

Natural & Cultural Heritage Taskforce

Final Report



Presented to the Douglas County Commission
March 16, 2011

Introduction

The Douglas County Commission authorized the creation of the Natural & Cultural Heritage Taskforce and appointed its members on September 15, 2010. See Appendix D for biographical information about the Taskforce.

The purpose of the Taskforce was to do the following:

“Make recommendations to the Douglas County Commission on how to best establish a framework to conserve our natural and cultural heritage for future generations and to enhance economic development benefits of tourism, local agriculture, and other endeavors based on such conservation efforts”

During the month of October in 2010, the Natural & Cultural Heritage Taskforce hosted six public discussions throughout the County to learn what is important to people when it come to heritage conservation. The Taskforce sincerely thanks all members of the public who come to these public discussions. See Appendix C for a summary of these public discussions.

The Taskforce then met four times in November and December of 2010 to create the most equitable and beneficial process for allocating funds for the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage of Douglas County. The Douglas County Commission has approved \$350,000 for this purpose in its 2011 budget. See Appendix A for a list of the Taskforce Recommendations.

The Taskforce agreed to make all decisions using the consensus decision making model. Decisions reached in this way means that all members can say they support the decision because it was reached fairly and openly, and everyone’s point of view was heard and understood. There were no votes taken on any item or recommendation in this report.

Information about the on-going activities of the taskforce can be found at www.heritageconservationdouglascounty.org. At this website, people can also sign up for email updates on future activities of the Taskforce.

The Taskforce approved the Final Report on February 24, 2011 for submission to the Douglas County Commission for its review and consideration.

Executive Summary

From farms to historic buildings, from battlefields to wagon trails, from prairies and streams to frontier commerce, Douglas County has it all. First-year funding is needed for an inventory of irreplaceable resources not yet catalogued.

When connected through stories, Douglas County's natural landscapes and historic places represent a powerful continuum of history. We need to educate people inside and outside our community about who we are and about our rich history.

The Natural and Cultural Heritage Taskforce thanks the Douglas County Commission for the allocation of \$350,000 in its 2011 budget for heritage conservation. While funding for this year is a very important step, conservation efforts should be systematic and ongoing.

The Taskforce determined that there is no one fixed way to allocate funding for projects over time. The Taskforce thus concluded that worthwhile projects should drive the selection process. The process should not drive the selections.

One or two funded projects should be large enough to have a major impact on the conservation of our natural and cultural resources. Other funded projects should meet smaller, and equally important, needs of local organizations and individuals working to conserve our heritage. All projects should be evaluated on criteria that will determine a project's relative importance, and thus its desirability to be funded. The Taskforce recommends that funds be allocated for:

- 1) One or two major projects (55%)
- 2) A series of target projects (30%)
- 3) The first year of a county-wide inventory of heritage resources (10%), and
- 4) Administrative costs for evaluating and monitoring the progress of funded projects (5%).

The Taskforce chose to use percentages, rather than dollar amounts, as a way for the Douglas County Commission to determine the priorities for the \$350,000 it approved for heritage conservation in 2011. These percentages can change in the future as circumstances warrant.

The Taskforce recommends that the Douglas County Commission create a Heritage Conservation Council. It would administer the grant application process associated with this initiative and recommend suitable projects to the County Commission..

The Taskforce supports the continued inclusion of monies from the general fund in future years for heritage conservation. If at some point the interest and need for this program requires more resources than are available from the general fund, the Commission or future Commissions should explore other funding sources, including a locally approved sales tax through a public vote.

PART I:

Facilitating the conservation of our valued cultural and natural sites

The natural and cultural resources in Douglas County, why we need to conserve them, how the Taskforce recommendations will help conserve our heritage, and the rationale behind the recommendations

"We should not think only of our own survival; each new generation is responsible to ensure the memory of the three generations before it, and the survival of the three to follow. What we do today will involve all seven generations and because of this we must bear in mind our responsibility to them today and always."

*Rick Mitchell: October 9, 2010
(shared at public discussion)*

Our Valued Heritage

From farms to historic buildings, from battlefields to wagon trails, from prairies and streams to frontier commerce, Douglas County has a rich heritage indeed. This was reinforced and amplified during the six public discussions hosted by the Taskforce in October of 2010. It also became clear that most of our heritage that has been conserved is due to extremely dedicated people at the local level. These include individuals and families conserving their farms and their way of life. Others maintain museums by donating their time, their money, and their talents. Some donate their land for public use. These people are our true heritage leaders, and over time they have all contributed greatly to making this present endeavor possible.

The irreplaceable resources nurtured by these people have been catalogued through a variety of surveys in the past. While this information is useful for those interested in conserving our heritage, it is incomplete and outdated.

