



COWBOY TRAIL

TRAIL RATED 1B - 5K AND 10K ROUTES
© Nebraska Wander Freunde Trailblazers 1/1/22
SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Rails to Trails
Other special programs may be available
depending on your start points.



The entire Cowboy Trail in Nebraska is sanctioned for one season only. This trail is 187 miles long (301 km) on a former rail bed running from Norfolk, NE to Valentine, NE, and beyond. It currently traverses seven counties in Nebraska. When complete it will be 321 miles long—the longest rails to trails conversion in the US. This is part of the Great American Rail-Trail which will provide a continuous trail from Washington, D.C. to Washington State. Our instructions will include several starting point suggestions, or you can go to <https://bikecowboytrail.com/> for an interactive trail map showing towns and services. Do check this map prior to starting to check for trail closures. There are few amenities on the trail outside of the towns, so plan your hike, bring sunscreen and carry water. Always check weather conditions before planning your hike.

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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STARTING POINT LOCATIONS:

You can start this walk at any point along the trail but some suggestions for each county are listed below

Madison County

TaHa Zouka Park
2201 S. 13th St.
Norfolk, NE 68701
42.006599, -97.426498

Antelope County

Riverside Park
Hwy 275
Neligh, NE 68756
42.125923, -98.028587
Or
Neligh Mill Historic Site
Wylie Dr.
Neligh, NE 68756
42.126289, -98.031029

Antelope and Madison County

Tilden East City Park
(Tilden is in both of these counties-east on trail for Madison, west on trail for Antelope)
East St. & E. 2nd St.
Tilden, NE 68714
42.046595, -97.826963

Holt County

O'Neill Depot
330 E. Hancock St.
O'Neill, NE 68781
42.452847, -98.648346

Rock County

Rock County Historical Society Museum
(2 ½ blocks north of Cowboy Trail)
165 4th St.
Bassett, NE 68714
42.590115, -99.538780

Brown County

East City Park
E. Hwy 20
Ainsworth, NE 69210
42.548477, -99.845276

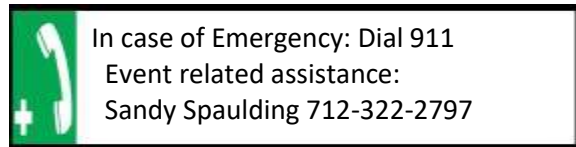
Cherry County

Valentine Trailhead Park
E. 1st St.
Valentine, NE 69201
42.871359, -100.549996

Sheridan County

Multiple Trailheads along Hwy. 20
Gordon, NE
Rushville, NE

Emergency Numbers:



Every trail has its high points. The Cowboy's signature sites are its long bridges offering spectacular views. There are 221 bridges on the Cowboy Trail. East of Valentine, the former railroad bridge – a quarter-mile long and 148 feet high – spans the Niobrara River. Another bridge at Long Pine stretches 595 feet long and stands 145 feet high over Long Pine Creek.

Watch for weathered mileposts, originally telegraph poles, from the corridor's railroad past. You will also notice many buildings and structures that once served the railroad or businesses tied to the trail.

In Neligh is Neligh Mills, a water-powered grist-mill that is open to the public and still has its original 1880s equipment inside.

The only brick depot still standing is at O'Neill. This historical building, which has been restored, serves as a trailhead and is the home to the Circle G Western Wear store.

The Long Pine depot, a wooden building, is now restored and the crew quarters next to it is available to rent for overnight travelers.

Cowboy Trail Norfolk to Valentine



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

