

The Indian Boundary Prairies



Things to Do

- Hiking
- Bird watching

Volunteer Opportunities

Please contact Karl Gnaedinger at 708-363-1654 or kgnaedinger@tnc.org for volunteer opportunities at the Indian Boundary Prairies.

What to See: Plants

Natural communities include black soil prairie, sand prairie and sedge meadow. Indian grass, little bluestem and big bluestem are common, with cord grass, bluejoint grass and sedges dominating the wetter swales. Unusual plants found here are small sundrops, narrow-leaved sundew and yellow-eyed grass. More than 250 species of plants thrive at the prairies, including the endangered eastern prairie white fringed orchid.

What to See: Animals

Indian Boundary Prairies are an important sanctuary for butterflies and other animals that require large expanses of high-quality natural area. More than 750 insect species are known to inhabit the prairies, including the Aphrodite fritillary, bunchgrass skipper and dreamy dusky wing butterflies. The smooth green snake, eastern milk snake and 11 other species of amphibians and reptiles are found here.

Ninety-seven bird species have been recorded, including the Virginian rail, lesser and great yellow legs, savanna sparrows, sandpipers and the state-threatened [Henslow's sparrow](#). The Indian Boundary Prairies are critical habitat for other birds, such as the [bobolink](#) and eastern meadowlark. Gray foxes have denned on the prairie for several years.

Plan Your Visit

Please stay on the trails to avoid harming native plant communities or trespassing private land.

Directions

- Exit eastbound from Interstate 57 **OR** westbound from Interstate 294 onto 159th street (U.S. Route 6)
- Continue on 159th to Whipple Avenue, just west of the McDonald's
- Turn north on Whipple until it ends in a small parking lot of the Markham Prairie Complex.