There is also no one depository for all the natural and cultural resources in the County that provides the ability to layer these resources in a system that will visually aid in the identification, evaluation and conservation of significant resources. This is an important tool that is not available to historical societies, heritage advisory committees, and policy makers like the County Commissioners. This inventory will strengthen our understanding of the County's assets and increase our ability to make decisions within a context of all our heritage resources. See sections titled "Douglas County Inventory of Historic Resources" and "Environmentally Sensitive Areas Data" in Part II of this report for more on this subject.

Recommendation #1:

Support the funding of a systematic and comprehensive inventory of heritage resources, starting with certain communities and areas in the first year. This inventory would be assembled into a publically accessible database, and updated and maintained in subsequent years.

Learning about Ourselves

When connected through stories, Douglas County’s natural landscapes and historic places represent a powerful continuum of history. If conserved and interpreted, these significant local places can offer unique experiences and information that make the past come alive for anyone who visits or studies them.

Douglas County has a rich diversity of natural and cultural sites that could be enhanced by being connected to one another. Not only can places be connected physically with trails and paths, but also with interpretation by linking places through stories and broader natural and historical themes. Heritage education has long been a focus of the National Park Service (NPS) as a way to enrich classroom and visitor experiences. The NPS created the Teaching with Historic Places (TwHP) program in 1991 to promote places as effective tools for enhancing traditional instruction and helping students connect the history all around them with national events and themes. Augmenting existing natural and cultural education efforts at local sites and museums and during heritage festivals with resources available through the TwHP program is just one way we could enrich student and visitor experiences.

Natural and cultural conservation projects are perhaps most effective when they enrich the lives of residents while providing rich, local experiences for visitors. Douglas County Commissioners should receive regular briefings on the progress of natural and cultural heritage conservation projects and inventories. Additionally, they should seek guidance from and partner with related local and state organizations that can further their mission of conservation. A list containing some of these organizations can be found in Appendix C.

Recommendation #2:

Monitor the progress of natural and cultural heritage conservation projects and inventories; Educate people inside and outside our community about who we are and our rich history.

Our Call to Action

The Natural and Cultural Heritage Taskforce thanks the Douglas County Commission for the allocation of \$350,000 in its 2011 budget for heritage conservation. It will help conserve our rich history and provide a solid foundation for future conservation. It is truly a landmark step that builds on past efforts of the Commission, all Douglas County communities, and citizen initiatives.

This expression of political will to provide funds to conserve our natural, cultural and historic sites will bring attention to the threatened and irreplaceable resources. While funding for this year is a very important step, conservation efforts should be systematic and ongoing. Inactivity or hit-and-miss efforts could undermine preservation and conservation efforts.

The Taskforce is recommending an objective, rational pathway for evaluating grant applications. The use of objective criteria for determining the value of our heritage resources is important. Using these criteria lends credibility to the support of a project and the accompanying expenditure. The Taskforce supports a numerical system (matrix) of weighing the relative merits of grant applications.

Historically, County residents have been interested in conserving our natural and cultural heritage. This was conveyed by individuals who have donated land for public access, people who served on the Eco² Commission¹, and those with an interest in local food production. This was also reinforced when the Taskforce toured the Lane Museum and Territorial Capitol in Lecompton, the Wakarusa River Valley Heritage Museum, and the Watkins Museum in Lawrence. Local heritage boosters in Baldwin city and Eudora also reinforced the countywide interest in heritage conservation.

Lack of funding for these purposes has limited the number of conservation related projects in the past. The Taskforce recognizes, however, that money for conservation efforts is finite. All proposed projects have value and deciding which are funded will be challenging.

Recommendation #3:

Continuous, on-going action is critically important to fully maximize the benefits of funding included in the 2011 budget for Douglas County. Refer to the action timetable entitled *What Comes Next* for further details.

The specific steps for allocating funds authorized by the Commission are outlined in the subsequent section.

Employing a Framework to make Funding Decisions

The Taskforce determined that there is no one fixed way to allocate funding for projects over time. Even if there was a perfect formula, circumstances can change. The Taskforce thus concluded that worthwhile projects should drive the selection process. The process should not drive the selections.

¹ Eco Squared Commission was created in 2000 as a joint advisory committee to Douglas County and the City of Lawrence. The purpose of the committee was to advise both the City and County on matters relating to the dual goals of (i) preservation and management of open space, and (ii) acquisition of land, facilities, and other supports to expand job opportunities in Douglas County, Kansas. This committee is no longer active.

So, how should projects be evaluated? One or two projects should be large enough to have a major impact on the conservation of our natural and cultural resources. Other funded projects should meet smaller, and equally important, needs of local organizations and individuals working to conserve our heritage. All projects should be evaluated using criteria that will determine a project's relative importance, and thus its desirability to be funded.

Determining the Funding Priorities

The Taskforce concluded that applications should be evaluated according to the impact the proposed project would have on conserving our county's heritage. For 2011, the Taskforce recommends that funds be allocated for:

- 1) One or two major projects
- 2) A series of target projects
- 3) The first year of a county-wide inventory of heritage resources, and
- 4) Administrative costs for evaluating and monitoring the progress of funded projects.

