



Trail Map

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie


Welcome to Midewin

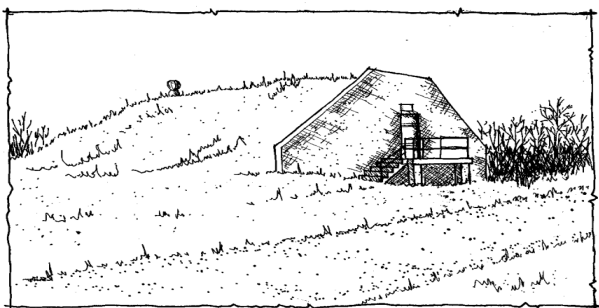
(mih-DAY-win)

The Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie was established in 1996 and is the first national tallgrass prairie in the country. It is administered by the U.S. Forest Service, with the support of hundreds of volunteers and partner agencies, businesses, and organizations. Created from the former Joliet Army Ammunition Plant, Midewin remained largely closed to the public for many years while the Army cleaned up contamination remaining from decades of TNT manufacturing and packaging.

Today, about 13,000 acres of Midewin are open to the public, including over 30 miles of trails. 21.7 miles of trail are for shared use by hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. 8.9 miles of trails are for hiking only. Bicycles, horses, and leashed dogs are restricted to designated trails at all times. Midewin public lands are open from 4 a.m. until 10 p.m. daily.

Picnic tables and portable toilets are available at all trailheads. There are currently no sources of water at Midewin other than at the Midewin Welcome Center. Bulletin boards located at all trailheads are regularly updated with important information. Please check for the latest news before heading out on the trail. Enjoy your visit.

 Means check out this Point of Interest



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
 Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie
 30239 S. State Route 53
 Wilmington, IL 60481
 (815) 423-6370
 www.fs.usda.gov/midewin

Revised:7/18/18

Hunting
 Midewin is open for spring turkey hunting and for fall deer hunting under special restrictions. During firearm seasons, all non-hunting visitors to Midewin must stay on trails. Check the Midewin website for more information on hunting.










Livestock
 Cattle are helping maintain grassland bird habitat at Midewin. Their curiosity or maternal instincts may cause them to approach visitors. Please keep your distance from the cows and keep pasture gates closed.







Dogs
 Dogs are welcome at Midewin as long as they are kept on a maximum 6-foot leash and on a trail.

Midewin Welcome Center
 Open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and on Saturdays in season. There are displays about the natural and cultural history of Midewin, an information counter for maps and questions, and a small book shop.


Motor Vehicle Use
 The map displays what types of motor vehicle are currently allowed and where. Only designated routes shown on the map are open to motorized use, and all motorized vehicles must be street legal under Illinois state law. Snow is not removed on these routes.
In case of emergency at Midewin
 Call 911 for medical emergencies.
 Otherwise, contact the U.S. Forest Service at (815) 423-6370

Traffic
 Heavy equipment uses the roads at Midewin for demolition, restoration, or farming. Operators may not be able to hear or see you. Stay away from operating equipment and watch for road traffic.












Hoff Road Trailhead		Driving Directions: From the Midewin Welcome Center turn right on Route 53 and continue 3.6 miles to Hoff Rd. Turn right and continue 2 miles to the parking area and trailhead.	
Twin Oaks Trail	  	5.82 mile loop trail	
Bailey Bridge Trail	  	1.8 mile trail crosses over a WW II era portable bridge and connects Midewin to the Wauponsee Glacial Trail	
Hedgeapple Trail		1.5 mile hiking trail connecting Twin Oaks Trail and Group 63 Trail on the north.	
Turtle Pond		0.3 mile hike around pond	Chicago Road Seedbeds: Small native seed production area 

River Road Trailhead (P-3)		Driving Directions: From the Midewin Welcome Center turn left on Route 53 for one mile to River Rd. Turn right on River Rd and continue for 2.2 miles to Boathouse Rd and turn right onto gravel road. Parking area will be on your right, seed beds will be on your left. Trail and prairie access is through the pedestrian gate north of the parking area.	
Prairie Creek Woods Loop		1.5 mile loop trail through restored prairie savanna woodlands	
Henslow Trail	  	5.2 - mile trail through restored South Patrol Restoration Project. Continues to Iron Bridge Trailhead.	
Blodgett Marsh Trail		4.5- mile mowed trail that loops through the Blodgett Marsh Restoration Project	
	River Road Seedbeds	Largest native seed production area at Midewin	
	South Patrol Road Restoration	500 acres of restored tallgrass prairie	

Driving Directions: From the Midewin Welcome Center turn right on Route 53 for one mile to River Rd. Turn right on River Rd and continue for 2.2 miles to Boathouse Rd and turn right onto gravel road. Parking area will be on your right, seed beds will be on your left. Trail and prairie access is through the pedestrian gate north of the parking area.

Explosives Road Trailhead (P-5)		Driving Directions: From the Midewin Welcome Center turn right on Route 53. After 1.7 miles, turn left onto Explosives Rd and follow to the trailhead and parking area.	
Newton Loop		1.5 - mile loop named for George Newton who died in 1865 and has a grave marker along the trail.	

Driving Directions: From the Midewin Welcome Center turn right on Route 53. After 1.7 miles, turn left onto Explosives Rd and follow to the trailhead and parking area.

Iron Bridge Trailhead		Driving Directions: From the Midewin Welcome Center turn right on Route 53. After 2.4 miles and passing under overpass, turn right onto the gravel road to parking area and trailhead.	
Group 63 Trail	  	3.5 - mile loop around Group 63 bunker field	
	Bunker 63-1 is open for exploration, located at the east end of the trail through the middle of the bunker field. An accessible ramp leads up to the bunker.		
Henslow Trail	  	5.2 - mile trail crosses the Iron Bride over SR 53/ Historic Route 66 and continues to River Rd. Trailhead.	
Route 53 Trail	  	2.6 - mile trail parallel to bison pasture, from Henslow Trail south to the Welcome Center.	
	Southwest Bison Overlook	Concrete benches and spotting scopes for viewing the bison pasture	