



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie  
National Preserve

2480B Ks Hwy 177  
Strong City, KS 66869

620-273-6034 phone  
620-273-8660 fax

---

## Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

For Immediate Release

February 26, 2014

Wendy Lauritzen, (620) 273- 6034 ext. 280

### **The Public is Invited to Provide Input for a Large Event Plan and Environmental Assessment at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve**

Preserve Superintendent, Wendy Lauritzen, announced that Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is in the process of preparing a Large Event Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA).

The purpose of the document is to evaluate large event possibilities, such as the Symphony in the Flint Hills, and analyze potential impacts to resources associated with these types of events. The process of defining the “large event” has only just begun. Currently, the planning team is developing alternatives that will evaluate objectives and goals related to large events and consider associated resource impacts. Important components of the plan and EA will be to protect the preserve’s core natural and cultural resources.

To assist in this review, park staff has drafted a few criteria to spark ideas related to providing large events at the preserve. We are currently considering the following event parameters: number of visitors, event and parking areas, maximum duration, noise limits, permitting requirements, and safety and other contingency plans. There are other parameters that may establish criteria within the process of completing this analysis, such as event location(s), frequency of occurrence, and staffing requirements. Your input will be greatly appreciated as we evaluate the criteria and potential impacts during this planning process.

A key goal for the National Park Service (NPS) is to meet the mandate of the Organic Act, which established the bureau in 1916. The Organic Act states that the NPS must “conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life [in national parks] and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the



enjoyment of future generations.” Consistent with this mandate, important components of the plan and EA will be to protect the preserve’s core natural and cultural resources.

We invite you to participate early in the environmental assessment process and the planning and development of this document. This project will be accessible to you at the following website, <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>. Documents will be posted to the site as they become available.

**An open house will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 from 3 to 7 p.m. at the preserve’s new Visitor Center located at 2480B Ks. Hwy 177, two miles north of Strong City.**

Comments concerning this process and plan are welcome and can either be sent to the above address or to: [tapr\\_superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:tapr_superintendent@nps.gov). **Comment period ends March 31, 2014.** We look forward to your attendance and input to this important planning process.

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 partnership between The Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service. 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 (620) 273-8494.

**-NPS-**