Independence Creek Trail – Biking/Hiking

Located at 19917 314th Road in Atchison County - just 5 miles north of the Atchison riverfront - Independence Creek is on a 10 mile loop hiking/biking trail, covers 13 acres reseeded in native plants and grasses, and is one of 12 certified Lewis and Clark campsites marked by a Geodetic Marker during the 2004-2006 Bicentennial. The Lewis and Clark Historic Site commemorates the location where the Lewis and Clark expedition camped on July 4, 1804. The portion of the trail located along the levee is 2.5 miles from River Road to Independence Creek (5 mile loop).

The site features a re-creation of a Kanza Indian Lodge to interpret the first capital of the Kanza Nation, and also contains numerous interpretive elements that help relate the site's significance. Other features include an interpretive sign and a geodetic marker. The trail also passes along the western edge of the 2,112-acre Benedictine Bottoms Wildlife Area located in the flood plain of the Missouri River.

Also be sure to check out Riverfront Park in nearby Atchison, which is located next to the Missouri River and includes an overlook for sightseeing, as well as the Lewis & Clark Pavilion, which was constructed in preparation for the Lewis and Clark bicentennial commemoration in 2004. The pavilion contains an interactive touchscreen monitor and interpretive panels with information on the Lewis & Clark expedition, the Missouri River and the Kanza Nation. Riverfront Park also contains a short paved trail.

