



**Hanscom Park/Ford Birthsite Walk**  
**TRAIL RATED 1A - 5K & 2A – 10K ROUTES**  
© Nebraska Wander Freunde Trailblazers 1/1/22  
**SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Walking with  
America’s Veterans, Rails-to-Trails**



Hanscom Park is Omaha’s oldest public park. The surrounding midtown Hanscom Park Neighborhood has many historic homes and includes U.S. President Gerald R. Ford’s birthsite. This walk also goes through the historic Field Club neighborhood and the Field Club trail, a popular multiuse trail that blooms in the spring and shows its colors in the fall.

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*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.*

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**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:**

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## Hanscom Park/Ford Birthsite Walk

### **Starting Point Location:**

41.241675, -95.958109

Pavilion Parking, Hanscom Park

The Pavilion is located near the center of Hanscom Park. The park is located between Woolworth and Ed Creighton Ave. and Park Ave. and 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

There is a park entrance leading to the pavilion on the north (Woolworth) and south (Ed Creighton Ave.) side of the park.

**From the west:** Take I-80 staying in the right lanes to take exit 452 to I-480 North. Take the Martha St. exit 1A on the right. Turn left (west) on Martha St. which becomes Ed Creighton Ave. Take the first entrance into the park on the right and follow the park road around to the parking by the pavilion.

**From the east:** Take I-80 to I-480 north. Take the Martha St. Exit 1A on the right. Turn left (west) on Martha St. which becomes Ed Creighton Ave. Take the first entrance into the park on the right and follow the park road around to the parking by the pavilion.

### **Restrooms:**

- There is a seasonal porta-potty in the park.
- Restrooms are available at Midtown Gas and Groceries at 1349 Park Avenue just northeast of the park.
- No restrooms available on the 5k route.
- On the 10K route, restroom availability is subject to pandemic restrictions at public buildings, such as the VA and the Med Center campus. There is a casual restaurant one block from the route at the 6k point in the walk.

### **Warning regarding snow and ice on trails**

Not advised to walk in snowy/icy weather. Hanscom Park and the Ford Birthsite may not have snow removed from sidewalks or roads. Neighborhood sidewalks, when shoveled, are susceptible to melt/refreeze, creating icy conditions.

### **Notes on the Directions**

- Walking directions are followed by compass directions in parentheses.
- Omaha's numbered streets run north/south and alternate with numbered avenues. For example, 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue is followed by 33<sup>rd</sup> Street and then by 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

### **SPECIAL PROGRAM QUALIFIERS**

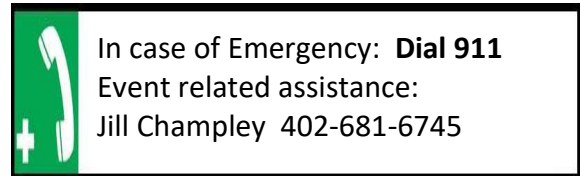
#### Walking with America's Veterans

- The grounds of the VA Hospital and Ambulatory Care Center count for this Special Program.
- The interior of the VA Ambulatory Care Center features seals from the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Air Force (restricted access during COVID-19)

#### Rails-to-Trails

- A portion of both the 5k and 10k follow a resurfaced old city railroad bed.

