



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie  
National Preserve

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## Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

April 12, 2013

For Immediate Release

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### Picnic for Earth Kicks off National Park Week at the Preserve

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Kansas and the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve invite you to bring your family and favorite picnic lunch to help celebrate Earth Day and kick off National Park Week. The event, *Picnic for Earth*, is on Saturday, April 20, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. The event is free and open to the public.

*Picnic for Earth* is a celebration of the planet we live on, the food it provides, and the people we share it with. In short, the planet does a lot for us and we should “take it out to lunch.” Many TNC areas across our nation are hosting picnics in honor of this special day. In celebration of Earth Day, we encourage families to get outdoors, enjoy a picnic lunch, and learn about our food resources. Two speakers at the preserve will emphasize the connection to our food sources and explain how you can grow your own edible plants in your back yard. Here is the schedule for the day.

11 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Children’s Jr. Ranger activity and t-shirt painting art project  
Kids bring your own t-shirt; paints will be provided.  
Theme is “What Have I Done for my Planet Earth Today?”

12:00 – 12:45 p.m. - Picnic near the historic barn and listen to presentations

12:15 – 12:30 p.m. – Speaker Paula Matile discusses edible plants on the prairie.

12:30 – 12:45 p.m. – Speaker Heather Brown talks about historic gardening at the preserve.

1 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Children may participate in helping prepare the soil for the garden.

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**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

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



The official picnic and activities end at 1:30 p.m., but visitors are encouraged to stay longer to explore the park's 40 miles of hiking trails, the historic 1880s ranch buildings, and the preserve's new visitor center. For additional fun, bring a fishing pole and enjoy catch-and-release fishing at the preserve. To learn more about *Picnic for Earth* and National Park Week, go to <http://earthday.nature.org> and [www.nps.gov/npweek](http://www.nps.gov/npweek).

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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