

5K Midewin Tallgrass Prairie, Iron Bridge Trailhead YRE Walk Directions

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Starting Point: Iron Bridge Trailhead (Welcome Center: 30239 S. State Route 53, Wilmington, IL 60481)

Windy City Walkers (www.windycitywalkers.org)

Welcome Center may be closed due to Covid 19. Call to verify hours (815-423-6370)

Driving directions to the starting point at Iron Bridge Trailhead: **From I-55**, exit 241, get off at N. River Rd (exit 241), head East for 4 miles. Turn left onto Rt 53 (historic Route 66), go under the viaduct (Iron Bridge) and turn right onto the gravel driveway into the parking lot – about 3.5 miles on Rt 53. **From I-80**, exit 132, drive south on Rt 53 (Chicago State Rd) for about 10 miles then turn left into gravel parking lot. FYI, gravel parking lot is about 1 mile south of Hoff Rd. **From I-57**, exit 327, take Wilmington Rd (County Hwy 25) west 16 miles to Rt 53. Turn right on Rt 53 and drive about 4 miles (passing Welcome Center) to trailhead parking lot on right. (Restroom at Welcome Center (if open) plus an outhouse at trailhead).

Driving directions to Welcome Center: **From I-55**, exit 241, get off at N. River Rd (exit 241), head East for 4 miles. Turn left onto Rt 53, go 1 mile. Welcome Center on the right. To get to the Welcome Center from **I-80**, exit 132, take Rt 53 South (Chicago State Rd.) for 15 miles, on the left. (Restroom at Welcome Center plus outhouses around park). **From Iron Bride Trailhead**: Take Rt 53 South (turn left) for about 2.5 miles and turn left into Welcome Center.

General Description: Take Iron Bridge trail (could also be called Henslow Trail) south to gravel road turn right. Then turn left onto Group 63 Loop trail. Then turn left at Hedge Apple Trail. Then left at first intersection then another left at next intersection. Basically, walk in a rectangle.

Start by the Parking lot bulletin board

1. Follow limestone chip trail staying to the **right**.
(Large flat area on your right is being restored to prairie; trail crosses through an Osage Orange tree hedge planted by farmers for fencing.)
2. At trail intersection keep **right** on gravel road. (this is Henslow Trail may not be marked)
3. **Left** at trail intersection turning onto **Group 63 Loop** trail. (**bison post #10**)
4. **Left** at next intersection (**T**) staying on Group 63 Loop toward **Hedge Apple Trail**.
5. **Left** at first intersection (**small rail fence on left**)---may not be marked.
(If you come to an open bunker on your left, you have gone too far. Bunker is a short distance past the trail. At the bunker (#61-1) there is an interpretive sign and a ramp into it.)
6. **Left** at next intersection (Group 63 Loop) **toward Iron Bridge Trailhead**.
7. **Right** onto first limestone trail and return to parking lot.

WALK COMPLETION AND CREDIT: Be sure to log back into the OSB system to "finish/complete" your online registration after doing the event. The OSB system does not deduct any event fee from a participant's Event Bank until they have submitted event completion info including the date the event was walked, the distance walked, and the selection of applicable special programs that person is participating in. (Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded PDF is deducted from the user's Event Bank when the PDF is downloaded. Later, any PDF fees are credited back to a user's Event Bank when he/she submits the event completion info as a paying for credit participant. Note, however, the \$2 coupon for the downloaded PDF will expire in 60 days.)

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EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

In case of Emergency: Dial **911**

Event related assistance:

Bonita Carlson: 815-942-0357

Midwin Headquarters: 815-423-6370

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AMERICA'S WALKING CLUB

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Midewin Tallgrass Prairie 5K YRE

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10K Midewin Tallgrass Prairie YRE Walk Directions

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Starting Point: Hoff Road-Wauponsee Glacial Trail Parking lot (Welcome Center: 30239 S. State Route 53, Wilmington, IL 60481)

Windy City Walkers (www.windycitywalkers.org)

