



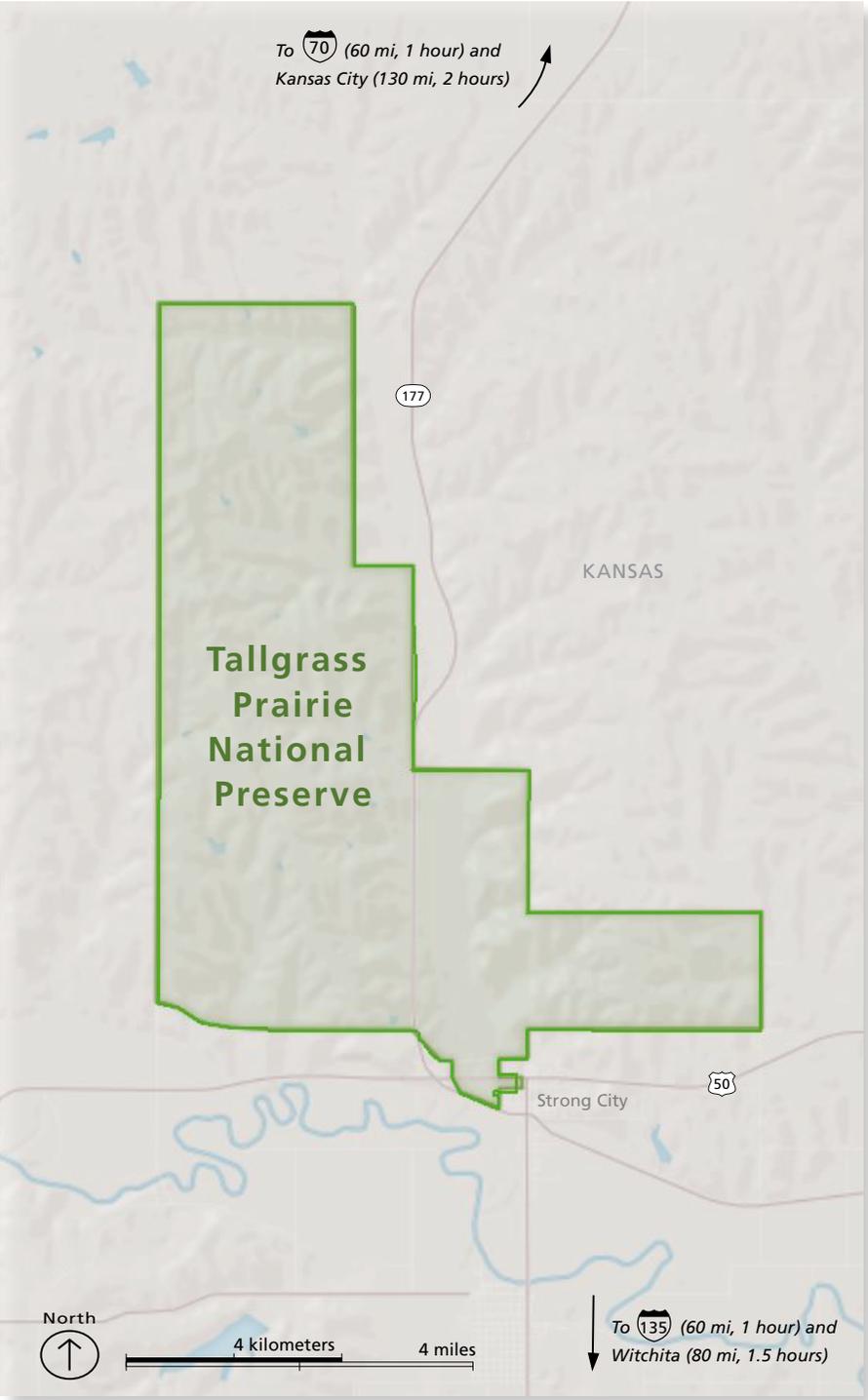
# Foundation Document

## Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

Kansas

June 2017





# Contents

<b>Mission of the National Park Service . . . . .</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Introduction. . . . .</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Part 1: Core Components . . . . .</b>	<b>3</b>
Brief Description of the Park. . . . .	3
Park Purpose . . . . .	5
Park Significance . . . . .	6
Fundamental Resources and Values . . . . .	7
Other Important Resources and Values . . . . .	9
Related Resources. . . . .	10
Interpretive Themes . . . . .	11
<b>Part 2: Dynamic Components . . . . .</b>	<b>12</b>
Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments . . . . .	12
Special Mandates. . . . .	12
Administrative Commitments. . . . .	12
Assessment of Planning and Data Needs . . . . .	13
Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values . . . . .	14
Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs . . . . .	27
Planning and Data Needs. . . . .	28
<b>Part 3: Contributors. . . . .</b>	<b>32</b>
Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve . . . . .	32
The Nature Conservancy . . . . .	32
NPS Midwest Region . . . . .	32
Other NPS Staff . . . . .	32
<b>Appendixes . . . . .</b>	<b>33</b>
Appendix A: Enabling Legislation for Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve . . . . .	33
Appendix B: Inventory of Administrative Commitments . . . . .	37
Appendix C: Selected Past and Ongoing Park Planning and Data Collection Efforts. . . . .	38



## Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The NPS core values are a framework in which the National Park Service accomplishes its mission. They express the manner in which, both individually and collectively, the National Park Service pursues its mission. The NPS core values are:

- **Shared stewardship:** We share a commitment to resource stewardship with the global preservation community.
- **Excellence:** We strive continually to learn and improve so that we may achieve the highest ideals of public service.
- **Integrity:** We deal honestly and fairly with the public and one another.
- **Tradition:** We are proud of it; we learn from it; we are not bound by it.
- **Respect:** We embrace each other's differences so that we may enrich the well-being of everyone.

The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. While numerous national park system units were created prior to 1916, it was not until August 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act formally establishing the National Park Service.

The national park system continues to grow and comprises more than 400 park units covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These units include, but are not limited to, national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. The variety and diversity of park units throughout the nation require a strong commitment to resource stewardship and management to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations.



*The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological values.*

## Introduction

Every unit of the national park system will have a foundational document to provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management. The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park as well as the park’s purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. The foundation document also includes special mandates and administrative commitments, an assessment of planning and data needs that identifies planning issues, planning products to be developed, and the associated studies and data required for park planning. Along with the core components, the assessment provides a focus for park planning activities and establishes a baseline from which planning documents are developed.

A primary benefit of developing a foundation document is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park. The process of developing a foundation document begins with gathering and integrating information about the park. Next, this information is refined and focused to determine what the most important attributes of the park are. The process of preparing a foundation document aids park managers, staff, and the public in identifying and clearly stating in one document the essential information that is necessary for park management to consider when determining future planning efforts, outlining key planning issues, and protecting resources and values that are integral to park purpose and identity.

While not included in this document, a park atlas is also part of a foundation project. The atlas is a series of maps compiled from available geographic information system (GIS) data on natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, facilities, and other topics. It serves as a GIS-based support tool for planning and park operations. The atlas is published as a (hard copy) paper product and as geospatial data for use in a web mapping environment. The park atlas for Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve can be accessed online at: <http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov/>.



## Part 1: Core Components

The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park, park purpose, significance statements, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. These components are core because they typically do not change over time. Core components are expected to be used in future planning and management efforts.

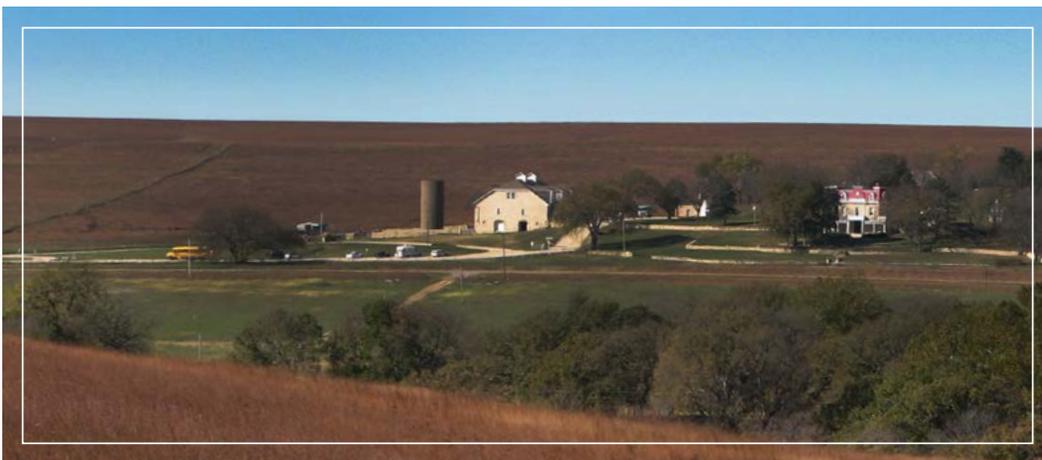
### Brief Description of the Park

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is located in Chase County in east-central Kansas. Comprising 10,894 acres, the preserve showcases an outstanding example of the tallgrass prairie ecosystem, along with cultural evidence of American Indian habitation, and historic structures and features of the former Spring Hill Ranch. Culminating more than 70 years of interest in, work toward, and even opposition to the creation of a national prairie park, the preserve was established by legislation on November 12, 1996, as part of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act (Public Law 104-333). At the time of its creation, the preserve was touted by its legislative champion, Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum, as a “model for the nation” in terms of being a public-private partnership.

Much of the preserve consists of pristine tallgrass prairie in the heart of the Flint Hills landscape. Spared from the plow by underlying limestone and chert (flint) and perpetuated by fire and grazing, the preserve contains a nationally significant remnant of the once vast, but now fragmented and highly altered, tallgrass prairie ecosystem. The Nature Conservancy estimates only four percent of tallgrass prairie ecosystem remains, with the Flint Hills representing the last landscape expression of tallgrass prairie. Although dominated by tallgrass prairie, the preserve is also rich in aquatic resources, with numerous springs, seeps, and intermittent and perennial streams. The entire preserve was listed as a national historic landmark in 1997 for its association with the Cattleman’s Empire period of the late 19th century and with the transition from open range to enclosed holdings of the large cattle operations of the 1880s.

