

Temperate Prairies

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Ecosystems Resources

Reference landscapes, databases, and mapping tools for understanding prairie ecosystems across the Temperate Prairies region, including land trust preserves, ecoregion boundary maps, and state natural heritage programs tracking rare communities.

Foundational Ecosystem Information

National Databases

[NatureServe Explorer](#) (USA) - Searchable database of conservation status, distribution, and ecology for species and ecosystems across North America.

[EPA Level III/IV Ecoregions](#) (USA) - EPA's ecoregion classification maps, used to define the boundaries and characteristics of the Temperate Prairies region and its sub-regions.

Reference Landscapes

[The Nature Conservancy](#) (USA) - National conservation nonprofit protecting and restoring prairie landscapes through state-level preserves, land protection, and prescribed fire management.

[Platte Land Trust](#) (KS/MO/NE/IA) - Volunteer-run land trust protecting natural areas across the four-corners region.

[Grasslands Heritage Foundation](#) (KS) - Kansas-based land trust preserving native tallgrass prairie remnants through acquisition and stewardship.

[Kansas Land Trust](#) (KS) - Kansas land trust conserving ecologically and culturally significant lands, including prairie remnants, through easements.

[Missouri Land Trust Coalition](#) (MO) - Association of Missouri land trusts working to protect natural, community, and farm landscapes statewide, including prairie remnants.

[Grand Prairie Friends](#) (IL) - Volunteer-driven land trust and conservation organization preserving and restoring natural areas across east-central Illinois.

[The Nature Conservancy Canada](#) (CAD) - Canadian branch of TNC, protecting prairie and grassland habitat nationwide in partnership with First Nations and provincial governments.

Natural Heritage

[Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory](#) (OK) - Oklahoma's official database tracking the state's rare plants, animals, and natural communities.

[Kansas Natural Heritage Inventory](#) (KS) - Kansas's official database tracking rare species, natural communities, and high-quality natural areas statewide.

[Missouri Natural Heritage Program](#) (MO) - Missouri's program tracking rare, threatened, and endangered species and natural communities to guide conservation and development decisions.

[Nebraska Natural Heritage Program](#) (NE) - Nebraska's official database tracking the location and status of the state's rarest species and natural communities.

Extension & Land Management

[University of Missouri Grassland Extension Project](#) (MO) - Joint MU Extension/MDC program promoting native grass adoption for economic and conservation benefits.

[Iowa State Extension](#) (IA) - Iowa State's extension hub for land management, prairie restoration, and natural resource guidance for landowners and professionals.

Species Resources

Guides and databases for identifying native and invasive species across the Temperate Prairies region, including state invasive plant guides, endangered species resources, keystone prairie species, and native plant databases.

Native & Invasive Species Identification

National Databases

[BONAP](#) (USA) - Plant distribution mapping tool showing county-level native ranges across North America, useful for confirming regional plant provenance.

[USDA PLANTS Database](#) (USA) - Federal database of plant names, classification, and distribution, widely used for confirming native plant identification.

Invasive Species Resources

[MIPN](#) (Midwest) - Regional list and profiles of invasive plants affecting the greater Midwest, including prairie ecosystems.

[OKIPC](#) (OK) - Oklahoma Invasive Plant Council, coordinating invasive plant identification, research, and management statewide in partnership with Oklahoma State University Extension.

[MDC](#) (MO) - Missouri's guide to invasive plants and animals threatening native ecosystems.

[IA NDR](#) (IA) - Iowa's official guide to identifying and managing invasive plant species.

[NDSU](#) (ND) - North Dakota State University Extension's guide to identifying and controlling the state's noxious and invasive weeds.

[MN DNR](#) (MN) - Minnesota DNR's guide to invasive plants of concern statewide and how to report them.

[ISCM](#) (CAD) - Invasive Species Council of Manitoba's resource for identifying and reporting invasive species threatening the province's ecosystems.

[SISC](#) (CAD) - Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council, a multi-sector partnership coordinating invasive species management and awareness across the province.

Endangered Species

[USFWS ECOS](#) (USA) - Federal and state databases tracking threatened and endangered species relevant to prairie habitats.

Keystone Species

[Xerces Society](#) (USA) - National nonprofit focused on invertebrate conservation, with strong pollinator and native bee resources relevant to prairie habitat.

[National Wildlife Federation Guide](#) (USA) - National field guide profiling plants and animals by habitat, with accessible descriptions of each species' ecological role.

