

Santa Fe, Oregon, California

National Historic Trails



Gardner Junction

- *Where the Trails Divide*

Gardner Junction has a unique place in the history of America's great frontier trails. Here, the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California trails branched off after sharing the same routes from Independence and Westport, Missouri. From the late 1820s to the mid-1860s, thousands of wagon trains heading west would arrive at this "fork in the road." Merchant traders, fur trappers, gold seekers, and emigrants seeking a better life had two choices: they could continue southwest along the Santa Fe Trail, or they could bear right and follow the Oregon and California trails. Whichever trail they took would be the pathway to one of the greatest adventures of their lives.

Visit Gardner Junction Park & Begin Your Trail Adventure!

As a proud steward of this exceptional park, the City of Gardner invites you to rediscover the magic and lure of these west-bound frontier roads now designated as national historic trails.

Park Features Include:

- A short walking path with wayside exhibits to learn about the history, people, and significance of this site
- A shade structure housing 'trailhead' style orientation panels that highlight points of interest and things to see and do along each trail



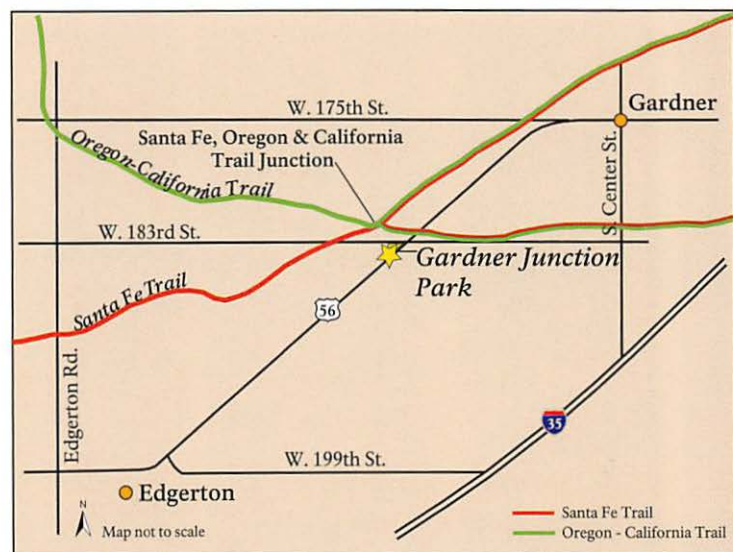
Illustration by Charles Goslin

We are now camped on Bull creek a short distance from the forks of the road one to Santa Fe and one other to Salt Lake via Forts to California and Oregon.

- Edmund Hinde, 1850

How To Get There

From Gardner head southwest on U.S. Highway 56 towards Edgerton. The *Gardner Junction Park* is located approximately 2 miles from Gardner at the southwest corner of U.S. Highway 56 and West 183rd Street.



The *Gardner Junction* project was made possible by a wide-ranging partnership that includes the Santa Fe Trail Association (SFTA), Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA), City of Gardner, National Park Service, Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas State Historical Society, Gardner Museum, Johnson County Museum, Gardner Historical Society, Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association, Trails Head Chapter of the OCTA, and the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter of the SFTA.



For more information contact:

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Visit us on the web at:

www.nps.gov
www.octa-trails.org
www.santafetrail.org
www.gardnerkansas.gov