Welcome to Ponca State Park North Addition

After leaving the Nebraska bluffs near River Mile 762, the river moves through a great bend east and then south across its rich sandy floodplain before reaching the bluffs again near Mile 754.

On the Nebraska side, this stretch of the Missouri passes along the boundary of Ponca State Park Addition, its sweeping bottomlands undergoing restoration of wetlands and prairies.

The Patrick Gass election site is thought to be near River Mile 758 at the Elk Point Bend on the South Dakota side.

The Sergeant Gass Election site is commemorated in a city park in Elk Point, South Dakota, near River Mile 758.

Sergeant Charles Floyd, Jr., died on August 20, 1804, apparently from appendicitis, and was buried on a site near what is now Sioux City. He was the only member of the Lewis & Clark Expedition who died on this epic journey.

Two days later, near Elk Point, Expedition members chose Private Patrick Gass as the new sergeant in the first election held by Euro-Americans west of the Mississippi River. All members voted, including Clark's slave, York.

Sergeant Gass later served in the War of 1812 and died in 1870 at age 99. He was the last survivor of the Expedition.

The preferred landing for kayaks and canoes is at the backwater opening near River Mile 754 on the Nebraska side.

The largest of two restored backwaters in Ponca State Park is located near River Mile 755 and is accessible by non-motorized water craft.

This complex of marshes, wetlands, and connected smaller backwaters was completed in 2004. Reconnected to the river, the backwaters now provide habitat for fish and other wildlife species as well as recreational activities.

You are entering the last eight miles of natural, unchannelized Missouri National Recreational River.

Beginning at River Mile 753, structures begin to narrow and straighten the Missouri, training it to flow in a uniform navigation channel for the remainder of its course from Sioux City to the confluence with the Mississippi at St. Louis.