Click on a prairie name on the following pages and it will take you to a printable map and description!
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MDC  Missouri Department of Conservation
DNR  Department of Natural Resources
TNC  The Nature Conservancy
MPF  The Missouri Prairie Foundation
MU   University of Missouri
ORLT Ozark Regional Land Trust
1 Star School Hill Prairie Natural Area  
(within Star School Hill Prairie Conservation Area)

Location: (T66N, R42W, S2) Atchison County. Approximately 1.5 miles south of the Iowa state line and 12 miles north of Rockport. Immediately east of Hwy. 275 and Interstate 29.

Origin of name: The area was named after the Star School, a one-room schoolhouse located on the south tract of the conservation area.

Size: The natural area is 70 acres; the conservation area is 289 acres. Degraded areas are actively being restored to prairie.


Features: These scenic dry prairie tracts are located on rugged loess mounds adjacent to and high above the Missouri River floodplain. The excessively hot, dry conditions present on these prairie mounds provide suitable habitat for several plants and animals characteristic of the Great Plains: blue grama and hairy grama grass, large beardtongue, scarlet gaura, rough false foxglove, downy painted cup and Plains pocket mouse.

2 Brickyard Hill Loess Mound Natural Area  
(within Brickyard Hill Conservation Area)

Location: (T65N, R42W, S1 and 12; T65N, R41W, S6 and S7) Atchison County. Eight miles south of the Missouri/Iowa state line on the east side of I-29 on Hwy. A, then east on road RA.

Origin of name: The natural area is included within Brickyard Hill Conservation Area.

Size: 125 acres (41 acres prairie); the conservation area is 2,262 acres.

Ownership: Missouri Department of Conservation, 1962.

Features: This upland dry prairie occurs on rugged loess mounds. Great Plains plant species on the area include soapweed, dalea, hairy grama grass, plains muhly grass, silvery scurfy pea, downy painted cup and skeleton weed. The elevation changes more than 200 feet on the area.

3 Tarkio Prairie Natural Area  
(within Tarkio Prairie Conservation Area)

Location: (T67N, R38W, S28) Atchison County. Approximately 12 miles northeast of Tarkio. The conservation area is 5 miles east of Westboro off of Hwy. C and 2 miles south.

Origin of name: The area lies at the upper headwaters of Tarkio Creek; Tarkio is the Osage name for walnut. Also, there is an exceptionally large walnut growing along the creek.

Size: The natural area is 57 acres; the conservation area is 560 acres. Much of the area is prairie of varying quality; some portions are being restored to prairie.


Features: Tarkio Prairie is one of few remaining Glaciated Plains prairies. It features a diverse prairie flora on loess and glacial till soils. The area also has an interesting small shrub component of dwarf chinquapin oak, hazelnut and prairie willow. Long Branch Creek flows through the area, bisecting the prairie. The conservation area has two hiking trails totalling 1.5 miles.
4 McCormack Loess Mound Natural Area
(within McCormack Conservation Area)

**Location:** (T61N, R39W, S36) Holt County. On Hwy. 159 (west off of I-29, exit 79) and adjacent to Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge. From the junction of Hwy. 159 and I-29 south of Mound City, head west on Hwy. 159 for 3 miles. A sign for the conservation area and parking lot are on the east side of the road here.

**Origin of name:** The conservation area and natural area were named after the donor of the area.

**Size:** McCormack Loess Mounds, owned by The Nature Conservancy and leased to the Conservation Department, is 158 acres. The entire McCormack Conservation Area is 242 acres. The 112-acre McCormack Loess Mound Natural Area includes parts of both The Nature Conservancy and the Missouri Department of Conservation land (TNC, 43 acres; MDC, 69 acres).


**Features:** This upland prairie is on rugged loess mounds with plains-prairie-woodland species. The prairie is on deep Napier and Hamburg soils and harbors Great Plains plants like downy painted cup, hairy grama grass, skeleton plant and low milk vetch. Grasses, however, are the dominate plants here. The elevation changes 240 feet on the area. The loess mounds are managed by controlled fires on a three-year rotation. Mid to late October is a good time to visit, when the grasses turn color and migrating waterfowl are visible at neighboring Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge.

5 Pawnee Prairie Conservation Area/ Pawnee Prairie Preserve

**Location:** (T66N R29W, S13 and S14). Harrison County. Take Hwy. 46 to Hatfield, then take gravel road out of Hatfield south .5 mile.

**Origin of name:** Named for a small community that once existed near the site. The name also recognizes the Native American heritage of the area.

**Size:** Missouri Department of Conservation, 476 acres; The Nature Conservancy, 434 acres.

**Ownership:** Missouri Department of Conservation, 1996; The Nature Conservancy, 1996.

**Features:** The land is rolling upland grassland with several wetland areas and dry-mesic and mesic prairie. Major portions are undergoing restoration. On the Conservation Department portion, an unchannelized tributary of Muddy Creek crosses the tract. Cord grass dominates the stream bottom and the larger upland drainages. The ridgetops, 120 feet above the prairie bottom, support drier prairie species like little bluestem. Pawnee has the best representation of grassland birds of any public prairie in the region, including bobolinks, upland sandpipers, Henslow’s sparrows, western meadowlarks, dickcissels and grasshopper sparrows. Sedge wrens are abundant in late July and August. Notable plant species include Culver’s root, Michigan lily, thimbleweed, great St. John’s wort, and northern Missouri’s only known tussock sedge population. Pawnee is also home to the regal fritillary butterfly.
6 Helton Prairie Natural Area
(within Wayne Helton Memorial Wildlife Area)

Location: (T63N, R26W, S16) Harrison County. Approximately 5 miles southwest of Mount Moriah and 9 miles east of Bethany in the extreme northwest corner of the Wayne Helton Memorial Wildlife Area. The wildlife area is on route CC, 3 miles south of Hwy. 136.

Origin of name: After Wayne Helton, a partial donor of the area.

Size: 30 acres (12 prairie, 18 being restored).

Ownership: Missouri Department of Conservation, 1969.

Features: Helton Prairie Natural Area is a high quality upland prairie located in the Glaciated Plains of northern Missouri. The clay loam and silty clay loam soils of the site are somewhat poorly drained, and much of the prairie exhibits mesic vegetation. Helton Prairie is especially showy in late May and through June. Bunch flower, culver’s root and Michigan lily contribute to the excellent plant diversity of the area. Bobolinks are especially visible in June and sedge wrens in late July and August.

7 Chloe Lowry Marsh Natural Area
(within Chloe Lowry Marsh Conservation Area)

Location: (T65N, R24W, S16 and S17) Mercer County. Near Princeton. Go 2 miles north on Road FF, then 2 miles on a gravel road that leads to Lowry Memorial airport.

Origin of name: The conservation area and natural area were named for the previous owner.

Size: 115 acres (15 acres wet-mesic prairie, 40 acres marsh, 10 acres wet-mesic savanna, 50 acres old field, timber and tree plantings).


