TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

A – Riverview Boardwalk (1.0 mi) Wooden boardwalk in three connected loops, allowing for shorter and longer routes. Offers access for wheelchairs and strollers. Our most popular trail. Recommended for first-time visitors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

K – Oak Trail (1.2 mi) 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.

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

M – Bladdernut (0.67 mi) Incline from the parking area to a level ridgetop trail along several unmarked earth lodge sites.

N – Signal Ridge (1.0 mi) Access from Gifford Road or from Camp Wa-Kon-Da. Mostly level ridgetop trail, but steep at north end.

O – Gray Squirrel (1.19 mi) Difficult trail in varied terrain with steep sections and side hills. Trail dips into forest along woodland slopes, in area where gray squirrels have been known to be seen.

P – Mormon Hollow (0.6 mi) Traces the path of Mormon pioneers crossing length of deep ravine, with a gentle to moderate grade.

Q – Prairie (0.42 mi) Ridgetop path through young oak woodland. Steep to moderate grade.

R – History (1.35 mi) Moderately steep slope from Camp Wa-Kon-Da, winding around unmarked earth lodge sites and the original site of the Bellevue Trading Post. Includes historical markers for memorial sites of Logan Fontenelle and his mother, Bright Sun.

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

T – Missouri (1.12 mi) Level floodplain trail along banks of the Missouri River.

U – North Stream Spur (0.14 mi) A short, flat, spur trail along the stream north of Gifford Road.

V – Stream (0.37 mi) Flat floodplain trail, heads south to the Great Marsh from Camp Gifford Road.

W – Pond (0.16 mi) Floodplain trail leading from the Wetlands to a small pond. Connects with Stream Trail.

X – Gifford Memorial Boardwalk (0.34 mi) A flat, wooden boardwalk offering access for wheelchairs and strollers. Leads from the Wetlands through the Missouri River floodplain to the Great Marsh, ending at a two-story observation blind.

Y – Marsh (0.42 mi) 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. 1823) was located just west of the present-day marsh, on a site which was then on the riverside.

Z – Hidden Lake (1.87 mi) Level trail skirts the east end of the Great Marsh to reach Hidden Lake. Southern portion prone to flooding. Connects with Gifford Memorial Boardwalk.

TRAIL GUIDELINES

TRAILS ARE OPEN DAILY FROM SUNRISE TO SUNSET.

• All members and guests must check in at Visitor Services when the Nature Center is open.

• No dogs allowed. Pets and horses not permitted.

• PLEASE carry your trash out with you.

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

• No smoking, vaping or fires are allowed.

• Respect all signage, including trail closures!

• Stay on the trails at all times.

• Camping, jogging and bicycling are not permitted. No motorized vehicles permitted beyond the parking lots unless needed due to disability.

• Picnic only in areas designated for that purpose.

• Hunting and fishing are not allowed.

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

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY.

Fontenelle Forest is a private, non-profit organization. Support the Forest by becoming a member and enjoy 12 months of access to Fontenelle Forest and Neale Woods.

Memberships can be purchased:

Online: FontenelleForest.org/Visit

By phone: 402-731-3140

In person: Visitor Services desk, Fontenelle Forest Nature Center, 1111 Bellevue Blvd. N., Bellevue, NE

NON-MEMBER ADMISSION

Your admission supports the mission of Fontenelle Forest and our efforts in conservation, education and recreation.

Daily Admission:

$11 Adults

$10 Seniors (62+)

$8 Children (2-17)

Payment Options:

In-person: At Visitor Services desk

Online: FontenelleForest.org/Visit

By phone: 402-731-3140

Cash payment option available via Iron Ranger at all other trail access points.

Cover photo by Peter Carbonell
TRAIL ACCESS POINTS

Nature Center (1111 Bellevue Blvd North)
Directions from US 75 South:
Take US 75 South to Bellevue, then take the exit toward Chandler Road. Turn left onto Chandler Rd W for 0.5 miles. Take a right onto Bellevue Blvd N. for 0.5 miles. The Nature Center will be on your left.

Camp Logan (720 Camp Gifford Road)
Directions from the Nature Center:
Go south on Bellevue Blvd N from the Nature Center for 0.2 miles. Turn left on Childs Rd E and follow the road for 0.5 miles. Follow onto Camp Gifford Road for 0.5 miles.

Camp Wa-Kon-Da (402 Forest Drive)
Directions from the Nature Center:
Head south on Bellevue Blvd N from the Nature Center for 1.7 miles. Turn left onto Bellevue Blvd S for 0.5 miles. Turn left onto Forest Drive for 0.5 miles.

Wetlands (103 Camp Gifford Road)
Directions from the Nature Center:
Go south on Bellevue Blvd N from the Nature Center for 0.2 miles. Turn left on Childs Rd E and follow the road for 0.5 miles. Follow onto Camp Gifford Road for 1.5 miles.