



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie
National Preserve

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Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Iconic Elm Tree Damaged at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve



The iconic elm tree near Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve's main entrance, a favorite with preserve staff and visitors, sustained moderate damage due to the recent thunderstorms and heavy rains on the evening of May 26, 2016. The iconic tree, estimated to be near 100 years old, is located near a popular picnicking area at the preserve.

Preserve staff have removed limbs and other storm debris, and re-located picnic tables to an adjacent area away from the original picnic area. Visitors are asked to please stay away from the damaged tree and

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remain outside of the yellow caution tape. Preserve staff are consulting with National Park Service arborists and Kansas State Forestry extension agents to determine the extent of damage sustained by the tree, and to determine additional steps necessary for possible preservation.

All regularly scheduled activities for the Memorial Day weekend will continue as planned, except for the Kid's Fishing with a Ranger program on Sunday. All hiking trails remain open to the public, but visitors are cautioned to not venture into deep water crossings. Daily bus tours will not be available on Saturday or Sunday due to declining road conditions from the recent heavy rains. We encourage visitors to please call ahead for the status of bus tours on Memorial Day.

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway) and is a unique public/private partnership between the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy. For a complete listing of Memorial Day weekend activities, or for general more information, please visit the preserve's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/NPS.TallgrassPrairie> , website at www.nps.gov/tapr, email tapr_interpretation@nps.gov, or call the preserve at (620) 273-8494.

To learn more about The Nature Conservancy in Kansas, visit the Conservancy's website at www.nature.org/Kansas or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TNCKansas> .

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