

10/31/2003 Moran Announces Funding for Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

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\$500,000 to Build New Visitors Resource Center

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, an 11,000-acre preserve in central Kansas, has received \$500,000 for the design and construction of a new Visitors Resource Center. The funding is included in the annual appropriations for the Department of the Interior.

"We in Kansas are very fortunate to have this unique partnership in the conservation of the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, and this new resource center will educate visitors about its importance," Moran said. "The new center will bring about a better understanding of the preserve, while boosting Kansas' tourism economy."

The Tallgrass Prairie Preserve is the only national park in the nation owned and managed by a private, non-profit organization, the National Park Trust. The Preserve works to conserve the unique ecosystem and promote the cultural and historical importance of tallgrass prairies in the Midwest.

The new resources center would offer facilities for conferencing, education, lodging, and other uses for the Preserve and the surrounding area. The goal will be to bring together, in one location, information and educational materials currently scattered throughout nearly 400 parks, nationwide.

"While the Midwestern prairies have been eroded away over the last century, they are an important part of our nation's

history," Moran said. "The people of Chase County and the surrounding area have worked hard to make the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve a conservation effort like no other in the United States, and this new visitors resource center will be a great way to educate future generations."

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