

Atchison County

On July 4, 1804, the expedition passed through what is today the Atchison area. In honor of the nation's birthday, they fired the keelboat's swivel gun at dawn and dusk, named two local streams – Fourth of July 1804 Creek and Independence Creek – and received extra rations of whiskey at the end of the day. Earlier in the day, a snake bit Joseph Field in the river bottoms of present southern Atchison County.

Fifty years later, when the Kansas Territory was opened for settlement, a group of men crossed the river and established the town of Atchison in June, 1854. Its location at a western bend in the river, soon made Atchison a prosperous commercial center for westward expansion.

Present-day travelers can enhance their journey along the Lewis and Clark Trail at the following sites:

A1 – Lewis and Clark Interpretive Sign

In southern Atchison County, an interpretive sign describes the Joseph Field snakebite incident. From Sherman Road, east one mile on 244th Road to intersection with River Road.

A2 – Santa Fe Depot

Atchison's restored Santa Fe Depot houses a Welcome Center and the Atchison County Historical Society Museum. The museum has Lewis and Clark displays and also displays one of three resin models produced for the full-scale Lewis and Clark statue in Kansas City's Case Park. Narrated trolley tours from the Welcome Center are offered May-October. 200 S. 10th Street. 800-234-1854

A2 – Fourth of July 1804 Creek

A Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) commemorative marker identifies the remnants of Fourth of July 1804 Creek, later known as White Clay Creek. Adjacent to the Welcome Center, 200 S. 10th Street.

A3 – Lewis and Clark Interpretive Pavilion

Information on the expedition can be accessed from an interactive touch-screen computer in this open-air pavilion, which also has interpretive displays. Riverfront at intersection of Commercial Street and River Road.

For more information about attractions and tourist services in Atchison:

Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce
800-234-1854 • www.atchisonkansas.net



Atchison County Historical Society Museum in the Santa Fe Depot

A3 – Lewis and Clark Commemorative Marker

A Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) commemorative marker in downtown Atchison commemorates the expedition's visit to the area on July 4, 1804. Riverfront at intersection of Commercial Street and River Road.

A4 – Independence Park

Restrooms, grills and picnic tables, views of the river, a boat ramp and docks are features of this riverfront park at the intersection of River Road and Atchison Street.

