DAKOTA CULTURE

UPPER SIOUX COMMUNITY:

AREA CHARACTER ANALYSIS

ALIGNMENT STRATEGY
AREA CHARACTER ANALYSIS:
OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARK:
A recreational vehicle park will be built to accommodate visitors to the Upper Sioux Community on this former agricultural field. A short walking distance to the Prairie’s Edge Casino and the Casino Store, it is to be connected to them by a short walking path.

OPPORTUNITIES: The recreational vehicle park is also in close proximity to The Scout Island Overlook, the Sioux Veterans Memorial, the Union Cemetery, and the proposed visitors center.

CONSTRAINTS: Tribal officials would like access from this park to the state trail. Steep slopes to the east and a small site are constraints.

STAGECOACH TRAIL:
The existing Stage Coach Trail, a vacated road, is currently being used by Upper Sioux Community Facilities Management as a means of getting down the bluff without using the public roads.

OPPORTUNITIES: This area is located close to all recreational amenities in the community.

CONSTRAINTS: In order to work as a trail the road would have to be redesigned with switchbacks to compensate for the steep grade. The proximity to private homes many limit the design.

TRIBAL OFFICES:
The tribal offices of the Upper Sioux Community are located in the river bottoms below the bluff. Its amenities include bathrooms, drinking water, visitor information, and a parking lot.

OPPORTUNITIES: The tribal office site could be a site for interpreting contemporary Dakota culture and a trailhead.

CONSTRAINTS: The native flowers and berries in the area need to be respected. Trail alignment should not disrupt hunting by tribal members.
AREA CHARACTER ANALYSIS: OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

PROPOSED INTERPRETIVE CENTER:
The Upper Sioux Community plans to build an interpretative center next to its sign adjacent to the cemetery. This center would welcome visitors to the community and interpret the past and the present culture of the Dakota community. The site is very visible from the road and has striking views of the Minnesota River Valley.

OPPORTUNITIES: This is a good place for a trailhead. The proposed center would have access to water, bathrooms, and parking, but more importantly, it could be a place for trail users to learn about the Dakota peoples.

CONSTRAINTS: Although the center is planned, no construction date has been set.

TRIBAL NEIGHBORHOOD:
The tribe’s newly constructed residential neighborhood on the top of the bluff has many amenities besides the housing. Visitor information, drinking water, bathrooms, and a parking lot are available at the Upper Sioux Community Center.

OPPORTUNITIES: Routing the state trail through the neighborhood is undesirable; however, a local trail could connect to the state trail providing an opportunity for local residents to use the state trail.

CONSTRAINTS: If the local trail connection were to be built, it needs to be designed to protect the neighborhood and individuals who live there. Community members and residents have concerns if the state trail were to go through the residential neighborhood. Concerns were expressed that opening the neighborhood to public use would compromise privacy and be disruptive. There is also a concern for the existing native flowers and berries.
TRAIL ALIGNMENT & TRAILHEAD STRATEGY:
The trail alignment and trailhead strategies for the Upper Sioux Community:

- Bring trail users into the Upper Sioux Community,
- Provide views of the Glacial River Warren Valley,
- Interpret the pre-European settlements and the contact history of the community,
- Protect existing native flora and fauna,
- Leverage existing and proposed community amenities, and
- Protect the privacy of community residents.

TRAIL ALIGNMENT: POTENTIAL SPINE TRAIL:
The potential spine trail:

Leaves Highway 23 at Prairie’s Edge Lane and passes the proposed Upper Sioux Community Center, the Upper Sioux Veteran’s Memorial Plaza, the Union Cemetery, the Prairie View Recreational Vehicle Park, the Scout Island lookout and the Prairie’s Edge Casino and Hotel,

Turns east on Cavender Lane,

Connects to the Wagon Trail Road via the utility right-of-way,

Crosses Highway 67 and proceeds to 565th Street passing the Upper Sioux Round House and administration buildings,

Follows the bluff and to Waste Water Road to Highway 67, and

Continues south to the Upper Sioux State Park.

TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS:
Two potential trailhead locations are identified within the Upper Sioux Comunity.