

An aerial photograph of a vast, rolling landscape. The terrain is covered in lush green grass and dotted with numerous small, dark green trees and shrubs. A thin, light-colored dirt path winds its way across the hills. In the distance, the hills continue to rise and fall under a pale, hazy sky. The overall scene conveys a sense of a large, open natural preserve.

Prairiewood Tallgrass Preserve

ESTABLISHED 2010



Over twenty-five years ago, led by their belief that regularly experiencing the wonder of nature is vital to a healthy community and world, Rebecca and Kail Katzenmeier began acquiring undeveloped land along the Wildcat Creek Valley just west of Manhattan, Kansas. Soon after, they founded Prairiewood to offer visitor accommodations, educational opportunities, and community programming amidst the rolling Flint Hills landscape.

Today, their efforts stand as a beacon for private land conservation and have resulted in the assembling of 600 contiguous acres of the most depleted ecosystem in North America — the native tallgrass prairie. Hosting nearly 7,500 visitors each year, its human and economic impact is far-reaching. But, at this moment, Prairiewood's many years of progress face a new challenge ...

The increase in interest rates over the past several years has led to a significant budgetary shortfall in Prairiewood's operations, one that cannot be solved by mere business model adaptations. In response to this urgent threat, the Prairiewood Connect Foundation has launched an ambitious initiative to complete the work of Prairiewood's establishment: **to secure Prairiewood in a nonprofit framework that will last for generations to come.**

An aerial photograph showing a suburban neighborhood with many houses and streets in the upper half. Below the houses is a large, open green field. The lower half of the image is dominated by a dense forest of green trees. A small pond is visible in the upper right corner, and another smaller one is nestled within the forest in the lower right.

The Mission

To preserve and protect the native tallgrass prairie ecology of the Wildcat Creek Valley just west of Manhattan, Kansas, and to provide critical connection to it through education, recreation, and husbandry opportunities.



Land Preservation & Stewardship

With resources raised through charitable contributions, the 600 acres of currently preserved native tallgrass prairie is being acquired by the Foundation to be protected in perpetuity and managed with practices that optimize its ecological health.



Educational Courses & Programs

Offering a variety of dynamic programming and educational content for all ages, the Foundation cultivates first-hand opportunities for increased knowledge and appreciation of the tallgrass prairie.



Recreational Events & Activities

Through fun, engaging, and accessible events set amongst the tallgrass prairie, the Foundation bridges the experience gap from merely knowing about to emotionally connecting with this overlooked ecosystem.



Husbandry & Volunteerism

By providing opportunities for engagement in land stewardship, the Foundation benefits from the resources available through organized volunteerism, while reciprocally giving volunteers the enriching satisfaction that comes from land husbandry.



An aerial photograph of a vast, rolling landscape. The terrain is covered in lush green grass and dotted with numerous small, dense clusters of trees. The hills rise and fall gently across the frame, leading the eye towards a distant, hazy horizon. The lighting suggests a clear day, with soft shadows cast by the vegetation.

The Preserve

“Without love of the land, conservation lacks meaning and purpose, for only in a deep and inherent feeling for the land can there be dedication in preserving it.”

