

Saturdays in July	
July 2	9:00 – 11:00 am: Heron Rookery Tour 10:00 am – 1:30 pm: Ghosts of the Ammunition Plant (Car Caravan)
July 9	10:15 – 11:45 am: Hike the Prairie with Jerry 4:30 – 6:30 pm: Midewin by Horseback (Iron Bridge Trailhead) 8:00 – 9:00 pm: Campfire Program (Iron Bridge Trailhead) [Optional – bring & cook your own campfire snacks from 6:30 – 7:30]
July 16	10:00 am – 12:00 pm: Midewin for Kids, Prairie Pioneers
July 30	6:00 – 8:00 pm: Bike by Twilight

Saturdays in August	
August 6	4:30 – 6:30 pm: Midewin by Horseback 7:30 – 8:30 pm: Campfire Program (Iron Bridge Trailhead) [Optional – bring and cook your own campfire snacks - 6:30 – 7:30]
August 13	10:00 am – 12:00 pm: Life of the Prairie Farmer
August 20	10:00 am – 12:00 pm: Midewin for Kids, Raptors & the Food Chain
August 27	10:00 am – 12:00 pm: Cemetery Tour (Starr's Grove & Chicago Road

Midewin for Kids

Prairie Pioneers - Be transported back in time to experience the Illinois prairie as the pioneers did in the 1800's. Children will create (and eat!) a snack like a pioneer child, play a game like prairie pioneer child and weave in and around a vast restored prairie at Midewin, experiencing the "endless sea of grass" as did settlers in the past.

Raptors & the Food Chain - Raptors and the Food Chain is a VERY up close and personal visit with many different indigenous species of Illinois. Prairie State licensed educator brings the Raptors food chain to life! The group will experience the food chain from decomposition all the way to the Raptor. This Demo also includes a large touch table and Q&As.

Auto Caravan Tours

Heron Rookery - Have you ever seen a group of trees cluttered with sometimes hundreds of large nests within the canopy? If so, you're probably observing a heron rookery, a colony where birds such as The Great Blue Heron breed and raise their young. Bring your binoculars and observe (from a distance) the behavior of these amazing creatures on this guided walk during the peak of nesting season.

Birds East and West - Bring binoculars and camera to see the birds that make Midewin their home. Watch the dew burn off the grass during this early morning hike. Meet at the *Welcome Center*.

Ghosts of the Ammunition Plant - In 1940 the U.S. Government acquired over 36,000 acres of land near the confluence of the Kankakee and Des Plaines rivers to build an ammunition plant. Why here? What was the impact on the local economy? How was it

built and how did it operate? These are all questions addressed on this tour of the former Elwood Ordnance Plant. Many of the remaining structures will be viewed, and you will step into the past as you enter a 1940's ammunition storage igloo. This tour takes approximately three hours and is offered by bus or auto caravan. Routes vary slightly.

Cemeteries - Whether amateur historian or genealogist, many are interested in cemeteries. Join Midewin tour guides in an exploration of area historic cemeteries. Learn about how the cemeteries came to be and about the lives of some of the farmers and merchants, settlers and soldiers, associated with those cemeteries. Maple Hill and Klingler cemeteries will be visited on the "North" tour, and Chicago Road and Starr's Grove cemeteries on the "South" tour.

Life of the Prairie Farmer - This east side tour will explore the challenges faced by the Euro-American settlers and farmers of the Illinois tallgrass prairie. The development of agrarian life from the 1830s through the time when the U.S. Army purchased the land for a munitions plant in 1940 will be examined, as we visit the remains of a one room school, a homestead, and a small historic cemetery.

Walks & Rides

Bike Tour - Learn about the ins and outs of

Midewin over the crackle of your tires on the gravel path. You must provide and transport your own bicycle. Heavier tread tires are recommended, as the route includes both paved and rough gravel surfaces. Meet at the *Welcome Center*.

Midewin by Horse - See and learn about Midewin, its history and management, from the back of your horse. Join equestrian volunteers for a ride through portions of Midewin not yet open for public use as you learn more about how the area is being managed today. Participants must bring their own horse. Call for specific directions to the starting point for this activity.

Hike the Prairie with Jerry - On this 1 1/2-hour (1 1/2 mile) guided interpretive hike, participants will view restored prairie along *Grass Frog Trail* and learn about the prairie restoration process. Expect to see a variety of prairie grasses, forbs (prairie flowers) in bloom, and wetland sedges as well as a variety of grassland and savannah birds. The walk will finish with a tour of Midewin's River Road Seedbed Propagation Area.

Campfire Program - Join us for a fun and relaxing time in the prairie listening to stories, singing songs, and playing games over the sights and sounds of a crackling fire (optional bring-your-own/cook-your-own campfire snacks. Meet at the Iron Bridge Trailhead.

