

# Trail Map



## HOURS:

Monday - Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
 Sunday, Noon - 5:00 p.m.

## CONTACT:

Telephone: 402-441-7895  
 On-line: [parks.lincoln.ne.gov/naturecenter](http://parks.lincoln.ne.gov/naturecenter)

The mission of the Pioneers Park Nature Center is to interpret the natural history of Nebraska and the Central Great Plains; to promote the enjoyment, appreciation and awareness of our natural environment; to practice and foster a conservation ethic; and to provide a sanctuary for wildlife and a peaceful retreat for people.

## LEGEND

- A. Prairie Building  
 Prairie & Small Animal Exhibits  
 Gift Shop  
 Malinovskis Auditorium  
 Preschool  
 Nature Center Offices  
 Prairie Gardens
- B. Bird Exhibits
- C. Bison Overlook
- D. Suspension Bridge
- E. Chet Ager Building  
 Woodland, Wetland & Small Animal Exhibits  
 Base Camp Explore Area for 7-10 Year Olds  
 Bird Garden
- F. Louise Evans Doole Herb Garden
- G. Bird Banding Station
- H. Natural Play Area
- I. Bee Hive
- J. Compost Demonstration & Preschool Garden

\*ADA restrooms and electric carts are available at both buildings for use



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- Wooded Area
- Drinking Fountain
- Animal Trail .5 miles
- Ben Verley Trail Loop 1.9 miles
- Harrington Trail Loop .9 miles
- Martin Prairie Trail Loop 1 mile



## Enjoying Your Visit to Pioneers Park Nature Center

### Some Suggestions of Things to Do

#### Anytime:

- Stroll the Animal Trail to see our non-releaseable raptors.
- Visit both buildings.
- Walk across the elk bridge near the Prairie Building to see the elk, deer and pond critters.
- Dig in at the Natural Play Area.

#### Spring:

- Visit the wetland across the swinging bridge and listen for frogs (March-April).
- Walk in Fleming Woods and enjoy the blooming woodland flowers (April-May).
- Walk our woodlands noticing the buds and flowers of trees and shrubs.
- Listen and look for birds, courting behaviors and nesting activity. Harrington Trail and Nature Center ponds are good places to start. Pick up our bird list and borrow binoculars and a field guide if you do not have your own.



Photo by George Alexander



Photo by George Alexander

#### Summer:

- Visit the prairie gardens near the Prairie Building and the Louise Evans Doole Herb Garden near the Chet Ager Building.
- Relax on the adirondack chairs near the herb garden or on one of the benches scattered throughout the Nature Center.
- Visit the pond just west of the Prairie Building or the one at the end of the Martin Prairie Trail. Watch for birds and insects.
- Go down to the stream - there is a marked trail in Fleming Woods.
- Pay attention to the many insects around you, from the beauty of butterflies and dragonflies to the many critters that scurry on the ground.

#### Fall:

- Hike through the tall grasses near the Prairie Building and on the Martin Prairie Trail and enjoy the beauty of the fall prairie.
- Walk through our woodlands and observe the changing colors.
- Notice all the different kinds of grasshoppers you find.
- Wander to the end of Harrington Trails and relax under the large cottonwoods there.
- Look out for spider webs of various kinds. They can be magical early in the morning with dew or frost.
- Walk the Verley Trail and enjoy the Haines Branch Creek as it twists through the landscape.



Photo by Dick Dienstbier



#### Winter

- Especially after a snow, look for animal tracks. Pick up our hand out to help you identify what you find.
- Notice the shapes of the trees now that the leaves have fallen.
- Relax in front of the windows at the Chet Ager Building and watch the visitors to the bird garden.
- Look for abandoned bird nests, hidden during the summer.
- Watch for galls, funny lumps and bumps that served as homes for insects.
- Drive the loop west of the Prairie Building and observe the bison herd.