Although the majority (all but 33 acres) of the preserve is privately owned by The Nature Conservancy, the entire property is managed by both the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy as a unit of the national park system. The mission of the National Park Service is to protect resources unimpaired for the enjoyment of visitors now and for future generations. The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. This unique public-private partnership is dedicated to:

(1) preserving and enhancing a nationally significant remnant of the tallgrass prairie ecosystem; (2) preserving and interpreting the preserve’s cultural history and ranching heritage; and (3) offering opportunities for education, inspiration, and enjoyment through public access to the preserve’s geological, ecological, scenic, and historical features.

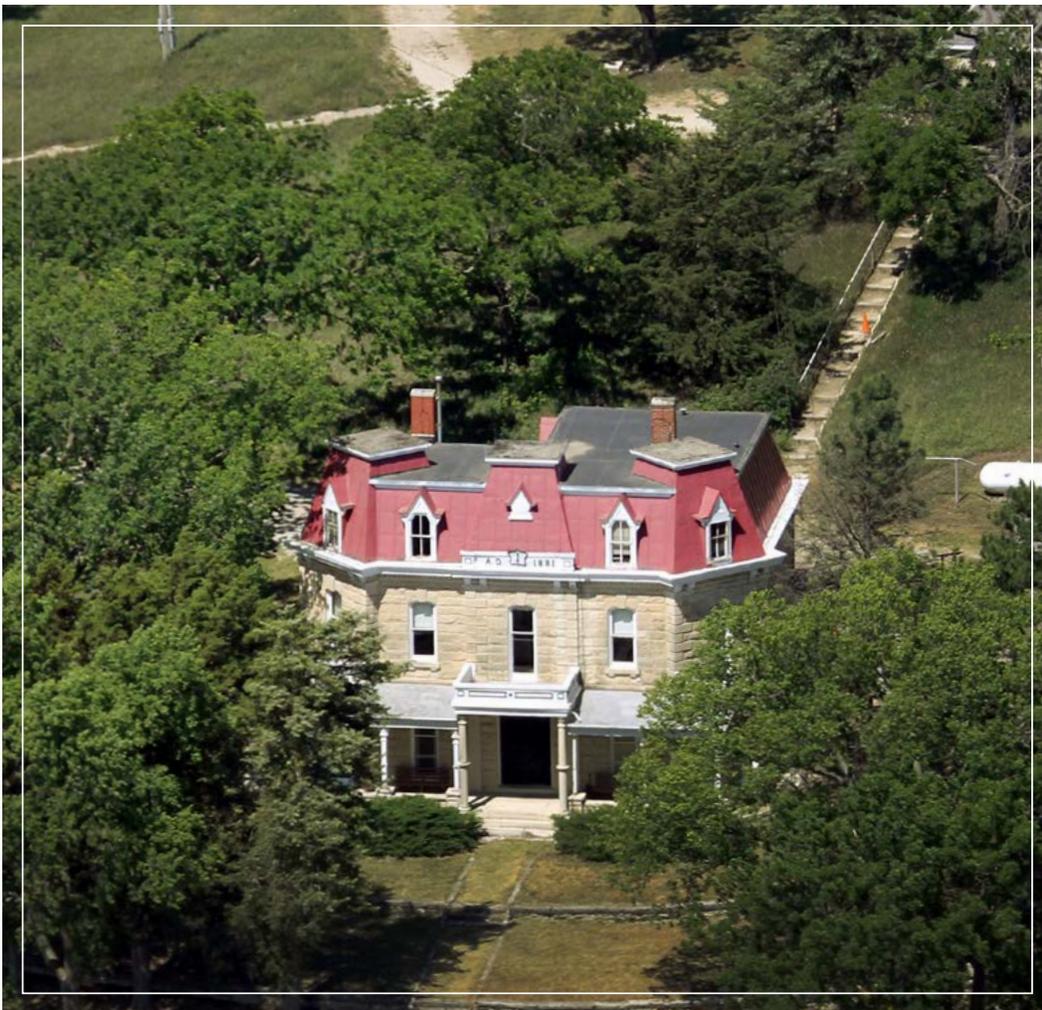




## Park Purpose

The purpose statement identifies the specific reason(s) for establishment of a particular park. The purpose statement for Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling legislation and the legislative history that influenced its development. The park was established when the enabling legislation adopted by Congress was signed into law on November 12, 1996 (see appendix A for enabling legislation). The purpose statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the park.

*The purpose of TALLGRASS PRAIRIE NATIONAL PRESERVE is to preserve, protect, and interpret for the public an example of a tallgrass prairie ecosystem, the historic resources, and cultural and social values represented within the preserve, in the Flint Hills of Kansas.*



## Park Significance

Significance statements express why a park’s resources and values are important enough to merit designation as a unit of the national park system. These statements are linked to the purpose of Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Statements of significance describe the distinctive nature of the park and why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. They focus on the most important resources and values that will assist in park planning and management.

The following significance statements have been identified for Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. (Please note that the sequence of the statements does not reflect the level of significance.)

- **Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem.** The tallgrass prairie once covered a vast expanse of North America; today, it is estimated that less than four percent remains. Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve protects an iconic portion of what remains.
- **Cultural History of the Prairie.** The landscape of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve contains a unique collection of natural and cultural features that tells the story of how people lived on and used the prairie from before European contact to the present.
- **Legacy of Ranching in the Flint Hills.** The Spring Hill Ranch is an outstanding representation of the transition from open-range cattle ranching to the enclosed (fenced) holdings of large cattle operations of the 1880s.
- **Outstanding Stone Architecture.** The Spring Hill Ranch Headquarters area contains outstanding examples of Second Empire and other 19th century architectural styles featuring locally quarried limestone.
- **Scenery.** Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve offers opportunities for extraordinary and inspirational scenic views of the Flint Hills prairie landscape.
- **Management Model.** The Nature Conservancy works with the National Park Service in a unique partnership to manage the preserve. The two entities provide a shared model for conservation to fulfill the purposes of the preserve.



## Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to a park's legislative purpose and are more specific than significance statements.

Fundamental resources and values help focus planning and management efforts on what is truly significant about the park. One of the most important responsibilities of NPS managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities that are essential (fundamental) to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. If fundamental resources and values are allowed to deteriorate, the park purpose and/or significance could be jeopardized.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve:

- Tallgrass Prairie.** The preserve's tallgrass prairie includes both upland and bottomland prairies. The deeper bottomland soils tend to be cultivated, whereas the "Flint Hills" uplands, which have generally shallow soils, are predominantly used for grazing livestock and are characterized by gently sloping, prairie-dominated hills of limestone and shale. The tallgrass prairie is the dominant vegetation community and represents a nationally significant tract of unplowed native grasslands. The prairie complex includes a wide diversity of flora and fauna species, with more than 500 plant species, almost 150 bird species, including the greater prairie-chicken, and numerous species of reptiles, amphibians, and mammals.
- Upland Prairie Streams.** The preserve has an abundance of intermittent and perennial streams, seeps, and wetlands, all of which contribute to the diverse hydrological character of the tallgrass prairie. Streams in the preserve are home to more than 30 species of fish and numerous aquatic invertebrates, many of which are adapted to variable conditions typical of prairie streams including drought, intermittent flow, and flash floods. Several springs produce substantial amounts of water even in the dry weather of summer; because of their reliability, they serve as refugia for native aquatic species and water supplies for terrestrial species. A comprehensive inventory of springs documented 237 springs in the preserve. Seeps and springs contribute to base flow of the larger streams. Several of the preserve's upland prairie streams serve as critical habitat for the federally endangered Topeka shiner and several state-listed fish species.
- Spring Hill Ranch Headquarters Area Historic Structures (1878–1904).** The preserve contains several nationally significant historic structures. These resources document the evolution of farming, ranching, and rural lifeways on the Plains from the mid-19th to the early 20th centuries. Most of the known structures are near the Spring Hill Ranch headquarters, including a Second Empire house, three-story barn, springhouse/curing house, outhouse, icehouse, and poultry house/scratch house. The Spring Hill Ranch Headquarters is part of the national historic landmark, and its period of significance extends from 1878 to 1904.
- Ranching Landscape.** The entire preserve was listed as a national historic landmark in 1997 for its association with the Cattlemen's Empire of the late 19th century and the transition in the 1880s from open range to fenced holdings of large cattle companies. In addition to the headquarters structures, the cultural landscape includes other features, such as dry-laid stone fencing, pastures, and agricultural field configurations, the Lower Fox Creek School House, and the Deer Park Place. The ranching cultural landscape has high integrity for its association with the story of cattle ranching and retains historic pasture configurations, support buildings, and the historic ranch complexes of the Spring Hill Ranch and Deer Park Place. The national historic landmark period of significance extends from 1878 to 1904.

- **Expansive Views of the Prairie.** The scenic vistas and views are some of the preserve’s most important resources. The relationship of earth and sky, the feeling of vastness, and the openness of the landscape all contribute to a “sense of place.” There are very few intrusions on the land. Perhaps the most spectacular vistas within the preserve are atop the long north/south ridge system. From these vantage points, a person can see great distances in all directions. Depending on the season, a rolling sea of tall prairie grasses and blooming wildflowers expands to the horizon. Here, people have an opportunity to ponder the past and reflect on the vastness that American Indians and early European-American settlers encountered.



## Other Important Resources and Values

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve contains other resources and values that are not fundamental to the purpose of the park and may be unrelated to its significance, but are important to consider in planning processes. These are referred to as “other important resources and values” (OIRV). These resources and values have been selected because they are important in the operation and management of the park and warrant special consideration in park planning.

