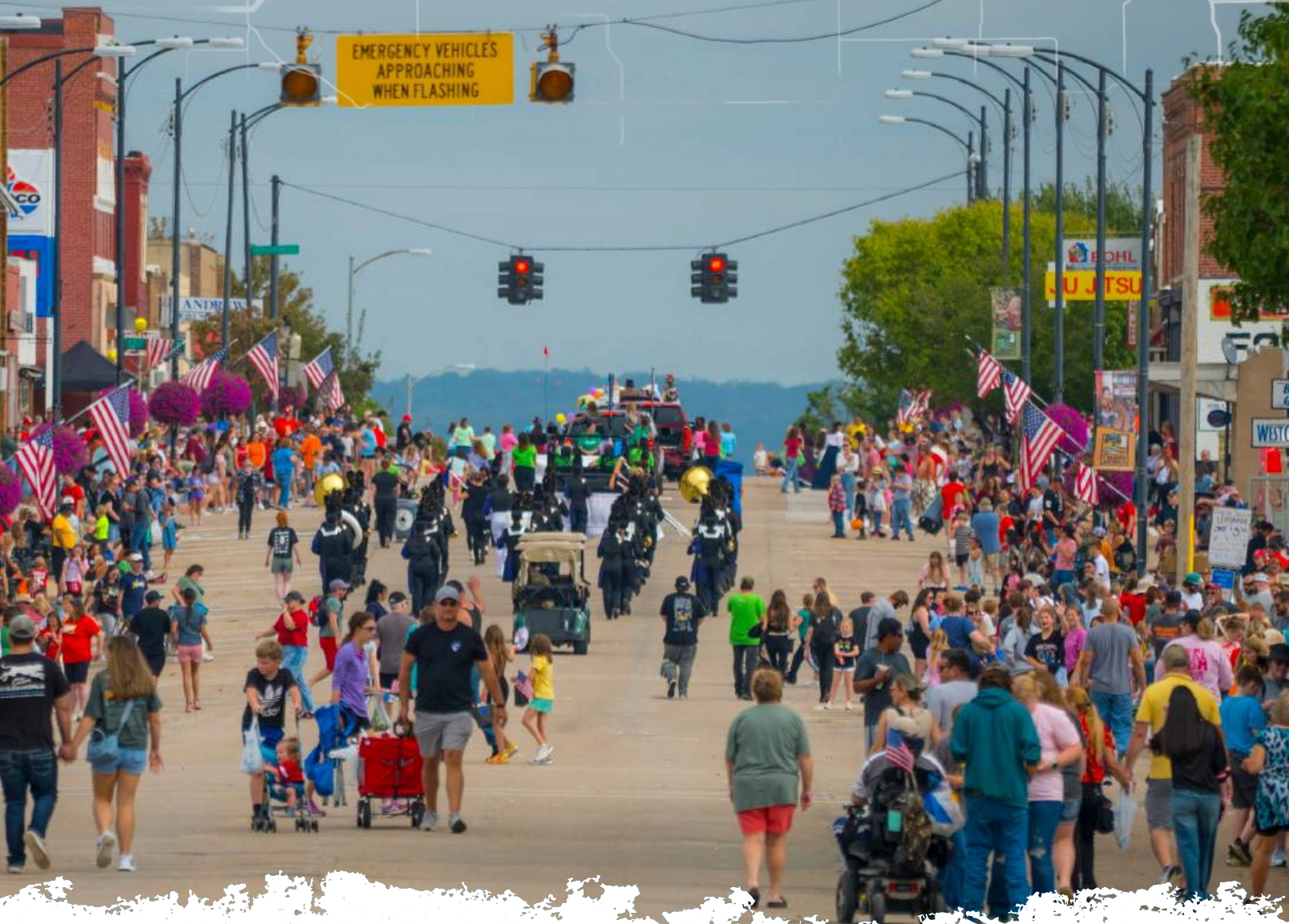


SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA'S OFFICIAL VISITORS GUIDE

Southeast Nebraska

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OFFICIAL VISITORS GUIDE



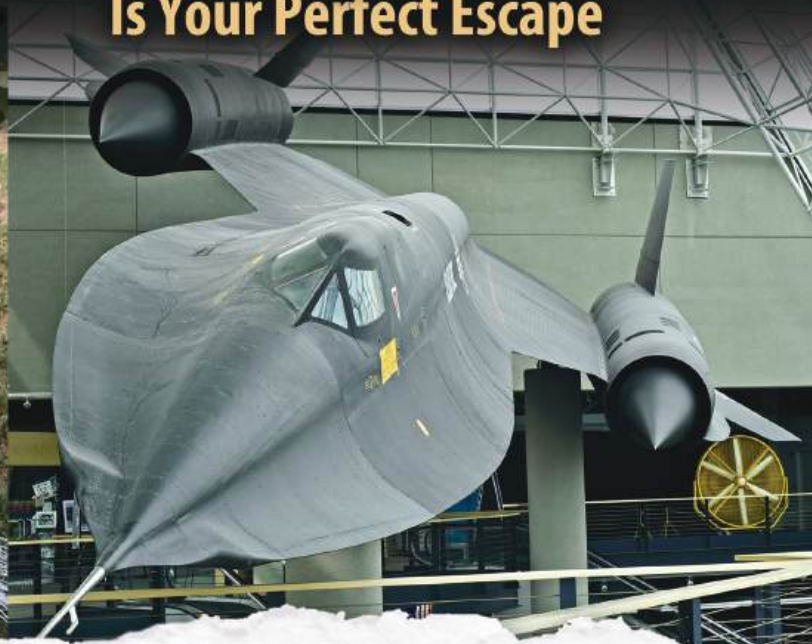
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WELCOME TO SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA

It is my pleasure, on behalf of our 14 member counties, to thank you for your interest in Southeast Nebraska. We look forward to welcoming your event or family to our unique brand of hospitality in the very near future.

Many of our hidden treasures, as well as great annual traditions, shine brightly to travelers each and every year. You will find friendly service in our high-quality facilities, comfortable accommodations, and first-class athletic venues and convention space.

Furthermore, Southeast Nebraska offers a wide variety of activities to entertain, including fine parks, museums, restaurants, theaters, and shopping centers. Our lodging facility landscape is dotted with many unique bed and breakfasts and campsites that overlook some of the most breathtaking scenery in our state.

We look forward to sharing with you our special brand of hospitality and encourage you to discover the many amenities that we have to offer. For more information about our region, visit our website at visitsoutheastnebraska.org or email us at VisitSENebraska@gmail.com.

Oh, and please do me a favor, share your favorite Southeast Nebraska experience by posting your adventure on our Facebook and Instagram pages. I love seeing the fun that people have in our communities and the countless smiles that warm the hearts of so many!

Sincerely,

Rachel Hrabik, President
Southeast Nebraska Tourism Council

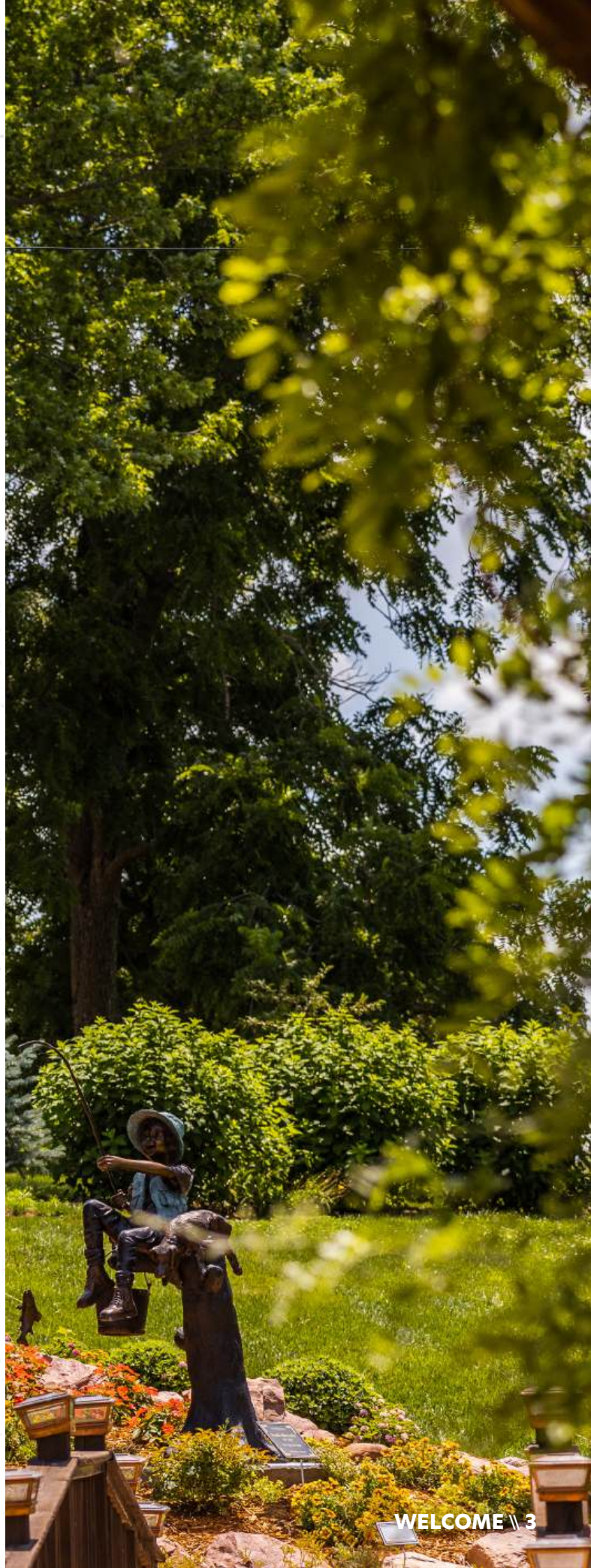
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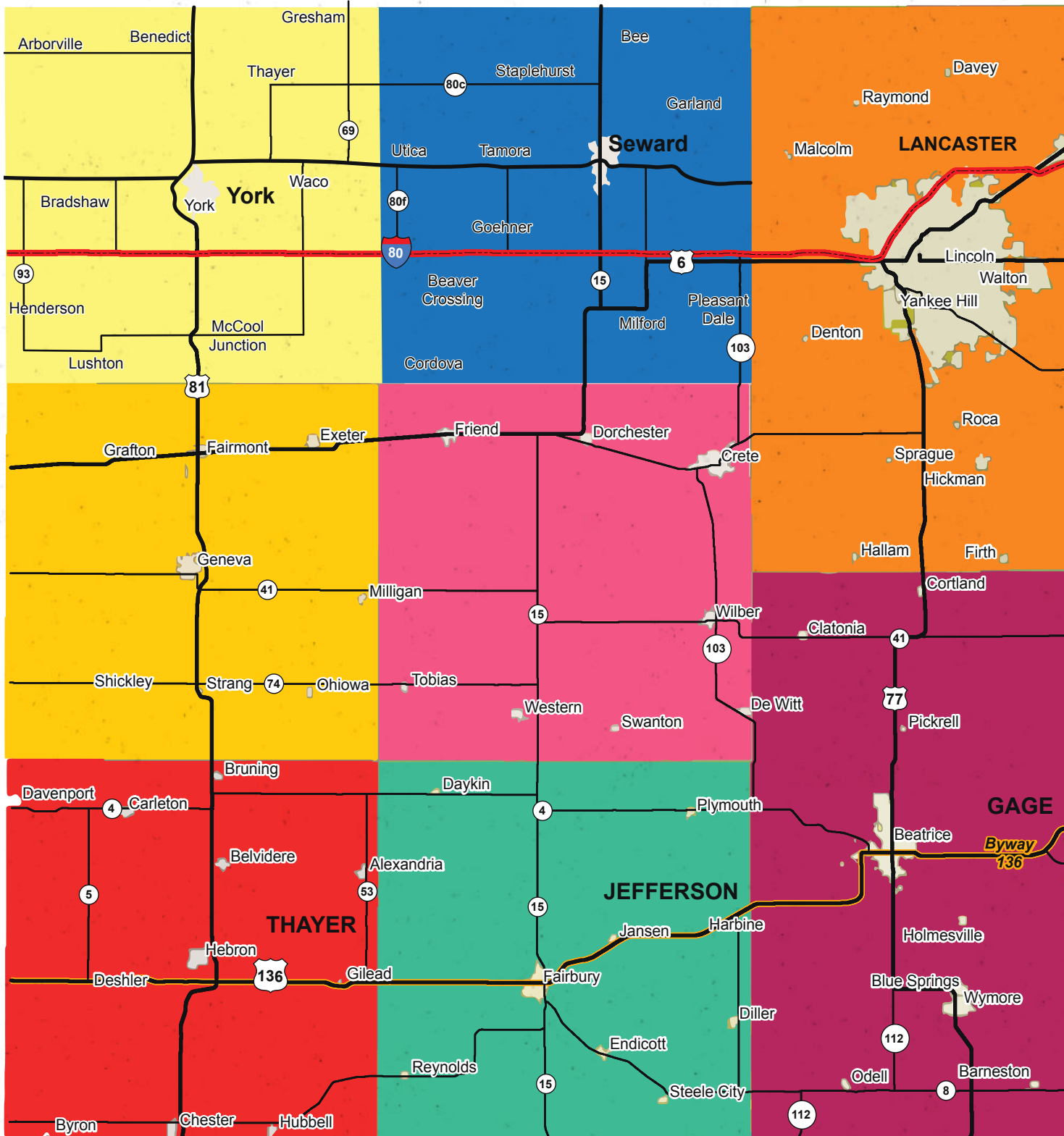
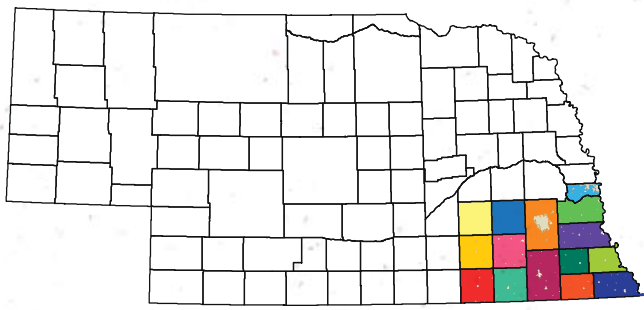


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CHEF DER PUNCAS.

Chef der Puncas
CHIEF OF THE PUNCAS

"Missouri Indian, Oto Indian, Chief of the Puncas" by Karl Bodmer.

History of Native Americans in Southeast Nebraska

Compiled by Doug Friedli, Lewis & Clark Center, Nebraska City

Reworked by Christina Faw Faw Goodson, Center for Great Plains Studies, Walking in the Footsteps of Our Ancestors Project Co-Director, and Otoe-Missouria Tribe Community Facilitator; Reviewed by the Jiwere-Nut'achi Wosgą Wokigo 2-16-2026
Initial article compiled by Doug Friedli, Lewis & Clark Center, Nebraska City, 2-28-2021



tribes like the Pawnee Nation and Otoe-Missouria Tribe, ensuring that development does not harm cultural or burial sites and giving tribal nations a formal voice in land management.

Monthly Visitations: Tribal members and descendants regularly return from Oklahoma and beyond to hold prayers, ceremonies, family gatherings, and tribal reunions, walking the lands their elders fought to reconnect with.

A Living Community: Across the region, Indigenous students, faculty, and staff bring their cultures and perspectives into classrooms and campus life at schools, colleges, and universities. Beyond academia, tribal members and descendants live and work throughout Southeast Nebraska's towns and cities, contributing to the local economy and community fabric as nurses, teachers, artists, small business owners, and professionals in every field.

The story of Indigenous peoples in Southeast Nebraska is not confined to archaeological layers or museum cases. It is a dynamic, ongoing narrative told through the sacred work of repatriation, updated signage, legal consultations, the monthly footsteps of descendants, and the everyday lives of Indigenous people who are once again making this land their home.

Presently, the Otoe-Missouria Tribe collaborates with the Center for Great Plains Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on the Walking in the Footsteps of Our Ancestors project, which aims to promote healing and reconciliation in southeast Nebraska by reconnecting the Otoe-Missouria to their homelands and engaging non-Native people with the history and ongoing presence of the Tribe and other Indigenous peoples in the region. For more information, please visit <https://plains.unl.edu/projects/walking-footsteps-our-ancestors/>

SAUNDERS COUNTY

The Otoe-Missouria tribe's original principal village and seat of government was located for many years about ten miles north of present-day Ashland on the south bank of the Platte. From a nearby hilltop, the thirty-mile-diameter

view of the surrounding landscape includes the valleys of the Platte, the Elkhorn, the Wahoo, and Salt Creek. No enemy could approach without being seen. The foundations of their lodges today cover half a section of land.

1830 – In a Treaty between the United States and the Otoe-Missouria tribe, much of the land they had been living on for hundreds of years in Southeast Nebraska was ceded.

Sarpy County. 1835 - The Otoe-Missouria tribe was moved 8 miles west of Bellevue to be near their mission and Peter Sarpy's trading post, and to escape the ravages of the Dakota tribes.

Cass County. 1840 - The Otoe-Missouria village was moved west of the present city of Plattsmouth. Here, for a few more years, at the gateway of the Platte Valley, the tribe fought against colonization as the number of white settlers increased.

In March 1854, the Otoe-Missouria chiefs were brought to Washington and there signed a treaty ceding all their Nebraska lands, except a reserve ten by twenty-five miles on the Big Blue River in Gage County.

1854, May 30 - The Kansas-Nebraska Act was designed primarily to pave the way for the transcontinental railroad. In 1851, Congress had appropriated \$150,000 to "ascertain the most practicable and economical route from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean." The appropriation was "proposed by a Northern senator and championed by a Southern sympathizer." The resulting report "tried to break the political logjam over the location of the transcontinental railroad."¹ Furthermore, in 1850, President Millard Fillmore signed the first railroad land-grant act. From then on, railroad transportation was an important factor in the colonization of the western United States.

