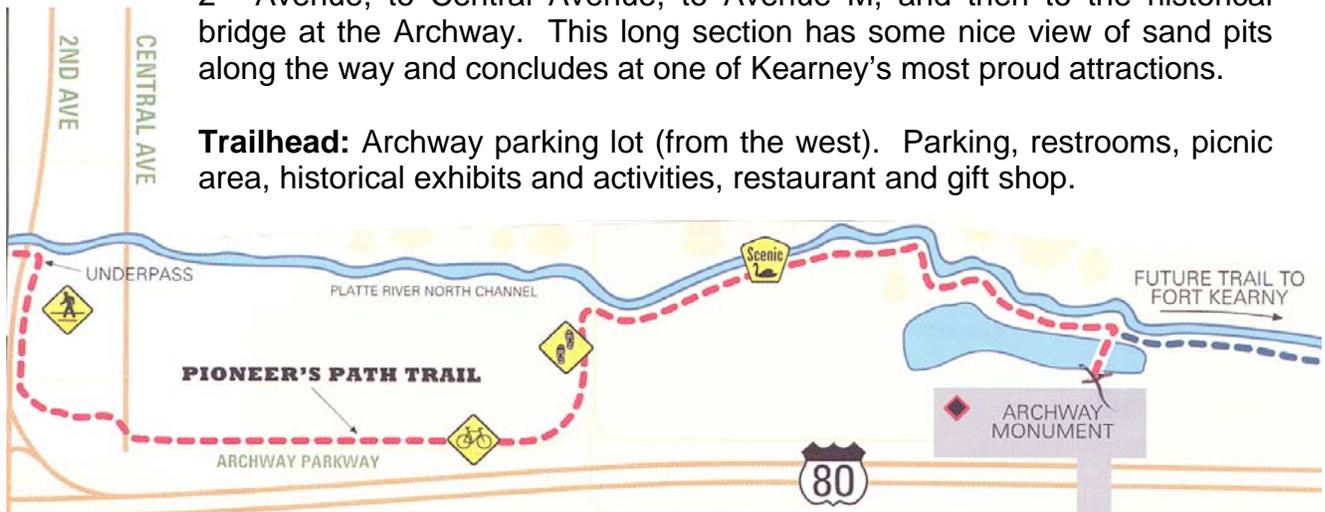
Betty's Trail is named after Betty Connell for providing trail access through her land. This section runs from 11<sup>th</sup> Street, at the north end of Yanney Park, to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue undercrossing and Talmadge Street. This flat, peaceful section runs along the tree-lined canal and finishes near the "hotel row" on south 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Betty's Trail is great for visitors to Kearney with lodging on south 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. A fun 1.08 mile spur to this trail is available at Yanney Park, which circles Yanney Park Lake, and has great views of waterfowl.

**Trailhead:** E.K. & Mary Yanney Heritage Park 2020 W 11th. Parking, restrooms, picnic areas, observation tower, amphitheater, wetlands, walking trails, fishing, formal garden, playground, splashground during summer months.

**PIONEER'S PATH – 3.13 miles (6,260 steps)**

This long trail section begins at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue underpass and goes to the Great Platte River Road Archway Monument. Pioneer's Path crosses under 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, to Central Avenue, to Avenue M, and then to the historical bridge at the Archway. This long section has some nice view of sand pits along the way and concludes at one of Kearney's most proud attractions.

**Trailhead:** Archway parking lot (from the west). Parking, restrooms, picnic area, historical exhibits and activities, restaurant and gift shop.



## OTHER TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES:

### MEADOWLARK TRAIL – 1.80 miles (3,600 steps)

Meadowlark Trail branches off of The Links Trail at 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Head north on the trail up the steep hill, with Meadowlark Hills Golf Course to the east. This section crosses 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue in northwest Kearney, and winds around the Lighthouse Point Subdivision. The Trail concludes at Ted Baldwin Park with a transition into dirt trails. Meadowlark Trail is a fun section for those that like some hills.

**Trail head:** West Lincolnway Park parking lot. Parking, restrooms, picnic shelter, water fountains, playground, soccer fields, baseball/softball fields.

