



Nature's trail

The Cannonball Trail in Mott offers a 3-mile nature walk along the Cannonball River. Read more about the trail inside.

PHOTOS BY LUANN DART

Slope Electric Cooperative Inc.

OUTLOOK

116 E. 12th St. • New England, ND 58647 | 701-579-4191 • www.slopeelectric.coop

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The trail ends 1.5 miles from the start on the edge of Mott.

Cannonball Trail connects walkers with nature

BY LUANN DART

Hikers and walkers now have another path to follow, with the completion of the Cannonball Trail in Mott in 2020.

"It's a really good trail. It's very nice, along the river," says Peggy Fiedler, Mott, an organizer of a local hiking group, the Mott Hikers.

Under the leadership of the Mott Visionary Committee, and with input from the Mott Hikers, the 1.5-mile nature trail was completed with assistance from the city and Zentner House Moving, who helped clear the trail.

"They did a wonderful job of clearing it and putting down a combination of asphalt and dirt. It's a very nice trail," Fiedler says.

The Cannonball Trail is a 1.5-mile natural walking path alongside the Cannonball River that flows through Mott. Walkers and hikers can complete the out-and-back trail with the potential for a 3-mile hike. It begins south of the four-way stop at the junction of highways 8 and 21 and follows the river across the bridge into and through the length of west Mott, according to N.D. Tourism.

"West Mott has lured nature lovers, bird watchers and exercise enthusiasts and a path now exists for closer connection to the river and the pleasure of towering trees, the harmony of bird song and the serenity of nature," N.D. Tourism states.

The Mott Visionary Committee



The Cannonball Trail in Mott begins near the four-way stop and winds along the river, providing some scenic views.

obtained a \$10,000 grant from the Outdoor Heritage Fund last year, along with funding from the Mott-Regent Community Foundation and other local resources and individuals.

This summer, seven quarter-mile markers which represent metal stick people were added to mark the trail. The artistic inspiration for the stick figures came from the imagination of Betty Ruggles, Mott, then were welded together by Ben Roth, Elgin. Concrete formations representing cannonballs with a donor noted on each were created by Alex Aldinger and placed by each stick person as well. Each stick person is different, striking different poses.

“After the initial building of the trail, we had spent the \$10,000 from the Outdoor Heritage Fund along with other donations and the city participation, too, but it cost us about \$25,000, so at the end of that, we



A map of the trail details the path and walking surfaces.

decided to do some more promotions and enhancements, and that’s where the Mott-Regent Community Foundation came in a second time to help us, so we developed the brochures and Betty also came up with the idea for the stick people,” said Paula Anderson, president of the Mott Visionary Committee.

The trail was Paula’s brainchild while she was completing the Rural Leadership North Dakota program, which is a leadership development program offered through NDSU Extension.

The trail was cleared of brush and dead trees and made walkable, with various surfaces, ranging from grass to crushed gravel, winding along the Cannonball River to the outskirts of Mott.

The land is owned by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) but is city-controlled, allowing for development of the trail. The trail has been used regularly, with organized walks during local events.

Seven memorial benches are also placed along the trail for resting stops. Another notable spot is “Glute Hill” just at the beginning of the trail, which is a steep uphill offshoot for a bit more strenuous climb to overlook the Cannonball River.

The trail is listed by N.D. Tourism, as one of its top walkable places, listed at No. 12, just behind the Little Missouri National Grasslands.

“The Cannonball Trail is a 1.5-mile natural walking path alongside the Cannonball River flowing through Mott. Nature lovers, bird watchers and exercise enthusiasts get a closer connection to the river and the towering trees,” the Tourism site states.

Amenities like walking trails help attract and keep residents, Anderson said, as visitors sometimes query an area’s “walkability score.”

“People connect better and feel more at home if they can walk rather than drive,” she said. “They are more connected and happier with more walking trails.” ■

Slope Electric and 3C help Friday night lights return

BY LUANN DART

Mott-Regent/New England Wildfire celebrate their win on the New England field under the lights.



For the first time in 15 years, a varsity football team's cleats stepped onto the field in New England for a game, as the Mott-Regent/New England Wildfire played a home game against the Kidder County Wolves Friday, Sept. 10. And it did not disappoint, as the Wildfire won, 42-26.

Preparing the field for a game was a long-term effort, starting when the

New England Booster Club started peewee football about 10 years ago. The New England Park Board funded the lights, Slope Electric Cooperative and 3C Construction prepared holes for the scoreboard, goalposts and lights, and numerous others donated time and money to return the field to its glory days over a 10-year period. The efforts helped prep the field for

the first varsity game in more than a decade, and the team understood the significance of that game.

"It's special to tell them you're going to be a part of history. Not having a game here for 15 years and actually coaching kids on this team whose dads played here. There's a history here and a connection there and we're so excited. Yes, you want to play your best every Friday night, but this one has a little extra special to it," Coach Nate Zachmann said before the game.

New England has a storied history in football.

