



HISTORIC DOWNTOWN OMAHA
TRAIL RATED 1A either 5K ROUTE; 2A - 10K
© Nebraska Wander Freunde Trailblazers 1/1/25
SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Border Crossings, Par for the Course, Rails to Trails, Step to the Beat, Town Halls/City Halls, Walking with America's Veterans, Where the Wild Things Are



NEW TRAIL The RiverFront refers to the three parks that lead to the Missouri River, so we've dedicated an entire 5 km route to exploring its grand reopening. That route leads through the Gene Leahy Mall with its performance, play and sports spaces; Heartland of America park with its view of the lake and the river and skate ribbon; and Lewis and Clark Landing, with the new Kiewit Luminarium, an interactive science museum for all ages. The northern part of that route includes a visit to the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge, connecting Nebraska and Iowa. This route is rated 1A, with some small changes in elevation.

For the urban architecture lover, we've created a 5 km route that goes past the Omaha's eclectic Old Market area (and great ice cream), Omaha's City Hall and an art installation that spans several blocks, before heading back into the beating heart of the entertainment district and along the outside of the Gene Leahy Mall. This route is rated 1A, with one long hill leading away from the river.

Not all Special Programs are available on each 5 km route. If doing both routes, please be advised that the rating would change to a mild 2A.

This walk is also available through a physical walk box – please do not register at that location or use any materials from that walk box.

Walk Registration:

Registration takes place online using the AVA Online Start Box, on my.ava.org. Follow the instructions provided to create a user account and sign the AVA waiver (one time). Instructions for payment are also included. Download the directions and print as needed. The POC does not provide event directions or accept alternate payment methods.

Walk Completion and Walk Credit:

Once you have physically completed the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account click on the "My Start Box" tab, then the "Finish Table" tab, then click on "Go to Finish Table" button for the event you have completed. Use the displayed entry form to submit the date and distance of your walk as well as select applicable AVA Special Programs to generate stamped "virtual" insert cards that you may choose to print out.

Table of Contents:

Use the following table to guide what portion of this document you may wish to print out.

Section Contents	Pages
Introduction, Walk Registration/Completion, and Table of Contents	1
Driving Directions, Notes	2
RiverFront 5K Directions and Map	3-6
Urban 5K Directions and Map	7-9

Starting Point Location:

Landmark Center
1299 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68102
GPS Coordinates: 41.25751, -95.93278

Parking: Meters are free on Sundays. Otherwise, parking meters generally cost \$1/hr for the first 2 hours and \$2/hr for the next 2 hours. A pay lot at 10th & Jackson costs \$1 during the work week and lies along the Urban 5k route.

From the east: I-480 from Council Bluffs, IA into NE. Use (Exit 4) Dodge St. to 10th St. Left on 10th St. to Farnam St. Right on Farnam to parking meters between S. 11th and 13th Streets.

From south and west: I-480 northbound to (Exit 2A) Harney St. Right on Harney St. to S. 10th St. Left on S. 10th to Farnam St. Left on Farnam to parking meters between S. 11th and 13th Streets.

Restrooms:

Bathrooms are available at the start point and along the routes.

Notes on the Directions

- Walking directions are followed by compass directions in parentheses.
- Omaha's numbered streets run north/south, with the dividing line at Dodge Street.

SPECIAL PROGRAM QUALIFIERS

U= Urban 5k route; R = RiverFront 5k route

Border Crossings and Rails to Trails (Riverfront 5k):

- Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge

Par for the Course (Both 5ks):

- R & U: Gene Leahy Mall (bocce courts)
- R: Heartland of America Park (skate ribbon)
- R: Lewis & Clark Landing (volleyball courts)

Step to the Beat (Both 5ks):

- R & U: Gene Leahy Mall (Event Pavilion)
- U: Orpheum Theater, 16th & Harney
- U: Rose Theater, 20th & Farnam
- U: The Jewell, Capitol District courtyard
- U: Steelhouse Omaha, 11th & Dodge
- U: Holland Performing Arts Center, 13th & Douglas

Town Halls/City Halls (Urban 5k):

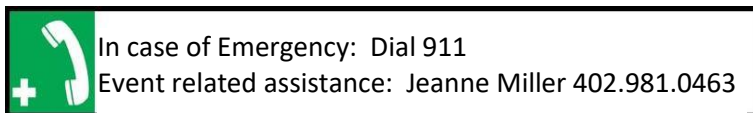
- Omaha City Hall is located at 1819 Farnam St.