The Platte Valley offered a usable and proven roadbed for those purposes, as it had carried many a traveler west. None were particularly interested in building a railroad through Indigenous territory. The territory would have to be organized if the railroad were to become a reality. As such, settlers and land speculators

flooded Nebraska in the 1850s. The Otoe-Missouria and other tribal nations were but an obstacle to American development. A year after the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act's passage, the government forced 600 Otoe-Missouria to move to a reservation along the Big Blue River in Gage County, Nebraska, which straddled the Kansas-Nebraska state line.²

The Kansas-Nebraska Act opened the way for further colonization of Otoe-Missouria lands. Now the U.S. government and settlement boosters touted the land that Stephen H. Long's 1820 expedition had once deemed the Great American Desert as cheap, fertile, well-timbered land with minerals to be found. And even though thousands of Indigenous people, settled in their own communities, still lived in Nebraska, many settlers and land speculators claimed there were virtually no Indians left in the new territory.

OTOE COUNTY AND NEBRASKA CITY

1804, July 18-19 – The 44 members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition camped for two nights near present-day Nebraska City as they were exploring their way up the Missouri River. They were disappointed to find that members of the Otoe-Missouria had left their earth lodges to head west across the prairie to hunt buffalo and elk. The explorers found one lonely dog that the tribes had left behind.

1804, August 3 - About 65 miles upstream from Nebraska City, Lewis & Clark finally encountered a few members of the Otoe-Missouria tribes at the place Lewis and Clark later called the "Council on the Bluff" (present day Fort Calhoun). They treated the strangers well, sharing their food with the explorers. These were the first Native people Lewis and Clark had met with since leaving St. Louis in May of 1804. Lewis & Clark gave them peace medals from President Thomas Jefferson. In the next two years, on their way to the Pacific Ocean and back, the explorers would encounter 57 different Native American tribes.

1854 - Otoe County, in the newly established Nebraska Territory, was named for the Otoe tribe, 13 years before Nebraska's official statehood.



1854, December 9 – Otoe-Missouria chiefs were assembled at Nebraska City to sign a new treaty slightly changing the location of their reservation. The tribe was moved from their old villages to a narrow tract of land along the Blue River near present-day Barneston in Gage County. This was on account of more timber being available to the Tribe.

An Otoe tribal Chief, Waruje Nayj (Standing Eating), a forefather of the present-day Harragarra Otoe family. Note his Jefferson peace medal and grizzly bear claw necklace.

1857, Sep 24 – Table Creek Treaty between four Pawnee tribes and Nebraska City community leaders, including J. Sterling Morton, father of Arbor Day, to “establish permanent friendly relations with the Pawnee Indians and ensure safety, prosperity, and happiness to the pioneer white settlers.”

This marker is 1 mile north of Nebraska City on Centennial Ave, near the site of the Table Creek Treaty signing.

In 1881, the last of the Otoe-Missouria people left their home in Southeast Nebraska, which they had defended from the Spaniards. They moved to a reservation on a stretch of prairie in Red Rock, Oklahoma, where their survivors still live today. Many of the tribes removed from Nebraska, such as the Ponca, Ioway, and Pawnee, settled in areas close to one another in Indian Territory.

1900 – Otoe-Missouria chief, Richard Shunatona (wearing a wig). Note his bear claw necklace and his Jefferson peace medal, originally received by his forefathers from Lewis & Clark.

2000 – Otoe-Missouria tribal member, Mr. Bat Shunatona, returned to Nebraska City in Otoe County, Nebraska. He had been invited to participate in the planning of the 200th anniversary of the Lewis & Clark Expedition through Otoe County.

2004, July 18 – Bat Shunatona attended and spoke at the dedication of the Lewis & Clark Visitor Center in Nebraska City, 200 years from the day the Lewis and Clark Expedition had camped nearby. Many of the exhibits in

the Visitor Center explain the influence and support the Native Americans gave to Lewis & Clark. In fact, they would not have been successful had it not been for the assistance of Native Americans.

2019 – A replica of a traditional Native American earth lodge was built on the Lewis & Clark Center property near Nebraska City. Also on display at the Center are shards of broken pottery, arrowheads, stones from tools, etc., which have been found in the area.

RICHARDSON COUNTY

1830 – Treaty with the Otoe-Missouria tribe ceding their land in extreme Southeast Nebraska.

1836 – Treaty with the Ioway tribe

1836 – Treaty with the Sac and Fox tribes

2020 – The Ioway Tribe of Nebraska-Kansas created a Tribal National Park on 444 acres they have purchased, overlooking the Missouri River.

NEMAHA COUNTY

1860 – During the 1830 Treaty of Prairie du Chien negotiations, the Otoe-Missouria, Ioway, Omaha, Yankton, and Santee requested that their descendants of European/Tribal ancestry be given a territory in southeastern Nebraska. The reservation would be named the Nemaha (Nyi Maḡa, Muddy River) Half-Breed Reservation. The term half-breed, at that time, was frequently used by U.S. government officials for tribes that had significant mixed-race descendants. As Lance Foster wrote:

“The half-breeds were the sons and daughters of marriages or liaisons between the early French adventurers, soldiers, trappers, traders, voyageurs, etc., and the Indian women of the tribes they associated with. As generations passed, there were also intermarriages with Americans, British, and even some blacks [sic]. The half-breeds were social orphans. At that time, white society, even the French, would not give full rights to the half-Indian. And even though the Indian tribes tended to be more accepting of their half-white children, even their [sic] they were not totally accepted, especially in tribes like the Ioway and Otoe, who traced clans and rights through the father,

who in this case would be non-Indian. This was a way for the Indian tribes, in agreement with the whites, to provide a place for those who did not exactly fit in either full-blood Indian or white society, but who had family relationships to both.”

In 1836, Chief Sų Manyi Kathi wrote a letter to Clark reiterating the need for this reservation matter to be settled because “many of those persons who are now growing up and anxious to settle upon those lands; but are at the same time unwilling to attempt any improvement without some guarantee that they will be permitted to hold them.” Berlin Basil Chapman writes, “It was evident that the reservation might become a white man’s region because allottees could secure patents and sell their lands. Their reservation adjoined lands subject to white settlement. Some of the claimants were suspected to be more of white blood than of Indian.” For thirty years, officials in the United States government surveyed and resurveyed both boundaries and “half-breeds,” debated on allotment methodology and strategy, and generally prolonged the purgatory for eligible Nemaha allottees. Finally, 389 allottees were issued fee simple patents on September 10, 1860. “Fee simple” means that the allottees were able to freely sell, gift, or lease the land without federal approval. These were the first allotments assigned to Native people in the United States; the U.S. government would attempt to allot nearly all communally-held Native land to individual tribal members in the 1880s and beyond.

GAGE COUNTY

The Kansa and Pawnee Tribes also lived there, as well as the Otoe-Missouria Tribe, as described above. A permanent display on the Big Blue Reservation is at the Gage County Historical Society and Museum. The Ponca followed along the Big Blue River when they were forced to march from the Missouri River in northeast Nebraska all the way to their new reservation in Oklahoma. The book “I Am Man” vividly describes this journey and the return trip. The Standing Bear Trail follows the exact route of this journey near the Big Blue River.

Visitors Bureau Directory

CASS COUNTY TOURISM
VISITCASSCOUNTY.COM | 402.296.5999

GAGE COUNTY TOURISM
VISITBEATRICE.COM | 402.205.3292

JEFFERSON COUNTY
FAIRBURY.COM | 402.729.3000

JOHNSON COUNTY
JUDYJEANCOE@GMAIL.COM | 402.335.0745

VISIT LINCOLN
LINCOLN.ORG | 402.434.5335

NEMAHA COUNTY VISITOR'S COMMITTEE
ENJOYNEMAHACOUNTY.ORG

OTOE COUNTY VISITOR'S COMMITTEE
VISITOTOECOUNTY.COM

PAWNEE COUNTY PROMOTIONAL NETWORK
PAWNEECOUNTYNEBRASKA.COM

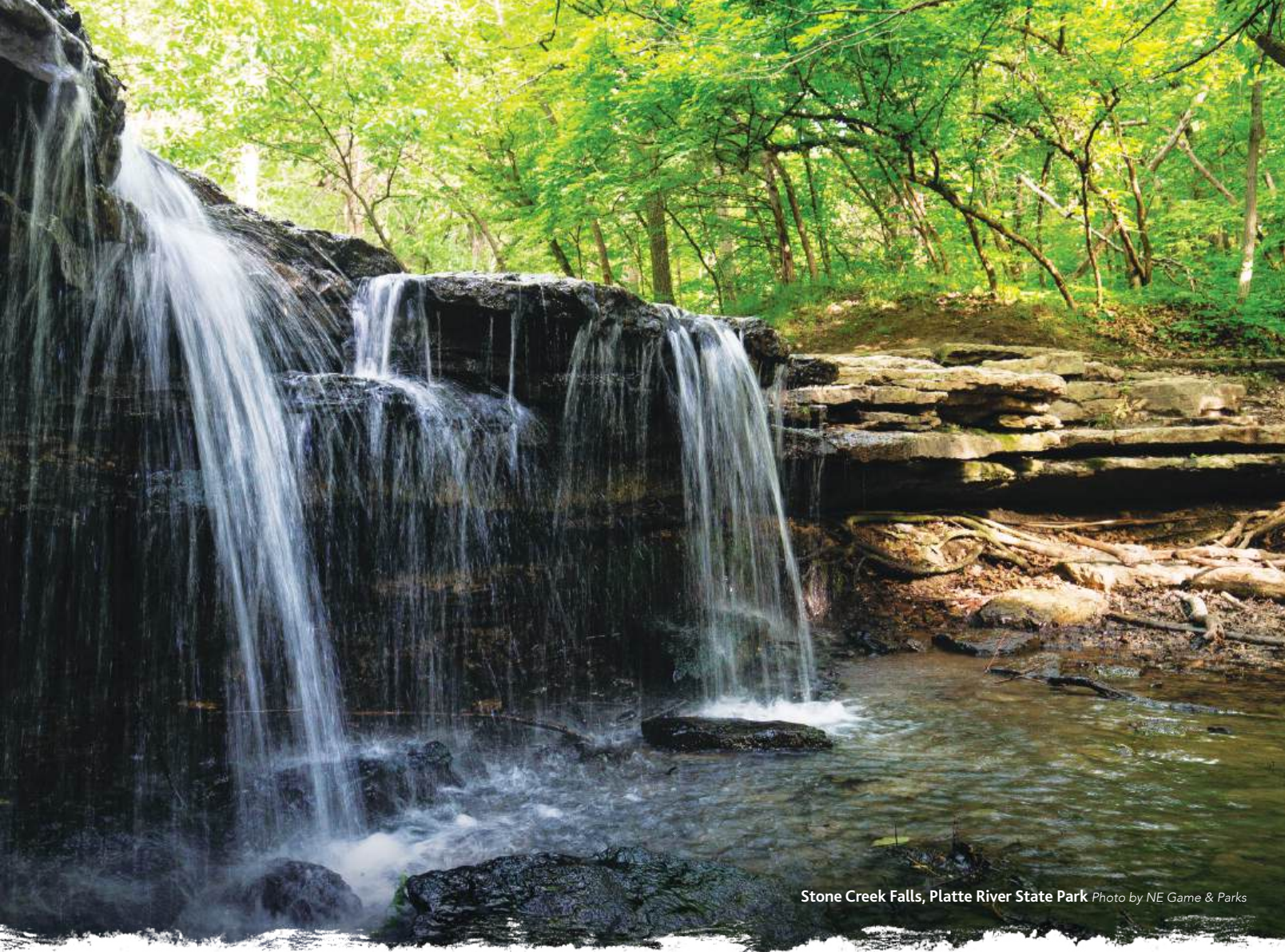
RICHARDSON COUNTY
CO.RICHARDSON.NE.US

SARPY COUNTY TOURISM
GOSARPY.COM | 402.332.5771

SEWARD COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU
SEWARDNEBRASKATOURISM.ORG

THAYER COUNTY VISITORS COMMITTEE
VISITTHAYERCOUNTY.COM | 402.768.7407

YORK COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU
YORKVISITORS.ORG | 888.SEE.YORK



Stone Creek Falls, Platte River State Park Photo by NE Game & Parks



CASS

COUNTY

Cass County, located halfway between Omaha and Lincoln, is a place where rivers meet, trees stand tall, and wildlife roam free. It's one of the largest counties in the state, comprised of 16 towns, including the cities of **Louisville** and **Weeping Water**. The county seat of **Plattsmouth** started as a trading post known as "Old Barracks," which was established in 1854 by Samuel Martin. Other communities in Cass include **Alvo, Ashland, Avoca, Cedar Creek, Eagle, Elmwood, Greenwood, Manley, Murdock, Murray, Nehawka, South Bend, and Union.**

With the Platte and Missouri rivers as its north and east borders, the 566-square-mile area has 26,000 people ready to welcome individuals and families looking for a one-of-a-kind getaway. See why Cass County is a top destination for nature lovers and history buffs, as well as wine enthusiasts and boutique shoppers. Discover your next adventure in Cass County.

EXPLORE!

There's a lot to do in Cass County, including taking in the amazing views, especially from the observation tower at **Eugene T. Mahoney State Park**. An ultra-modern, 690-acre public recreation area nestled along the picturesque Platte River, the park has spectacular lodging at the Peter Kiewit Lodge. There are 40 guest rooms, most with balconies that offer a stunning view of the Platte River valley. The park also features an array of cabins, as well as other camping opportunities. They even have an arts and crafts center, and they offer horseback riding, paddle boating, swimming—with water slides—and many other activities, even in the winter. Climb the Walter Scott Jr. Observation Tower for a true bird's-eye view of the surrounding land. Whether you enjoy roughing it in a tent or prefer the comforts of a lodge, this park, located midway between Nebraska's two largest cities, is a great place to "set up camp" and explore the area.

At the Wildlife Safari Park, you'll find scenic prairies and wetlands filled with bison, elk, and cranes.

Close by at the **Wildlife Safari Park**, you'll find scenic prairies and wetlands filled with bison, elk, and cranes. The Safari is part of the world-famous Henry Doorly Zoo, and also features wolf and bear exhibits, an animal corral, and a prairie dog town. While most visitors wouldn't know it, the park serves an important role with the zoo in helping with the conservation of cheetahs and tigers. Guided bus tours, backstage passes—which includes a cheetah conservation tour—and other premium experiences are available.

Not far from Louisville is the **Platte River State Park**. It features a 5.1-mile, heavily trafficked loop trail with a river view, and offers a number of activity options—dogs and horses are able to use this trail, too! The park's new splash pad also makes it a great place for visitors to cool off on hot summer days.



Platte River State Park Photo by NE Game & Parks



Wildlife Safari Photo by NE Game & Parks

The Louisville State Recreation Area is another great outdoor spot, with 192 acres of lakes and tall cottonwood trees.

The **Louisville State Recreation Area** is another great outdoor spot, with 192 acres of lakes and tall cottonwood trees. It offers (non-power) boating and canoe access to the Platte River, as well as five sandpit lakes with additional opportunities for boating, fishing, and swimming. Kids will love the floating playground and concessions. Those looking for more substantial food offerings can take the quick trip into town for some groceries from The Market. »



Lofte Community Theatre



Kimberly Creek Retreat

« Looking for a relaxing getaway? **Kimberly Creek Retreat** offers a range of glamping cabins, pods, and geodesic domes in a natural environment that is a healthy ecosystem for wildlife and glampers alike. Situated on 22 acres of secluded woods, the retreat features hills, cliffs, Pawnee Creek, fire pits, hiking trails, and picnic areas, with activities that will melt away your daily stresses.

As one of the earliest settled counties in the state of Nebraska, Cass has a rich past, which visitors can learn about at the **Cass County Historical Society Museum**. Permanent displays depict various stages of the county's history and are supplemented by temporary exhibits, changed periodically throughout the year. Learn about the golden age of steamboats on the Missouri River, the pioneer experience, and the arrival of the train. A second part of the permanent display covers the age of the automobile, the telephone and radio, entertainment, and more. Other exhibits include a general store, pioneer kitchen, and Victorian parlor. The Society also maintains the **Joseph and Mary Cook Log Cabin** (1868); a **Burlington Northern Caboose** (1913); and a life-size replica of **Lewis and Clark's Pirogue**.

The **Bess Streeter Aldrich House and Museum** in Elmwood offers a historic glimpse into the life of one of Nebraska's most beloved authors. Aldrich recreated the ups and downs of small-town living in her short stories and novels. Her wish was for her readers to understand the hardships and struggles of the times, but also see the virtues and hopes that became a part of these prairie times in the Midwest. Her book *Miss Bishop* was made into the movie *Cheers for Miss Bishop*, starring



Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum

The Bess Streeter Aldrich House and Museum in Elmwood offers a historic glimpse into the life of one of Nebraska's most beloved authors.

Martha Scott. Aldrich also served as a writer and consultant in Hollywood for Paramount Pictures. Tours of her 1922 home include original furnishings and antiques, flower gardens, a lily pond, and a video history of the author. Her novels are available for purchase there.

The **Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum** is a must-see for all ages. People come from around the world to view its huge collection of rare aircraft, missiles, and space vehicles. Sleek jet fighters, large bomber planes, and an Apollo Command Space Module are on display. Adventurous flight enthusiasts love the FS-VC "Dual System"

flight simulators, offering state-of-the-art motion control and high-performance visuals and sounds; the simulators immerse riders in the realism of flight.

Cass County offers something for everyone, whether you like to check out the attractions, sample the local eats, or shop for new treasures. There's even something for theater buffs through the **Lofte Community Theatre**. This theater near Manley is dedicated to providing opportunities for all ages to participate in the creative process and enjoy all art forms. Started by Diane (Bjornborg) Reece, an English, speech, and drama teacher at Weeping Water Public Schools during the '70s, this nonprofit has been going strong throughout the decades. Today, the Loft offers six core season productions, as well as many special performances featuring visiting artists.

The county also has some of the state's oldest events, such as the **Avoca Quack Off**, a duck race held each January to help raise money for the Avoca Volunteer Fire Department, or

Plattsmouth Harvest Festival, the oldest continuous harvest festival in Nebraska, held in September.

Don't forget to pick up some souvenirs from local places such as **Platte Valley Antique Mall** in Greenwood, or on Main Street in historic Downtown Plattsmouth, and Louisville's specialty shops.



