

PRAIRIE SPIRIT

In 1858, the founders of the Leavenworth, Lawrence, and Fort Gibson (later Galveston) Railroad (LL&G) planned the first north-south rail line in Kansas from Leavenworth to Galveston, Texas. Investors and politicians hoped to move the economic base from Kansas City, Missouri, to Lawrence, bringing wealth and prestige to the state. Rail construction began in Lawrence in 1867, was operational to Ottawa in 1868, and arrived in Garnett in 1869, resulting in rapid growth for each of the towns. The line continued through Iola, Chanute and Coffeyville in 1871.

In the late 1870s, the LL&G went bankrupt. The line was purchased by the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad and began operating under their name in the early 1880s. The ATSF operated the line until the mid 1970s. In 1990, they sold to the Kansas City Terminal Railway Company (KCT). The same year the KCT filed for abandonment the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks filed for public use. Title was transferred to KDWP for development into a recreational rail-trail in 1992.

The 51-mile Prairie Spirit Trail was constructed between Ottawa and Iola in three phases. The 17-mile middle section, from Richmond through Garnett to Welda, was opened in 1996. The northern 16-mile section, from Ottawa through Princeton to Richmond, opened in 1998. The southern 18-mile section, from Welda through Colony to Iola, opened in 2008. The trail joined the state park system in 2010 and has a strong volunteer support base known as the Friends of the Prairie Spirit Trail.

The Friends hold monthly trail information meetings, sponsor trail events, and raise funds to provide amenities along the trail, such as benches, trash receptacles, picnic shelters, and tables.

Your Help is Needed

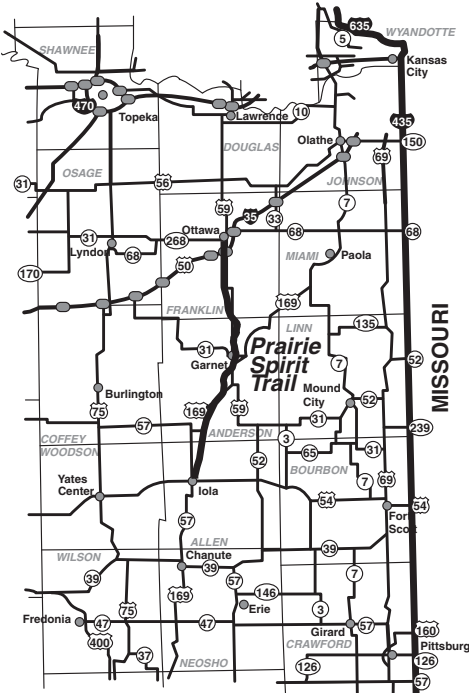
Park lands are for everyone. Please familiarize yourself with regulations to ensure that all visitors have equal opportunity for a safe and enjoyable experience. You can help in developing, protecting, and maintaining the park's trails, facilities, and natural wonders by becoming a volunteer or a member of the friends group.



Download the **CampIt KS** mobile app today and reserve your Kansas State Park campsite from anywhere, on any mobile device! Available now in the Apple App and Google Play stores.



Find us on Facebook @**PrairieSpiritRailTrail** or by scanning this QR code.



General Area Map

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, sex (gender), sexual orientation, age, disability, genetic information, or protected veteran's status, in employment, access to programs, or other KDWP benefits or services. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any employment, access to programs, or other KDWP benefit or service, please submit a complaint to: Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Office of the Secretary, 1020 S Kansas Ave. Topeka, KS 66612-1327 (785) 296-2281. 08/25



Prairie Spirit Trail Office
419 S Oak St.
Garnett, KS 66032

Area Office
(785) 448-2627

Regional Office
(785) 273-6740

kdwp.prairiespiritrt@ks.gov
www.ksoutdoors.com

Ottawa Depot	Ottawa Kanza Park 13th St.	Ottawa Trailhead	Princeton Trailhead	Richmond Trailhead	Garnett - Lake Garnett PK	Garnett Depot	Garnett - Crystal Lake PK	Welda Trailhead	Colony Trailhead	Carlyle Trailhead	Iola Trailhead	
X	X			X	X						X	LODGING
				X	X	X						
X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		FOOD
X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	
X				X	X							SHELTER
		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	PICNIC
		X			X	X	X					
X				X	X	X						TOILET
	X					X	X	X	X			
				X	X		X				X	WATER POTABLE
	X	X	X	X			X	X				
X					X							

Trail Rules

- *All litter must be disposed of properly.
- *Respect private property.
- *No camping is allowed on the trail.
- *Ground fires are prohibited on trail.
- *Bikes must stay on designated trail.
- *Unauthorized motorized vehicles are prohibited on trail.
- *Use caution when crossing roadways.
- *Bike riders must yield to hikers on the trail.
- *Leave no trace. Carry out at much as you carry in.
- *No horses allowed on trail.
- *No hunting allowed on trail.
- *Trail open during daylight hours only outside city limits of Ottawa, Garnett, & Iola.

Please check with the trail office for a complete list of rules and regulations.

