Accessibility Guide

Wehr Nature Center
9701 W. College Ave, Franklin, WI 53132

Wehr Nature Center is a gem of the Milwaukee County Parks. With 220 acres and 5 miles of trails going through forest, prairie, savanna, and wetland, Wehr is the ideal place to enjoy, learn, and rejuvenate. WNC's award winning staff and volunteer program goes hand-in-hand with the more than 50-year-old tradition of fostering meaning nature connections for all Milwaukee County residents.

Wehr Nature Center and the Friends of Wehr are dedicated to the goal of becoming the most accessible nature center in southeast Wisconsin. Wehr Staff and Volunteers hold the belief that Wehr is "a place for all seasons, a place for everyone". We are striving to make our building, trails and programming more accessible and inclusive for all abilities. **Our Accessibility & Inclusion Coordinator, Emily Brown, is happy to help with information and accommodations. Contact Emily at 414-425-8550 or emily.brown@milwaukeecountywi.gov**

Transportation:
Wehr Nature Center is not located on a Milwaukee County Bus line. Transit Plus provides transportation services to people who are found eligible for paratransit services. For more information, phone: 414-343-1700 (voice), 414-343-1704 (TTY) or visit the Transit Plus website.

Parking:
Accessible parking is available in the marked spaces closest to the Nature Center building. There are two spots on the first side of the lot and three spots directly across. 4 of the 5 spots are van accessible. Distance from parking to entrance is 246 ft.

Entrances:
Front entrance is currently the only accessible entrance with automatic doors with a clear open width of 32 inches. There are no stairs to building entrance.

Reception
Reception area is easily located just past automatic front entry. Front desk sits in the center of a large mural.

Women's Restrooms:
Push plate entrance, pull handle exit. Doors can be propped open upon request. Free floor space in stall 70 inches X 36 inches with toilet height of 17 inches, 2 grab bars. Sink height is 33 inches.

Men's Restrooms:
Push plate entrance, pull handle exit. Doors can be propped open upon request. Free floor space in stall 62 inches X 32 inches with toilet height of 17 inches, 2 grab bars. Sink height is 33 inches.

Family Restroom:
Equipped with a universal adult size changing table. Wide entry door, grab bars, an accessible sink, and space for maneuvering wheelchairs.

Accessible Pier:
Located on All Abilities Trail, accessed via boardwalk. Sufficient space for maneuvering wheelchairs, two benches for seating, and a sunshade. Scenic view of Mallard Lake and wildlife viewing. No fishing permitted on Nature Center property.

Trail Surfaces & Slope
Accessible boardwalk accounts for 1 mile of over 5 miles of trails present at Wehr and are not steeper than a ratio of 1:20 (5% gradient). Other trails consist of varying trail surfaces and are relatively flat, but steeper than 1:20 (5% gradient). Our grasslands / prairie trail is the steepest trail and includes stairs. Audio trail descriptions are available. Please consult our website or call ahead to verify trail conditions: https://www.wehrnaturecenter.com/visit/

All Abilities Loop Trail:
One mile of elevated boardwalk through the wetland natural area including; accessible pier, observation blind, scenic view of lake, gathering area with benches, bridge over stream bed. Final parking lot connection to the observation blind is expected to be completed Fall of 2026.

Amphitheater:
Bench seating, height of 18 inches, without backs. Platform at the top of the amphitheater is used as accessible seating. Three temporary companion seats can be added to accompany the three accessible seats during public events. Ramp access to stage.

Observation Deck:
Accessible deck offers a scenic view of Mallard Lake and is a great spot for bird watching. The deck has three benches for companion seating.

Observation Blind
Accessed via the All Abilities Trail, may choose woodchip or boardwalk path to reach the blind. Openings for viewing are at various heights to allow space for everyone to view water and wildlife.

Nature Exhibits:
Permanent and seasonal exhibit areas throughout the building have an accessible route of travel. Overall, items are within average line of site. Mobile, hands-on tables are between 21-24 inches tall. One table displays skulls, shells and other artifacts. Another table is full of sensory items, including feathers, skins, etc.

Food Service:
There are no food services; juice, water, and snack food are sold at the front desk.

Ability Corner
FREE to use during visit: Wheelchairs, walkers, rollators, seated canes, walking poles, parabolic ears (amplify sound), monocular. Inquire at the front desk.

All-Terrain Wheelchair
Wehr is a host site for an all-terrain chair provided in partnership with Access Ability Wisconsin (AAW). Trail chairs are free to use but should be reserved ahead of visit. Refundable deposit is required, visit https://www.accessabilitywi.org/reserves-types to complete reservation and pay deposit.

Service Animals:
Pets are not allowed on the Nature Center property. Service animals that assist individuals with disabilities and comply with the Milwaukee County ADA Service Animal Procedure are welcome at the Nature Center.

Sign Language Interpreters:
Individuals needing a sign language interpreter should contact the Accessibility & Inclusion Coordinator in order to request an interpreter for a future visit date. Sign language interpreter requests will be directed to the Office for Persons with Disabilities Sign Language Interpreter webpage.

Aira Visual Interpreting Service
Milwaukee County offers FREE Aira service at the Nature Center. More information on how the application works can be found at Aira's website

Blind or Low Vision Aids
Audio recordings of trail information available on website: https://www.wehrnaturecenter.com/accessibility/. Braille Trail Maps available for use during visit-inquire at the front desk to borrow a copy.

Wheelchairs, Mobility Aids, and Other Power Driven Mobility Devices:
Wheelchairs, Mobility Aids, and Other Power Driven Mobility Devices that comply with the Milwaukee County ADA Wheelchairs, Mobility Aids, and Other Power Driven Mobility Devices Procedure are welcome at the Nature Center.

PreK-12 Fieldtrips and Scout/Youth Groups
Supports and activity accommodations available. Please contact the Accessibility & Inclusion Coordinator to make arrangements prior to your visit.

Specialized Programs or Services for Adults:
General nature talks and hikes available for groups with disabilities. Please contact the Accessibility & Inclusion Coordinator to coordinate your visit.