"New England currently co-ops with Mott-Regent in football and has since 2017. Prior to the co-op with Mott-Regent, New England had a co-op agreement with Dickinson Trinity in football from 2006 to 2016. Until now, New England didn't have an opportunity to host a game while playing within a co-op. New England won nine-man football state championships in 1988, 1995, 1996 and 1997. The Tigers' run in the 1990s was legendary. From 1995 to 1998, New England won 47 consecutive games," Tom Mix wrote in a column for the N.D. High School Activities Association.

"It means so much to all the communities. There have been a lot of good football games on this field," Zachmann said. ■



Slope Electric Cooperative and 3C Construction help place holes for the football field lights recently.

JUNE 19 TO 24, 2022



WASHINGTON, D.C.

AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Slope Electric Cooperative.
- If you have any questions, please contact Brooke Waltner, Slope Electric, at 701-579-4191 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Dec. 10, 2021. You can email entries to Brooke Waltner at bwaltner@slopeelectric.coop or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, 116 E. 12th St., PO Box 338, New England, ND 58647-0338.

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1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Slope Electric Cooperative
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol
3. A learning experience you'll never forget

ESSAY QUESTION:

If you were asked to help promote your cooperative's annual membership meeting, what ideas do you have for increasing attendance among young member-owners and students? Please provide specific examples for unique communications strategies, scheduling and special activities for member-owners and their families.



CHECK OUT THE ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES AT
<https://ndyouthtour.com/>

Hear the **BEEP** where you **SLEEP**

Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!

Half of home fire deaths happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep.



Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms.

For the best protection, install interconnected smoke alarms in your home. When one sounds, they all sound.



Test alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



Some people, especially children and older adults, may need help to wake up. Make sure someone will wake them if the smoke alarm sounds.



Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or if they do not sound when tested.



When the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.



Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

www.usfa.fema.gov
www.nfpa.org



Report from THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AUG. 26, 2021

Regular meeting held via WebEx

- Approved the agenda with additions
- Approved minutes of the July 29 board meeting
- Approved special equipment capitalization
- Heard co-general managers/CEOs updates
- Reviewed West Dakota Utility Services/3C Construction update
- Reviewed Basin Electric Power Cooperative update
- Adopted Wildfire Mitigation Plan
- Approved amendments to Innovative Energy Alliance (IEA) articles of association
- Implemented a rate transition plan and adjusted rates in accordance with the plan, to be implemented on Oct. 1.
- Reviewed the IEA budget
- Elected voting delegates and alternates for specific upcoming meetings
- Cast the CFC ballot
- Heard CFO report
- Heard operations report
- Heard legal counsel report
- Heard IT report
- Held voucher review
- Scheduled next meeting for Sept. 30
- Held executive session

Celebrate Co-op Month!

By providing the electricity that powers your home, farm or business, cooperatives play a role in your daily life. As we observe Co-op Month in October, electric cooperative members should be proud of the success of the cooperative business model and the spirit of cooperation these organizations promote. Cooperatives are a true example of grassroots involvement, because cooperatives are owned and controlled by those they serve.

Look across North Dakota's landscape and you'll notice cooperatives improve our quality of life everywhere. Electric cooperatives bring light to our lives, cool our food and heat our homes.

So, when you turn on a light, or power up your computer,

remember your electric cooperative is standing behind you each and every day.

Electric cooperatives often partner with local groups to bring opportunity to their local community. It is this facilitation role that is often the most valuable strength of the co-op.

The co-op business model is unique. It is pragmatic, mission-oriented and puts people first. Co-ops strive to be a trusted voice in their communities. Co-ops have earned that trust because, while not perfect, they always have their members' best interest at heart and are determined to enrich the lives of those living and working in the communities they serve - now and in the future. ■



**Community born.
Community led.
Focused on YOU.**

October is
National Co-op Month

DON'T LET HALLOWEEN BE SCARY!

It's time to decorate your yard and home as ghosts and goblins plan their invasion of the neighborhood looking for treats.

As you light Halloween night with elaborate decorations, Slope Electric Cooperative recommends some important safety tips:

- **Use only lights that have been safety tested and approved by Underwriters Laboratory (UL). Look for the UL label on the box and on each string.**
- **Make sure extension cords are in good condition. Use only cords rated to carry the electrical load you will connect to them.**
- **Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving your home.**
- **Before plugging in the lights, check each string for broken sockets, frayed cords or faulty plugs. Replace damaged strings.**
- **Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets don't have them. GFCIs protect you from electric shocks.**
- **Don't staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords.**
- **Keep electric cords out of high-traffic areas.**
- **Outdoors, use only lights and cords rated for outdoor use.**
- **Don't staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords.**
- **Do not run electrical cords across sidewalks or other walkway areas that could trip or endanger trick-or-treaters. Indoors, avoid stretching cords across a room where people or pets can trip over them or become entangled.**
- **Use flashlights or battery-operated candles when decorating the home, including to light walkways, jack-o'-lanterns and outdoor displays.**

A safe celebration is the best celebration, and following basic electrical safety guidelines will help you avoid real scares and keep your memories "boo-tiful" and fun.



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