



***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

Prairie Plains Resource Institute
1307 L Street
Aurora, Nebraska 68818
402-694-5535
ppri@hamilton.net

Pearl Harbor Survivors Prairie

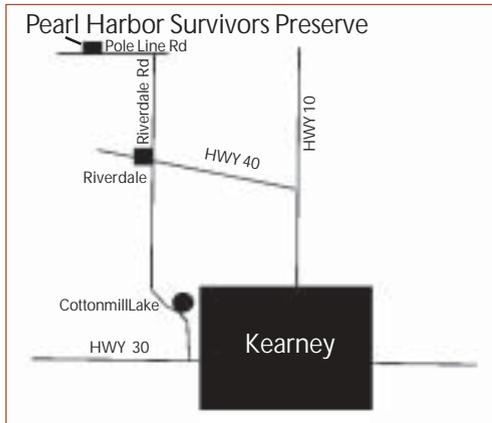


Located six miles north of Riverdale on Riverdale Road, then west two miles on Pole Line Road; Buffalo County north of Kearney, NE.

One of seven Nebraska Prairies made available by:



Welcome to the Pearl Harbor Survivors Preserve! Here, one can experience Nebraska's Central Loess Hills, an extensive rolling hardland region which was once vegetated with mixed-grass prairie. The Central Loess Hills contain the Loup River system, which comes out of the Sandhills to the west, and such towns as Broken Bow, Sargent, Calloway and Arnold, to name just a few located north and west of this property.



History

In November of 1983 Howard Juhl donated his 320-acre Buffalo County property to Prairie Plains Resource Institute. This was land Mr. Juhl helped his father farm through the depression years leading up to World War II. Mr. Juhl enlisted in the Navy prior to the War, and was in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, when Japan attacked the United States fleet harbored there. His gift of land is dedicated to those who survived this attack.

One quarter section (160 acres) of the property is in cropland, which is used to provide management funds for the land. The other quarter section is native prairie - some never broken, some restored to high diversity prairie and some eroded hill land in a go-back condition recovering from past farming activity. Mr. Juhl endowed the property with a small bison herd, which still roams the hills.

Unique Features

The Central Nebraska Loess Hills have a beauty all their own - large rolling hills breaking into the distance. At the Pearl Harbor Survivors Preserve the hills drain northward toward the South Loup River near Pleasanton. The prairie is characterized by a mix of short grasses like sideoats and blue grammas, and tall grasses such as big bluestem and Indiangrass, depending on soil moisture conditions. There is a variety of wildflowers such as leadplant, prairie violet, prairie clover, purple coneflower, prairie turnip and many more. Wildlife includes mule and white-tail deer, jackrabbits, badger, coyotes and various bird species.

Stewardship

Prescribed burning has been carried out on occasion since 1987, primarily to discourage smooth brome grass and to stimulate the growth of native grasses and wildflowers. Prescribed grazing is done annually during the spring and fall, also to help control smooth brome. Much has been learned on this preserve over the past 20 years regarding management and restoration of this landscape. Burning and grazing activities - the two main factors driving the prairie ecosystem - are essential in its restoration to productive agricultural or wildlife uses.

Rules

- * Access is free and open to the public.
- * Bison are free-roaming on the prairie area. Be wary and do not approach them. Also, cattle may be grazing at certain times of the year. Gates are to be kept closed and livestock avoided.
- * No camping.
- * Hunting by permission only.
- * No fires allowed.
- * No plants or wildlife may be removed from the property.
- * Visitors must exercise caution due to hazards of uneven terrain, animal burrows, and downed timber.