The Taskforce chose to use percentages, rather than dollar amounts, as a way for the Douglas County Commission to determine the priorities for the \$350,000 it approved for heritage conservation. There are two primary reasons for this; one, it clearly shows what the priorities are. Secondly, it provides a straightforward way for these priorities to be maintained in the likely event that, over time, the amount of funding will change. These percentages can change in the future as circumstances warrant.

One or two major projects can consume up to 55% of the total allocated funds. A series of target projects can consume up to 30% of allocated funds. For illustrative purposes only, some target projects might include preservation of a few acres of native prairie, restoration of hitching posts, and refurbishment of an historic cabin.

Recommendation #4:

Funded efforts must fall under one of the categories as outlined below:

- Historic structures
- Prairie; woodlands, waterways; habitat restoration/preservation
- Agriculture (working farms; heritage farms: high quality agricultural soils)
- Freedom's Frontier themes (*Civil War and pre-Civil War heritage; Settlement stories (before and after Civil War); Enduring struggle for freedom*)
- Pre-settlement history

Heritage Conservation: Funding Priorities	<i>Allocation Percentage</i>
Major Project(s)	55%
Target Projects	30%
Douglas County Inventory of Natural & Cultural Resources	10%
Administration	5%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>

Recommendation #5:

All funds allocated for projects should be spent each year dependent on receiving qualified applications. If any one category does not have enough qualified applications, money should be used in other categories where there are qualified applicants. If inventory or administrative costs fall below the percentage allocated for those purposes, the money should be transferred for other qualified projects.

To provide potential applicants a head-start in formulating their proposals, the Taskforce recommends that the Commission approve the funding priorities in March of 2011 for Fiscal Year 2011. This would precede the actual request for grant applications slated now for August of 2011. In following years, upon the recommendations of an appointed advisory group, the Commission should approve allocation priorities in February of each year for that fiscal year for the reasons stated above.

Recommendation #6:

The Douglas County Commission should review, amend as necessary, and approve allocation priorities in March of 2011 for Fiscal Year 2011.

Recommendation #7:

As is expected of other administrative departments within County government, the County should adopt a three-year capital plan for heritage conservation projects.

Using Criteria to Evaluate Heritage Applications

The Taskforce believes strongly that applications be reviewed using rational, objective, and transparent criteria. These criteria should be placed in an evaluative matrix and made part of the grant application materials. For the purposes of this preliminary report, the criteria are simply listed for Commission and public feedback.

Grant Application Guidelines

The first criterion below is the highest priority when evaluating grants. The criteria that follow are equally important and thus are not ranked.

Highest Value Criterion:

- Substantial benefit for the conservation of natural and cultural resources

Remaining Criteria:

- Urgency
- Connectivity, both physical (sites) and interpretative (stories)
- Community Impact (how does it help the community)
- Sustainability
- Educational /Interpretative Value
- Matching Resources (money, labor, in-kind donations e.g.)
- Feasibility
- Affordability
- Uniqueness

The grant application process and materials should be straight forward to encourage grant submissions from a wide variety of interests. The amount of detail and verification required should be dependent in part on the amount of the request. At the same time, applicants should provide enough information to demonstrate their ability to carry out and accomplish the purpose for which they are requesting public funds. The grant application should convey what is expected in terms of the requirements for eligibility and the desired outcomes.

Recommendation #8:

The Douglas County Commission should review, amend as necessary, and approve grant application materials in May of 2011, and every March after that. These materials should include a list of criteria for use in evaluating grant applications in 2011.

Recommendation #9

The Commission should direct the Natural and Cultural Heritage Taskforce to submit the application materials to the Commission by April of 2011 for review and approval by the Commission as outlined in Recommendation #8.

Benefiting our Community through Heritage Conservation

The Taskforce believes that connecting stories and our places of interest will provide many community benefits. One benefit is a connection to the past, whether one's family has lived here for 150 years or just a few months. Having a sense of our place in time is important for our community. A second benefit is that if our unique heritage is reflected in a compelling way, it will attract people from outside the county, which will lead to increased economic benefits from tourism.

Creating a Certified Local Government

The National Historic Preservation Act provides the legal basis for a federal-state-local preservation partnership. The federal law directs the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Secretary of the Interior (National Park Service, NPS) to certify local governments to participate in this partnership. In Kansas, the Certified Local Government (CLG) program is designed to promote the preservation of prehistoric and historic sites and districts by establishing a partnership between the local government and the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), a division of the Kansas Historical Society.

Participation in the CLG program will result in many positive outcomes. Two key reasons to become a CLG is access to expert technical advice from the SHPO and the NPS and access to Federal funding. CLG communities are eligible for a portion of Federal funds set aside annually by the SHPO. Currently there are 15 CLG communities in Kansas that are eligible to apply for competitive grants from the SHPO funded by the Historic Preservation Fund. CLG communities frequently receive additional funds due to their documented commitment to the preservation of historic resources as part of the CLG program. See section titled "Application for Historical Preservation Grant" in Part II of this report for more details about this grant process.

