

Follow the trail to

DISCOVER the



*in Leavenworth County
Kansas*

A COMMUNITY ART & HISTORY PROJECT

Presented by the
Leavenworth County Historical Society

DISCOVER the

“Spirit of the Buffalo”

Explore and discover the painted buffalo sculptures on display throughout Leavenworth County. Each sculpture highlights and reinforces the power of community, the beauty of art, our unique history, and the enduring legacy of the American Buffalo. We hope you enjoy celebrating this unique public art and history project!



This project has been made possible by grants from the Kansas Department of Tourism and the Home Depot Foundation. A special thanks to local artists, community buffalo sponsors, and the City of Leavenworth.



Follow the trail to take a step back in history as each buffalo statue reveals the times when Kansas Plains tribes cohabitated on the prairies of northeast Kansas with vast buffalo herds. Holding significant symbolism, the majestic buffalo was revered as a sacred and life-giving animal, representing abundance, life, and generosity. It played a crucial role in providing food, shelter, material, cultural, and spiritual needs.

The “**Spirit of the Buffalo**” is a community art and history project in Leavenworth County. It features a collection or “herd” of outdoor hand-crafted rustic metal sculptures, strategically placed throughout the county. Each original sculpture is a unique work of art in a collaboration between the enduring symbol of the buffalo and the individual style of a local artist. The statues personify the frontier spirit of the American West and explore often-forgotten components of Leavenworth County history during the pre-territorial era.

Explore, discover, and connect to the rich history in Leavenworth County! Long before the Kansas Territory was opened for settlement in 1854, vast herds of buffalo roamed the Great Plains. Spanish conquistadors called these huge, shaggy creatures “humpbacked oxen,” while early French trappers named the animals “boeufs.” The Native American term was “Tatanka.” Today, the accepted label is “bison” although “buffalo” has commonly been used since the earliest days of Kansas history.

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