The following other important resources and values have been identified for Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve:

- **Archeological Resources Related to American Indians, Homesteading, and Ranching.** Archeological investigations at the preserve have been limited, but several historic and prehistoric archeological sites have been documented. Archeological sites are scattered across the preserve and include lithic scatters, quarry sites, cairns, early European-American farmsteads, a historic dump site, and the Lower Fox Creek School area. Isolated chipped stone implements have been found at several locations, and more are likely to be discovered. Many will relate to specific activity areas that are themselves associated with other sites, including camps or habitation sites.
- **Historic Structures and Cultural Landscape Related to Ranching Activities After 1904.** These features, such as fence lines, a concrete stave silo, trench silos, and some Deer Park Place structures, include more modern development that has been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places at a local level of significance.
- **Natural Landscape Features Other Than Tallgrass Prairie.** Maintaining the diverse landscape of plant communities including oak-hickory woodlands and cottonwood groves is critical to the long-term sustainability of wildlife populations. These areas are located primarily along Fox and Palmer Creeks and are important for their value to the preserve’s cultural story, as well as its wildlife.
- **Museum Collections.** Museum collections comprise items related to the preserve’s archeological resources, farming and ranching history, and natural resources. These collections help tell the cultural and natural stories of the preserve.



## Related Resources

Related resources are not owned by the preserve. They may be part of the broader context or setting in which preserve resources exist; represent a thematic connection that would enhance the experience of visitors; or have close association with the preserve's fundamental resources and the nature and purposes of the preserve.

- **Viewsheds and Undeveloped Lands Beyond Preserve Boundaries.** Viewsheds beyond the boundaries of the preserve are interconnected with the viewsheds within the preserve. Together, these vistas and views provide visitors an uninterrupted view of tallgrass prairie to distant horizons.
- **Flint Hills Ranches.** Ranches and farms in the Flint Hills expand the story of the preserve and provide context for the cultural resources of the preserve.
- **Flint Hills National Scenic Byway.** The Flint Hills National Scenic Byway bisects the preserve on Kansas Highway 177. The byway offers incredible views of the tallgrass prairie, and many travelers using the byway stop to visit the preserve.
- **Chase County Courthouse.** The Chase County Courthouse was constructed using limestone from local quarries, and its architectural style has been described as Second Empire.
- **Lantry House.** The privately owned Lantry House is part of Deer Park Place. Deer Park Place represents the continuation of the story line of the Spring Hill Ranch, when Jones sold his 7,000 acre property to Lantry in 1888. The consolidated lands of Deer Park Place and Spring Hill Ranch today make up the almost 11,000-acre preserve.



## Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from, and should reflect, park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all park significance statements and fundamental and other important resources and values.

Interpretive themes are an organizational tool that reveal and clarify meaning, concepts, contexts, and values represented by park resources. Sound themes are accurate and reflect current scholarship and science. They encourage exploration of the context in which events or natural processes occurred and the effects of those events and processes. Interpretive themes go beyond a mere description of the event or process to foster multiple opportunities to experience and consider the park and its resources. These themes help explain why a park story is relevant to people who may otherwise be unaware of connections they have to an event, time, or place associated with the park.

The following interpretive themes have been identified for Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve:

- The once vast tallgrass prairie ecosystem, endemic to North America, is one of the world's most endangered ecosystems.
- Tallgrass prairie is a biologically diverse association of flora and fauna, specially adapted over thousands of years to topography, soils, climate, fire, grazing, and other natural influences that comprise and sustain natural communities to provide an important storehouse of genetic species diversity that preserves the Flint Hills prairie.
- Interrelationships between the natural and cultural resources and features of the preserve reflect the influence of the land on the people and the people on the land.
- The cultural resources and features of the site illustrate the continuum of human experience in the Flint Hills region of Kansas from the first inhabitants through today's residents.
- Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is a new model of public-private partnership for the stewardship of resources and for providing opportunities for public enjoyment.



## Part 2: Dynamic Components

The dynamic components of a foundation document include special mandates and administrative commitments and an assessment of planning and data needs. These components are dynamic because they will change over time. New special mandates can be established and new administrative commitments made. As conditions and trends of fundamental and other important resources and values change over time, the analysis of planning and data needs will need to be revisited and revised, along with key issues. Therefore, this part of the foundation document will be updated accordingly.

### Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Many management decisions for a park unit are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments with other federal agencies, state and local governments, utility companies, partnering organizations, and other entities. Special mandates are requirements specific to a park that must be fulfilled. Mandates can be expressed in enabling legislation, in separate legislation following the establishment of the park, or through a judicial process. They may expand on park purpose or introduce elements unrelated to the purpose of the park. Administrative commitments are, in general, agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes, often through memorandums of agreement. Examples include easements, rights-of-way, arrangements for emergency service responses, etc. Special mandates and administrative commitments can support, in many cases, a network of partnerships that help fulfill the objectives of the park and facilitate working relationships with other organizations. They are an essential component of managing and planning for Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. The special mandates for Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve originate from its enabling legislation (110 Stat. 4204, Public Law 104-333).

#### Special Mandates

- **Application of Regulations.** With the consent of a private owner of land within the boundaries of the preserve, the regulations issued by the Secretary concerning the National Park Service that provide for the proper use, management, and protection of persons, property, and natural and cultural resources shall apply to the private land.
- **Facilities.** For purposes of carrying out the duties of the Secretary under this subtitle relating to the preserve, the Secretary may, with the consent of landowner, directly or by contract, construct, reconstruct, rehabilitate, or develop essential buildings, structures, and related facilities including roads, trails, and other interpretive facilities on real property that is not owned by the federal government and is located within the preserve.
- **Limited Authority to Acquire.** The Secretary shall acquire, by donation, not more than 180 acres of real property within the boundaries of the preserve (as described in section 1004(b)) and the improvements on the real property.
- **Liability of Landowners.** The United States agrees to hold harmless, defend, and indemnify the landowner in full from and against any suit, claim, demand or action, liability, judgement, cost or other fee in connection with the operation of the preserve under the agreement. Such indemnification, however, shall not exceed \$3 million per claimant per occurrence.
- **State Laws.** The preserve must comply with state laws concerning fences, plant and animal management, and water and waste.

#### Administrative Commitments

For information about the existing administrative commitments for Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, please see appendix B.

## Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

Once the core components of part 1 of the foundation document have been identified, it is important to gather and evaluate existing information about the park's fundamental resources and values, and develop a full assessment of the park's planning and data needs. The assessment of planning and data needs section presents planning issues, the planning projects that will address these issues, and the associated information requirements for planning, such as resource inventories and data collection, including GIS data.

There are three sections in the assessment of planning and data needs:

1. analysis of fundamental resources and values
2. identification of key issues and associated planning and data needs
3. identification of planning and data needs (including spatial mapping activities or GIS maps)

The analysis of fundamental resources and values and identification of key issues leads up to and supports the identification of planning and data collection needs.



## Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The fundamental resource or value analysis table includes current conditions, potential threats and opportunities, planning and data needs, and selected laws and NPS policies related to management of the identified resource or value.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Tallgrass Prairie
<p><b>Related Significance Statements</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The tallgrass prairie once covered a vast expanse of North America; today, it is estimated that less than four percent remains. Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve protects an iconic portion of what remains.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Current Conditions and Trends</b></p>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upland prairie is in moderate to excellent condition (intact).</li> <li>Original (virgin) bottomland prairie has been heavily modified by past agricultural practices and nonnative species.</li> <li>Moderately impacted areas have been affected by past and recent livestock grazing, particularly at mineral sites and other areas where livestock tend to congregate.</li> <li>Restoration of bottomland prairie has been initiated at specific locations; restoration plantings are complete at those locations.</li> <li>Wildlife habitat and populations have improved as a result of lower cattle stocking rates, changes to prescribed fire operations, and the reintroduction of bison.</li> <li>The preserve has a healthy population of greater prairie chickens.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prairie vegetation and wildlife species are improving through rotational prescribed fire and reduced cattle stocking rates.</li> <li>Bison herd is improving through the addition of new animals.</li> <li>Bottomland prairie is improving gradually through restoration (planting and prescribed fire) in targeted areas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Threats and Opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improper fire management (too little or too much) of the prairie.</li> <li>High stocking rates and poor grazing practices over time, in particular at mineral sites and water sources and in areas prone to erosion.</li> <li>Encroachment of prairie and native wildlife habitat by nonnative and invasive species, such as <i>Sericea lespedeza</i>, old world bluestem, Johnsongrass, and woody vegetation.</li> <li>Local impacts on prairie of large visitor events, if unmitigated. Ability to mitigate is contingent on frequency and intensity of large visitor events.</li> <li>Increases in average annual temperature and the frequency of large storms and extreme heat events as a result of climate change, all of which increase the potential for flooding, erosion, a northward shift in ecosystems, and an increase in invasive species.</li> <li>Improperly managed expanded visitor uses such as equestrian use and bicycling.</li> <li>Harmful effects of excess nitrogen deposition on especially sensitive and at risk grassland and wetland vegetation. Nitrogen deposition levels are above critical loads for prairie vegetation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen relationships with adjacent landowners, state and federal agencies, and researchers at universities in the region to improve prairie management.</li> <li>Further refine grazing patterns and prescribed fire management to increase native vegetation and benefit grassland birds and other native species.</li> <li>Expand visitor opportunities, including improved visitor access to the prairie.</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Tallgrass Prairie
<b>Threats and Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Opportunities (continued)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work cooperatively with federal and state air quality agencies and local stakeholders to reduce air quality impacts from prescribed fire operations.</li> <li>• Expand interpretative and educational tools to communicate the connections between tallgrass prairie, aquatic resources, air quality, scenic views, night sky, recreation, human health, climate change, and associated resources.</li> <li>• Explore partnership opportunities with Kansas State University School of Veterinary Medicine for bison herd health and management.</li> </ul>
<b>Data and/or GIS Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain new data on small fauna and herptofauna that inhabit the prairie to determine best-management practices, most notably for threatened and endangered species.</li> <li>• Monitor and collect data on bison and cattle to enhance understanding of rangeland resources and herd behavior responses based on stocking rates.</li> <li>• Conduct studies on visitor use, experience, and trail use/circulation to assist in proposed visitor experience plan.</li> <li>• Gather data on outcomes of prescribed fire operations to ensure burn objectives are being met.</li> <li>• Identify sensitive natural and cultural areas throughout the preserve.</li> </ul>
<b>Planning Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large ungulate grazing management plan.</li> <li>• Vegetation/prairie management plan.</li> <li>• Threatened and endangered species inventory and management plan.</li> <li>• Visitor experience plan and circulation/accessibility plan.</li> <li>• Long-range interpretive plan (update).</li> </ul>
<b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b>	<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act</li> <li>• Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 et seq.)</li> <li>• Clean Water Act</li> <li>• Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended</li> <li>• Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended</li> <li>• Lacey Act, as amended</li> <li>• Migratory Bird Treaty Act</li> <li>• National Invasive Species Act</li> <li>• National Environmental Policy Act of 1969</li> <li>• Executive Order 11988, "Floodplain Management"</li> <li>• Executive Order 11990, "Protection of Wetlands"</li> <li>• Executive Order 13112, "Invasive Species"</li> <li>• Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources"</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 4) "Natural Resource Management"</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.9) "Soundscape Management"</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.10) "Lightscape Management"</li> <li>• NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i></li> <li>• NPS <i>Reference Manual 18: Wildland Fire Management</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 18: <i>Wildland Fire Management</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 47: <i>Soundscape Preservation and Noise Management</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 77-1: <i>Wetland Protection</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 77-2: <i>Floodplain Management</i></li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Upland Prairie Streams
<p><b>Related Significance Statements</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tallgrass prairie once covered a vast expanse of North America; today, it is estimated that less than four percent remains. Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve protects an iconic portion of what remains.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Current Conditions and Trends</b></p>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stock ponds, streambank erosion, and grazing all impact native upland prairie streams on the preserve.</li> <li>• Overall stream-water quality ranges from good to excellent condition, but some pools may experience poor stream-water quality depending on location and time of year (e.g., where livestock congregate during the summer grazing period).</li> <li>• Cattle can adversely affect streams by congregating in water sources; bison tend not to congregate in water. Changes in fire and grazing management have generally improved surface water conditions.</li> <li>• Road crossings adversely impact stream stability, aquatic habitat, water quality, and fish passage (connectivity).</li> <li>• Upland streams feed Fox Creek, which is impaired for water quality standards due to increased sedimentation and eutrophication.</li> <li>• Certain stock ponds occasionally may not meet human contact standards due to high E. coli levels as a result of livestock impacts. Stock ponds also negatively impact natural hydrology by altering timing, intensity, and duration of high flows and reducing downstream availability of water during drought.</li> <li>• Streams are strongly influenced by groundwater (springs), especially during dry periods. Stock ponds on top of springs or spring development can impact hydrological patterns and alter high flow events.</li> <li>• There are five springs with developed spring boxes in the preserve.</li> <li>• All streams are state-designated critical habitat for the federally listed Topeka shiner, a species that has experienced a decline throughout the region. Streams are also habitat for other state-listed fish species.</li> <li>• The preserve partners with Kansas State University, Kansas Department Health and Environment, and others to collect data on streams.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality is potentially improving with reduced livestock stocking rates.</li> <li>• Water quantity is impacted by pond and spring development and weather events.</li> <li>• The Topeka shiner is decreasing in numbers and range and other species appear stable.</li> <li>• Habitat quality of streams is unchanged.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Threats and Opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degradation of Topeka shiner habitat and loss of remnant populations.</li> <li>• Additional deterioration to stream stability, habitat, and water quality related to grazing management.</li> <li>• Additional instream channel or fish passage impacts such as culverts, road crossings, channelization, or dam construction.</li> <li>• Contamination related to vehicle use near streams.</li> <li>• Increases in average annual temperature, as well as frequency of large storms and extreme heat events, as indicated by climate change projections. These all would increase potential for flooding, erosion, northward shift in ecosystems, and an increase in invasive species.</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Upland Prairie Streams
<b>Threats and Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner with state, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and local universities for water quality monitoring and native fish research.</li> <li>• Seek opportunities to reduce livestock stocking rates or replace livestock with bison to reduce impacts on water quality.</li> <li>• Continue stock dam and stream data collection and increase studies of streams and their role in the natural and cultural stories of the preserve.</li> <li>• Use volunteers for targeted stream surveys.</li> <li>• Partner with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to consider stock pond removal and Topeka shiner reintroductions to other preserve streams.</li> <li>• Expand interpretative and educational tools to communicate the connections between tallgrass prairie, aquatic resources, air quality, scenic views, night sky, recreation, human health, climate change, and associated resources.</li> </ul>
<b>Data and/or GIS Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine how stock dam removal would impact Topeka shiner and other rare fish populations and habitat.</li> <li>• Evaluate stream and pond use by cattle and bison.</li> <li>• Monitor stream fish.</li> <li>• Continue water quality monitoring.</li> <li>• Develop study to determine natural flow patterns and potential impacts of climate change on water availability.</li> <li>• Investigate feasibility and logistics of experimental populations of Topeka shiners.</li> </ul>
<b>Planning Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aquatic resources management plan.</li> <li>• Large ungulate grazing management plan.</li> <li>• Threatened and endangered species inventory and management plan.</li> <li>• Long-range interpretive plan (update).</li> </ul>
<b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b>	<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act</li> <li>• Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 et seq.)</li> <li>• Clean Water Act</li> <li>• Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended</li> <li>• Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended</li> <li>• Lacey Act, as amended</li> <li>• Migratory Bird Treaty Act</li> <li>• National Environmental Policy Act of 1969</li> <li>• National Invasive Species Act</li> <li>• National Flood Insurance Program</li> <li>• Water rights adjudication and law</li> <li>• Executive Order 11514, "Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality"</li> <li>• Executive Order 11988, "Floodplain Management"</li> <li>• Executive Order 11990, "Protection of Wetlands"</li> <li>• Executive Order 12088, "Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards"</li> <li>• Executive Order 13112, "Invasive Species"</li> <li>• Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources"</li> </ul>

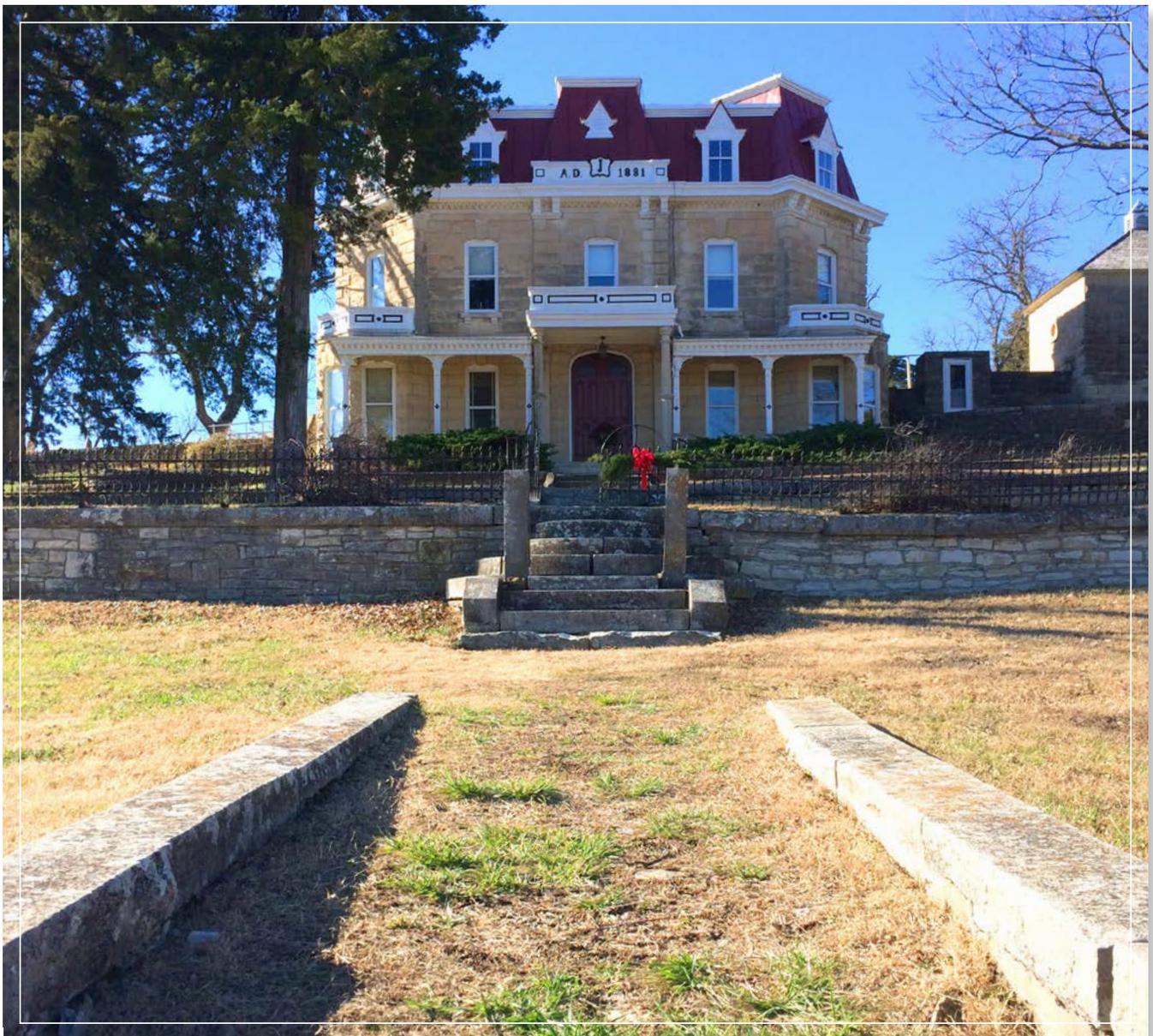
Fundamental Resource or Value	Upland Prairie Streams
<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p>	<p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.6.1) "Protection of Surface Waters and Groundwaters"</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.6.2) "Water Rights"</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.6.4) "Floodplains"</li> <li>• Director's Order 18: <i>Wildland Fire Management</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 77-2: <i>Floodplain Management</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 77-1: <i>Wetland Protection</i></li> <li>• NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i></li> <li>• NPS <i>Reference Manual 18: Wildland Fire Management</i></li> </ul>