Information

The trail is multi-use trail designed for non-motorized use. The trail surface is made of compacted crushed limestone screenings at least 8 feet wide to accommodate two-way foot or bicycle travel. Built within a historic rail corridor, the trail travels through three counties, providing visitors a variety of landscapes with excellent wildlife viewing opportunities. The trail has gentle grades and is ADA accessible.

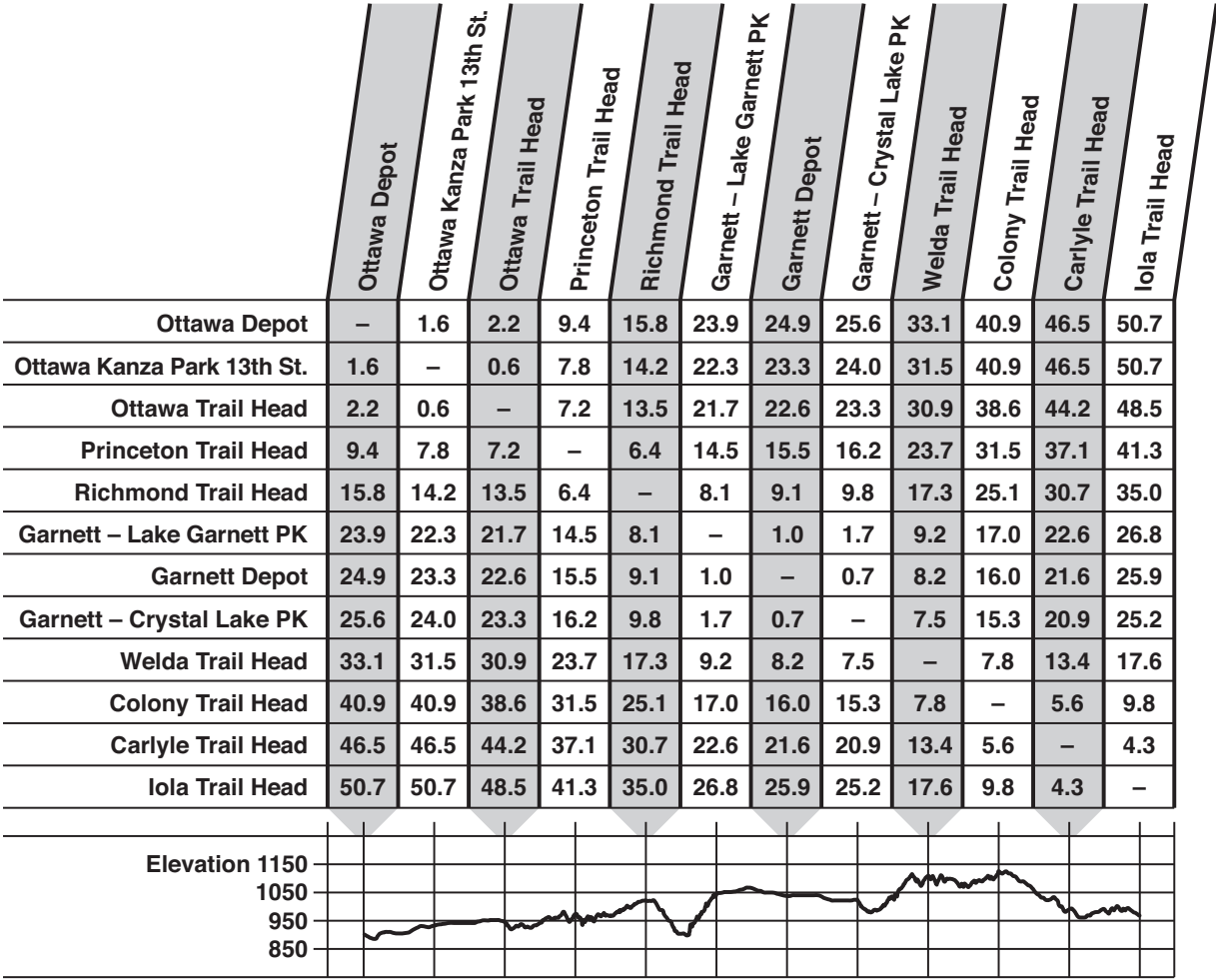
The trail is open during daylight hours only, except in the city limits of Ottawa, Garnett and Iola. Due to high-use, most of the trail within these communities has an asphalt surface to increase use options.

No unauthorized motorized vehicles may be operated on the trail or within the trail corridor, and horses may not be ridden on the trail. Hunting is prohibited within the trail corridor.

Parking areas, water fountains, restrooms, and picnic shelters are located 5-8 miles apart along the 51-mile trail. See mileage table and maps for locations. Restrooms and water are available from approximately April 15 to November 15, depending upon weather. The Garnett and Ottawa depots are open year-round with restrooms available.

Visitors should be attentive to possible changing trail conditions or damage due to rain, wind, or other environmental conditions. Visitors should always stop at road crossings and be cautious of rough road crossings.

Common trail courtesies include staying to the right and passing on the left, gaining the attention of travelers before passing them from behind, and not passing trail maintenance equipment until you are motioned to do so. Cyclists and skaters are encouraged to wear helmets.



PRAIRIE SPIRIT TRAIL

Ottawa to Iola

