



FORT ROBINSON STATE PARK TRAIL SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

2022 - 2032

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Introduction and Purpose

Fort Robinson State Park is one of the largest parks within the Nebraska state park system, with 22,000 acres of property in the northwest corner of the state. The park abuts Peterson Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Fort Robinson WMA, the federally designated Soldier Creek Wilderness area, and the city of Crawford. A map illustrating the state park location is on page 2.

The park offers many recreational opportunities including camping, fishing, historical museum displays and reconstructions, swimming, wildlife viewing, and trails. These opportunities, and the park as a whole, are addressed within The Fort Robinson Management Plan that was completed in 2013. The management plan also outlines other recreational opportunities within the region. This Trail System Master Plan is a supplemental document to the Management Plan and is a guide for development activities to address the challenges and opportunities of the trail system over the next ten years.



Blooming soapweed along Cheyenne Butte Trail at Fort Robinson State Park, 2020, Nebraskaland

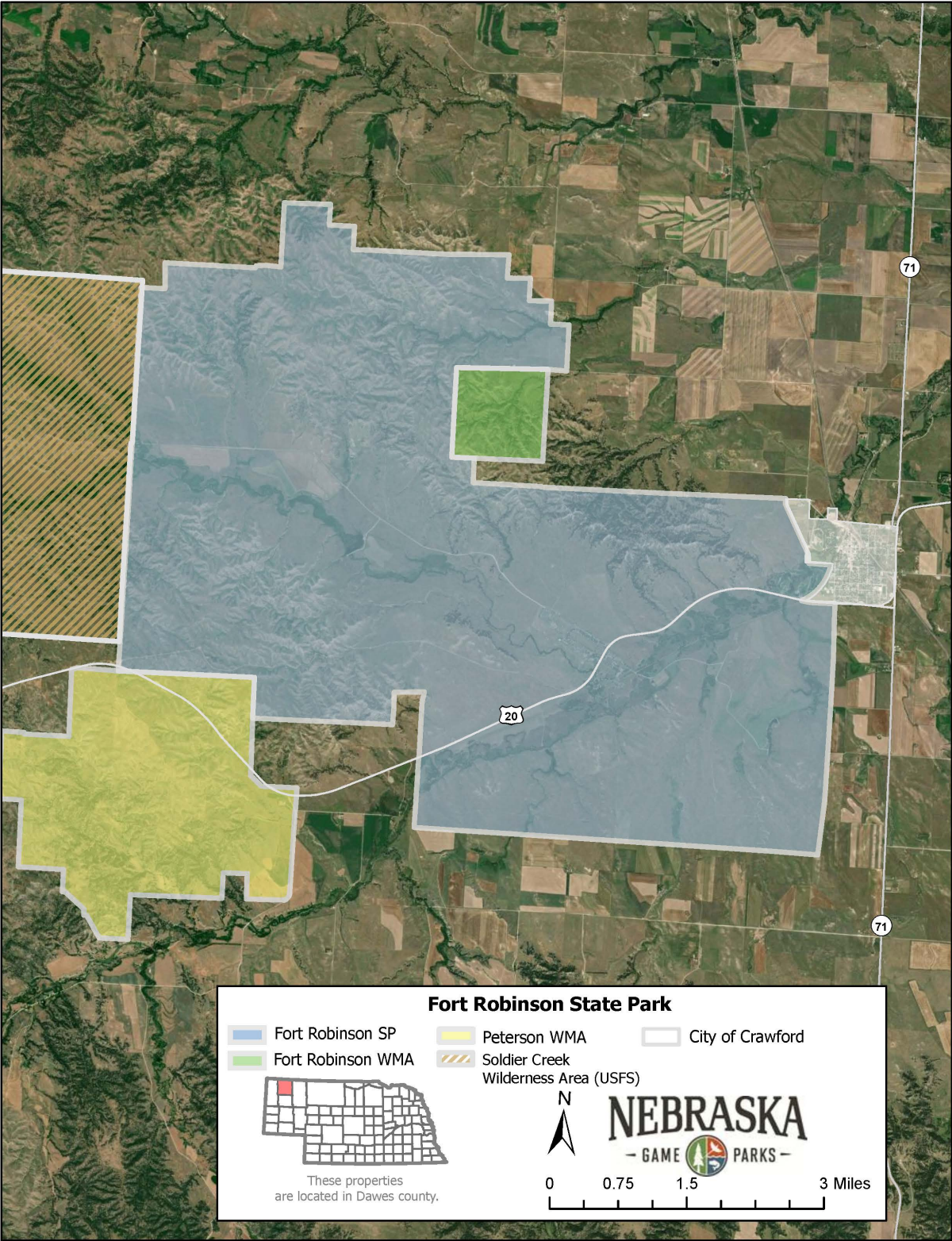
Trails are one of the primary reasons people visit Fort Robinson. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission administration identified the Fort Robinson trail system as having a wealth of opportunity, not only for increased recreational opportunities but as a catalyst for partnerships that would potentially benefit local and regional economic vitality.

The trail system has been a focus in recent years, with the installation of trail navigation posts and signage to assist users in navigating the landscape. Trail users have also expressed additional desired amenities such as trailhead signage and an online trails application. The Fort Robinson State Park Trail System Master Plan has been created to establish goals and action items that can be focused on in the next 10 years that address user feedback, community interest, and the momentum from recent improvements.

The future of the trail system has been defined through the creation of the Trail System Master Plan vision statement. The vision statement expresses the intended experiential opportunities available to all who use the trail system and it creates an inspirational path for the Fort Robinson trail system.

Vision Statement: Fort Robinson State Park provides an easy to navigate trail system for users of all skill levels to discover the historic landscape of northwest Nebraska through scenic views, wildlife, interpretive education, and connection with the regional and local community.

Map 1 - Location Map



Background

The Fort officially became a state park in 1962. The park includes rugged hills and bluffs, ponderosa pine forests, riparian woodlands, grasslands, and even croplands. Soldier Creek and the White River flow through the park, merging southeast of the park's oldest campgrounds.