Features: The area includes 40 acres of marsh and 15 acres of wet-mesic prairie in the Grand River section of the Glaciated Plains Natural Division. Lowry Marsh is one of the highest quality natural marshes in the state, containing many rare or endangered species including several sedges, marsh skullcap, star duckweed, tufted loosestrife and the rare northern leopard frog. The upland prairie portion of the area is being restored. There is a .5 mile hiking trail. Chloe Lowry Marsh Natural Area was designated in 1995.

8 Foxglove Conservation Area

Location: (T53N, R29W, S23 and S24) Ray County. Approximately 5 miles northeast of Excelsior Springs. One-half mile east of Vibbard on gravel road 174 and .5 mile north on gravel road 235.

Origin of name: Named after the auriculate false foxglove (Agalinus auriculata), which is common on the area.

Size: 55 acres (35 prairie, 20 being restored).


Features: This rolling, brushy prairie formed predominately on silty clay loam and clay loam soils. The area has good plant diversity including lead plant, rattlesnake master and compass plant. Small populations of hairy parsley and prickly pear cactus are associated with small limestone outcrops on the area. Periodic prescribed fires are used to help reduce invasion of woody species and to stimulate the native prairie grasses and forbs.
9 Cordgrass Bottoms Natural Area and Locust Creek Prairie (within Pershing State Park)

**Location:** Cordgrass Bottoms: (T57N, R21W, S11) Linn County. At the north end of Pershing State Park; southwest of the intersection of Hwys. 36 and 130, on the east side of Locust Creek.

**Size:** 80 acres.

**Location:** Locust Creek Prairie: (T57N, R21W, S14, S15, S22 and S23; T58N, R21W, S26, S27) Linn County. A boardwalk access is 1.5 miles south of Hwy. 36 from the Hwy. 130 park entrance.

**Size:** 800 acres.

**Ownership:** Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks.

**Features:** Locust Creek Prairie is the largest riverine wet prairie left in the Glaciated Plains of northern Missouri. It is associated with an unchannelized section of Locust Creek and features wet prairie with wet savanna borders, a mosaic of open water marshes and shrub swamp slough, all underlain by alluvial silt loam soils. Cordgrass Bottoms Natural Area has 30 acres of cord grass prairie and marsh; other characteristic plants include many sedges, swamp milkweed, false aster, Sullivant’s milkweed, bluejoint grass, white beard-tongue, blue flag and sawtooth sunflower.

10 Bee Trace & Little Chariton Grasslands (within Long Branch State Park)

**Location:** Bee Trace: (T58N, R14W, S19, S30 and S31) Macon County. Going north on Hwy. 63, turn west on the gravel road that is 5 miles north of the intersection of Hwys. 36 and 63. Go west 2 miles to the Long Branch State Park sign (this is a peninsula in the north end of the park). Little Chariton Grasslands: (T58N, R15W, S1 and S12) Macon County. Enter the park from Hwy. 36 2 miles west of the town of Macon. The prairie borders the campground and is easily accessible to visitors.

**Size:** Bee Trace: 200 acres total. Prairie remnants scattered within a large restoration area; the largest remnant is 30 acres. Little Chariton Grasslands: 100 acres.

**Ownership:** The Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks.

**Features:** Bee Trace and Little Chariton Grasslands are rare examples of the prairie landscape that once dominated the glaciated plains. Many native grasses and forbs indicative of the original diversity of the dry-mesic prairies of northern Missouri are preserved at this site. There are also remnant savannas with old-growth white and bur oaks.
11 Hidden Hollow Conservation Area

Location: (T60N, R16W, S24) Macon County. Go 6.4 miles west of La Plata on Hwy. 156 to Rt. 3; go south to La Crosse and take Fox Road to the west to the conservation area.

Origin of name: There is a sizable hollow on the area that is hidden from the road and the river.

Size: 41 acres; the conservation area is 1,228 acres.


Features: These 41 acres of exceptional dry-mesic prairie are located in the east-central part of the conservation area. The prairie occurs on the tops and sides of two parallel, northeast-southeast trending side ridges, divided by a wooded draw. The prairie is dominated by typical prairie grasses with a moderate to high forb diversity, including conservative species like white prairie clover and leadplant. There are also small wet-mesic swales dominated by cord grass in the conservation area.

12 Steyermark Sand Prairie

(within Frost Island Conservation Area)

Location: (T65N, R6W, S9) Clark County. Four miles north of Wayland on Hwy. B., then east 1 mile on unnamed gravel road.

Origin of name: For the late botanist Dr. Julian Steyermark, who visited here in 1949.

Size: The sand prairie is 6 acres; the conservation area is 1178 acres.


Features: One of our extremely rare sand prairies, Steyermark Sand Prairie is being restored and expanded into old crop fields adjacent to the existing prairie. Some of the plants of this sand prairie include sand dropseed, dotted bee balm, sand milkweed and plains puccoon.

13 Sherwood, Sac, Northwoods and Dry Branch Prairies

(within Cuivre River State Park)

Location: Cuivre River State Park is located 3 miles east of Troy off Hwy. 47 in central Lincoln County. Sherwood Prairie: (T49N, R01E, SW4 S4). Sac Prairie: (T49N, R01E, S5). Northwoods Prairie: (T50N, R01E, S29, S30 and S32). Dry Branch Prairie: (T49N, R01E, NE4 S5).

Size: 70 acres (Sherwood Prairie); 8 acres (Sac Prairie); 20 acres (Northwoods Prairie); 25 acres (Dry Branch Prairie).

Ownership: Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks.

Features: These native prairie restoration areas feature remnant and restored upland dry-mesic prairie bordered by savanna and woodland. Many plants indicative of the original diversity of the Lincoln Hills are preserved in these prairie tracts.
14 Tucker Prairie Natural Area
Location: (T48N, R10W, S12) Callaway County. Two and one-half miles west of junction of I-70 and Hwy. 54.
Origin of name: For the Tucker family, who were previous owners of the prairie.
Size: 146 acres.
Ownership: University of Missouri, 1957.
Features: Tucker Prairie Natural Area is a gently rolling, upland hardpan prairie over silt loam soils derived from loess. Some 224 plant species and varieties are recorded for the area. University faculty and students use the area as a research station; current projects include haying and burning effects on the prairie.

15 Hite Prairie Conservation Area
Location: (T42N, R18W, S12) Morgan County. Near the southwest edge of Versailles, .5 mile south of Hwy. 52.
Origin of name: For the Hite family, who were the previous owners of the prairie.
Size: 102 acres (66 prairie, 36 being restored).
Ownership: Missouri Department of Conservation, 1980.
Features: This Ozark Border prairie is located on flat to gently rolling soils and is the most eastern public prairie south of the Missouri River. A diversity of prairie plants flower on most of the area throughout the growing season.
16 Grandfather Prairie Conservation Area

Location: (T44N, R22W, S24) Pettis County. Eight miles south of Sedalia on Hwy. 65, then 2 miles west on Mather Road.