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Driving directions to the Glacial Trail Parking lot: To get to the Welcome Center **From I-55**, exit 241, get off at N. River Rd (exit 241), head East for 4 miles. Turn left onto Rt 53, go about 4.5 miles then turn right onto W. Hoff Rd. Drive about 6 miles and turn into the trail head gravel parking lot on the right. **From I-80**, exit 132, take Rt 53 South (Chicago State Rd.) for about 9 miles then turn left onto W. Hoff Rd. Drive on Hoff Rd for about 6 miles then turn right into gravel parking lot. **From I-57**, exit 327, take Wilmington Rd (County Hwy 25) west 16 miles to Rt 53. Turn right on Rt 53 and drive about 5 miles (passing Welcome Center) to W Hoff Rd. Turn right and go about 6 miles to trailhead parking lot on right. (Restroom at Welcome Center (if open) plus an outhouse at trailhead)

Driving directions to Welcome Center: **From I-55**, exit 241, get off at N. River Rd (exit 241), head East for 4 miles. Turn left onto Rt 53, go 1 mile. Welcome Center on the right. To get to the Welcome Center **from I-80**, exit 132, take Rt 53 South (Chicago State Rd.) for about 15 miles, on the left. **From Wauponsee Glacial Trail Parking Lot:** It is about 9.5 miles from the Welcome Center. Turn left onto W. Hoff Rd., drive for about 6 miles then turn left onto Rt 53 (Historic Route 66). Drive on Rt 53 for about 3.5 miles then turn left into Welcome Center.

General Description: Take Wauponsee Glacial trail South. Turn right onto Bailey Bridge Trail. Walk to small bridge past Bailey Bridge (sign) and turn around and go back to start point following the same route.

**Walk south from the parking lot past the outhouse.

1. Follow the path to the Wauponsee Glacial Trail (about 600 feet). Turn RIGHT (South) onto the trail.
2. Walk Wauponsee Trail (Old Wabash RR line) and pass marker "**11.0**".
3. Just after **short rail fence** (bridge over a tributary of Prairie Creek) is the intersection of the Wauponsee Trail and Midewin's Bailey Bridge trail. Turn RIGHT (West).
4. Cross wood bridge (**boardwalk**) and walk through the **yellow sliding vehicle gate** (one mile from start point).
5. Continue straight towards **Bailey Bridge**. * (You will pass Klinger family cemetery on your right.... feel free to enter and explore.) As you continue walking, on your

left, you will pass stairs going over the fence (bunker just beyond fence). Continue walking towards the bridge.

6. **Walk through Bailey Bridge.** A short distance past the bridge (on the right) is a bench and an interpretative sign explaining the story behind the Bridge and its presence here. (The Bailey Bridge is reached just short of the 10K turn-around point.)

7. Continue your walk to the next small bridge, which is the 10K turn-around point. (You will see more bunkers on your right.)

9. **Turn around** and walk back to Wauponsee Trail. Turn **left** and walk to the path leading to the parking lot.