Fundamental Resource or Value	Spring Hill Ranch Headquarters Area Historic Structures
<b>Related Significance Statements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Spring Hill Ranch is an outstanding representation of the transition from open-range cattle ranching to the enclosed (fenced) holdings of large cattle operations of the 1880s.</li> <li>The Spring Hill Ranch Headquarters area contains outstanding examples of Second Empire and other 19th century architectural styles featuring locally quarried limestone.</li> </ul>
<b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Park Service owns and has management responsibilities for historic structures within the historic Spring Hill Ranch Headquarters.</li> <li>Unless noted otherwise, historic buildings and structures are stable and in fair condition, although maintenance of several historic structures has been deferred.</li> <li>The 2015 Spring Hill Ranch House condition assessment noted several interior and exterior issues, but recommendations need to be implemented.</li> <li>Spring Hill Ranch buildings are open year-round to visitors. Additional and/or improved interior and exterior exhibits and furnishings are needed to enhance the visitor experience.</li> <li>The Spring Hill Ranch Barn roof is leaking around dormers and cupolas.</li> <li>Barn ramp decking is scheduled to be replaced within next year; however, the stone bases and supports need repair (poor condition).</li> <li>The exterior and interior walls and features of all historic structures in the Spring Hill Ranch Headquarters need repointing.</li> <li>Cistern is unsightly and in poor condition, particularly on the interior wall.</li> <li>Fire suppression system needs regular repair.</li> <li>Visitor access to most of the historic structures within the historic Spring Hill Ranch Headquarters does not fully comply with ADA/ABA requirements.</li> <li>Corral fences require extensive repair because corral piping is rusting and corral gates are deteriorating.</li> <li>The condition of the silo is of concern, although it has been stabilized.</li> <li>New tapered cedar shingles were installed on the outhouse, curing house, carriage house, and ice house in 2009. Those structures all need floor, window, and door replacement or restoration.</li> <li>Some alterations to icehouse for maintenance purposes are needed.</li> <li>Sheds 1 and 2 have been adaptively reused as a restroom and utility space (pump house).</li> <li>Some landscape features of the Spring Hill Ranch Headquarters (stone walls, terraces, fountain, vegetated features, etc.) are in poor condition and need restoration or replacement in kind.</li> <li>Water and drainage issues are causing foundation deterioration in several structures at Spring Hill Area Headquarters.</li> <li>All roads, trails, and access points within the Spring Hill Ranch Headquarters are gravel, potentially limiting visitor access and accessibility.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historic structures and features located within the Spring Hill Ranch Headquarters are slowly deteriorating over time due to lack of maintenance and preservation activities.</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Spring Hill Ranch Headquarters Area Historic Structures
<p><b>Threats and Opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water infiltration in several historic structures.</li> <li>• Lack of funding for routine maintenance and staff.</li> <li>• Malfunctioning fire suppression system at the historic barn.</li> <li>• Theft of furnishings due to security system issues.</li> <li>• Rodents, termites, and wood bees damaging historic fabric.</li> <li>• Increased potential for damage to historic structures due to projected increases in average annual temperature and large storms due to climate change.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement architectural/structural assessment recommendations.</li> <li>• Increase and encourage training opportunities related to historic preservation projects.</li> <li>• Expand interpretive opportunities and develop or improve interpretive messages/media.</li> <li>• Use volunteers for maintenance and visitor services.</li> <li>• Explore donations, grants, and volunteer opportunities from interested preservation groups.</li> <li>• Partner with the state and local universities for historic preservation.</li> <li>• Partner with local, regional, and state tourism groups to increase the number of visitors.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Data and/or GIS Needs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic furnishings report.</li> <li>• Fire suppression and security systems study.</li> <li>• Detailed architectural drawings for other historic structures in the Spring Hill Ranch Headquarters.</li> <li>• Visitor use, accessibility, experience, and trail use/circulation studies to support visitor experience plan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Planning Needs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive historic preservation strategy / cultural resource condition assessment following recommendations from the Spring Hill Ranch House condition assessment.</li> <li>• Circulation and accessibility plan in tandem with visitor experience plan.</li> <li>• Long-range interpretive plan (update), including direction on exhibits and interpretive media planning.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p>	<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antiquities Act of 1906</li> <li>• Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974</li> <li>• Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979</li> <li>• Historic Sites Act of 1935</li> <li>• Museum Properties Management Act of 1955, as amended</li> <li>• National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended</li> <li>• Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"</li> <li>• Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources"</li> <li>• "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800)</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Spring Hill Ranch Headquarters Area Historic Structures
<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p>	<p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management"</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§8.10) "Natural and Cultural Studies, Research, and Collection Activities"</li> <li>• Director's Order 24: <i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i></li> <li>• NPS <i>Museum Handbook</i>, parts I, II, and III</li> <li>• <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></li> <li>• <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings</i></li> </ul>



<b>Fundamental Resource or Value</b>	<b>Ranching Landscape</b>
<b>Related Significance Statements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The landscape of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve contains a unique collection of natural and cultural features that tells the story of how people lived on and used the prairie from before European contact to the present.</li> <li>• The Spring Hill Ranch is an outstanding representation of the transition from open-range cattle ranching to the enclosed (fenced) holdings of large cattle operations of the 1880s.</li> </ul>
<b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Except for some interior fences, most wire fences and gates are new. Replacements have been in kind using material extant at time of preserve creation.</li> <li>• Some stone fence lines have been rehabilitated; more stabilization and rehabilitation is needed.</li> <li>• Some windbreaks, ornamental trees, and hedgerows are overmature and need in-kind replacement. The establishment of other ornamental plantings is unclear but may date to a local period of significance.</li> <li>• Stock ponds range in age and size and generally are in poor to fair condition (two low hazard dams and one high hazard dam).</li> <li>• Bison are located in a historic pasture. Other pastures continue to be grazed by cattle on an annual basis; however, current grazing may not be historically accurate.</li> <li>• Two track routes are in their original location and being used; most are stable.</li> <li>• Red House ruins (limestone features associated with homestead location) are not stabilized and are beginning to deteriorate.</li> <li>• The spring box at Red House is in poor condition; others are in poor to fair condition.</li> <li>• Railroad car is in poor condition.</li> <li>• Old south end corrals are in poor condition.</li> <li>• Deer Park Place historic structures are in poor to fair condition. Two buildings are stable, one is not.</li> <li>• Lower Fox Schoolhouse is in good condition and stable; roof was resingled in 2009/2010, although roofline of 1968 reconstruction is historically inaccurate.</li> <li>• Lower Fox Schoolhouse is furnished with period appropriate objects and is open to visitors on weekends. The school is not fully accessible and has limited interpretive messaging.</li> <li>• Deer Park Place is not open to visitors and therefore no interpretive information is available on site.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ranching landscape is mostly stable, but unused/unmaintained structures are slowly deteriorating.</li> <li>• Not all fencing has been replaced in kind (by The Nature Conservancy and neighboring landowners).</li> <li>• Historic hedgerows and cedar windbreak are deteriorating due to age and lack of maintenance.</li> </ul>
<b>Threats and Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anthropogenic encroachment on preserve viewshed, including wind turbines and cell phone towers.</li> <li>• Nonnative and invasive species encroachment on native prairie and ranching landscape features, such as Red House ruins.</li> <li>• Poor land management practices (overstocking; too much or too little prescribed fire).</li> <li>• Lack of maintenance of ranching landscape features due to lack of funding.</li> <li>• Vandalism to historic structures.</li> <li>• Increases in wildfire, changes in species composition, increases in invasive species, and other potential effects of climate change, which may alter ranching landscape and associated built features.</li> <li>• Unmanaged or inappropriate visitor use and activities.</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Ranching Landscape
<b>Threats and Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit volunteers to maintain and rehabilitate features of ranching landscape such as stone fences and spring boxes.</li> <li>• Partner with state and local universities to increase interpretation or operational use at Deer Park Place because of its location in town.</li> <li>• Use local stone mason skills.</li> <li>• Examine possibility of honor camp workers, following Minnesota’s “Sentence to Service” program.</li> <li>• Restore a portion of historic agricultural fields through heritage agriculture program guided by agriculture demonstration feasibility plan.</li> <li>• Expand interpretative and educational tools to communicate the connections between tallgrass prairie, recreation, human health, and ranching landscape.</li> </ul>
<b>Data and/or GIS Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate Ranch Hand House and determine future use (disposition / use / replacement).</li> <li>• Assess condition of Deer Park Place barn and outbuildings.</li> <li>• Assess and inventory terrace walls and fences.</li> <li>• Assess and inventory spring boxes including impacts of the historic water features on natural resources.</li> <li>• Evaluate condition of historic hedgerows and cedar windbreak using a certified arborist.</li> <li>• Detailed architectural drawings for the Lower Fox Creek Schoolhouse.</li> <li>• Identify sensitive natural and cultural areas throughout preserve, such as archeological sites, for use in future visitor development planning.</li> <li>• Lower Fox Creek Schoolhouse condition assessment.</li> </ul>
<b>Planning Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree preservation plan for cedar wind break and hedgerows.</li> <li>• Vegetation/prairie management plan.</li> <li>• Large ungulate grazing management plan.</li> <li>• Historic structures and cultural landscape management plan.</li> <li>• Circulation and accessibility plan in tandem with visitor experience plan.</li> <li>• Long-range interpretive plan (update).</li> </ul>
<b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b>	<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antiquities Act of 1906</li> <li>• Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974</li> <li>• Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979</li> <li>• Historic Sites Act of 1935</li> <li>• Museum Properties Management Act of 1955, as amended</li> <li>• National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended</li> <li>• Executive Order 11593, “Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment”</li> <li>• Secretarial Order 3289, “Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources”</li> <li>• “Protection of Historic Properties” (36 CFR 800)</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Ranching Landscape
<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p>	<p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management"</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§8.10) "Natural and Cultural Studies, Research, and Collection Activities"</li> <li>• Director's Order 24: <i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 47: <i>Soundscape Preservation and Noise Management</i></li> <li>• NPS <i>Museum Handbook</i>, parts I, II, and III</li> </ul>