Recommendation #10:

The Douglas County Commission should begin taking the steps necessary for Douglas County to becoming a Certified Local Government.

Creating a Heritage Conservation Council

One requirement for becoming a Certified Local Government (CLG) is that the local government must "establish an adequate and qualified historic preservation commission through a local ordinance." To satisfy this requirement, the Taskforce recommends the creation of a Heritage Conservation Council (HCC). The CLG rules require that it must contain a minimum number of 5 members. And while there is no limit to the number of members that could be on the Heritage Conservation Council, "at least 40 percent of the . . . membership shall be drawn from the preservation related profession as defined by the National Park Service. These professions currently include; Prehistoric and Historic Archeology, Architectural History, Conservation,

Cultural Anthropology, Curation, Engineering, Folklore, Historic Architecture, Historic Landscape Architecture, Historic Preservation Planning, Historic Preservation, and History.”

Recommendation #11:

The Natural & Cultural Heritage Taskforce recommends that the Douglas County Commission create a Heritage Conservation Council in accordance with the requirements of being a Certified Local Government. The HCC would administer the grant application process associated with this heritage conservation initiative and recommend suitable projects to the County Commission.

Recommendation #12:

The Heritage Conservation Council should be comprised of seven (7) members, three of whom shall have qualifications as outlined in the Certified Local Government requirements. The remaining four members shall be taken from a pool of people with one of more of the following interests: agriculture, tourism, unique and significant lands, economic development, history, and environment. The Douglas County Commission should appoint members to the Heritage Conservation Council by May of 2011.

Recommendation #13

The Commission should direct the Natural and Cultural Heritage Taskforce to submit an administrative and organizational framework for the Heritage Conservation Council to the Commission by April of 2011 for review and approval by the Commission in May of 2011.

Long Term Funding Source

The Natural and Cultural Heritage Taskforce thanks the Douglas County Commission for the allocation of \$350,000 in its 2011 budget for heritage conservation. This landmark step builds on past efforts of the Commission, all Douglas County communities, and citizen initiatives. The Taskforce supports the continued inclusion of monies from the general fund in future years for heritage conservation. If, at some point, the interest and need for this program requires more resources than are available from the general fund, the Commission or future Commissions should explore other funding sources, including a locally approved sales tax through a public vote.

While one major focus of this report, as it should be, is how to beneficially award grants for heritage conservation, it is important to note that any awarded funds provide applicants an opportunity and the encouragement to leverage other funds (e.g. private, institutional, other levels of government, proven volunteer base). Matching resources is one of the criteria for evaluating grant applications. This underscores the fact that the primary purpose of current and future funds approved by the Commission is to facilitate the enhanced conservation of our heritage. It is not the ultimate funding source for heritage conservation.

What Comes Next...?

The Natural & Cultural Taskforce submits its Final Report to the Douglas County Commission for its review and consideration in **March 2011**

Douglas County applies for a grant from the Historic Preservation Fund to pay for a portion of the cost of the 2011 inventory of heritage resources. Deadline for the grant is **March 15, 2011**.

The Natural & Cultural Taskforce presents its recommendations on the grant application process and the organizational framework for the Heritage Conservation Council to the Douglas County Commission in **April 2011**.

The Douglas County Commission appoints the members of the Heritage Conservation Council and approves the grant application process in **May 2011**

Historic Preservation Fund Grants are awarded: **May 14, 2011**

The grant application period opens in **July 2011** and closes in **September 2011**

The Heritage Conservation Council completes its review of grant applications and makes funding recommendation in **November 2011**.

The Douglas County Commission allocates grant money for projects in **December of 2011**.

PART II:

Concurrent Proposals and Activities Supported by the Taskforce

Horizon 2020 Comprehensive Preservation Plan, Revisions to Chapter 11

Horizon 2020 Comprehensive Preservation Plan Element and Revisions to Chapter 11: Historic Resources of *Horizon 2020, the Comprehensive Plan for Lawrence and Unincorporated Douglas County*.

The *Horizon 2020 Historic Preservation Plan Element* provides Lawrence and unincorporated Douglas County with both a broad-based and inclusive preservation model. Its goal is to create opportunities to preserve, enhance and develop, through preservation activities and programs, livable, vital, and sustainable neighborhoods, commercial centers, cultural landscapes, and rural communities. The plan broadly focuses on the city's and county's cultural resources, including its buildings, neighborhoods and streetscapes, historic sites, trails, battlefields, open spaces, and prehistoric and historic archaeological sites. These are the assets that provide a unique "sense of place" in the region.

