

KANSAS

FLINT HILLS

National Scenic Byway



Scenic Byways Etiquette

The Flint Hills Scenic Byway area is one of the great natural landscapes in the United States. Please help us preserve this beautiful land by not picking the flowers and native grasses, and by not straying onto private land. Of course, please do not litter. This magnificent, scenic land is home to many Kansas residents who welcome you to their communities, shops and restaurants. Please do not climb fences or gates. And please, help keep everyone safe by obeying posted speed limits.



For more information about the
 Kansas Flint Hills National Scenic Byway contact:
 Council Grove Convention & Visitors Bureau 620-767-5413
 Chase County Chamber of Commerce 620-273-8469
 National Scenic Byways website: byways.org
 Kansas Scenic Byways website: ksbyways.org

This brochure has been funded by the
 Kansas Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway
 Administration through the Kansas Scenic Byways Program.



photo by Steve Mulligan ©2007

KANSAS

FLINT HILLS

National Scenic Byway

FLINT HILLS AREA MAP

Scenic Places

- Schrumpf Hill Overlook (2.8 miles south of Cottonwood Falls)
- Chase County Courthouse (Cottonwood Falls)
- Cottonwood River Bridge (Cottonwood Falls)
- Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve (north of Strong City)
- Neosho River Walk (Council Grove)
- Madonna of the Trail Statue (Council Grove)
- Kaw Guardian of the Grove sculpture (Council Grove)

Historic Sites and Museums

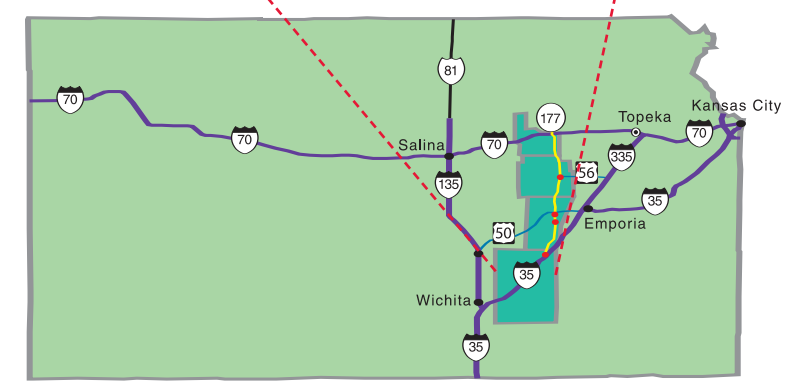
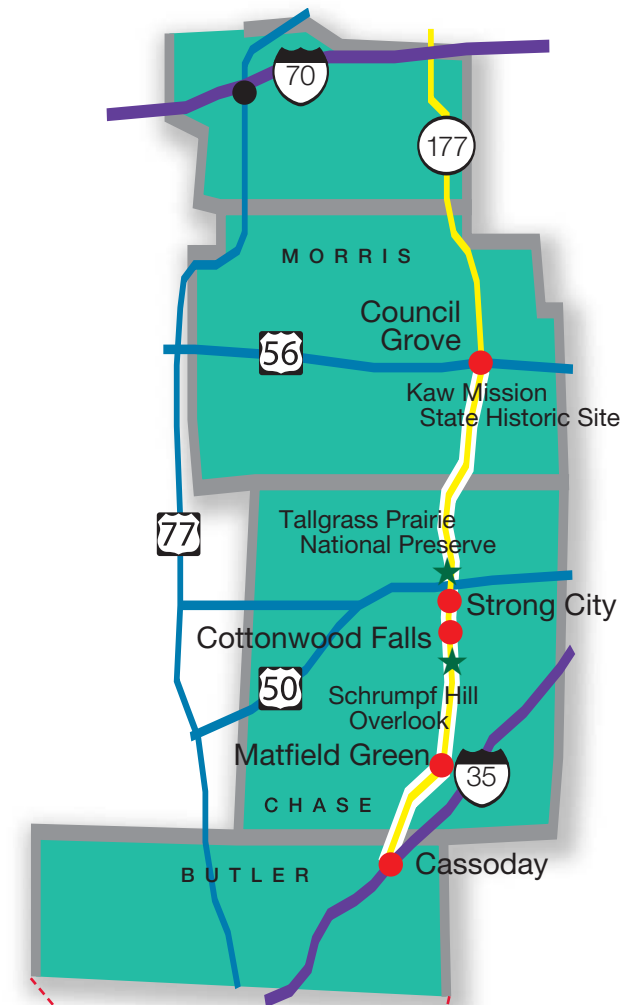
- Allegawaho Memorial Heritage Park (Council Grove)
- Cassoday Museum (Cassoday)
- Chase County Courthouse (Cottonwood Falls)
- Chase County Historical Museum (Cottonwood Falls)
- Roniger Native American Museum (Cottonwood Falls)
- Santa Fe Depot (Strong City)
- Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve (north of Strong City)
- Lower Fox Creek School (Part of Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve)
- Santa Fe Trail (Council Grove)
- Kaw Mission State Historic Site/Museum (Council Grove)
- Council Oak (Council Grove)
- Seth Hays Home (Council Grove)
- Hays House (Council Grove)
- Last Chance Store (Council Grove)
- Custer Elm (Council Grove)
- Post Office Oak and Museum (Council Grove)
- KATY Depot (Council Grove)
- Terwilliger Home and Maple Tourist Camp (Council Grove)
- Pioneer Bluffs Historic District (Matfield Green)

