

Trail Rules and Regulation

- ❖ **Trail Hours:** Open ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.
- ❖ No motorized vehicles allowed.
- ❖ Obey traffic signs. Vehicles have right of way at road crossings.
- ❖ Stay to the right. Pass slower traffic on the left. Yield to oncoming traffic.
- ❖ **RIGHT OF WAY:** Cyclists yield to all other trail users; hikers yield to horseback riders.
- ❖ Cyclists should wear a helmet at all times.
- ❖ All pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet.
- ❖ Drinking alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- ❖ Littering is subject to \$100 fine.
- ❖ Camping, fires, hunting and use of firearms are prohibited.
- ❖ Horseback riders should dismount when crossing bridges and road intersections.
- ❖ Horseback riders shall NOT use the main trail surface.
- ❖ Avoid disturbing natural features, wildlife, and farm animals. Leaving the trail right-of-way except at public crossing could subject you to trespassing violations and prosecution.
- ❖ Report fire or medical emergency by dialing 911.
- ❖ To report vandalism or violators, call 1-800-742-7627.

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission District Offices:

Central Office

2200 N. 33rd St. / PO Box 30370
Lincoln, NE 68503-0370
402-471-0641

Omaha Metro Office

1212 Bob Gibson Blvd.
Omaha, NE 68108-2020
402-595-2144

Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium

21502 W. Hwy 31
Gretna, NE 68028-7264
402-332-3901

District I

East Hwy. 2 / PO Box 725
Alliance, NE 69301-0725
308-763-2940

District II

524 Panzer St. / PO Box 508
Bassett, NE 68714-0508
402-684-2921

District III

2201 N. 13th St.
Norfolk, NE 68701-2267
402-370-3374

District IV

301 E. State Farm Rd.
North Platte, NE 69101-0430
308-535-8025

District VI


1617 First Ave.
Kearney, NE 68847-6057
308-865-5310

For more information please call:

Lincoln Office: 402-471-5511
Bassett Office: 402-684-2921

For more information on trails in Nebraska, check out the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Web site at:
www.OutdoorNebraska.org



 Come enjoy the Cowboy Trail!



Cowboy Recreation and Nature Trail

The Longest Rails to Trails Conversion in the Nation



Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Under federal and/or state law, discrimination is prohibited on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, marital status, national origin, disability or political affiliation. If you think you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility or want more information, contact the Affirmative Action Officer, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln, NE, 402-471-0641; the Equal Opportunity Commission, Lincoln, NE, 402-471-2024, TTY / TDD 402-471-4693. USFWS, Division of Bird Habitat and Conservation, Civil Rights Coordinator, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, MBSP 4020, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

Nebraska's First Recreational Trail

The nation's longest rail to trail conversion and Nebraska's first state recreational trail, was accepted as a donation from the Rails To Trails Conservancy on December 5, 1994. Acceptance of the gift was authorized by law through the Nebraska State Legislature under the provisions of Federal Railbanking Statutes.

The historic Chicago and Northwestern Railroad right-of-way, now the Cowboy Recreation and Nature Trail, passes through spectacular Nebraska scenery as it travels from Norfolk west through the Elkhorn River Valley with its companion route U.S. 275. Farmsteads, cropland, and timber-covered riverbanks dot the landscape.