General Tour Information

Cost: All programs in 2011 are free unless otherwise noted. Some special group tours involve a fee.

Program Duration: Unless otherwise noted each program will last approximately 2 hours.

Reservations: Advanced registration is required. Leave a message at (815) 423-2170 or email erbender@fs.fed.us. Please leave contact info in case we need to contact you about cancellations or changes to the tour schedule.

Cancellations: We will make every effort to offer all activities as scheduled. All tours but primarily bike rides and campfire programs may be cancelled or rescheduled due to weather. Changing site conditions and staff availability may require changes to the schedule. Call (815) 423-2170 for a recorded message regarding current program information. You may also leave a message at this number.

Where to Meet: Unless otherwise noted all programs begin and end at the *Midewin Welcome Center* located at 30239 South State Route 53, Wilmington, Illinois -- the building with the 3 flagpoles in front.

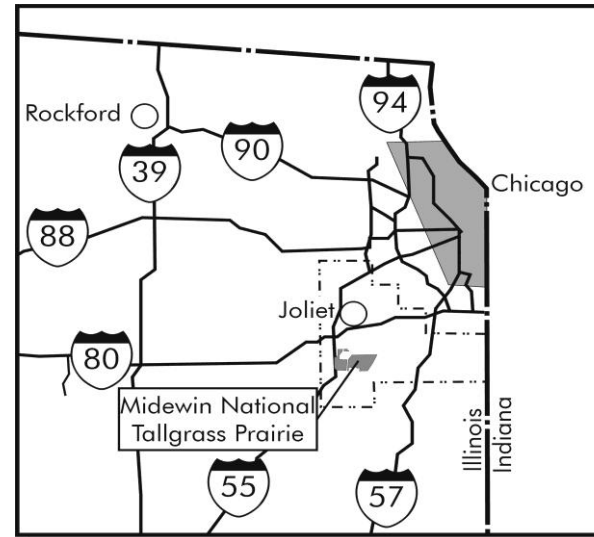
When to Arrive: All programs begin promptly at the published time. Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early to allow time for registration.

What to Bring: Come dressed for the weather, wearing shoes suitable for walking over easy to moderately uneven ground. Bring water, sun protection, and insect repellent. Cameras and binoculars are encouraged.

Auto Caravan Tours: Participants in these activities will drive their own vehicles as part of a staff led caravan. A number of stops are made along the way with short walks to points of interest. Running commentary can be heard over your vehicle radio as the caravan moves from point to point. Participants need not leave their vehicles if they do not wish to do so.

Bike and Horse Rides: Participants in these activities must provide their own bike or horse.

Safety: Public safety concerns prevent access to the interior of remnant arsenal buildings on tours.



From I55: Look for exit 241, Wilmington. At the top of the ramp (both northbound and southbound), turn left. Travel 3.5 miles on New River Road to the intersection with State Route 53 and turn left. Follow Route 53 for 1.0 mile to the Midewin Supervisor's Office, on the right side of the highway.

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie
30239 S. State Route 53
Wilmington, IL 60481
(815) 423-6370
www.fs.fed.us/mntp/

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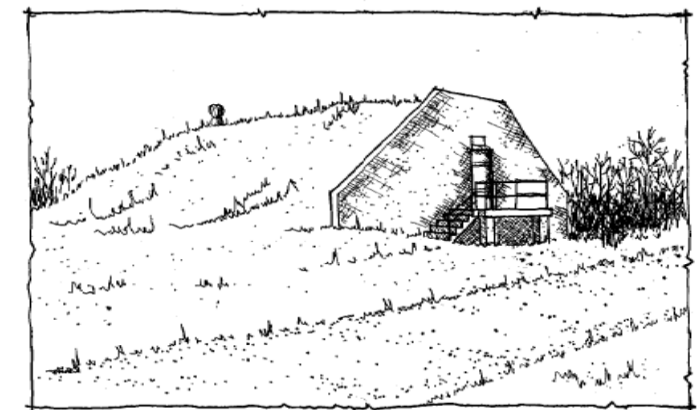
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General Information

For the visitor to Midewin, there are currently 7,200 acres open to unescorted public access. There are about 22 miles of interim trails available for public use. Several rustic day use recreation sites are also available. These sites offer picnic table and portable toilets.

The *Midewin Welcome Center*, located at 30239 South State Route 53, two miles north of Wilmington, IL is the place to start your Midewin visit. Here you will see exhibits designed to lay the groundwork for your own exploration of Midewin, whether on your own or participating in one of our escorted programs. Staff at the *Welcome Center* can assist you with planning your visit. A small bookstore operated by the Midewin Interpretive Association, a private not-for-profit partner of the Forest Service, is also located in the *Welcome Center*.



Tour Schedule July / August 2011

