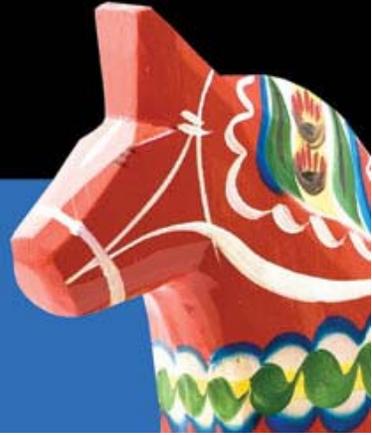


# LINDSBORG

LITTLE SWEDEN, USA



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SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE  
03/08/2012

For Immediate Release  
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## **Prairie Trail Byway** *"A Journey of Wonder and Delight"*

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World English Dictionary: byway - (n.) a secondary or side road, especially in the country.



Byways tend to bring out the true Americana in us all--discovering obscure culture, living history and the quirky side of the inhabitants of this vast country. Taking the slower, perhaps longer, more scenic route to see what we can unearth is in our pioneer ancestor DNA passed through the generations. Statistics show that 55-70% of travelers look for byway signs to take a break from an interstate. "The National Scenic Byways Program....is a grass-roots collaborative effort established to help recognize, preserve and enhance selected roads throughout the United States. Since 1992, the National Scenic Byways Program has funded 3,049 projects for state and nationally designated byway routes in 50 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia," from [byways.org](http://byways.org).

It takes legwork and patience to have a Scenic Byway approved. The Prairie Trail Byway committee took five to six years putting together a Corridor Management Plan and documenting interesting views and vistas, literally mile by mile. Many people have been involved: Sue Schlegel (Lindsborg Convention & Visitors Bureau Representative), Owen and Della Meiers (Friends of Maxwell), Fred Peterson (Clerk at City of Marquette), Kim Witt (rural Canton), Earlene Marston (Roxbury Historical Society) Rick Martin (Kanopolis Park Manager), Dr. Ken Branch (City Council/Courtyard Gallery), Sue Stringer and Scott Shields (KDOT), Maleta Forsberg (Artist), Dr. Duane Fredrickson (Lindsborg Historical Society) and Ronn Peters (Central Kansas Conservancy).

The Prairie Trail Scenic Byway rolls 56 miles through various landscapes and habitats in north

central Kansas. The trail begins at Canton, Kansas, just off of Highway 56, otherwise known as "Gateway to the Maxwell Game Preserve." Take time to look up at the two water towers labeled Hot and Cold which is quite a conversation starter on its bona fides. The Carnegie Library on Main Street was the last to be built in the state and is still open as a functioning entity.

The byway then goes north on K-86 to the [Maxwell Wildlife Preserve](#) and the McPherson State Lake. Today, the dream of John Gault Maxwell has been realized with 2,800 acres of the natural prairie complete with rolling hills, creeks and indigenous wildflowers. The preserve is home to 50 elk and 200 bison. Visitors may stop at the wildlife refuge and view these commanding animals in their natural habitat. The McPherson State Lake is available for fishing, camping and offers a bluebird hiking trail.

Head north to Lindsborg otherwise known as Little Sweden, USA. The Prairie Trail Byway is not all about nature, art is another attraction. Take time to make an appointment with artist Maleta Forsberg's and tour her studio, Olive Spring Schoolhouse in between Roxbury and Lindsborg. Please call to make reservations at (785) 254-7833. The Olive Springs Schoolhouse was built in 1885 and renovated in the mid 1970s. The schoolhouse is the oldest building of its kind in McPherson County remaining on its original site and is located right on the Prairie Trail Byway.

Commence on to [Lindsborg](#) and know it is the perfect spot for a home-base as it is the only community on the Prairie Byway to offer overnight amenities with two Bed & Breakfasts, two motels and three RV parks. Public art exists in abundance all around Lindsborg. Galleries, museums and studios are open for browsing or shopping. Boutiques, restaurants, coffee shops, golf course, swimming pool, lovely parks and the only Wild Dala Horse herd are also sights to see and experience. A short distance from Lindsborg and the byway is the not-to-be-missed Coronado Heights, a bluff 277 feet above the Smoky Valley floor. Also included on your itinerary should be the Höglund Dugout, where the first pioneers made their home in the valley by living in a large "grave-like" hole in the ground.

Swinging onto Highway 4 from the dugout and back onto the Prairie Trail Byway, travel a few miles to visit the quaint Victorian downtown of Marquette with Stan "the Man" Engdahl's Kansas Motorcycle Museum, Artspace for contemporary art and the Historical Society Museum. After that, grab an ice cream at the refurbished soda shop.

[Kanopolis Lake](#) is the next stop featuring fishing, boating, camping, many hiking trails and trail riding. The Prairie Trail Byway concludes at Mushroom Rock Park featuring bizarrely irregular rocks that literally resemble mushrooms purely created by nature. It is truly a one-of-a-kind sight.

The future for the Prairie Trail Byway is positive and upbeat as a website including QR codes and a Facebook page dedicated to the trail are in progress. Currently brochures are available with accompanying maps at the Certified Travel Information Center located at 114 N. Main Street, Lindsborg. For more information on the Prairie Trail Byway, contact the [Lindsborg Convention & Visitors Bureau](#).

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For event and travel information, call or stop by the Convention and Visitors Bureau located at 104 E. Lincoln, Lindsborg, Kansas 67456. Ph: (785) 227-TOUR (8687) or Toll free: (888) 227-2227. E: [cvbdir@lindsborgcity.org](mailto:cvbdir@lindsborgcity.org). W: [www.visitlindsborg.com](http://www.visitlindsborg.com).

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