



Biological Inventories at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

Importance of Natural Resource Inventories:

The primary role of the Heartland Network Inventory and Monitoring Program is to collect, organize, and make available natural resource data to park managers. It also contributes to the understanding of natural resources by transforming data into information through analysis, synthesis, and statistical modeling. These efforts result in improving park management through reliance on scientific knowledge.

The Heartland Network recently completed multiple inventories of vertebrate animal and vascular plant species at Tallgrass Prairie NPRES. Results of inventory projects include several reports, databases and voucher data. Non-sensitive reports, maps, and data sets are available at the Heartland Network web page, <http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/htln/inventories.cfm>.

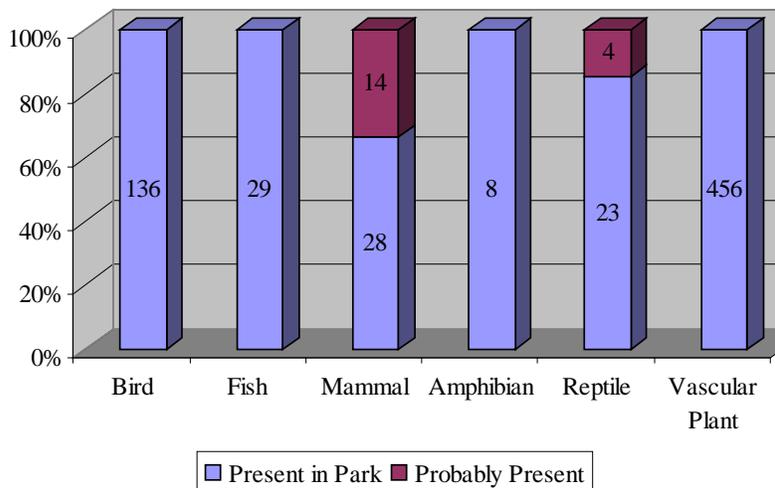


Inventory Methods:

The Inventory and Monitoring program provides twelve basic inventories for park managers, ranging from air quality inventories to lists of vascular plants and vertebrate animals within parks. Heartland Network has completed biological inventories identifying vascular plants and vertebrate animals at Tallgrass Prairie NPRES. Initially, scientists listed species of plants and animals that they would expect to find, based on available habitat, normal range of the species, and historical accounts. Then they initiated uniquely designed studies that would validate these lists and discover additional species.

Inventory Results¹:

The inventories confirmed 680 species as living within the park and an additional 18 that may occur at Tallgrass Prairie NPRES, but were not confirmed. Of the original species considered as potential residents, researchers could not confirm 15 as still resident. Scientists also categorized the abundance of 367 species that they confirmed as resident at Tallgrass Prairie NPRES. You can obtain species lists from the Natural Resource Information Portal at <http://nrinfo.nps.gov/Home.mvc>. Scientists also found that:



1. Ten species at the park are of conservation concern, including two confirmed species, endangered Topeka shiner (*Notropis topeka*) and threatened bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). Scientists found several state listed species of concern as well.
2. Non-native species in the natural areas comprise 60 plant species, four fish, and 17 bird species with 11 of the plant species ranking as a significant threat to native plant communities.

Heartland Network Inventory and Monitoring Program of the National Park Service. Visit <http://nature.nps.gov/im/units/htln>

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¹ Williams, M.H. 2009. An Evaluation of Biological Inventory Data Collected at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve - Vertebrate and Vascular Plant Inventories. Natural Resource Technical Report NPS/2009/NRTR—2009/247. National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado.