

**Ogallala, NE—Cowboy Capital**  
**TRAIL RATED 2A - 5K AND 10K ROUTES**  
 © Nebraska Wander Freunde Trailblazers 1/1/21  
**SPECIAL PROGRAMS:**  
**Walking with America’s Veterans**



The 5k trail through the town of Ogallala in Keith County passes by historic Boot Hill and the Mansion on the Hill Pioneer Museum and concludes with a look at a 1937 U.S. Post Office on the National Register of Historic Places and the Spruce Street Station, a former Standard Oil Station and now a Visitor’s Center. The 10k continues up to the highest point in Ogallala, before descending to follow the Lincoln Highway through town, a stroll along Front Street’s stretch of re-created frontier town, the Petrified Wood Gallery and the terminus of the Texas Trail.

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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.

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# Ogallala, NE—Cowboy Capital

## Starting Point Location:

41.12558, -101.71860  
Rendezvous Square Public Parking  
120 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Ogallala, NE69153

## Directions:

**From I-80 in Nebraska:** Exit 126 for NE-61/US-26 to Ogallala/Grant. Right (north) at top of exit ramp to Ogallala approximately 0.7 miles. At traffic light US 30, continue travelling in left lane. Next corner turn left (west) to E 2nd. After turn, half way down block, turn left into public parking.

## Restrooms:

Restrooms are available at the Kwik Stop on E 1<sup>st</sup> St. one block south and east of the parking area. Seasonal Restrooms available at Seale Park.

## Emergency Numbers:



In case of Emergency: Dial 911  
Event related assistance:  
Jim & Cathy 308.284.3076

## Notes on the Directions

- Walking directions are followed with compass directions in parentheses.
- Spruce Street divides streets into East and West. Numbered streets run East/West and increase as you head north from where you entered town. Lettered streets run North/South. For example, “East A Street” is the first street east of Spruce Street, while “West A Street” is the first street west of Spruce.

## Ogallala History

Ogallala had its beginning as nothing more than a stop on the Union Pacific Railroad. Within ten years it grew to be one of the most well-known towns along the Texas Trail. Gold was exchanged across the table and saloons filled to the brim with cowboys and gamblers. Seasonal saloon girls and prostitutes flocked to Ogallala. Crime ran rampant along the single street that fronted the community. In the ten years it staked its claim as the end of the Texas Trail, seventeen violent deaths occurred with a population of less than twenty-five.

A windswept hill north of the original settlement of Ogallala was the area’s first burial ground. It became known as Boot Hill during the Texas Trail era of the 1880s, when unlucky cowboys were often buried with their boots on.

Numerous stories are told of those days when gun battles took their toll on human life. Many buried at Boot Hill ran afoul of the law and the streets of Ogallala echoed with gunfire as some slick gambler or horse thief met his end. One burial was that of “Rattlesnake Ed,” who was shot down over a nine-dollar bet in a Monte game in the “Cowboy’s Rest Saloon.”

An authentic Victorian style home, the Mansion on the Hill was Ogallala’s finest residence when it was completed in 1887. The mansion has many unique features, including ten-foot ceilings, sixteen-inch-thick solid brick walls, walnut shuttered windows, and solid brass hardware throughout. Other attractions include two beautifully hand carved cherry wood fireplaces, carved corner blocks and panel inserts on doors and window frames, and ornate curved staircase leading to the second floor. Visitors may also tour the authentic one room 1902 schoolhouse on the Mansion grounds and the Obrien/Lute home, an early 1900s homestead era dwelling. Free admission, but donations accepted.

## Ogallala, NE—Cowboy Capital

# 5k Directions

1. From the parking lot, exit north to West 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street.	<b>HOWDY! And WELCOME</b> to Ogallala, Cowboy Capital of Nebraska
2. <b>LEFT</b> (w) on West 2 <sup>nd</sup> to West A St.	The town's name comes from the Oglala Sioux tribe.
3. <b>RIGHT</b> (n) on West A St. to West 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	
4. <b>LEFT</b> (w) on West 3 <sup>rd</sup> to West H Street.	You are walking a portion of the original Lincoln Highway which entered Ogallala at East 4 <sup>th</sup> Street and exited on West 5 <sup>th</sup> Street, near the fairgrounds.
5. <b>RIGHT</b> (n) on West H to West 5 <sup>th</sup> Street.	
6. <b>LEFT</b> (w) on West 5 <sup>th</sup> to West K Street.	To the left are the Keith County Fairgrounds. Sources differ on the Keith after whom the county was named: either M. C. Keith of North Platte, whose grandson Keith Neville became Nebraska's 18th governor in 1917; or John Keith, also of North Platte.
7. <b>RIGHT</b> (n) on West K to West 10 <sup>th</sup> Street.	Ogallala first gained fame as a terminus for cattle drives that traveled from Texas to the Union Pacific railhead located there. These trails are known as the Western or Great Western trails.
8. <b>RIGHT</b> (e) on West 10 <sup>th</sup> to West G Street.	The Union Pacific Railroad reached Ogallala on May 24, 1867.
9. <b>RIGHT</b> (s) on West G to West 8 <sup>th</sup> Street.	The city itself was not laid out until 1875 and not incorporated until 1884.
10. <b>LEFT</b> (e) on West 8 <sup>th</sup> to West D Street.	
11. <b>LEFT</b> (n) on West D to West 10 <sup>th</sup> Street.	
12. Continue <b>STRAIGHT AHEAD</b> onto Park Hill Drive.	Boot Hill – Since cowboys generally were buried with their boots on, the first cemetery in the area was aptly named Boot Hill. It was Ogallala's only official burying ground during the "end of the trail" decade, from 1874 through 1884. A hundred or more people were rolled in canvas and dropped into a shallow grave during that time, a remarkable death rate for a settlement that never exceeded 130 permanent residents. If you are "up for it", climb the steps to the top of Boot Hill. <b>Note:</b> ramp available

## Ogallala, NE—Cowboy Capital

<p><b>13. CONTINUE</b> ahead on Park Hill Drive, following the curve to the right to West C Street.</p>	
<p><b>14.</b> Keep <b>RIGHT</b> (s), merge on West C Street.</p>	
<p><b>15. CONTINUE AHEAD</b> on West C to about 100 feet <b>before</b> West 8<sup>th</sup> to a paved bike/walk path on the left.</p>	
<p><b>16. LEFT</b> (n) on the paved bike/walk path that enters the park.</p>	
<p><b>17. FOLLOW THE PATH</b> through Searle Park to West 10<sup>th</sup> Street. The <b>PATH</b> exits on West 10<sup>th</sup> Street.</p>	
<p><b>18. RIGHT</b> (e) on West 10<sup>th</sup> Street to North Spruce Street.</p>	<p>Mansion on the Hill: This authentic Victorian style home was Ogallala’s finest residence when it was completed in 1887. L. A. Brandhoefer contracted to have the house built of brick from a local factory. Mr. Brandhoefer, after several visits to the area became intrigued with the open prairies, the Platte River, the Indians, cowboys, and the early pioneers whose fortitude and determination to win the West gave him the foresight to see the great possibilities of Ogallala and the prairies. The walls of the mansion are 16 inches thick, and the home is trimmed in stone cut and imported from Lincoln, Nebraska. Woodwork in the house, including the central staircase, is carved cherry wood. The fireplaces were finished with hand painted tiles imported from New Jersey. The mansion has been converted into a museum by the Keith County Historical Society as a memorial to pioneer families. The mansion was the home of Ogallala’s mayor just before World War I and in 1918 was used as a hospital.</p>
<p><b>19. RIGHT</b> (s) on North Spruce to W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and <b>CROSS</b>. Rendezvous Square Public Parking on your right.</p>	<p>Ogallala Post Office between 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Spruce Street Station at 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; Spruce is one of a handful of preserved Standard Oil Stations from the 1920’s.</p>