Exploring Cass can really work up an appetite. Enjoy an authentic Mexican meal at **Casa Del Sol Azteca** in Louisville or some classic bar food from **Cedar Creek Inn Bar & Grill** in Cedar Creek. Looking for something a little different? Check out **Herban Coffee and Bloom**, an eclectic bakery and bistro in Plattsmouth offering house-made quiche, soups, sandwiches, and baked goods, as well as some prime boutique shopping.

Round the Bend Steakhouse in the hills of the Platte River valley is one of Nebraska's premier steakhouses, well-known for being home to an **Annual Testicle Festival** held on Father's Day weekend. Or check out **Bailey's Local** in Eagle, serving locally sourced product with Irish pride.



Wine lovers will enjoy visiting **Slattery Vintage Estates** in Nehawka for great Nebraska wines and craft beers. The **Wostrel Family's Union Orchard** is another must-stop for wine and food lovers, offering local wine, cider, and homemade baked goods. **The Farmhouse Lounge** "down a country road" in Weeping Water offers a long list of liquors, domestic and craft beers, and wines, as well as the opportunity to pick up some unique gifts and souvenirs. If you're in Plattsmouth and feel the urge to whet your whistle, stop in to **DC's Waterhole** and soak in the local flavor.



Like to relax on the golf course? Cass County has seven courses to choose from. **Iron Horse Golf Course** and **Quarry Oaks Golf Club** are award-winning courses carved around nature and an old rock quarry. Enjoy a nice meal after your round at **Lake Ridge Golf and Sports Bar**, casual dining that can also accommodate large groups.





GAGE COUNTY

Located just outside of Beatrice is **Homestead National Historical Park**. The largest town is the county seat of Beatrice, located along the Big Blue River and home to more than 20 tourism attractions, such as the oldest standing Carnegie Building in Nebraska, an award-winning community theater, and more. It was founded in 1857 by a group of pioneers from St. Louis, traveling by the steamer "Hannibal" up the Missouri River to the new territory of Nebraska. Beatrice's downtown district features fine examples of cornice detailed storefronts, and the dates of original construction are still visible on some buildings.

EXPLORE!

Gage County also offers the opportunity to walk the **Chief Standing Bear Trail**. This trail is named for the famed Ponca chief known for bringing a lawsuit against General Crook of the United States Army for forcibly removing Native American people from their homelands—and winning. The trail follows the former Union Pacific Railroad line, starting in Beatrice, along the east side of the Big Blue River and flows through the villages of **Holmesville, Blue Springs, Wymore, and Barneston** before connecting to the Kansas Blue River Rail Trail at the border. The total trail runs about 37 miles from Beatrice to Marysville, Kansas.

Explore the history of Gage County at the **Gage County Historical Society and Museum**, located inside the old Burlington Train Depot in Beatrice. The museum's displays show the history of the industries, businesses, medicine, communities, and people of Gage County. The depot was presented to the Gage County Historical Society by the Burlington Northern Railroad in 1973.

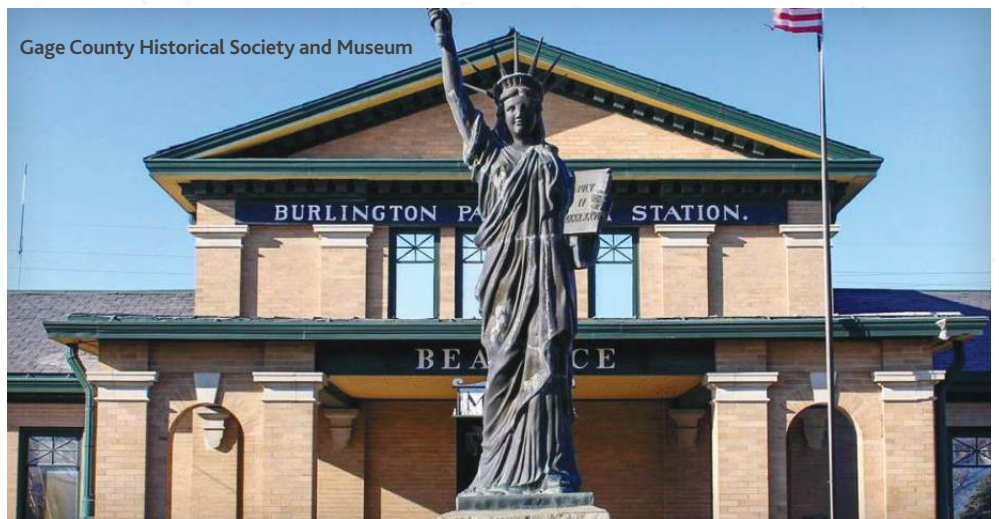
Also located in Beatrice is **Homestead National Historical Park**. This historic park commemorates the western expansion of the United States with the preservation of the first homestead. The park also features a pioneer schoolhouse, an original homesteader cabin, 100 acres of restored tallgrass prairie, and ever-changing special exhibits.

The **Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project** in Wymore focuses on the immigration of Welsh settlers to the Great Plains of the U.S. It includes a **Memorial Garden**, the historic **Pleasant View Schoolhouse**, and the **Railroad Museum** located in the **Burlington Mini Park** in downtown Wymore.

For those who would rather spend their time outdoors, there are several recreation areas in Gage County as well. **Rockford Lake State Recreation Area** offers fishing and boating (including power boating) opportunities, as well as a swimming beach.



Chief Standing Bear Trail



Gage County Historical Society and Museum



Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project

Big Indian Recreation Area, located near Odell, also has a lot to offer, with hiking, biking, hunting, 3-D archery, and even cross-country skiing available, depending on the

season. But for those who prefer the quieter, hidden gems, the **Clatonia Creek Reservoir** and **Wolf-Wildcat Wildlife Management Area** near Liberty are great options. >>



Paper Moon Pastries



The Mechanical Room

« Those visiting Beatrice have many lodging accommodations to choose from, including seven hotels and three bed-and-breakfasts. A little ways outside town is **Hackberry Bed & Breakfast**, which offers beautiful decor, a walkout patio, and gorgeous views of the sunset. Or check out **The Pond: A Country Retreat**, just outside of Beatrice, where visitors can relax in a cabin by the water, enjoy grilling and making s'mores on the lovely bricked patio, and kayaking in a private pond. Small groups can book their next trip to the quaint and cozy **w** in the heart of Odell! Plan your trip well, and you can catch a performance from the **Beatrice Community Players Theatre**, an award-winning community theater managed by a full-time staff. They produce classic and contemporary dramas, comedies, and musicals. Grab some tickets and some friends and enjoy this live theater!

Visitors who are seeking a more up-on-your-feet experience can make their way to **Rolla-Rena Skate Center**, an indoor quad and inline skating rink that has been offering patrons fun and memories for over 50 years! On the way to or from, they can enjoy some locally made snacks from **Traubel's Popcorn Stand**, **Wicked Good Foods**, or **Happy Kernel Gourmet Kettle Corn & Pork Rinds**.

Events to keep an eye on in Beatrice include **Homestead Days®**, which takes place in June. Of course, there's also the **Gage County Fair**, which happens in late July, where you'll find all kinds of animals, entertainment, and plenty of food. Those visiting during the holidays will be treated to the **Holiday Lighted Parade**, just in time to put you in a jolly mood.

HUNGRY?

In Beatrice you'll find wonderful sit-down restaurants, such as critically acclaimed **The Black Crow**. Spice things up by checking out **Playa Azul Authentic Mexican Restaurant's** extensive menu. Other Beatrice highlights include **La Herradura**, **Kala's Savory Bites and Sifted Sweets**, **Beto's**, **El Palacio Mexican Restaurant**, **Black Rock Grille**, and **402 Sports Bar and Grill**. Or you can pop into **Natural Vibes** for pastries, coffee, or lunch.

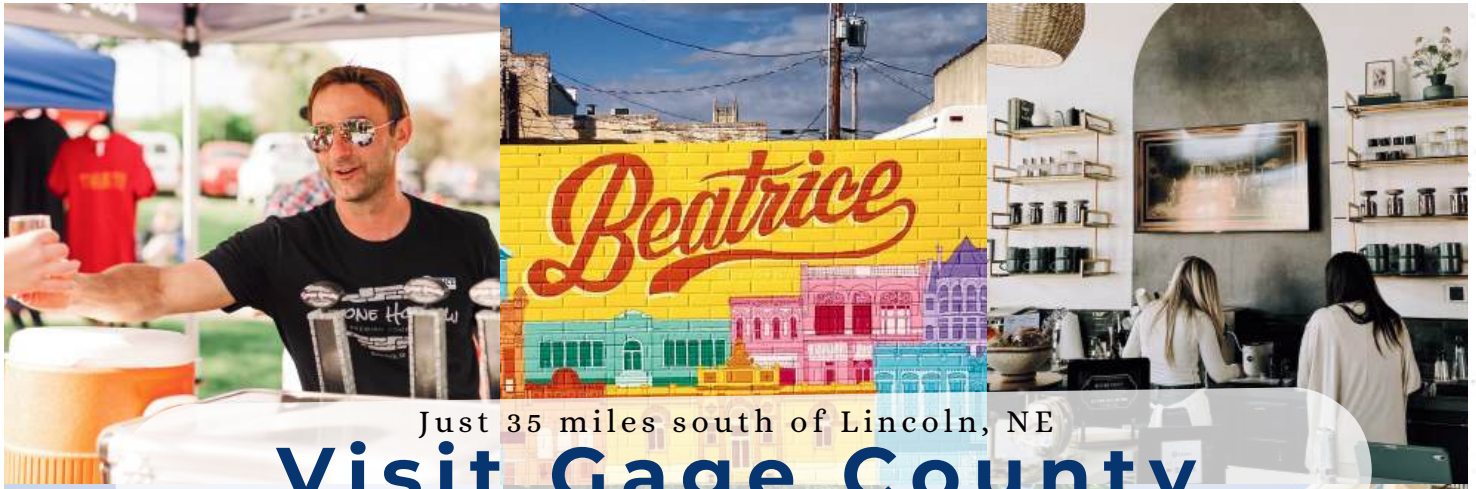
Gage County is also home to other spectacular dining such as **Filley Bar & Grill** (in Filley, of course), known for their unique specials. Visitors can get classic bar food from the likes of **Papa B's** in Blue Springs, **Grand Avenue Bar & Grill** in Barneston, **The Dog House** in Wymore, and **Across The Trax** in Adams. And in the village of Virginia sits a gem known as **Terry's Steakhouse**, where this family-owned outpost serves their steaks on a char system. A visit to **The Mechanical Room** – a craft

THIRSTY?

cocktail lounge, in the basement of **The Mercantile Building** – is a must. Take an adventurous step back in time as you enjoy an Old-Fashioned, a Bee's Knees, a Fitzgerald, or one of their inventive twists on the classics. Craft beer lovers will want to sample a flight at **Stone Hollow Brewing Company**. In Pickrell, visitors can enjoy that small-town bar atmosphere with an extra kick of character at **Pickrell Tavern**. And don't think we've forgotten about the wine lovers! They can treat themselves at **Tall Tree Tastings**, where a warm and friendly greeting is given to each guest as they sip away on both Nebraska wines and craft beers.

FORE!

Golf enthusiasts have several options in Gage County. **Hidden Acres Golf Course** can be found in Beatrice, as well as the **Beatrice Country Club**, where you can enjoy an ace of a meal with a view at **Black Rock Grille**,



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whether you've just played a round or not. In the town of Wymore is a beautiful nine-hole course located on the west end, with gently rolling hills, bluegrass fairways, and many natural hazards, including a pond that plays into two holes. Even those who aren't golfers can still have some hole-in-one fun at **Beatrice Mini Golf**.

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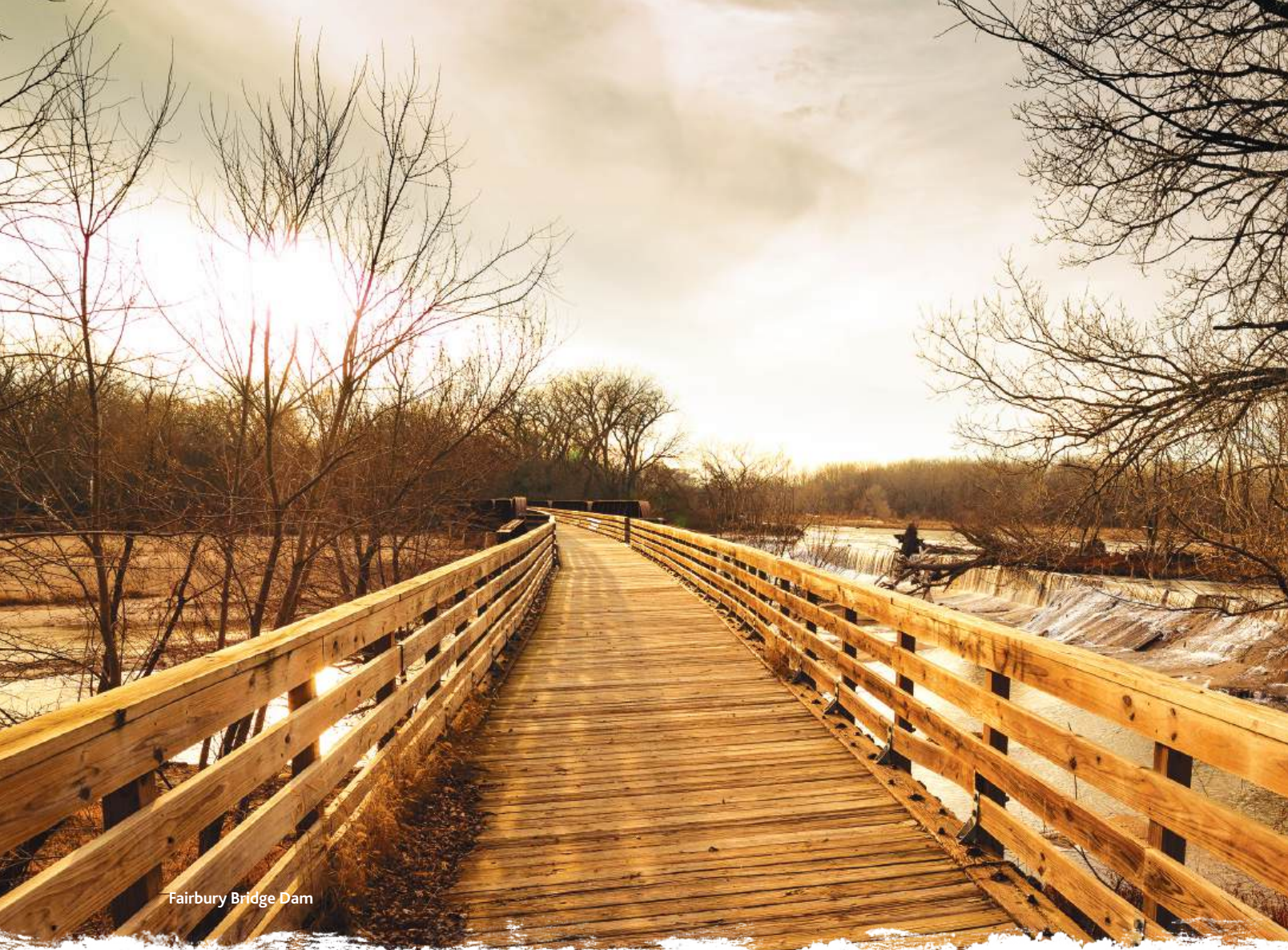
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Fairbury Bridge Dam

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Jefferson County's history is entangled with that of Jones, Thayer, and Gage, but present-day Jefferson County officially came into existence in the fall of 1871. That means for 150 years, they have been welcoming people to this beautiful, productive land.

Fairbury is the county seat of Jefferson. It was built by two men who saw the potential in this fertile area, with the hope that the railroad would come that way. That hope found fruition when the town was made a station on the St. Joseph & Denver City Railroad that was being built through the county at that time. There are 15 other populated areas in the county, including the communities of **Plymouth**, a small farming town, and **Jansen**, which was settled by Mennonites.

Fairbury City Museum—where local history rooms are themed by memorabilia covering the Civil War, fossils, and the town’s own Campbell Bros. Circus, the second biggest circus in the world during its time.



Jefferson County’s story can be traced through photographs. A look at vintage pioneer snapshots reveals the start and the visions shared by many early settlers who created the groundwork for the buildings, communities, and life for the generations who followed. Visitors can find photos illustrating this evolution in the **Fairbury City Museum**, where local history rooms are themed by memorabilia covering the Civil War, fossils, and the town’s own Campbell Bros. Circus, the second biggest circus in the world during its time.

While in town, history enthusiasts should also check out its commercial historic district, including the **Jefferson County Courthouse**. Built in 1891 and constructed of limestone, it features ceramic-fronted fireplaces in some offices and unique antique furniture in the courtroom. Renovated statues depicting Justice, Law, and Freedom stand on top of the courthouse on three sides, and it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The availability of suitable building material was of great importance to Nebraska’s pioneer settlers. In Jefferson County, native limestone was used for many buildings. Although the old limekilns have largely disappeared, **Smith Limekiln and Limestone House** in Fairbury remain as examples of this important pioneer industry.



Rock Creek Station Historical Park

The former stage and Pony Express station, established in 1857, became notorious when James Butler “Wild Bill” Hickok killed David McCanles there, beginning his bloody career as a gunfighter.

Historical points of interest in Jefferson also include the **Veterans Memorial Marker** in Plymouth, and the **Jansen Historical Marker** along Highway 136, commemorating the settlement of this area by a group of Mennonites led by Cornelius and Peter Jansen.

The **Rose Creek Wildlife Management Area** is located just outside Fairbury. A breathtaking place to go horseback riding, camping (primitive only), and hiking, it also includes a rather

heartbreaking landmark—**McDowell’s Rose Creek Mausoleum**. Nelson L. McDowell, a wealthy bachelor and Fairbury resident, spent a decade carving the two-room mausoleum with a hammer and chisel. Sadly, following his death in 1937 from a car and train accident, McDowell was buried in the Fairbury Cemetery rather than the cave he spent so much time creating. Visitors hiking to the mausoleum should use extreme caution, as the trail can be treacherous.

Another solemn tribute in Jefferson County is **George Winslow’s Grave**. Winslow died along the trail in 1849 after contracting cholera. His burial site was marked with an engraved sandstone slab. Years later, his sons relocated the gravesite and erected a beautiful monument incorporating the original headstone. It sits beside preserved trail swales. See similar visible deep ruts carved by wagons at **Rock Creek Station Historical Park**.

