



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie  
National Preserve

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## Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

## News Release

For Immediate Release: July 26, 2007

Contact: Heather Brown, (620) 273-8494

### **Preserve Receives Challenge Grant to Expand Visitor Education**

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve has received a grant of \$10,000 from the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation. This generous grant will allow the preserve to expand educational opportunities and exhibits. Plans are to procure additional historically accurate clothing and textbooks for the Lower Fox Creek Schoolhouse education program, create a Junior Ranger Kids Corner in the historic barn, produce site bulletins, expand the preserve's Traveling Trunk Program, and support increased cultural and nature-based activities with new exhibits and displays.

The National Park Service and the preserve's primary landowner, The Nature Conservancy, qualified for the challenge grant by achieving a seventeen percent increase (not counting the Symphony in the Flint Hills concert event) over the preserve's prior year visitation numbers.

Heather Brown, chief of interpretation for the preserve stated, "This grant will have a significant impact on our educational programs and exhibits at the preserve. We are very grateful to the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation and look forward to making the most of this wonderful opportunity."

Established in 1953, the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation directs its support toward nonprofit organizations in Kansas involved with arts and art education, environmental stewardship, human services, enablement of at-risk youth, and education. In 2006, the Foundation provided grants totaling more than \$1,225,000.

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is a public/private partnership with the National Park Service, The Nature Conservancy, and the Kansas Park Trust. Located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway), the preserve's historic ranch headquarters is open daily from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. For more information or to make group reservations, visit the preserve's website at [www.nps.gov/tapr](http://www.nps.gov/tapr), e-mail [tapr\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:tapr_interpretation@nps.gov), or call the preserve at (620) 273-8494.

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