Origin of name: The Osage Indians revered the sun, which they called "Grandfather."

Size: 78 acres (51 prairie).


Features: Grandfather Prairie is an upland prairie with a rich variety of spring flowering plants. A wooded tract on the north part of the area adds habitat variety for wildlife.
17 Friendly Prairie
Location: (T44N, R22W, S25) Pettis County. Nine miles south of Sedalia on Hwy. 65, 1.25 miles west on Manila Road.
Origin of name: In the past, Friendly Prairie served as an informal roadside rest stop for highway travelers.
Size: 40 acres.
Features: This upland prairie was formed over silt loam soils derived from shale and cherty limestone. Over 257 plant species have been recorded from Friendly Prairie. Fifty-two bird species have been identified, including the greater prairie-chicken.

18 Paint Brush Prairie Conservation Area
Location: (T44N, R21W, S29 and S32) Pettis County. Nine miles south of Sedalia on Hwy. 65, then east on Manila Road.
Origin of name: Named after the showy Indian paintbrush that occurs on the prairie.
Size: 314 acres (5 cropland, 299 prairie).
Features: This dry-mesic upland prairie was formed over soils derived from cherty limestone and shale. Paint Brush is a very showy spring flowering prairie. Notable animal and plants include the prairie mole cricket, regal fritillary butterfly, Mead's milkweed and bunchflower. A 76-acre Missouri natural area is located on the northwestern part of the area.

19 Drovers' Prairie
Location: (T43N, R22W, S1) Pettis County. Ten miles south of Sedalia on Hwy. 65, then 1 mile west on Hwy. 52 on the south side of the road.
Origin of name: After the cattle drovers that came through the region.
Size: 80 acres.
Features: This prairie comprises two 40-acre tracts. The northeastern 40 acres are slightly rolling and dry-mesic. The southwestern 40 acres are almost flat and bounded on the west by a fringe of woody vegetation along Henry Creek. It is mesic/wet-mesic, perhaps with an underlying clay pan. A total of 257 plant species have been recorded from Drovers', including Michigan lily, prairie hyacinth, seedbox and cord grass. Drovers' is also home to a flock of greater prairie-chickens.

20 Hi Lonesome Prairie Conservation Area
Location: (T43N, R21W, S22, S23, S26 and S27) Benton County. One mile west of Cole Camp on Hwy. 52, then .5 mile north on county road NE221.
Origin of name: The previous owner named the area from the greeting that one cowboy would give to another when they would meet on the trail or over a campfire. This name now welcomes visitors to the prairie.
Size: 627 acres.
Features: This is one of the largest remaining tracts of native prairie in this part of Missouri. It provides an important year-round habitat for greater prairie-chickens, which visitors have a good chance of seeing, especially in the spring. One gets the feeling of being at the point where prairies meet Ozark forests when standing on the prairie ridgetops and seeing forested hills to the south.

21 Goodnight-Henry Prairie
Location: (T44N, R21W, S22) Pettis County. Seven miles south of Sedalia on Hwy. 65, 3 miles east on Hwy. V, .25 mile south on Hwy. U on west side.
Origin of name: Named for the donor's family name.
Size: 40 acres.
Features: This upland prairie has more than 200 native species of spring and summer flowering plants. Regal fritillary butterflies also occur here.
22 Rock Hill Prairie

Location: (T41N, R22W, S22) Benton County. Approximately 6 miles north of Warsaw, along east side of Hwy 65, just south of Hwy BB.

Origin of name: After the local name for the small rise on which the prairie is situated.

Size: 68 acres, formerly all prairie, now three intact prairie areas totaling approximately 40 acres; active restoration program underway on site.


Features: This chert/dolomite dry and dry-mesic prairie has numerous glade plants interspersed with prairie vegetation. Upper portions of the prairie are on cherty, well drained soils; lower slopes have a dolomite influence. Small, seepy areas harbor plants of more mesic prairie sites. Plants at Rock Hill Prairie include Mead’s milkweed, blue wild indigo, showy goldenrod, yellow coneflower, purple prairie clover and scurfy pea.

23 Chapel View Prairie Conservation Area

Location: (T40N, R26W, S31) Henry County. Two and one-half miles west of Deepwater on Hwy 52, 2 miles south on Hwy F, then .5 mile west on county road SW 1000.

Origin of name: From the highest point on the prairie, a person can see Teay’s Chapel Church to the west.

Size: 384 acres (301 prairie, 81 forest, 2 lake/pond).


Features: Formed over silt loam soils, this upland prairie supports a wide variety of wildflowers and native grasses, especially on the west portion of the area. Chapel View Prairie is managed for greater prairie-chickens and is grazed. Other animals using the area include upland sandpipers and prairie mole crickets.

24 Dorsett Hill Prairie Conservation Area

Location: (T43N, R32W, S24) Cass County. Northeast of Everett on Route W, 1 mile east on 333rd Street, and .25 mile north on Dorsett Hill Lane.

Origin of name: After one of the historic place names of the region.

Size: 79 acres (14 prairie; 65 old fields and woods).


Features: Dorsett Hill Prairie is a prairie knoll surrounded by upland shrub and hardwood timber. The forest border adds to the rich plant and animal species composition of the area.
25 Ripgut Prairie Natural Area

Location: (T39N, R31W, S33 and S34) Bates County. Three-quarter mile east of Rich Hill on Hwy. B, 1.25 miles north and east on a gravel road (marked on Hwy. B with a sign), then .25 mile north on another unnamed gravel road (also marked with a sign).

Origin of name: Named after the dominant stand of ripgut wet prairie on the area.

Size: 280 acres (ripgut 124, cropland 106, forest 15, other 35).

Ownership: Missouri Department of Conservation, 1983.

Features: The primary feature is the ripgut grass or cord grass (Spartina pectinata) wet prairie. A 40-acre old field is also being restored to ripgut grass. The flat to rolling prairie occurs on silt loam to silty clay soils, and the land attracts a variety of wildlife. The Bates County Drainage Ditch (man-made channel of the Marais des Cygnes River) traverses the area diagonally for about 1,700 feet. The portion east of the ditch is wet-mesic prairie.
26 Gama Grass Prairie Conservation Area
Location: (T37N, R32W, S1) Vernon County. Four miles south of Rich Hill on Hwy. 71, then 1 mile west on gravel road to the parking lot.
Origin of name: After the dominant stand of eastern gama grass found on the area.
Size: 80 acres.
Features: This is a flat hardpan prairie over silt loam to silty clay soils. The area contains the largest stand of eastern gama grass in the state. Shrubby and forested draws add to the wildlife diversity.