Cultural Activities

- Flint Hills Rodeo Parade (Cottonwood Falls/Strong City)
- Flint Hills Rodeo (Strong City)
- Flint Hills Folklife Festival (Cottonwood Falls)
- Monthly Motorcycle Rally
 (Cassoday, Cottonwood Falls, Council Grove)
- Prairie Fire Festival (Cottonwood Falls)
- Ranch Rodeos (Chase and Morris Counties)
- Trail Rides
 (Cassoday, Cottonwood Falls, Council Grove)
- Wah Shun Gah Days (Council Grove)
- Tours by special arrangement
 (Cottonwood Falls, Council Grove)

Recreational Activities

- Hiking at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve,
 Chase State Lake and Council Grove
- Water sports at Council Grove Reservoir
 and Chase State Lake
- Community Connection Trail
 (Cottonwood Falls/Strong City)





Native rock wall along the byway

Spring Hill Ranch located at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

Explore The Flint Hills' Historic Past



Further south you'll discover the magnificent residence of the late 19th century cattle baron, Stephen F. Jones at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. The historic ranch headquarters features a Second Empire-style mansion made of hand-cut native limestone, as well as an enormous three-story barn. The Lower Fox Creek School, a traditional one-room schoolhouse, sits on a nearby hilltop.

Across The Grassland Sea

As you travel Route 177 deep into the heart of the Flint Hills, the sky expands and the land begins to rise and fall like waves on a sea of grass. Much of the land in an area 30- to 40- miles wide along the byway has remained unchanged for thousands of years. Plains Native Americans, such as the Kaw and Osage, lived on the prairie. They used pieces of flint for their tools and weapons. Early settlers crossed over the land, finding it too steep and rocky to farm.

Two miles north of Strong City, the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve protects a portion of pristine prairie. This fragile ecosystem is home to 40 species of grasses, 200 species of birds, 30 mammals, plus reptiles, amphibians and as many as 10 million insects per acre. Look for swooping red-tailed hawks, cotton-tailed rabbits, elusive foxes, coyotes, and the occasional massasauga rattlesnake.



The endless sky over a sea of prairie grasses

Take your time and savor the beauty of the Flint Hills. Its charm has lasted a millennium with its endless vistas and wild, untamed character. From Council Grove to Cassoday, you'll find that the Flint Hills' tawny limestone bluffs and waving seas of grass will call you back for another visit to the last of America's prairies.

The byway takes you on a journey into the history of the American West. Council Grove was named in 1825 by U.S. Commissioners surveying the Santa Fe Trail and seeking safe passage from tribes along the trade route. Look for the trunk of the Council Oak where an agreement was signed with Osage chiefs.



Kaw Mission State Historic Site, Council Grove

Cottonwood Falls is home to the Chase County Courthouse, the oldest courthouse still in use in the state. Built in 1873 with native limestone and walnut, this Second Empire-style building is an architectural jewel shining in the Flint Hills.



The Chase County Courthouse