<b>Fundamental Resource or Value</b>	<b>Expansive Views of the Prairie Landscape</b>
<b>Related Significance Statements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve offers opportunities for extraordinary and inspirational scenic views of the Flint Hills prairie landscape.</li> </ul>
<b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conditions over preserve vary but generally are very good.</li> <li>• Views looking north are excellent.</li> <li>• Views looking south are somewhat impacted by cell towers and town development.</li> <li>• Night skies are somewhat affected by light pollution from neighboring communities, especially Emporia.</li> <li>• Views from Deer Park Place are heavily impacted by highway and town.</li> <li>• Mixing ground for Kansas Department of Transportation and gas pipeline houses are significant intrusions to the viewshed from the preserve.</li> <li>• Fox Creek limestone bridge, Spring Hill Ranch headquarters structures, schoolhouse, stone fences, and related structures are acceptable impacts on prairie viewshed.</li> <li>• Parking lot lighting and lights inside visitor center have a negative impact on night sky from certain parts of the preserve.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development within preserve viewshed is increasing, including houses, water towers, and other developments such as cell towers.</li> </ul>
<b>Threats and Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased external and internal developments of many types may impact viewshed and night skies.</li> <li>• Wind energy development in the Flint Hills remains a possibility and could impact viewsheds in and around the park.</li> <li>• Lack of local zoning and ordinances diminishes ability to react to development threats.</li> <li>• Additional cell towers, power lines, and other vertical structures may be developed.</li> <li>• Scenic views can be obscured by pollution-caused haze.</li> <li>• Increases in wildfire, changes in species composition, increases in invasive species, and other potential effects of climate change may alter the viewshed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue working with The Nature Conservancy to protect viewshed near the preserve.</li> <li>• Partner with and engage additional preservation and protection organizations that seek to protect viewsheds.</li> <li>• Engage with local and state officials and boards to explore zoning, reviews, and other ways to influence development.</li> <li>• Work with local officials and Kansas Department of Transportation to replace or relocate offending activities and structures.</li> <li>• Bury utilities when feasible to reduce viewshed impacts.</li> <li>• Screen administrative/maintenance functions with vegetation where practical.</li> <li>• Work cooperatively with other federal and state air quality agencies and local stakeholders to reduce air quality impacts in the preserve from source air pollution.</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Expansive Views of the Prairie Landscape
<p><b>Threats and Opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>Opportunities (continued)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner with additional preservation and protection organizations, nearby landowners, planners, and developers to increase awareness and protection of viewsheds, scenic views, air quality, night sky, and natural sounds.</li> <li>• Expand interpretative and educational tools to communicate the connections between scenic views, night sky, air quality, tallgrass prairie, aquatic resources, recreation, human health, climate change, and other associated resources.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Data and/or GIS Needs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete and update visual resource inventory.</li> <li>• Continue in-park air quality monitoring.</li> <li>• Complete and update night sky research.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Planning Needs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land protection plan or boundary analysis.</li> <li>• Visual resource management plan.</li> <li>• Circulation and accessibility plan in tandem with visitor experience plan.</li> <li>• Long-range interpretive plan (update).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p>	<p><b>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 et seq.)</li> <li>• Secretarial Order 3289, “Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources”</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS Management Policies 2006 (§1.4) “Park Management”</li> <li>• NPS Management Policies 2006 (§1.6) “Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries”</li> <li>• NPS Management Policies 2006 (§3.1) “General”</li> <li>• NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.7) “Air Resource Management”</li> <li>• NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.10) “Lightscape Management”</li> <li>• NPS Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</li> </ul>



## Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs

This section considers key issues to be addressed in planning and management and therefore takes a broader view over the primary focus of part 1. A key issue focuses on a question that is important for a park. Key issues often raise questions regarding park purpose and significance and fundamental resources and values. For example, a key issue may pertain to the potential for a fundamental resource or value in a park to be detrimentally affected by discretionary management decisions. A key issue may also address crucial questions that are not directly related to purpose and significance, but which still affect them indirectly. Usually, a key issue is one that a future planning effort or data collection needs to address and requires a decision by NPS managers.

The following are key issues for Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve and the associated planning and data needs to address them:

- **Preserve Administration.** Current and clear management agreements between National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy are critical to ensuring that roles and responsibilities of both entities are defined and the joint management goals of the preserve are achieved.

In addition, long-term direction is needed for the preserve's staffing. Both the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy have staff on site. An administrative needs assessment should be conducted to determine staffing needs and ideal organizational alignment. A position management plan and staff organizational chart should be developed and agreed upon by both organizations to ensure staffing is cost efficient and appropriately allocated.

- **Facility Maintenance and Operations.** The facility maintenance and operations need to be clarified. There are a number of ongoing maintenance challenges in the preserve, but maintenance staff is limited. The location of the maintenance operations is also a concern; currently, maintenance operations and other storage are housed in a leased off-site facility. The lease agreement is draining base funds that could be used to hire additional support/seasonal staff or construct a park-owned multiuse facility. Other options should be explored for storage of maintenance equipment including building a facility on site.

Deferred maintenance on historic structures throughout preserve needs to be identified and prioritized. Overall, historic buildings and structures are stable and in fair condition, but maintenance on several historic structures has been deferred. Acute issues such as water infiltration, deteriorating foundations, and utility systems functionality exist for structures that are part of the Spring Hill Ranch. Without regular maintenance, the condition of these fundamental resources will deteriorate, and the structures will become more expensive to preserve and maintain. A comprehensive historic preservation strategy / cultural resource condition assessment should be developed and recommendations implemented.

Additionally, a decision is needed on the future of the Ranch Hand House. The Ranch Hand House was a support structure for operation of a large cattle ranch during the 20th century. It currently provides on-site support space for park operations and space for seasonal staff. Although not in immediate danger of collapse, it needs rehabilitation and maintenance to continue to serve in its present capacity. Alternatively, the structure could be removed to reduce maintenance expense and reflect the earlier time period represented by the national historic landmark.

- **Visitor Experience and Use.** The desired visitor experiences at the site need to be clarified. The general management plan envisioned expanding visitor uses, including the possibilities for camping and equestrian use, and those uses and others need to be evaluated. A circulation and accessibility plan is needed to address visitor circulation issues and identify opportunities to improve accessibility beginning at the visitor center and continuing throughout the Spring Hill Ranch Headquarters area. Connecting the preserve headquarters to the tallgrass prairie and bottomland areas could be accomplished through additional trail development. A development concept plan could examine connectivity issues, accessibility, trail uses and types, and other visitor uses throughout the preserve.

- **Increase Awareness of and Visitation to Preserve.** The National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy desire to improve awareness of the preserve to local and national audiences and to increase the relevancy of the preserve to more communities and populations. The partnership management model affords the preserve unique opportunities for marketing and outreach campaigns to future visitors.
- **Holistic Landscape Management.** Together, the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy manage the prairie ecosystem primarily through the use of fire, cattle, and bison. Discrete management plans for prairie restoration, prescribed fire, bison and cattle grazing, aquatic resource management, viewshed preservation, and cultural resource management need to be integrated to manage the landscape holistically. The partners need to work together to identify and resolve conflicting land management strategies.

## Planning and Data Needs

To maintain connection to the core elements of the foundation and the importance of these core foundation elements, the planning and data needs listed here are directly related to protecting fundamental resources and values, park significance, and park purpose, as well as addressing key issues. To successfully undertake a planning effort, information from sources such as inventories, studies, research activities, and analyses may be required to provide adequate knowledge of park resources and visitor information. Such information sources have been identified as data needs. Geospatial mapping tasks and products are included in data needs.

Items considered of the utmost importance were identified as high priority, and other items identified, but not rising to the level of high priority, were listed as either medium- or low-priority needs. These priorities inform park management efforts to secure funding and support for planning projects.

Planning Needs – Where A Decision-Making Process Is Needed			
Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
FRV	Aquatic resources management plan	H	This plan would analyze overall aquatic resources of the preserve, including experimental population restoration of the Topeka shiner, grazing impacts, and nonnative aquatic species. It also would address disposition of dams/stock ponds and develop process to manage or remove dams. It should address multipartner and compliance issues, including conflicts between the Endangered Species Act and National Historic Preservation Act.
FRV and Key Issue	Circulation and accessibility plan	H	This plan would evaluate visitor circulation and accessibility in the preserve. It would identify ways for visitors with varying abilities to access information and experience the preserve before, during, and after visits. It should ensure that facilities and programs are inclusive and accessible to all. This plan would assist in the proposed visitor experience plan.
FRV	Long-range interpretive plan (update)	H	An updated plan would provide direction on exhibits, interpretive media, and experiential opportunities.
FRV and Key Issue	Visitor experience plan	H	This plan would evaluate expanding visitor uses such as camping, biking, and equestrian use throughout the park. It would include development of a concept or plan that addresses facility and amenity changes around the headquarters area and throughout the preserve.
Key Issue	Marketing/outreach strategy	H	The strategy would explore ways to increase awareness, interest, and visitation to the preserve and the potential role of The Nature Conservancy in this effort.

Planning Needs – Where A Decision-Making Process Is Needed			
Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
Key Issue	Preserve staffing plan / strategy	H	An administrative needs assessment is needed to ensure staffing is allocated appropriately. The plan would address a needed base-funding increase in order to hire a facility manager. Greater maintenance capacity and much needed coordination could be realized if the preserve had a facility manager. The plan would also identify the roles and responsibilities of The Nature Conservancy.
FRV	Vegetation / prairie management plan	M	This plan would address invasive and conservation species management and reexamine cultural landscape report decisions related to natural resource management actions.
FRV	Large ungulate grazing management plan	M	This plan would evaluate cattle and bison operations related to historic practices, prairie and stream management, and impacts on native species.
FRV	Threatened and endangered species inventory and management plan	M	This plan is needed to comply with the Endangered Species Act. It should address biological opinions for new listed species and an updated biological opinion for the Topeka shiner.
FRV and Key Issue	Comprehensive historic preservation strategy/ cultural resource condition assessment	M	This plan would address funding and implementation of recommendations of the architectural/structural assessment. This planning need is related to the key issue of historic structures deferred maintenance.
FRV	Visual resource management plan	M	This plan would use the visual resource inventory as a baseline to identify goals and objectives as well as collaboration and other strategies to protect the valued characteristics of important views.
FRV	Historic structures and cultural landscape report	M	This plan would address the future condition of minor cultural features. It would include detailed architectural drawings for the “minor” buildings of the Spring Hill Ranch Headquarters and Deer Park Place.
FRV	Land protection plan or boundary analysis	L	This plan would address those parcels critical for the protection of viewshed and soundscape and determine ownership of adjacent land parcels. The plan has a low priority because no immediate external threats are expected.
FRV	Historic tree preservation plan	L	This plan would address management of historic trees including the cedar windbreak and hedgerows.



