

Prairie Partners

The Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is a unique public/private partnership

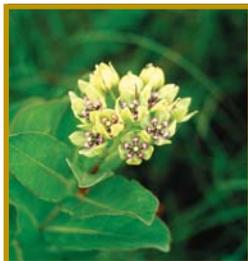
National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park System comprises 388 areas covering more than 84 million acres throughout the United States and its territories.



The Nature Conservancy is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. The Conservancy and its million members have been responsible for the protection of 15 million acres of ecologically significant land in the United States and an additional 117 million acres worldwide. The Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is owned by The Nature Conservancy and operated by the National Park Service. This arrangement makes the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve the only privately owned national park unit in the country. For more information visit nature.org/kansas.



Kansas Park Trust, through an agreement with the National Park Service, and in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy, is dedicated to the mission of enhancing visitor experiences at the preserve by assisting in private fundraising efforts, encouraging Congressional support for implementation of the preserve management plan, conducting special public events, and operating an on-site bookstore and gift shop.



photos: Bob Simin

TOUR INFORMATION

The preserve offers a variety of activities including guided tours of the 1881 ranch house, living history programs, prairie bus tours, nature trails, and backcountry hiking trails

GUIDED TOURS

Bus Tours of the Prairie – The diversity of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve awaits your discovery on this 6.4-mile bus tour led by National Park Service rangers. While touring the preserve's backcountry, you will learn about the prairie's intricate system of plants and animals, American Indians, the geology that formed the Flint Hills, and the legacy of ranching. You will also experience the vast prairie landscape – sweeping views, rolling hills, and an endless sky. The tour lasts approximately 90 minutes and is available daily from the last Saturday in April through the last Sunday in October.

Bus tour times – 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.
\$5.00 per adult, \$3.00 age 5 – 18 years, 4 and under free

Advance reservations are recommended, but arrangements can be made the day of your visit if space is available.

House Tours – National Park Service rangers conduct guided tours through the historic 1881 limestone ranch house. Tours are conducted hourly from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. from May through October. *House tour schedules vary November through April.*

GROUP TOURS

Ranch Headquarters/Prairie Bus Combination Tour

Groups of 15 or more may schedule a ranch headquarters tour in conjunction with a prairie bus tour. The two-hour combination tour includes a one-hour tour of the ranch house, barn, and outbuildings, and a one-hour prairie bus tour. Reservations for group tours must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance. The combination tour is available from the last Saturday in April through the last Sunday in October.

\$7.00 per adult, \$4.00 age 5 – 18 years, 4 and under free

Ranch Headquarters Tour – Tours for groups of 15 or more can be arranged throughout the year. National Park Service rangers lead visitors on a tour of the ranch house, barn, and outbuildings. The tour lasts one hour and must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance.

\$4.00 per adult, \$2.00 age 5 – 18 years, 4 and under free

NATURE TRAILS

The preserve's nature trails are open year-round during daylight hours only. For visitor safety and resource preservation, we ask that visitors stay on the designated trails.

The Southwind Nature Trail – A 1 3/4-mile hiking trail through the tallgrass prairie, passing by the Lower Fox Creek School. Scenic overlook areas offer a wide-open view of the prairie.

The Bottomland Trail – A 3/4-mile loop or a shorter 1/2-mile loop through bottomland prairie along Fox Creek. Wayside exhibits and an information kiosk tell the story of the prairie restoration and cultural history in the area. This trail is wheelchair accessible and offers a comfort station.

BACKCOUNTRY TRAILS

The preserve's backcountry hiking trails are open between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. from the last Saturday in April through the last Sunday in October. Permits are required for the backcountry hiking trails. A limited number of permits will be issued daily and may be reserved in advance by calling the preserve at 620-273-8494.

Scenic Overlook Trail – A 6.4-mile round-trip hike along the bus tour route (improved ranch road) to the scenic overlook area. Along the trail, visitors will see limestone outcroppings, one of 26 human-made ponds on the preserve, remnants of stone fences, and native prairie wildlife. Experience the scenic beauty of native rolling prairie on a grand scale, as you take in the wide-open vistas up to 1,490 feet above sea level.

3 Pasture Loop Trail – A 3.8-mile backcountry hike through upland prairie. This trail winds along existing ranch roads and a mowed path. From May through July, cattle graze on the hillsides and valleys as they have for the past century.

Red House Trail – A 6-mile backcountry hike through upland prairie and natural drainage areas. This trail passes through several cultural features of the historic ranching era, while allowing visitors to experience an intimate view of wetland prairie flowers and vegetation through a scenic grove of cottonwood trees.



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