



Trails of Junction City and Geary County

Take a hike on the many trails found in and around Geary County. It is still early enough in Walk Kansas that you might hike a new trail each week.

Location/Mileage

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|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| • Bluff Park 1 mile | Goldenbelt Blvd. & Caroline Ave. |
| • Bramlage Park 1/4 mile | 420 Grant Ave, JC |
| • Buffalo Soldier Park 1/10 mile | 200 W. 18 th St. |
| • Homer's Pond 1 mile | 100 S. Eisenhower |
| • K-57 Walking Trail .7 mile | K-57 & Airport Rd. |
| • Municipal Bldg. 1/17 mile | 700 N. Jefferson |
| • Playground Park ¼ mile | 5 th St. & Eisenhower Dr. |
| • Riverland Landing 1.5 mile | 200 block E. Ash St. |
| • Riverwalk Trail 4.8 miles | N. Washington (G Ave) |
| • South Park 1.1 miles | 1417 St. Mary's Road |
| • The Old River Bluff Trail 1.25 miles | Milford Lake Outlet Area |
| • Tallgrass Nature Trail 0.5 mile | Milford Nature Center |
| • 12th St. Community Center 1/8 mile | 1002 W. 12 th St. |
| • Wetland Trail 1 mile | Frontage Rd. |
| • YMCA 1/17 mile | 1703 McFarland Rd. |
| • Milford City Park at Milford | Milford, KS |
| • Freedom Park & Atomic Annie | Exit I-70, #301 |
| • Milford Lake miles & miles | 6-8 trails Milford State Park (more info at the gate) |

Bramlage & Buffalo Soldier Park

Travel to Grant Ave/18th Street this week to enjoy the trail(s). **Bramlage Park** starts at 420 Grant Ave by the fountain and goes ¼ mile down to the skateboard park and recreation area. Since that is a short walk, walk on down to the **Buffalo Soldier Park** at 200 W. 18th Street. This trail is only 1/10 mile long and is made of screenings. We advise you not to crawl onto the horse's back, but you might want to take along a boombox and an exercise CD or some fast music and have an impromptu physical activity session. You might even get some encouraging waves, shouts, and whistles! If you want to walk a bit further, and can carefully cross the 18th St./Jackson St. intersection you might want to walk the **new walkway** that runs from 18th St. to Elmdale.

Homer's Pond, 100 S. Eisenhower, Junction City

Instead of driving past Homer's Pond on Eisenhower in Junction City, stop and take a walk. There are several benches placed around the .9 mile trail. The walkway is paved and provides both uphill and downhill walking. You might even want to take your lunch or a snack and enjoy eating at the park benches at the north end of the pond.

Riverwalk Trail

(N. Washington St. (over the bridge) but before Ft. Riley along the river to Milford Lake) Yes, we did leave the longest trail till last. The idea was that you've had seven weeks to increase your physical activity and this 4.8 miles trail would be the final challenge. The good news is that it is flat. Also, you can turn around and head back whenever you want.

South Park Trail

South Park Trail, 1417 St. Mary's Road, is a cement biking and walking path beginning near the playground and continuing along the south edge to the park. The distance of this trail is 1.2 miles. This path winds into a prairie field and overlooks the Smokey River Valley.

The Wetlands/Riverwalk Landing

Both the Wetlands Trail and Riverwalk Landing (not to be confused with the Riverwalk Trail) begins on Junction City's East Ash Street. The Wetlands Trail is 1 mile long. Screenings are used for the walking surface. Riverwalk Landing is ½ mile long. The Parks Department lists the trail surface as "unknown."

The Old River Bluff Trail

The Old River Bluff Trail connects the west end of the Riverwalk Trail (*which runs from north Washington St. to Milford Lake*) which is located in the Milford Lake outlet area to the Milford Lake north overview adjacent to Milford State Park. The trail is 1.25 miles long. The bad news: the trip to the overview is uphill. The good news: coming down will be lots easier.

A shorter trail is the **Tallgrass Nature Trail** which begins at the Milford Nature Center and is a 0.5 mile loop. A backyard habitat demonstration area features seasonal songbirds and butterflies. While hiking the trail, watch for beaver, wood ducks, pheasants, quail, herons, kingfishers, and during the summer, numerous sixlined racerunner lizards. The Tallgrass Nature Trail is only available when the Nature Center is open: M-F, 9 - 4:30, Sat. & Sun 1-5. Tours are available by calling 785-238-5323. Other Milford Lake trails are the Waterfall Trail (0.6 mile loop), the Crystal Trail (2.5 mile loop); and the Eagle Ridge Equestrian Trail (5.7 mile loop). All of these trails are in the State Park.

Milford City Park at Milford

Thanks to a Milford High School class project, a walking trail has been made around the Milford City Park. It is all paved and not nearly as long or as grueling as the Old River Bluff Trail. Enjoy the Milford City Park and then feel free to walk around to see more of the city of Milford.

Freedom Park & Atomic Annie, exit I-70 #301

Or Playground Park, 1005 W. 5th

One of the most beautiful views of Geary County is from the hill where "Atomic Annie", a cannon made to fire nuclear artillery shells, rests overlooking Fort Riley. It is a challenging trek to the top of the hill and be warned that the trail is in need of repair. The climb up the steep hill may not be as daunting as mountain climbing, but is a test for those who want to do more than amble down a beaten path. If you are not up to climbing to see Atomic Annie, then do some laps around **Playground Park**. The trail circles along side the playground area and is only 1/5 of a mile long. It is a perfect place for families with young children to come out and learn how to ride a bike.