<b>Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made</b>			
<b>Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?</b>	<b>Data and GIS Needs</b>	<b>Priority (H, M, L)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
ORIV	Complete National Register of Historic Places nomination for local period of significance for entire preserve	H	Ongoing.
FRV	Fire suppression and security systems study	H	Health and safety concerns.
FRV and Key Issues	Visitor use study—visitor uses / experiences	H	Visitor uses and experiences, including visitor circulation patterns from headquarters to prairies and upland and bottomland agricultural demonstration areas, trail uses and types, and camping. These data would assist the visitor experience plan.
FRV and Key Issues	Visitor use study—trails	H	Install trail counters to determine visitor use patterns; examine trail counter locations and data gathering techniques/methodology. These data would assist the visitor experience plan.
FRV	Monitor and collect data on bison and cattle	H	Collect data on rangeland resources and herd behavior responses based on stocking rates; study impacts on natural and cultural landscape.
FRV and Key Issue	Ranch Hand House assessment	M	Determine local significance and integrity, as well as disposition/use/replacement.
FRV	Analysis of dam removal on Topeka shiner populations	M	Determine how stock dam removals would impact Topeka shiner populations. These data would assist aquatic resources management plan.
FRV	Evaluate stream and pond use by cattle and bison (ongoing)	M	Study effects of cattle and bison on streams and ponds throughout preserve.
Key Issue	Administrative needs assessment	M	Examine staffing needs and organizational alignment and the need for base funding increase. The assessment would assist development of preserve staffing plan and include The Nature Conservancy.
FRV	Controlled fire assessment	M	Implement post-fire data collection strategies to assess if management objectives are being achieved.
FRV	Identification of sensitive natural and cultural areas	M	Identify and map sensitive habitats throughout the preserve, including wetlands, high-priority stream reaches, and sensitive cultural areas such as archeological sites for use in future project planning and/or visitor use planning.
FRV	Small terrestrial fauna inventory	M	Collect data on small fauna, including mammals and herptofauna, to determine best management practices relative to ongoing management actions. It should focus on threatened and endangered species.
FRV	Stream fish monitoring	M	Continue and increase stream fish monitoring, focusing on state and federally listed species.
FRV	Air quality monitoring	L	Continue air quality monitoring to determine visibility conditions in preserve.
FRV	Water quality monitoring	L	Continue water quality monitoring to determine conditions related to land management and streams.

<b>Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made</b>			
<b>Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?</b>	<b>Data and GIS Needs</b>	<b>Priority (H, M, L)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
FRV	Natural flow patterns study	L	Determine natural flow patterns and potential impact of climate change on water availability.
FRV	Topeka shiner feasibility study	L	Investigate feasibility and logistics of experimental populations of Topeka shiners.
FRV	Architectural drawings	L	Detailed architectural drawings for other historic structures in the Spring Hill Ranch Headquarters.
FRV	Historic furnishings report	L	Determine types of furnishings needed for Spring Hill Ranch House and other historic structures.
FRV	Complete and update visual resource inventory	L	Analyze degree of visibility and evaluate night sky resources.
FRV	Deer Park Place Barn and outbuildings condition assessment	L	Determine the condition of the structures at Deer Park Place.
FRV	Condition inventory and assessment of terrace walls and fences	L	Determine extent and condition of historic fencing and walls.
FRV	Detailed inventory and assessment of spring boxes	L	Assess condition and study effects of historic water features on natural resources.
FRV	Tree evaluation by certified arborist (preserve headquarters area)	L	Evaluate headquarter trees, including historic cedar windbreak and hedgerows, for consistency with cultural landscape report recommendations.
FRV	Detailed architectural drawing for Lower Fox Creek Schoolhouse	L	Need for detailed architectural drawings.
FRV	Complete and update night sky research	L	Complete and update night sky research.
FRV	Lower Fox Creek Schoolhouse condition assessment	L	This assessment would guide the long-term preservation of the Lower Fox Creek Schoolhouse and include detailed architectural drawings of the building.



## Part 3: Contributors

### Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

Heather Brown, Chief of Interpretation  
Kristen Hase, Natural Resource Program Manager  
MaryBeth Murawski, Acting Administrative Officer  
Eric Patterson, Lead Park Ranger

### The Nature Conservancy

Paula Matile, Conservation Specialist  
Brian Obermeyer, Landscape Program Manager

### NPS Midwest Region

Tokey Boswell, Chief of Planning and Compliance  
Mathew Colwin, GIS Technician  
Chris Holbeck, Natural Resource Program Manager  
James Lange, Environmental Protection Specialist  
Brian Leaders, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program  
Dena Sanford, Architectural Historian

### Other NPS Staff

Nancy Shock, Foundation Coordinator, Denver Service Center–Planning  
Pam Holtman, Quality Assurance Coordinator, WASO Park Planning and Special Studies  
Judith Stoeser, Contract Editor, Denver Service Center–Planning  
Philip Viray, Publications Chief, Denver Service Center–Planning  
Brian D’Agosta, Contract Visual Information Specialist, Denver Service Center–Planning

## Appendixes

### Appendix A: Enabling Legislation for Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

**110 Stat. 4204, Public Law 104-333 (Nov. 12, 1996) (16 USC 698u)**  
 Title X—Miscellaneous, Subtitle A—Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve  
 Sec. 1001. Short Title. This subtitle may be cited as the “Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Act of 1996”

#### **16 USC 698u. Sec. 1002. Findings and Purpose.**

- (a) Findings.--Congress finds that—
- (1) of the 400,000 square miles of tallgrass prairie that once covered the North American Continent, less than 1 percent remains, primarily in the Flint Hills of Kansas;
  - (2) in 1991, the National Park Service conducted a special resource study of Spring Hill Ranch, located in the Flint Hills of Kansas;
  - (3) the study concludes that the Spring Hill Ranch—
    - (A) is a nationally significant example of the once vast tallgrass ecosystem, and includes buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places pursuant to section 101 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470a) that represent outstanding examples of Second Empire and other 19th Century architectural styles; and
    - (B) is suitable and feasible as a potential addition to the National Park System; and
  - (4) the National Park Trust, which owns the Spring Hill Ranch, has agreed to permit the National Park Service—
    - (A) to purchase a portion of the ranch, as specified in the subtitle; and
    - (B) to manage the ranch in order to—
      - (i) conserve the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife of the ranch; and
      - (ii) provide for the enjoyment of the ranch in such a manner and by such means as will leave the scenery natural and historic objects, and wildlife unimpaired for the enjoyment of
- (b) Purposes.--The purposes of this subtitle are—
- (1) to preserve, protect, and interpret for the public an example of a tallgrass prairie ecosystem on the Spring Hill Ranch, located in the Flint Hills of Kansas; and
  - (2) to preserve and interpret for the public the historic and cultural values represented on the Spring Hill Ranch.

#### **16 USC 698u-1. Sec. 1003. Definitions.**

In this subtitle:

- (1) Advisory Committee.--The term “Advisory Committee” means the Advisory Committee established under section 1007.
- (2) Preserve.--The term “Preserve” means the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve established by section 1004.
- (3) Secretary.--The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.
- (4) Trust.--The term “Trust” means the National Park Trust, Inc., a District of Columbia nonprofit corporation, or any successor-in-interest.

#### **16 USC 698u-2. Sec. 1004. Establishment of Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve.**

- (a) In General.--In order to provide for the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of the Spring Hill Ranch area of the Flint Hills of Kansas, for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations, there is established the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve.
- (b) Description.--The Preserve shall consist of the lands and interests in land, including approximately 10,894 acres, generally depicted on the map entitled “Boundary Map, Flint Hills Prairie National Monument” numbered NM-TGP 80,000 and dated June 1994, more particularly described in the deed filed at 8:22 a.m. of June 3, 1994, with the Office of the Register of Deeds in Chase County, Kansas, and recorded in Book L-106 at pages 328 through 339, inclusive. In the case of any difference between the map and the legal description, the legal description shall govern, except that if, as a result of a survey,

the Secretary determines that there is a discrepancy with respect to the boundary of the Preserve that may be corrected by making minor changes to the map, the Secretary shall make changes to the map as appropriate, and the boundaries of the Preserve shall be adjusted accordingly. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior.

**16 USC 698u-3. Sec. 1005. Administration of National Preserve.**

(a) In General.--The Secretary shall administer the Preserve in accordance with this subtitle, the cooperative agreements described in subsection (f)(1), and the provisions of law generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the Act entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes", approved August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1, 2 through 4) and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

(b) Application of Regulations.--With the consent of a private owner of land within the boundaries of the Preserve, the regulations issued by the Secretary concerning the National Park Service that provide for the proper use, management, and protection of persons, property, and natural and cultural resources shall apply to the private land.

(c) Facilities.--For purposes of carrying out the duties of the Secretary under this subtitle relating to the Preserve, the Secretary may, with the consent of a landowner, directly or by contract, construct, reconstruct, rehabilitate, or develop essential buildings, structures, and related facilities including roads, trails, and other interpretive facilities on real property that is not owned by the Federal Government and is located within the Preserve.

(d) Liability.—

(1) Liability of the United States and Its Officers and Employees.--Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the liability of the United States is subject to the terms and conditions of the Federal Tort Claims Act, as amended, 28 U.S.C. 2671 et seq., with respect to the claims arising by virtue of the Secretary's administration of the Preserve pursuant to this Act.

(2) Liability of Landowners.—

(A) The Secretary of the Interior is authorized, under such terms and conditions as he deems appropriate, to include in any cooperative agreement entered into in accordance with subsection (f)(1) an indemnification provision by which the United States agrees to hold harmless, defend and indemnify the landowner in full from and against any suit, claim, demand or action, liability, judgment, cost or other fee arising out of any claim of personal injury or property damage that occurs in connection with the operation of the Preserve under the agreement: Provided however, That indemnification shall not exceed \$3 million per claimant per occurrence.