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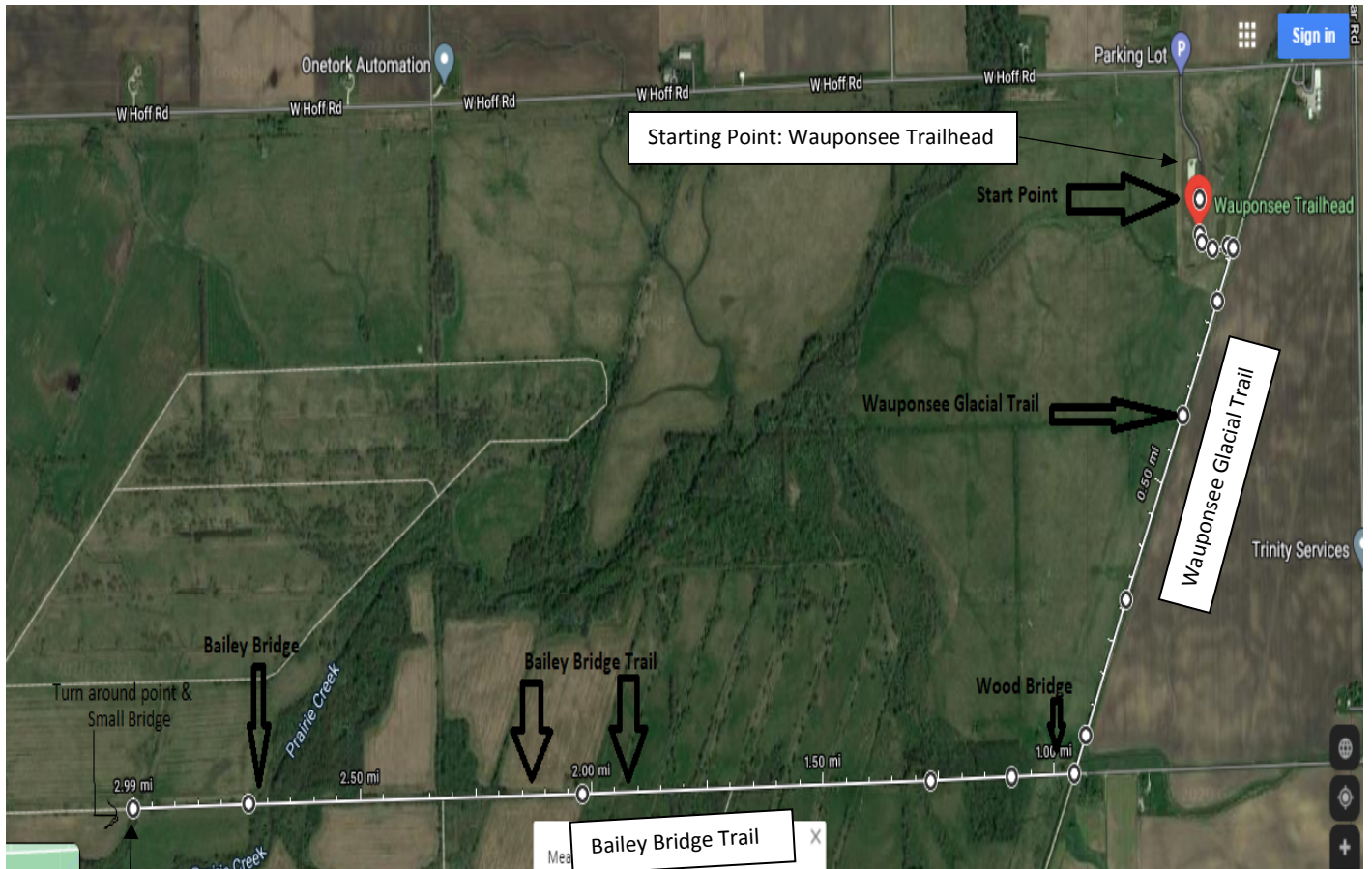
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Midwin Tallgrass Prairie 10K YRE

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Turnaround point

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11K Midewin Tallgrass Prairie, Rt 53 Trail YRE Walk Directions

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Starting Point: Welcome Center (30239 S. State Route 53, Wilmington, IL 60481)

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General Description: At Welcome Center, take Route 53 Trail North. At "T" (2.5 miles) turn right and follow signs to Iron Bridge trailhead. Then return to Welcome Center following same route.

1. From Welcome Center (Midewin Office) walk across parking lot to gravel path. **Right.**
2. Follow path as it curves and **cross driveway.**
3. Continue on path to fence.
4. Turn right and slide gate to enter and continue on path. **CLOSE GATE.**
5. Follow path to left. Walk to next gate. Slide gate to continue. **CLOSE GATE**
6. Follow gravel path on left to road.
7. **Left on road.** Walk short distance to path.
8. **Left on path (arrow).**
9. Walk to **bison overlook**; telescopes and benches **(6k)**
10. Continue on gravel path to a **T.**
11. **Right.** Follow curve to **left towards Iron Bridge Trailhead.**
12. Continue walking to parking lot. (bathrooms)
13. **Return, Same trail back.**
14. At **#10, stay right.**
15. Walk to intersection...on your **left.**
(If you come to Iron Bridge, over IL Route 53, you have walked too far.)
16. **Left** and follow path towards Midewin buildings.
17. Walk through gate. Continue on path into parking lot and Welcome Center. (11k)

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Midwin Tallgrass Prairie 11K YRE