A5 – Lewis and Clark Interpretive Sign, Benedictine College

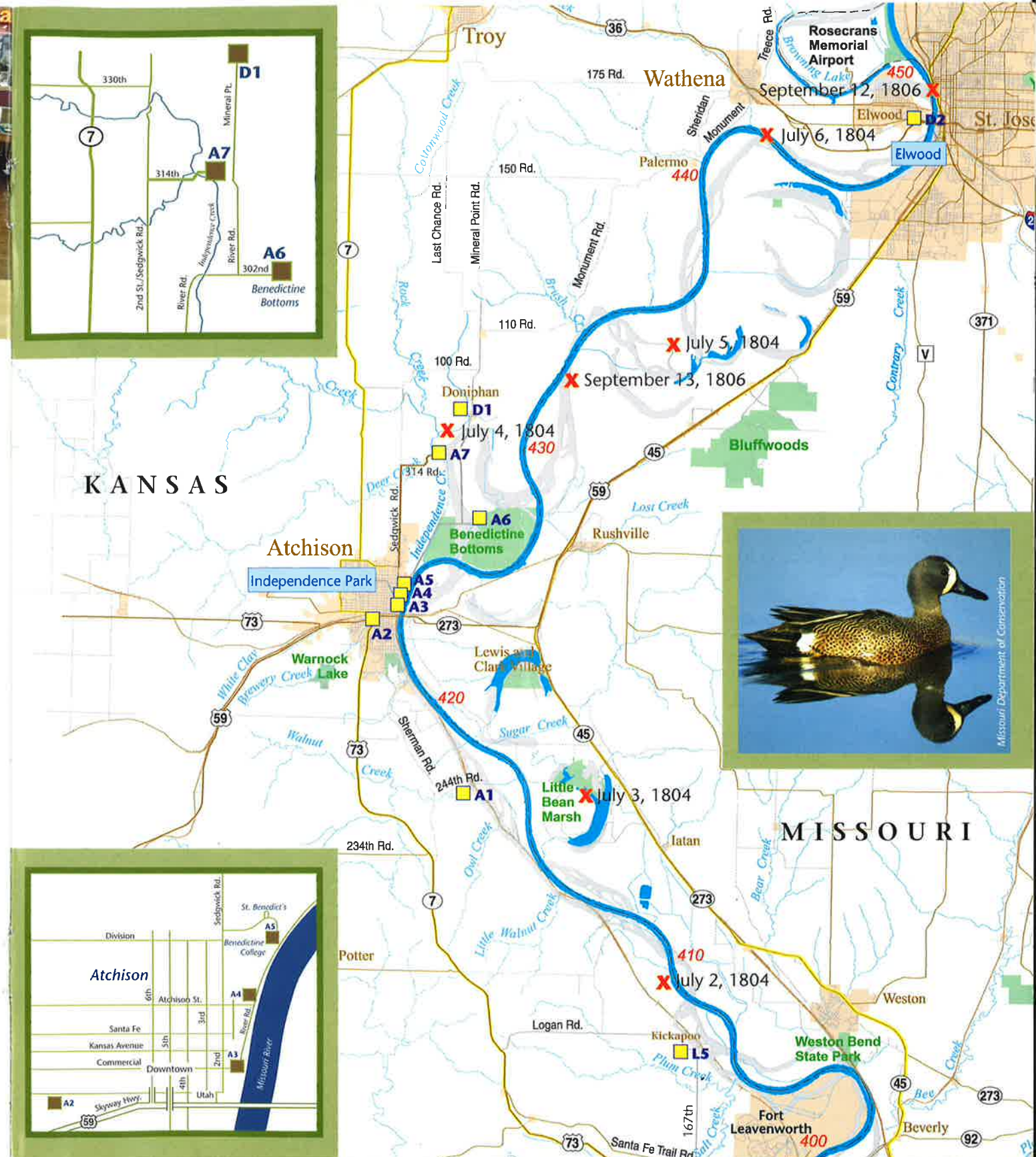
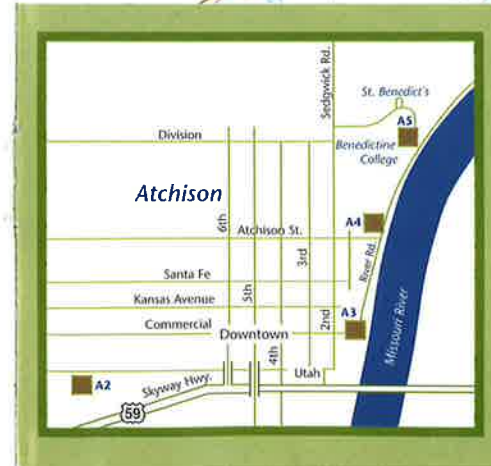
The expedition's journal entries about landscapes are featured on this interpretive sign, which overlooks the river valley from Benedictine College. 1020 N. 2nd Street.

A6 – Lewis and Clark Interpretive Sign, Benedictine Bottoms

The expedition's study of wildlife is featured on this interpretive sign in the parking lot of the Benedictine Bottoms, which is part of the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to restore wetland and riparian habitat destroyed by flood control projects. The Bottoms is maintained by the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, which allows limited access during hunting season. When fully developed, the area will provide opportunities for hunting and wildlife viewing. North on River Road about three miles past city limits.

A7 – Lewis and Clark Interpretive Sign, Independence Creek

An interpretive sign about the expedition's encampment in the vicinity on July 4, 1804, is among improvements being made to this site on the banks of Independence Creek, about four miles north of Atchison. A pedestrian bridge over the creek connects the site to a hiking/biking trail that originates on the riverfront downtown. North on 2nd Street (Sedgwick Road), then east on 314 Road. A Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) marker commemorates Lewis and Clark's visit to the area.



Missouri Department of Conservation

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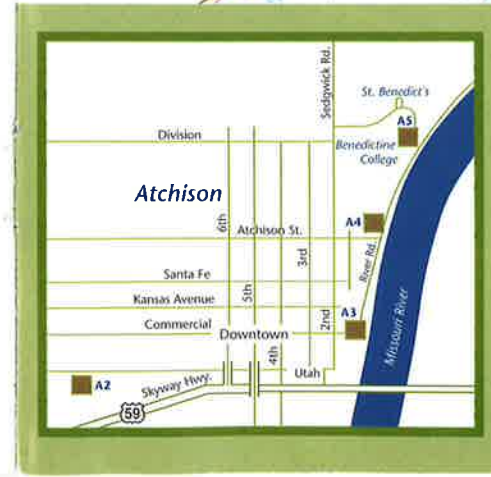
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