

Prairie Passage State Information and Contacts

Minnesota*

Over 600 acres of lands at Camden and Blue Mounds State Parks and adjacent MN HWY 23 and US HWY 75 right-of-way is being seeded with locally harvested native grasses and wildflowers. Funds were secured from the Minnesota legislature and ISTEA enhancement funds. These two parks and 36 other areas have been signed as Prairie Passage sites. Several state and federal agencies and other organizations including tourism and natural resources groups are providing support and direction in the implementation of Prairie Passage in Minnesota. Interpretive materials have been developed including:

- A Guide of Minnesota's Prairie Passage Route and Sites
- Southwestern Minnesota's Prairie Passage
- Northwest and West Central Minnesota's Prairie Passage
- Posters
- Informational Kiosks at Rest Areas
- Self-guided Interpretive Trail at Camden State Park
- and others

Mark Anderson
Department of Transportation
Mail Stop 620
395 John Ireland Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651)284-3748
mark.r.anderson@dot.state.mn.us

Iowa

Native grass and wildflower plantings have been established at selected sites along I-35, Iowa's proposed primary Prairie Passage route. Iowa DOT received a several million dollar a year budget for planting all roadsides in that state with native grasses and wildflowers.

Mark Masteller
Department of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way (515)239-1768
Ames, IA 50010
(515)239-1424
mmastel@dot.state.ia.us

OR

Steve Holland
Same address
shollan@dot.state.ia.us

Missouri

Missouri continues to work with neighboring Kansas to identify potential loop routes off I-35 that will bring travelers to and through the state's prairie area.

Stacy Armstrong
Department of Transportation
PO Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573)751-8647
armsts@mail.modot.state.mo.us

Or

Danny Woods
Same address
woodsd@mail.modot.state.mo.us

Texas

Texas routinely uses native grass and wildflower mixes on roadside restorations and reconstructions. The idea for a National Prairie Wildflower Route was originally presented to the National Wildflower Research Center in Austin as a way to connect the North Star State of Minnesota to the Lone Star State of Texas.

Buddy Hudson
Department of Transportation
bhudson@dot.state.tx.us

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Kansas

Kansas secured ISTE A Enhancement funds and has established plantings at selected sites along proposed routes and loop routes. In 1999 an intern met with 66 communities providing information and gathering input for the continued implementation of Prairie Passage in that state. A state brochure has been created and additional interpretive materials will be produced about Prairie Passage efforts. KDOT is working with the Kansas Tourism's Nature Alliance Group to identify individuals who can lead fieldtrips to local prairies and prairie restoration sites. KDOT is also working with Tourism to identify prairie related historic and cultural resource sites that could be included as Prairie Passage sites.

Fred Markham
Kansas Department of Transportation
8th Floor North, Bureau of Design
Docking State Office Building
915 SW Harrison
Topeka, KS 66612
(785)296-0215
Fred@ksdot.org

Oklahoma

Oklahoma secured \$684,000 of ISTE A enhancement funds to establish wildflower plantings along I-35 and the creation of a state wildflower identification poster / brochure. The Tall Grass Prairie Preserve will be identified as a Prairie Passage site.

Joanne Orr
Oklahoma Department of Transportation
200 NE 21st ST
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
(405)521-4037
jorr@odot.org

Or
Laurie Stillings
Same address
(405)521-4037
lstillings@odot.org