

PARK LOCATIONS

PIONEER COURAGE 14TH & CAPITOL



Situated on the north side of Capitol Avenue between 14th and 15th Streets, Pioneer Courage Park depicts a wagon train leaving Omaha proceeding along a dry creek bed.

PARK LINK CAPITOL & 15TH STREET

Five Bison scatter from the Pioneer Courage site and head down 15th Street, traversing sidewalks, public planters and buildings before stampeding onto the Spirit of Nebraska's Wilderness Park on the Southeast corner of 16th & Dodge.

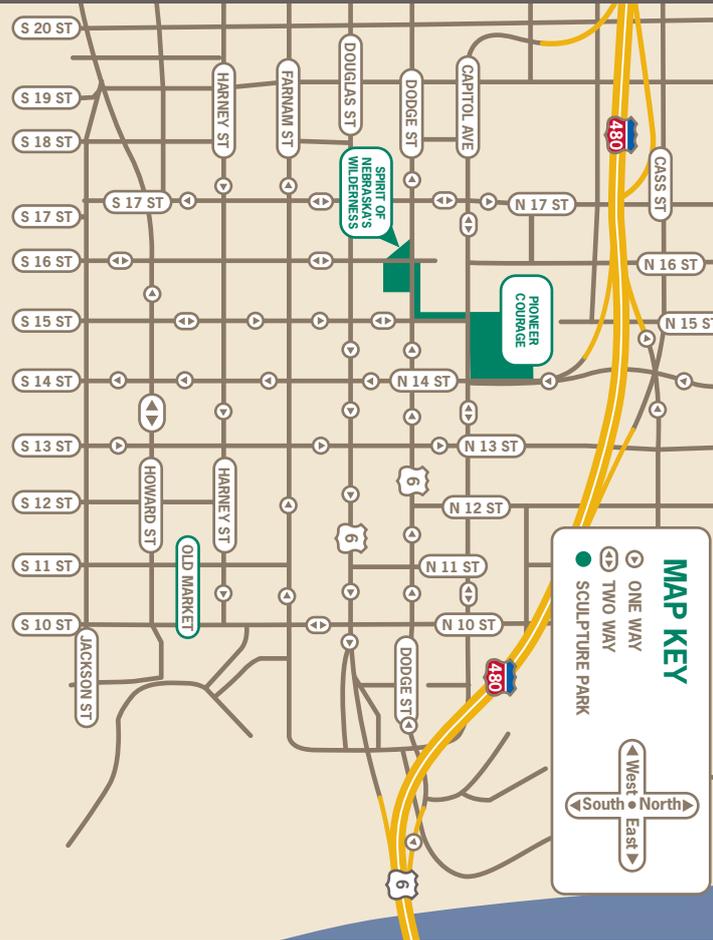


SPIRIT OF NEBRASKA'S WILDERNESS FOUR CORNERS of 16TH & DODGE



In tandem with Pioneer Courage Park, this park features over 50 Canada geese, larger than life size, weighing approximately 200 lbs. each. The geese are cast in bronze and stainless steel – bronze alluding to Nebraska's history and stainless steel (the metal of modernity) pointing to the future. The flight of these magnificent creatures represents the flight of geese from the industrial age to the information age.

SCULPTURE PARKS MAP



THE FIRST NATIONAL SCULPTURE PARKS



"These two sculpture parks are very special to me and my family. First as a nature lover, I think Kent Ullberg has done a tremendous job depicting two of the most majestic creatures our great state has to offer: the American bison and the Giant Canada goose.

In addition, I think the pioneer spirit of Nebraska's first settlers carries on today in who we are as a people. You see it in our determination, in our optimism. Blair Buswell and Edward Fraughton have done an amazing job capturing those characteristics.

It gives me great pleasure to dedicate these two parks to the future generations of Omaha. I hope they enjoy them as much as I do."

Bruce R. Lauritzen
Chairman, First National Bank

"What I like about the story of the great wagon train migration across America is the daring, the tenacity and the innovativeness of the pioneer spirit that opened the West."

Bruce R. Lauritzen
Chairman, First National Bank

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ABOUT THE WORK

The gateway into Omaha’s central business district is transformed into the Gateway to the West with a one-of-a-kind tribute to the people who settled this great land. Pioneer Courage is an homage to the bravery, courage, and entrepreneurial spirit that defined a generation and left an indelible impact on the American character.

Visitors are meant to interact with this sculpture. The audience is encouraged to walk along with the larger-than-life pioneers and to envision what it must have been like to set off on a journey unlike any other.

Pioneer Courage is the result of the first collaboration between Utah sculptors Blair Buswell and Edward Fraughton. When the pioneers first traversed Nebraska, they would have seen a wild expanse spreading out before them, with no man-made objects to obstruct their view.

Imagine only prairie, untouched nature as far as the eye could see. Kent Ullberg’s Spirit of Nebraska’s Wilderness seeks to recreate that experience and the impact of Western expansion on this tranquil setting.



PARK STORY

Omaha was a gateway to the nineteenth-century west, and First National wanted to commemorate springtime in the region, before the wagon trains arrived. The fact that the settings for the two parks are not adjacent created a challenge for the team of artists and planners, who found a way to weave the parks together through the urban landscape.

That was the genesis of Pioneer Courage by Blair Buswell and Edward Fraughton and Spirit of Nebraska’s Wilderness by Kent Ullberg. Beginning at 14th and Capitol Streets, a wagon train



leaves Omaha and proceeds along a dry creek bed (Pioneer Courage). The train disturbs a nearby group of bison, causing them to stampede down 15th Street onto Dodge, where they flush a flock of geese from a nearby pond



(Spirit of Nebraska’s Wilderness). The geese take flight in and around the intersection of 16th and Dodge Streets, and the sculpture narrative concludes with them flying into and

through the First National Tower Winter Garden Atrium. First National Sculpture Parks flow together from the approaching wagons to the running bison and lifting geese, creating ghostlike images which transition through both time and space of modern day Omaha.



PARK FACTS

All sculptures are 1 ¼ in size/scale

Commissioned by – Bruce R. Lauritzen, Chairman, First National Bank



Architect – JVR & Associates, HDR and Leo A. Daly

Artists – Kent Ullberg, Blair Buswell and Edward Fraughton

Contractor – Hawkins Construction and Kiewit Construction Company

Each Park boasts a Diorama documenting the park’s features and composition.

This unique public/private partnership uses more than seven blocks of the city’s architecture as a canvas for one of the largest installation of bronze and stainless steel works of art in the world. Weaving through the cityscape, the complex sculpture incorporates a variety of livestock, native animals, wagons and people to recreate the pioneer experience.

Pioneer Courage Park – Dedicated Fall 2003

Pioneer Courage stone pavers and curbing are Hayton limestone quarried in Wisconsin. More than 2,500 tons of these limestone blocks span over 400 feet.

Spirit of Nebraska’s Wilderness – Dedicated Fall 2002

Fountain – Base contains 43,730 gallons of water cascading over the sides of the Absolute Black Granite.

The park engages street lights, buildings and both bronze and stainless steel elements on all four corners of 16th and Dodge.