The City of Lawrence and Douglas County possess a unique legacy of built and natural resources that reflect its rich history. This legacy deserves to be protected and preserved. The proposed preservation plan capitalizes on the demonstrated success of historic preservation methodology as a tool for revitalization of older neighborhoods and commercial centers, the popularity of traditional urban environments, the fast-growing heritage and cultural tourism industry, and the strong public support for environmental stewardship and sustainability. It provides strategies that place preservation as an important component in the city and county's planning and development programs. Five goals compose the key elements of the plan.

- Incorporate Historic Preservation as an Important Component of the City and County Planning Processes.
- Conserve the Rural Character of Unincorporated Douglas County in Strategic Areas.
- Incorporate Preservation Incentives into the City and County's Economic Development Policies and Programs.
- Incorporate Heritage Tourism as an Economic Development Program.
- Establish Outreach and Educational Programs.

Douglas County Inventory of Historic Resources

Historic resources in Douglas County are integral in defining the character of the county and the region. The ongoing preservation of significant resources and cultural landscapes can yield an improved quality of life and a sense of place for future generations. Specific preservation programs and processes are needed to assist in providing considerations of these resources in land use decisions to protect significant resources and to allow a balance between commercial, residential, institutional, agricultural, industrial, and natural land uses. To be effective, preservation issues need to be considered early in the planning stages and in the context of

other development and land use issues. Only after the identification, evaluation, and subsequent “mapping” of significant cultural resources through an inventory, can the county begin to target and prioritize preservation of significant resources.

Surveying is the process of identifying and gathering data on historic resources. It includes recording basic physical and historical information about a property, photographing it, and drawing a site plan (additional information may be required for archeological sites). A survey is a means of documenting historic resources and does not automatically result in the listing of a property in the National Register of Historic Places or Register of Historic Kansas Places. A survey can, however, serve as an important first step in determining the potential for a property or an area to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places or the Register of Historic Kansas Places. In Kansas, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), a division of the Kansas Historical Society, maintains a statewide database, the [Kansas Historic Resources Inventory](#) (KHRI) that contains all of the SHPO’s survey records. The database is fully searchable and available to the public.

Currently, 4,084 sites, structures, buildings, and objects have been surveyed in Douglas County and are part of the KHRI database. The majority of surveyed properties are located in Lawrence (3,605) with less than 500 located elsewhere in the County. A reconnaissance survey was completed for Baldwin City and Palmyra Township in 1989, but much of this information needs to be updated. Because history is not static, more properties become historic (50 years old by NPS standards) daily. An ongoing survey and inventory program is necessary to identify properties as they achieve historic significance to adequately plan for future use.

Many documented and inventoried archeological sites are not included in the KHRI database due to the sensitive nature of location and potential to yield information about our past. The SHPO maintains a GIS coverage layer that shows the location of over 14,000 (258 in Douglas County) recorded archeological sites in the state.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas Data

The Lawrence Douglas County Planning Commission has recommended the Lawrence City Commission and the Douglas County Commission adopt a new chapter to Horizon 2020 – Chapter 16 – Environment. This chapter includes, among other goals and policies, the recommendation that the City and County partner with organizations to complete an inventory of wetlands, significant areas of groundwater recharge, woodlands within the county, urban forest, native prairie remnants, “critical habitat”, key habitats, and wildlife corridors. Like cultural resources, many of these areas have various levels of inventory information currently available.

The KARS (Kansas Applied Remote Sensing) Program at the Kansas Biological Survey (KBS) has developed the Natural Resources Planner, an interactive mapping website designed to assist in the planning of development projects so that Kansas can benefit from development of its resources while protecting sensitive wildlife and wildlife habitat. The mapping application

combines relevant natural resource and infrastructure data together within an integrated mapping environment to help users make informed decisions.

In addition, KBS has already provided Douglas County with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) coverage of significant natural features (rare or endangered species of plants and animals and high quality natural communities such as tallgrass prairie, oak-hickory forest, wetlands.) KBS could review and update sites within the county and provide a short list of top sites. Such sites would be evaluated by KBS primarily on their ecological significance, and not on other factors such as suitability for public use, ownership, cost, or public appeal.

The difficulty is that there is no one depository for all of the different cultural and environmental resources that has the ability to layer all of the resources in the County into a system that will visually aid in the identification, evaluation and preservation of significant resources.

Application for Historic Preservation Grant

Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grants are an excellent source of revenue for identifying and gathering data on historic resources, for becoming a Certified Local Government (CLG), and for education projects. Federal grants require a 40% match from the local government. Since becoming a CLG in 1989, the City of Lawrence has received over 25 grants for projects ranging from surveys to educational brochures. Douglas County should apply for these grants to achieve CLG status and to help fund the needed inventory work throughout the county. Deadline for 2011 grant applications is March 15, 2011 with awards announced on May 14, 2011.

Relationship to Freedom's Frontier Heritage Area

By designating Freedom's Frontier a National Heritage Area, the United States Congress has recognized that 41 counties along the Kansas-Missouri border were the epicenter of events that led to the Civil War and the continuing struggle for freedom that has played out around the world since then. Here, where the two great trails converge, a nation moved west. Issues of slavery, land ownership, voting rights, and individual liberties manifested the differing understandings of the ideal of freedom that still resound today.