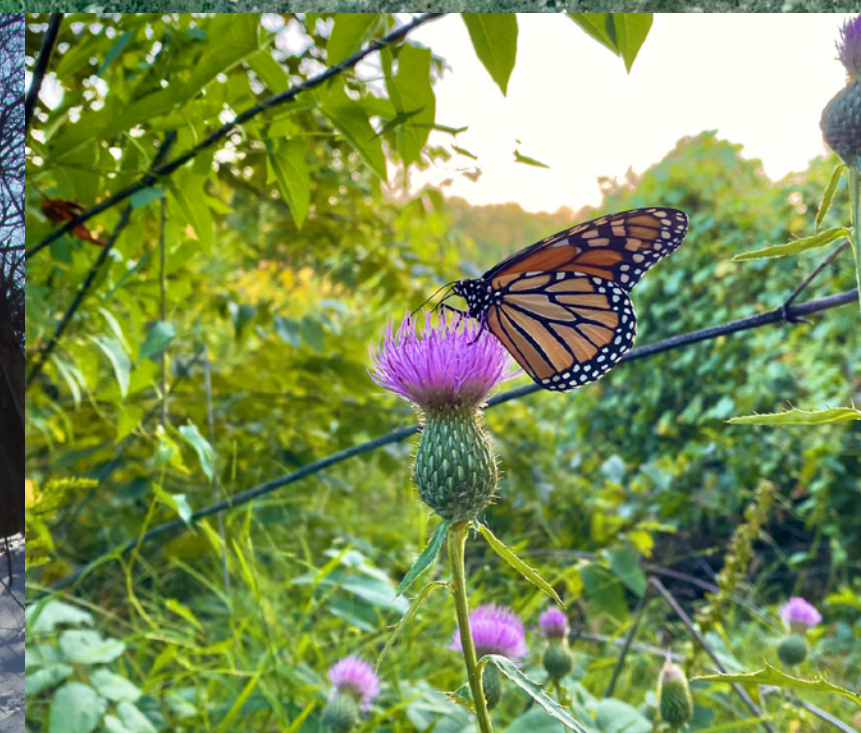
— *Sigurd F. Olson*



The Preserve

The heart of Prairiewood's mission, the Preserve is 500-plus acres of undeveloped, native tallgrass prairie with incredible biodiversity. A unique composite of all aspects of prairie ecology, its lower elevations contain riparian forests with clear spring-fed streams winding through them, and eventually into Wildcat Creek, as well as the iconic, rocky, grass-covered hills that give this region its namesake, the Flint Hills.

Located a mere 10 minutes from Kansas State University, Prairiewood is not only positioned to protect and preserve this dynamic stand of native tallgrass prairie, but to also strategically leverage its proximity to education-centric Manhattan, Kansas, affording the public a uniquely convenient degree of access to the most depleted ecosystem in North America — the native tallgrass prairie.







The Facilities

“Our two-night stay at Prairiewood helped bring us some peace. We explored the property, read about the importance of the tallgrass prairie, and basked in its beauty.”



HomePlace Lodge

HomePlace is a multi-use, authentic timber-frame structure that houses two single-room lodging suites, Prairiewood's administrative offices, as well common space shared by guests. HomePlace also offers a dock on the still waters of Wildcat Creek where paddling by canoe or kayak is available.



Blue Sage Barn

Blue Sage Barn is a dynamic event space that hosts events for up to 150 people, complete with a full-service bar, catering kitchen, large covered patio, and boutique art and gift gallery.



RetreatHouse

RetreatHouse is a private guest house located on the edge of Prairiewood's Willis Prairie. It is an elegant 4-bedroom, 4.5-bath home that includes a multi-purpose meeting room, hot tub, swimming pool, and sport court.



StoneHouse

StoneHouse is a private guest house located on the north edge of Prairiewood's Preserve. It is a uniquely historic 1860s limestone estate, offering 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, and includes a hot tub and outdoor courtyard and patio for hosting small events.





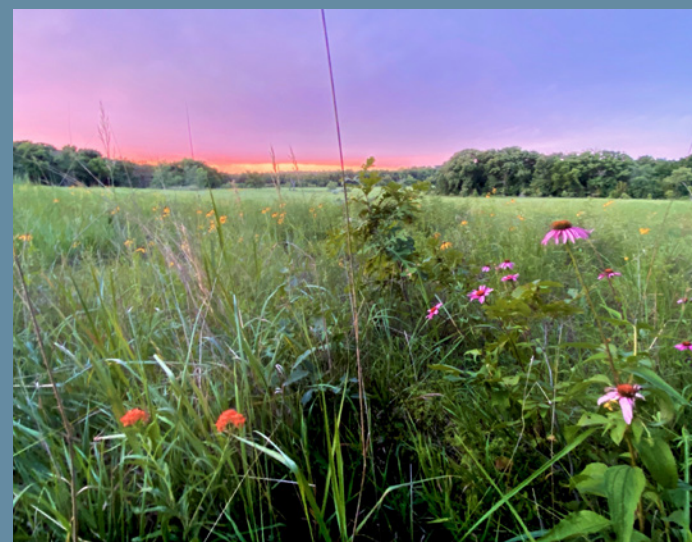
Kingfisher Cottage

Kingfisher Cottage is a private guest house located on the edge of Prairiewood's Willis Prairie. It is a dynamic guest home offering two separate units — a 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath with full kitchen, and an additional separate casita-style unit with an additional 2 bedrooms and full bath.