27 Horton Bottoms Natural Area
(within Four Rivers Conservation Area)
Location: (T37N, R31W, S9, S10, S15 and S16) Vernon County. The main entrance is in Vernon County, 15 miles north of Nevada on Hwy. 71, 1 mile east on Hwy. TT, then 2.5 miles south on gravel road marked with a cantilever sign.
Origin of name: The area is a low bottomland located immediately east of the small town of Horton.
Size: 227 acres (44 prairie, 38 marsh, 145 forest and savanna); the conservation area is 6,696 acres.
Ownership: Missouri Department of Conservation, 1986.
Features: This natural area is a high quality complex of bottomland natural communities (wet prairie, wet savanna, marsh, bottomland forest and headwaters stream) located on the floodplain between the Marmaton and Little Osage Rivers. The silty clay soils are level or nearly so, with very slow permeability that leads to seasonal wetness and local ponding of water. The prairie is dominated by cord grass, sedges and smartweeds, with scattered buttonbush and willows. Bald eagles use the area in winter, and a heron rookery with more than 100 nests is located along the Little Osage River.

28 Douglas Branch Conservation Area
Location: (T36N, R31W, S6 and S5; T37N R31W, S32) Vernon County. Approximately 6 miles north of Nevada just west of Hwy. 71. Access to the area is by gravel road traveling west from the cantilever sign. Travel 3.3 mile west along the gravel road to the parking lot.
Origin of name: Named after Douglas Branch, which is a tributary of the Marmaton River that flows through the southeastern corner of the tract.
Size: 360 acres (140 prairie, 60 timber and 160 pasture).
Features: The outstanding feature of this area is the intact natural gradient from riparian timber to wet bottomland prairie to upland prairie. This is the only public prairie where this continuum of habitats still exists. The flat bottomland prairie occurs on silty clay soils and is dominated by cord grass.

29 Marmaton River Bottoms Wet Prairie
Location: (T36N, R32W, S13; T36N, R31W, S18, S19, S30) Vernon County. Three miles northwest of downtown Nevada. From the intersection of Business Route 71 and Hwy. W in downtown Nevada, proceed north on W (Ash Street) through town. About .5 mile after passing the state hospital on your left, W turns sharply west. Do not make this turn, but instead proceed straight on a small road continuing north. After 1 mile, this road ends at a T junction—turn west. Follow this road through its twists and turns, over the Marmaton River Bridge and continue west to the first road leading south—proceed down this until you come to an abandoned white house on the west. You are at the north end of the preserve.
Origin of name: Named after the major stream located on the east boundary.
Size: 609 acres (200 ripgut prairie, 80 old cropland; the remainder is a mix of wet-mesic woodlands and bottomland forest).
Features: This is the largest known tract of uplowed wet prairie in Missouri. The primary features of the area are the ripgut or cord grass wet prairie and the wet woodlands of pecan, kingnut hickory, bur oak and pin oak. The flat prairie occurs on silty clay soils. The variety of vegetation from prairie to wet savanna, forest to sloughs and two oxbow lakes adds greatly to the flora and wildlife; the old croppfields are also being restored to ripgut prairie. Notable species on the area include the double-crested cormorant, catchfly grass, swamp dock, small white aster, bur sedge, swamp sedge, Oklahoma sedge, white turtlehead and violet cress.

30 Flight Lake Conservation Area
Location: (T36N, R32W, S26) Vernon County. Seven miles north of Nevada on Hwy. 71, 2.5 miles west on Hwy. D, and 4 miles south on Hwy. 0. Watch for the area sign on Hwy. 0, and take the gravel road near the sign 1 mile south. Turn west on the next gravel road marked with a cantilever sign.
Origin of name: Name retained after the previous owners who used the area for waterfowl hunting.
Size: 159 acres (54 ripgut, 41 lake, 29 old field, 34 woods).
Ownership: Missouri Department of Conservation, 1983.
Features: The primary feature is the ripgut or cord grass wet prairie. The lake attracts shorebirds and a variety of waterfowl. The wet soils are silt loam and silty clay.
31 Stilwell Prairie

Location: (T36N, R33W, S3) Vernon County. One mile east of Richards on Route H, then 1 mile north on gravel road.

Origin of Name: Named after Arthur Stilwell, founder of the Kansas City Southern Railroad whose right-of-way forms the west boundary of the property and whose successor in business donated the property to the Missouri Prairie Foundation.

Size: 376 acres, about half in high quality prairie, the balance in degraded prairie now being restored.


Features: Stilwell is an isolated, dramatically rolling upland prairie over silt loam soils derived from shale and sandstone. There has been substantial elimination of invading trees and shrubs in recent years. Frequent controlled burns also stimulate diverse and abundant native grasses and forbs. A total of 357 plant species have been recorded from Stilwell Prairie.

32 Little Osage Prairie Natural Area

Location: (T35N, R31W, S34) Vernon County. Six miles south of Nevada on Hwy. 71, 1.5 miles west on an unnamed gravel road (watch for the area sign).

Origin of name: For the primary Native American tribe of the region and a smaller unit of the Osage Prairie.

Size: 80 acres.

Ownership: Purchased in 1975 by The Nature Conservancy with funds by Miss Katherine Ordway.

Features: Little Osage is an upland prairie over silt loam soils derived from shale and sandstone. A high diversity of native plants grow on the area, including Mead’s milkweed. Prairie mole crickets also occur here.

33 Osage Prairie Conservation Area

Location: (T34N, R31W, S3 and S4) Vernon County. Six miles south of Nevada on Hwy. 71, .5 mile west on an unnamed gravel road (marked with a sign), then .5 mile south on another unnamed road.

Origin of name: Named for the primary Native American tribe of the region.

Size: 1,506 acres (1,466 prairie; 40 cropland).


Features: This upland prairie was formed over silt loam soils derived from shale and sandstone. The area contains stretches of three streams and features diverse flora and fauna, including northern harriers, greater prairie-chickens, short-eared owls, upland sandpipers, Henslow’s sparrows, coyote and white-tailed deer. A 335-acre portion of this prairie is a Missouri natural area.
34 Taberville Prairie Conservation Area

Location: (T38N, R28W, S14, S15, S22, S23 and S26) St. Clair County. One-half mile east of Appleton City on Hwy. 52, 2 miles south on Hwy. A, then 7 miles south on Hwy. H.

Origin of name: After the town of Taberville and its first physician, Dr. Taber.

Size: 1,680 acres (1,410 prairie, 210 being restored; 60 cropland). Taberville Prairie Natural Area is 1,360 acres of the conservation area.


Features: A National Natural Landmark, Taberville is an upland, Ozark border prairie over silt loam soil derived from shale and sandstone. It features sandstone outcrops, prairie mounds and a spring-fed stream across the southwestern corner of the area. There is also a hiking trail and an old home site on the area. Some 400 plant species have been recorded for Taberville, including the rare Geocarpon minimum, which grows on sandstone outcrops. There is a permanent flock of greater prairie-chickens and large populations of regal fritillary butterflies most years. Taberville Prairie Natural Area comprises 1,360 acres of the conservation area.
35 Schell-Osage Prairies
(within Schell-Osage Conservation Area)

Location: (T37N, R28W, S9, S17, S18 and S19) St. Clair County and (T38N, R29W, S34, S35 and S36) Vernon County, 20 miles east of Nevada on Hwy. 54, 12 miles north on county road AA, then 1 mile down county road RA.