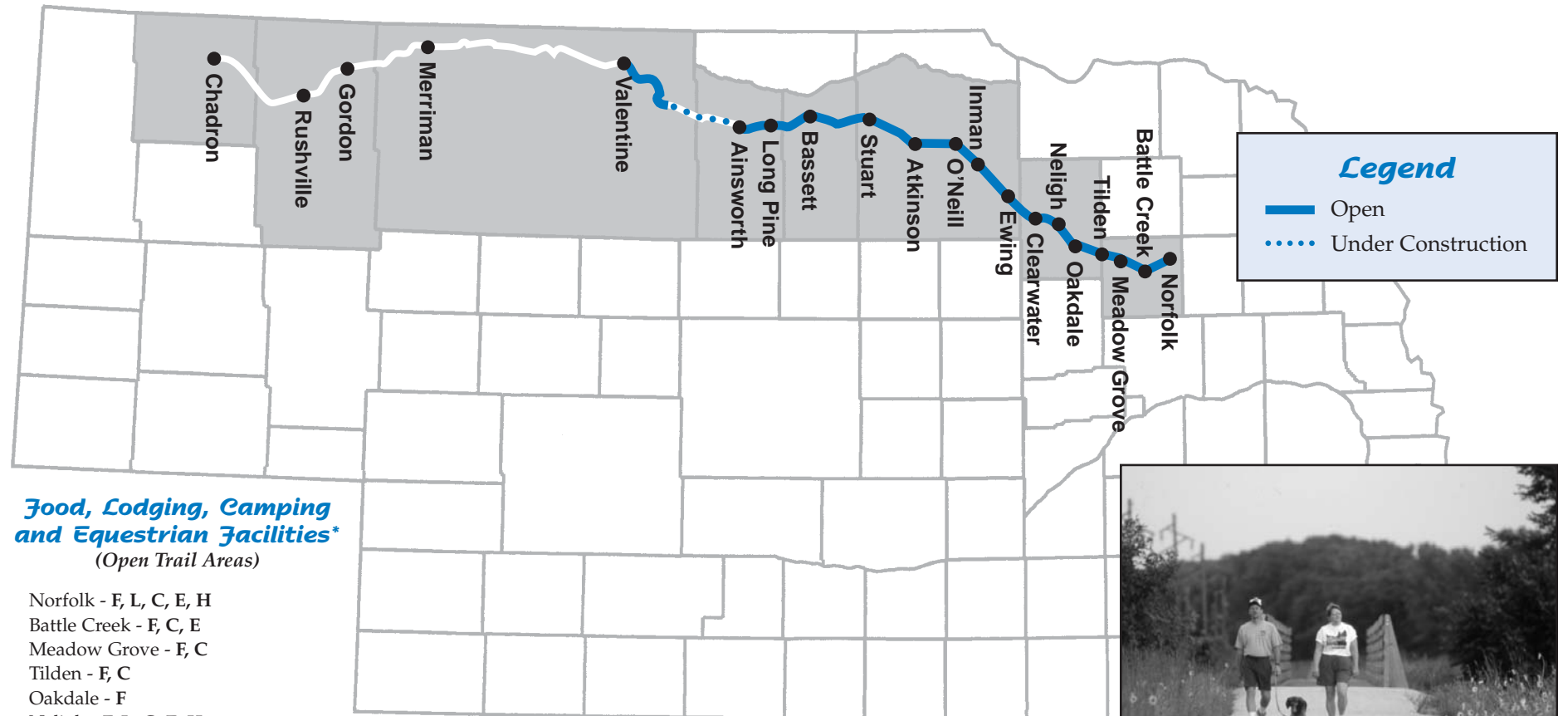
At O'Neill a trailhead is provided at the Old Historic Railroad Depot, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Parking, restroom facilities, water and trail information are available to the public.

West from O'Neill the trail parallels ranching, hay and native prairie along U.S. 20. At Long Pine, the trail enters Nebraska's unique and renowned Sandhill country. Except for an oasis containing a quarter mile-long bridge crossing the Niobrara River Valley at Valentine, one of the nation's top 10 canoeing rivers, these vast grass-covered dunes border the trail enroute to the Pine Ridge country near Chadron.

When finished this hiking, biking, and equestrian trail will stretch 321 miles across Nebraska. The trail will pass over 221 bridges and through 29 communities nicely spaced about 10 to 15 miles apart. These communities will provide Cowboy Trail users with camping, restroom and shower facilities.

Over 161 miles of trail are now open, including a continuous 143-mile stretch from Norfolk to Ainsworth.

In fall 2008 or spring 2009 an additional 30 miles will be added connecting Valentine to Norfolk.



Food, Lodging, Camping and Equestrian Facilities* (Open Trail Areas)

- Norfolk - F, L, C, E, H
- Battle Creek - F, C, E
- Meadow Grove - F, C
- Tilden - F, C
- Oakdale - F
- Neligh - F, L, C, E, H
- Clearwater - F
- Ewing - F, L, C
- Inman - F, C, E
- O'Neill - F, L, C, E, H
- Bassett - F, L, C, E, H
- Long Pine[§] - F, L, C, E
- Ainsworth - F, L, C, H
- Valentine - F, L, C, E, H
- Smith Falls State Park - C



Key

- F - Food
- L - Lodging
- C - Camping
- E - Equestrian Facilities
- H - Hospital

* Many communities, where the trail is not yet complete, also have facilities available to travelers.

§ Long Pine has lodging available in the old R&R crew quarters by the trail. Contact the City Office, 402-273-4120, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. After hours contact Beverly Newport, 402-273-4212, or Betty Morgan, 402-273-4161.



Trail users pass the O'Neill Depot Trailhead.

Improved Sections Open For Use*

1. Norfolk to Ainsworth - 143 miles
2. Valentine East to Arabia Ranch Road - 18 miles

* A number of individual communities have trails that are not yet connected to the trails listed above.

Section Now Under Construction

Arabia Ranch to Ainsworth