Places, stories or landscapes are considered nationally significant when they "contain important regional and national stories that, together with their associated natural and/or cultural resources, enable the American people to understand, preserve and celebrate key components of the multi-faceted character of the nation's heritage."

The overarching theme of FFNHA is freedom. Subthemes include the shaping of the frontier, the Missouri-Kansas Border War, and the enduring struggles for freedom. Douglas County is at the center of FFNHA and is rich with these resources. Project proposals that connect with any or all of these themes will be considered for the Natural and Cultural Heritage Grants. More information about FFNHA can be found at www.freedomsfrontier.org or by calling 856-5301.

PART III:

Reference Documents

APPENDIX A: List of Recommendations

Recommendation #1:

Support the funding of a systematic and comprehensive inventory of heritage resources, starting with certain communities and areas in the first year. This inventory would be assembled into a publically accessible database, and updated and maintained in subsequent years.

Recommendation #2:

Monitor the progress of natural and cultural heritage conservation projects and inventories; Educate people inside and outside our community about who we are and our rich history.

Recommendation #3:

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Recommendation #4:

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- Historic structures
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Recommendation #10:

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Recommendation #11:

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lands, economic development, history, and environment. The Douglas County Commission should appoint members to the Heritage Conservation Council by May of 2011.

Recommendation #13

The Commission should direct the Natural and Cultural Heritage Taskforce to submit an administrative and organizational framework for the Heritage Conservation Council to the Commission by April of 2011 for review and approval by the Commission in May of 2011.

APPENDIX B: Organizational Resource List

Freedom's Frontier NHA: <http://www.freedomsfrontier.org/>
Kansas Historical Society: <http://www.kshs.org/>
Kansas Historic Resources Inventory: <http://khri.kansasgis.org/>
Kansas Land Trust: <http://www.klt.org/>
Kansas Biological Survey: <http://www.kbs.ku.edu/>
City of Lawrence - Historic Resources: http://www.ci.lawrence.ks.us/pds/historic_resources
City of Lawrence – Environment: <http://www.lawrenceks.org/pds/H2020-Env>
NPS “Teaching with Historic Places”: <http://www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/>
NPS “Travel Itineraries”: <http://www.nps.gov/history/travelers.htm>
Kansas Applied Remote Sensing: <http://www.kars.ku.edu/research/natural-resource-planner/>
Lawrence Preservation Alliance: <http://lawrencepreservation.org>
Kansas Preservation Alliance: <http://kpalliance.org/>
Douglas County Historical Society: <http://www.watkinsmuseum.org/>
Lecompton Historical Societies: <http://www.lecomptonkansas.com/>
Wakarusa River Valley Heritage Museum: <http://www.wakarusamuseum.org/history.html>
Midland Railway Historical Association: <http://www.midland-ry.org/index.php?page=membership-form>
Black Jack Battlefield: <http://www.blackjackbattlefield.org/>
Eudora Historical Society
Santa Fe Trail Historical Society:
National -Certified Local Government Program: <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/clg/index.htm>
Kansas -Certified Local Government Program: <http://www.kshs.org/p/certified-local-government-program/14607>
Eco² Commission Report: http://www.douglas-county.com/depts/ad/docs/pdf/ad_eco2plan.pdf
Eco² Open Space Ranking Formula: http://www.douglas-county.com/depts/ad/docs/pdf/ad_eco2planappd.pdf

Appendix C: Summary of Public Discussions

The Natural & Cultural Heritage Taskforce held six public discussions throughout the County during the month of October. The purpose of these discussions was to learn and explore further what Douglas County citizens considered important when it comes to heritage conservation. Locations of the meetings included; Baldwin City, Eudora, Lecompton, Clinton and Lawrence. It was a high priority of the Taskforce to visit as many places and discuss with as many people as possible about the natural and cultural heritage of Douglas County.

The Taskforce sincerely thanks all members of the public who came to these public discussions. Each public meeting was unique, informative, and vital to the mission of the Taskforce.

Baldwin City October 6, 2010

The first public discussion of the Natural & Cultural Heritage Taskforce was held at the Lumberyard Arts Center in Baldwin City. Baldwin City residents stressed the importance of connecting the community's many historical and natural areas both physically and interpretatively. Baldwin City resident Dave Hill expressed interest in creating a series of trails and paths for recreational as well as safety reasons. Hill estimated that Baldwin City experiences an influx of 50 bicycle enthusiasts on any given weekend. Some of the sites that should be considered for connecting trails include: Black Jack Battle Field, Baldwin City Lake, Douglas State Lake, Ida Boyd Prairie, Signal Oak, among numerous others.

Others topics discussed included using potential funds to create a series of markers and interpretative signs for historical and natural areas, restore and rehabilitate the Robert Hall Pearson Farmstead, assist the Midland Railroad Historical Organization, as well as preserve native prairie lands still in existence throughout the County.

Lawrence October 9, 2010

The first of two meetings to be held in Lawrence began with a discussion concerning conservation easements with Bob Lichtwardt, a former University of Kansas professor of botany, who along with his wife placed a parcel of their land in a conservation easement with the Kansas Land Trust. This conservation easement is especially unique in the fact that a nature trail, open to the public, traverses across the Lichtwardt's easement. Additionally, the Lichtwardt's 40 acre easement is part of a 100 acre nature park that is maintained by the City of Lawrence. Taskforce members and public present were also given time to explore the nature trail before the public forum continued with a discussion at Free State High School, where topics included the importance of preserving sensitive soils, enhancing local food production, and exploring the potential of using transfer of development rights (TDR) to protect sensitive lands.

Eudora
October 13, 2010

The Taskforce's third meeting was held at Eudora's City Hall where community members expressed that, unlike other community's throughout Douglas County, Eudora's history has not been as thoroughly documented and preserved. Currently, the City is housing many historical documents in an abandoned school that has been subject to vandalism. It was also expressed that Eudora has no place to display their community's history. City Administrator John Harrenstein and Mayor Scott Hopson shared that the community has had to grapple with the fact that Eudora in many ways has become a bedroom community over the last decade and hopes that this program could help Eudora preserve and enhance its own history and identity. Specifically, Eudora is hoping to rehabilitate a historic building located downtown that could serve as an anchor for other preservation and downtown reinvestment efforts. The building would likely have multiple functions and serve a variety of community groups and organizations including the Eudora Historical Society, Eudora Chamber of Commerce, local food producers and artists.

Other topics discussed included a presentation from local community historian John More who presented the Taskforce with a detailed list of historical sites throughout Eudora and Eudora Township. Mr. More expressed an interest for using potential money to create interpretative signs to commemorate the history and culture of Eudora. This idea was further discussed upon by the President of the Eudora Historical Society who also noted a similar initiative that Eudora residents undertook in the late 1970's/early 80's to create a self-guided tour of Eudora.

Lecompton
October 20, 2010

The public forum in Lecompton began with a guided tour of the Territorial Capital Museum and Constitution Hall from Lecompton Historical Society president Paul Bahnmaier. While time was short, it was clearly evident that Lecompton has a rich heritage.

Following the guided tour, a public discussion was held at the Lecompton City Hall where Paul Bahnmaier brought informative packets for each Taskforce member summarizing many of the historical sites located in and around Lecompton. Detailed inside the packet include:

- Big Springs School
- Greenwood Valley School
- Winter School House
- City Jail
- Lake-View Cemetery
- Site of the original Governor's mansion
- Constitution hall
- Lane University
- Windsor Hotel
- Democratic Headquarters
- Battle of Fort Titus
- Camp Sackett
- Crowder School
- Glenn School
- Lecompton High School

In addition to the prepared packet, Mr. Bahnmaier discussed the history and importance of each site, its condition, needed maintenance for each structure, and possible future uses for some of the Lecompton landmarks.

Lecompton, as the Taskforce members learned, is a treasure trove of pre-civil war history, and regularly accommodates national motor coach tours through the small town. Lecompton is a high profile tourist location for not only Douglas County, but also the State of Kansas. Furthermore, Lecompton's heritage is an important aspect of not only Douglas County's identity, but the United States.

Clinton
October 24, 2010

On Saturday, October 24, the Taskforce traveled to Clinton where the day began with a tour of the Wakarusa River Valley Heritage Museum. The museum contains many exhibits but its main focus is to commemorate the heritage of the ten Wakarusa Valley communities: Bloomington, Clinton, Kanwaka, Lone Star, New Belvoir, Old Belvoir, Richland, Sigel, Stull, and Twin Mound, which were affected by the construction of Clinton Lake.

Taskforce members learned about many of the important founders and early settlers of the Wakarusa Valley. According to Martha Parker, local historian, a majority of early settlers in the area were abolitionists and key members in the conflict known as Bleeding Kansas. In fact, many of the Wakarusa River Valley communities were stops along the Underground Railroad, and the Wakarusa Valley Heritage Museum is recognized by the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, a program of the National Park Service.

Following the tour of the museum, the conversation continued at Clinton Township Hall where conversation focused on continuing the mission of educating the public about the ten communities in the area. Proposals included identifying the location and history of the ten communities, rehabilitating historic schoolhouses in the area for use as future community centers, and assisting the Wakarusa River Valley Heritage Museum with building a larger more modern museum.

Lawrence
October 27, 2010

The final public forum the Natural & Cultural Heritage Taskforce was held at the Watkins Community Museum in Downtown Lawrence. Prior to the public forum members of the Taskforce were given a brief tour of the museum by interim curator Mike Wildgen.

Following the tour, a public discussion commenced. Many of the public present were familiar with past initiatives, such as Eco², and were interested in learning how this Taskforce would be different. Bill Busby with the Kansas Biological Survey and former member of Eco², informed

the Taskforce that the Kansas Biological Survey maintains a database of natural areas that could serve as a resource for the group. Mr. Busby went on to say that less than 1 percent of native prairie is left in the County and that these areas are extremely beneficial to citizens of Douglas County. Not only do natural areas hold potential for recreational and educational reasons, but they also improve water quality and sequester carbon dioxide.

Additional topics included; ensuring that pre-settlement and Native American history be acknowledged, preserving prime soils and farmland close to communities to support local agriculture initiatives, and identifying and conserving the 800 block of Pennsylvania St. in Lawrence where many early food processing plants existed, as well as keeping in mind the various way Lawrence and Douglas County could be marketed for future tourists and residents.

Appendix D: Taskforce Biographical Information

The Natural & Cultural Heritage Taskforce is comprised of six Taskforce members, two ex-officio members, and a facilitator. The Taskforce was assisted by one staff member.

Dr. John S. Bradley – Taskforce Member

John was born and raised on a farm south of Lawrence in Douglas County, Kansas. He returned to Lawrence in 1991 and purchased Bradley Animal Hospital, a three doctor small animal hospital. John and his wife Amy live near the farm south of Lawrence, and have two adult children Ashley and Adam.

Scott Campbell: - Taskforce Member

Scott Campbell, 53, is a life-long resident of Douglas County and graduate of the University of Kansas. He is a professional ecologist and Associate Director of Outreach and Public Service at the Kansas Biological Survey, a state research and service agency based in Lawrence. He has a keen interest in sustaining local biodiversity, promoting environmental ethics and education, and protecting historic and cultural elements throughout Douglas County.

Jamie Knabe – Taskforce Member

Jamie and her husband Keith live southeast of Eudora on a 140 acre farm that was once owned by Keith's grandparents. We have raised two boys, Dustin and Kevin. Keith is a self employed farmer which he has done all his adult life along with his Dad and brother in law. The Knabe's have been farming for over 100 years. I am currently on the Douglas County Farm Bureau Board where I am the women's chair. I have been involved for 10 years with the Slice of Ag Committee a program sponsored by the Douglas County Extension Office.

Sarah Martin – Taskforce Member

Sarah is a native of Abilene and serves as the National and State Register Coordinator for the Kansas State Historical Society. She earned her bachelor's degree in history from the University of Kansas and her master's degree in history and historic preservation from Middle Tennessee State University. She credits her interest in history to long family road trips to places like Plimouth Plantation, the Molly Brown House in Denver, and the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. Sarah and her husband Jack have lived in Lawrence for six years.

Larry McElwain – Taskforce Member

Larry McElwain is a 1970 graduate of the University of Kansas and a 1971 graduate of the San Francisco College of Mortuary Science. He and his family have owned the Warren Mortuary since July 1974. Over the years, he has been an active community volunteer and has chaired several non-profit organizations, including the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and the Douglas County ECO² Commission. He is married to Susan McElwain and is the father of three children. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, and creating waterfowl habitat.

Sean Williams – Taskforce Member

Sean Williams is a local realtor with Realty Executives, 1037 Vermont Street. He is a life-long Lawrence resident, steeped in both local and regional history. He serves on numerous boards in the community including the Lawrence Historic Resources Commission currently.

Judy Billings – Ex Officio Member

Judy Billings is the President and CEO of Destination Management, Inc. which contracts with the County Commission to manage county finances for Douglas County Historical Societies. She has directed the Convention & Visitors Bureau since 1980 and has worked for over a decade to create Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area currently serving as its Executive Director.

Jason Fizell – Ex Officio Member

Jason Fizell is Executive Director of the Kansas Land Trust (KLT) based in Lawrence. KLT protects over 16,000 acres of ecological, agricultural, scenic, historic, and recreational significance on 43 properties statewide—11 of which are in Douglas County. Jason has worked in conservation and nonprofit management for many years with a background in land use and water quality issues. He graduated from the University of Kansas with a B.A. in History. Jason and his wife, Sarah, are expecting their first child—a daughter, Astra Grace—in February 2011.

Ken Grotewiel - Taskforce Facilitator

Ken Grotewiel is a Senior Associate with the Great Plains Consensus Council at Bethel College. Ken is an approved mediator by the Kansas Supreme Court. He has long been interested in water, outdoor recreation, and history. Ken lives in Lawrence.

Collin Bielser - Taskforce Staff

Collin Bielser, originally from Colby, Kansas, is a student at the University of Kansas pursuing his Masters of Public Administration (MPA). He is a fourth-generation Jayhawk and his Great-Great Grandfather attended Lane University, now the Territorial Capital Museum in Lecompton. Collin aspires one day to be a city manager and is interning with current County Administrator, Craig Weinaug.