



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

January 31, 2014

Wendy Lauritzen, (620) 273- 6034

### Visitor Center reopens Sundays; ongoing project work recapped

Starting February 9, 2014, the Visitor Center at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve will be open on Sundays, returning to a seven day per week operation. Although the Visitor Center will be closed President's Day (Feb. 17), it will be open for visitors on Memorial Day (May 26), July 4<sup>th</sup>, and Labor Day (Sept. 1). Current winter hours are 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. daily; summer hours, which begin May 1, are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 pm daily.

Information is also available concerning ongoing project work at the preserve:

- Permanent exhibits for the Visitor Center will be installed this spring and Visitor Center will remain open to the public during the exhibit installation process. “It’s just going to be a little messy” stated Superintendent Wendy Lauritzen. “We are just so excited to finally get the permanent exhibits.”
- Visitor flow and access will be impacted by maintenance projects at the historic barn site through Spring 2015. Construction staging and project work will effectively eliminate availability of the half dozen public parking spaces next to the barn.
- The Spring Hill Ranch House remains closed while electrical issues needing immediate attention are corrected. Long-term corrections still awaiting funding involve dehumidification, central heating and cooling systems, and a supporting electrical system upgrade. The prospective climate control systems will help with long-term management of mold in the circa 1880s Ranch House. Until the mold issue is rectified, and upon re-opening the Ranch House to visitors, signs will warn of the potential hazard to those

---

**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

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



individuals who have allergy sensitivities or whose sensitivities to mold affect other underlying health conditions.

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-**