Origin of name: After the town of Schell City and the nearby Osage River.

Size: 171 acres (eight separate tracts ranging from 3 to 100 acres).

Ownership: Missouri Department of Conservation, 1959.

Features: The five upland, Ozark border prairies of Schell-Osage occur over silt loam soils derived from shale sandstone and cherty limestone. Three areas contain both upland and bottomland prairies. The area attracts thousands of ducks and geese, plus numerous eagles.

36 Wah’Kon-Tah Prairie

Location: (T36N, R28W, S2, S3, S10, S11, S14, S15 and S23) St. Clair and Cedar Counties. Two and one-half miles northeast of El Dorado Springs on north side of Hwy. 82, or 1 mile east of El Dorado Springs on Lake Hill Road.

Origin of name: Named in honor of the Osage tribe of Native Americans. “Wah’Kon-Tah” means “Great Spirit” or “Great Mystery.”

Size: 2,858 acres.


Features: Wah’Kon-Tah is the largest, easternmost tallgrass prairie in North America. It is an upland, Ozark border prairie over cherty silt loam soils derived from cherty limestone. The area contains three permanent springs and several draws. There is a diverse flora on the area, including Mead’s milkweed and grass pink orchid. A resident flock of greater prairie-chickens lives on the area, and upland sandpipers are common. Scissor-tailed flycatchers, Henslow’s sparrows and prairie mole crickets also occur on the area. Deer and wild turkeys range on the north boundary. A small portion of the site was used for a golf course in the early years of El Dorado Springs.

37 Monegaw Prairie Conservation Area

Location: (T36N, R28W, S25 and S36) Cedar County. Some 2.5 miles east of El Dorado Springs on the south side of Hwy. 54.

Origin of name: After a latter day Osage chief who allegedly lived in the Monegaw Springs area.

Size: 270 acres.

Ownership: The Nature Conservancy purchased 180 acres in 1975 with funds by Miss Katherine Ordway. An additional 90 acres was purchased by the Missouri Department of Conservation from The Nature Conservancy in 1978.

Features: Monegaw is an upland, Ozark border prairie over silt loam soils derived from cherty limestone and sandstone. The area contains a permanent spring and spring branch. A diverse flora occurs on the area, including Mead’s milkweed.

38 Schwartz Prairie

Location: (T36N, R27W, S1) St. Clair County. Two miles south of Hwy. 82 on Hwy. K, then 1 mile south and .25 mile west on gravel road.

Origin of name: Dedicated to conservationist pioneers Charles W. and Elizabeth R. Schwartz.

Size: 240 acres (175 prairie, 40 being restored, 25 timber).


Features: This upland prairie formed over fine sandy loam soils derived from sandstone. A timbered drainage runs south to north across the area. A population of Geocarpon minimum occurs on the sandstone glade portion. More than 237 native plant species have been identified on the area. Prairie mole crickets also occur on Schwartz Prairie.
**39 Comstock Prairie Conservation Area**

**Location:** (T33N, R33W, S1) Barton County. Some 2.75 miles south of Bronaugh on Hwy. 43, 1 mile west on NW 100 road.

**Origin of name:** After the creek that flows through the center of the area.

**Size:** 320 acres.

**Ownership:** Missouri Department of Conservation, 1990.

**Features:** This upland prairie was formed over silt loam soils derived from shale and sandstone. A wooded stream runs east-west through Comstock Prairie. The area’s large grass/shrub communities provide diverse habitat for a multitude of species, including greater prairie-chickens.
40 Bushwhacker Prairie
(Within Bushwhacker Lake Conservation Area)

Location: (T34N, R32W, S27, S28, S25, S33, S26, S34 and S35) Vernon County. Some 2.75 miles south of Bronaugh on Hwy. 43, 1 mile east on Barton-Vernon county road.

Origin of name: Bushwhackers were southern partisans during the Civil War and were active behind federal lines in west central Missouri.

Size: 665 acres in two tracts within the conservation area.


Features: This upland prairie formed over silt loam soils derived from shale and sandstone. A prairie draw and wooded stream occur on the area. The area is home to greater prairie-chickens; two man-made lakes attract a diversity of water birds.

41 Lattner Prairie

Location: (T34, R31, S32) Vernon County. Three miles west of Sheldon on Hwy. N, 1.5 miles south on county road gravel road, .25 mile east on gravel road.

Origin of name: Lattner was a financial contributor to the Missouri Prairie Foundation.

Size: 80 acres.


Features: This upland prairie formed over fine sandy loam soils derived from sandstone. A spare woodland draw crosses a portion of the area, which adds to the diverse flora. Greater prairie-chickens, turkeys, deer and other animals occur in the vicinity of Lattner. A total of 320 plant species have been recorded from both the Lattner and Denison Prairies.

42 Edgar and Ruth Denison Prairie

Location: (T33N, R31W, S5) Barton County. Three and one-half miles west of Sheldon on Hwy. 71 at Sheldon on Hwy. N, 1.5 miles south on county road gravel road,.25 mile east on gravel road.

Origin of name: Edgar and Ruth Denison were members of and financial contributors to the Missouri Prairie Foundation. (Formerly the Lipscomb Tract.)

Size: 160 acres.


Features: This upland prairie formed over fine sandy loam soils derived from sandstone. A spare woodland draw crosses a portion of the area adding to the diverse flora. Greater prairie-chickens, turkeys, deer and other animals occur in the vicinity of Denison. This upland prairie was formed over fine sandy loam soils derived from sandstone. A spare woodland draw crosses a portion of the area adding to the diverse flora. Greater prairie-chickens, turkeys, deer and other animals occur in the vicinity of Denison. A total of 320 plant species have been recorded from both the Lattner and Denison Prairies.

43 Prairie State Park

Location: (T32N, R33W, S15, S16, S17, S20, S21, S22, S23, S24 and S27) Barton County. Go 2 miles west of Liberal on Hwy. K, then go 2 miles on Hwy. P Turn south on gravel road to the main entrance to the park.

Origin of Name: The name readily distinguishes the landscape features from other state parks. There are several natural areas within the park. Regal Prairie Natural Area was named for the regal fritillary butterfly. Tzi-Sho Prairie Natural Area was named for “tzi-sho,” a Native American word for “sky people,” one of the grand divisions of the Osage tribe. East Drywood Creek Natural Area was named for the creek along which the natural area is situated. Hunkah Prairie Natural Area was named for “hunkah,” a Native American word for “Earth people,” one of the grand divisions of the Osage tribe.

