

PUBLIC INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE MEETING

Seward Middle School, 2401 Karol Kay Blvd, Seward, NE

January, 10, 2019; 5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

ENH-80(33) SEWARD TRAIL;

C.N. 13225

LOCATION: The project called the **SEWARD TRAIL** involves a new, approximately 5.0-mile, 10-foot wide, concrete trail for bicycle and pedestrian use in southern, western and northern Seward. The project would connect to the existing trail at the Plum Creek Trailhead on South Columbia Avenue, just south of Depot Road. This trail would proceed west along the south edge of Seward crossing beneath Highway 15 before turning north near the underpass of Highway 34. At this point the trail would head north along the east side of the Seward County Fairgrounds to Waverly Road. The trail would then turn east along the south side of Waverly Road, cross Highway 15 at-grade and end at the existing trail located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Karol Kay Boulevard and Waverly Road, which is the northern end of the existing Plum Creek Trail.

PURPOSE AND NEED: The purpose of the Seward Trail project is to complete a trail loop around the City of Seward. The need is to provide a safe transportation route for pedestrians and bicyclists to access a number of City amenities, such as: Moffitt Park, Dowding Municipal Pool, the Seward County Fairgrounds, Seward Middle School, and the Plum Creek Sports Complex. The project is also needed to improve access to Seward Middle School and to enhance the public use of Moffit Park, the swimming pool, and the fairgrounds. Currently, the Plum Creek Trail extends along the eastern outskirts of Seward, but trails linking amenities within Seward and on the west side of town are limited.

SCOPE OF WORK: Proposed improvements for this project would include 5 miles of construction of a concrete trail that is 10' wide on top of a graded platform providing a firm, stable base. Earth shoulders would be constructed on each side of the trail. Culvert pipe would be constructed or extended at locations along the proposed trail to accommodate drainage and embankment widening. Permanent seed, sod and erosion control would be placed on disturbed areas as needed to prevent displacement of soil. The project would also include permanent signing and pavement marking along the project corridor.

PROJECT SCHEDULE: The proposed project is currently in the preliminary design phase. The project is tentatively scheduled for construction in 2021.

RIGHT-OF-WAY: This project would require the acquisition of additional property rights, which could include new right-of-way (ROW), control of access (CA), permanent easements (PE), and/or temporary easements (TE). If your property is impacted by this project, you will be contacted by a representative once the design footprint has been established. Access to adjacent properties would be maintained during construction, but may be limited at times due to phasing requirements.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS: The trail corridor is anticipated to impact wetland resources along the project. The trail is also anticipated to impact publicly owned parks or recreation areas. The back side of this handout describes anticipated impacts to the parks and recreation areas.

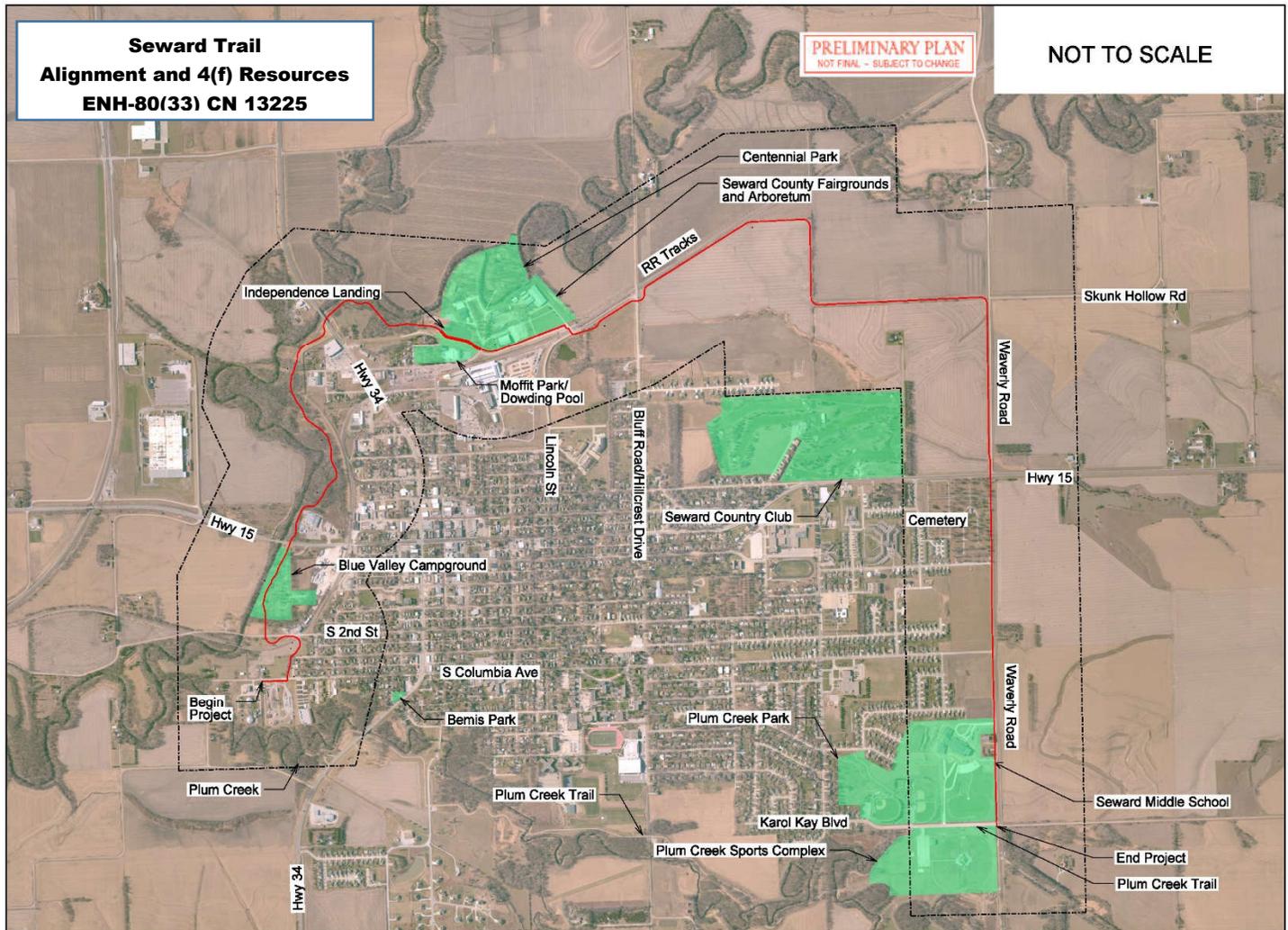
ACCOMMODATION OF TRAFFIC: Much of the work would be completed outside the limits of the street corridors within the City of Seward. South Columbia Avenue and South 2nd Street would be closed while the trail crossings of those two streets are constructed. Drivers would be required to utilize adjacent streets for access. All other streets would remain open during the trail construction with partial lane closures as needed. Driveways along the trail would be reconstructed and vehicular access to those properties would be limited while the driveways are being reconstructed.

