



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie  
National Preserve

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## Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

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For Immediate Release

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### Public Comment Period Begins for Draft Exotic Plant Management Plan and Environmental Assessment

Superintendent Wendy Lauritzen announced today that the National Park Service and Heartland Inventory and Monitoring Network have begun the 30-day public comment period for the draft Exotic Plant Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (EPMP) for 15 parks in the Midwest Region, one of which includes Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Strong City, Kansas.

This document proposes a multi-park approach to monitoring and management of exotic plants. The multi-park approach will assist in the coordinated effort to eradicate, control, or contain exotic invasive plants, particularly in natural areas within park boundaries. Several options for attaining objectives are considered and analyzed for their impacts on the environment.

Locally the preserve works to remove invasive species such as honey locust trees, Johnsongrass, and *Sericea lespedeza* through tree cutting, physical removal, fire, and chemical application. By joining the multi-park effort, the preserve hopes to better monitor the control efforts and learn from plant management experiences at other parks. “Weed management will always be a part of our daily summer operations,” said Superintendent Lauritzen, “however, the opportunity to work closely with other area parks will allow us to learn from their experiences and hopefully make us more efficient at managing exotic plants at the preserve.”

The preserve invites you to review and comment on alternatives discussed in the multi-park EPMP and to share your thoughts on invasive plant management at the preserve. Please keep in

mind that this EPMP is a multi-park plan and you may have to search for sections specific to Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve.

A hard copy of the draft plan can be found in the new Visitor Center at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve or downloaded via the preserve's website at [www.nps.gov/tapr](http://www.nps.gov/tapr). You may also access the document at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=31771>. The comment period runs from now through January 24, 2013. Please provide any written response to the superintendent at the above address or via email at [tapr\\_superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:tapr_superintendent@nps.gov) by January 24, 2013.

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway) and is a partnership between The Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service. For more information, visit the preserve's facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Tallgrass-Prairie-National-Preserve/14111329259915>, website at [www.nps.gov/tapr](http://www.nps.gov/tapr), email [tapr\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:tapr_interpretation@nps.gov), or call the preserve at (620) 273-8494 or 6034.

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