

Welcome



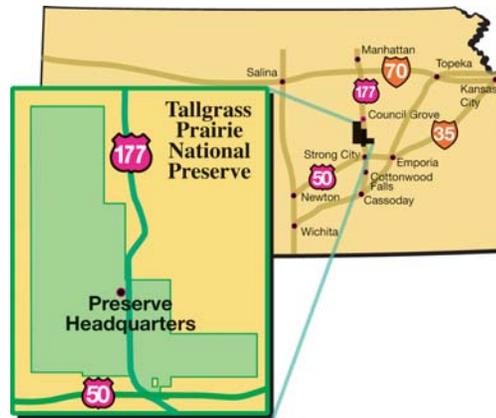
Photos: John Charlton

to the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

The Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is your opportunity to experience the natural wonder and rich history of the Kansas Flint Hills. The expansive rolling hills and wide-open vistas of this Great Plains region are a rare remnant of the expanse of tallgrass prairie that once covered 400,000 square miles of central North America.

Once the hunting grounds of the Kansa and Osage Indians, the preserve's nearly 11,000 acres are home to an astonishing variety of life: over 450 species of plants, 150 kinds of birds, 39 types of reptiles and amphibians, and 31 species of mammals. A cycle of climate, fire, and animal grazing – once buffalo, now cattle – has sustained this ecosystem. Much of the grassland flora and fauna is too subtle to be seen from a passing car, but careful scrutiny reveals the special beauty, wonder, and complexity of the prairie.

Cattleman Stephen F. Jones built his home in 1881 with hand-cut limestone. The 11-room house is characteristic of the Second Empire style of 19th century architecture. The springs on the hillside provided water to the house – thus the name, Spring Hill Farm and Stock Ranch. Nearby are the massive three-story limestone barn and Lower Fox Creek School, a one-room schoolhouse. The ranch was designated a National Historic Landmark in February 1997.



- Location:** The preserve headquarters is located:
- 2 miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills Scenic Byway)
 - 18 miles west of Emporia
 - 16 miles south of Council Grove
 - 85 miles northeast of Wichita

Hours: The historic ranch headquarters is open daily (except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day) from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Brochures and a 10-minute site orientation video are available in the barn (May – October) and on the back porch of the house (November – April).

A self-guided tour of the historic ranch headquarters is available daily between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. A brochure and wayside exhibits tell the story of Stephen F. Jones, who owned the ranch from 1878 to 1888.

The bookstore and gift shop in the ranch house is open daily from 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Visitors may purchase books for children and adults, prints, postcards, educational and hand-crafted gift items, natural objects, and items related to local culture.

While in Chase County, make time to visit the towns of Strong City and Cottonwood Falls. Steeped in prairie history, these scenic communities will take you back in time. They offer dining, shopping, and much more.

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve
Strong City, KS
Telephone: 620-273-8494 Fax: 620-273-8950
Email: tapr_interpretation@nps.gov
Website: www.nps.gov/tapr

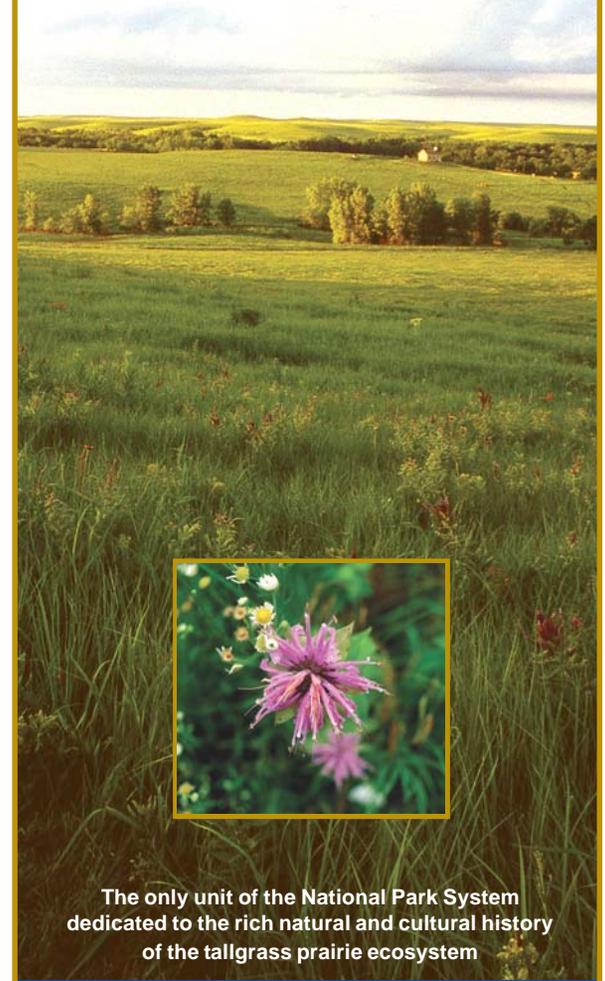
National Park Service mailing address:
Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve
P.O. Box 585, Cottonwood Falls, KS 66845

Kansas Park Trust Telephone: 620-273-8139
The Nature Conservancy www.nature.org/kansas

Experience the Prairie!

Tallgrass Prairie

NATIONAL PRESERVE



The only unit of the National Park System
dedicated to the rich natural and cultural history
of the tallgrass prairie ecosystem

KANSAS
as big as you think™