

Event Release

Johnson County Citizens for Environmental Action (CEA)

Release date: October 20, 2020

Event date(s): Saturday, November 14, with weather-determinant back-up dates –
Sunday, November 15 and Tuesday, November 17
Start time 10:00 am

Event: CEA's Restorative Burning of a Portion of Turkeyfoot Prairie

Location: Warrensburg's Turkeyfoot Prairie
near the Soccer Fields at West Park – SW 101 Road

Contact: Vernon Elsberry (660) 747-5394

Mirroring the indigenous practice of burning prairie to refresh the balance of annuals, perennials and grasses to their ultimate vigor, Johnson County Citizens for Environmental Action (CEA) has arranged for a burning of a portion of Turkeyfoot Prairie in mid-November. The group seeks volunteers who will help to manage the burn according to the instructions from the certified burn administrator who will be leading the project.

The planned burn will take on roughly a third of the seven-acre tallgrass section of the property. Ideal weather conditions are necessary for a burn to take place, so the target dates for the burn to take place are Saturday, November 14, and if that doesn't work, Sunday, November 15 and then Tuesday, November 17. Burn time is tentatively scheduled for 10:00 am each of those days.

Those interested in taking part of the project can contact Vernon Elsberry, manager of the CEA volunteers at the prairie – at (660) 747-5394. Vern can let you know more about what will be expected of you as a volunteer, including the appropriate clothing to wear for a burn, and tools you might be expected to use on the project.

Warrensburg’s Turkeyfoot Prairie is located within Warrensburg’s West Park, on SW 101 Road – just across the road from the Johnson County’s Old Drum Animal Shelter. The property is owned and managed by the Warrensburg Park and Recreation Department, with the assistance of Citizens for Environmental Action (CEA) volunteers.

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Photo suggested caption:

Prior to the 1700s, America’s Midwest – from western Missouri to the Rocky Mountain range – was primarily prairie land. Indigenous peoples periodically burned the prairie to refresh the greens, forbs and grasses that populated the landscape; and Johnson County Citizens for Environmental Action (CEA) will soon be conducting a controlled burn on a portion of Warrensburg’s Turkeyfoot Prairie in order to accomplish much the same thing.