The former stage and Pony Express station, established in 1857, became notorious when James Butler “Wild Bill” Hickok killed David McCanles there, beginning his bloody career as a gunfighter. »



Rose Creek Wildlife Management Area



Frontier Fun Park

▼
The Rose Creek Wildlife Management Area is located just outside Fairbury. A breathtaking place to go horseback riding, camping (primitive only), and hiking, it also includes a rather heartbreaking landmark—McDowell's Rose Creek Mausoleum.

« Monument markers dot the countryside along the route of the **Oregon Trail**, including one in front of the county's **District 10 School Museum**. The museum is near **Alexandria State Recreation Area**, a peaceful, scenic, tree-covered region encompassing 55 acres of land with two lakes totaling 46 acres of water.

Additional recreation can be found at **Fairbury City Park**, which hosts the **Shriner's Annual 4th of July Flea Market**—the largest flea

market in Nebraska—each year. It also has **Frontier Fun Park**, built in 1995 and funded entirely by community volunteers, this fantasy playground recreates the excitement of a pioneer town in the Old West. It's the first of its kind in the state. Travelers can find accommodations nearby at **Crystal Springs Campground**, and shouldn't forget to check out the **Little Blue River Trail** while visiting.

The more adventurous can catch the races at the **Jefferson County Speedway** or

experience the thrill of the hunt during quail, pheasant, and deer season. Or plan ahead and join in some good old-fashioned fun at a local festival such as **Rock Creek Trail Days**, **Rock Island Rail Days**, **Diller Picnic**, or the **Steele City Flea Market**.

Those looking to truly get away can head outside Fairbury to **Cub Creek Recreation Area** near Plymouth or **Buckley Creek Recreation** near **Reynolds** for hiking, boating, fishing, and even snowmobiling when the weather's right.

HUNGRY?

Fairbury has several delectable options to choose from when it's time to eat. Several local favorites are **Rowdy's Steakhouse**, **Griffey's Steakhouse & Lounge**, **Harvest Chinese Restaurant**, and **Jalisco Mexican Restaurant**. The community of **Endicott** has **Criners Corner**, a family-owned joint serving mixed drinks, beer, and great grill food. **The Salty Dog Saloon** in **Steele City** is known for their prime rib specials and loyal customers.

THIRSTY?

Whiskey Barrell Bar & Grill in **Diller** also serves daily lunch specials and an evening menu, closed Sundays. In the community of **Harbine**, the **Side Trek Bar & Grill** is known for being open 365 days, great food, ample parking, and famous hot wings making them a destination spot for county residents. **Bart's Bar & Grill** offers fresh made-to-order dishes bursting with flavor.

FORE!

Fairbury Country Club's winding, hilly layout has an intimidating aspect to it, perfect for golfers who love a challenge. This nine-hole course is located on the slopes of the **Little Blue River Valley** just south of town. For something a little different, **McNish Park** is home to the **Fairbury Disc Golf Course**. If you can throw a disc, you can play disc golf!

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The Grain Bin

Deer CreekSodbusters

JOHNSON COUNTY

Johnson County is comprised of the towns of **Cook, Crab Orchard, Elk Creek, Sterling, St. Mary, Vesta, and Tecumseh**. Formerly a part of Forney County in the Nebraska Territory, the area was later divided into the counties of Johnson and Nemaha. It is home to **Seven Trails** that were part of the area's early history, and the county seat of Tecumseh was a crossroads for many of these trails formed by Native Americans and the early settlers. Tecumseh was also home to a Carnegie library and an opera house. Both buildings are still standing.

Tecumseh was founded in 1856 and was located at the intersection of the Nebraska City-Marysville and Brownville-Fort Kearny Trails. Today it is the intersection of U.S. Highway 136 and Nebraska Highway 50.

EXPLORE!

Tecumseh is named for the legendary Shawnee leader and warrior who attempted to unite all Native tribes in order to defend themselves against white settlers pioneering westward. His death in 1813, while fighting alongside the British in the War of 1812, was the turning point the United States needed to win that war.

In 1958, the town of Tecumseh became the first historic district in Nebraska to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The best-known landmark in the town is the **Johnson County Courthouse**, built in 1888 in the Romanesque Revival-style architecture.

Another historic landmark, the **Johnson County Jail**, was constructed in 1872 of native limestone. The huge blocks for the jail proper were secured from a quarry on **Yankee Creek**. The top floor of the building served as the sheriff's residence. Additionally, Tecumseh was

the site of the **First Rural Free Mail Delivery** in 1896 in the state of Nebraska (second in the nation). This was the beginning of an experiment by the postal department that resulted in free mail delivery.

For some more exciting history, get a little kickstart by visiting the **Montz Motorcycle Museum** in Tecumseh. The privately owned establishment has over 170 motorcycles and is the only known motorcycle museum in Nebraska.

Those looking to enjoy field sports should visit **Twin Oaks State Wildlife Management Area**. Twin Oaks is located two miles east and three miles south of Tecumseh, encompassing 1,120 acres available for hunting. There are also two one-acre ponds available for public fishing. **Hickory Ridge State Wildlife Management Area** in nearby Vesta and **Osage Wildlife Management Area**, also near Tecumseh, are also prime hunting spots for the adventurous.

Located between Tecumseh and the village of **Cook** is **Wirth Brothers Lake and Park**, opened in 1996 as part of the South Branch Watershed flood control project. The park offers tent camping, fishing, and boating. There's also a playground, a sand beach and swimming area, and sand volleyball court. New at Wirth Brothers Lake is an archery range located behind the dam.

The community of **Cook** was known as the "Artesian City" because of the numerous artesian wells in the area. It was founded in 1888 when the Missouri Pacific Railroad was extended to that point. Named for Andrew Cook, the original owner of the town site, it won national recognition as "Best Small Town in America" in 1992, bringing some well-deserved attention to the area.

Crab Orchard was platted in 1883 when the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad was extended to that point and was named from a grove of wild crabapple trees near the town site. It is said to have had the first school in Johnson County—a little log schoolhouse one mile west of town, built in 1867. It was also the childhood home of renowned painter, sculptor, and dancer Paul Swan, once dubbed "The Most Beautiful Man in the World."

Elk Creek had its start circa 1873, with the building of the Atchison and Nebraska Railroad through the territory. It took its name from the nearby creek, which was named for the elk once seen there. The town was established as a compromise between an early settlement called "Butler" and a millpond site on the James Robinson's farm. It is now home to the **Elk Creek Mine**, where various rare earth elements will be extracted.

Situated in the rich fertile valley of the Nema-ha River, which flows through the upper half of Johnson County, **Sterling** is one of the most prosperous agricultural districts in the country.



It was named when William Mann, John Bentz, and William Kneeland decided to flip a \$20 gold piece for the honor of naming their settlement. Mann, being the lucky one, named it Sterling, after his hometown of Sterling, Illinois. Sterling was platted in 1870 when the Atchison and Nebraska Railroad was extended to that point.

The **Deer Creek Sodbusters Antique Machinery Show** is held 4 ½ miles south of Sterling on the second weekend of August each year.

St. Mary (formerly Smartville, named after Robert Smart) used to be on the Atchison and Nebraska Railroad, near the center of the county. It currently has the beautiful **St. Mary's Catholic Church**, whose members serve delicious fish dinners during the Lenten season.

HUNGRY?

Tecumseh offers a variety of restaurants. Inside, **Sticks Stones and Bonez**, you will find the **Hidden Gem Bistro** that caters to families offering home-cooked food. Inside you will find a play area that entices both adults and kids alike. Enjoy delicious Mexican food at **El Mariachi Mexican Grill**. Not only is the food delicious, but they offer a large variety of Mexican food. The atmosphere at **T-Town Restaurant and Spirits** is warm and welcoming and you can enjoy foods from burgers to steaks. While eating enjoy a drink. **The Grain Bin** is a recently opened café in Tecumseh located on the historic town square. They serve delicious sandwiches, soups and desserts. Stop by and enjoy an old-fashioned soda or homemade milkshake from our 1940's era

soda fountain. Our unique atmosphere offers a mix of farmstead nostalgia, board games, and more than 900 photos of veterans from Johnson County.

THIRSTY?

Find a little something different at **Sheah Blue Vineyard** in Crab Orchard. The private vineyard does not sell their wine directly to consumers, but they do share it with their Airbnb and Vrbo guests, so plan your visit ahead of time. Fortunately for those who tend to procrastinate, **Sidelines Steak & Sports Bar** in Cook does not require any reservations—just show up and enjoy the great food, service, and atmosphere.

FORE!

The nine-hole course at **Tecumseh Country Club** features all the hallmarks of Nebraska golf. The raised greens are domed, midsized, and in good condition, and the rough consists of a variety of grasses, mowed down to a playable height. A mix of trees are in play on several holes. Those not interested in being on the green can play a frame or few at the **Harvest Bowl** bowling alley.

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LODGING!

Super 7 Inn, Tecumseh
 Johnson Co Fairground Campsite, Tecumseh
 Sterling City Park Campground, Sterling



Morrill Hall

LANCASTER COUNTY

Lancaster County is home to Nebraska's capital city of **Lincoln** and to the state's most famous sports team, the Nebraska Cornhuskers. Other communities in the county, such as **Denton, Firth, Hickman, Malcolm, Raymond, Sprague,** and **Waverly**, offer opportunities for those interested in history and adventure. Located along Interstate 80, it's a convenient area to explore for travelers who like to enjoy the drive.

Its rich history began in 1859, when Nebraska was just a territory, with pioneers attracted to the area's 20-plus **Salt Valley Lakes**, many of which now have state recreational areas associated with them. The lakes played a large role in the city of Lincoln (then known simply as Lancaster) becoming Nebraska's capital in 1867, after the territory became a state.

Besides a number of museums and historical landmarks, the county also offers a variety of golf courses, vineyards, and breweries.


Sunken Gardens is the only Nebraska garden to be listed in the “300 Best Gardens to Visit in the United States and Canada” by the National Geographic Guide to Public Gardens.



Sunken Gardens

EXPLORE!

The city of Lincoln is distinguished by the towering peak of the **Nebraska State Capitol** building, the product of a nationwide design competition. It was the first statehouse design to radically depart from the prototypical form of the national Capitol building in Washington, D.C., and to incorporate the now-signature office tower.

Nebraska’s history is closely associated with the city of Lincoln. Many of the attractions Lancaster County offers tell the story of these pioneers and immigrants, including the **Nebraska History Museum** and **Fairview**, the **Bryan Museum**, named for one of Nebraska’s most famous politicians, William Jennings Bryan.

Other distinguished landmarks located in the city include **Centennial Mall**, **Veteran’s Memorial Garden**, and the **Lincoln Monument**, which predates the capitol building. The monument was a collaboration between sculptor Daniel Chester French and architect Henry Bacon. The two later worked together to create another ode to the 16th president—the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Glimpse a wider view of history by visiting “Archie,” the life-sized bronze Columbian mammoth outside **Morrill Hall**, the region’s premier museum of natural history. It’s located on the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln** campus, where visitors can also see **Memorial Stadium**, which could itself be described as mammoth with a seating capacity of 90,000.



Children’s Museum

Moving away from the university campus, visitors will find the **Sunken Gardens**, the only Nebraska garden to be listed in the “300 Best Gardens to Visit in the United States and Canada” by the *National Geographic* Guide to Public Gardens. Developed in 1930 and set on 1.5 acres, Sunken Gardens has several art installations, water features and a varied combinations of trees, shrubs, and perennials.

Those looking to live the wild life can visit the **Lincoln Children’s Zoo**, which is home to over 40 endangered animals, including the Sumatran tiger, Humboldt penguin, snow leopard and Matschie’s tree kangaroo. Visitors can feed the giraffes or simply marvel at the majesty of a Galapagos tortoise.

Pioneers Park Nature Center, a 668-acre nature preserve, keeps the wildlife tour going

with eight miles of hiking trails winding through various habitats. With non-releasable raptor exhibits and a small herd of bison, it offers a true taste of Nebraska’s native prairie species.

Looking for something a little racier? **The Museum of American Speed** in Lincoln, Nebraska—a nonprofit corporation founded in 1992 by “Speedy” Bill and Joyce Smith—has a vast collection of vehicles and items significant in racing and automotive history. The Smiths’ appreciation for all things fast was passed on to their children, who run the museum today.

Branching out from Lincoln, you will find the village of Denton, where nature lovers can explore **Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center**. Walk the trails and experience the sights and



Pioneers Park



Goldenrod Pastries

sounds of an 850-acre native tallgrass prairie reserve. Besides the multitude of wildlife, including 222 species of birds, history also lies in the refuge. Wagon ruts that mark the crossing of wagons along the Nebraska City-Fort Kearny Cutoff remain undisturbed in its earth, memorializing the passage of pioneers.

Further out is the town of Hickman, located on Salt Creek, a tributary of the Platte River. Here visitors will find the **Norris Forest School Arboretum**, 160 acres containing approximately 400 trees and shrubs representing over 90 species. There is also a display of native grasses and plants, annual and perennial flowers, and a gazebo-like learning center.

Another village on the periphery of Lincoln is Malcolm, located just a few miles from

Pawnee Lake State Recreation Area. This recreation area has two swimming beaches, as well as three ramps and two docks for boaters. It's a popular fishing spot, with white bass, walleye, largemouth bass, bluegill, two kinds of catfish, and others. There is also a fish cleaning station and a shotgun-only shooting range.

Bluestem State Recreation Area is located just a few miles from Sprague in Lancaster County. This 742-acre area was created in 1963, when the Bluestem Conservation Dam was built. The resulting lake spans 325 acres and has great spots for picnicking and camping, as well as hunting, fishing, and swimming.

For those who are fortunate enough to be in the area around the Fourth of July, the **Uncle Sam Jam** is an annual celebration

that includes music from mostly local acts, family entertainment and activities such as horseshoes, canoeing, bingo, and of course, fireworks.

While the Cornhuskers may be the most widely recognized sports franchise in the state, they certainly aren't the only games in town. During baseball season, visitors can catch a game from the **Lincoln Saltdogs**. The team is a member of the South Division of the American Association of Independent Professional Baseball. They play their home games at **Haymarket Park** in Lincoln.



Food connoisseurs may not realize it, but Nebraska has its fair share of incredible eateries. One of Lancaster County's best-known restaurants is **Misty's Steakhouse**, with two locations in Lincoln. **Lazlo's Brewery & Grill** is another popular spot known for serving classic comfort cuisine and brewing their own beers. It's not all about steak and beer, though. **Yia Yia's**, popular with the college crowd, is known for having some of the best pizza in town, and **Blue Orchid Thai Restaurant** is another local favorite, known for its classic Thai dishes.

Be sure to set aside a whole day to explore the **Roca Berry Farm**, the oldest and largest pumpkin patch in Lancaster County. Visitors during the fall will want to experience Roca Scary Farm at night!



Being a college town, Lincoln has its fair share of bars, taverns, lounges, etc. Perhaps one of the best-known is **Duffy's Tavern**, popular for their fishbowl drinks menu and for putting on rocking live music shows. While Duffy's has been a regular spot for decades, the **Zoo Bar** has been around even longer, opening in downtown Lincoln in 1973. This legendary blues bar has played host to the likes of Bo Diddley and Mighty Joe Young, and reportedly was the first white club that Magic Slim played. If a dive bar is more your style, check out **Bob's Tavern** located in Lincoln's Havelock district where you can catch live music on Friday's and Saturday's.

For those who want to scope out the small-town scene, the **Davey Tavern**, in Davey, of course, is a historic local bar “with a BIG heart.” Be sure to try their famous pizza while you soak in the atmosphere.

FORE!

Besides hunting, camping, and fishing, the land around Lancaster County is also ideal for golfing. There are multiple courses located around Lincoln, including public courses such as **Jim Ager Memorial Golf Course**. This award-winning nine-hole course was built in the 1960s, and has numerous programs for all ages.

Mahoney Golf Course, also located in Lincoln, is a beautiful 18-hole course built in 1976. Known for hosting events such as the **Nebraska Open** and state golf championships and being recognized by the *Omaha World-Herald* as “Hall of Fame Hole” for hole No. 8, Mahoney is proud to offer a course that is enjoyable to all.

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LODGING!



Nebraska State Capitol

Nebraska State Capitol was the first statehouse design to radically depart from the prototypical form of the national Capitol building in Washington, D.C., and to incorporate the now-signature office tower.



Honeybee Festival

NEMAHA COUNTY

With the mighty **Missouri River** pressing against the county's eastern edge and fertile farmland flourishing out west, the geography of Nemaha County has certainly shaped its history. From the pioneering and territorial days, through the Civil War, statehood, and into the age of iron horses, Nemaha County was the gateway to Nebraska. While it is known for its rich land, the county is also rich in history and the arts.

EXPLORE!

Placed throughout the county are 28 exquisite, uniquely painted honeybee sculptures known as the **Honeybees in the Heartland**. The sculptures are the first and most widespread public art display to land in Nemaha County and are a sweet nod to the agricultural community, as well as a reminder that unity and working together are imperative for the good of any community.

Another local gem is **Duck Creek Recreation Area**. This 62-acre lake is located on over 150 acres of land five miles northwest of Peru, just two miles east of U.S. Highway 75. The area is excellent for outdoor recreation such as

camping, no-wake boating, fishing, swimming, canoeing and kayaking.

History is evident throughout Nemaha County, but especially in **Brownville**. Founded in 1854, the town showcases homes and museums that take you back in time, while shops, galleries, unique attractions, and special events offer something for everyone.

Anyone drawn to the scenic "**Mighty Mo**" will want to visit the **River Inn Resort** for a unique overnight stay. Whether solo or with friends, slow down and experience the beauty of art and nature along the **Whiskey Run Creek Nature Trail**. Music lovers will enjoy the variety of performances at the **Brownville Concert Hall**, and theater enthusiasts can

visit the oldest repertory theater in Nebraska — the **Brownville Village Theatre**. Each year, thousands flock to town for spring and fall flea markets, along with favorites like the **Fourth of July Celebration** and **Old Time Autumn**. Stop by the Welcome Center on Hwy 136 near the Missouri River bridge for more information.

