



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie
National Preserve

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Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

November 30, 2007
For Immediate Release
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Backcountry Day Hiking Program Extended Through Winter Months

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve announced today that the backcountry day hiking program will again be extended throughout the winter months. Through April 20, 2008, visitors may continue to hike the three backcountry day hiking trails on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Permits are required and may be obtained free of charge at the visitor information station on the back porch of the ranch house. Backcountry day hiking will be cancelled during times of adverse weather conditions and controlled burns in the spring.

Over 2,300 people have explored the preserve's backcountry utilizing the day hiking trails, since opening in August 2005. The trails range in length from 3.8 miles to 6.4 miles and offer visitors the opportunity to experience the scenic beauty and wide- open vistas of the tallgrass prairie environment.

For more information about the backcountry day hiking program or any of the preserve's other programs, visit the preserve's website at www.nps.gov/tapr or call the preserve at (620) 273-8494.

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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