







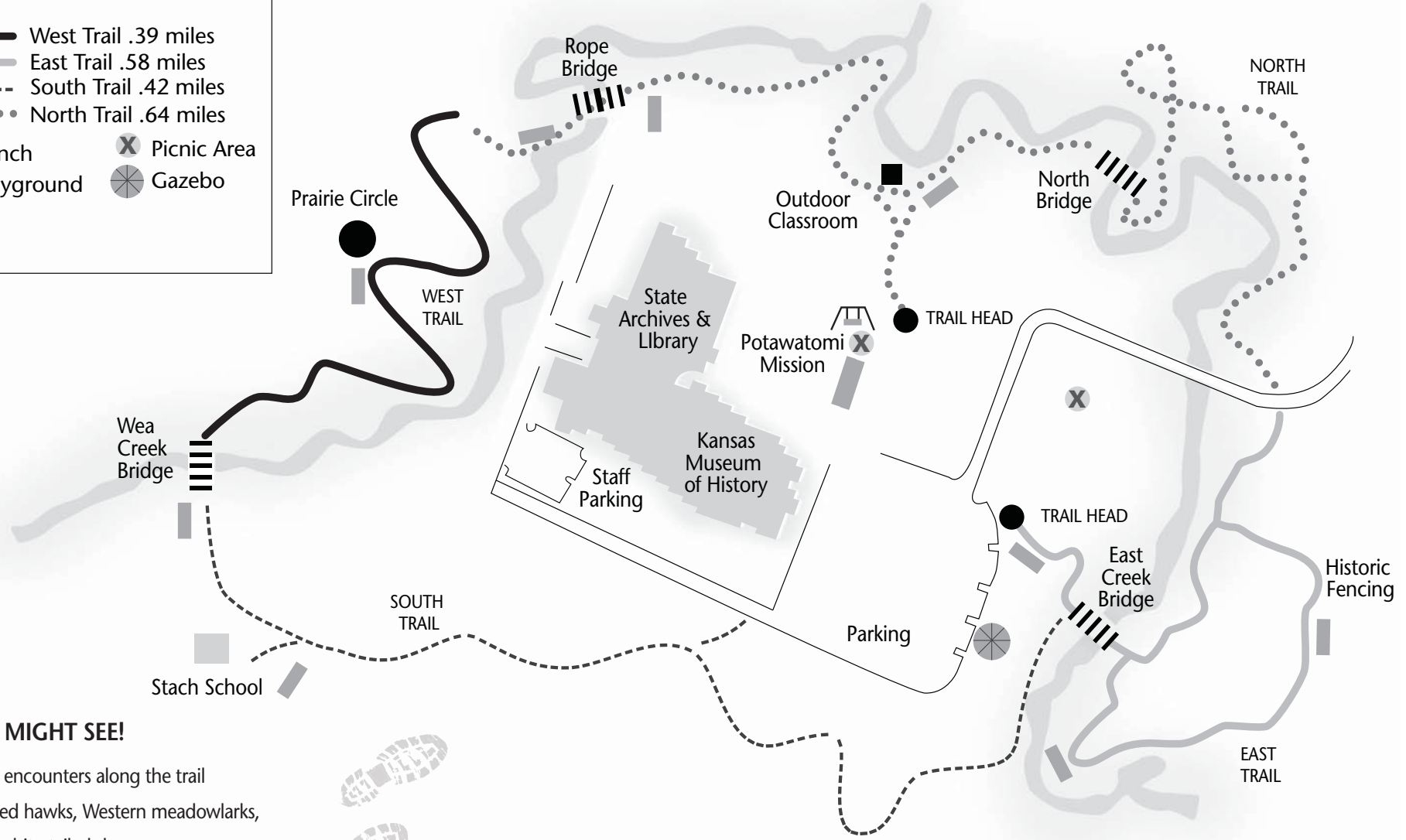


Entire trail 2 miles

-  West Trail .39 miles
-  East Trail .58 miles
-  South Trail .42 miles
-  North Trail .64 miles

-  Bench
-  Picnic Area
-  Playground
-  Gazebo



WHAT YOU MIGHT SEE!

Some frequent encounters along the trail include red-tailed hawks, Western meadowlarks, wild turkey, or white-tailed deer.



Nature Trail

We invite you to enjoy the beauty of the Kansas landscape on our two-mile trail. The trail is well marked and has a gentle terrain. You can leave it to return to the main facility at a number of points along the way. Trail signs provide interesting facts about human adaptation to the land and the resident flora and fauna. The trail is open dawn to dusk. Dogs must be leashed.

History

The trail was funded by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks through a Chickadee Checkoff fund grant and continued through the support of the Boy Scouts and Westar Energy Green Team, an employee-led group devoted to environmental projects.

Historic Fencing

By building fences, settlers in the 1800s drastically changed how the prairie was used – from open grazing land to cropland. Four historic styles of fence are located on the East Trail: split rail, native stone, Osage Orange trees, and barbed wire.

Wea Creek Bridge

Built in 1870, the bridge was originally three times longer. This bridge section was moved here in 1989 from Louisburg.

Stach School

Originally located in Jackson County, the one-room school was relocated here in the early 1980s and restored to its 1920s appearance. It represents the thousands of country schools that dotted the Kansas landscape for generations.

Prairie Circle

This feature is a great outdoor classroom that can seat approximately 18 adults or 24 children.

Potawatomi Mission

The mission was built in 1848 as a boarding school for Potawatomi children on their tribe's reservation. The building remains in its original location. Closed in 1861, the building was eventually sold and used as a horse barn. The exterior has been restored to its original appearance. A branch of the Oregon-California Trail passed nearby.

After hiking the trail, take advantage of these other attractions:

Kansas Museum of History

Browse exhibits on American Indian history, forts and trails, Bleeding Kansas and the Civil War, settlement, trains, towns, and fast food. Explore our special Exhibits Gallery. Children enjoy visiting the Discovery Place (free), a special room filled with activities designed to teach and inspire an interest in Kansas history.

State Archives & Library

Learn about our state's history through the newspapers, manuscripts, photographs, genealogical records, maps, and books preserved here and available to all Kansans.



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