Nearby, the village of Nemaha has a rich history of its own. Founded in 1854, the town was named "Nemaha City" because the founders believed it would one day be a great city. During the Civil War years, Nemaha was a station of the Underground Railroad which assisted slaves who were escaping to the North.»

Nebraska's *Beginnings*

NEMAHA COUNTY



Auburn • Brownville • Brock • Johnson • Julian • Nemaha • Peru

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CONTINUED FROM PG. 29 ▶

While you're in the area, **Indian Cave State Park** is a must-see. Named for the large sandstone cave within the park, the park encompasses 3,052 rugged acres bordering the **Missouri River** south of Nemaha. It is well known for beautiful camping and picnicking spots, as well as its 22 miles of scenic hiking and biking trails and 16 miles of equestrian trails. The park is host to a variety of events year-round, such as an **Outdoor Adventure**, **Haunted Hollow**, Christmas in July, and various naturalist programs.

Centered in the heart of Nemaha County, Auburn is buzzing with activity. The **Summer Sounds Concert Series** is a popular annual event, attracting artists of all genres. This family-friendly experience comes complete with food trucks, yard games, and more — and yes, it's free! Auburn also hosts the growing **Auburn Street Market**. Stop by any Thursday, May through September to enjoy live music, grab a bite, and browse the talents of local makers.

New to the scene, Auburn's vibrant honeybee mural by artist Matt Willey and the annual **Honeybee Festival** celebrate the community's creative spirit and shared commitment to the good of the hive.

On the corner of 2nd and West streets in Julian stands the iconic **Julian Gas Station**. Built in 1928, it is one of the few original buildings that still stands. The current residents have restored and preserved the filling station and garage so visitors can walk inside and transport themselves to years past.

Peru serves as the trailhead of the scenic **Steamboat Trace Trail**, and is home to **Peru State College**, the oldest college in Nebraska. Peru's biggest celebration, **Old Man River Days** is held every summer and celebrates the town's ability to work together against the forces of the Missouri River, which has flooded multiple times throughout history.

Coryell Park, situated near the communities of Johnson and Brock, is one of the least-known but most beautiful parks in the state. It was dedicated to the public in April 1934 by the Coryell family, in loving memory of their pioneer parents who settled in Nebraska in 1867. The grounds consist of a chapel, treasure house, auditorium, and a mausoleum. The park is well-known in the area for its awe-inspiring **annual holiday light display**.



Auburn Bee Mural

HUNGRY?

There's no shortage of mouthwatering meals and refreshing drinks in Nemaha County. From authentic Mexican cuisine at **El Portal** to classic American comfort food at the **Lyceum Restaurant**, there's something to satisfy every craving. Be sure to check out Auburn's new **Home Country Cafe**, serving down-home cooking with a touch of Caribbean flair.

Satisfy your sweet tooth with homemade treats from **Dutch Pantry**, cold creamy ice cream at **Dairy Sweet**, or a delicious cup of joe from **The Cenacle**.

THIRSTY?

TJ's Tavern, home of FarmAid legend Corky Jones, celebrates the spirit of the farmer and Red Dirt Music. It offers outdoor seating in their beer garden and occasional live music. Wine lovers won't want to miss **Whiskey Run Creek Winery & Distillery**. With a 100-year-old barn that spans the creek and a turn-of-the-century all-brick cave, the winery offers a unique escape from the norm.

FORE!

Golf-lovers will want to head to **Auburn**, where you'll find the **Auburn Country Club**, a scenic nine-hole course that also happens to have a great clubhouse where you can practice your swing inside. Choose a different type of nine holes at one of the county's three disc golf courses—**Ariens Disc Golf Course** in Auburn, **Neal Park** in Peru or the course at **Indian Cave State Park**. Each park also features playground equipment, a shelter, picnic tables, and charcoal grill.

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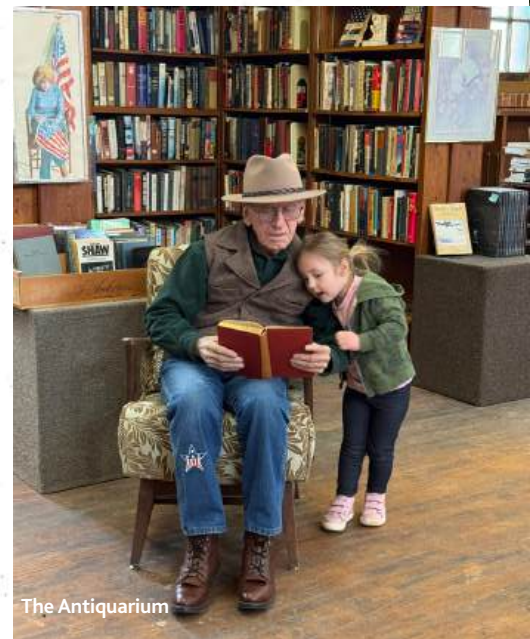
Brownville Village Theater



Julian Gas Station



Duck Creek Recreation Area



The Antiquarium



Coryell Park





Arbor Lodge

OTOE COUNTY

Otoe County was established in the then-newly created Nebraska Territory in 1854. It was named for its former residents, the members of the Oto tribe, who lived along the Missouri River. The combined tribe ceded most of their lands in Nebraska south of the Platte River to the U.S. government by treaty in 1854, retaining the Oto Reservation along the Big Blue River.

The boundaries of the county were redefined in 1856. Its county seat is the river port of Nebraska City. The terrain of Otoe County consists of rolling hills, dropping down to the Missouri River Basin. Its rich soil is perfectly suited for agriculture, and the result is beautiful, bountiful land.



Nebraska City's origin started with the establishment of Fort Kearny in 1846. The fort was founded within present-day Nebraska City, near the banks of the Missouri River, between North Table Creek and South Table Creek. Early settlers of Nebraska City were well aware of the

Originally built in 1879, Morton's Nebraska City home is a 52-room mansion constructed to resemble the White House in Washington, D.C.

absence of significant wooded areas resulting in a lack of building materials. To combat the situation, the state began offering incentives for local landowners to plant trees.

Nebraska City pioneer and resident J. Sterling Morton became a political proponent of tree-planting and was the founder of Arbor Day, which is now observed nationally. In addition to the founding of **Arbor Day** and establishing his own orchard and »

« arboretum, Morton was a local, state, and federal politician, ending his political career in 1897 as the Secretary of Agriculture under President Grover Cleveland.

Morton's Nebraska City home is a 52-room mansion constructed to resemble the White House in Washington, D.C. Originally built in 1879, the structure was later converted into **Arbor Lodge**, a state historical park and arboretum.

Additionally, Nebraska City also has **Arbor Day Farms Tree Adventure**, where visitors can pick apples in the orchard and explore **Treetop Village**, a fun-for-all-ages nature experience up in the trees. It features the **WonderNet**, a large, raised area for jumping, playing, and bringing out the kid in everyone. Tours of the **Lied Greenhouse** reveals where millions of tree seedlings get their start. **Kimmel Orchard & Vineyard** established in 1925, will be celebrating their 100 Anniversary with all kinds of fun activities throughout the season! Richard and Laurine Kimmel's belief in caring for and sharing the land's richness with family, friends and neighbors lives on. A mix of tradition and evolution, Kimmel Orchard's dedication to agricultural education, research and historic preservation continues to produce unique, fun and memorable experiences for the whole family. The Pollinator Playground is open year round.

Nebraska City is known for its **Annual Arbor Day Celebration**, and in April 2021, they celebrated 150 years of hosting the event. No one celebrates Arbor Day quite like Nebraska City, so be sure to put it on your calendar. Fall is also a great time to visit Nebraska City, as that's when their annual **Applejack Festival** is held each year. This festival has been rated one of the top 10 Fall Festivals in the United States by *USA Today*. **Treestock Independence Day Celebration** is held on the first Saturday and Sunday closest to July 4th each year. On Sat. there is a band festival from 1 – 9 pm, featuring 4 bands. Corn hole tournaments, family fun and Fireworks!! It's a celebration you won't want to miss!

The **Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Visitors Center** is also located in Nebraska City. Walk in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark and Seaman the dog, famous for being a member of this first American overland expedition. The center consists of 79 acres and features an authentic full-sized, 55-foot



replica of the keelboat used by the explorers over 220 years ago. Follow 2.5 miles of trails and explore a full-sized replica of **Lewis & Clark's first fort**. Explore their interactive exhibits, where you can burrow with the prairie dogs, run with American bison, and be surprised by a ferocious grizzly bear. Pull the oars on a pirogue, and avoid the snags as you paddle up the Missouri River. Follow the trails to the **Missouri River Overlook** and the **Birding Amphitheater** and step inside the **Plains Indian Earth Lodge**.

Nebraska City is loaded with history and heritage. Other museums and points of interest to visit while in town include: **Civil War Veterans Museum; Kregel Windmill Factory Museum** is the only original intact Windmill Factory Museum in the USA. Come and learn about the history of wind power and water pumping; **Nebraska City Museum of Firefighting; Nelson House; Old Freighters Museum; and Wildwood Historic Center**.

Within Otoe County is also a town called **Otoe**. Originally named Berlin—likely after pioneer and Civil War veteran E. D. Berlin—the decision was made to change the name

after numerous fires destroyed a full block along the main street. It was thought the fires may have been set, due to anti-German sentiment at the time. The change became official in 1918, less than a month before the start of World War I. The town survived, and now visitors can attend the annual **Otoe BBQ** event, which happens in September.

Many Otoe County villages celebrate events unique to them, such as **Old Settlers Picnic** in **Palmyra**, a family-friendly event with games for kids, a parade, pedal-tractor pull, street dance, wine tasting, and other activities. Another fun event is the **Groundhog Day** celebration in **Unadilla**, the "Groundhog Capital of Nebraska," where they have their very own groundhog mascot—Unadilla Billie. It features a parade and the crowning of a king and queen.

Those looking for an old-fashioned county fair can head to **Syracuse**, the second largest city in Otoe County. The **Otoe County Fair** typically takes place at the end of July. And in October, they celebrate their German Heritage with the **Syracuse Germanfest**. The festival features "Viener Dog Races," a

tapping of the FestKeg, crowning of royalty, German dancers, and more.

The Christmas season in Syracuse features their long-standing **Tannenbaum Festival**. While in Syracuse, visit the **Otoe County Museum of Memories**, which consists of three buildings and hosts a variety of historical attractions. The main building is the former First Lutheran Church. Its five display rooms include: an old-time butcher shop; a carriage room with sleigh; a country store made from cottonwood logs; a loom room, which also includes a section of the 1912 Syracuse switchboard from the telephone office; and a doctor's office.

HUNGRY?

Valentino's Grand Italian Buffet in Nebraska City. It's the last Val's to still have a buffet. So many great options to try from broasted chicken to lasagna and, of course, their famous pizzas.

If you get hungry for Mexican food while in Nebraska City, **El Portal** offers delicious margaritas and authentic food made with the freshest ingredients. They're also known for their prompt service in a family-oriented atmosphere. **Grams Place** is a casual, home-style spot serving breakfast daily, with a full menu available starting late morning. **The Keeping Room Café** in historic Nebraska City offers a unique experience, where you can sip wine, shop, and dine on out-of-this-world homemade pies and desserts.

Speaking of desserts, **Dairy Chef** in Syracuse has the best soft serve ice cream in the area in several flavors, including lemon and strawberry. Other dining options in Syracuse include **B&J's Family Restaurant & Lounge** and **Highway 50 Drive-Inn**, where you can get the best summer treats. Don't discount the smaller communities, either. **Lorton Lounge**, in the town of Lorton, brings in diners from surrounding areas with Fish Fridays, Prime Rib Saturdays, and Wings Sundays. **Mal's Bar and Grill** in Unadilla, serving up burgers to prime rib and BBQ burnt ends everyday!

THIRSTY?

Otoe County could be considered Nebraska wine country, with **Safehouse Winery** and **Rich Harvest Vineyard & Winery** near



Kimmel Orchard & Vineyard



Photo Courtesy Arbor Day Farm

Syracuse and **Kimmel Orchard & Vineyard** by Nebraska City. In Syracuse you can find the **Roc Hopper Brewing Company & Tap Room**, featuring traditional brewing with innovative ingredients and flavors, a full food menu and an art gallery. **Glacial Till Vineyard & Winery** in Palmyra offers another option, as they're best-known for crisp, gluten-free ciders. Don't forget to visit **Arbor Day Farm Winery** in Nebraska City and the **Library Lounge** at Lied Lodge for delicious wines and drinks in a casual atmosphere. Those who don't imbibe should visit **Kleinstadt Coffee**, also in Syracuse, to try the best coffee around and fresh homemade muffins, pastries, and bread. **City Tap House** in Nebraska City is a digital Tap House where patrons can serve themselves with craft beers and wines. 100 year old bar that was above the Shanghai Tunnels in Portland Oregon will serve spirits. Menu options include; pizza, paninis, quesadillas, salads and charcuterie boards.

FORE!

Of course Nebraska City also has plenty to do outdoors, specifically when it comes to golf. The **Golf Club at Table Creek** is an 18-hole course that will challenge experienced golfers

with strategically placed bunkers and water hazards while welcoming casual players who will love to relax among the rolling countryside and natural, wooded areas. Enjoy lunch or dinner at **Pin High** after your game. **Wildwood Golf Course**, a well-manicured nine-hole municipal golf course, is the city's oldest green, located less than one mile from Lied Lodge. Also in Nebraska City is **ArborLinks**, a private club that is part of the Dormie Network. The **Syracuse Country Club** also offers a beautiful nine-hole course, defined by a creek that winds

LODGING!



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Hidden Falls Cabins and RV Park
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Pawnee County Veterans Memorial

PAWNEE COUNTY

In April 1854, within months after Nebraska Territory was formed, the first settlers arrived. Four men established claims on the South Fork of the Nemaha, built cabins, then brought their families. Pawnee County did not exist when those early settlers came. Two years later it was split off from the west side of Richardson County. Elections for county seat in 1856 pitted the year-old town of Table Rock against an unimproved site to its southwest. The latter won, and in the Spring of 1857 the first buildings of the town of Pawnee City were raised. (Despite legends that it was the site of a Pawnee village at the time, the Pawnee did not live in this area, although they traveled through on seasonal hunting trips in their vast lands.) The towns of Burchard, DuBois, Lewiston, and Steinauer followed.

Several railroad lines served the County in early times. The Atchison & Nebraska RR came in 1871 and ten years later came the Republican Valley and the Rock Island Railroads. Only the old A&N line and a spur of the old Republican Valley RR remain. Both are now Burlington lines.

Also remaining in Pawnee County are five main highways, countless country roads, and six wildlife management areas. For birdwatchers, prairie grouse is found, and it is notable that the eastern side of the county is at the far north of a migration route for the scissor-tailed fly catcher.



Visit Pawnee County

Historic Downtown Pawnee City

Downtown Pawnee City is on the National Historic Register. Pick up a self-guided tour map at the Pawnee City Public Library.

Pawnee City Historical Society & Museum

Over 20 buildings on the grounds, over 25,000 hidden treasures for you to find. Follow on Facebook at Pawnee City Historical Society & Museum

Pedal Clinic – Pawnee City

More than 450 pedal cars, tractors, airplanes, and other toys displayed at Highway 8 and I Street. Tours by appt. only: 402-852-2655

Table Rock's Public Square

is on the National Register of Historic Places and part of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. Also visit the many museums of Table Rock, many sited in original buildings constructed as far back as 1877. Tours by appointment, TableRockHistory@gmail.com, TableRockHistoricalSociety.com, and Facebook.

Table Rock's old Rock Country School

is on a rock road in the country. Built of native limestone in 1873, it was restored in recent years, and is open by appointment. 402-839-2915.

ZCJ Lodge Hall near DuBois Admire one-of-kind architecture on this Czech Social Hall, listed on the National Historic Register.

Jerry's Dream Museum will take you back in time to the filling station era. It includes a restored Valentine diner and filled with memorabilia.

Heritage House-Steinauer Former post office now houses the pioneer history of the Steinauer community. Check them out on Facebook at Steinauer Community Heritage House. www.steinauer.us/heritagehouse

Birthplace of Harold Lloyd - Burchard Visit the home where internationally acclaimed silent film actor Harold Lloyd was born. View silent films and memorabilia. Open by appointment: 402-865-4665

For outdoor fun, check out **Burchard Lake** near Burchard, **Iron Horse Trail Lake** near DuBois, and the **Pawnderosa City Pond** in Pawnee City. There are also six Wildlife Management Areas maintained by Nebraska Game and Parks for hiking, birdwatching, and hunting.

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE AND OTHER ATTRACTIONS GO TO
WWW.PAWNEECOUNTYNEBRASKA.COM | Check us out on Facebook at See Pawnee County, Nebraska!
Free Wi-Fi, Internet access, & genealogy research at Pawnee City Public Library
PAID FOR BY PAWNEE COUNTY LODGING TAX**

▼

The Harold Lloyd Museum in Burchard is the birth home of the silent film star whose degree of fame rivaled that of Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton



Pawnee City loves its history. Its downtown is on the National Register. **The Pawnee City Historical Society** has an extensive campus, with over 20 buildings to explore, including an old soil barn, country school buildings, a log cabin, the home of the first state governor, and the U. S. Senator Kenneth W. Wherry Memorial Library. The **Pedal Clinic**, a private museum featuring pedal toys from cars to airplanes, also has an admirable doll collection. **Jerry's Dream Museum** is a restored gas station and diner completed by the friends of a man who passed away before he could finish restoration himself. Car buffs flock there on second Saturdays from April through October for a "Cars and Coffee" morning. **Rinne's Toys and Dolls Museum** is a private museum with thousands of toys and dolls. Pawnee City also provides recreational opportunities with a swimming pool, parks, ballfields, and the **Pawnderosa Lake & Campground**, which has a fishing pier and more. Live music is planned for summer nights at the new **Van Horne Park Amphitheater**. And of course, as the county seat, the **Pawnee County Fair** is held here.

The four remaining towns of the county are tiny. Of them, only DuBois has more than 100 people. Barely! However, each has much history and culture and many friends.

