

Great Platte River Road Memorial Archway

Kearney NE



Daily, 12,000 vehicles pass under this “Gateway to the West” that spans Interstate 80 in Nebraska. 79,000 square feet of exhibits tell of the inextricable link between westward migration and Nebraska’s Platte River Road. Up the entry escalator, guests “join” a wagon train expedition—visitors actually pass through a fiber optic-lined picture frame that borders a motion picture. Lighting plays a key role defining place and time, guests wear wireless headsets to reduce the need for didactic signage. On the prairie, a computer-automated lighting/sound sequence simulates the passing of a storm.



This project was awarded both a 2001 International Illumination Design Award & International Themed Entertainment Association Award.



Exhibit Design: Christopher Chadbourne & Associates
 Completed: 2000
 Photos By: Produced under contract to Christopher Chadbourne & Associates and Design Craftsmen