### **Emergency Numbers:**



# 5k Directions

<p><b>1. FROM the Pavilion:</b> Turn <b>NORTH</b> to where bricks set in the street delineate a path. <b>WALK</b> to the bricks.</p>	<p>Hanscom Park is the oldest park in Omaha. The original tract of 50 acres was donated in 1872 by pioneer settlers Andrew Jackson Hanscom and James Megeath. The land was developed at a cost of \$913.30 in 1889 by the newly formed Park Commission. The park includes tennis courts, fishing lagoon, swimming/splash pad, greenhouses, gardens, and pavilions.</p>
<p><b>2. RIGHT (e)</b> on the sidewalk toward the lagoon, between the picnic tables.</p>	
<p><b>3. RIGHT (se)</b> on path toward the lagoon and walk along the lagoon (it should be on your right). As you come around the far southeastern end of the lagoon, look for a sharply left-angling path.</p>	
<p><b>4. LEFT (se)</b> on path to Park Avenue (no sign here).</p>	
<p><b>5. RIGHT (s)</b> on Park Ave. to Ed Creighton Avenue.</p>	<p>Edward Creighton made a fortune constructing the Pacific Telegraph line. He was an investor in the freighting business between Omaha, Denver, and Salt Lake City, and served the Omaha Northwestern Railroad. His widow, Mary, bequeathed \$50,000 to establish Creighton University in 1878.</p>
<p><b>6. LEFT (s), then RIGHT (w) to CROSS</b> both Creighton Ave. and S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.</p>	<p>You should be in front of Our Lady of Lourdes School.</p>
<p><b>7. RIGHT (w)</b> on Creighton, passing where you drove in, to S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.</p>	
<p><b>8. LEFT (s)</b> on S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. to just south of Martha Street, to 2328 S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.</p>	<p>The houses along here are over 100 years old, dating back to when working class families took advantage of trolley car and then streetcar routes along 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. <b>Little Free Library #9387</b> at 2328 S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave.</p>
<p><b>9. TURN AROUND and WALK BACK (n)</b> to Martha St.</p>	
<p><b>10. LEFT (w)</b> on Martha past S. 35<sup>th</sup> Ave and NAGL Manufacturing Co. to the Field Club Trail.</p>	<p>The former Windsor Public School built in 1892 is now an apartment building.</p>
<p><b>11. RIGHT (n),</b> crossing Martha, on to the Field Club Trail.</p>	
<p><b>12. CONTINUE (n)</b> on Field Club Trail, passing under the bridge (Center Street) to the next exit from the trail on your left.</p>	<p>Once the Omaha Belt Line (railroad), this trail passes through working class neighborhoods, the Field Club Golf Course, and the Douglas County and UNMC medical campuses.</p>
<p><b>13. LEFT (nw)</b> to a parking lot. White storage tank directly in front of you. Look for a sidewalk across the parking lot and to the right, leading at an angle to the northwest.</p>	<p>Notice the red footprints along the trail? This is part of a 1-mile walking loop created by the VA. You'll be following the footprints while on the VA Campus.</p>

## Hanscom Park/Ford Birthsite Walk

<p><b>14. RIGHT</b> (nw) on the sidewalk and <b>FOLLOW</b> the sidewalk as it turns west, then along a parking lot, then in front of and along the VA's brand-new Ambulatory Care Center (ACC). <b>CONTINUE</b> on the sidewalk as it curves north toward the street above.</p>	<p><b><i>Walking with America's Veterans</i></b> The front of the newly constructed Ambulatory Care Center on your left was designed to mimic an American flag being unfurled. The interior features Veteran-themed art and the five seals of the U.S. military (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard). The wall connecting to the hospital features a "Ribbon Wall" of colored glass along its west façade, evoking the medal ribbons worn by U.S. servicemembers.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Visitors are not allowed in the buildings during the COVID-19 pandemic.</i></p>
<p><b>15. LEFT</b> (s) on the sidewalk with the ACC on your left as the sidewalk continues to the doors of the VA, with the street (Nimitz Drive, not marked, to your right). <b>CONTINUE</b> all the way along the loop, heading north again. As you exit the loop, look to your left where there is a large white trailer parked behind a decorative metal grille and a cluster of bus shelters.</p>	
<p><b>16. LEFT</b> (w) with the trailer on your left and the bus shelters on your right to and <b>CROSS</b> the street (Eisenhower Drive, not marked).</p>	<p>Those red footprints are still occasionally visible.</p>
<p><b>17. RIGHT</b> (n) along Eisenhower Drive, past the red brick Fisher House, to the crosswalk across the main entrance and <b>CROSS</b>.</p>	
<p><b>18. IMMEDIATE LEFT</b> (n) and <b>CROSS</b> Woolworth Ave, using the crosswalk.</p>	<p>The red brick Douglas County Hospital is in front of you and the VA's new parking garage to your right.</p>
<p><b>19. RIGHT</b> (e) on Woolworth Avenue to S. 36<sup>th</sup> St. and <b>CROSS</b>.</p>	<p>Field Club Golf Course is on both sides of the street. It was established in 1898, when these were the suburbs!</p>
<p><b>20. CONTINUE</b> (e) to just past S. 33<sup>rd</sup> Street to the gates leading into the Ford Birthsite.</p>	<p>You're now in the Field Club Historic District. This suburb was connected to Omaha by trolley car. You'll pass the impressive 1923 Westminster Presbyterian Church on the NE corner of 35<sup>th</sup> and Woolworth. It and Field Club School are the only non-residential buildings in the Historic District.</p>
<p><b>21. LEFT</b> (n) and <b>RIGHT</b> (e) through the gardens and exhibits to the gates on S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street.</p>	<p>Leslie Lynch King, Jr. was born on July 14, 1913 in a house that once stood here. Two weeks after he was born, his mother left her abusive husband and went home to Michigan. Leslie adopted his stepfather's name in 1935: Gerald Rudolph Ford, Jr., our 38<sup>th</sup> President.</p>
<p><b>22. RIGHT</b> (s) on S. 32<sup>nd</sup> St. to Woolworth and <b>RIGHT</b> (w) to the Stop Sign at the intersection of Woolworth and S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.</p>	
<p><b>23. LEFT</b> (s) on S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave., crossing Woolworth at the crosswalk, to walk along the west side of Hanscom Park, to the lights at Center St.</p>	
<p><b>24. LEFT</b> (e) facing traffic onto the park drive. Your goal is that sidewalk heading east on the other side of the little median, so walk facing traffic until you get there.</p>	
<p><b>25. STRAIGHT</b> (e) on that sidewalk down the hill to where you started.</p>	