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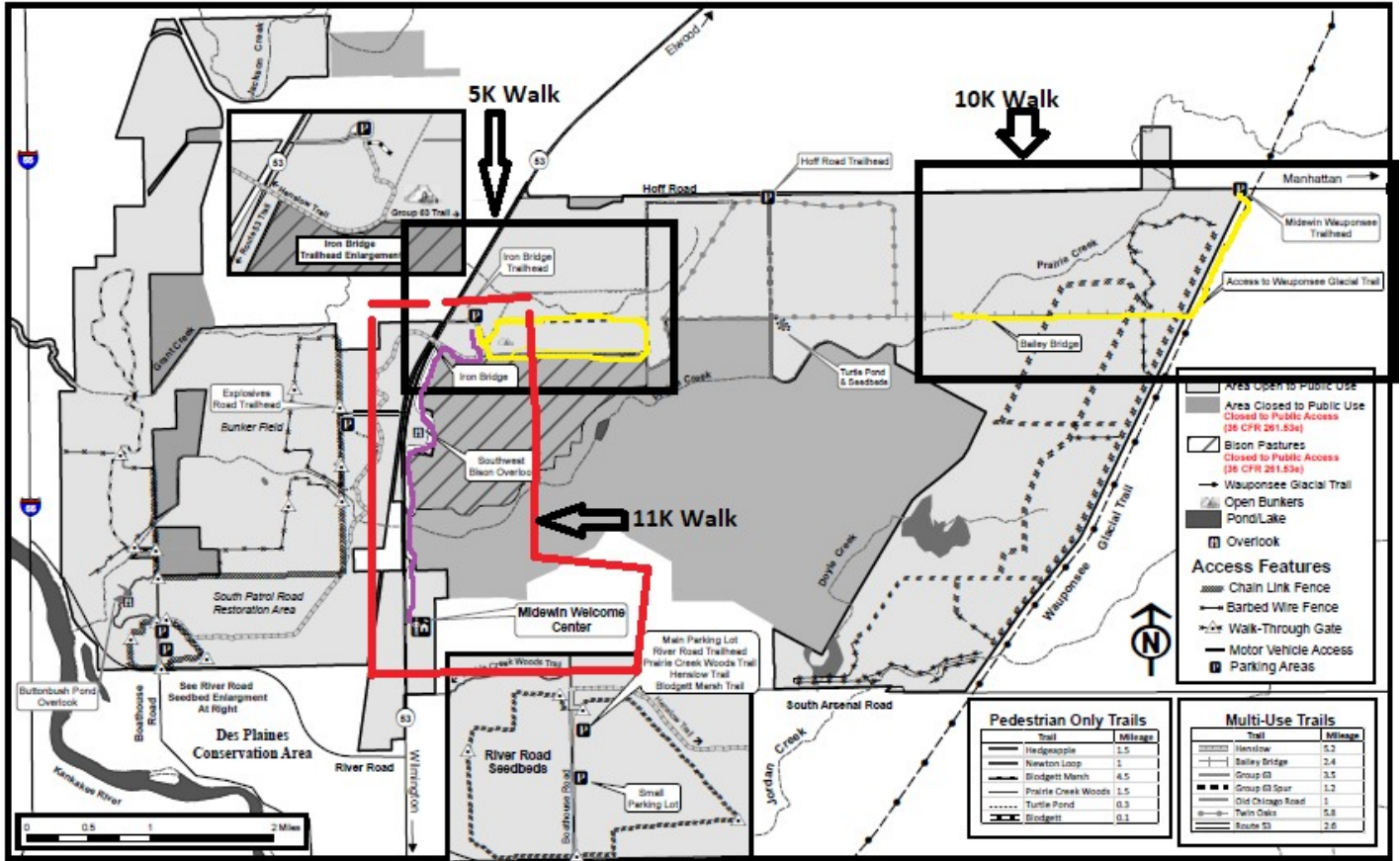
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This map of the full park displays where the three walks (5K, 10K, & 11K) are in relation to each other and the Welcome Center.

5K bounded in black box – trail in yellow

10K bounded in black box – trail in yellow

11K bounded in red box – trail in purple