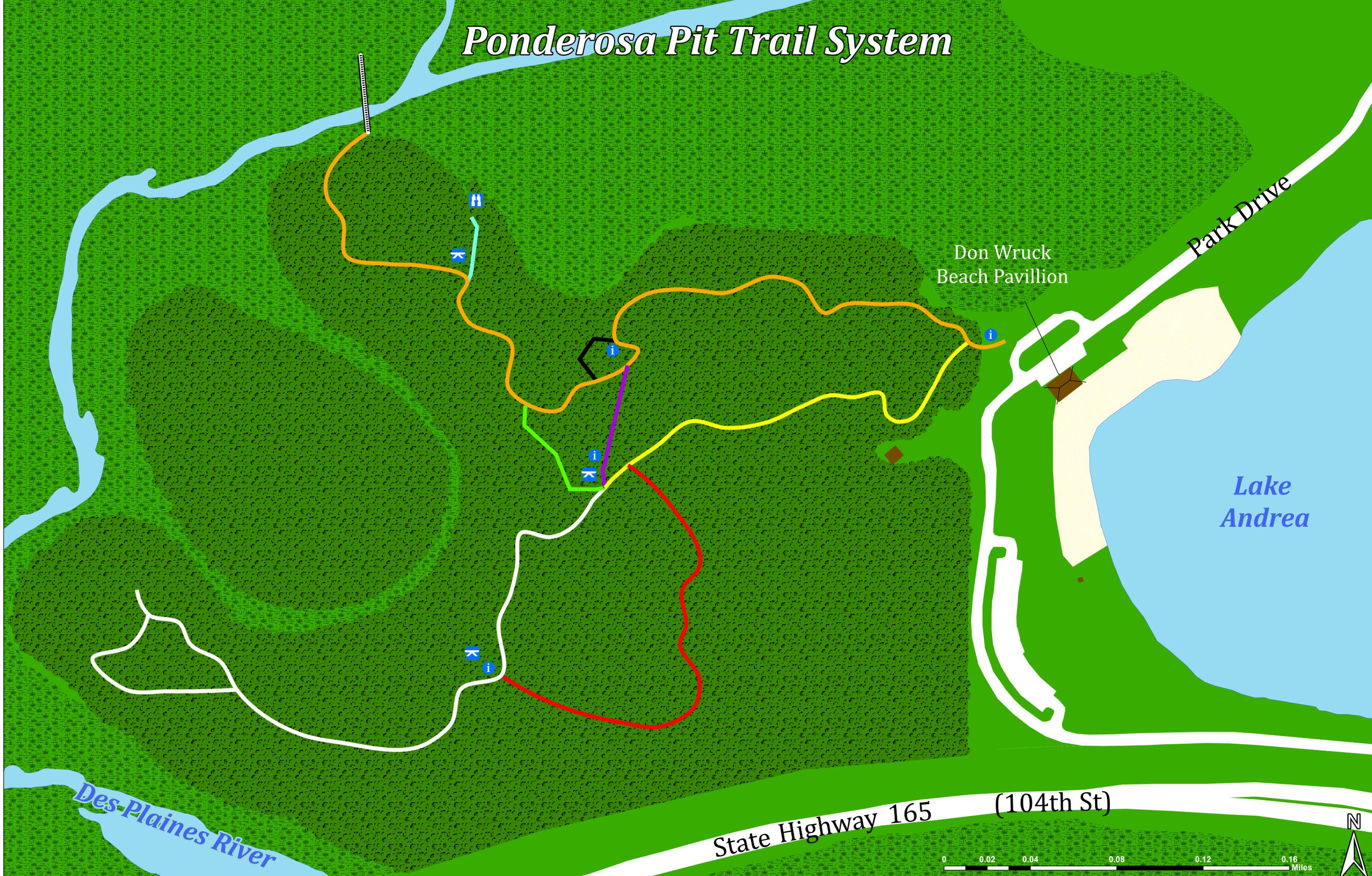


Ponderosa Pit Trail System



Legend	
Trails	
	Gravel Quarry Lane: .50mi.
	Wood Choppers Path: .21mi.
	Tom Sullivan Way: .44mi.
	Game Farm Walk: .23mi.
	Little Joe Dredge: .05mi.
	Hoss Dredge Trail: .06mi.
	Golf Course Side Hike: .03mi.
	Jersey Herd Trail: .03mi.
Other Features	
	Bridge
	Benches
	Lookout
	Signs
	Wetlands
	Woods