# 10K Directions

<p><b>1. FROM the Pavilion:</b> Turn <b>NORTH</b> to where bricks set in the street delineate a path. <b>WALK</b> to the bricks.</p>	<p>Hanscom Park is the oldest park in Omaha. The original tract of 50 acres was donated in 1872 by pioneer settlers Andrew Jackson Hanscom and James Megeath. The land was developed at a cost of \$913.30 in 1889 by the newly formed Park Commission. The park includes tennis courts, fishing lagoon, swimming/splash pad, greenhouses, gardens and pavilions.</p>
<p><b>2. RIGHT (e)</b> on the sidewalk toward the lagoon, between the picnic tables.</p>	
<p><b>3. RIGHT (se)</b> on path toward the lagoon and walk along the lagoon (it should be on your right). As you come around the far southeastern end of the lagoon, look for a sharply left-angling path.</p>	
<p><b>4. LEFT (se)</b> on path to Park Avenue (no sign here).</p>	
<p><b>5. RIGHT (s)</b> on Park Ave. to Ed Creighton Avenue.</p>	<p>Edward Creighton made a fortune constructing the Pacific Telegraph line. He was an investor in the freighting business between Omaha, Denver and Salt Lake City, and served the Omaha Northwestern Railroad. His widow, Mary, bequeathed \$50,000 to establish Creighton University in 1878.</p>
<p><b>6. LEFT (s), then RIGHT (w) to CROSS</b> both Creighton Ave. and S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.</p>	<p>You should be in front of Our Lady of Lourdes School.</p>
<p><b>7. RIGHT (w)</b> on Creighton, passing where you drove in, to S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.</p>	
<p><b>8. LEFT (s)</b> on S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. to just south of Martha Street, to 2328 S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.</p>	<p>The houses along here are over 100 years old, dating back to when working class families took advantage of trolley car and then streetcar routes along 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. <b>Little Free Library #9387</b> at 2328 S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave.</p>
<p><b>9. TURN AROUND and WALK BACK (n)</b> to Martha St.</p>	
<p><b>10. LEFT (w)</b> on Martha past S. 35<sup>th</sup> Ave and NAGL Manufacturing Co. to the Field Club Trail.</p>	<p>The former Windsor Public School built in 1892 is now an apartment building.</p>
<p><b>11. RIGHT (n),</b> crossing Martha, on to the Field Club Trail.</p>	
<p><b>12. CONTINUE (n)</b> on Field Club Trail, passing under the bridge (Center Street) to the next exit from the trail on your left.</p>	<p>Once the Omaha Belt Line (railroad), this trail passes through working class neighborhoods, the Field Club Golf Course, and the Douglas County and UNMC medical campuses.</p>
<p><b>13. LEFT (nw)</b> to a parking lot. White storage tank directly in front of you. Look for a sidewalk across the parking lot and to the right, leading at an angle to the northwest.</p>	<p>Notice the red footprints along the trail? This is part of a 1-mile walking loop created by the VA. You'll be following the footprints while on the VA Campus.</p>

