



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie
National Preserve

226 Broadway
P.O. Box 585
Cottonwood Falls, KS 66845

620-273-6034 phone
620-273-6099 fax

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

For Immediate Release

Heather Brown, (620) 273- 8494

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Summer Schedule Resumes for Backcountry Day Hiking at the Preserve

Beginning April 26 and continuing through October 26, 2008 visitors to the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve will have daily access to the preserve's three backcountry hiking trails between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Permits are required and may be obtained the day of your visit. You may also reserve a permit up to 4 weeks in advance by calling (620) 273- 8494. There is no charge for the permit.

Before entering the preserve's backcountry, visitors must stop by the information station to receive a brief orientation to the backcountry, a trail map, and their permit. The information station is located in the barn at the historic ranch headquarters. Visitors are encouraged to wear appropriate clothing and hiking gear, bring plenty of drinking water, use sunblock and insect repellent, and stay on the designated trails. Pets are not permitted in the backcountry.

All backcountry day hiking trails are moderately difficult and range from 3.8 to 6.4 miles. The Scenic Overlook Trail, the 3 Pasture Loop Trail, and the Red House Trail each offer visitors a different and unique perspective of the tallgrass prairie ecosystem. Scenic vistas, prairie grasses, wildflowers, wildlife, historic ranching features, and rugged terrain may be experienced along the trails.

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is a public/private partnership with the National Park Service, The Nature Conservancy, and the Kansas Park Trust. Located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway), the preserve's historic ranch headquarters is open daily from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. For more information or to make group reservations, visit the preserve's website at www.nps.gov/tapr, e- mail tapr_interpretation@nps.gov, or call the preserve at (620) 273- 8494.

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