

Trail Data

- Length: Main loop 0.50 miles, with spurs 0.75 miles
- Elevation Change: About 140 feet; downhill at the beginning and uphill at the finish
- Difficulty: Moderately Strenuous to Strenuous
- Starting/Ending Point: Upper Overlook

Be Prepared

- Trail is moderately strenuous to strenuous
- Use caution when trail is wet, icy, or snowy
- Avoid poison ivy and prickly ash
- Slopes may be steep; footing uneven
- Wear comfortable footwear, such as hiking boots or athletic shoes



Trail Rules

- Carry out all trash; leave no trace
- Trail is marked with directional signs; please stay on trail
- All park features, both natural and cultural, are protected by law; leave everything you find
- Respect adjacent private property; do not cross fences
- No bicycles or motorized vehicles

History of this Site

The section of the Missouri River surrounding Mulberry Bend not only has exceptional views, but also a rich historical legacy. The first known inhabitants were American Indian tribes which settled the area as early as 6,000 years ago. These groups built villages consisting of permanent houses covered with earth and wood.

The Mulberry Bend area was visited on August 24, 1804 by the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Their team explored the areas surrounding the river, including Spirit Mound. Clark writes in his journal of an abundance of deer present in the area, which the crew hunted for food. Lewis and Clark traveled on a very different river than the one today, partly due to the Missouri River Flood of 1881. Massive blocks of ice and the thawing river created a new river channel (present-day Mulberry Bend), rerouting the Missouri River five miles south and destroying the town of Vermillion.

In November 2001, the Vermillion-Newcastle Bridge was officially completed by Nebraska Department of Roads. The National Park Service acquired the Mulberry Bend Overlook as mitigation for the bridge in 2002.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Missouri National Recreational River
508 E 2nd Street
Yankton, SD 57078
<http://www.nps.gov/mnrr>



July 2014

MISSOURI NATIONAL RECREATIONAL RIVER
Nebraska/South Dakota



Mulberry Bend



Trail Guide & Map

Points of Interest

1 Bluff Overlook

Beautiful downstream views of the Missouri River can be seen from this vista. Sandbars on the north side of the river provide habitat for white-tailed deer, shorebirds, and cottonwoods.

2 Oak Overlook

Looking upstream you can see the Vermillion-Newcastle bridge spanning the gap between South Dakota and Nebraska. Cliff swallows often build nests under the bridge.

3 River Bend Vista

Before or after your hike, spend some time enjoying the picturesque view of the Missouri. This is one of the highest elevation points at the Mulberry Bend property.

4 Village Vista

Learn about the rich culture that the area has to offer. Displays explore the history of American Indian tribes that settled here.



Natural Resources

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

(*Pterourus glaucus*)



These butterflies gather nutrients, such as sodium and amino acids, from puddles and mud.

Bur Oak

(*Quercus macrocarpa*)

Oaks mast (drop their acorns) in



larger quantities some years compared to others. Oaks are extremely resistant to forest fires.

Red Mulberry

(*Morus rubra*)

Mulberries ripen in the summer months and have a tart sweetness. Native Americans once used the tough fibers of the bark for cloth.



Red-Headed Woodpecker

(*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)

This bird swoops through the air to catch insects and hides food in tree crevices to eat later.

