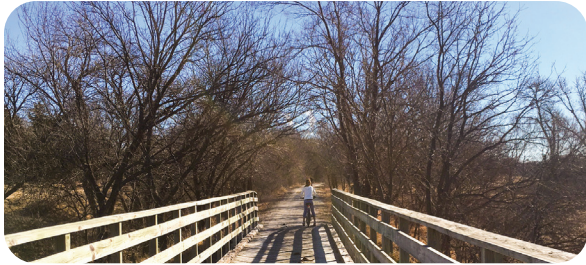


BUY A TRAIL PASS, GET BETTER TRAILS

Your voluntary trail pass donation is used exclusively to maintain existing trails. Passes are available at boxes along the trails, or by contacting the NRD.

We hope you enjoy using the trails as much as we enjoy providing them.



Trail rules and regulations are posted at trail heads. The Lower Platte South NRD is committed to doing all we can to assure your trail experience is a safe and pleasant one. Please follow our Rules and Regulations as a courtesy to fellow trail users and report any misuse of trails to the Lower Platte South NRD.



Detailed Rules and Regulations can be found at www.lpsnrd.org > Recreation > Trails

ABOUT THE NRD

The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District is one of 23 districts in the state of Nebraska formed in 1972 for the purpose of managing the state's natural resources, with an emphasis on watershed management. Programs and activities include all areas of natural resource management and development: tree planting, flood protection, wildlife habitat, stream bank stabilization, environmental education, land treatment, water monitoring and many others. The districts are partially funded by property taxes and governed by a board of directors—elected representatives who serve four-year terms. The NRD system is local government working to protect local natural resources. The Lower Platte South NRD includes nearly all of Lancaster and Cass counties and parts of Seward, Saunders, Otoe, and Butler counties.



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH
natural resources district

Lower Platte South NRD • 3125 Portia Street
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Contact: Dan Schulz, Resources Coordinator
The Lower Platte South NRD is an
Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

OAK CREEK RECREATIONAL TRAIL

AND EQUESTRIAN TRAIL



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH
natural resources district



www.lpsnrd.org

TRAIL HISTORY

Stretches of natural prairie, majestic oak woodlands and breathtaking highland vistas make the 13-mile Oak Creek Trail, from Valparaiso to Brainard, one of Nebraska's most versatile recreational trails. The corridor was once occupied by the Union Pacific Railroad, but was taken out of service using the federal Rail Bank process in 1993. The trail opened, following a local fund raising effort, in 1996.

The crushed limestone trail (when starting at the south end) begins at North Oak Bridge in

Valparaiso, with a shelter and kiosk nearby, and follows the Bates Branch of Oak Creek for several miles. Trail users will notice a gradual uphill terrain from Valparaiso to Brainard. The gradual slope, in fact, helped dictate the route of the original rail corridor.

The community of Loma marks the trail's approximate halfway point. Loma is home to St. Luke's Czech Catholic Shrine, built in 1912. Universal Studios filmed much of the full length motion picture "To Wong Fu, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar" in Loma in 1995, using the shrine as its offices and later donating

a large sum toward the building's renovation. Just before reaching Brainard, the trail follows the top of a scenic ridge. Visitors to Brainard will find a village park and a swimming pool. Trail parking and other services are available at all three communities. A restroom and connector trail at Loma opened in 2008.

OAK CREEK TRAIL

It is a good idea to check LPSNRD.org for trail closing and other information before each trail excursion.

The Oak Creek Recreational Trail shares its corridor with a separate equestrian trail. Also extending the entire 13 miles, it was created over several years' time by the Nebraska Horse Trails Committee.



GEOCACHE

Thanks to local geocaching enthusiasts Brady Holmes and Cody Boring, the Oak Creek Trail has become a prime place to geocache (look for hidden treasures using GPS). Search "Oak Creek Trail Challenge" at geocaching.com to learn more.