



# Griffith Prairie and Farm

***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 small eastern Nebraska tallgrass prairie remnants 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](http://www.prairieplains.org)

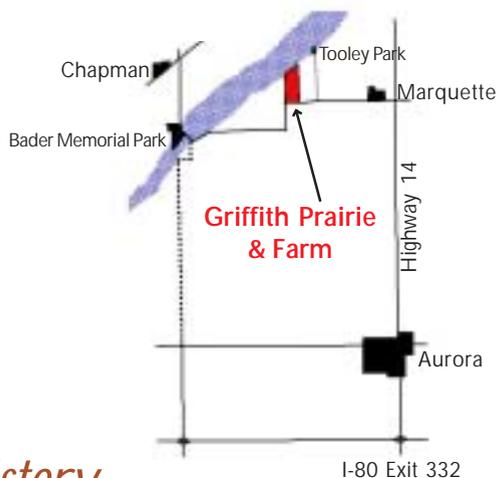
Prairie Plains Resource Institute  
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Aurora, Nebraska 68818  
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ppri@hamilton.net

Hwy 14 north to Marquette corner, 4 miles west then .5 miles north in Hamilton County, Nebraska

One of seven Nebraska Prairies made available by:



Welcome to the Griffith Prairie and Farm! This 390-acre preserve owned by Prairie Plains Resource Institute (PPRI) offers visitors access to a beautiful prairie landscape with a diverse plant community and a variety of wildlife. The property also serves as the headquarters for the Institute's prairie restoration and land stewardship activities.



## History

Prairie Plains purchased the Griffith Prairie and Farm from Eugene (Mert) and Gwen Griffith in 2002 with grant funding received from the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

The Institute became acquainted with Mert while helping with a prescribed burn on his property in 1991. PPRI staff assisted with subsequent fires and stored fire management equipment in the Griffith's quonset. Mert and Gwen were also generous in allowing PPRI to harvest seeds on their pasture and in hosting SOAR (Summer Orientation About Rivers), a summer nature day camp for area students.

In 2001 the Griffiths offered to sell their Platte River bluff property to PPRI, and the rest is history. Considered to be one of the best loess hills prairies in Central Nebraska, the preserve offers many opportunities for people of all ages and levels of interest.

## Unique Features

The land has open vistas, more intimate small valleys and draws, steep cliffs, ravines and .6 miles of Platte River frontage. Because of the hill and bluff topography and the proximity to the wide Platte Valley, the preserve seems expansive. Guests can explore its many facets on or off the mowed trails and never exhaust all the opportunities for discovery.

## Stewardship

Prescribed burning has continued on a regular basis, primarily to control the spread of red cedar trees. Cedar tree clearing will continue until almost all cedars are gone. Grazing and prescribed fire will be used annually to manage the diverse native prairie vegetation for purposes of enjoyment by people, native seed production, wildlife habitat and livestock use.

Eighteen acres of cropland east of the farmstead were planted with a high-diversity prairie seed mix in the early 2000s. Despite many dry years wildflower diversity and grass establishment continue to improve.

## Rules

- \* Access is free and open to the public. Please enjoy the landscape but only use the farmstead area during PPRI activities.
- \* 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 property.
- \* Users should have plans for emergency communication. Cell phones may not work everywhere!