Walnut Pond & Educational Pavilion

Located in the heart of the Preserve is Walnut Pond. An idyllic small pool of water occurring at a natural wetland area, this site offers a park-like setting for guests to gather, and includes a sand beach, picnic tables, fire pit, pavilion, as well as canoe access to Wildcat Creek.



The Numbers

7,500 annual visitors

600 total acres, including all facilities and improvements

500 acres of undeveloped native tallgrass prairie

17 separately acquired parcels

15 years in business

2 conservation easements, totaling nearly 250 acres
(The Nature Conservancy, Kansas Land Trust)

3 individual guest homes

2 individual guest room suites

2 event venues
(Blue Sage Barn, StoneHouse Courtyard)

1 guest lodge



“ I have always LOVED coming here since I was a little girl. I have made countless unforgettable memories here, and I will cherish them forever. Prairiewood captures the essence of freedom and adventure, and I love that. From walking the hills to romping through the creek to jumping in the pool, I am grateful for every second I am privileged to spend here. I will never forget the marvelous wonders at Prairiewood. Thank you for everything!!

— *Hannah*

“ You have created an extraordinary RetreatHouse, filled with extraordinary touches, on sacred land that you have now restored and protected in perpetuity. And, because of that, and the gift of your kind conversations and warm presence, I have had the most meaningful experience. With deep gratitude and eager anticipation of many future stays ...

— *Chris*

“ Your place is just what we needed are were looking for. We were feeling depleted and hungry for some beautiful, refueling respite. Your attention to all the details left me feeling so embraced and my heart tended. Eternal gratitude that you are you doing what you do.

— *Santalena*

“ When you find a place this amazing, you come back year after year.

— *Timothy & Abby*

“ Everything about these past few days has been perfect — the weather, the scenery, the late-blooming flowers on the prairie, the breathtaking views, and this little haven of rest. What a blessing to be able to slow down, reflect, and reconnect with one another. We are deeply grateful for this special time together.

— *Mark & Autumn*

“ Being in a setting where it's so obvious that the creators have a deep connection to meaning, makes me want to be more intentional in my own life — how I live, how I spend my time, how I interact with the natural world, my relationships, all of it.

— *Chad*

“ Thank you, again, for being such a safe place for us. This place is so special to us, and we are always able to accomplish the reconnection that we need and desire. It is tranquil, peaceful, and the love you've built this home around is palpable. We can't wait to come in the spring again.

— *Melanie & Bart*

Modeled after the Arbor Day Foundation and its physical guest campus Arbor Day Farm, the transition of Prairiewood into the nonprofit Prairiewood Connect Foundation will ensure preservation of this place for future generations. Also like Arbor Day Farm, Prairiewood Preserve will be the “place where the Foundation’s mission comes to life.” This dualistic framework — affording the broader Foundation a physical place for strategic engagement with the tallgrass prairie — will allow for the most durable future:



Prairiewood Connect Foundation

The Foundation’s mission is to help preserve and protect the last remaining stands of native tallgrass prairie ecology in North America, and to provide critical, life-giving connection to it. Learn more at prairiewoodconnect.org.



Prairiewood Tallgrass Preserve

Owned and operated by the Foundation, the Preserve is where the Foundation’s mission comes to life — offering guests and visitors an array of immersive experiences in and amongst its 500-plus acres of native tallgrass prairie. Learn more at prairiewood.com.

The Prairiewood Connect Foundation is currently seeking resonant individuals and aligned organizations to become key supporters of this initiative to transition all of Prairiewood’s assets and operations to the Foundation. This involves the purchase, by the Foundation, of over \$10,000,000 in land and facilities. This ambitious and long-term strategic plan ensures the experience of Prairiewood’s many important community offerings — from educational programming to tranquil lodging amongst the native tallgrass prairie — will be preserved and available for future generations.

Please contact us if you would like to discuss the opportunity for your family or organization to become a significant part of this important moment in the establishment of Prairiewood’s future durability.



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Prairiewood Connect Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit conservation and education organization. Your donation is tax deductible as allowed by law. No goods or services were provided in return for your contribution.