Size: Prairie State Park is 3,702 acres, most of which is original tallgrass prairie. Included in Prairie State Park are several natural areas: Regal Prairie Natural Area (240 acres); Tzi-Sho Prairie Natural Area (240 acres); East Drywood Creek Natural Area (50 acres); and Hunkah Prairie Natural Area (160 acres).

Ownership: Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks. The original purchase was made by The Nature Conservancy, and additional private donations have enlarged the park to its present size.

Features: Prairie State Park is situated on rolling upland prairie over sandy and silt loam soils derived from shale and sandstone. Prairie headwater streams, wet depressions, sandstone outcrops and ledges are some features. Prairie State Park visitor’s center features interpretive exhibits of the park, and staff offer interpretive programs for the public. There are a number of hiking trails. Bison and elk roam the park, and it is also home to breeding populations of many native grassland birds. Coyotes, deer, bobcats, burrowing crayfish, bullsnakes, regal fritillary butterflies, greater prairie-chickens, Henslow’s sparrows, short-eared owls, upland sandpipers, scissor-tailed flycatchers, yellow-headed blackbirds, Mississippi kites, northern harriers and over 600 plant species have been observed at Prairie State Park.

44 Redwing Prairie Conservation Area

Location: (T32N, R32W, S3) Barton County. Four miles east of Liberal along NW 30 Road.

Origin of name: After a large concentration of redwing blackbirds around the pond on the area.

Size: 160 acres.


Features: Redwing is an upland prairie over silt loam soils derived from shale and sandstone. The entrance to the prairie is across 23 acres of crop-land. Greater prairie-chickens occur on the area, and the shallow slopes provide habitat for a diverse spring flora.

45 Mo-No-I Prairie Conservation Area

Location: (T32N, R31W, S6) Barton County. Two miles north of lantha on Hwy. W, 5 mile east on Hwy. DD.

Origin of name: After the Osage name for the greater prairie-chicken.

Size: 302 acres.


Features: This is a flat to rolling upland prairie on deep silt loam soils derived from shale. The adjacent 320 acres of private prairie mark this as one of the few nearly full section prairies remaining in Missouri. Greater prairie-chickens occur on the area.
46 Buffalo Wallow Prairie Conservation Area

Location: (T33N, R31W, S1, S11, S12 and S15) Barton County. Consists of two tracts; the main tract is 3 miles south of Sheldon on Hwy. 71. The second tract is 3 miles south of Sheldon and 1 mile west on NE 80th Road.

Origin of name: Named for what appears to have been the remains of a buffalo wallow on the area.

Size: 1,113 acres.


Features: Buffalo Wallow is an upland prairie over shallow sandstone soils. Over one-fourth of the area was farmed in the past, and natural revegetation and reintroduction of native grasses has occurred on portions of the old cropland. The native prairie units are in excellent condition with a rich flora and fauna, including greater prairie-chickens. Adjacent woodlands add to the already diverse flora; there are also 270 acres of cropland on the area.

47 Clear Creek Conservation Area

Location: (T33N, R30W, S4 Barton County; T34N, R30W, S32 and S33 Vernon County) Four miles east of Hwy. 71 on NE 80 Road and 1 mile north on NE 40 lane.

Origin of name: Named for the stream that flows through the area.

Size: 762 acres (377 acres prairie, 160 acres mixed prairie and fescue, 225 acres forest).


Features: This upland prairie over shallow sandstone soils supports a diverse prairie flora. The prairie is home to deer, quail and many other species of wildlife. Forested portions are a mixture of oak-hickory with blackjack oak along the prairie border. Wild turkeys frequent the area, in addition to other wildlife.

48 Edward B. & Marie O. Risch Conservation Area

Location: (T33N, R30W, S3) Barton County. Four miles east of Hwy. 71 on NE 80 Road, 1 mile north on NE 40 Lane, and 1 mile east on NE 90 Road.

Origin of name: Named after the donors of the wildlife area.

Size: 163 acres.

Ownership: Donated to the Missouri Department of Conservation, 1986.

Features: This conservation area features rolling to hilly upland prairie over shale to sandy soils. About 40 acres of cropland are maintained for wildlife.
49 Gay Feather Prairie
Location: (T34N, R30W, in SW corner of S1) Vernon County. Some 7.5 miles east of Hwy. 71 at Milo on county road E, 2 miles south on gravel road on east side or 4 miles west of Montevallo on E and then south on an unnamed county road (watch for the area sign).
Origin of name: Named after one of the showy prairie flowers of the genus Liatris.
Size: 116 acres.
Ownership: Purchased in 1976 by the Missouri Prairie Foundation. An additional 40 acres were purchased by the Missouri Department of Conservation in 1984.
Features: Gay Feather Prairie is an upland, Ozark border prairie over silt loam soils derived from shale and sandstone. A total of 305 plant species have been recorded from Gay Feather Prairie.

50 Sky Prairie Conservation Area
Location: (T34N, R28W, S13) Cedar County. About 12.5 miles south of El Dorado Springs off of Hwy. 32. At the junction of Hwys. 32 and CC, take the unnamed county gravel road 2.5 miles south to the second county gravel road to the west, then go 1 mile to the prairie.
Origin of name: This high prairie seems to follow the horizon with valleys on both sides.
Size: 200 acres.
Features: Sky Prairie is an upland, Ozark border prairie over sandstone soils. A long ridge runs northeast-southwest through the area with deep draws running outward. There are natural stands of oaks in some of the valleys, and the area contains both woodland and prairie flora and fauna.
51 Pawhuska Prairie Natural Area

**Location:** (T32N, R29W, S7) Barton County. Three miles north of Hwy. 160 on Hwy. HH, then .5 mile west on NE 30 Road.

**Origin of name:** Pawhuska means “white-haired,” a name used by three Osage chiefs.

**Size:** 77 acres.

**Ownership:** Purchased in 1978 by The Nature Conservancy with funds by Miss Katherine Ordway.

**Features:** This upland, Ozark border prairie was formed over silt loam soils derived from shale and sandstone. Two former bison dusting sites are on the area. A small intermittent stream runs along the southwestern corner of the tract. The area contains one permanent spring associated with a sandstone ledge that provides habitat for ferns. Blue star, selenia and the state-listed Harvey’s beak-rush are unusual plants that occur here, among several plants characteristic of the Ozarks. Henslow’s sparrow and a variety of other songbirds use the area, plus coyotes and white-tailed deer.
52 Treaty Line Prairie Conservation Area
Location: (T31N, R30W, S3) Barton County. Two miles east of Lamar on 160, 1.5 miles south on SE 40 Lane and .5 east on SE 20 road.
Origin of name: Named after the Treaty of 1808, in which the Osage ceded all lands east of the line from Fort Osage to Fort Smith, Ark.
Size: 168 acres.
Features: Treaty Line Prairie is an upland prairie formed over both shallow sandstone soils and deep claypan soils in nearly equal proportion. A draw cuts through the center of the area, adding to both the flora and the wildlife diversity. Greater prairie-chickens occasionally use the area.