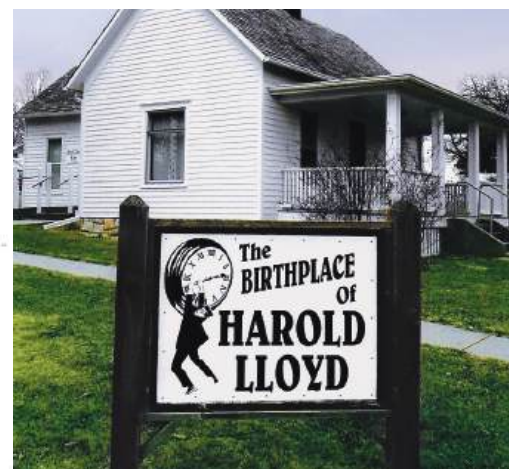
Burchard is proud of the **Harold Lloyd Museum**, housed in the birthplace of that silent film star, whose movies featured hair-raising stunts that rivaled those of Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton in their sophistication and showmanship. **Tegtmeier Buffalo** offers unique products from its nearby buffalo farm. East of town lies **Burchard Lake**, a recreational lake maintained by Nebraska Game and Parks.



The Pedal Clinic



Amish Buggies



DuBois is a tiny town with a unique rural dance hall, the **ZCJB Hall**. It was built, owned and maintained by the local members of Czech fraternal society, originally the ZCJB, for over a century. It is said to be the only surviving lodge hall in the United States built in the Czech American National Baroque Revival style and is on the National Register. The Hall hosts dances with polka bands, rock bands, and country bands, and more. Rural DuBois also has **Iron Horse Lake and Trail**. Situated along the site of a former railroad line, with rolling hills and deep clear water, this Nebraska Game & Parks site features fishing, camping, and hiking.

Lewiston is midway between Beatrice and Pawnee City. Slow your pace and enjoy the special quiet of a small town. The **Lewiston Town Park** has playground equipment. It's a good place for children to play and adults to relax.

Steinauer features a new sweeping **downtown mural** showing the old-time main street. **St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church** built in 1926 in a Romanesque style

and lovingly restored in 2013, was optimistically sized to serve hundreds of people. It has beautiful soaring ceilings and elaborate towering stained-glass windows, including a huge rose window. The **Steinauer Community Heritage House**, in a building once housing a post office and the Steinauer Star-Post newspaper, provides an intimate look at local history. The **Steinauer Park** features new playground equipment, a basketball court, shelter, and gazebo. The **Bank of Steinauer**, built in 1888, has on its second floor the **Steinauer Opera House**, which is on the National Register.

Table Rock, the County's oldest town, was established in 1855 with a mill on the North Branch of the Nemaha River as its impetus. Nine Underground Railroad conductors are buried in the **Table Rock Cemetery**, which the National Park Service has designated as a site on its Underground Network to Freedom. The **Table Rock Public Square Historic District** is on the National Register of Historic Places. Summer evening concerts take place at the bandstand in the tree-filled square. »

« The **Table Rock Historical Society** has many buildings. Visitors especially seek out the **Old St. John's Catholic Church Museum**, not because it is coming up on its 150th birthday but because of unique interior artwork by an itinerant painter. They also flock to the **Old Opera House Museum**, a “second and third story” opera house which has changed little, with original painted canvas proscenium curtain and scenery. The relocated **Turner Cabin**, built by one of the original settlers of 1854, is believed to be the second oldest in the state. The **Argus Newspaper Museum & Picture Gallery** features original printing presses and changing photo exhibitions. The entire Village of Table Rock is an affiliate site for the **Nebraska Statewide Arboretum** because of its historic and large population of sugar maple trees. Southeast of Table Rock lies **Pleasant Valley Country School**, built of native limestone quarried nearby. It is adjacent to native prairie, and was renovated by alumni, who continue to maintain it.

HUNGRY?

Jeannie's Place in Lewiston is a spacious room in the rear of Jeannie's home. For a truly unique dining experience, usually served home style, reservations are suggested.

The County has two bar and grills. The **Round-up Bar & Grill** in Table Rock offers burgers made from local beef, tenderloin sandwiches, and more, with weekly specials including hot beef sandwiches, ribeye steaks, and shrimp. The **Last Chance Bar & Grill** in DuBois serves excellent food and good beer. Both places have live music on occasion.

Where else to eat? **Shirley's Place** in downtown Pawnee City restaurant has plates of good food and a view of the courthouse. **The Shop** is around the corner and features unique pizzas and sub sandwiches. **Palmer's Café**, which offers simple fare in a simple setting, serves breakfast and lunch. **Pawnee City Thriftway** has hot pizza and a small deli. **Casey's** gas station in Pawnee City also offers hot pizza. **Den's Country Meats** in Table Rock has pre-made fresh sandwiches but the big seller is the international award-winning meat, all local. You may have to cook your own ribeye steaks or rough-ground hot dogs, but you can grab packages of slab jerky and varieties of summer sausage right from the shelves.



Burchard Lake



Pawnee County Promotional Network School House Teacher

THIRSTY?

Willard's Tavern in Steinauer offers alcohol in an old-fashioned atmosphere. The **Little Brown Jug** in Pawnee City and **Den's Country Meats** in Table Rock sell off-premises alcohol.

FORE!

The Fairview Golf Course, which opened in 1922, has nine holes with sand green courses and a clubhouse offering outdoor seating with a view.

LODGING!

The **Convent House Bed & Breakfast** in Steinauer hosts guests in a restored convent and school that once supported the adjacent St. Anthony's Church. The **Pawnee Inn Motel** in Pawnee City also offers accommodations. The **Pawnderosa** in Pawnee City has RV pads and restroom facilities.

Explore more of the unexpected.
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Cancer Memorial Garden

RICHARDSON COUNTY

Richardson County is rich in history, natural beauty, and tradition. Embedded deep in the history of the county is its role in the famous John Brown's Underground Railroad, a secret network of cooperation that aided slaves in reaching sanctuary in the free states and Canada. Several of the network's stations were set up in this area.

The first family to build a home in what is now the county seat of **Falls City** were abolitionists Dave and Anne Dorrington, who came to Nebraska from New York. Anne's kindness and compassion led to her being known as "Mother" Dorrington, and it is said she fed John Brown when he passed through the settlement. A number of the descendants of this family's six children stayed on in the community, becoming prominent citizens in the development of the town and still reside here. »

EXPLORE!

« Ten communities make up Richardson County. Falls City features the **Richardson County Historical Museum**, whose building was acquired in 2002 and displays items that were once stored in five locations with no public access. An additional Agricultural Building for farming displays was constructed on this site in the summer of 2019.

The **Richardson County Courthouse** also features a **War Memorial** with a collection of exhibits and displays of war memorabilia, photographs, uniforms, medals, and swords from World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War. Take the full military tour and visit **Falls City Military Park**, where a ship's anchor, a tank, a howitzer, and a B-17 bomber propeller are on display.

Also in Falls City is the **John Philip Falter Museum**. Falter was a world-renowned illustrator, known for his *Saturday Evening Post* magazine covers. The museum features his Philadelphia studio (on loan from the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln), a collection of his 129 *Saturday Evening Post* covers, original World War II paintings, book illustrations, magazine ads, and a 30-minute documentary video produced by Nebraska Educational Television. There are other works on loan from local collectors and a gift shop with a variety of items.

Dig deeper into the history of Richardson County by visiting the **Henry Heim House Museum**. The newer museum opened in 2014 in the town of **Dawson**, where you can also visit the **John G. Smith Memorial Library**. Explore the county's historic displays, such as the **Historic Miles Ranch**, the **Verdon School Museum**, and the **Richardson County Historical Marker & Mural**, which illustrates the history and heritage of **Humboldt** and depicts all the pomp and pageantry of the Richardson County Fair. You can also find the **Quad County Museum**, where donated exhibits reflect the life of the county's early years, on the east side of Humboldt City Square. The **Richardson County Fair**, held in Humboldt, occurs the second week in September each year.



Cancer Memorial Garden



Veterans Memorial in Humboldt Square Park



Courthouse Statue

Combine history and nature by visiting **Humboldt City Square Park**, with its 125-year-old bandstand and **Veterans Memorial**.

It is surrounded by the historic commercial district and features a mural illustrating the history and heritage of the town and its brick streets. There's also the **Southeast Nebraska Cancer Memorial Garden**, a tribute to loved ones whose lives have been touched by cancer, stroke, illness, or other tragedy, located near the **Humboldt City Lake Park**.

Richardson County is ideal for hunting and fishing, offering several wildlife management areas, such as **Kinters Ford State Wildlife Management Area**. In the other half of the county is **Verdon State Recreation Area**, which offers a 45-acre lake and 30 acres of land. It features primitive camping and picnicking, but the highlight is angling in the spring-fed lake. **Stanton Lake Park** near Falls City has a dozen camper hookups with electricity situated next to a scenic lake. A concrete sidewalk circles the lake, with a playground, dog park, and picnic shelters nearby. Fishing, sand volleyball, and disc golf can be part of the experience here. When in Humboldt, **Kirkman Cove Recreation Area** is less than 10 minutes away. It has fishing, hiking, camping, swimming, and even golf.

Find a unique camping experience at **Boy Scout Camp**, located near Humboldt. The camp contains 360 acres of rolling hills with large oak trees and an abundance of wildlife. And when it's not occupied with Scouts, the facility is open to public camping.

Just east of Shubert sits a jewel in Southeast Nebraska—**Indian Cave State Park**, a public recreation and historic preservation area covering over 3,000 acres along the Missouri River.

The park is well-known for its beautiful camping and picnicking spots, 22 miles of scenic hiking and biking trails, sweeping views of the wide, winding Missouri River, and a majestic hardwood forest that puts on a spectacular show of colors each autumn.

Other Richardson County highlights include the **Stella Arboretum**, which contains more than 18 varieties of trees, shrubs, and wildflowers and provides a year-round habitat for birds and butterflies. The Stella Arboretum is a member of the Nebraska State Arboretum and gained National Butterfly Certification. It is open year-round.



Falls City Veterans Memorial Park



Falls City Hot Air Balloon Festival



Cobblestone Festival



Nemaha Falls Memorial at the Falls City Aquatic Center



"The Quilted Truck" Mural



Cobblestone Parade



Kirkman's Cove Recreation Area



Falls City Aquatic Center



Mutt & Jeff's Drive-In

Plant lovers can also enjoy the **Krumme Arboretum** in Falls City, where you'll find some 70 species of trees, shrubs, and grasses.

Children and adults alike will want to visit the **Falls City Aquatic Center**. This ultimate splashing ground features two water slides, a lap pool, two diving boards, a water canon, flower showers, and a zero depth entry area with shelter areas and attractive landscaping.



Falls City Aquatic Center is the ultimate splashing ground featuring two water slides, a lap pool, two diving boards, a water canon, flower showers, and a zero depth entry area with shelter areas and attractive landscaping.

Explore Falls City's Creative District with rotating exhibits at the **Stalder Gallery** in the **Falls City Library & Arts Center** and local artwork at **Heartland Fine Arts Gallery**. Don't miss the **Underground Railroad Museum**, located inside the Collections Museum, featuring 1850s–60s artifacts, a reconstructed barn, and exhibits on freedom seekers, John Brown, and the region's abolitionist history.

The Iron Monument in the community of **Rulo** is the original survey point for Nebraska and Kansas properties. The site is south of Rulo, near Kansas Highway 7. It is newly refurbished and can be reached by hiking 150 feet up on the bluff and is marked by the Nebraska State Historical Society. This area is also where the historic **Rulo Bridge** connecting Nebraska and Missouri was located. However, it was recently replaced. »

HUNGRY?

« Falls City has no shortage of food options. Whether you're craving Chinese, Mexican, or good ol' American cuisine, they have it. **A&G Steakhouse & Pizza** and **Luella's Café** is perfect for that hometown, family-style dining. **Mutt & Jeff's Drive In** has an old-school vibe fit for those who enjoy their food with a side of nostalgia. Be sure to try the cheesebar! If sweet treats are more your style, check out **Keller Bakery**, or combine the sweet and savory at the **Frosty Queen**.

Don't drive by the **6 Mile Café** along Highway 75 north of **Dawson** without stopping for one of their ginormous fried tenderloin sandwiches and delicious slices of homemade pie.

When in **Humboldt**, start off your day with a hearty breakfast at **Titan Diner** or grab your caffeine fix from **Chaotic Coffee** on the square. Don't miss your chance to feast on the Friday fish specials or Sunday buffet at **Kelly's Café**.

THIRSTY?

Swingin' Doors Saloon is the oldest working bar in Nebraska, but they aren't resting on their laurels. Not only can you quench your thirst at this historic bar in Rulo, you can also get some great food. Grab a drink and catch a show or a game at **Still Centerfield Sports Bar** in **Shubert** or head to **Wild Bill's**, a biker-friendly bar in Rulo that serves up good food as well as a good time.

While in **Falls City** you'll want to stop by **The Would Eye Bar & Grill**, an eclectic sports bar. Enjoy live music most weekends on the historic **Stone Street**.

FORE!

Kirkman's Lakeview Golf Course in **Humboldt** is a beautiful place to play a quick nine holes. In **Falls City**, **Falls City Golf Course** has an imaginative, flowing layout with nine greens and 18 tee boxes. The distinctly separate sets of front and back-nine tees allow golfers to play 18 holes without feeling like they've played the same nine twice. The club also has a restaurant and bar open to the public.

Explore more of the unexpected.

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46 // RICHARDSON

Falls City

CHAMBER & MAIN STREET

Lemonade Days • June 8th - 13th

Sidewalk Sales & Kids Activities Each Evening from Foam Party to Touch-A-Truck

America's 250th Anniversary Celebration • July 4th

Xtreme Bull Riding, Live Music by 4 on the Floor, Fireworks Display

Cobblestone Festival • August 20th - 23rd

Carnival, Parade, Car Show, Demolition Derby

Lighted Christmas Parade • November 27th

Santa Leads Festive Floats Light Up Downtown

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UNDERGROUND RAILROAD MUSEUM
IN FALLS CITY



Falls City Golf Course



SARPY COUNTY

Explored in 1804 by Lewis and Clark and serving as the springboard for Nebraska's settlement and expansion, Sarpy County is home to both the oldest continuous Nebraska settlement, the city of **Bellevue**, and the state's youngest community, **La Vista**.

Established in 1822 as a fur-trading post by Joshua Pilcher, Bellevue was named from the French words for "beautiful view." The post was later known as Fontenelle's Post after being run by Lucien Fontenelle, a fur trader who purchased it in 1828 to represent the American Fur Company. It served as an important missionary center and agency of the Oto, Pawnee, and Omaha tribes. Chief Big Elk, or Ong-pa-ton-ga, is one of the most iconic figures in Sarpy County history. This Omaha chief's original resting place was on Elk Hill in Bellevue, but visitors can now pay their respects at the historic **Bellevue Cemetery**, where his grave is located at the top of the hill, overlooking the famous view for which Bellevue is named. »

The facility became **Offutt Air Force Base** in 1948, gaining national prominence when it became the host base for **Strategic Air Command** headquarters.



« Sarpy County separated from Douglas County in 1857. Bellevue served as the county seat until 1875, when the county government was moved to the more central location of **Papillion**. Bellevue remains the largest community in Sarpy County, with plenty to offer visitors to the area.

Nebraska's oldest church, the **Old Presbyterian Church** built in 1856, and the oldest commercial building, **Old Fontenelle Bank**, are located in Bellevue. Built in 1857, the bank building's original purpose was for it to serve as a bank, naturally. However, when the Panic of 1857 struck, banks across the nation failed. It then served as the Sarpy County Courthouse until 1875, when the county seat was moved. Today, it is on the National Register of Historic Places. Also on the register is **The Bellevue Log Cabin**, built in the 1830s. It is commonly acknowledged as the oldest building in Nebraska. Bellevue's courthouse, originally built as a territorial bank, served as the town hall from 1876-1959. The structure is currently maintained as an example of the architecture of the period.

Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue has played a major role in American military history for more than a century. The base was originally the site of Fort Crook, and many of the original structures built on the post before 1900, including the guardhouse and various enlisted and officers' quarters, are still in use. A flying field was added in 1921, designated Offutt Field, in honor of 1st Lt. Jarvis Offutt, on May 6, 1924. Offutt was killed while flying with the Royal Air Force in France, and was Omaha's first World War I air casualty. The facility became Offutt Air Force Base in 1948, gaining national prominence when it became the host base for Strategic Air Command headquarters.



Offutt Air Force Base



Holy Family Shrine

In 1992, SAC was disestablished and replaced by the newly created U.S. Strategic Command. The STRATCOM mission was further defined in 2002 with responsibility for strategic deterrence, global strike and operation of the Defense Department's Global Information Grid. The former Army outpost, once hard-pressed to support a few hundred soldiers, now accommodates a combined military and civilian workforce of some 12,000 while supporting more than 22,000 family members.

Other noteworthy Bellevue sites include **Fontenelle Forest**, a 1,400-acre forest which includes hiking trails, a nature center, children's camps, a gift shop, and picnic facilities. The forest is listed as a National Natural Landmark and a National Historic District. An added feature is the **TreeRush Adventure Park**, with a ropes and zip line course that offers a fun, challenging workout.

Bellevue Little Theater was founded in 1968 as a nonprofit organization. In its first eight years, productions were mounted in restaurants, schools, and **Bellevue University**. Scenery, props, and costumes were stored in homes and storage units. In 1977, their board was able to purchase and renovate the 240-seat 1940s vintage Roxy Movie Theatre building in **Olde Towne Bellevue**. It provides quality entertainment and arts education experiences through a variety of productions.

Bellevue Berry & Pumpkin Ranch doesn't just offer pastoral scenery, it's also known for its family-friendly outings, including events such as the **Renaissance Festival of Nebraska** in May, **Midwest Pirate Fest** in August, and the **Great Pumpkin Roundup**, which happens every autumn.

Zipline & Climb Adventure in the TREES!

Werner Park, home to Triple-A baseball Omaha Storm Chasers and USL League One Union Omaha professional soccer team



GROUPS



NIGHT CLIMBS



PARTIES

The **Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Memorial** in Papillion is just south of the SumTur Amphitheater overlooking the Walnut Creek Recreation Area. The mission of the NVVM Foundation is to maintain a memorial to honor all Nebraska veterans who served during the Vietnam War and to provide a lasting historical educational account for future generations.

