Wolf Haven International Prairie Access Protocol

Updated June 2026

Background: Wolf Haven is fortunate to steward 36 acres of protected, rare, and sensitive Mima mound prairie. The protocols here describe our limited prairie access policies for visitors, education groups, and restoration and research partners. These protocols are subject to change over time.

Visitor access hours: the prairie walking path is open anytime the sanctuary is open for visits. Wolf Haven's front gates open and close promptly at the following seasonal times:

- June 1 - March 31 Saturday and Sunday, 9:30am to 1:00pm
- April 1 - May 31 Closed for whelping season; prairie is accessible only via direct inquiry

Visitor access requirements:

- Prairie visitors must check-in and check-out at the Visitor Center; if the Visitor Center Manager is not present, visitors should check with other Wolf Haven staff.
- During open access hours, visitors may walk the "Prairie Path" that leads from the wolf cemetery to the Grandfather Tree and back. To protect the sensitive ecosystem, this is the only part of the prairie open to the public.
- Any other access (for restoration, research, etc) must be coordinated in advance.
- If visitors are on the prairie, Wolf Haven staff must be onsite in case of emergency.
- Companion animals are strictly prohibited on Wolf Haven property, and may not be left in parked cars.

Education groups: See above "Visitor access requirements" and the Prairie Field Trip Reminders & Rules. Education groups (adults and youth) MUST coordinate with Wolf Haven's Education Department to register and schedule visits in advance. Group participants will remain in designated prairie areas while onsite (exact locations will be discussed by staff and group teachers/instructors).

Restoration: Partners conducting prairie restoration work must schedule their work in advance with Wolf Haven staff. They should complete their work Monday - Friday between 8am and 4pm, and should check-in and check-out with staff at the admin office. Any work outside those business hours requires additional coordination, including an assigned staff person to be on-site for safety and to control gate access.

Research: Researchers interested in conducting research on the prairie should complete this application. Proposed activities must align with Wolf Haven operations and not disrupt sanctuary residents, and should also be coordinated with and informed by Wolf Haven's restoration and monitoring partners Sanders Freed and Sarah Hamman (this isn't necessary but is recommended).

Wolf Haven staff prairie contacts

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