## Hanscom Park/Ford Birthsite Walk

<p><b>14. RIGHT</b> (nw) on the sidewalk and <b>FOLLOW</b> the sidewalk as it turns west, then along a parking lot, then in front of and along the VA's brand-new Ambulatory Care Center (ACC). <b>CONTINUE</b> on the sidewalk as it curves north toward the street above.</p>	<p><b><i>Walking with America's Veterans</i></b> The front of the newly constructed Ambulatory Care Center on your left was designed to mimic an American flag being unfurled. The interior features Veteran-themed art and the five seals of the U.S. military (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard). The wall connecting to the hospital features a "Ribbon Wall" of colored glass along its west façade, evoking the medal ribbons worn by U.S. servicemembers.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Visitors are not allowed in the buildings during the COVID-19 pandemic.</i></p>
<p><b>15. LEFT</b> (s) on the sidewalk with the ACC on your left as the sidewalk continues to the doors of the VA, with the street (Nimitz Drive, not marked, to your right). <b>CONTINUE</b> all the way along the loop, heading north again. As you exit the loop, look to your left where there is a large white trailer parked behind a decorative metal grille and a cluster of bus shelters.</p>	
<p><b>16. LEFT</b> (w) with the trailer on your left and the bus shelters on your right to and <b>CROSS</b> the street (Eisenhower Drive, not marked).</p>	<p>Those red footprints are still occasionally visible.</p>
<p><b>17. RIGHT</b> (n) along Eisenhower Drive, past the red brick Fisher House, to the crosswalk across the main entrance and <b>CROSS</b>.</p>	
<p><b>18. IMMEDIATE LEFT</b> (n) and <b>CROSS</b> Woolworth Ave, using the crosswalk.</p>	<p>The red brick Douglas County Hospital is in front of you and the VA's new parking garage to your right.</p>
<p><b>19. RIGHT</b> (e) back and down to the Field Club Trail.</p>	<p>On your right: the Field Club Golf Course. On your left, buildings belonging to various Douglas County services; after Pacific Street, the buildings belong to the sprawling University of Nebraska Medical Center campus.</p>
<p><b>20. LEFT</b> (n) on the Field Club Trail, crossing Pacific and then Marcy Streets, to the end at Leavenworth Street (rental bicycles on your left).</p>	
<p><b>21. LEFT</b> (w) on Leavenworth to S. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and <b>CROSS</b>.</p>	
<p><b>22. RIGHT</b> (n) on S. 42<sup>nd</sup> St, crossing Leavenworth, up the hill to Emile Street and <b>CROSS</b>.</p>	<p>"Emile" is an alternate spelling of "Emily". Note the large stethoscope sculpture across the street to the NE.</p>
<p><b>23. LEFT</b> (w) to S. 45<sup>th</sup> Street.</p>	<p><b><i>Little Free Library #20331</i></b> on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Durham Outpatient Center at the end of the circular drive before the parking garage. <i>Visitors are not allowed in the buildings during the COVID-19 pandemic.</i></p>
<p><b>24. RIGHT</b> (n) on S. 45<sup>th</sup> St. to Dewey Avenue.</p>	<p>"Search" by world-famous Omaha artist Jun Kaneko stands 82' tall and is lit at night to call attention to the Fred and Pamela Buffett Cancer Center.</p>