## Ogallala, NE—Cowboy Capital

# 10K Directions

1. From the parking lot, exit north to West 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	<b>HOWDY! And WELCOME</b> to Ogallala, Cowboy Capital of Nebraska
2. <b>LEFT</b> (w) on West 2 <sup>nd</sup> St. to West A St.	The town's name comes from the Oglala Sioux tribe.
3. <b>RIGHT</b> (n) on West A St. to West 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	
4. <b>LEFT</b> (w) on West 3 <sup>rd</sup> to West H Street	You are walking a portion of the original Lincoln Highway which entered Ogallala at East 4 <sup>th</sup> Street and exited on West 5 <sup>th</sup> Street near fairgrounds.
5. <b>RIGHT</b> (n) on West H to West 5 <sup>th</sup> Street	
6. <b>LEFT</b> (w) on West 5 <sup>th</sup> to West K Street	To the left are the Keith County Fairgrounds. Sources differ on the Keith after whom the county was named: either M. C. Keith of North Platte, whose grandson Keith Neville became Nebraska's 18th governor in 1917; or John Keith, also of North Platte.
7. <b>RIGHT</b> (n) on West K to West 10 <sup>th</sup> Street	Ogallala first gained fame as a terminus for cattle drives that traveled from Texas to the Union Pacific railhead located there. These trails are known as the Western or Great Western trails.
8. <b>RIGHT (e)</b> on West 10 <sup>th</sup> to West G Street	The Union Pacific Railroad reached Ogallala on May 24, 1867.
9. <b>RIGHT (s)</b> on West G to West 8 <sup>th</sup> Street	The city itself was not laid out until 1875 and not incorporated until 1884.
10. <b>LEFT (e)</b> on West 8 <sup>th</sup> to West D Street	
11. <b>LEFT</b> (n) on West D to West 10 <sup>th</sup> Street	
12. Continue <b>STRAIGHT AHEAD</b> onto Park Hill Drive.	<p>Boot Hill – Since cowboys generally were buried with their boots on, the first cemetery in the area was aptly named Boot Hill. It was Ogallala’s only official burying ground during the “end of the trail” decade, from 1874 through 1884. A hundred or more people were rolled in canvas and dropped into a shallow grave during that time, a remarkable death rate for a settlement that never exceeded 130 permanent residents.</p> <p>If you are “up for it”, climb the steps to the top of Boot Hill. Note: ramp available</p>
13. <b>CONTINUE</b> ahead on Park Hill Drive, following the curve to the right to West C Street	
14. Keep <b>RIGHT (s)</b> , merge on West C Street	
15. <b>CONTINUE AHEAD</b> on West C to about 100 feet before West 8 <sup>th</sup> to a paved bike/walk path on the left.	
16. <b>LEFT</b> (n) on the paved bike/walk path that enters the park.	
17. <b>FOLLOW THE PATH</b> through Searle Park to West 10 <sup>th</sup> Street. The <b>PATH</b> exits on West 10 <sup>th</sup> Street.	

## Ogallala, NE—Cowboy Capital

<p><b>18. RIGHT</b> (e) on West 10<sup>th</sup> Street to North Spruce Street</p>	<p>Mansion on the Hill at West 10<sup>th</sup> &amp; Spruce Street. This authentic Victorian style home was Ogallala's finest residence when it was completed in 1887.</p> <p>L. A. Brandhoefer contracted to have the house built of brick from a local factory. Mr. Brandhoefer, after several visits to the area became intrigued with the open prairies, the Platte River, the Indians, cowboys, and the early pioneers whose fortitude and determination to win the West gave him the foresight to see the great possibilities of Ogallala and the prairies. The walls of the mansion are 16 inches thick, and the home is trimmed in stone cut and imported from Lincoln, Nebraska. Woodwork in the house, including the central staircase, is carved cherry wood. The fireplaces were finished with hand painted tiles imported from New Jersey. The mansion has been converted into a museum by the Keith County Historical Society as a memorial to pioneer families. The mansion was the home of Ogallala's mayor just before World War I and in 1918 was used as a hospital.</p>
<p><b>19. CONTINUE AHEAD</b> (e), crossing North Spruce Street, on East 10th to East A Street.</p>	
<p><b>20. LEFT</b> (n) on East A to its end at East 11<sup>th</sup> St. (Street sign is often turned wrong way.)</p>	
<p><b>21. RIGHT</b> (e) on East 11<sup>th</sup> to its end at East B Street.</p>	
<p><b>22. LEFT</b> (n) on East B to Valleyview Drive.</p>	
<p><b>23. RIGHT</b> (e) on Valleyview Drive to its end at East G Street.</p>	<p>High vantage point view of Ogallala and south.</p>
<p><b>24. RIGHT</b> (s) on East G to Highland Drive.</p>	
<p><b>25. LEFT</b> (e) on Highland Drive to East H Street.</p>	
<p><b>26. LEFT</b> (n) on East H to Highland Drive.</p>	
<p><b>27. RIGHT</b> (e) on Highland Drive to East O Street.</p>	
<p><b>28. RIGHT</b> (s) on East O St. to East 4<sup>th</sup> Street.</p>	<p>Note the Lincoln Highway sign on the utility pole and again, later on this street. Lincoln Highway entered Ogallala from the east on this street, East 4<sup>th</sup> Street.</p>
<p><b>29. RIGHT</b> (sw) on East 4th to East G Street.</p>	
<p><b>30. RIGHT</b> (n) on East G to East 6th Street.</p>	<p>The Goodall Recreation Center is on your right.</p>
<p><b>31. LEFT</b> (w) on East 6th to East E Street.</p>	<p>Ogallala Public High School; Ogallala Public High School Track and Football Field.</p>

