



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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### **Tourism to Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Creates \$997,000 in Economic Benefits**

Strong City, KS – A new National Park Service (NPS) report shows that 17,776 visitors to Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in 2014 spent \$997,000 in communities near the park. That spending supported 16 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$1,262,000.

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve welcomes visitors from across the country and around the world. National park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy, returning \$10 for every \$1 invested in the National Park Service, and it's a big factor in the local economy as well.

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by U.S. Geological Survey economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas and Christopher Huber and National Park Service economist Lynne Koontz. The report shows \$15.7 billion of direct spending by 292.8 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 277,000 jobs nationally; 235,600 of those jobs are found in these gateway communities. The cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy was \$29.7 billion.

According to the 2014 report, most park visitor spending was for lodging (30.6 percent) followed by food and beverages (20.3 percent), gas and oil (11.9 percent), admissions and fees (10.2 percent) and souvenirs and other expenses (9.9 percent).

To download the report visit <http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/economics.cfm>

The report includes information for visitor spending at individual parks and by state. To learn more about national parks in Kansas and how the National Park Service works with Kansas communities to help preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide outdoor recreation, go to [www.nps.gov/KANSAS](http://www.nps.gov/KANSAS).

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**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

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



In celebration of the National Park Service 2016 Centennial, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve invites you to discover the meaning of national parks and how your park inspires you - both in personal connections and memorable experiences. 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 more information, visit the preserve's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/NPS.TallgrassPrairie> , website at [www.nps.gov/tapr](http://www.nps.gov/tapr), email [tapr\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto: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](http://www.nature.org/Kansas) or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TNCKansas> .

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