[Audubon North American Birds](#) (Plains) - Audubon's field guide and range profiles for over 800 North American bird species, including grassland species affected by prairie habitat loss.

State Plant Guides

[Missouri Botanical Garden: Plant Finder](#) (MO) - Missouri Botanical Garden's searchable database of 7,500+ plants grown at the Kemper Center, with photos and identification details.

[Prairie Plants of Iowa](#) (IA) - University of Iowa Press's digital field guide to native Iowa prairie plants, with identification details, distribution maps, and a list of open prairies.

Indigenous Partners

Tribal nations and tribal programs managing land, water, and grassland resources across the Temperate Prairies region, including conservation and agricultural stewardship initiatives on tribal lands.

Tribal Land & Resource Stewardship

Tribal Nations & Programs

[Osage Nation](#) (OK) - Practices bison restoration, prescribed fire, and conservation grazing on tribal lands through its Department of Natural Resources and tribal ranch.

[Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation](#) (KS) - Manages wetland restoration, a bison/rotational grazing program, and natural resource stewardship on tribal land near Mayetta, KS.

[Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska](#) (KS/NE)- Runs a conservation partnership program supporting regenerative agriculture, soil health, and grassland practices on tribal land.

[Ponca Tribe of Nebraska](#) (NE) - Manages tribal land, water, and air quality, and co-manages tribal bison pastures with the local NRD and InterTribal Buffalo Council.

[Standing Rock Sioux Tribe](#) (ND/SD) - Conducts conservation and rangeland planning across tribal prairie lands through its Reservation Resources Department, including a community bison herd and co-stewardship of adjacent national grasslands.

[White Earth Nation](#) (MN) - Manages land across three reservation biomes through its Natural Resources Division, including native prairie/grassland restoration and wildlife habitat.

Educational Institutions

[Haskell Indian Nations University](#) (KS) - Restores the Haskell Wetlands and adjacent tallgrass prairie through its Environmental Science program, integrating Indigenous knowledge with ecological research.

Scientist & Researcher Partners

Universities, field stations, and research programs studying prairie ecology and restoration across the Temperate Prairies region, including long-term research sites and university-affiliated prairie centers.

Research Institutions & Field Stations

Federal Research Programs

[Grazinglands Research Lab](#) (OK) - USDA research unit studying forage, grazing systems, and rangeland sustainability across Oklahoma and the Central Plains.

[USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center](#) (ND) - Federal research center focused on grassland and prairie-pothole ecology, migratory birds, and habitat management.

Universities & Field Stations

[Konza Prairie Biological Station](#) (KS) - Field station studying tallgrass prairie fire, grazing, and climate dynamics as a Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) site.

[Illinois Natural History Survey](#) (IL) - State scientific survey within the University of Illinois' Prairie Research Institute, researching Illinois plant and animal diversity statewide.

[Tallgrass Prairie Center](#) (IA) - University of Northern Iowa center dedicated to prairie restoration research, seed science, and training.

[Center for Grassland Studies](#) (NE) - UNL research and education center studying grasslands as a resource for livestock production, wildlife habitat, and turf.

[Central Grasslands Research Extension Center](#) (ND) - NDSU research center studying range, forage, and grazing systems in the northern Great Plains.

[Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center](#) (MN) - University of Minnesota center researching invasive species affecting the state's prairies, forests, and wetlands.

Independent Research Institutes

[Noble Research Institute](#) (OK) - Independent nonprofit managing 13,500 acres of working ranchland as a living lab for regenerative grassland and grazing research.

Specialists

[Sam Lord](#) (MO) - Soil ecologist at MU's Center for Agroforestry studying microbial communities and prairie/agricultural soil health.

Community-based Organizations

Nonprofits and grassroots groups leading hands-on prairie restoration, education, and stewardship across the Temperate Prairies region, from urban prairie restoration to native plant training programs.

Local Stewardship & Advocacy

Restoration & Education Nonprofits

[Oklahoma Native Plant Society](#) (OK) - Statewide nonprofit promoting native plant conservation, with an active native plant/seed source directory for landscape professionals.

[Native Lands Restoration Collaborative](#) (KS) - Northeast Kansas nonprofit offering community education and hands-on ecosystem restoration and native plant training.

[Bridging the Gap](#) (MO) - Kansas City sustainability nonprofit whose WildLands program restores 14 local urban prairies.