Walking with America's Veterans (Urban 5k):

- Medal of Honor monument, "Among the Valiant", at 18th & Farnam, placed on the wall along Farnam Street, between the Civic Center and the Courthouse.

Where the Wild Things Are (Riverfront 5k)

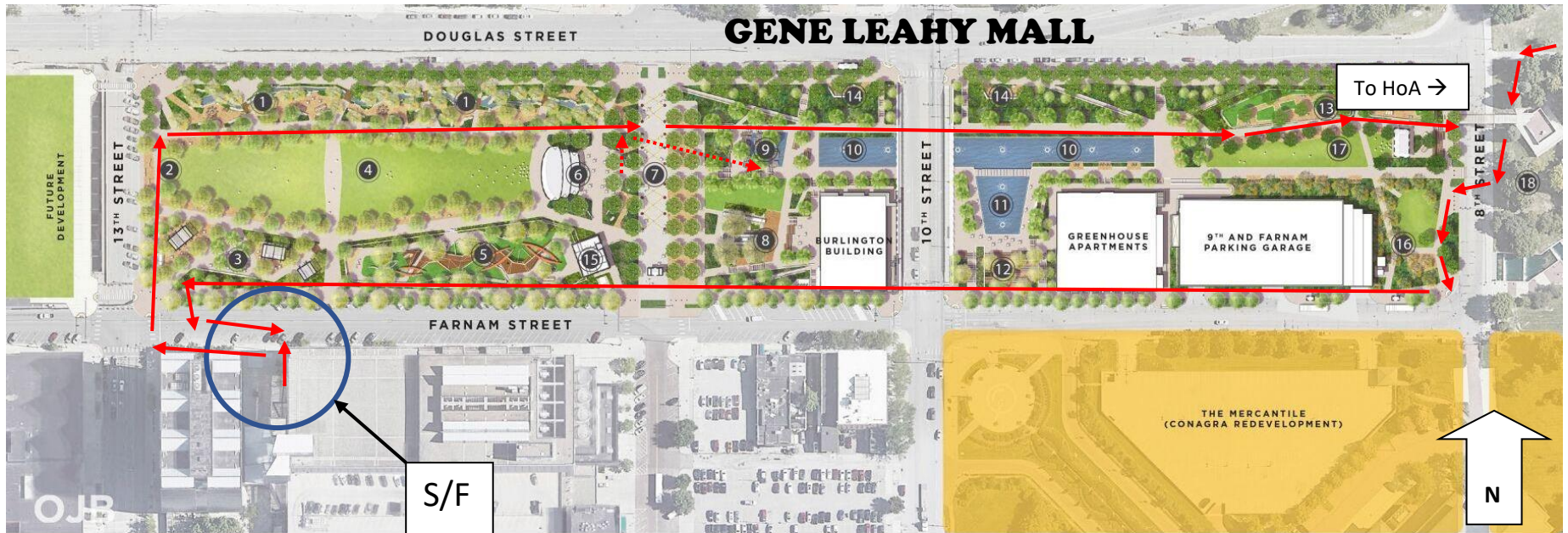
- "Omar the Troll" under the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge



4. **CONTINUE** (north) on the sidewalk inside the Mall, paralleling S. 13th Street passing Art Plaza (2) on your right, to sidewalk on your right.
5. **RIGHT** (east) on the sidewalk, with Sculpture Garden (1) on your left, Art Plaza (2), West Event Lawn (4) and Event Pavilion & Plaza (6) (Step to the Beat) all on your right, to the intersection with a broad sidewalk, 11th Street Promenade (7).
6. **If you cannot use the stairs, go LEFT and then RIGHT** to use a ramp. Otherwise, **CONTINUE** (east) down the stairs past the Cascades Fountain (9) on your right, along The Pond (10) on your right, past the Dog Park (13) on your left and East Event Lawn (17) (Par for the Course) to 8th Street and **CROSS**. You are now entering the Heartland of America Park at the 8th Street Plaza (1 on HoA map).

