

Ripple Effect Water Minute # 43

Prairie Facts

Many of us here in the Red River Basin are living on or near former tallgrass prairie. Which of the following tallgrass prairie facts do you know?

- Tallgrass prairies are native to central North America and, at one time, covered a large portion of the American Midwest, as well as portions of Canada.
- The native tall grasses of the prairie grew to 5 to 6 feet, with some stalks shooting up to 8 or 9 feet.
- In order for tallgrass prairies to flourish, they need periodic burning.
- The organic matter deposited in the soil from stands of tallgrass prairie resulted in some of the deepest topsoil ever known.
- Over 99% of the original tallgrass prairie was converted to farmland. Only in areas too rocky or wet to farm do original stands survive.
- The largest prairie restoration project in history, the Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge, is located in the Red River Basin southeast of Crookston and north of Fertile, Minnesota.

Get out and appreciate, enjoy and protect the tallgrass prairie we are fortunate enough to have here in the Red River Basin.

This Ripple Effect is brought to you by the Red River Basin Commission.