A short drive down Nebraska Highway 370 from the memorial, visitors will find the **Omaha National Cemetery**, a 236-acre cemetery in Sarpy County that will serve the burial needs of more than 112,000 veterans in the cemetery's service area for the next 100 years. The first interments occurred Sept. 27, 2016. This is the second U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs national cemetery in the state of Nebraska. The other is Fort McPherson National Cemetery at Maxwell.

In Papillion, visitors will find a lovely historic downtown, featuring a unique blend of local merchants, boutiques, dining options, and historical sites such as **Graley's** local ice cream and confectionary shop that honors the late 1800s history of their location, the **John Sautter Farmhouse** and the **Portal School**, a one-room schoolhouse. Built in 1890, the school remained open until May, 1993.

SumTur Amphitheater, also located near Papillion, features a mix of outdoor concerts, live theater, and community movie nights. For recreation, the county seat has **Papio Fun Park**, **Papillion Landing**, **Papio Bay Aquatic Center**, and **Werner Park**, home to Triple-A baseball Omaha **Storm Chasers** and USL League One **Union Omaha** professional soccer team. Regular events include **Papillion Days** in June and the **Winter Wonderland Festival**. »



1111 Bellevue Blvd North Ste A
Bellevue, NE, 68005
info@TreeRush.com
1-402-316-7038

10 Minutes South of Downtown Omaha @ Fontelle Forest



Werner Park



The Astro Theater

« The Southport area of La Vista features an assortment of lodging, dining, and shopping experiences. **Smash Park**, found across the street from Cabela's, offers a variety of family entertainment – and then some. Patrons will enjoy arcade games, pickleball, corn hole, darts, shuffleboard, bocce ball, foosball, ping pong and more. There are weekly events and private party spaces available with great food and drinks. In the new City Centre development, **The Astro Theater and Amphitheater** is one of the Midwest's premier music venues bringing world-class entertainment to the metro area. It features both an indoor venue and an outdoor amphitheater overlooking a 34-acre public park.

Gretna is the home of one of Nebraska's favorite fall destinations, **Vala's Pumpkin Patch and Apple Orchard**. The city also has the largest outdoor lifestyle shopping destination in the region, **Nebraska Crossing**. **Gretna Crossing Park**, which opened last fall, sits on 150 acres of fun and family activities nestled in the rolling hills of Gretna. The park is located northeast of Nebraska Crossing. Other, more spiritual attractions that will bring you closer to nature include **Holy Family Shrine** and **Cloisters on the Platte**.

Springfield was named for several area springs but today provides a rural setting for art and wine lovers. **Soaring Wings Vineyard and Brewing** is a great place to relax after a day visiting **Springfield Artworks**, **Robin's Nest** and **Weiss Studios and Gardens**. The community also hosts the annual **Sarpy County Fair** every August.

Outdoor lovers can visit **Wehrspann Lake**, located in **Chalco Hills Recreation Area**,



Sarpy has a variety of great places to eat, too many to list them all here. A must-visit is **Stella's Bar & Grill** in Bellevue. From hand-pressed burgers served on paper napkins to hand-cut fries, Stella's never disappoints. Also in Bellevue—with a chef who hails from New York City where he trained at Michelin-starred restaurants—is **Umami**, a Japanese restaurant serving stellar sushi and sashimi.

Heavy Brewing in Gretna features an extensive seasonal selection of their beers along with a variety of craft cocktails, including many on tap. Pizza is an art-form here with both specialty



Walnut Creek

pies and build your own options. Don't hesitate to try their panuozzos. **Hurdat Sports Bar & Grill**, in Gretna and La Vista, has an extensive menu. While their focus is on pizza, they also offer brunch and a large variety of sharable appetizers. **Papillion's Talus Spirits & Sustenance** offers a unique chef driven menu, creative craft cocktails in an upscale casual dining experience. They feature many of your favorite comfort foods presented with a modern touch and offer many gluten free and vegan options. It's difficult with the portions they serve but try to save room for dessert.



Houston's Lounge in La Vista may look nondescript on the outside, located in a strip mall not far from Interstate 80, but it is luxuriously upscale inside. They also have a nice outdoor seating area, complete with a fire pit for those cooler evenings. For those who prefer a sportier atmosphere, **The Good Life Sports Bar & Grill**, in Papillion and Gretna, has that, plus some excellent bar food. Fans of games of chance should check out **La Vista Keno & Sports Bar**. If you enjoy a good glass of wine, pin **Soaring Wings Vineyard** in your phone. Unwind with a glass or two at the vineyard just south of Springfield. It offers a beautiful view high about the Platte River valley and most weekends you can enjoy live music.

Beer fans will want to take a tour of La Vista's breweries. **The Nebraska Brewing Company Tap Room & Brewery** is an airy alehouse with an industrial feel. **Kros Strain Brewing** is a local microbrewery known for their

award-winning beers and unique label art. Get a two-in-one experience when you visit **Lucky Bucket Brewery**, which is also home to **Cut Spike Distillery**, for those who prefer something a little stronger. For a refreshing blast from the past, stop in to **Springfield Old-Fashioned Soda Fountain**.



Sarpy County sports several golf courses. Starting in Papillion, **Eagle Hills Golf Course** has 21 holes featuring bent grass greens, rolling fairways, lakes, creeks, and wetlands. **Tara Hills** is the second city-owned 18-hole course designed for golfers of all skill levels.

The **Tiburon Golf Course** is a beautiful 27-hole course in the Gretna area.

Bellevue has three 18-hole courses – **Tregaron Golf Course** and **Willow Lakes Golf Course**, located near Offutt Air Force Base, and **Platteview Country Club**.

Experience all of Sarpy County at GOSARPY.COM | 402.332.5771





SEWARD COUNTY



"I just returned from visiting America and I want everyone to know that it is alive and well and living in Seward County."
—Bud Davisson, Flight Journal Editor.

Seward County is home to 10 communities with over 17,000+ residents. Immigrants who first traveled into this area in the 1860's were amazed by the beauty of the hills and valleys of the Blue River. They quickly staked their claim and made it their home. Seward County is home to an amazing variety of agriculture products, manufacturers, entrepreneurs and educational opportunities. With over 150 years of experience, Seward and Seward County is rich in history and a fun place to visit. Seward has been designated the "official site" for Nebraska's "USA-250" July 4 Celebration—Celebrating the semiquincentennial of the United States on July 4, 2026.



World's Largest Time Capsule Opening Celebration was held July 4, 2025. The capsule is located in the middle of Seward, took over three weeks and 60 cubic yards of cement to build. The Time Capsule houses a new 1976 Chevy Vega, a motorcycle and hundreds of other items. The Time Capsule is one of Seward's unique sites and still a special visit! Located in Seward, the **Seward Cross Makers**

are a group of men and women who give of their time to create handcrafted wooden crosses that are shipped worldwide. Contact them to hear their story and for a tour through thecrossmakers@yahoo.com

The **Seward County Historical Society Museum** in Goehner is rich in county heritage and features a one-room school house, a

restored 1908 home, antique farm equipment, a restored log cabin and many interesting items to make the visitor step back in time and memories. Admission is free. **The Chipewewa Northwestern Railway Company**, a one-inch scale live steam railroad, runs on the six-acre grounds from May to October—with a varied schedule of operations. >>

« You will be surprised when you visit the **Nebraska National Guard Museum** in Seward, dedicated and opened July of 2015. With a variety of interactive exhibits, and almost 100,000 items, the museum tells the story of the Nebraska National Guard and the dedicated soldier. With a free admission, first visit www.nnghs.org and be tempted to then see this 2022 Nebraska Passport site in person. A special "USA-250" Exhibit will be featured in 2026.

Art offerings abound in Seward County, with many wonderful houses of Nebraska art. Seward was the home of the late Reinhold Marxhausen, Nebraska artist and art educator - who showed the world how to "see" art. Galleries are offered at Concordia University's **Marxhausen Art Gallery, the Langworthy Art Gallery in the Seward Civic Center and the Red Path Gallery and Tasting Room.** The beautiful art of the **Bartels Rock and Mineral Museum** on the campus of Concordia University is just another example of a unique and special offering for area visitors. The

Center for Liturgical Art also is a wonderful compliment to the Seward County art scene. Just as unique is the **Inner Maker Labyrinth**, located in rural Seward.

Ride the **Ridge Road** in Seward County. Thousands of years ago, great glaciers carved out beautiful hills and valleys, leaving sprinklings of rocks and mineral and a home for magnificent groves of oaks. This area, just northeast of Garland, Nebraska is locally known as the Bohemian Alps, a place of quiet and natural beauty.

The Parade of Flags is a perfect fit to be located in Seward, "Nebraska's Official Fourth of July City!" Located at the east entrance to Seward, this lighted flag exhibit features not only the flags of the US Military, the 50 US States and the US Territories. Open 24 hours a day, the exhibit is free and sponsored by the local Kiwanis and various civic organizations.

An education center for Southeast Nebraska, Seward County is the home of three higher levels of learning. **Concordia University** –

Nebraska prepares students from across the nation and is located in Seward. **Southeast Community College-Milford** is a forerunner to the community college system in Nebraska. Nestled on the south side of Seward's entrance on Highway 34 is **St. Gregory the Great Seminary**, preparing young men for the church.

The historic **Rivoli Theater** – a beautiful renovated 100+ year old movie theater features top run movies at home town admission fees. The beautiful Art Deco and pastel wall murals cover the theater's renovated interior. Mellerdrama's are just one of the offerings of the historic **Olde Glory Theatre** located in Seward. The site of Community Theater in Seward at its finest, Olde Glory Theatre presents a host of entertainment events for all age levels. Plays, concerts and workshops create a wide offering of drama for the area and help entertain the community of Seward and Southeast Nebraska.

Visit Seward's new \$21 million Wellness Center! There are many wonderful sports

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN US

in
*Seward
County*



About Seward County

Seward County is home to 10 communities with over 17,000 residents. Immigrants who first traveled into this area in the 1860s were amazed by the beauty of the hills & valleys of the Blue River. They quickly staked their claim and made it their home.

Seward County is home to an amazing variety of agricultural products, manufacturers, entrepreneurs & educational opportunities.

Come celebrate Independence Day with us! Seward has been celebrating the 4th of July since 1868, however, the celebration was nationally recognized and designated "America's Small Town 4th of July City" in 1979 by U.S. Senator Ed Zorinsky!



Seward County Historical Society Museum - Goehner



World's Largest Time Capsule



Parade of Flags on Hwy 34



Historic Downtown Seward



Concordia University



Dowding Memorial Pool - Seward



SCC - Milford



Nebraska National Guard Museum



402-643-4189
hello@cultivatesewardcounty.com
www.sewardnebraskatourism.org



National Guard Museum

At Concordia University -Nebraska prepares students from across the nation and is located in Seward.

complex offerings that abound in almost all of the 10 communities of Seward County. With baseball, soccer and softball an outdoor priority in the area, many of the Seward County communities maintain top fields for each competition. Both Seward and Milford offer outstanding walking trails that open the beautiful outdoors to all for both walking and biking, as well as a nature trail opportunity. You are invited to join us in the City of Seward in Seward County Nebraska to celebrate Independence Day. Seward has been celebrating the Fourth of July since 1868! In 1979, U.S. Senator Ed Zorinsky was recognized as "America's Fourth of July City-Small Town USA" by official proclamation.

HUNGRY?

The list is long when sharing the wonderful opportunities to visit for mouthwatering

meals and treats in Seward County. From authentic Mexican cuisine to terrific, award winning barbeque, Seward County has a wide variety of food offerings. Home-cooked meals and bakeries can be found though out the greater Seward area, to compliment the many, national fast food offerings in the area.

THIRSTY?

A bit of every offering can be found in quenching the thirsts in Seward County, with the **Bottle Rocket Brewing Company**-featuring a wide assortment of locally produced beers in their unique seed house setting. Near the Garland hills is located the **Junto Wine** setting, featuring a tasting room and beautiful grounds and massive reception hall. **The Red Path Gallery and Tasting Room** also offers wine and spirits of the area, surrounded by beautiful Nebraska art and fellowship is located in downtown Seward on the north side of the square.

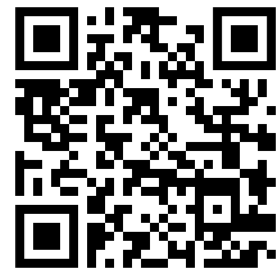
FORE!

Options is the theme for golf in Seward County, with two outstanding golf courses, located in both Seward and Milford. The **Seward Golf Course** is owned and operated by the City

of Seward and the **Thornridge Golf Course** located in Milford each complement and enhance golfing opportunities to the general public. A special disc golf course is located near Plum Creek Park in Seward. Wonderful offerings of swimming pools are also prevalent in many of the Seward County communities, along with opportunities to bowl throughout the year in both Seward and Utica.

Explore more of the unexpected.
SEWARDNEBRASKATOURISM.ORG

LODGING!





Calvin's Garage

THAYER COUNTY

Long before Thayer County existed, the area was crossed by the Oregon Trail and the Pony Express. Today it's crossed by the four-lane Pan-American Highway U.S. 81, connecting Interstate 80 in Nebraska and Interstate 70 in Kansas. Originally known as Jefferson County, it was later renamed in honor of Gen. John Milton Thayer, a U.S. senator and, later, a Nebraska governor. As the St. Joseph and Western railroads built through northern Thayer County and the Burlington and Missouri River railroads crossed the southern part of the county, new growth resulted. Hebron was named the county seat, as it was ideally located right in the center.

Saturday nights in **Hebron** were "especially busy times." Farmers came to town with their cream, eggs, and chickens. They sold them at the produce station or traded them at the grocery stores for staples such as salt, molasses, and spices. Then, until very late at night, they visited with each other while the children played. Wednesday night was band concert night at the city park. That sense of community remains.

Hebron has the **World's Largest Covered Porch Swing**. Located in **Roosevelt Park** in downtown Hebron it has a **32-foot-long seat** and is said to hold **24 children or 18 adults**.



There are several events that bring these community members together. **Deshler Daze** happens on Father's Day weekend, with all types of family-friendly activities taking place. From duck races to road rallies, there's something for everyone. On the third weekend in June, everyone gets together again for **Chesterfest**, featuring a beer garden, sand volleyball tournament, car show, vendor fair, and bands. And of course, fireworks. During the last weekend in July, the festivities move to Bruning for their annual **Bruning Days** celebration. Check out the car show, craft fair, trap shooting competition, cornhole tournament, street dance and poker rally. In August, the **Thayer County Fair** kicks off at the Thayer County Fairgrounds in Deshler.

The last Sunday in September is when the Thayer County Historical Society's **Fall Festival** takes place in **Belvidere**. This event features vendors, demonstrations, and antique tractor/car/truck shows as well as live music.

Toward the end of the year you can find Santa and his reindeer in Chester or Deshler. The **Deshler Express** typically features a pancake breakfast, a craft fair, and a soup lunch.

Hebron also celebrates the season in a big way with their annual **Holiday Craft Fair**. Stroll the downtown area and shop the local businesses while wandering through buildings filled with craft vendors. Representative of their strong sense of community, Hebron has the **World's Largest Covered Porch Swing**. Located in **Roosevelt Park** in downtown Hebron, it has a 32-foot-long seat and is said to hold 24 children or 18 adults.



Chesterfest



Thayer County Fair Kids Rodeo



Hebron Bathtub Races

The city of Hebron got its name because the people referred to it as "their city of refuge." So Ives Marks, a minister from Rose Creek, gave it the biblical name for such—Hebron. The **Thayer County Courthouse**, constructed in 1903, is located here, though the building's tower was so badly damaged by a tornado in 1953 that it had to be removed. There are numerous markers throughout the county where visitors can learn more about the history of the area, including the **Fort Butler Marker**. This fort was created to combat Native American uprisings in the late 1800s. At this time there is no indication as to where the fort stood except the soil is a different color from the surrounding area.

Belvidere Train Watching Station is an open-air constructed train watching station, completed with private donations and grants from the Union Pacific Railroad. Railroad buffs will be able to view Union Pacific trains on a double-wide track system about every 20-25 minutes. The Station now has a Steel Highway Rail Cam that the trains going past the park will be on the YouTube channel. The station includes Thayer County's last depot and a wooden box car. Enthusiasts should also swing into the **Spring Creek Model Trains** store in Deshler. It is the largest model train store between Denver and Chicago. »



Thayer County Speedway



Gabby's Pond

« Another cultural and historical attraction in the county is the old **Bruning Opera House**, built in 1907. It is still in use for civic events, and a collection of photographs of the “good old days” are available for viewing at the Bruning State Bank just down the street.

Those seeking outdoor recreation need to visit **Little Blue River**. This river stretches across the southern edge of Hebron and offers fishing, canoeing, hiking, and hunting. The **Little Blue Wildlife Management Area** is two miles east of Hebron on the River Road. It’s another great place for hunting, fishing, and sightseeing. Look for the wild turkeys while traveling the River Road.

Nestled at the intersection of Hwy 136 and Old 81, just one mile south of Hebron, the Hintz Produce farm stand offers a delightful selection of fresh, locally grown produce. From juicy tomatoes and chilled sweet corn to the sweetest melons and a wide array of pumpkins, our farm stand is the perfect stop for fresh, seasonal flavors. We take pride in providing the community and visitors with farm-fresh produce, harvested at the peak of flavor and quality. Thanks to all for their support of our family farm! ~The Hintz Family.

Outside Hebron, **Alexandria State Recreation Area** also offers good fishing year-round in its two recently reconstructed lakes, which total 47 acres of water. **Gabby’s Pond** is available for fishing as well, but you have to wait until after Deshler Daze each year. The local Ike’s organization stock the pond each year for the kid’s fishing contest; after that event the pond is open for all to fish.

Gilead lies East of Hebron and is home to the historic Pioneers Inn restaurant. From Easter egg hunts in the spring, cruise nights in the summer, and mule-drawn wagon rides with Santa in the winter, there is no shortage of fun to be found.



