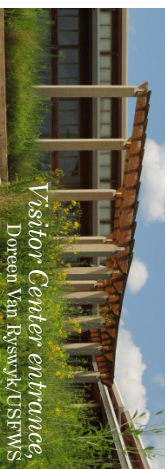


## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

### Welcome to Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge

The mission of Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge is to actively protect, restore, reconstruct and manage the diverse native ecosystems of tallgrass prairie, oak savanna and sedge meadow. The refuge is a major environmental education, volunteer and outdoor recreation hub that serves a variety of visitors. It is free and open to the public.



*Visitor Center entrance,  
Doreen Van Ryswyk/USFWS*

#### Visitor Center

- Family friendly, hands-on exhibits about the tallgrass prairie ecosystem
- Free interpretive and environmental education programs
- Free loaner equipment including binoculars, snowshoes, children's activity backpacks and electric wheelchair
- Orientation film
- Prairie Point Nature Store (operated by the Friends of Neal Smith NWR)

#### Visitor Center Hours

Monday – Saturday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sunday: Hours vary by season

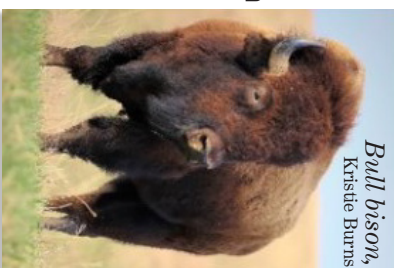
The trails are open dawn to dusk year-round

*Child birdwatching,  
Joanna Gillespie/USFWS*



### Recreational Opportunities

- Wildlife viewing, including bison and elk herd
- Auto tour
- Photography
- Hunting
- School field trips
- Public programs
- Hiking trails (foot traffic only)
- Entry road biking trail
- Indoor/outdoor eating area
- Volunteering



*Bull bison,  
Kristie Burns*



*Compass Plant, Richard Stilwell*

#### Trails

- Tallgrass Trail - Two-mile hard-surfaced loop begins at the Visitor Center and travels through reconstructed and remnant tallgrass prairie (includes benches)
- Overlook Trail - One-half mile accessible loop offers wonderful views of the prairie and the bison/elk enclosure (includes benches)
- Oak Savanna Trail - One-half mile gravel-surfaced loop explores the endangered oak savanna ecosystem (includes benches and vault toilet)

- Basswood Trail - One-half mile mowed woodland loop located at the southern end of the refuge

- Prairie Parkway Bike Trail - This 4.5 mile paved trail is located along Pacific Street, the refuge's main entry road (designated bike lanes are located on both sides of the shoulder)

- Volkspoint Trail - These mowed 3.1-mile and 6.2-mile loops connect the Tallgrass Trail and Oak Savanna Trail before leading back to the visitor center

#### Auto Tour

This 5-mile long driving tour gives an overview of the refuge.

Watch for bison, elk, deer, snakes, ground squirrels, birds, and other native wildlife species as you drive.

The tour is open dawn to dusk year-round.

For your safety, you are required to stay on the road and in your vehicle while driving in the enclosure.



*Bison herd on road, Kristie Burns*

#### Safety

- During your visit, bring sunscreen, hat, and drinking water
- Biting insects and ticks may be found along trails during summer months; insect repellent is advised
- In winter, bring warm clothes, dress in layers, and use an outer layer that protects from the wind

### Prohibited Activities

- Camping
- Fires of any type
- Spotlighting for wildlife
- Dogs off leashes
- Entry into posted closed areas
- Cutting or picking plants
- Release of any wild or domestic animal
- Digging for and/or taking artifacts
- Destruction, disturbance and removal of natural objects (dead or alive)
- Taking of animals unless a legally permitted game species



*Dickcissel,  
Thomas Dunkerton*

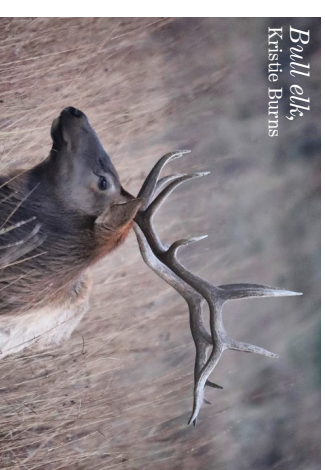
#### Refuge Address

Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 399  
9981 Pacific Street  
Prairie City, IA 50228

#### Contact Information

[https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Neal\\_Smith/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Neal_Smith/)  
515-994-3400 or [nealsmith@fws.gov](mailto:nealsmith@fws.gov)

In case of emergency, call 911



*Bull elk,  
Kristie Burns*

# Neal Smith

## National Wildlife Refuge