## Ogallala, NE—Cowboy Capital

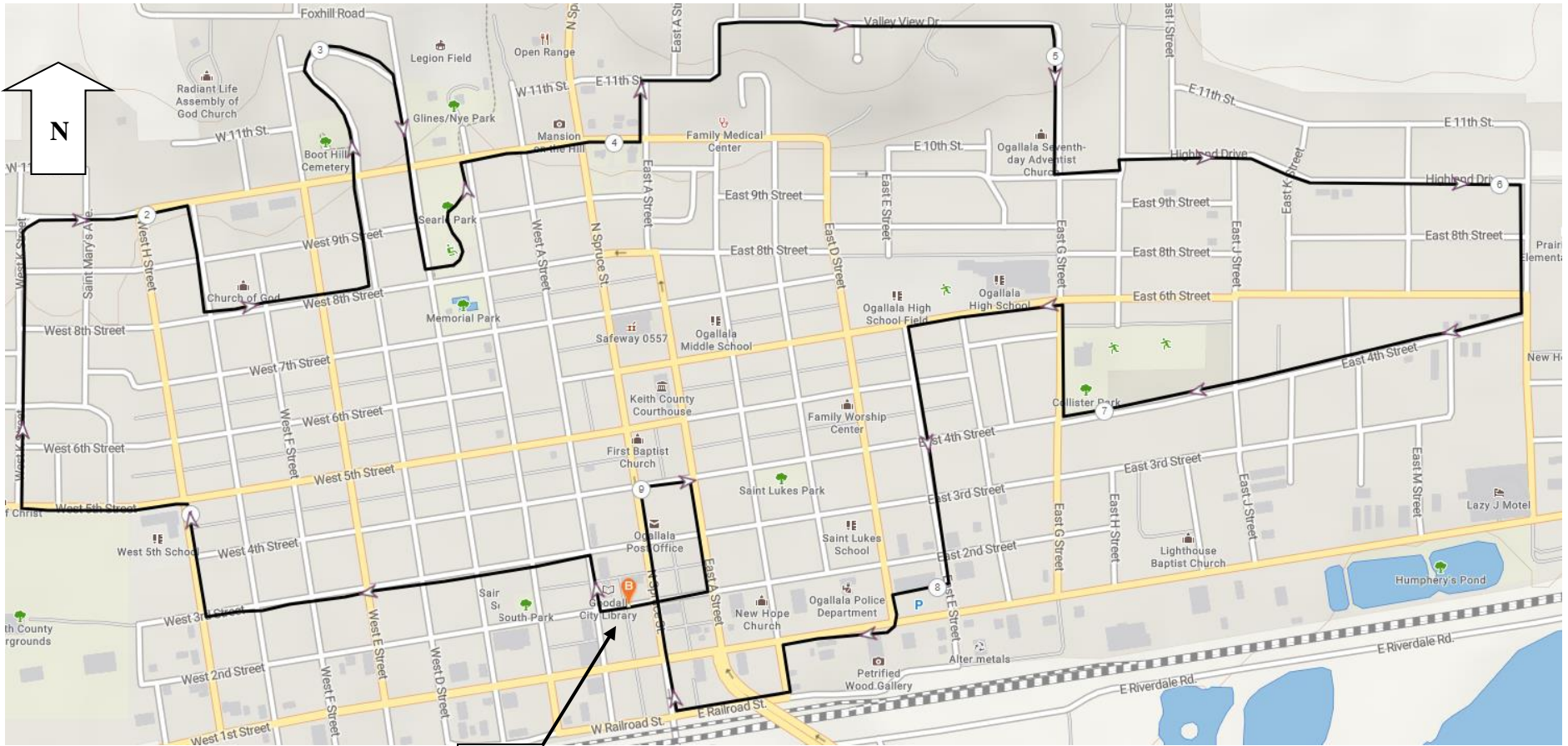
<p><b>32. LEFT</b> (s) on East E Street toward East 1<sup>st</sup> Street/US-Hwy 30. <b>Approximately one-half block</b> before East 1<sup>st</sup> St. <b>TURN RIGHT</b> into Front Street and walk the Boardwalk. <b>CONTINUE AHEAD</b> to East D Street, <b>the first street</b> after the Boardwalk.</p>	<p><b>Front Street</b> is a collection of replica storefronts of some typical businesses along a street in an old western town such as Ogallala, with a museum, saloon, restaurant, and gift shops inside. The museum depicts the era when Ogallala reigned as “Queen of the Cowntowns”. In addition to an undertaker’s parlor, jail, and barber shop, there are interpretive displays about Ogallala’s infamous days as the End of the Texas Trail.</p>
<p><b>33. LEFT</b> (s) on East D Street to East 1<sup>st</sup> Street/US-30</p>	
<p><b>34. CAREFULLY CROSS</b> East 1<sup>st</sup> St/US-30 with a slight veer to the <b>RIGHT</b> to approach the Petrified Wood Gallery.</p>	<p>Twin brothers Harvey and Howard Kenfield’s collection of rare Native American artifacts and ancient petrified wood is displayed for all to see. So are their petrified wood creations and the works of many other artists. In 2000 the Kenfields donated their lifetime collection to the community.</p>
<p><b>35. RIGHT</b> (w) to East B Street, walking through the Petrified Wood Gallery front garden</p>	
<p><b>36. CONTINUE</b> (w) past gas station to East B Street.</p>	
<p><b>37. LEFT</b> (s) on East B to its end at Railroad Street.</p>	
<p><b>38. RIGHT</b> (w) on Railroad St. to North Spruce Street.  Hwy 61 passes overhead as you walk west on West Railroad Street.