When it comes to satisfying your hunger, there are options aplenty. **RW’s Dining & Drink** in **Davenport** has a great weekly noon buffet, plus you can order one of their homemade pies to take with you. **Brick Street Chophouse** located on 4th Street in downtown Deshler offers a diverse menu with a large salad bar. **Pioneer’s Inn Restaurant** is in **Gilead**. Located in an old limestone building constructed from native stone, they offer a large Sunday buffet, and Thursday is hamburger night. Their homemade coconut cream pie is a must-try.

Hubbell brings the beef at **Acreage Steakhouse**, where they have brisket and ribs on Fridays, and Saturday is prime rib night. For those seeking lighter fare, the salads on their salad bar are made in-house. **The Coop Cafe & Bar** in **Bruning** doesn’t skimp on the beef either. Their homemade Hot Beef Sandwich is a specialty, and they have a noon salad bar daily. **The Blue Bison** in **Hebron** offers a unique and friendly environment where you can grab coffee with friends, take the kids out for ice cream, or enjoy their extensive breakfast and lunch menus. **Bear-n-T’s Hideaway** in **Alexandria** offers great home cooked style meals. Their pizza is a must try.



Toad’s in Belvidere is a bar and grill where good friends can eat good food, drink cold beer, and make good memories. **Fisher’s Sidelines Sports Bar** in **Carleton** is another lively place to go on the weekends. **Brand X Hebron** is another great place to grab a drink and some awesome food. Under new ownership, this historic building located in downtown Hebron features a modern and aesthetic dining and drinking experience. **Long Shot Lounge** in **Deshler** is another bar not to be missed!

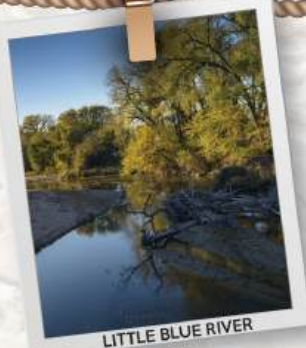


Hebron Country Club is the place to be for golf in Thayer. The nine-hole course is an open, mildly rolling course where the fairways consist of a mixture of grasses.

Sports enthusiasts can also check out **Rattlesnake Run Disc Golf Course** in Deshler, which follows the creek from **Friendship Park** to the Fairgrounds and back again after shooting over the bridge. And while it may not be golf, the **Fourth Street Archery Range** in Hebron does require hitting the mark.

Explore more of the unexpected.
VISITTHAYERCOUNTY.COM | 402.768.7407

Welcome to THAYER COUNTY



CROSSROADS OF OLD (THE OREGON TRAIL) AND NEW (US HIGHWAY 81)

Visit our Website for a complete list of attractions!

VISITTHAYERCOUNTY.COM



ALEXANDRIA BELUIDERE BRUNING BYRON CARLETON CHESTER
DAVENPORT DESHLER GILEAD HEBRON HUBBELL



VISIT ANCIENT ROME IN



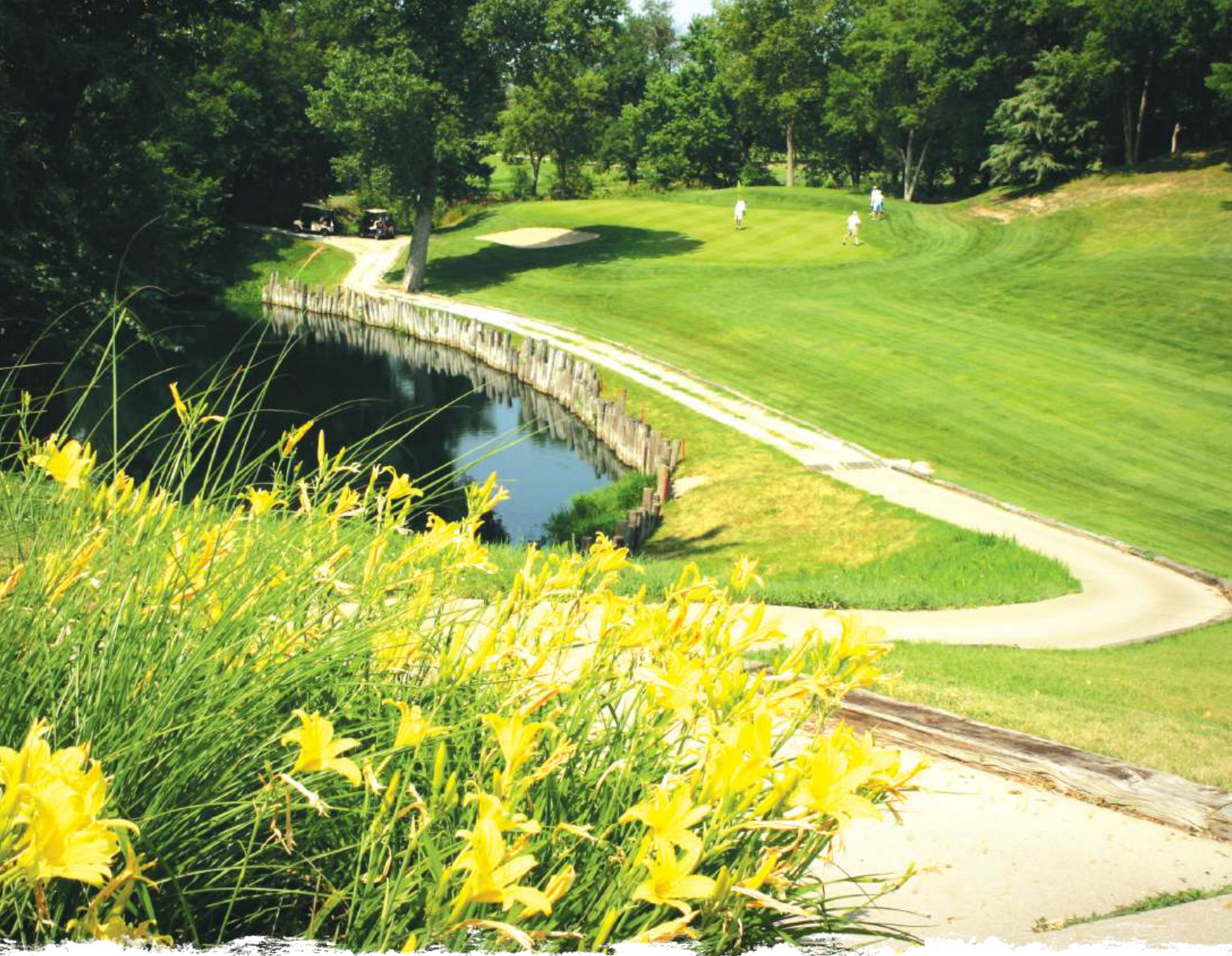
Join an archeological dig, visit an Israelite home, shop a Roman market, and view sacred manuscripts and Bibles dating back to 1200.

Guided tours optional. Located in the Phyllis Mackey Center on the York University campus.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
YORKVISITORS.ORG





YORK COUNTY

With close to 600 square miles of rolling prairies and rich farmland, **York County**, situated in southeastern Nebraska, offers visitors a bucolic getaway from the hectic pace of 21st-century life. Whether it's business, a reunion, conference, convention, festival, or stop-over, visitors are welcome to "Experience York" in the very heart of the Midwest.

Quiet beauty and down-home hospitality are hallmarks of **York County**, which sits at the crossroads of Interstate 80 and U.S. Route 81, making it easily accessible for a quick getaway or longer stays. It's no coincidence pioneers journeyed throughout this region, and you can retrace their steps or forge a path of your own in **McCool Junction, Lushton, Bradshaw, Thayer, Henderson, Gresham**, and of course, **York**—all places rich in history full of adventure.

EXPLORE!

From camping to racing to intellectual pursuits, York has something for every everyone. Get pulses racing at **Junction Motor Speedway in McCool Junction**. The \$2 million 3/8 mile dirt oval is 80 feet wide and 90 feet in the corners, providing ample room for side-by-side racing excitement of any vehicle that can race on dirt. Races, with speeds that have been clocked at up to 130 miles per hour, take place from late March through October.

Lee's Legendary Marble Museum in York houses one of the world's largest collections of vintage German handmade and American machine-made marbles. Lee Batterton's collection, which he started in 1954, boasts over one million marbles, some of which are quite rare including one made from uranium and others valued at tens of thousands of dollars. Also on view are old coins, vintage lunchboxes, watches, and board games. **The York Area Children's Museum** has high-quality exhibits in a comfortable, small-town atmosphere. Located in the York City Auditorium at 612 North Nebraska Avenue, the museum has lots to do for kids from crawling age through 10 years.

The **Anna Bemis Palmer Museum** features a rotating collection of items ranging from local to international. You'll see items such as a drum played at the battle of Gettysburg, shoes worn on the Great Wall of China, keys to the first building ever built in Nebraska, antique furniture and more. Check out their website -palmermuseum.com - to view what is currently exhibited, as well as pictures and videos from previous exhibits.

For headier interests, there is plenty of history from the ancient world to pioneer times. **The Clayton Museum of Ancient History at York University** collects, researches, preserves, exhibits, and interprets objects with a special focus on the ancient world. It features the **C. Foster Stanback Collection** with displays including artifacts like army swords, fishing tools, and other everyday objects from the Ancient Near East and Rome that give visitors an idea of what life was like thousands of years ago. The core of the collection focuses around the Roman soldier during the first three centuries A.D., with display items ranging in age from an Egyptian mace head (~3000 B.C.) to

The Yorkshire Playhouse has offered a variety of theater productions for 50 seasons, with offerings that range from beloved musicals and plays to mystery dinner theater.

Bible leaves (Erasmus New Testament, 1549, and the King James Bible 1612 edition). **The Yorkshire Playhouse** has offered a variety of theater productions for 50 seasons, with offerings that range from beloved musicals and plays to mystery dinner theater. From laugh-out-loud comedy to high drama, the play's the thing at this beloved regional theater.

Wessels Living History Farm takes you back to the 1920's. This unique attraction features a wonderful period farmhouse, barn, granary, church, school and more. Visitors will be able to experience firsthand what it was like for David Wessels to grow up on a Midwestern farm during that decade ... as was his wish for children of all ages. Call 402-710-0682.

The Friesen Gallery in downtown Henderson displays the paintings and beautifully detailed bronze sculptures found all over the USA. Visitors can view his works in progress. The great outdoors and western themes dominate his exceptional work. (402-723-49770)

Family fun abounds each summer at the **York County Fair** held each year in August. Traditional fair fun features 4-H, FFA, and open class exhibits, figure 8 races, demo derbies, a ranch rodeo, steak and pork BBQ's, an auto show, a cornhole tournament, the Farmer Olympics, antique tractors, and several other performances.

Finally, several local businesses also offer industrial and private tours of their plant locations and businesses.

Henderson Mennonite Heritage Park offers visitors a unique opportunity to explore and celebrate the rich heritage of the Mennonite community. As you step inside, you will be transported back in time to experience the customs, traditions, and history that have shaped the lives of the Mennonite people. **Genie Fae** is your go-to art studio for grown-ups, where imagination meets craftsmanship. Whether you dream of creating fine art or handcrafted treasures, we provide the resources, guidance, and inspiration to bring your vision to life. With a focus on creative sustainability, we encourage upcycling and refurbishing, giving new life to old items through DIY projects or personal creations. At **Genie Fae Creative Connections & Workshop**, every skill level is welcome in this magical space where creativity knows no bounds.

Payton Parker Lane Playground at place where children of all abilities can let their imagination run wild with an accessible play structure featuring a tree house, zipline, and a fishing boat rock 'n ship glider. The playground is outfitted with Unlimited Play's Quiet Grove, a calming sensory zone designed in partnership with Little Tikes Commercial, as well as custom play panels, outdoor musical instruments, an inclusive spinner, a massive swing set and so much more. »





HUNGRY?

« With all there is to see and do in York County, visitors inevitably work up an appetite. The **Bulldog Roadhouse in Bradshaw** offers traditional American fare like hamburger steaks with mushroom and onion gravy accompanied by mash potatoes and corn. **PK's Revival in Benedict** is the place to grab traditional bone-in wings that you can have with one of four sauces—or “naked!” Don't miss their signature sandwiches, like the ground beef Chuck Wagon, or their bakery items, which include cinnamon rolls, creme pies, and gourmet cookies. The **Big Horn** in Gresham features premium meats plus nibbles like fried beans, mushrooms, and cauliflower.

Chances 'R' Restaurant & Lounge, located at 124 West 5th Street in downtown York is a dining experience you won't forget! For over 55 years they have steadfastly upheld a tradition of outstanding cuisine and modest prices. They enjoy having a national reputation, and hold the title of hosting more motorcoach tours than any other restaurant in Nebraska. Prime rib, pan-fried chicken, homemade onion rings, homemade mashed potatoes and gravy and carrot cake are specialties. Sunday Brunch is not to be missed! Visit their website at www.chancesyork.com for hours. (402-362-7755) Lighter fare can be found at **Sunset Bowl &**

Lounge, where you can bowl a few games while taking advantage of the snack bar.

Hunter's Lounge in Waco is known for Brian's burgers, prime rib and homemade soup. Play a little keno and have a frosty cold beer or drink while you're there! (402-728-5266)

Kerry's Restaurant & Catering is another foodie stop with a full menu to choose from. Burgers to BLT's, steaks to seafood, Kerry's will serve you up. Their prime rib is also top-notch and they offer a Sunday breakfast or lunch brunch. Have one ... have both! (402-724-2120)

THIRSTY?

Whether taking in a dirt race, ruminating over history, or spending time bird watching, spending time in York Country works up a thirst. In York, **Macks Golden Grounds** has a wide selection of coffee, tea, juice, and smoothies. Or try **The Hatchery** in Henderson on Friday or Saturday morning for delicious breakfast as well as coffees with homemade syrups. Looking for a late-night adventure? **Blended Distilling** serves up all-natural moonshine, offering a smooth sip of the past for those craving a taste of tradition.

FORE!

The rolling prairies of York County offer ideal settings for fairways and putting greens. The **York Country Club** features a championship 18-hole golf course, showcasing some of the most exciting golf vistas in Nebraska. It annually hosts several Nebraska State golf events for men, women, seniors, and junior golfers, including the York Open, a two-day stroke play tournament. For a quick round, check out the **Sandy Meadows Golf Course in Waco** is a challenging, nine-hole course with a par 36.

Explore more at Nebraska's crossroads in York County.

YORKVISITORS.ORG | 402-362-4575

LODGING!

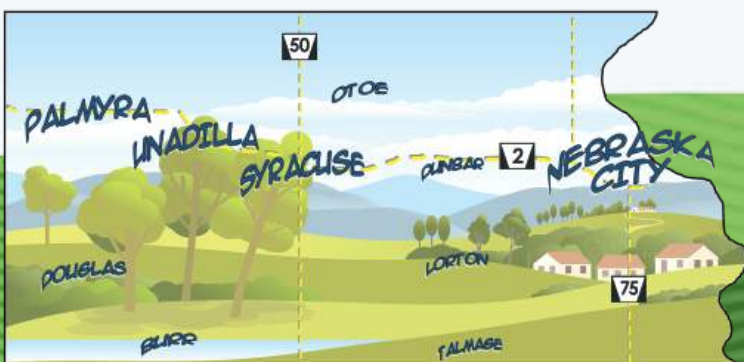


PICK YOUR ADVENTURE

Otoe

COUNTY, NEBRASKA

FEBRUARY	GROUNDHOG DAY (FIRST SATURDAY) UNADILLA
MARCH	SHAMROCK SHUFFLE & BINGO (ST. PAT'S WEEKEND) NEBRASKA CITY
APRIL	ARBOR DAY (LAST FRIDAY) NEBRASKA CITY BEST OF THE MIDWEST BLOODY MARY COMPETITION (LAST SUNDAY) NEBRASKA CITY
APRIL-OCTOBER	CENTRAL AVENUE CINEMA MOVIE SERIES (MONTHLY) NEBRASKA CITY
MAY-AUGUST	FARMERS MARKET (THURSDAYS) NEBRASKA CITY FARMERS MARKET (SATURDAYS) SYRACUSE
MAY	NEBRASKA CITY GOLF CLASSIC (THIRD FRIDAY) NEBRASKA CITY
JUNE	BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL (FIRST WEEKEND) NEBRASKA CITY OLD SETTLERS' PICNIC (FIRST WEEKEND) PALMYRA BBQ CELEBRATION (FOURTH SATURDAY) UNADILLA
JULY	TREESTOCK INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION (4 th OF JULY WEEKEND) NEBRASKA CITY SUMMER SIDEWALK SALE (THIRD WEEKEND) NEBRASKA CITY
AUGUST	OTOE COUNTY FAIR (FIRST WEEK) SYRACUSE FARM TO FORK DINNER (THIRD SUNDAY) NEBRASKA CITY
SEPTEMBER	OTOE BBQ (SECOND SATURDAY IN SEPTEMBER) OTOE APPLEJACK FESTIVAL (THIRD & FORTH WEEKENDS) NEBRASKA CITY EXTREME BULL RIDING TOUR FINALS (THIRD WEEKEND) NEBRASKA CITY
OCTOBER	LIVING HISTORY AT ARBOR LODGE (EVERY WEEKEND) NEBRASKA CITY GERMANFEST (SECOND WEEKEND) SYRACUSE ART WALK (THIRD WEEKEND) NEBRASKA CITY VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS AT WILDWOOD (LAST WEEKEND) NEBRASKA CITY
NOVEMBER	SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY (THANKSGIVING WEEKEND) OTOE COUNTY COURTHOUSE TREE LIGHTING (SATURDAY OF THANKSGIVING WEEKEND) NEBRASKA CITY
DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS AT THE MANSION (WEEKENDS) NEBRASKA CITY TANNENBAUM FESTIVAL (FIRST WEEKEND) SYRACUSE THE FLYOVERS CHRISTMAS (THIRD WEEKEND) NEBRASKA CITY



For detailed information on these and other events, go to VisitOtoeCounty.com, NebraskaCity.com, or GoSyracuseNE.com

— Experience — **SARPY COUNTY**



OUTDOORS

Explore scenic trails,
winding rivers, and
endless outdoor
adventures.



ENTERTAINMENT

Community events, live
music, and fun
celebrations all year
long.



DINING

Discover local
favorites, from craft
brews to standout
dining.

Bellevue · Gretna · La Vista Papillion
Springfield · Offutt AFB




GOSARPY.COM