TURN TO THE HEARTLAND OF AMERICA PARK MAP (PAGE 5, #7)

28. **LEFT** (south) to Farnam Street.
29. **RIGHT** (west) to S. 13th Street.
30. **LEFT** (south) to the Start Point



- | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| ① SCULPTURE GARDEN | ⑥ EVENT PAVILION & PLAZA | ⑪ THE BOAT COVE | ⑯ THE GROVE |
| ② ART PLAZA | ⑦ 11TH STREET PROMENADE | ⑫ THE TERRACES | ⑰ EAST EVENT LAWN |
| ③ SOCIAL GARDEN COURTS | ⑧ SLIDE TERRACE | ⑬ DOG PARK | ⑱ HEARTLAND OF AMERICA |
| ④ WEST EVENT LAWN | ⑨ CASCADES FOUNTAIN | ⑭ OVERLOOK GARDENS | |
| ⑤ PLAYGROUND | ⑩ THE POND | ⑮ RESTROOMS | |



Heartland of America Park

- ① 8th St. Plaza
- ② Skate Kiosk & Restrooms
- ③ Skate Ribbon
- ④ Farnam Promenade
- ⑤ Farnam Pier
- ⑥ RiverFront Green
- ⑦ Picnic Terrace
- ⑧ Bluff
- ⑨ Pedestrian Bridge
- ⑩ RiverFront Promenade
- ⑪ Lake Overlook
- ⑫ Lakeside Amphitheater
- ⑬ Lakefront Green
- ⑭ Boat Launch
- ⑮ Lake Playground
- ⑯ Lakeside Terrace
- ⑰ Existing Fountain

- 7. **CONTINUE** on the sidewalk between the Riverfront Green (6) and the Skate Ribbon (3) (*Part C*).
- 8. At the end of the Skate Ribbon (3), turn **RIGHT**, crossing Farnam Promenade (4)* down to the lake.

To avoid stairs later on this tour, turn **LEFT (east) on the Farnam Promenade and jump to the middle of #13*

- 9. **LEFT** along the lake to the end of the Lake Playground (15/16) (Look for Lakeside Terrace sign).
- 10. **LEFT** up the stairs to the Riverfront Promenade (10).
- 11. **LEFT** on the Promenade. Stay **LEFT** where the Promenade goes under the Farnam Pier, to the entrance to the Farnam Pier (5).
- 12. **RIGHT** up the stairs* on the pier to the end, enjoy, then turn around and come back to the Promenade. (*A ramp weaves between the wooden benches)
- 13. **RIGHT** on the Promenade to the Pedestrian Bridge (9) and **CROSS** to Lewis & Clark Landing.

TURN TO THE LEWIS AND CLARK LANDING MAP (PAGE 6, #14)

- 24. **PASS** the Bluff (8) on your left to an intersection of sidewalks.
- 25. **Stay RIGHT** and continue **STRAIGHT**, passing the Picnic Terrace (7) on your left. (Douglas Street will be on your right.)
- 26. When you reach 8th Street, turn **LEFT** back to the 8th Street Plaza (1).
- 27. **RIGHT** (west), crossing 8th Street, to the Gene Leahy Mall side of the street.

TURN BACK NOW TO THE GENE LEAHY MALL MAP (PAGE 4, #28)



Lewis and Clark Landing

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| ① Arrival Plaza | ⑥ Lawn | ⑪ Pedestrian Bridge |
| ② Discovery Playground | ⑦ Sand Volleyball Courts | ⑫ RiverFront Promenade |
| ③ Restrooms | ⑧ Sports Courts | ⑬ MLK Bridge |
| ④ Urban Beach | ⑨ Marina | ⑭ Parking |
| ⑤ RiverFront Plaza | ⑩ Maintenance Facility | ⑮ Kiewit Luminarium |