### HILLTOP TRAIL – 2 miles (4,000 steps)

This trail takes you from 39<sup>th</sup> Street, near Harvey Park on Avenue N, in the northeast part of town, to the commercial area of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and 56<sup>th</sup> Street. Hilltop Trail has a fairly steep elevation change near the Kearney Cemetery and is highly used by school children going to Sunrise Middle School and Meadowlark Elementary School.

**Trail head:** Harvey Park parking lot, 4205 Ave. N. Parking, restrooms, water fountains, picnic shelter, soccer/softball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, playground.

## INTERIOR COTTONMILL PARK DIRT TRAILS

### Red Cedar Trail - .56 miles

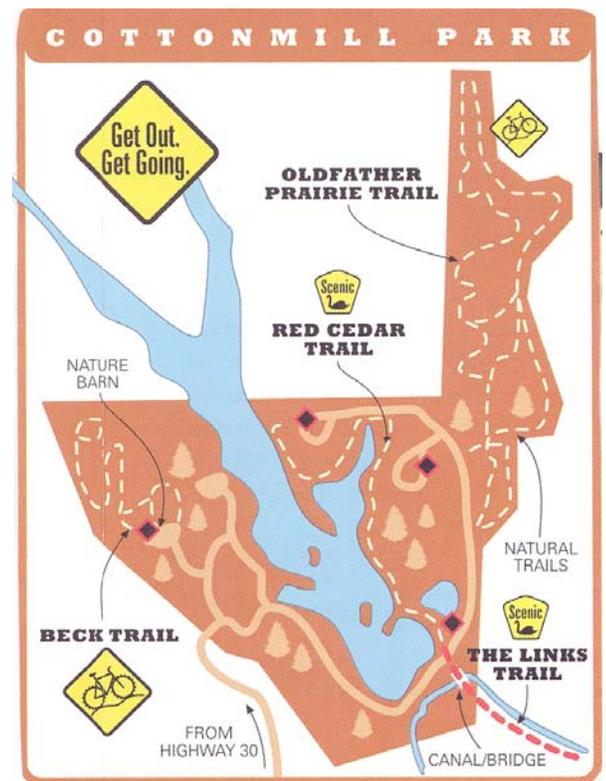
This trail adventures throughout the heart of Cottonmill Park, through mature cedar tree plantings and along the east side of the lake. The trail starts near the marina building by the swim lake and concludes at the north cul-de-sac. Various side trails that will take you into the thick of the woods are also available. Some sections along the Red Cedar Trail can be steep.

### Beck Memorial Trail – approx. .5 miles

Starts just north of the Nature Barn and runs along open ridges and through wooded draws. This trail has some great views of the rolling hills around the Park.

### Oldfather Prairie Trails - .75 or 2-mile loops

These natural surface trails, on the northeastern edge of Cottonmill Park, offer a short .75 mile loop and a longer 2-mile loop, with interpretive signs along the way. Both portions are excellent for hiking, mountain biking or horsebacking. Some sections along this trail can be steep and narrow.



## **TRAIL ETIQUETTE & GUIDELINES**

- Show courtesy to all other trail users.
- Trails are open from sunrise to sunset.
- Use the right side of the trail. Save the left side for passing.
- Bicyclists and skaters give audible warning when passing other trail users.
- Listen for audible signals and allow faster trail users to pass safely.
- Bicyclists and inline skaters should ride at a safe speed, slowing to form in a single-file line during congested conditions, reduced visibility, or in other hazardous situations.
- Bicyclists and inline skaters are encouraged to wear helmets.
- Walk bicycles under the 11<sup>th</sup> Street railroad underpass.
- Obey all traffic signs.
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited on trails.
- Respect the rights of property owners.
- Keep dogs on a leash and remove all pet waste from trail.

### **SNOW REMOVAL:**

Snow will be removed from the concrete trails after City streets have been cleared. Please avoid using the trails until the snow is removed.

### **WHO TO CALL:**

To report maintenance, safety or other problems on a trail, please call the City of Kearney Park & Recreation Department at 237-4644.

### **TRAIL EVENTS**

Any group interested in holding an organized public event on a trail can contact the Park & Recreation Office at 237-4644 for further information.