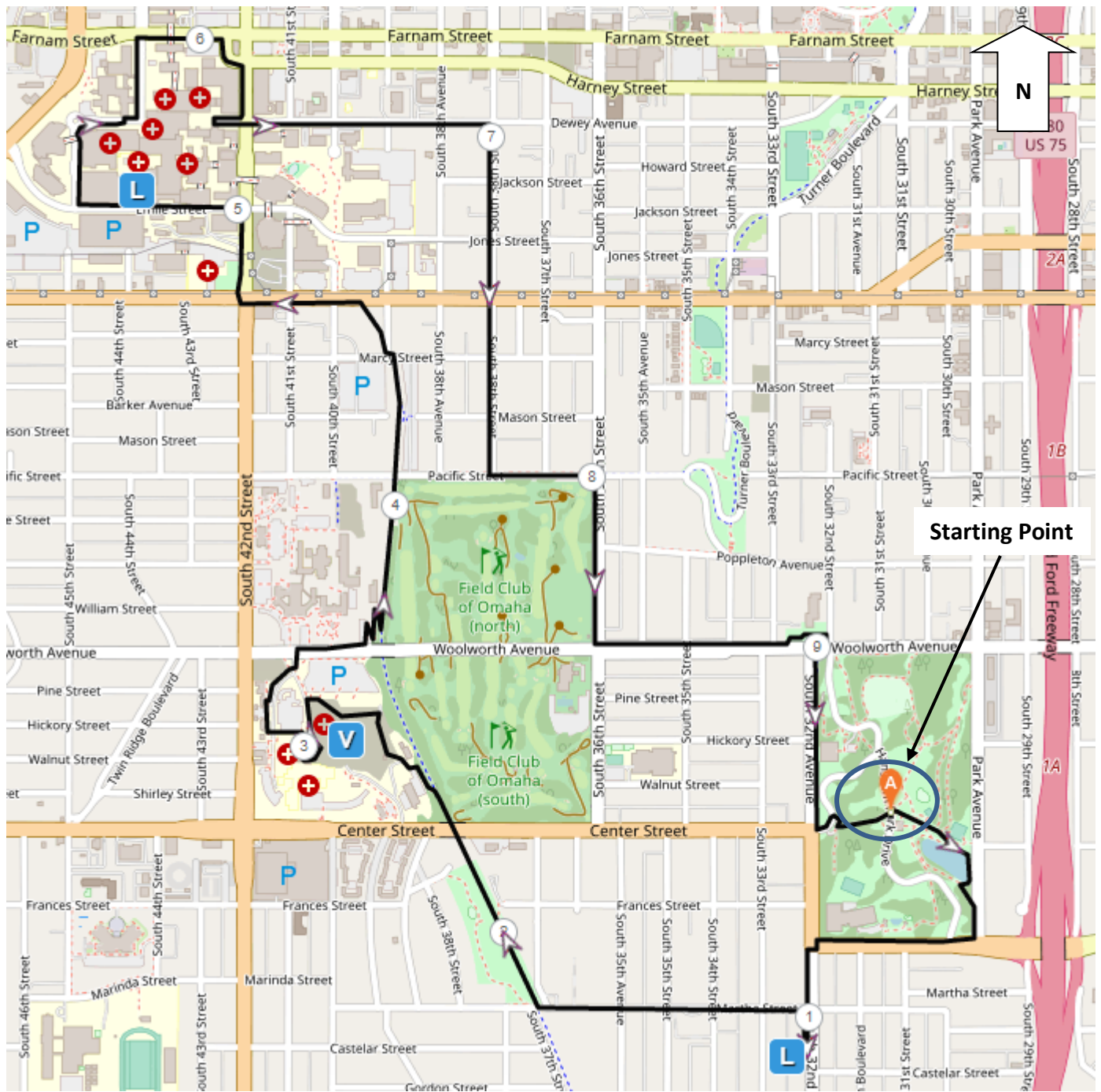
## Hanscom Park/Ford Birthsite Walk


<p><b>25. RIGHT</b> (e) on Dewey to the crosswalk across from the Munroe-Meyer Institute. <b>LEFT</b> and <b>CROSS</b>.</p>	<p>Dewey is named for Charles H. Dewey, who founded a local furniture store in 1865 that grew to national fame. Nebraskans love their furniture store founders! (See Rose Blumkin [Rose Theater, downtown] and Nebraska Furniture Mart.)</p>
<p><b>26. RIGHT</b> (e) on Dewey to S. 44<sup>th</sup> St.</p>	
<p><b>27. LEFT</b> (n) on S. 44<sup>th</sup> St. to Farnam St.</p>	
<p><b>If you need a bathroom break:</b> Don and Millie’s is a casual food restaurant on the NE corner of S. 45<sup>th</sup> Street &amp; Farnam. <b>CROSS</b> Farnam and turn <b>LEFT</b> to Don &amp; Millie’s. <b>RETURN</b> to the south side of Farnam Street at S. 44<sup>th</sup> Street.</p>	
<p><b>28. RIGHT</b> (e) on Farnam up the hill as it curves south and becomes Harney Street, to the lights at S. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street.</p>	<p>To the right is Clarkson College, formerly Bishop Clarkson Hospital, is now affiliated with Nebraska Medicine. Episcopal Bishop Robert Clarkson was a missionary to the area from 1865 to 1884.</p>
<p><b>29. RIGHT</b> (s) on S. 42<sup>nd</sup> St. to Dewey Ave.</p>	
<p><b>30. RIGHT</b> (w), using crosswalk, to the sculpture.</p>	<p>The “Tribute to Caregivers” shows a patient’s hand, held by a caregiver.</p>
<p><b>31. LEFT</b> and <b>LEFT</b> (e) on Dewey back to S. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street.</p>	
<p><b>32. CROSS</b> S. 42<sup>nd</sup> St. and <b>CONTINUE</b> (e) on Dewey to S. 38<sup>th</sup> Street.</p>	<p>Hope Light Tower at the end of S. 40<sup>th</sup> St., on your right. You’re now in the Blackstone Historic District, dating to the 1880’s.</p>
<p><b>33. RIGHT</b> (s) on S. 38<sup>th</sup> St, crossing Leavenworth, to Pacific Street.</p>	<p>Field Club Golf Course is directly across the street. It was established in 1898, when these were the suburbs!</p>
<p><b>34. LEFT</b> (e) on Pacific to S. 36<sup>th</sup> Street.</p>	