14. **EXIT** the bridge and **CONTINUE** on the Riverfront Promenade (12), passing the Discovery Playground (2) and Restrooms (3) on your left and the Urban Beach (4) on your right to the Urban Beach sign.
15. **KEEP RIGHT and down the stairs or ramp** so that the Luminarium (15) is on your far left and you pass the Lawn (6) and Sand Volleyball Courts (7) (*Par For The Course*) on your near left.
16. **CONTINUE** to the sidewalk wrapping around the marina, keeping the “Monument to Labor” statue on your right.
17. The Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge can be reached via the sidewalk closest to the river. **CONTINUE** (north), passing the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Center (NPS building), to the bridge and walk to the NE/IA sign on the pavement. (*Border Crossings, Rails to Trails, Where the Wild Things Are*)
18. **TURN AROUND and RETURN** past the NPS building back to the Marina (9)
19. **RIGHT** toward the Sports Courts (8) (*Par For The Course*) back to the Riverfront Promenade (12).
20. **RIGHT** then an immediate **LEFT** on the sidewalk curving between the Courts (8) and the Maintenance Facility (10), to the sidewalk leading to the Luminarium (15) on your left.
21. **LEFT** on the sidewalk in front of the Luminarium to the Arrival Plaza (1) on the other side.
22. **FOLLOW** the sign to the Discovery Playground (2) but stay **RIGHT** to stay outside of the Playground. Follow the fence and keep the Playground on your left to the Pedestrian Bridge (12).
23. **RIGHT** to enter and cross the bridge back to Heartland of America Park on the Riverfront Promenade.

TURN BACK NOW TO HEARTLAND OF AMERICA PARK MAP (PAGE 5, #24)

Downtown Omaha 2025 – Urban 5k Trail Rated 1A

© Nebraska Wander Freunde Trailblazers January 1, 2025

Special Programs: Par for the Course, Step to the Beat (6), Town Halls/City Halls,
Walking with America’s Veterans

➤ Walking directions are followed with compass directions in parentheses. **Special program sites** are *italicized & underlined*.

➤

These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

1. From the lobby, head south to the Harney Street entrance and exit the lobby.	
2. RIGHT (w) to the lights at S. 13 th and Harney.	
3. LEFT (s) crossing Harney and LEFT (e) along Harney to S. 10 th Street.	
4. RIGHT (s) along S. 10 th for one block to Howard.	You are entering the heart of Omaha’s Old Market.
5. RIGHT (w) along Howard for one block to S. 11 th .	Former fruit stands and warehouses now house restaurants, collectibles and boutiques.
6. LEFT (s) crossing Howard for one block to Jackson.	To your left is the Urban Abbey coffeeshop.
7. RIGHT (w), crossing S. 11 th , on Jackson to S. 12 th .	Ted & Wally’s Ice Cream is locally made and is known for their imaginative ice cream flavors. On the opposite corner is Hollywood Candy, with every childhood flavor and brand of candy imaginable.
8. RIGHT (n) on S. 12 th to Howard and CROSS .	
9. LEFT (w) on Howard to S. 16 th	
10. RIGHT (n) on S. 16 th for 2 blocks to Farnam. <i>(Step to the Beat)</i>	You’ll pass the Orpheum Theater between Howard and Harney. It started as the Creighton Theater in 1895, joining the Orpheum Circuit in 1900. When the present building was built in 1927, it became the Orpheum Theater. Vaudeville gave way to movies until the theater became a performing arts theater once again.
11. LEFT (w) on Farnam to S. 20 th Street. You’ll pass the Douglas County Courthouse on your left, and then the Omaha-Douglas Civic Center <i>(Town Halls/City Halls), Walking with America’s Veterans</i>	Several historical markers, sculptures and monuments dot the Courthouse and Civic Center campus. There is a small café in the basement of the Civic Center, open for lunch on weekdays. <i>‘Among the Valiant’</i> monument at 18 th & Farnam.
12. RIGHT (n) on S. 20 th for one block to Douglas. <i>(Step to the Beat)</i>	Across S. 20 th is The Rose Theater, built in 1926 as a combination of Moorish and Classical styles. It originally featured stage shows and movies. It remained a movie theater until 1980 and was renovated in 1986. It now houses a children’s theater.
13. RIGHT (e) on Douglas for one block to S. 19 th and CROSS .	
14. LEFT (n) on S. 19 th for one block to Dodge.	St. Mary Magdalene Church was built in 1903. Dodge Street was lowered in 1919. The arched windows above the church’s name used to be the entrance!

