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generations to come. restore and protect the shortgrass prairie ecosystem for Through your gift to American Prairie, you are helping us

possibilities in the near and distant future. of Montana, and is an investment in the incredible flora and fauna that thrive in the Northern Great Plains to American Prairie makes a tangible impact to the everyday philanthropists like you. Every dollar donated preservation and restoration, funded entirely by We invite you to join us in this movement of ecosystem

Now is the time to build American Prairie. development, spirit, and ecological diversity of America. the time to save the pivotal landscape that shaped the seamless ecosystem renowned for its wildlife. Now is time to secure the future of the prairie and restore a As land use patterns shift in the region, now is the a sbecial place that is largely unplowed and intact. landowners in northeastern Montana has resulted in gisabbeaked over time, but the good stewardship of on Earth. Much of the native prairie and its wildlife has Temperate grasslands are the least protected biome

only place in the United States. home to American Prairie in Montana-is the ecosystem, and the Northern Great Plainswhere we can save an entire prairie grassland Those four places are the last in the world

> Patagonia. The Northern Great Plains. Kazakhstan. Mongolia.

# WELCOME TO AMERICAN PRAIRIE

MARCH

APRIL

**Sharp-tailed & Sage Grouse Lek** 

MAY

**Bird Migration** 

**Bison Calves Born** 

JUNE

**Pronghorn Fawns Born** 

**Prairie Wildflowers Bloom** 

**Grassland Bird Breeding** 

Established in 2001, American Prairie represents a bold effort to create the largest wildlife reserve in the lower 48. By linking together more than three million acres of private and public land, American Prairie will conserve a significant portion of the iconic landscape that once dominated central North America – Montana's legendary Northern

Herds of elk, deer, pronghorn, and bison once roamed these grasslands in great numbers. When complete, American Prairie will provide critical habitat for a variety of species, offering visitors the opportunity to experience nature and wildlife as it existed when Lewis and Clark first explored the region and as Indigenous Peoples experienced it for thousands of years.

## WHY HERE AND WHY NOW

on Earth, with only four places left in the world that One of those places is the Northern Great Plains, a

With an estimated two-thirds of the nation's mixedand its wildlife has disappeared over time, but the Prairie area has resulted in a special place that is largely unplowed and intact. As land-use patterns of the prairie and restore a seamless ecosystem

Temperate grasslands are the least protected biome are viable options for landscape-scale conservation. landscape that shaped America's history.

and short-grass prairies already lost to development, surviving grasslands have the potential for incredible biodiversity and discovery. Much of the native prairie good stewardship of the landowners in the American shift in the region, now is the time to secure the future renowned for its wildlife.

PRAIRIE & WILDLIFE TIMELINE

**Bison Rut** 

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

Elk Rut

JULY

**Burrowing Owl Young** 

## **VISITOR ACTIVITIES**

Stunning vistas and unique topography provide an impressive backdrop for recreation. American Prairie has a truly rugged quality and a sense of uninterrupted nature. Discover the power of dark skies, and remote, unbroken land. Each visit offers something new whether you are on foot, wheels, or horseback.

HITTING THE TRAIL
Explore the vastness of the 1 Explore the vastness of the landscape, smell the sage, and listen to birds call. Enjoy hiking, biking, and horseback riding on two-track roads.

DRIVING TOURS
In addition to the country In addition to the county roads and two-tracks that cross American Prairie lands, roads 201, 321, and 844 in the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge (CMR) are suggested for driving tours. Many roads in the region are not signed; a GPS or GPS phone app with preloaded maps is highly recommended. See the back of this map for a QR code to a free digital GPS version of this map.

WILDLIFE AND BISON VIEWING Observe prairie dog behavior or keep an eye out for the many species of migrating birds traveling through American Prairie land. Spot elk, bison, and pronghorn, and look for hawks and eagles overhead.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

From spectacular sunsets and the dazzling night sky to unique wildlife behavior and beautiful blooming flowers, the prairie offers vast opportunities for amateur or professional photographers.

HUNTING
Tens of thousand Tens of thousands of acres owned by American Prairie are available for hunting via Montana Fish, Wildlife and Park's Block Management program. Access is also available to adjacent and landlocked public land. Check americanprairie.org/hunting for the most up-to-date hunting information.

Several public facilities are available including tent camping, huts with kitchens and bunks, RV spaces with full hookups, sleeping cabins, and shower facilities. See the reverse side of the map for locations. Make reservations online at americanprairie.org/visit. Dispersed tent camping is also permitted on American Prairie land. See **americanprairie** org/camping-on-public-lands for guidelines.

NOVEMBER

**Bird Migration** 

OCTOBER

**Fall Colors** 

BIKING
Bikers will fi Bikers will find a great variety of riding on the American Prairie property. There are innumerable two-tracks to explore on day trips, as well as potential to create multi-day bikepacking routes through American Prairie, state, and federal lands. E-bikes are allowed on motorized travel routes. Bring a full repair kit and bike pump.

# NATIONAL DISCOVERY CENTER

Visit the National Discovery Center at 302 W Mair Street in Lewistown on your way to the prairie. The Center features interactive exhibits about the prairie ecosystem, community meeting spaces, and a film theater. Check americanprairie.org/national-discovery-center for hours and more information.

### SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

American Prairie is situated in a remote location where services (including cell phone coverage) are extremely limited. Be prepared to self-rescue and remember that American Prairie is not responsible for any damage or harm done to your vehicle, belongings, or person while you are on American Prairie property.

Visitors should prepare for a range of weather conditions. We recommend layering clothing and wearing sturdy shoes. We also recommend bringing a wind and rainproof jacket, a sun hat, water (see below), food, binoculars, a camera, a first aid kit, a flashlight or headlamp, sunscreen, and bug spray. Many roads in the region are not signed; a GPS or GPS phone app with preloaded maps is highly recommended. See the back of this map for a QR code to a free digital GPS version of this map.

Bring enough drinking water for the duration of your stay plus extra just in case. There is no potable water available on American Prairie property at this time, unless where specified in association with camping.

## VEHICLE

Visit in a reliable four-wheel-drive vehicle with at least 8 inches of clearance and a full tank of gas. (See the opposite side of the map for recommendations on where to fill up before getting to American Prairie property). Roads are primarily dirt and gravel, and often are unmaintained. Check the forecast and avoid driving in wet conditions. Heavy rains mix with bentonite clay found in the soil to produce a very slippery and sticky driving surface, also known as "gumbo." Many roads become impassable when wet. Check your spare prior to your visit, pack a patch kit and pressure gauge, and do not drive off designated roads. Visit american prairie.org/road-andweather-conditions for more information.

Dry conditions, strong winds, and low humidity create potential for grass fires, regardless of season. Wildfires can start from a campfire outside a designated fire ring, a cigarette that has not been properly extinguished, a vehicle undercarriage, or lightning strikes. Check american prairie. org/road-and-weather-conditions for the most up-to-date fire conditions on American Prairie land.

## WILDLIFE & LIVESTOCK

Do not approach any animals, including bison, and always view from a safe distance (100 yards). When hiking, be aware of your surroundings and pa special attention to the ground to avoid contact with rattlesnakes (the only venomous snake in the region). American Prairie includes occupied bear habitat and we encourage all visitors to be bear-aware. American Prairie includes active ranching operations; do not approach livestock and leave all fence gates as you find them.







