

Rachel Snyder PRAIRIE

The Grassland Heritage Foundation owns and maintains the Rachel Snyder Prairie, a 144-acre native and restored tallgrass prairie southeast of Mayetta in northeast Kansas. This beautiful prairie has about 85 acres of tallgrass prairie. Fifteen of those acres are unplowed, intact prairie.

A History of the Prairie

Originally homesteaded in 1857, this prairie was regularly grazed until 1998 and invaded by lespedeza, broom sedge, ragweed, and hedge trees. As a grassland on glaciated terrain, it has been subject to erosion on steep slopes. There were no recorded prescribed burns until 1998. When the homestead came under the ownership of Rachel Snyder, a former editor of Flower and Garden Magazine in Kansas City in 1974, she restored the 1868 limestone house, planted gardens, and restored two small prairie patches. In 1984, she deeded the property to GHF to insure its protection and continued restoration. The limestone house was sold to her friends at her request, and GHF took over full-time maintenance of the prairie in 1994.

Prairie Management

GHF's volunteer team, the Groundhogs, works on Snyder Prairie every third Saturday of the month except December. Activities, led by Preserve Manager Frank Norman and organized for all levels of skill and ability, can vary but include seed collection, removal of invasive plants, and assistance with controlled burns. Frank works with the GHF board to establish multi-year management plans to track the foundation's progress toward meeting prairie management and restoration goals.



Snyder Prairie's Future

Kansans are stewards of the largest remaining expanse of tallgrass prairie in the world. GHF is committed to restoring and maintaining the Rachel Snyder Prairie and to communicating the importance of preserving the prairie and explaining the role it plays in our cultural and ecological heritage.

**Grassland Heritage
Foundation**

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