<p>15. RIGHT (e) for 3 blocks to S. 16th Street and CROSS.</p>	<p>You're going east on a westbound one-way street, so look across the street on your left to count the blocks. When you get to the building with large panes of glass on your right, be sure to look inside at the sculptures and then up at the "light pole" on the building's corner.</p>
<p>16. RIGHT (s) for a few feet to the entrance to the entrance to the sculpture park on your left. LEFT into the park to its end at Dodge Street.</p>	<p>This is The Spirit of Nebraska's Wilderness Park. You'll be walking its story backwards for the next couple of blocks. Look to see what startled the geese!</p>
<p>17. RIGHT (e) on at the bison on Dodge to the next intersection, 15th Street.</p>	<p>Dodge is the dividing line between North and South in Omaha. You're at S. 15th – across the street is N. 15th.</p>
<p>18. LEFT (n) on 15th Street for one block to Capitol Avenue and CROSS.</p>	<p>You'll pass a bison emerging from the wall, a bison calf and more bison. Why are they running?</p>
<p>19. RIGHT (e) for a few feet. You may explore the path leading to your left up the hill or continue straight east to N. 14th Street.</p>	<p>This is Pioneer Courage Park, sponsored by First National Bank of Omaha. See if you can read the story told by these bronze sculptures, from the scout on the top of the plateau, to the straining oxen, hand carts and pioneers below. Now you know why the bison and geese are on the move!</p>
<p>20. CROSS N. 14th and continue east to N. 12th and CROSS.</p>	<p>You'll pass the printing presses and offices of the <i>Omaha World-Herald</i>. The <i>World</i> was established in 1885 by Gilbert Hitchcock, who purchased the <i>Herald</i> in 1889. His son-in-law Henry Doorly took over after Hitchcock's death in 1934, until 1955. The Omaha zoo is named after Doorly.</p>
<p>21. CONTINUE (e) until there's a break in the buildings and turn LEFT, then RIGHT, then RIGHT through The Capitol District's courtyard area back to Capitol Avenue. (<u><i>Step to the Beat</i></u>)</p>	<p>Bathrooms are in the lower SW corner of the courtyard, near Akarui restaurant. The Jewell is a small music venue at the other end of the courtyard, specializing in blues and jazz.</p>
<p>22. LEFT (e) on Capitol to the lights at N. 10th Street.</p>	
<p>23. RIGHT and RIGHT (w) so that you're heading west on the other side of Capitol, for one block to N. 11th and CROSS.</p>	<p>If you look further to the west, up the hill, you'll see Central High School, built on the site of Nebraska's first capitol building. Hence, the street name.</p>
<p>24. LEFT (s) on N. 11th for one block to Dodge. (<u><i>Step to the Beat</i></u>)</p>	<p>Steelhouse Omaha is Omaha's newest music venue, catering to smaller concerts and younger patrons.</p>
<p>25. RIGHT (w) on Dodge for 2 blocks to S. 13th Street.</p>	
<p>26. LEFT (s) on S. 13th for 1 block to Douglas and CROSS.</p>	
<p>27. LEFT (e) on Douglas for 3 blocks to S. 10th Street. (<u><i>Step to the Beat</i></u>)</p>	<p>On your left is the Holland Performing Arts Center, home to the Omaha Symphony. It is renowned for its acoustic integrity.</p>
<p>28. RIGHT (s) on S. 10th Street to Farnam and CROSS. (<u><i>Step to the Beat</i></u>)</p>	<p>You've been walking by the Gene Leahy Mall, with its many public amenities and a focus of our other 5k loop.</p>
<p>29. RIGHT (w) on Farnam back to where you started.</p>	

Downtown Omaha 2025 Urban 5k Map

Starting Point: Landmark Center, 1299 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE 68102 GPS Coordinates: 41.25751, -95.93278

