

Chalco Hills/Wehrspann Lake Walk
TRAIL RATED 1A - 5K AND 10K ROUTES
 © Nebraska Wander Freunde Trailblazers 1/1/21
SPECIAL PROGRAMS: None



Located at Chalco Hills Recreation Area, Wehrspann Lake is a 250-acre lake surrounded by 940 acres of trees and grasses. The route goes around Wehrspann Lake in the Chalco Hills Recreation Area on concrete walkways. You will find many of Nebraska’s State Flora and Fauna on the trail including: State Flower – Goldenrod, State Tree – Cottonwood Tree, State Bird – Western Meadowlark, State Grass – Little Bluestem, State Mammal – Whitetail Deer, and the State Insect – Honeybee.

Benches and pit toilets are scattered along the trail. The park office is located at about the 10k halfway point with modern restrooms and water when open. The trail is shaded in numerous areas.

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:

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Chalco Hills/Wehrspann Lake Walk

Starting Point Location:


41.14745, -96.16863
Chalco Hills Hwy 370 access
16250 NE Hwy 370
Gretna, NE 68028

From either East or West on I-80: Take Highway 370 exit (exit #439). Turn west on Nebraska Highway 370 and take the first right (north side), just past a small bridge (about ¼ mile) into a gravel parking lot. Note Sign: “Highway 370 Access”

Restrooms:

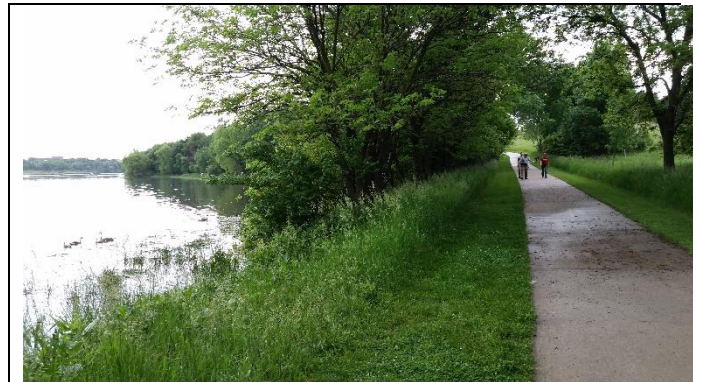
There are pit toilets at the Start Point and several places along the trail. There are modern restrooms at the Visitor’s Center, which is on the north side of the lake, on the 10k route only. The hours are limited to normal business hours. Call 402-444-6222 for details.

Emergency Numbers:

	In case of Emergency: Dial 911 Event related assistance: Jim and Diane 402.334.8373
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About Chalco Hills Recreation Area

Wehrspann Lake at Chalco Hills Recreation Area is located near Highway 50 and Interstate 80 in Sarpy County. The area is managed by the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District. The lake, a flood control reservoir built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, offers flood control to the West Branch Papio Creek Watershed. Designed and managed to be an excellent fishery, Wehrspann Lake opened to the public in August, 1988.



5k Directions

1. **BEGIN** your walk on the sidewalk/trail just past the parking lot & seasonal restrooms.
2. **CONTINUE** about 200 yards (183 meters) to a right turn in the path.
3. **RIGHT** and cross the footbridge. *The lake will be on your left.*
4. **FOLLOW** this path north and northeast to a parking lot (seasonal restroom) on your right.
5. Immediately past this parking lot, **LEFT** onto a pathway to a physical bridge across the lake. (You are on a land bridge before and after the physical bridge.)
6. **CONTINUE** on the land bridge until you reach a bench on your left, just past an intersecting path (also on your left). *The lake will be on your right.*
7. Counting this bench **CONTINUE TO THE 4th BENCH** (at a grove of pine trees).
8. **REVERSE AND GO BACK** to the split in the path by the bench and *Elderberry* sign. *The lake will be on your left.*
9. **RIGHT** on the path (do not go back on the land bridge).
10. **CONTINUE** southwest and south back to the starting point. (A picnic shelter with a green roof is quickly in sight in front of you when on the correct path.)
11. **CONTINUE** to the parking lot (with seasonal restroom) at which you started.