HISTORICAL MAPS DATING TO 1887 SHOW THAT MULTIPLE LANDOWNERS PREVIOUSLY OWNED THE PROPERTY THAT IS NOW HOME TO PRAIRIE SPRINGS PARK AND LAKE ANDREA. IT IS KNOWN THAT OWNER, R.S. HOUSTON, OPERATED A JERSEY HERD FARM FROM HIS PORTION OF THE PROPERTY, WHICH COVERED ALMOST THE ENTIRE NORTHERN PORTION OF THE PARK. THE FARM AND OUTBUILDINGS WERE LOCATED AT WHAT IS NOW THE PARK'S SOUTHEAST ENTRANCE AT TERWALL TERRACE OFF OF 88TH AVENUE. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THIS LAND WAS FARMED, BY VARIOUS OWNERS, FROM 1887 UNTIL ITS PURCHASE IN THE EARLY 1970S BY THE MILLER FAMILY, OWNERS OF THE MCHENRY SAND AND GRAVEL COMPANY.

FROM 1973 THROUGH 1987 A SITE ON THE PROPERTY DUBBED THE PONDEROSA PIT WAS MINED FOR GRAVEL. DURING THIS TIME, DISCUSSIONS ABOUT FUTURE POSSIBILITIES FOR THE SITE WERE BEING HELD. THE COMPANY AND PLEASANT PRAIRIE OFFICIALS DREW UP AN AGREEMENT THAT WOULD ALLOW FOR THE FUTURE CONVERSION OF THE PROPERTY INTO AN 18-HOLE GOLF COURSE. WHILE EXAMINING THIS OPTION, SIGNIFICANT WETLANDS WERE IDENTIFIED ON THE PROPERTY. THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, WHO HAD WETLANDS JURISDICTION AT THE TIME, DECLARED THAT CONSTRUCTION OF A GOLF COURSE ON THE PROPERTY WOULD NOT BE CONDUCTIVE TO PROTECTION OF THE WETLANDS, AND AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN WAS DEVELOPED. THAT PLAN HAS GROWN INTO WHAT PRAIRIE SPRINGS PARK IS TODAY.

THROUGH THE AGREEMENT THAT ALLOWED FOR THE PROPERTY'S FUTURE, MCHENRY SAND AND GRAVEL COMPANY COVEYED THE PARK PROPERTY TO PLEASANT PRAIRIE, AND THE MINING RIGHTS FOR THE PROPERTY WERE SOLD TO LAKEVIEW CORPORATE PARK. LAKEVIEW USED THE GRAVEL FOR FILL IN THE EXTENSION OF HIGHWAY Q FROM 88TH AVENUE TO INTERSTATE 94. LAKEVIEW THEN AGREED TO SHAPE THE PIT INTO A LAKE AS THEY CONCLUDED MINING OPERATIONS. TODAY, THE PONDEROSA PIT FORMERLY USED FOR MINING GRAVEL HAS BECOME LAKE ANDREA, A 110-ACRE SPRING FED LAKE. WISPARK, THE DEVELOPER OF LAKEVIEW CORPORATE PARK, DONATED THE ESTIMATED \$1.6 MILLION DOLLARS TO CONSTRUCT THE INITIAL PHASE OF THE 425-ACRE PARK. ON AUGUST 5, 1995, THE PARK WAS OFFICIALLY DEDICATED TO THE PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE, AND LAKE ANDREA WAS OFFICIALLY DEDICATED TO SENATOR JOSEPH ANDREA IN RECOGNITION OF HIS "SIGNIFICANT IMPACT" ON THE COMMUNITY.

TODAY, THE PARK IS USED YEAR-ROUND FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES AND NUMEROUS COMMUNITY AND SPORTING EVENTS. THESE USES AND EVENTS WERE PART OF A VISION THAT DEVELOPED WITH THE PARK FROM ITS EARLY PLANNING STAGES. VILLAGE LEADERS ENVISIONED A PLACE WHERE PLEASANT PRAIRIE RESIDENTS COULD COME TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY. WITH THE LACK OF A DOWNTOWN OR CENTRAL VILLAGE DESTINATION, THE PARK WAS SEEN AS A POINT WHERE RESIDENTS COULD GATHER, A PLACE THAT COULD PULL COMMUNITY TOGETHER. VILLAGE LEADERS FORMED THE PLAN AND HELPED THE PARK EVOLVE INTO WHAT IT IS TODAY. THEY ACCOMPLISHED THIS, FOR THE MOST PART, WITHOUT THE USE OF TAXPAYERS DOLLARS. THE PARK AND ITS AMENITIES HAVE LARGELY BEEN PAID FOR WITH DONATIONS AND RENTAL OR USER FEES.

State Highway 165 (104th St)



These Trails Were Mapped, Measured, Named, and Posted by:
Nicholas A. Crass
 for B.S.A. Eagle Scout Project, August 2009
 These Trails were previously mapped by Brian S. Cooper