(B) The indemnification provision authorized by subparagraph (A) shall not include claims for personal injury or property damage proximately caused by the wanton or willful misconduct of the landowner.

(e) Unit of the National Park System.--The Preserve shall be a unit of the National Park System for all purposes, including the purpose of exercising authority to charge entrance and admission fees under section 4 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-6a).

(f) Agreement and Donations.—

(1) Agreements.--The Secretary may expend Federal funds for the cooperative management of private property within the Preserve for research, resource management (including pest control and noxious weed control, fire protection, and the restoration of buildings), and visitor protection and use.

(2) Donations.--The Secretary may accept, retain, and expend donations of funds, property (other than real property), or services from individuals, foundations, corporations, or public entities for the purposes of providing programs, services, facilities, or technical assistance that further the purposes of this subtitle.

(g) General Management Plan.—

(1) In General.--Not later than the end of the third full fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives a general management plan for the Preserve.

(2) Consultation.--In preparing the general management plan, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the National Park Service, shall consult with— (A) (i) appropriate officials of the Trust; and (ii) the Advisory Committee; and (C) adjacent landowners, appropriate officials of nearby communities, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, the Kansas Historical Society, and other interested parties.

(3) Content of Plan.--The general management plan shall provide for the following:

(A) Maintaining and enhancing the tall grass prairie within the boundaries of the Preserve.

(B) Public access and enjoyment of the property that is consistent with the conservation and proper management of the historical, cultural, and natural resources of the ranch.

(C) Interpretive and educational programs covering the natural history of the prairie, the cultural history of Native Americans, and the legacy of ranching in the Flint Hills region.

(D) Provisions requiring the application of applicable State law concerning the maintenance of adequate fences within the boundaries of the Preserve.

In any case in which an activity of the National Park Service requires fences that exceed the legal fence standard otherwise applicable to the Preserve, the National Park Service shall pay the additional cost of constructing and maintaining the fences to meet the applicable requirements for that activity.

(E) Provisions requiring the Secretary to comply with applicable State noxious weed, pesticide, and animal health laws.

(F) Provisions requiring compliance with applicable State water laws and Federal and State waste disposal laws (including regulations) and any other applicable law.

(G) Provisions requiring the Secretary to honor each valid existing oil and gas lease for lands within the boundaries of the Preserve (as described in section 1004(b)) that is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(H) Provisions requiring the Secretary to offer to enter into an agreement with each individual who, as of the date of enactment of this act, holds rights for cattle grazing within the boundaries of the Preserve (as described in section 1004(b)).

(4) Hunting and Fishing.--The Secretary may allow hunting and fishing on Federal lands within the Preserve.

(5) Financial Analysis.--As part of the development of the general management plan, the Secretary shall prepare a financial analysis indicating how the management of the Preserve may be fully supported through fees, private donations, and other forms of non-Federal funding.

#### **16 USC 698u-4. Sec. 1006. Limited Authority to Acquire.**

(a) In General.--The Secretary shall acquire, by donation, not more than 180 acres of real property within the boundaries of the Preserve (as described in section 1004(b)) and the improvements on the real property.

(b) Payments In Lieu of Taxes.--For the purposes of payments made under chapter 69 of title 31, United States Code, the real property described in subsection (a)(1) shall be deemed to have been acquired for the purposes specified in section 6904(a) of that title.

(c) Prohibitions.--No property may be acquired under this section without the consent of the owner of the property. The United States may not acquire fee ownership of any lands within the Preserve other than lands described in this section.

#### **16 USC 698u-5 Sec. 1007. Advisory Committee.**

(a) Establishment.--There is established an advisory committee to be known as the “Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Advisory Committee”.

(b) Duties.--The Advisory Committee shall advise the Secretary and the Director of the National Park Service concerning the development, management, and interpretation of the Preserve. In carrying out those duties, the Advisory Committee shall provide timely advice to the Secretary and the Director during the preparation of the general management plan under section 1005(g).

(c) Membership.--The Advisory Committee shall consist of 13 members, who shall be appointed by the Secretary as follows:

- (1) Three members shall be representatives of the Trust.
- (2) Three members shall be representatives of local landowners, cattle ranchers, or other agricultural interests.
- (3) Three members shall be representatives of conservation or historic preservation interests.
- (4)
  - (A) One member shall be selected from a list of persons recommended by the Chase County Commission in the State of Kansas.
  - (B) One member shall be selected from a list of persons recommended by appropriate officials of Strong City, Kansas, and Cottonwood Falls, Kansas.
  - (D) One member shall be selected from a list of persons recommended by the Governor of the State of Kansas.
- (5) One member shall be a range management specialist representing institutions of higher education (as defined in section 1201(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1141(a))) in the State of Kansas.

(d) Terms.—

(1) In General.--Each member of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed to serve for a term of 3 years, except that the initial members shall be appointed as follows:

- (A) Four members shall be appointed, one each from paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (c), to serve for a term of 3 years.
- (B) Four members shall be appointed, one each from paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (c), to serve for a term of 4 years.
- (C) Five members shall be appointed, one each from paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (c), to serve for a term of 5 years.
  - (2) Reappointment.--Each member may be reappointed to serve a subsequent term.
  - (3) Expiration.--Each member shall continue to serve after the expiration of the term of the member until a successor is appointed.
  - (4) Vacancies.--A vacancy on the Advisory Committee shall be filled in the same manner as an original appointment is made. The member appointed to fill the vacancy shall serve until the expiration of the term in which the vacancy occurred.

(e) Chairperson.--The members of the Advisory Committee shall select 1 of the members to serve as Chairperson.

(f) Meetings.--Meetings of the Advisory Committee shall be held at the call of the Chairperson or the majority of the Advisory Committee. Meetings shall be held at such locations and in such a manner as to ensure adequate opportunity for public involvement. In compliance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), the Advisory Committee shall choose an appropriate means of providing interested members of the public advance notice of scheduled meetings.

(g) Quorum.--A majority of the members of the Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum.

(h) Compensation.--Each member of the Advisory Committee shall serve without compensation, except that while engaged in official business of the Advisory Committee, the member shall be entitled to travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(i) Charter.-- The rechartering provisions of section 14(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (15 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Advisory Committee.

**16 USC 698u-6. Sec. 1008. Restriction on Authority.**

Nothing in this subtitle shall give the Secretary authority to regulate lands outside the land area acquired by the Secretary under section 1006(a).

**16 USC 698u-7. Sec. 1009. Authorization of Appropriations.**

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the Interior such sums as are necessary to carry out this subtitle.

## Appendix B: Inventory of Administrative Commitments

Title/Agency/Organization	Purpose/Description	Expiration Date	Associated Stakeholders
Management agreement between NPS and The Nature Conservancy	Cooperative agreement for NPS to manage all lands within preserve as park unit	Update underway	The Nature Conservancy
Service First Agreement between NPS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Management of prescribed burns; assistance with wildfire response; firefighter training/support	In perpetuity, or if renewed or terminated by either party	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Fire management memorandum of understanding between The Nature Conservancy and Kansas State University, Kansas Forest Service	Facilitate cooperation in wildland and prescribed fire management	In perpetuity, or if renewed or terminated by either party	The Nature Conservancy, Kansas State University, Kansas Forest Service
Fire management memorandum of understanding between The Nature Conservancy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Collaborate and share crews, equipment, technical assistance for prescribed fire	December 31, 2017	The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism	Access for fishing; game warden enforcement and jurisdiction	December 31, 2019	Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, The Nature Conservancy
Informal agreement with Kansas Department of Health and Environment	Access for air quality and surface water quality monitoring	None	Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Ranching lease/hay/crop lease	Lease managed by The Nature Conservancy	Annual	The Nature Conservancy
Southern Star	Right-of-way for natural gas easement	None	The Nature Conservancy
Atmos Energy	Right-of-way for natural gas easement	None	The Nature Conservancy
Westar Energy	Right-of-way for powerline easement	None	The Nature Conservancy
Flint Hills Rural Electric Coop	Right-of-way for powerline easement	None	The Nature Conservancy
Kansas Department of Transportation	Right-of-way for state highway easement	None	The Nature Conservancy
Chase County	Right-of-way for county roads	None	The Nature Conservancy
City of Strong City	Inholding containing sewage lagoon; some easements associated with pipes, outflow, etc.	None	The Nature Conservancy
Loan agreement with NPS Midwest Archeological Center	Storage facilities for artifacts and museum collections owned by The Nature Conservancy and NPS	October 20, 2012	NPS Midwest Archeological Center, The Nature Conservancy
Cooperative agreement with Kansas State University	CESU task agreement for research on upland stream fluvial geomorphology, impacts of nonnative pond fish, and management of Topeka Shiner	September 30, 2018	Kansas State University
Flint Hills National Scenic Byway	Agreement between State of Kansas and NPS	None	State of Kansas

## Appendix C: Selected Past and Ongoing Park Planning and Data Collection Efforts

Planning Documents and Data Collection	Date
Natural resources condition assessment	In Process
Topeka shiner management plan by Kansas State University	In Process
National Register of Historic Places on secondary period of significance	In Process
Heartland Inventory and Monitoring data collection	In process
Fire management plan	2016
Cultural landscape inventory	2015
List of Classified Structures database	2015
Programmatic exotic plant management plan	2011
Bison management plan	2009
Cultural sites inventory	2008
General management plan amendment	2007
Agricultural demonstration area feasibility plan	2007
Long-range interpretive plan	2005
Cultural landscape report	2004
Cultural landscape report (Corral Area project)	2002
Historic structures condition report	2000
Historic resources study	2000
General management plan	2000
Historic resources study	2000
Archeological overview and assessment	1999
Dam inventory	1998
Legislative history, 1920-1996	1998
National historic landmark nomination	1997
Special resources study	1991

---

## Midwest Region Foundation Document Recommendation Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

June 2017

---

This Foundation Document has been prepared as a collaborative effort between park and regional staff and is recommended for approval by the Northeast Regional Director.



6/26/2017

RECOMMENDED

Kristen Hase, Acting Superintendent, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

Date



6/26/2017

APPROVED

Cameron H. Sholly, Regional Director, Midwest Region

Date



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

TAPR 031/138371

June 2017

# Foundation Document • Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