53 Pa Sole Prairie Conservation Area
Location: (T31N, R30W, S23) Barton County. Five miles east of Hwy. 71, then 1.25 miles north on SE 50 Lane.
Origin of name: The Osage name for “Settlers-on-the-hilltops.”
Size: 240 acres (94 prairie, 48 fescue, 98 cropland).
Features: This upland prairie was formed over both outcrops of sandstone and deep silt loams. The high mound on Pa Sole is an erosional feature that owes its existence to a resistant caprock of sandstone. Quail, deer and other grassland wildlife frequent the area.

54 Shelton L. Cook Memorial Meadow
Location: (T31N, R29W, S21) Barton County. Two miles northwest of Golden City, south of Hwy. U.
Origin of name: Bequeathed by Mona Cook Morris and named in honor of her father, a longtime resident of the area.
Size: 280 acres, 185 of which is prairie.
Features: Cook Memorial Meadow is a diverse dry-mesic chert prairie with portions of mesic prairie on a variety of soil types, giving rise to a distinctive mosaic of plant communities. A flatwoods, uncommon in Barton County both in presettlement times and more so in the present, interfaces with the prairie along the location mapped by the original land survey in 1840. Upland sandpipers, regal fritillary butterflies and several species of endangered plants occur on the tract; it is the only known Missouri site for the field sedge (Carex conoidea). Cook Memorial Meadow may have the most diverse prairie flora in Missouri with its nearly 400 species of native flowering plants.

55 Dorris Creek Prairie Conservation Area
Location: (T31N, R30W, S3) Barton County. Seven miles west of Golden City on Hwy. 126, then 1 mile south on gravel SE 40 Lane.
Origin of name: Named after an old school north of the area.
Size: 160 acres.
Features: This flat to rolling upland prairie was formed over sandy to silt loam soils. Three small lakes on Dorris Creek Prairie add to the wildlife diversity and attract waterfowl. A flock of greater prairie-chickens occurs on the area.

56 Golden Prairie
Location: (T30N, R29W, S8) Barton County. Approximately 3.5 miles south and west of Golden City.
Origin of name: For the town of Golden City and the fall colors.
Size: 320 acres (301 prairie; 19 being restored).
Features: A National Natural Landmark, Golden Prairie is an upland, rolling prairie formed over silt loam soils derived from sandstone and limestone. The area contains draws that run south on the south half, and run north on the north half of the area. There is a resident flock of greater prairie-chickens on the area. A total of 345 plant species have been recorded from Golden Prairie.
57 Stony Point Prairie Conservation Area

Location: (T32N, R28W, S8) Dade County. Four miles west of Hwy. 97 on county road E, then 1 mile north on county road D.

Origin of name: Named from the original spelling of an old school and church in the area and also from the large sandstone outcrops found on the area.

Size: 640 acres (620 prairie, 20 forest).


Features: Stony Point Prairie is an upland prairie formed from sandstone soils and features sandstone outcrops. Portions of the area were heavily grazed in the past; recovery is excellent. Greater prairie-chickens, upland sandpipers, regal fritillary butterflies and prairie mole crickets reside on the area.
58 Burns Tract
Location: (T32N, R28W, S9) Dade County. Four miles east and 9 miles north of Golden City on Hwy. E. Immediately east of the Stony Point Conservation Area owned by the Missouri Department of Conservation.
Origin of name: Named from the Clarence Burns family, from whom the tract was purchased.
Size: 320 acres.
Features: The Burns Tract is rolling with both upland areas and wet-mesic drainages. Greater prairie-chickens occur on the area.

59 Niawathe Prairie Conservation Area
Location: (T32N, R28W, S14) Dade County. One mile west of Hwy. 97 on Hwy. E, then .5 mile north on an unmarked gravel road.
Origin of name: “Ni-Wa-The” was the Life-Giver of the Tzi-Sho (the Sky People of the Osage tribe).
Size: 320 acres.
Features: Niawathe Prairie is an Ozark border dry mesic upland prairie with some mesic prairie over silt loam soils derived from shale and sandstone. The area contains a rich flora and is very showy in spring and early summer. Mead’s milkweed, fringed poppy mallow, blue false indigo and royal catchfly are notable plant species on the area. Greater prairie-chickens, northern harriers and Henslow’s sparrows nest on the area; short-eared owls occur during the winter. Prairie mole crickets call in the spring, and northern crawfish frogs call at dusk in March. The entire area is designated a natural area and is popular with wildflower enthusiasts.

60 Penn-Sylvania Prairie
Location: (T32N, R28W, S22) Dade County. Two miles west of Hwy. 97 on Hwy. E, then south on gravel road, on west side.
Origin of name: For the town of Sylvania and the original name of Pennsylvania.
Size: 160 acres.
Features: This upland prairie was formed over silt loam soils derived from shale and sandstone. There are signs of an old trace known as the Greenfield-Sylvania road in the prairie. A flock of greater prairie-chickens occurs on the area, as well as coyotes and other animals. The area contains two ponds that attract migrating waterfowl. A total of 288 plant species have been recorded from Penn-Sylvania Prairie.

61 Horse Creek Prairie Conservation Area
Location: (T31N, R28W, S22) Dade County. Two miles west of Lockwood on Hwy. 160, 1 mile north on an unnamed county gravel road.
Origin of name: Named after the main stream that flows near the area.
Size: 80 acres.
Features: This nearly flat upland prairie occurs over silt loam soils derived from sandstone and shale. A variety of songbirds, greater prairie-chickens and migrant shorebirds frequent the area. The flora is diverse with an abundant spring display, and, in March, northern crawfish frogs call at dusk.

62 Indigo Prairie Conservation Area
Location: (T30N, R27W, S4) Dade County. One mile south of Lockwood on Hwy. 97 and 2.5 miles east on an unnamed gravel road.
Origin of name: After the blue indigo that occurs on the prairie.
Size: 40 acres.
Ownership: Missouri Department of Conservation, 1980.
Features: Indigo prairie is an upland prairie formed over cherty silt loam soils derived from cherty limestone. The area is about 50 percent grassland, with about 50 percent in various stages of shrub communities. The area contains a rich variety of bird species.
63 Mon-Shon Prairie Conservation Area

Location: (T30N, R33W, S7) Barton County. Two and one-half miles south of Hwy. 126 on SW State Line Lane.

Origin of name: From the Osage term meaning “Sacred Earth,” referring to the large acreage of strip mining in the area.

Size: 80 acres (77 prairie, 2 forest, 1 lake/pond).


Features: This upland prairie formed over deep claypan soils has some shallow sandstone soils within the middle portion of the area. Past management has maintained an excellent flora. There is a small pond on the southwest corner.