The 2013-2023 Fort Robinson Management Plan describes the park landscape as located in the shortgrass prairie ecoregion in the Pine Ridge Biologically Unique Landscape (BUL) in northwest Nebraska. This BUL is a rock escarpment that rises several hundred feet from the surrounding plains.

One of the initial things done by the first Fort Robinson park superintendent was host a group of hunters. This group could have used game trails and trails created during the Army remount days to navigate over the landscape, making them the first official Fort Robinson State Park trail users. Over the years this landscape has become interlaced with trails that are used by many park guests. Many of the trails were purposely developed; some were created as access trails to fight fires that were then expanded upon, some were derived from old game trails, and others were created by users traversing the landscape.

Staff have observed that from the mid 1990's until the present, the trail usage at the park has grown exponentially. Around 2000 the White River Trail was converted from an abandoned railroad bed to a crushed limestone surfaced recreational trail connecting the park with the city of Crawford – one of the reasons for this increase in trail usage. Historically, the primary users have been equestrians with the trails closest to the fort seeing the most use. This increase in users further facilitated the creation of the Trail System Master Plan.

Planning Process

The Trail System Master Plan planning process began in August 2020 with a virtual Zoom kick-off meeting with Parks Division administration, Fort Robinson staff, and the Planning and Programming Division Planning team. The kick-off set the tone for the process and gave perspective to the scope of the plan. For the duration of the process the Plan core team, comprised of Park and Planning divisions staff, met approximately twice a month. The COVID-19 pandemic severely limited the ability to hold in-person meetings; therefore, almost all meetings were held virtually, via Zoom. The planning process involved the creation of a master plan vision, goals, strategies, and tactics to guide the evolution of the trail system. Strategies were then categorized into primary, secondary, and on-going priorities for ease of implementation.

Based on the initial scope set forth during the kick-off meeting, Fort Robinson staff completed an assessment of the trail system, amenities, and trail map to aid in determining topics and needs to be



Horse trail rides to the top of Red Cloud Buttes, 2007, Nebraskaland

addressed within the plan. This began with a review of park amenities by the core team to develop a list of trail amenities and their condition. The core team also completed a general assessment of the physical trail system. Using an online ArcGIS map, the core team was able to digitally mark trail map updates and corrections as part of the trail system assessment. This continued with a site visit with Planning staff in October 2020. The site visit provided opportunity to update the trail map using ESRI Collector software to collect GIS data of new trails and georeference potential locations for trailhead and hub signage. These updates and locations are detailed beginning on page 7.

A focus group session was held in April 2021 to gather ideas and perspectives from trail user organizations to assist in meeting goals outlined further in this document. Stakeholders representing trail user groups, Crawford Chamber of Commerce, and Discover Northwest Nebraska were invited to attend. Five stakeholders, the Game and Parks Trails Manager, and three Fort Robinson staff participated. Discussions focused on needs and wants in a trail system, methods in which trail information is obtained, and what methods are preferred. Benefits and potential goals of partnerships between Fort Rob and trail user organizations were also discussed.

To assist in building future partnership opportunities and enhance current partnerships, individual interviews were conducted with statewide economic vitality experts and stakeholders. Phone interviews were held in July 2021. Invitations were extended to Chambers of Commerce, Tourism representatives, Economic Development programs, and recreation entities. These one-on-one interviews were done in conversation form with inquiries about key elements of successful partnerships and personal partnership experiences. Findings from these conversations provided guidance on strategies related to partnerships and are included in the Implementation Considerations section on page 16.

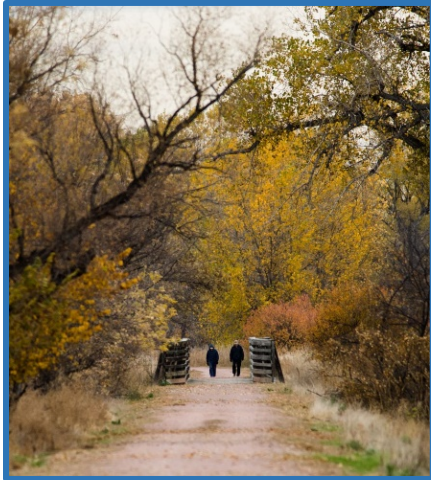
The planning process culminated with the identification of four goals with supporting strategies and tactics for achieving those goals. Things to be considered when working through the tactics and strategies, that came from the process, are presented within the Implementation Considerations section.



American Paint Horse Association annual trail ride breakfast, 2006, Nebraskaland

Existing Conditions

Identifying the existing condition of the trail system provides a baseline to determine needs for improving and developing the trail system. The current trail system, mainly used by equestrians, hikers, and hunters, consists of approximately 130 miles of designated, maintained trails. This trail system is unique within Nebraska not only due to the miles of trails but also the Pine Ridge BUL experience, views of wildlife such as big horn sheep, and the amount of solitude one can take in from the experience.



Walkers along the White River Trail, 2015, Nebraskaland

The types of trails include traditional single-track trails, fire service roads, and a converted railroad bed, and are open to all non-motorized users. There are also many informal, un-mapped trails, commonly referred to as social trails, throughout the system. These trails are not maintained. The three-mile White River Trail follows the old Chicago Northwestern rail line and is limited to hikers and bicyclists, as the crushed limestone converted rail bed is not suitable for horses. All other trails consist of natural surface material.

The trail system provides access to undeveloped areas of the park, where scenic views, canyons, livestock, flora, and fauna can all be enjoyed. Two trails, the White River and Wagon Wheel Trails, connect Fort Robinson with the city of Crawford. Trails are used independently by park guests, at their leisure. A select few

trails are prioritized for use by Fort Robinson staff for guided horseback, stagecoach, and Jeep rides. When not in use for scheduled rides, these trails are available for all guests.

