



Mission: *Maintaining and restoring Nebraska Ecosystems - creating opportunities for education, research, stewardship and community development.*



Prairie Plains Resource Institute was founded in Aurora, Nebraska, in 1980 with the intent of preserving native Nebraska habitats for use as educational sites for science, history and land management.

A non-profit membership organization, Prairie Plains has seven properties that are actively managed to provide access to the Great Plains landscape to people of all ages.

Learn more and become a member at
www.prairieplains.org

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Frank L. and Lillian Pokorny Memorial Prairie

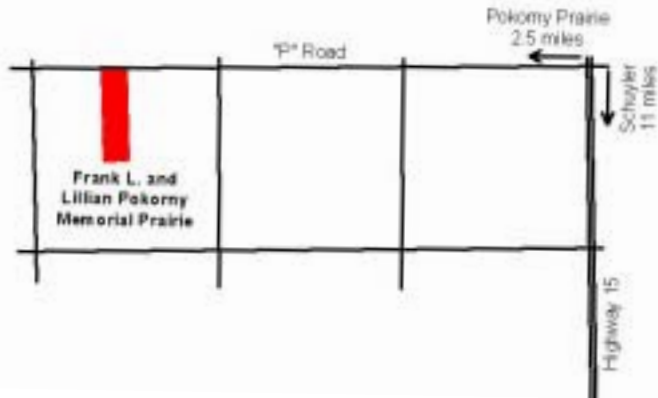


Located 2.5 miles west of Highway 15 on "P" Road;
11 miles north of Schuyler, NE.

One of seven Nebraska Prairies made available by:



Welcome to the Frank L. and Lillian Pokorny Memorial Prairie! This 40-acre preserve owned by Prairie Plains Resource Institute offers visitors access to the beautiful prairie landscape of northeast Nebraska. It contains a diverse native plant community and a variety of wildlife.



History

Prairie Plains received the Pokorny Prairie in 2002 as a gift from Gene and Margaret Pokorny. Gene grew up nearby; the 20-acre virgin prairie was a part of his parents' farm. In addition to the virgin prairie their gift included 20 acres of adjoining cropland to the north of the original prairie. The cropland half of the preserve is the site of a highly successful prairie restoration planting completed in the spring of 2003. Seeds from many tallgrass prairie species were harvested during 2002 from existing eastern Nebraska prairie remnants and roadsides, then sowed into soybean stubble. With timely rainfall the planting proved a rapid success. It will develop over time into a diverse assemblage of grasses and wildflowers and complement the existing virgin prairie. Seeds for additional PPRI prairie restoration efforts in northeast Nebraska - at Ponca State Park and another site in Wayne County - have been harvested from the virgin prairie.

Unique Features

The south half (20 acres) of the Frank L. and Lillian Pokorny Memorial Prairie is a rare natural and historic landmark because it exists on a highly productive cropland soil, yet has never been broken for crop production purposes. Native prairies such as this are extremely rare in eastern Nebraska. The prairie contains many typical tallgrass prairie species, including big bluestem, Indiangrass, switchgrass, leadplant, prairie clover and wild rose to name but a few. Common wildlife at Pokorny Prairie includes grasshopper sparrows, meadowlarks, dickcissels, bobolinks, badgers, coyotes, foxes and many smaller mammals.

Stewardship

Stewardship activities since 2002 have included tree and shrub cutting along the fencerows, constructing a new perimeter fence, installing a livestock well and conducting a series of prescribed burns. Burning, grazing and woody plant cutting will be part of the long-term management plan for this preserve to combat the accumulative negative effects on the native plant community of non-native smooth brome and tree or shrub encroachment into the grassland.

Rules

- * Access is free and open to the public.
- * Grazing is a part of the management plan for this property. Visitors are expected to keep a safe distance from livestock and keep gates closed at all times.
- * Hunting is allowed only with permission from Prairie Plains (contact information on back cover).
- * No fires are allowed on the site.
- * No artifacts may be removed from the preserve.
- * Users should have plans for emergency communication.