[Deep Roots](#) (MO) - Kansas City-region nonprofit coalition promoting native plant landscaping through education, demonstration gardens, and events like the Plan It Native conference.

[Iowa Native Plant Society](#) (IA) - Iowa nonprofit promoting the conservation, restoration, and appreciation of the state's native flora.

[Prairie Plains Resource Institute](#) (NE) - Nebraska nonprofit restoring prairie and wetland habitat through local-ecotype seed harvesting, with 8 preserves and restoration services.

[United Prairie Foundation](#) (ND) - North Dakota nonprofit restoring prairie and wetland habitat using locally harvested seed, paired with community education and outreach.

Advocacy Organizations

[Audubon Society: Urban Woods & Prairies Initiative](#) (Great Plains) - Audubon Great Plains program restoring urban prairie and woodland habitat for birds and wildlife while engaging local communities in stewardship.

[Missouri Prairie Foundation](#) (MO) - Missouri nonprofit dedicated to preserving and restoring the state's native prairie remnants and promoting native landscaping statewide.

[Sierra Club](#) (IL) - Illinois chapter of the national conservation nonprofit, running campaigns on habitat conservation, clean water, and land protection statewide.

[Nature Manitoba](#) (CAD) - Manitoba conservation organization whose Native Habitat Grant funds tallgrass prairie conservation projects.

[Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan](#) (CAD) - Multi-stakeholder partnership of governments, ranchers, and conservation groups coordinating native prairie and species-at-risk conservation across Saskatchewan.

Supply Chain

Nurseries, seed producers, and native plant suppliers serving the Temperate Prairies region, along with restoration contractors and multi-state habitat partnerships providing prescribed burning, seeding, and invasive species control.

Native Plant Sourcing & Restoration Services

Directories

[Grow Native!](#) (MO) - Missouri Prairie Foundation's professional program connecting landscape architects and buyers with regional native plant and seed sources.

[Tallgrass Prairie Center - Seed and Service Providers](#) (IA) - Tallgrass Prairie Center's directory of native seed vendors and restoration contractors operating across Iowa.

Nurseries

[Taylor Creek](#) (KS) - Regional wholesaler of native seed, plugs, and plants, and provider of prairie restoration design and installation services.

[Forrest Keeling Nursery](#) (MO) - Missouri nursery known for native tree, shrub, and prairie plant production using its proprietary root-growing method.

[Missouri Wildflowers Nursery](#) (MO) - Missouri-based grower specializing in regionally sourced native prairie plants and seed.

[Possibility Place Nursery](#) (IL) - Illinois nursery growing native trees, shrubs, and prairie plants from regionally collected seed.

Seed Producers

Contact your state Natural Heritage Program or the Tallgrass Prairie Center for local-ecotype seed sourcing.

[Applewood Seed](#) (Midwest/Great Plains) - Wholesale native grass and wildflower seed supplier offering region-specific mixes formulated for the Midwest and Great Plains, including Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa.

[Johnston Seed Company](#) (OK) - Oklahoma seed producer offering region-specific native wildflower and grass mixes for both eastern and western parts of the state.

[Hamilton Native Outpost](#) (MO) - Family-run native seed and plant company specializing in tallgrass prairie species for conservation grazing and restoration.

[Stock Seed Farms](#) (NE) - Family-owned Nebraska native grass and wildflower seed producer serving prairie restoration projects.

[Prairie Moon Nursery](#) (MN) - Mail-order native seed and plant nursery offering 700+ non-cultivar species with genetic-provenance tracking for prairie, wetland, and woodland restoration.

[Prairie Originals](#) (CAD) - Manitoba-based native prairie nursery and seed producer shipping to both Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Soil Amendments & Restoration Products

[MycoBloom](#) (KS) - Native mycorrhizal fungi inoculants cultivated from U.S. grassland and forest strains, used to restore soil biology in restoration and native plant production sites.

Restoration & Installation Services

[Pheasants Forever / Quail Forever](#) (MO, IA) - Multi-state partnership (with MDC, Iowa DNR, TNC, and Missouri Prairie Foundation) providing prescribed burning, invasive species control, and native seeding services across MO/IA grasslands.

[Prairie Restorations, Inc.](#) (MN) - Full-service ecological restoration contractor offering site prep, seeding, planting, prescribed burns, and invasive species removal, along with wholesale seed and plant supply for contractors and government agencies.