



Prairie Plains Link
March/April 2026

Drone view of Gjerloff Prairie on March 18. Note the boom truck ready to pour concrete to form the pad for the new greenhouse and the semi parked to the right of the Curvette delivering building components for the greenhouse structure. See pics of the construction process below - March 18, April 10, April 27.



Gjerloff Prairie and the Education Center saw a lot of activity this spring as we started ramping up our programs and enjoyed milder temps. Photos left to right: Winter Explore Day got folks out on the trails for a beautiful hike along the Platte River bluffs and observation of migrating ducks; Volunteer extraordinaire Britt Bailey applied his meticulous nature toward preparing and installing a series of wildlife prints (including many by ornithologist/artist Paul Johnsgard) in the upper level of the Center; Bluebirds Across Nebraska presented their "How to Attract Bluebirds" workshop including tips, tricks and bluebird houses; And University of Nebraska - Omaha students from Dr. Tom Bragg's Restoration Ecology class spent an afternoon learning about our high-diversity, local-ecotype prairie restoration methods.

GO BIG GIVE

MAY 7 • 24 HOURS TO CLICK & GIVE

Since 1992 we've been getting kids wet and muddy at Summer Orientation About Rivers (SOAR) summer camp. There is nothing more rewarding than sharing the beauty of our local natural areas and the passion of our presenters and SOAR staff while creating lifelong memories and connections with wild places. **If you believe time in nature is an invaluable part of growing up, please consider a donation to our summer camps during Go Big Give**, a fundraising effort presented by Heartland United Way and the Grand Island Community Foundation. Visit gobiggive.org on or before May 7, search Prairie Plains and donate. All GBG funds raised this year will support our summer education programs!



Signs of spring left to right, top then bottom: Windflower (*Anemone carolinensis*); Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium campestre*); Seed harvest begins - Ethan picking pussytoes (*Antennaria neglecta*); Mike loading the seed spreaders for a restoration planting; Buffalo bean (*Astragalus crassicaarpus*); Scott and Evie Snyder helping Amy collect buffalo bean seed; The future of conservation! Ethan Freese and Emma Bullerman lighting up our only prescribed fire so far; The precise weather conditions required to conduct prescribed fire have been lacking this year. Low humidity, high winds and a state-wide burn ban in March made burning almost impossible. April 10 provided perfect conditions and the team was able to complete a 12 acre burn near the Education Center at Gjerloff Prairie.



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Contact:
402-694-5535
hello@prairieplains.org
1307 L Street
Aurora, NE 68818