



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie
National Preserve

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Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

For Immediate Release
Heather Brown, (620) 273- 8494
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Preserve Extends Weekend Bus Tours and Daily Backcountry Hiking in November

On weekends (Saturday and Sunday) in November, the preserve will offer 90- minute guided prairie bus tours at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in the ranch house. The cost is \$5 per adult, \$3 for children 5 – 18 years of age, and 4 and under are free. A minimum of two passengers per bus tour is required. Advance reservations can be made by calling the preserve at (620) 273- 8494 or on a first- come basis as space permits. Tours will be cancelled during inclement weather.

During November, visitors will have daily access to the preserve's three backcountry hiking trails between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., except during inclement weather, low staffing, and on Thanksgiving Day. Permits are required and may be obtained the day of your visit. There is no charge for the permit. Backcountry day hiking will resume to the winter weekend schedule (Saturday and Sunday) during the off- season starting December 6, 2008.

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. During the off- season the information station is located in the house at the historic ranch headquarters. Visitors are encouraged to wear appropriate clothing and hiking gear, bring plenty of drinking water, use sunblock, 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.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



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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