All park amenities are available for trail users. The most relevant to trail users include:

- Trailhead parking
- Water: Lodge and campgrounds; livestock tanks are available in multiple locations
- Restroom facilities: Lodge, stables, Activities Center, shower houses at Mare Barn and Soldier Creek campgrounds; five new concrete outhouses installed in 2020 located at Soldier Creek campground, Carter P. Johnson Lake, Grabel Ponds, breakfast/steak cookout area, and stew cookout area.
- Lodging: Cabins, lodge rooms, and both modern and primitive camping; barn stalls for horses
- Food Service: Restaurant, Sutler's Store



1887 Officers Quarters, 2019, Nebraskaland

The site inventory indicated the overall condition of the trails is good, and amenities listed above are adequate in the short term. With trail usage continuing to increase, so will the needs of users when it

comes to amenities and trail maintenance. Current staffing and budget challenges create a barrier for increasing maintenance and development at this time. Consistent trail signage has been a priority over the last few years to provide needed trail navigation. This has been a massive undertaking with only the far northwest Spring Creek section remaining to have trail signage installed. Individual trails are signed at trailheads and intersections with trail name, direction, and a difficulty rating symbol.

Trailheads and parking lots are lacking in signage to assist guests with navigation within the trail system. Detailed, updated trail maps for trailhead signage, printed handouts, and large-scale maps to display within barns for the use of equestrians are needed. Consistency of signage and maps will make for a more user-friendly trail experience.



Trail Signage, 2020



Trail Signage, 2020

Trail System Assessment and Maps

As part of the assessment described within the Planning Process section, the Fort Robinson Trail System map was updated. The update was an intensive process that required multiple reviews by the core team and GIS analyst. This update provides three benefits: first, an illustrated foundation, or starting point, of the trails system for the master plan. Secondly, it provides an updated map for the use of park guests. The Fort Robinson Trail System is large; therefore, it is separated into three overlapping area maps (maps 2, 3, 4). This allows for a level of detail that would not be possible with the entire system illustrated on one page. Each area map contains a 'map extent' key to orientate the user on the map within the park space. The final benefit of this process is an illustration of potential signage locations for trailheads and hubs. This is detailed after the area maps, beginning on page 11.

The area maps illustrate more than the trails themselves. Trail user amenities such as parking and restrooms are indicated. Points of interest and scenic viewpoints, which are selected due to interesting landscape features, historical markers, and panoramic vistas, are also marked. Windmills are indicated to assist the user with navigation and to communicate access to water for horses, and many gates along trails are pinpointed, too. Gates allow trail access for users while securing fences for livestock management.

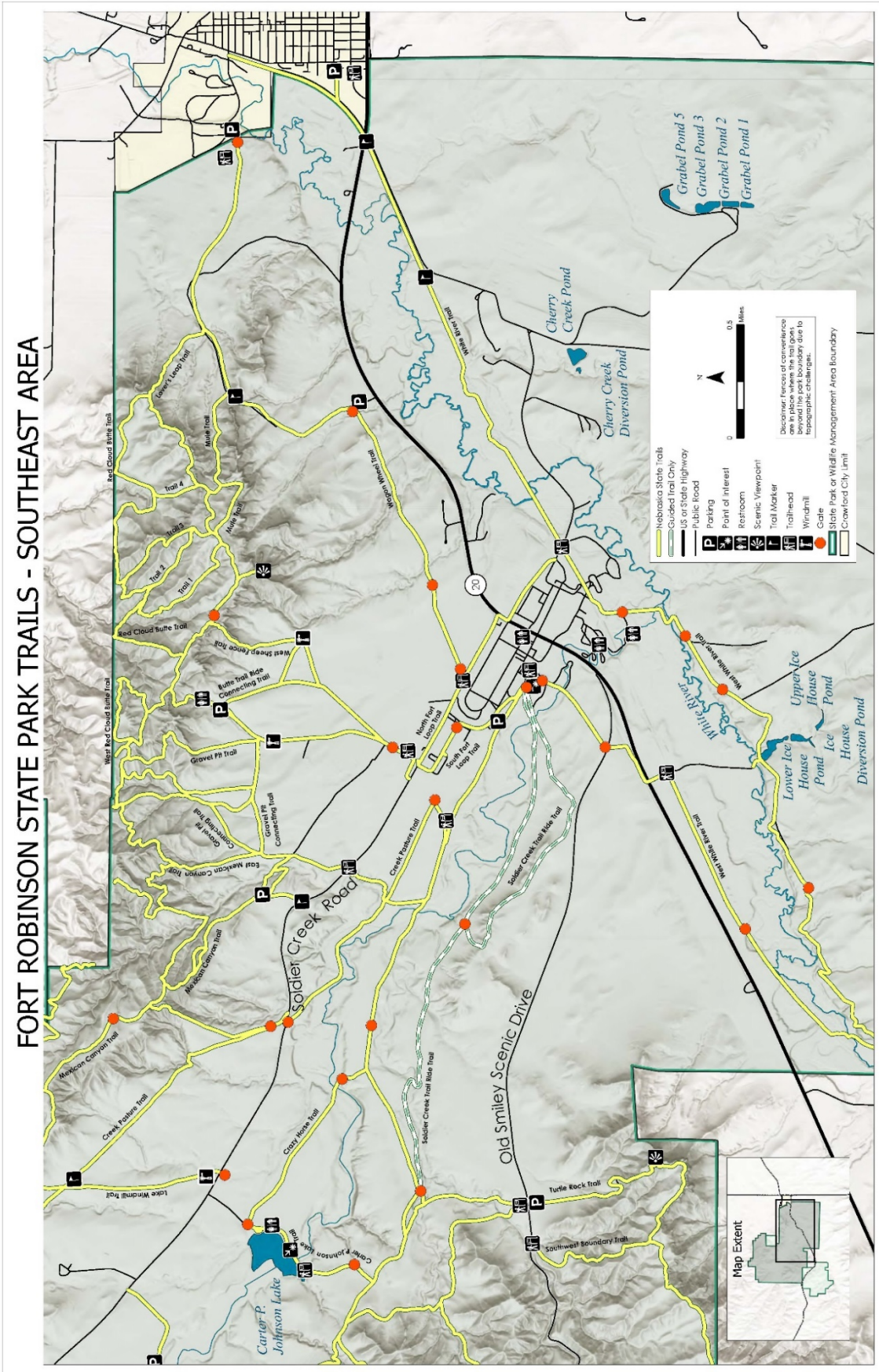
The Southeast Area map centers on the main fort area. It includes Carter P. Johnson Lake, all of the southeast fishing ponds, and trail access to the city of Crawford. The White River Trail, which provides access to Crawford, is the only crushed limestone-surfaced trail within the park and is popular with hikers and bikers from both Fort Robinson and Crawford.