ESTIMATED COST: The project is estimated to cost \$3.7 million dollars which includes design, right of way, and construction costs. The project would be funded with 80% Federal Transportation funds and 20% local funds provided by the City of Seward and the Upper Big Blue Natural Resource District.



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

<p><i>For More Information:</i> SCHEMMER DOUG HOLLE 134 South 13th Street Suite 1100 Lincoln NE 68508-1931 402-488-2500 dholle@schemmer.com</p>	<p><i>For More Information:</i> CITY OF SEWARD JAKE VASA 142 N. 7th Street Seward NE 68434 402-643-4000 jake.vasa@cityofsewardne.gov</p>
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Seward Trail
ENH-80(33), CN 13225
Seward County - Seward, NE



Project Alignment
4(f) Study Area
Potential 4(f) Property

Section 4(f) Property Map
Exhibit 1
January 10, 2019



SECTION 4(f) EVALUATION – The Seward Trail project is funded with Federal transportation funds. Due to the use of these funds, the project must adhere to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and “Section 4(f)” of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act. “Section 4(f)” evaluates impacts to public parks, recreation areas and wildlife or waterfowl refuges, and historic sites during the development of transportation projects. The proposed trail is anticipated to impact portions of Blue Valley Campground, Independence Landing and the Plum Creek Trail, which are considered Section 4(f) resources. Descriptions of anticipated impacts to each Section 4(f) resource are described further below.

Blue Valley Campground – The trail enters the campground from the east after it crosses 2nd Street. The trail follows the meander of the Big Blue River and stays on the south side of the campground. The trail continues west and exits the campground as it crosses beneath the Highway 15 bridge. After the construction, the trail would provide hard surface pedestrian access to the campgrounds amenities.

Independence Landing – The trail crosses into Independence Landing on the south side of the property. The landing contains a small lake used for fishing activities. The trail would be located on the dam for the lake. During construction, access to the lake would remain open to fishing at all locations along the lake shore except the portion along the dam. After the construction, the trail would provide a hard surfaced path to the lake dam.

Plum Creek Trail – The proposed trail would begin at the southeast corner of the City of Seward at the end point of the existing Plum Creek Trail near South Columbia Road. This project would construct a trail connection at this point. The end point of the proposed trail is near the northeast corner of the town at the intersection of Waverly Road and Karol Kay Boulevard. This project would construct a trail connection at this point. The two connections to Plum Creek Trail would complete a complete pedestrian trail loop around the City of Seward.

A component of NEPA and the Section 4(f) evaluation is to gather public comment on the project and comments on the anticipated impacts to these resources. Therefore, please use the comment sheets provided to comment on the project in general or on anticipated impacts to Section 4(f) resources. Comments can also be relayed to the members of the project team as identified on this information sheet.