TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

A – Riverview Boardwalk (1.0 miles) Boardwalk in three connected loops, allowing for shorter and longer routes. Wheelchair and stroller accessible. Our most popular trail; recommended for all first-time visitors.

B – Ridge (0.32 miles) Traverses either side of a narrow ridge leading to a bluff overlooking the Missouri River.

C – Hickory (0.2 miles) Descends form Third Loop of Boardwalk down steep slope to Childs Hollow and across the railroad tracks to the Missouri River.

D – Linden (0.21 miles) Follows gently sloping ridge to meet up with Hackberry at Hawthorn.

E – Hackberry (0.39 miles) Winds on moderate slopes to connect with Linden at Hawthorn.

F – Habitat Hollow (0.08 miles) Short connector trail from Wren to Hackberry.

G – Wren (0.12 miles) Level connector trail from Linden to Hackberry.

H – Childs Hollow (0.13 miles) Mostly level path in hollow named for Charles Childs, and early pioneer who owned much of the land that is now Fontenelle Forest.

I – Hawthorn Trail (1.06 miles) Passes unmarked earth lodge sites dating from 1200 A.D.; leads to Mill Hollow.

J – Chickadee Trail (0.37 miles) Moderate climb from Childs Hollow up to Hawthorn on ridgetop.

K – Oak Trail (1.2 miles) Parallels Mill Hollow stream, then climbs steeply to a broad ridge with 250-year old bur oaks. Steep descent to Gifford Rd. on south end.

L – Handsome Hollow (0.52 miles) Gentle, scenic route up a deep, steep-sided ravine, from floodplain to ridgetop.

M – Indian (0.34 miles) Level ridgetop trail; passes several unmarked earth lodge sites.

N – Bladdernut (0.48 miles) Short loop trail from Camp Logan Fontenelle building and back.

O – Signal Ridge (1.0 miles) Access from Gifford Rd. or from Camp Wakonda; mostly level ridgetop trail; steep at north end.

P – Mormon Hollow (0.6 miles) Traces the path of Mormon pioneers; traverses length of deep ravine, gentle to moderate grade.

Q – Prairie (0.42 miles) Ridgetop path through young oak woodland; steep to moderate grade.

R – History (1.35 miles) Moderate to steep loop from Prairie. A self-guided History Trail brochure is available at the visitor’s center; describes the historic sites along this trail and Prairie Trail.

S – Walking Club (0.53 miles) Level trail follows former channel of Missouri River past giant cottonwood trees.

T – Cottonwood (0.95 miles) Level path through mature floodplain forest. Beaver activity sometimes floods the south end of the trail.

U – Missouri (1.12 miles) Level floodplain trail along banks of the Missouri River.

V – North Stream Spur (0.14 miles) A short, flat, spur trail along the stream north of Gifford Rd.

W – Stream (0.37 miles) Flat floodplain trail, heads south to the Great Marsh from Camp Gifford Rd.

X – Pond (0.16 miles) Floodplain trail leading from the Wetlands Learning Center to a small teaching pond. Connects with Stream Trail.

Y – Gifford Memorial Boardwalk (0.34 miles) Wheelchair and stroller accessible, flat, boardwalk; leads from the Wetlands Learning Center through the Missouri River floodplain to Great Marsh, ending at a two-story observation blind.

Z – Marsh (0.42 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.

AA – Hidden Lake (1.87 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.

BB – Redbud (0.49 miles) Passes through a large stand of native redbud trees and provides an alternative route between the Great Marsh and Hidden Lake.

RULES OF THE FOREST

• Leave all plants and animals undisturbed for others to enjoy. No collecting or picking is allowed.

• Stay on the trails at all times.

• 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 unless needed due to disability.

• Pets and horses not permitted.

• No smoking, vaping, or fires are allowed.

• Picnic only in areas designated for that purpose.

• Carry your trash out with you.

• Hunting and fishing are not allowed.

• Firearms and weapons are not allowed on Fontenelle Forest property.