The trails in the Southeast Area range from open fields to high bluffs and provide experiences at all difficulty levels. The trails in this area are popular and see the most use due to the proximity to the Fort and their great views; many notable photos of Fort Robinson have been taken in this area. This area map can be found on page 8.

The Northern Area map illustrates the northern and northwest areas of the park. This includes the trails around Fort Robinson WMA and the furthest west trails accessible from Soldier Creek Road. As a result of this distance from the Fort, these trails are a bit of a hidden gem and do not see as much use, providing a true back-country experience. The majority of the trails within this section have a difficulty rating of "more difficult" because of the steep terrain. The scenic views in this area showcase the vistas to the south. This area map can be found on page 9.

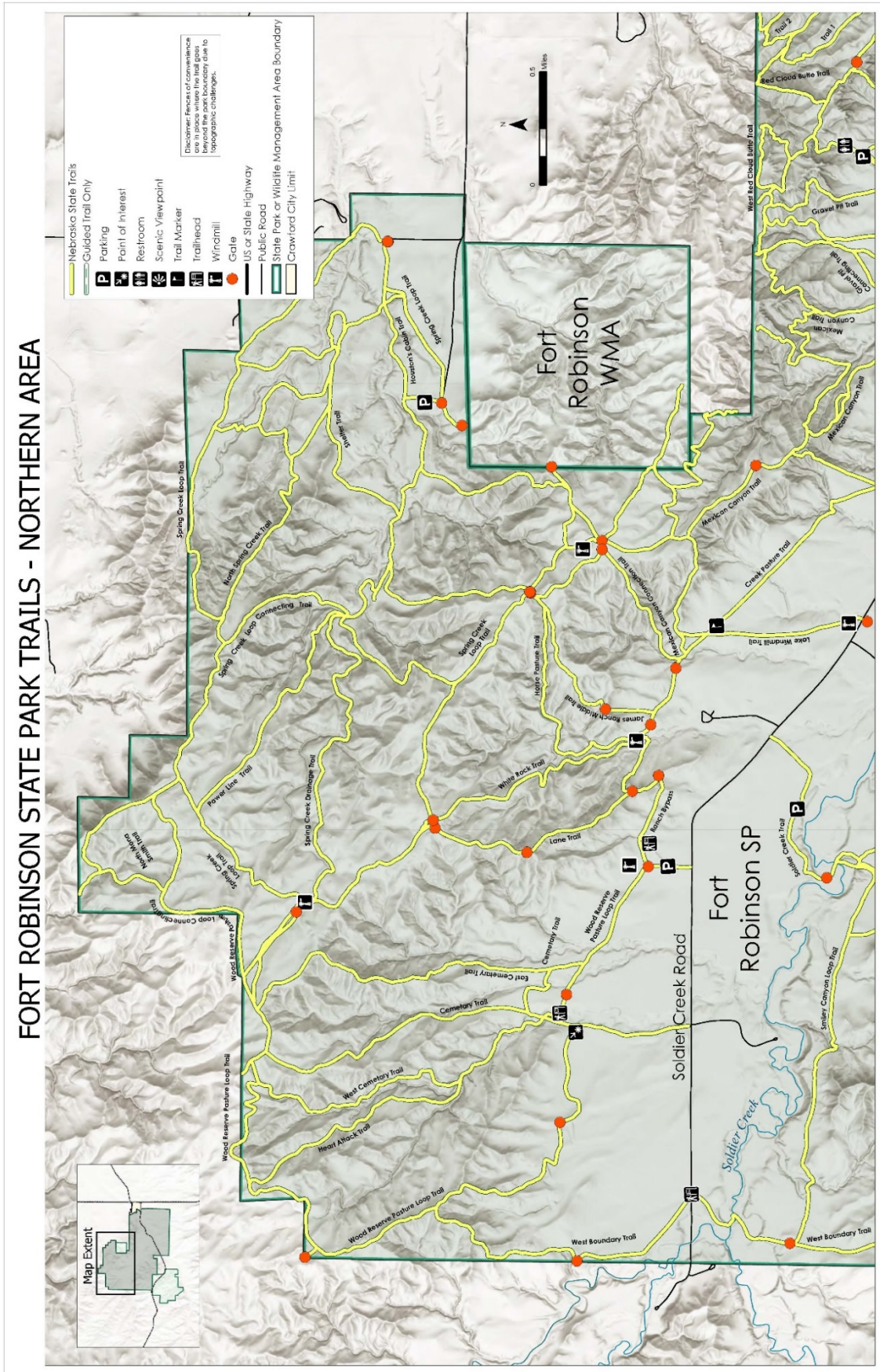
The Southwest Area map encompasses the southeast corner of the park from Soldier Creek Road on the north to Highway 20 on the south. Trail access from Old Smiley Scenic Drive, which cuts through the southern part of the park, provides users the opportunity to easily explore the Smiley Canyon area. Due to this access, and the proximity to the Fort, this area sees more use than the Northern area. The difficulty levels within this area range from easy near Soldier Creek Road, to more difficult within the bluffs to the southwest. This area map can be found on page 10.

