

TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

A – Riverview Boardwalk: 1.0 mile boardwalk in three connected loops, allowing shorter and longer routes. Accessible to wheelchairs and strollers. Twenty-four rest areas with exhibits describing natural features. Our most popular trail; recommended for all first-time visitors.

B – Hickory: 0.2 miles; descends from third loop of boardwalk down steep slope to Childs Hollow and across the railroad tracks to the Missouri River.

C – Linden: 0.3 mile; follows gently sloping ridge then descends to Childs Hollow.

D – Childs Hollow: 0.3 miles; level path in hollow named for Charles Childs, an early pioneer who owned much of the land that is now Fontenelle Forest.

E – Hawthorn: 0.9 miles; passes unmarked earth lodge sites dating from 1200 A.D.; leads to Mill Hollow.

F – Hackberry: 0.4 miles; winds its way on moderate slopes to connect with Linden Trail.

G – Wren: 0.1 miles; level connector trail.

H – Chickadee: 0.4 miles; moderate climb from Childs Hollow to Hawthorn trail on ridgetop.

I – Oak: 1.3 miles; parallels Mill Hollow stream, then climbs steeply to a broad ridge with 250-year-old bur oaks. Steep descent to Gifford Road on south end.

J – Missouri: 1.0 miles; level floodplain trail along banks of Missouri River.

K – Walking Club: 0.7 miles; level trail follows former channel of Missouri River past giant cottonwood trees.

L – Cottonwood: 0.9 miles; level path through mature floodplain forest. Beaver activity sometimes floods south end of trail.

M – Handsome Hollow: 0.5 miles; gentle, scenic route up a deep, steep-sided ravine, from floodplain to ridgetop.

N – Indian: 0.3 miles; level ridgetop trail; passes several unmarked earth lodge sites.

O – Bladdernut: 0.4 miles; short loop trail from Camp Logan Fontenelle building and back.

P – Stream: 0.8 miles; flat floodplain trail; heads north from road through beaver activity area, or south to Great Marsh.

Q – Marsh: 0.4 miles; follows shoreline of Great Marsh; excellent views of aquatic life, especially waterfowl in spring and fall. Great Marsh is a “river scar” marking a former channel of the Missouri River. The Fontenelle Trading Post (ca. 1822) was located just west of the present-day marsh, on a site which was then on the riverside.

R – Hidden Lake: 1.3 miles; level; trail skirts the east end of the Great Marsh to reach Hidden Lake. Southern portion prone to flooding. Connects with Gifford Memorial Boardwalk.

S – Gifford Memorial Boardwalk: 0.4 miles; equal access, flat boardwalk; leads from the Wetlands Learning Center through the Missouri River floodplain to Great Marsh, ending at two-story wildlife observation tower.

T – Pond Trail: 0.3 miles; floodplain trail leading from the Wetlands Learning Center to a small teaching pond. Connects with Stream Trail.

U – Signal Ridge: 0.9 miles; access from Gifford Road or from Camp Wakonda; mostly level ridgetop trail; steep at north end.

V – Mormon Hollow: 0.6 miles; traces the path of Mormon pioneers; traverses length of deep ravine: gentle to moderate grade.

W – Prairie: 0.5 miles; ridgetop path through young oak woodland; steep to moderate grade.

X – History: 1.3 miles; moderate to steep loop from Prairie Trail. A self-guided history trail brochure, available at the visitor's center, describes the historic sites along this trail and Prairie Trail.

Y – Red Bud: 0.5 miles; passes through a large stand of native redbud trees and provides an alternative route between the Great Marsh and Hidden Lake.

AA – Ridge: 0.5 miles; traverses either side of a narrow ridge leading to a bluff overlooking the Missouri River.

CC – Habitat Hollow: 0.1 miles; primarily used for teaching.

RULES OF THE FOREST

- Leave all plants and animals undisturbed for others to enjoy; no collecting or picking of any sort is allowed.
- Stay on the trails.
- Use caution when crossing the railroad tracks, which remains in active use. Do not walk on the tracks.
- Camping, jogging, and bicycling are not permitted. No motorized vehicles are permitted beyond the parking lots except for disabled persons' access.
- Pets and horses are not permitted.
- No smoking or fires are allowed.
- Picnic only in the areas designated for that purpose.
- Carry your trash out with you.
- Hunting, fishing and musical equipment are not allowed, except with prior permission.

Fontenelle Forest Nature Center Trail Map



FONTENELLE  FOREST

1111 Bellevue Blvd. N., Bellevue, NE 68005
402.731.3140

Trail Map



Fontenelle Forest Nature Center is a 1,400 acre conservation area. These unique lands have been protected since 1913 by Fontenelle Forest, a privately funded non-profit organization. The forest's environment is fragile and we need your help to ensure it exists for future generations. Please follow the simple rules listed on the reverse side.