</p>	<p>Union Pacific Railroad – the original terminus of the Western Trail. From 1875-1885, Ogallala served as the terminus of the Texas Trail as drovers delivered their herds of Longhorn cattle by the tens of thousands. For a ten-year period, Ogallala was the point of delivery for cattle driven up the Western Trail to stock the northern ranges, to feed gold miners in South Dakota and to sell government contractors for the Indian agencies. It was a three-month journey to Ogallala from North Texas; five months from south Texas. Even the railroad followed the historic highway of westward migration – The Great Platte River Road. Union Pacific construction reached Ogallala in 1867. And in the 1900’s, so did the Lincoln Highway – US Highway 30 – the nations’ first transcontinental highway, and Interstate 80.</p>
<p><b>39. RIGHT</b> (n) on North Spruce Street to East 4<sup>th</sup> Street.</p>	<p>At West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street is the Spruce Street Station (with the Bronze Statue). This is considered to be one of the best preserved of the fewer than 20 former Standard Oil Stations still standing. Between E. 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Streets is a 1937 U.S. Post Office on the National Register of Historic Places, built in Moderne Style. Stop in to see the mural “Long Horns”, painted by Frank Mechau in 1938.</p>
<p><b>40. RIGHT</b> (e) on E. 4<sup>th</sup> to East A Street.</p>	
<p><b>41. RIGHT</b> (s) on E. A St to E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.</p>	
<p><b>42. RIGHT</b> (w) on E 2<sup>nd</sup> St., crossing N. Spruce Street back to Rendezvous Square Public Parking.</p>	

# Ogallala, NE—Cowboy Capital

## Ogallala – 10K

**START POINT** – 41.12558, -101.71860

Rendezvous Square Public Parking, 120 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Ogallala, NE 69153



S/F



**Emergency: Call 911**  
**NWFT Club: Steve Burkland 402-659-1954**  
**Regional Director: Susan Pinneke 515-423-8427**

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