FORT ROBINSON STATE PARK TRAILS - SOUTHEAST AREA



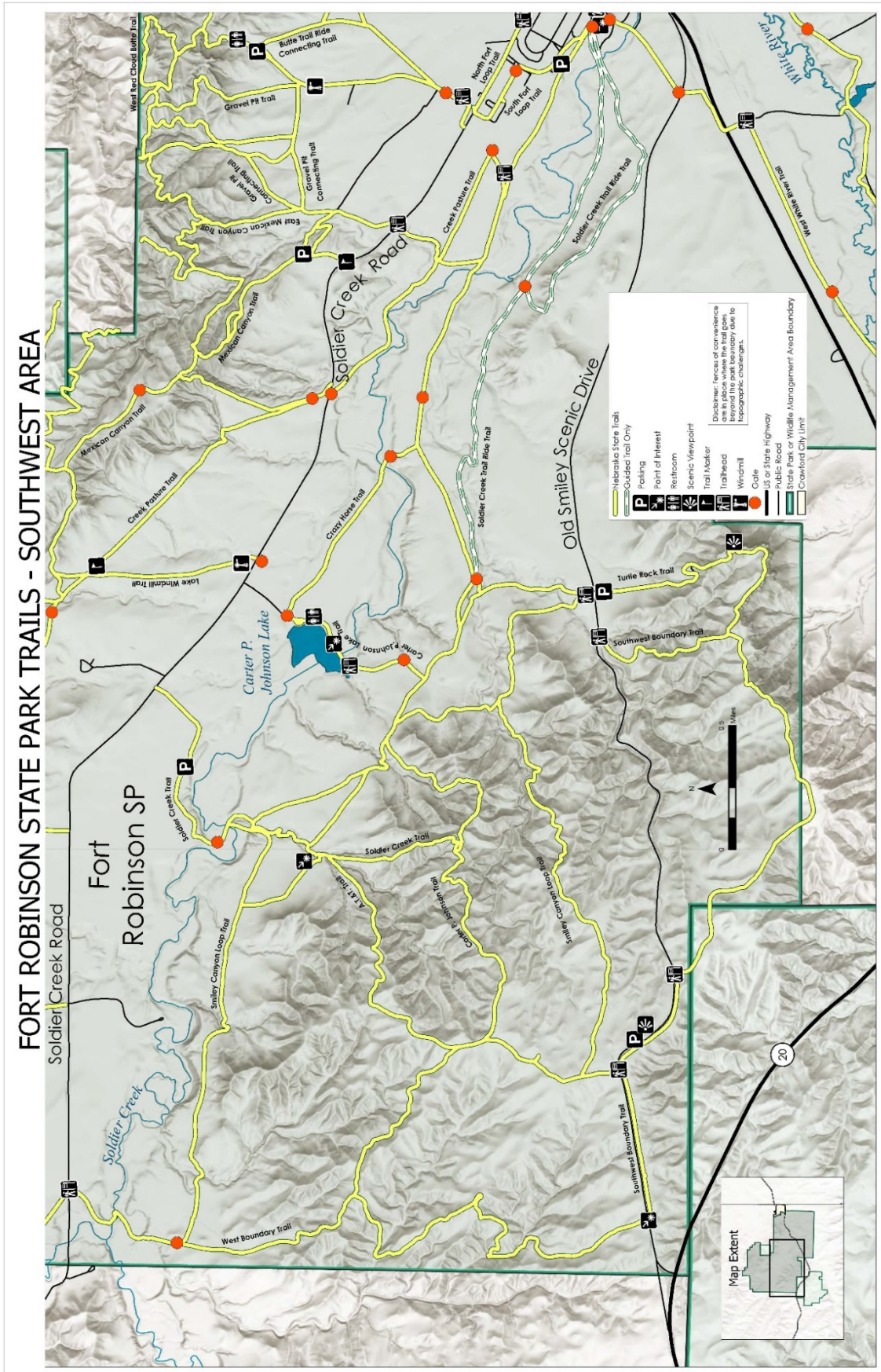
Map 2 - Southeast Area Trail Map

FORT ROBINSON STATE PARK TRAILS - NORTHERN AREA



Map 3 - Northern Area Trail Map

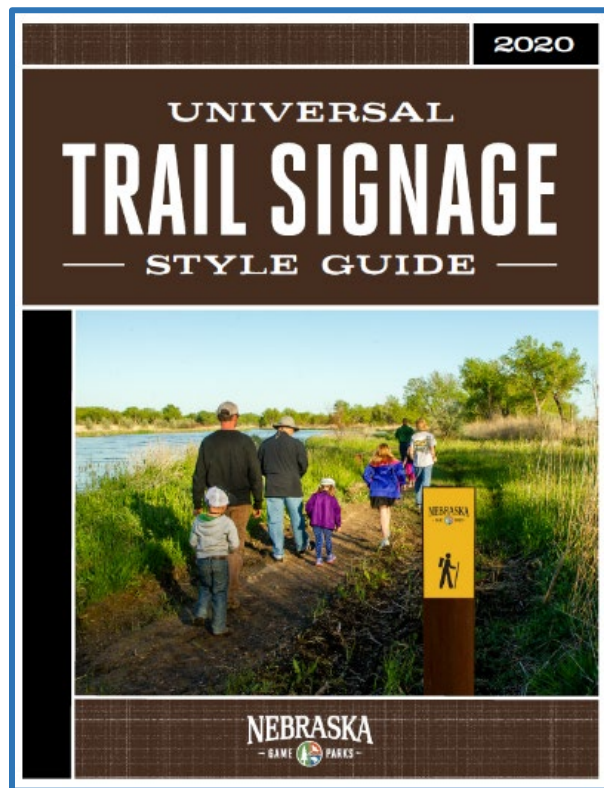
Map 4 - Southwest Area Trail Map



Potential Signage Locations for Trailheads and Hubs

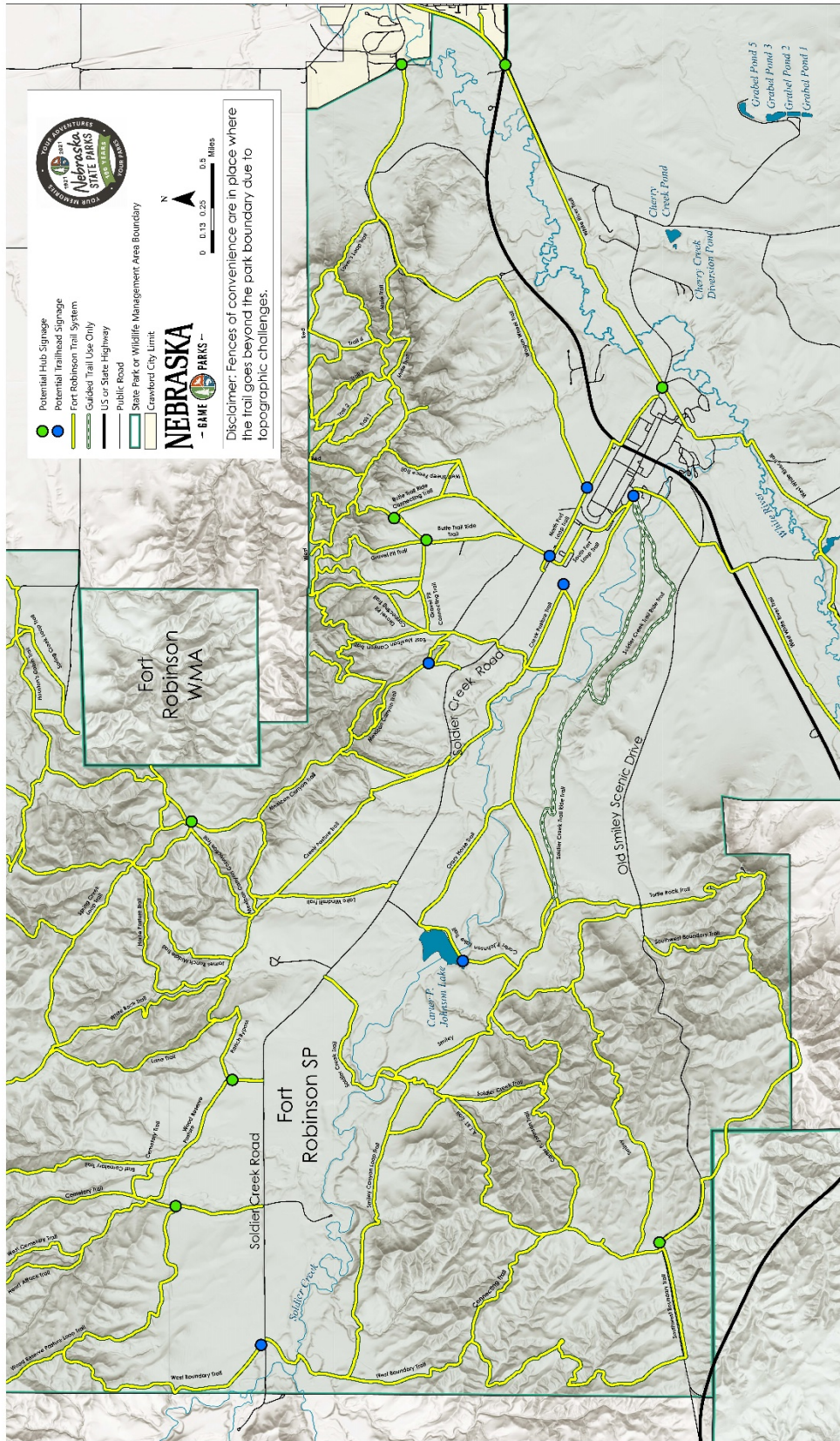
During the process of updating the trail system map, signage locations for trailheads and hubs were considered to provide direction for Goal 1, Strategy 2, Tactic 2: Create and install trailhead and hub signage. A trailhead provides access to a trail or system of trails, which are traditionally, near parking and other amenities. Trailhead signage provides a trail map and information on trail use, etiquette, and safety. A hub is a major intersection of three or more trails within a trail system. Hub signage tends to be limited to the details of a specific section of trails, etiquette, and safety information.

The Game and Parks Universal Trail Signage Guide provides direction for consistency in trail signage across Game and Parks properties and should be used for all trail sign designs. When selecting signage locations for trailheads and hubs both the current use and intended use of the trail system should be considered. The potential trailhead/hub signage locations are illustrated by Map 5 on page 10.



Map 5 – Potential Trailhead/Hub Signage Locations

FORT ROBINSON POTENTIAL TRAILHEAD/HUB SIGNAGE LOCATIONS



Goals, Strategies, and Tactics

The goals of the Trail System Master Plan not only support the plan vision, but also the Fort Robinson State Park Management Plan completed in 2013. Trails are part of many of the recommendations within the management plan. Its recommendations include trails for wildlife viewing, interpretation, equestrians, hiking, biking, and a self-guided interpretive walk/loop trail within the Fort Complex. Additionally, there are recommendations for maps/brochures, a trail mobile application, and trail signage to enhance the visitor experience.

