



The Kevin Brown Hiking and Biking Trail

About the Trail

Kevin Brown was a teacher in the Loup County School System who made significant contributions to the community over nearly three decades. As a result of his love for the community, Brown left a portion of his estate to the village for further improvements.

The Kevin Brown Hiking and Biking Trail is a proposal which would serve the community and give visitors an opportunity to enjoy the attractions that Taylor offers, as well as walk or bike through locations where the Sandhills begin and enjoy the flora and wildlife living along the North Loup River.

About Taylor

Taylor (population 190) is the county seat of Loup County, both of which are evolving from an agricultural-based economy into a more diversified economy in which tourism plays a much greater role. The town of Taylor offers a unique variety of historic and natural features, combined with an opportunity to see the Sandhills topography and geology and the many attractions that have developed from the Calamus Reservoir. Each year, over 675,000 tourists visit the area.

In recent years, Taylor and Loup County have been featured six times in Nebraska Life magazine. KOLN-KGIN's Pure Nebraska show has featured the community on five occasions, and Nebraska Educational Television released a program on the Taylor Villagers, which are created by a gifted local artist. This broadcast was recently aired nationwide on PBS.

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Pathway Feature Attractions

At the Williams street intersection, the community has recently erected an attractive **Veteran's Memorial (1)**. This would serve as the beginning point of the trail.

The Veteran's Memorial is adjacent to an old **Congregational Church (2)** building, which is now being redeveloped into a museum facility by the Loup County Historical Society. Parking for trail users would be available at this location.

The **Taylor Visitors Information Center (3)**, which is a restored gas station, provides maps, brochures, ice water, and information about the Calamus and various points of interest in the area. Also on this site is a Butterfly Garden which is certified by the North American Butterfly Association.

The **Taylor Community Arboretum (4)**, which is certified by the Nebraska State Arboretum, has over 50 varieties of trees and shrubs. The Community Arboretum features the Taylor Juniper which was discovered just west of town, and is now nationally prominent in landscapes across the country.

The **Pavillion Hotel (5)** was at one time in its history considered the finest hotel between Grand Island and Rapid City. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been named as one of Nebraska's "Hidden Treasures" by Heritage Nebraska.

The **North Loup River (6)**, just north of Taylor, is an excellent wildlife observation area. There is a strong working relationship between the Rowe Sanctuary (Sandhills Crane Observatory) at Gibbon and nearby Calamus Outfitters (Prairie Chicken Festival). The trail could develop into a new stop for those interested in birding.

The **Taylor Rodeo Grounds (7)** is used for Junior Rodeos and related events at various times including the Loup County Fair. This trail would provide a safer alternative than walking or cycling on #183 during one or the busier traffic weeks of the year.

The beginning of the Nebraska Sandhills can be experienced by trail users as they travel over several hundred yards, witnessing the topography and soil structure change dramatically

Bootleg Brewers (8), which offers five cabins along with a restaurant and microbrewery, is a Nebraska Passport destination for 2016. This business is located near the northern end of the proposed trail. Four miles further north of the trailhead, **Calamus Outfitters** provides tanking, tubing, and canoeing. We mention these points to show our confidence that this trail will attract and serve both visitors to the area as well as be a valuable asset for the residents of Taylor.