Chalco Hills/Wehrspann Lake Walk

10K Directions

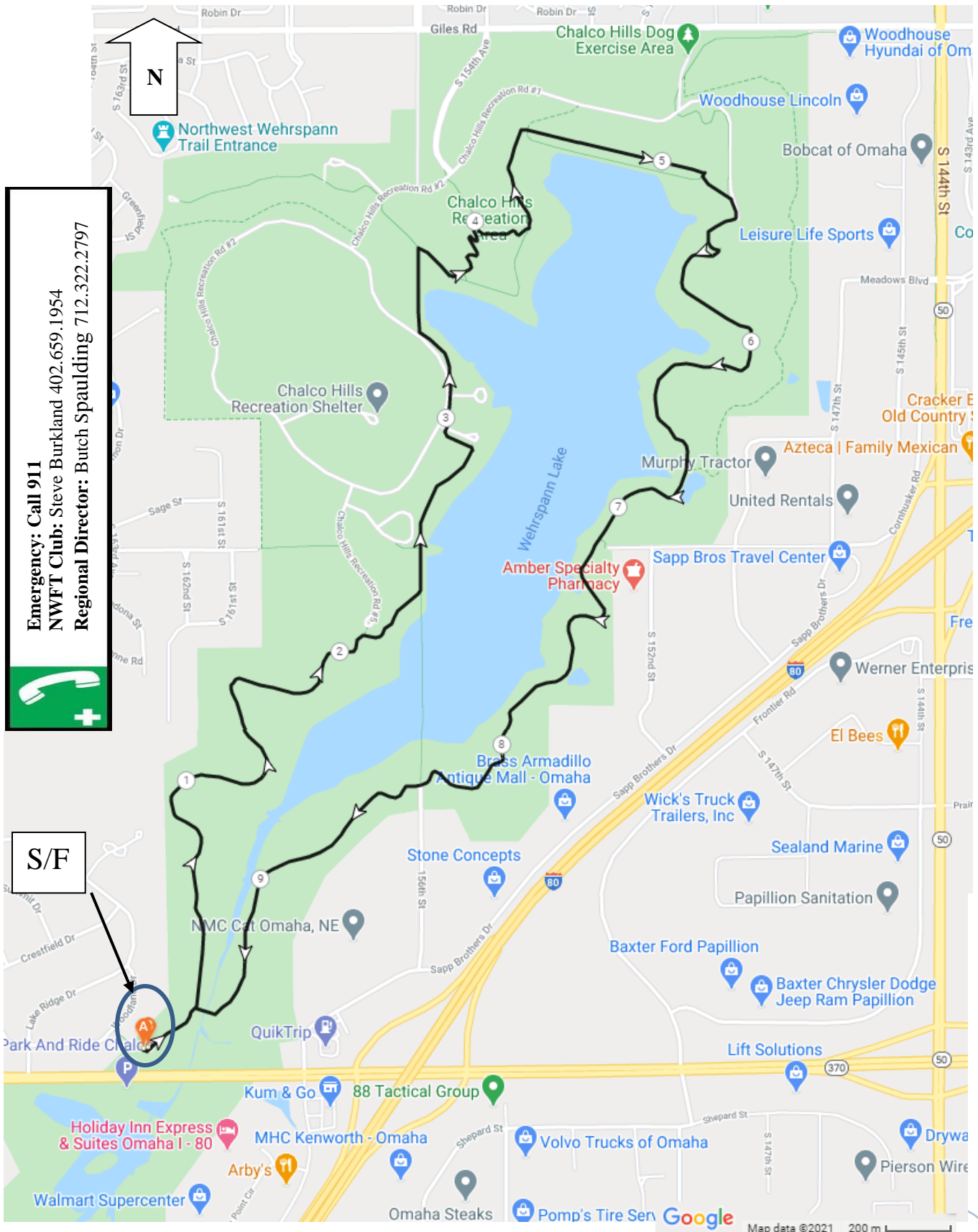
1. **BEGIN** your walk on the cement path/trail just past the parking lot & seasonal restrooms for about 200 yards (183 meters).
2. **STAY LEFT** on the path (do not cross the footbridge to your right).
3. **CONTINUE** on the path. You will walk completely around the lake (clockwise). **Note:** *Keep the lake on your right at all times.*
4. Just past the 2K mark, you will approach a large picnic area on your right (lakeside). Seasonal restrooms are in a parking lot on your left.
5. **STAY** on path curving around the picnic area and **CONTINUE** to a “T” intersection.
6. **LEFT** on the path (do not go right across the fisherman’s bridge).
7. Just before the 3K point, you will come to a boat-launch parking lot. The path makes a sharp **LEFT**, then **RIGHT** going past a parking lot stop sign. **CONTINUE** past the parking lot. *The main park road is on your left.*
8. **CONTINUE TO** and **CROSS** a small metal-railing bridge to a “T” intersection.
9. **RIGHT.** *The Natural Resource Center (NRC) Building (visitor center) is visible on the hill above as you make this turn.*
10. **PASS** the first sidewalks to the NRC (that form a triangle) to the next path up to the back of the NRC.
11. **LEFT** on this path up the hill to the visitor center back patio. A mounted set of binoculars can give you a nice view across the lake.
12. **RETRACE** your steps down to the path around the lake.
13. **LEFT**, keeping lake on your right and **CROSS** the dam.
14. **FOLLOW** the path along the outer **right edge** of the large parking lot to a Bulletin Board in front of restrooms.
15. **RIGHT** approximately 4K to and **CROSS** the footbridge mentioned in Step #2, to a “T” intersection.
16. **LEFT** for a short distance to the parking lot where you started.

Chalco Hills/Wehrspann Lake Walk

Chalco Hills Recreation Area Walk – 10K map

Starting Point: Nebraska Highway 370 Trailhead Parking Lot

41.14753746201155, -96.16855522996312



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