The Trail System Master Plan expands on these recommendations and includes a goal and strategies for connecting with the local and regional community to ensure successful partnerships can be established to enhance trail user experience. The goals, along with the supporting strategies and tactics, support the Trail System Vision from multiple angles, and trail usage, education, maintenance, and community are all represented in the plan. This approach will help ensure a successful trail system.

Goals were created by the core team through a cooperative process of considering the needs and wants for the trail system and compiling them into themes. Each of these themes were then made the focus of a goal. To achieve these goals, strategies and tactics were created, including input from the trail user organizations focus group. The discussions within the focus group addressed specific topics. The topics of signage, maps, and other forms of trail specific communication were indicated as essential for users to comfortably navigate the trail system.

Goal:

What we are working to achieve

Strategy:

A plan of action to attain a goal

Tactic:

A specific action to accomplish a strategy or goal

As an extension of the communication discussion, the importance of an online and mobile trail application was discussed to support the needs of today's trail users. Another conversation supported the value of partnerships between user groups and Fort Robinson and how they would provide benefits to both the park and trail users. The input from the focus group provided affirmation that the goals are in line with the needs and wants of user groups and were incorporated into the action items.

The economic vitality stakeholder conversations were also incorporated. Input from these conversations was specifically beneficial for Goal 4, Strategy 2, which addresses support of regional and local economic opportunities through community partnerships. Additional input information can be found in the Implementation Considerations section beginning on page 16.

The core team established four goals, along with accompanying strategies and tactics, to achieve the trail system vision.

Goal 1 Develop and maintain varied forms of trail information and communication methods to facilitate self-serve navigation within the trail system.

