

Prairie Plant Identification

Over 100 species of plants grow in the tall grass prairie. Here are just a few:

Big Bluestem

Andropogon gerardii
Blooms: Aug. – Oct.
Plant Height 4' -9'



Big bluestem is a sod-forming bunch of grass and was the most prominent species of the North American tall grass prairie. Its alternate name, *Turkey Foot*, describes the three-branched seed heads which mature in late summer.



Indian Grass

Sorghastrum nutans
Blooms: July – Sep.
Plant Height: 3'-7'

Indian grass is the second most prevalent species of the tall grass prairie. Growing to an average height of 7 feet, Indian grass is an upright clump-forming plant, which varies from yellow to bright orange in autumn. Indian grass is identifiable by the large seed head and bright yellow pollen sacs.

Switch Grass

Panicum virgatum
Blooms: Aug. – Oct.
Plant Height 4' -7'



Switch grass is a prolific member of the prairie society with long branching stems supporting tiny seeds on the end of each branch. Research is currently being conducted on this plant for a new form of bio-fuel that is more efficient than corn.



Showy Goldenrod

Solidago speciosa
Blooms: July – Oct.
Plant Height: 2'-7'

Showy Goldenrod is but one of the many species of Goldenrod growing in this region. This plant begins blooming in mid summer and produces columnar clusters of attractive yellow flowers.

Tall Ironweed

Vernonia gigantea
Blooms: July - Oct.
Plant Height: 3'-7'



Ironweed is a hardy native wildflower that adds color to the sun-parched prairie. Visible from mid summer to mid fall, the mature blooms are deep purple and comprised of 13–30 tiny individual flower heads. The dried stems are dark brown with tan seed heads.

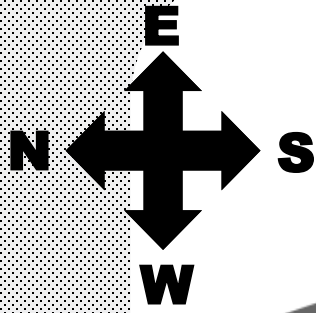


McCloud Nature Park Prairie Maze Map



McCloud Nature Park

8518 Hughes Road
North Salem, Indiana 46165
(765) 676-5437
mccloudnp@hcparks.net
HendricksCountyParks.org



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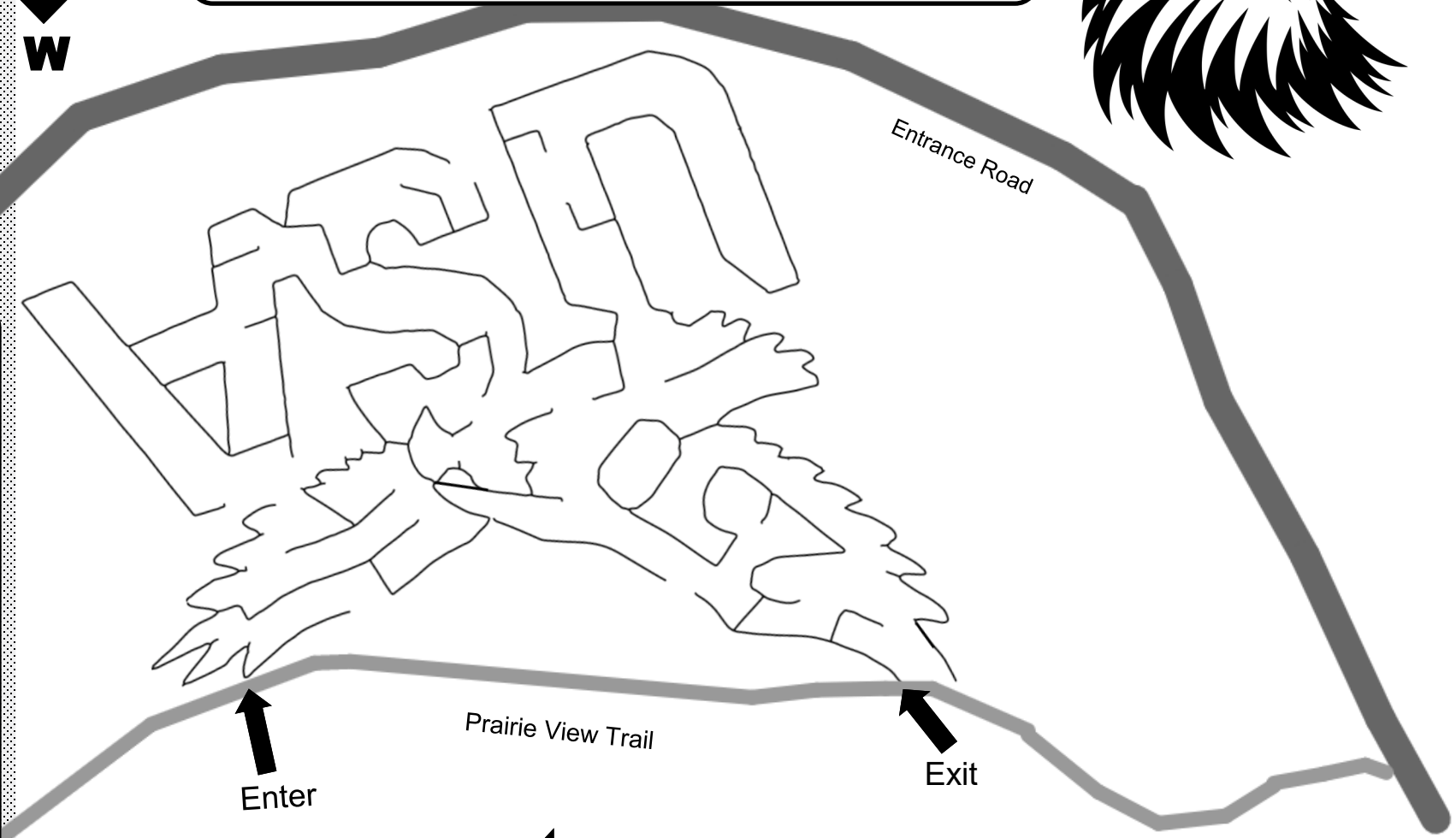


Maze Rules

No smoking in the maze.

Watch your step for uneven ground.

Do **NOT** create your own path through the prairie grass.



← To Nature Center

(Black lines are the trails.)