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## NEWS RELEASE

Nov. 1, 2007

07-401

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Prairie Trail Scenic Byway ninth to receive scenic designation in Kansas**

McPherson and Ellsworth counties are home to the Prairie Trail Scenic Byway, the ninth byway in the state to receive official designation from the Kansas Department of Transportation.

“The state designation will create greater awareness of this area for visitors and spur an interest in the communities along the route,” said Scott Shields, Kansas State Byways Coordinator. “It’s another way we can promote tourism in an area abundant with natural and cultural importance.”

The 56-mile route begins in McPherson County at Canton and ends at the intersection of K-140/K-141 in Ellsworth County. The scenic byway passes through the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, Roxbury, Lindsborg, Marquette and Kanopolis Lake Reservoir along several county roads, K-86, old U.S. 81, K-4 and K-141.

The byway offers opportunities for visitors to experience Swedish culture in Lindsborg and Marquette. It also provides opportunities to experience natural Kansas through viewing the bison and elk at Maxwell Wildlife Refuge and the natural scenery at Kanopolis Lake and nearby Mushroom Rock State Park.

The state designation will result in the placement of route markers along the byway, creation of a promotional brochure and a page on the [www.ksbyways.org](http://www.ksbyways.org) Web site. It will also be placed on the national [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org) Web site. The byway will be eligible for National Scenic Byway grants to enhance the route for visitors.

Members of the Prairie Trail Scenic Byway Committee who worked on the application included Della and Owen Meier, tour directors for Friends of Maxwell Wildlife Refuge; Thelma Everhart, Friends of Canton Tourism and Canton City Council; Pat and Larry Weibert, McPherson County land owners; Maleta Forsberg, McPherson County landowner and owner of Olive Springs Schoolhouse Gallery; Ken Branch, Lindsborg City Council and Lindsborg Chamber of Commerce; and Fred Peterson, City of Marquette City Clerk.

Also working on the application were consultants to the Committee. They include Rick Martin, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks at Kanopolis; Cliff Peterson, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks at Maxwell Wildlife Refuge and McPherson State Lake; and Nolan Fisher, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Kanopolis State Lake.

The Kansas Scenic Byways program identifies scenic routes in the state and preserves, enhances and promotes the routes through a cooperative grassroots partnership. For additional information, contact Shields (785) 296-4149 or Deb Divine, Kansas Scenic Byways Program Manager, (800) 684-6966.

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