Strategy 1 Ensure varied forms of trail information and communication methods are used to support trail users

Tactic 1 Develop evaluation criteria for trail information and communication methods to provide consistent and accurate information

Tactic 2 Evaluate current maps, rules, regulations, etc. to determine needed updates and changes

Tactic 3 Utilize evaluation information from Tactic 2 to update maps, rules, regulations, etc., to include elements such as historical sites and points of interest

Tactic 4 Create a plan for distribution of information via varied formats (printed maps, rules, regulations, website, social media, etc.) to trail users, trail advocacy groups, nearby communities, etc.

Tactic 5 Develop process for future updating of maps, rules, regulations, etc. to ensure consistent and timely updates

Strategy 2 Utilize the Universal Trail Signage Guide to design and create trail signage

Tactic 1 Complete navigational signage on all mapped trails

Tactic 2 Create and install trailhead and hub signage; utilize the Fort Robinson Potential Trailhead/Hub Signage Locations descriptions and map on pages 11 and 12

Strategy 3 Investigate creation of a pilot online and mobile trail application that provides real-time and downloadable information using Esri's suite of software

Tactic 1 Review other trail applications to inform elements to incorporate such as elevation, trail distance, and trail difficulty rating

Tactic 2 Collaborate with Game and Parks Recreational Trails Manager, Information Technology GIS staff, and others to assist in this effort

Goal 2 Provide quality trailside educational opportunities.

Strategy 1 Continue partnership with History Nebraska

Tactic 1 Collaborate with History Nebraska to identify additional historical and cultural components to incorporate into the trail system (e.g., historical markers, locations of historical events, etc.)

Strategy 2 Collaborate with Game and Parks interpretation and education staff to create inclusive educational amenities

Tactic 1 Utilize the Style Guide for Interpretive Signage to create interpretive or educational waysides on park trails

- Tactic 2** Create interpretive informational documents for digital and print use to expand these educational amenities beyond the landscape to be more inclusive and accessible

Goal 3 Support a robust trail system.

Strategy 1 Review trail system to collect baseline data and plan for the future

- Tactic 1** Collect usage data using trail counters
- Tactic 2** Evaluate current trail usage regarding amount of usage and types of users to provide guidance for trail management
- Tactic 3** Determine sustainable trail usage capacity to assist with understanding trail needs and increasing usage options
- Tactic 4** Utilize collected usage data to evaluate trail offerings and create plan for needs, changes, and potential expansion of the trail system
- Tactic 5** Create an annual evaluation/assessment plan to guide consistent, informed management of the trail system

Strategy 2 Support trail users by using a comprehensive safety/emergency plan

- Tactic 1** Evaluate current safety/emergency plan for comprehensiveness and up to date standards
- Tactic 2** Update safety/emergency plan based on findings in Tactic 1

Strategy 3 Provide a consistently well-maintained trail system by using a comprehensive maintenance plan

- Tactic 1** Evaluate current maintenance plan for updates
- Tactic 2** Update maintenance plan based on findings in Tactic 1
- Tactic 3** Develop a budget plan for continuous maintenance
- Tactic 4** Investigate potential with current and new partnerships to provide volunteer assistance with trail maintenance

Strategy 4 Provide pertinent trail amenities

- Tactic 1** Assess current amenities regarding trail user needs and wants
- Tactic 2** Create plan for needs and/or changes, such as adding additional turn around space for trailers at the Mexican Canyon Trailhead

Goal 4 Support trail-focused connections with the regional and local community.

Strategy 1 Establish cooperative opportunities to communicate connection to the Fort from the Crawford trailheads and within Crawford

- Tactic 1** Intentionally advertise the White River and Wagon Wheel trails as connections to Crawford to facilitate local partnerships (e.g., postings in the Lodge, Crawford businesses, etc.)

Tactic 2 Ensure Crawford connection is well communicated within all trail communication methods (e.g., trail maps, trailhead signage, etc.)

Strategy 2 Establish community partnerships that support regional and local economic opportunities

Tactic 1 Research new marketing resources and partnership opportunities; utilize feasible research findings to communicate trail information

Tactic 2 Explore cooperative trail user support options (e.g., corrals or pens within Crawford so equestrians can utilize amenities)

Tactic 3 Facilitate communication and collaboration with interested local and regional groups

Strategy 3 Maintain partnership with the Cheyenne Breakout Committee regarding the Cheyenne Healing Trail

Tactic 1 Participate in development efforts to fulfill the mission of the Cheyenne Healing Trail

Implementation Considerations

When implementing the goals, strategies, and tactics there are several factors, noted throughout the planning process, that should be considered. Listed below are these factors that provide some guidance for implementation of specific items.

- A. Consultation with Parks Division Assistant Administrator responsible for state historical parks is recommended for historical and cultural areas and to determine feasibility of historical interpretation. Consulting with the State Historic Preservation Office and/or State Archeology Office may be necessary for tactics related to cultural history, including new trail development.
- B. Opportunities exist for enhancements to the trail system. When moving forward with trail development and updating maps, trail difficulty ratings and mileage should be included. Additionally, the informal, non-designated trails, also known as social trails, will need to be addressed to determine if they should be incorporated into the trails system.



Wildlife Viewing Hike, 2014, Nebraskaland

Consistent and regular review and update of the trail system map should be included within the management of the trail system. The Fort's trail system can connect the historical and natural landscape to provide an excellent opportunity of enhanced educational and interpretive programming at the park for users now and into the future.

- C. Completion of the on-trail signage will assist in accomplishing goals within the plan. It provides an opportunity to move to the next step of evaluating the trail system as a whole. This evaluation would provide guidance to update the maintenance and safety plans, trails offered, and trail amenities. Additional trailhead amenities such as benches, picnic tables, and trash receptacles should be considered. The trail system can also be an avenue for marketing to impact local and regional economic vitality.
- D. Alternative funding resources and partnerships should be explored to assist with the financial and labor shortage challenges. Partnerships can be utilized to support communication efforts and connection with the local and regional community. Trail user organizations that participated in the focus group supported ideas of collaboration such as “trail days” for both service and social gatherings. These potential partnerships would be mutually beneficial and should be explored further.