<p><b>35. RIGHT</b> (s) on S. 36<sup>th</sup> to Woolworth Avenue and <b>CROSS</b>.</p>	<p>You’re now in the Field Club Historic District. This suburb was connected to Omaha by trolley car.</p>
<p><b>36. LEFT</b> (e) on Woolworth to just past S. 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, to the gates leading into the Ford Birthsite.</p>	<p>You’ll pass the impressive 1923 Westminster Presbyterian Church on the NE corner of 35<sup>th</sup> and Woolworth. It and Field Club School are the only non-residential buildings in the Historic District.</p>
<p><b>37. LEFT</b> (n) and <b>RIGHT</b> (e) through the gardens and exhibits to the gates on S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street.</p>	
<p><b>38. RIGHT</b> (s) on S. 32<sup>nd</sup> St. to Woolworth and <b>RIGHT</b> (w) to the Stop Sign at the intersection of Woolworth and S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.</p>	<p>Leslie Lynch King, Jr. was born on July 14, 1913 in a house that once stood here. Two weeks after he was born, his mother left her abusive husband and went home to Michigan. Leslie adopted his stepfather’s name in 1935: Gerald Rudolph Ford, Jr., our 38<sup>th</sup> President.</p>
<p><b>39. LEFT</b> (s) on S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave., crossing Woolworth at the crosswalk, to walk along the west side of Hanscom Park, to the lights at Center St.</p>	
<p><b>40. LEFT</b> (e) facing traffic onto the park drive. Your goal is that sidewalk heading east on the other side of the little median, so walk facing traffic until you get there.</p>	
<p><b>41. STRAIGHT</b> (e) on that sidewalk down the hill to where you started.</p>	

# Hanscom Park/Ford Birthsite Walk

## HANSCOM PARK 2021 – 10K MAP

**STARTING POINT** – PAVILION, Hanscom Park Drive, .2 miles north of Ed Creighton Avenue entrance  
41.241881, -95.958087



	<b>Emergency: Call 911</b>
	<b>NWFT Club: Steve Burkland 402.659.1954</b>
	<b>Regional Director: Susan Pinneke 515-423-8427</b>

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