64 Wah-Sha-She Prairie Natural Area

Location: (T30N, R33W, S31) Jasper County. Two miles north of Asbury on Hwy. M, 1 mile east of Hwy. 171. From the junctions of Hwys. M and 171 in extreme western Jasper County, go east on M for approximately .8 mile to the first crossroad, then turn north approximately .2 mile to the parking lot on the west side of the road.

Origin of name: Wah-Sha-She means “Water People,” one of the subdivisions of the Hunkah tribe.

Size: 160 acres.

Ownership: Purchased in 1973 by The Nature Conservancy with funds by Miss Katherine Ordway.

Features: Wah-Sha-She is a nearly level hardpan prairie over deep silt loam soils that contains a hard claypan (a layer of clayey, impenetrable soils). The area contains a man-made 10-acre pond and shallow marsh that attracts amphibians and reptiles as well as spring and fall flights of waterfowl. Little bluestem and switch grass dominate portions of the prairie, along with blazing star, bluehearts, Indian paintbrush, large-flowered coreopsis and chaffweed. Pond lily grows in the marsh. A resident flock of greater prairie-chickens occurs on the area, as well as prairie mole crickets. Wah-Sha-She is a wildlife refuge.

65 Bethel Prairie

Location: (T31N, R31W, S31) Barton County. Four miles west of Hwy. 71 on the south side of Hwy. 126.

Size: 260 acres.

Origin of name: Named for a nearby church, Bethel Church, that has been active since the early 1900s.


Features: This upland prairie was formed over shallow sandstone. It is traversed by a small seasonal branch of the North Fork Spring River, adding to the overall diversity. Fescue became established on the site prior to acquisition by the Conservation Department; restoration efforts are underway. Deer, turkeys and other grassland wildlife frequent the area.
66 Providence Prairie Conservation Area

Location: (T29N, R28W, S4) Lawrence County. From the junction of Hwys. 96 and 97, go north on Highway 97 6.5 miles to NN, go 1.5 miles west to county road 1040, then 1 mile south.

Origin of name: It appeared that this prairie was destined for the plow, but by providence this did not occur and the Missouri Department of Conservation became the new owner.

Size: 197 acres (170 acres prairie, 17 in crops, 10 in draws).


Features: A large percentage of Providence Prairie is mesic with characteristic species such as bunchflower and smooth prairie phlox. The prairie has a good spring wildflower display. Greater prairie-chickens occur on the area, and prairie mole crickets call at dusk in May. There is a permanent spring and a small creek that flows through the center of the prairie. Woody vegetation has developed in wet areas.

67 Kickapoo Prairie Conservation Area

Location: (T29N, R28W, S14) Lawrence County. Take the Stotts City exit off I-44 and go 8 miles north on Hwy. 97. The turn-off for the area is 2 miles north of the junction of Hwys. 97 and 96 (1 mile west on a county gravel road).

Origin of name: After the Kickapoos who once occupied the region west of Springfield.

Size: 160 acres.


Features: Kickapoo is an upland prairie over cherty silt loam soils. Its diverse flora includes royal catchfly and sideoats grama grass. Greater prairie-chickens occur on the area, and, in May, prairie mole crickets call at dusk. A network of draws supports other wildlife populations.

68 Mount Vernon Prairie Natural Area

Location: (T28N, R26W, S17) Lawrence County. From Mount Vernon, go north on Hwy. 39 for approximately one mile, east on Route CC for 1.2 miles and turn north. Proceed for one mile to the first crossroads, turn east and follow the paved road for about .9 mile. This road will turn sharply to the north; follow it for about .3 mile to the parking area on your left.

Origin of name: Named after the town of Mt. Vernon and in recognition of the bicentennial of Washington’s home.

Size: 40 acres.


Features: This upland dry prairie was formed over silt loam soils derived from cherty limestone. The area contains a diverse flora that is very showy in the spring and early summer. Plant and animal species include blue false indigo, rattlesnake master, sky-blue aster, greater prairie-chickens, upland sandpipers, ornate box turtles and leopard frogs.

69 Woods Prairie

Location: (T28N, R26W, S36) Lawrence County. Four miles east of Mt. Vernon on south side of Farm Road 2125.

Origin of name: Named after the Woods family, who owned and protected the prairie for 163 years. John Blackburn Woods homesteaded the property in 1836.

Size: 40 acres.

Ownership: Purchased in 1999 by the Ozark Regional Land Trust, Carthage, Missouri.

Features: This upland prairie has silty loam soils derived from cherty limestone. It is an isolated Ozark prairie with a diverse flora and well-developed mima mounds. The north five acres, dominated by fescue, eventually will be restored to prairie.
70 La Petite Gemme Natural Area

Location: (T33N, R23W, S25) Polk County. One mile west on the first county road that lies west of the junction of Hwy. 13 and Business 13 (south of Bolivar).

Origin of name: Named for the gemlike quality of this small prairie and for the gemlike flowers. The name also recognizes the French who settled in Missouri.

Size: 37 acres.


Features: La Petite Gemme Natural Area is predominately a dry-mesic limestone/dolomite prairie associated with knob slopes on the eastern half and acidic hardpan prairie in the western half. The sideslopes on the knob have semi-permanent seeps that support fen plants, such as orange cone-flower. The shaley calcareous substrate of the knob also provides habitat for glade species like Missouri black-eyed Susan. A total of 321 plant species have been recorded from La Petite Gemme Natural Area. The Ozark Highroad Trail, the 30-mile Willard to Bolivar Greenway along a former railroad line, goes through the area.

71 Tingler Lake Wet-Mesic Prairie
(within Tingler Lake Conservation Area)

Location: (T22N, R8W, S5 and S6) Howell County. Approximately 7 miles south of West Plains, off Hwy. 17 on county road 8110.

Origin of name: The area was named after a sinkhole pond on the area.

Size: 10 acres; the conservation area is 240 acres, of which 145 acres are being restored to prairie.


Features: This is one of very few remaining prairie examples left in the Ozark Region. Tingler Lake Wet-Mesic prairie contains more than 100 native species of grasses, sedges and forbs including two varieties of the state endangered green orchid. A trail system provides excellent viewing opportunities of the wet-mesic prairie, the associated dry-chert woodland and the five-acre sinkhole pond.

72 Diamond Grove Prairie Natural Area

Location: (T27N, R32W, S36; R31W, S31) Newton County. Four miles west of Diamond on Hwy. V, 1.25 miles north on gravel road marked with an area sign.

Origin of name: Named after the town of Diamond, located southeast of the area. Diamond Grove Prairie is the pioneer name of an original larger prairie of which the natural area is a remnant.

Size: 611 acres.


Features: This upland prairie is nearly level to gently rolling with wide draws. It was formed on deep fragipan soils that are mostly Keeno cherty silt loam, Hoberg silt loam and Gerald silt loam. A rich flora colors the landscape; interesting plants include royal catchfly, Barbara’s buttons, blue star and fringed poppy mallow. Narrowmouth toads, which sound like sheep, call on the area in June after rain in the day.