- E. The trail user focus group discussions identified the desire and opportunity for additional events, guided tours, and programs to be held at Fort Robinson that could lead to marketing the trail system and Fort Robinson as a whole. This feedback is in line with current research findings. According to the 2020 Federal Highway Administrations Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Annual Report, trails contribute to the economy in many ways. They attract tourists and provide customers for local businesses. It is noted that one major benefit of trail tourism is that money is spent in rural towns and in more economically disadvantaged areas. This report also indicates the benefits of trail project partnerships bringing together agencies with different missions that share common goals.

These partnerships contribute to the overall success of those groups involved and to the economic vitality of the region. The RTP report highlights and supports the potential benefits not only of the ideas brought forth in the trail user focus group, but within the economic vitality stakeholder conversations.

- F. The individual conversations facilitated with statewide economic vitality stakeholders, regarding successful partnership experiences provided valuable input. These conversations were held to gather key elements and

KEY ELEMENTS OF SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS

- Consistent and ongoing communication
 - Between partners and with the community as a whole – this ensures correct information is being shared, and the more people who know what is going on, the more support that can happen
 - Active listening so all are heard and willing to collaborate
 - Education on all elements of the partnership
 - Solicit potential partners with a personal invitation
- Clear, enthusiastically shared mission and goals
- Clear expectations so everyone knows their role
- Strong group facilitator to guide the process and keep the focus on the goal
 - Facilitate short term wins to keep the motivation
- Willingness to work together, teamwork
- Passion or personal connection to the goal
- “How can we help” approach
- Tendency to reframe problems as opportunities
- Cannot do it by yourself – reach out
- Compile a core team of people you can rely on

examples of successful Nebraska partnerships. The key elements suggested by participants should be considered when planning new or expanding current partnerships and can be found on page 17. These suggestions are not an exhaustive list nor does every partnership need to contain all these elements.

Thought-provoking success stories are also included in this section to inspire new ideas and opportunities for expanding mutually beneficial partnerships with the Fort Robinson Trail System and park as a whole. Partnerships can be formed and maintained with many different types of groups: trail user groups, local and regional chambers of commerce, tourism entities, and even student groups from local schools and colleges. Collaboration with other entities plays an important role in the success of this plan. Seeking out and maintaining various types of partnerships will help facilitate successful projects, events, and programs.

Partnership Success Stories

Trail Races Encourage Partnership

Chadron Community Recreation is a non-profit, grassroots organization that was developed to meet the recreational and wellness needs of the Chadron community. Annually, they put on the Pine Ridge Trails Race Series. One event in the series, Run for the Hills, began in 2017 as a 5-mile trail race in the Nebraska National Forest. This same year the Northwest Nebraska Trails Association (NNTA) was formed when a group of outdoor recreationists saw the need for local organization to support regional non-motorized trails. The race was a partnership effort between Chadron Community Recreation and the NNTA. The next year, in 2018, Chadron State Park staff approached Chadron Community Recreation about hosting a race at the park. This led to the state park joining the existing partnership and the race moving to the park. This partnership is facilitated through the excitement of a shared goal and a “How can we help?” approach. The event is a win for all involved. Chadron and the surrounding community have a fun, healthy recreational opportunity, NNTA is able to promote trails and fundraise, and Chadron State Park welcomes and educates new visitors. The success of this partnership has led to adding a second event in 2021, the Twisted Crawdad Trail Races.

Long-Term Partnership Provides Long-Term Support

The Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department and the Great Plains Trail Network have sustained a 30+ year partnership. Over that time, they have completed many projects, but the most significant thing about this partnership is the length of time it has been in place. They have facilitated this long-lasting partnership through personal connections, open communication with all staff and administration, and active listening so all are heard. They support each other through events, volunteer activities, funding, and assisting with grant applications. This partnership allows them to accomplish more with a team effort when new project opportunities arise. Ultimately, this partnership provides an efficient outlet for progress by a group of people with a shared keen interest and enthusiasm for recreational trails.

Next Steps

This section is designed to address the crucial next steps to put the strategies and tactics outlined within this plan into practice. It is recommended that on a yearly basis the Core Team of this planning effort meet and create an implementation plan for the upcoming year. The benefits of an implementation plan include clarity of understanding of the strategies and tactics, accountability to ensure projects are on track, and a defined opportunity for communication and cooperation amongst the team and community. A review of alignment with the Management Plan should also be included.

The six key components of the annual implementation plan should include:

1. Outline of the tactics that should be accomplished within the year.
2. Assignment of roles and responsibilities to ensure a clear picture of what needs to be done and by whom.
3. A schedule to track progress for the projects to keep all stakeholders informed.
4. Identification of the needed resources to be allocated. This includes financial resources, materials, staffing, procurement procedures, etc.
5. Defining the metrics used to determine success for each project. This would include Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to establish the measurability of progress and success, and the celebration of milestones.
6. A contingency plan that allows for flexibility for changing circumstances and priorities such as potential budgetary increases, loss of resources, unmet deadlines, etc. This will ensure staff are able to stay on track when challenges arise.

The first step for creation of an implementation plan is to evaluate and select tactics for initial work to be completed within the year. This should be guided by staff knowledge of the trail system and park, any necessary engineering and survey work, and financial resources. When planning the year, consideration must be taken for needed steps to facilitate completion of tactics in later years. This includes planning ahead for biennium budgets, capital improvement projects, and required state processes. To assist with this annual process, strategies have been grouped by primary, secondary, and on-going plan priorities.

The work needed toward achieving the trail system vision is already underway. Success of this plan is dependent on a team effort, not only within Game and Parks but also with community partners to ensure the Fort Robinson Trail System remains a destination for all who visit the area.

Plan Priorities

Primary

- Goal 1: Strategy 1
Strategy 2
Strategy 3
- Goal 3: Strategy 1
Strategy 2
- Goal 4: Strategy 1

Secondary

- Goal 2: Strategy 2
- Goal 3: Strategy 3
Strategy 4
- Goal 4: Strategy 2

Ongoing

- Goal 2: Strategy 1
- Goal 4: Strategy 3