Enjoy a Guided Hike in the Ft Worth Prairie Park

The Guided Hike
Fort Worth Prairie Park (FWPP) offers a guided hike of the prairie on the 2nd Sunday of every month, weather permitting. The hike will cover different parts of the approximately 2000 acres of the park. The hike route will vary depending on the weather, the tour guide, and participants’ preferences. The hike usually begins at 2pm, but check savetheprairie.org or the Park’s Facebook page for details. Or, sign up to receive email announcements.

The FWPP terrain ranges from windy hills to flowing creeks, along with silent, windless tree groves where deer and buffalo have relaxed for millions of years. Walking through the FWPP, you can easily imagine you are walking with Caddo or Comanche Indians who once roamed this land. Before the Civil War, escaped African American slaves crossed the prairie to freedom in Mexico. The FWPP was part of the Chisholm Trail and contains a creek full of fossils, an Indian marker tree, and ruins of a settler’s old stone house, cellar, and cistern from the 1850’s, along with burial grounds and a mysterious, hand built rock wall almost 3 miles long. Two bison (tested genetically pure) were acquired and have made the FWPP their home since 2006.

The Fort Worth Prairie Park is not currently open to the public as the land to approach the park is owned by the Texas General Land Office (GLO). The rancher leasing the GLO land requests that he be notified of people on the GLO property. Email fwprairiepark@gmail.com to discuss using the park.

What to Wear and Bring on the Hike
It is usually hotter in summer and colder in winter on the hilly sections of the park. Dress appropriately. Wear a hat and use sun screen. Use layered clothing that is easy to take on and off if the temperature changes. Hiking boots are not required. Tennis shoes are fine. Bring water as no water is available locally. There are no restrooms or alternative facilities available. On certain parts of the park, even a bush or tree is not readily available. The closest bathroom is at the gas station at FM1187 and Old Granbury Rd.

Getting to the Park
Fort Worth Prairie Park is 18 miles southwest of downtown Ft Worth and 47 miles southwest of downtown Dallas. It is in southwest Fort Worth, southeast of Lake Benbrook, and divided by Old Granbury Road. The entrance is on the west side of Old Granbury Road, approximately one mile north of FM 1187. The entrance is at the green gate pull-in, immediately adjacent (north) to the abandoned little white ranch house at the top of the hill. There are no other houses anywhere else on that stretch of Old Granbury Road. On the gate you will see a sign: Property of Texas General Land Office.

The best way to find the park is to put the address 10700 Old Granbury Road, Ft. Worth Texas into your smartphone or car’s navigation system. You can also Google it for directions. It is best to approach the park from I-20 as the I-35 route will soon be blocked by construction on the Chisholm Trail Toll Road. A map is available at: http://tinyurl.com/6za5jpl

Detailed Directions to Starting Point: I-20 and Granbury Road Intersection, Fort Worth, Texas

Listed here are different landmarks relative to the approximate distance traveled from the I-20 / Granbury Rd. intersection. If you set your odometer to zero then these directions should be accurate to a few tenths of a mile.

Extra note: if you are on Hulen Rd and if you continue south, then it will curve and intersect Granbury. You can then turn south and continue. This route is not recommended due to traffic issues with the Hulen Mall.

Exit I-20 onto Granbury Rd and head SOUTH
1. At 1.5 miles you will cross Hulen St.
2. At 3.8 miles turn RIGHT onto Old Granbury road. The sign before you turn may still say Sycamore, but the actual street sign when you turn RIGHT will say Old Granbury. You will cross railroad tracks.
3. At 6.1 miles the road will curve. Follow the curve to the LEFT. (DO NOT keep straight, which will take you past large boat storage).
4. At 7.1 miles you will approach a “T” intersection. Turn RIGHT to remain on Old Granbury.
5. At 8.3 miles at top of the hill, STOP and park, by turning into the driveway (large green gate next to small abandoned old white house). If you see a sign on the gate saying “Property of Texas General Land Office,” you are at the FWPP.

Web Site: savetheprairie.org