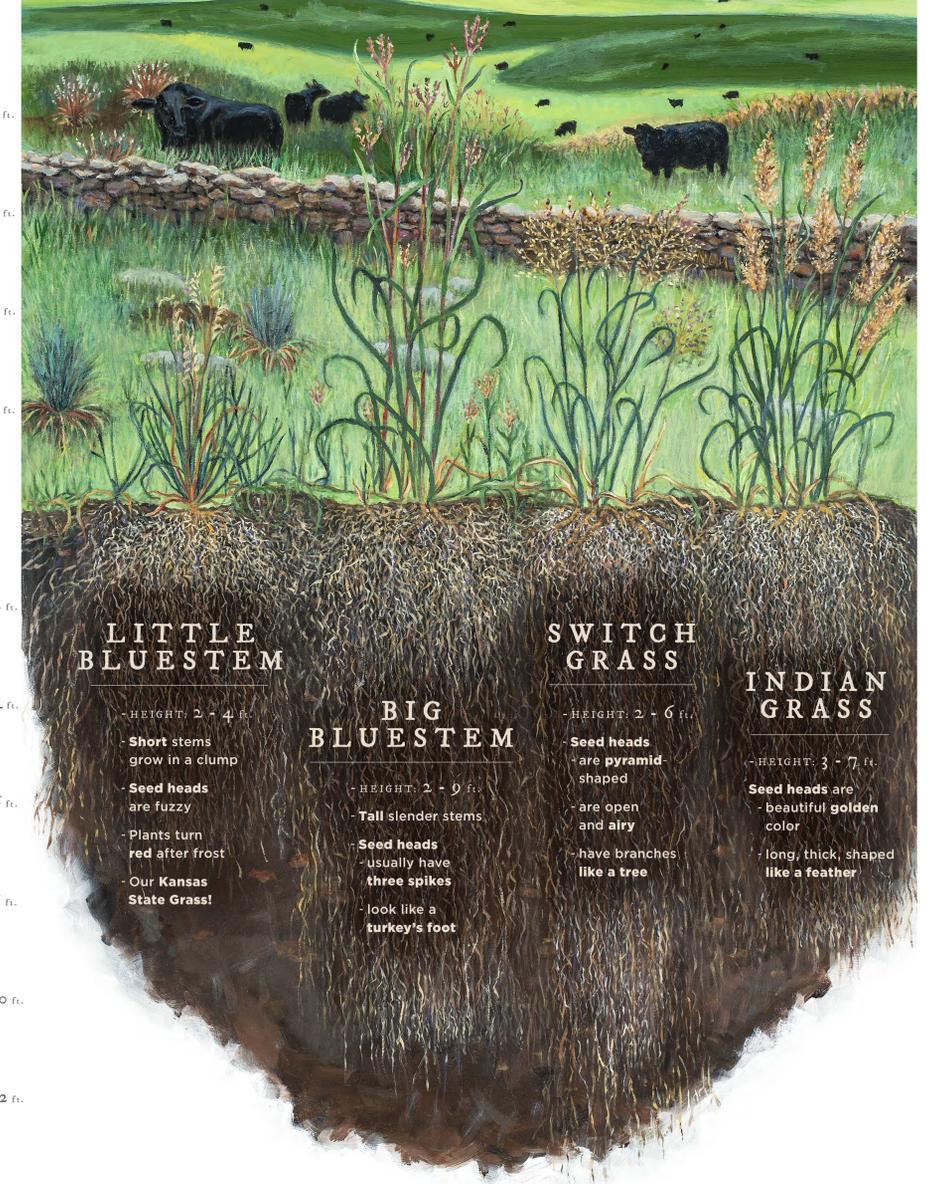


THE FLINT HILLS

"In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught."

- Baba Dioum, Conservationist, Senegal



LITTLE BLUESTEM

- HEIGHT: 2 - 4 ft.
- Short stems grow in a clump
- Seed heads are fuzzy
- Plants turn red after frost
- Our Kansas State Grass!

BIG BLUESTEM

- HEIGHT: 2 - 9 ft.
- Tall slender stems
- Seed heads usually have three spikes
- look like a turkey's foot

SWITCH GRASS

- HEIGHT: 2 - 6 ft.
- Seed heads are pyramid-shaped
- are open and airy
- have branches like a tree

INDIAN GRASS

- HEIGHT: 3 - 7 ft.
- Seed heads are beautiful golden color
- long, thick, shaped like a feather

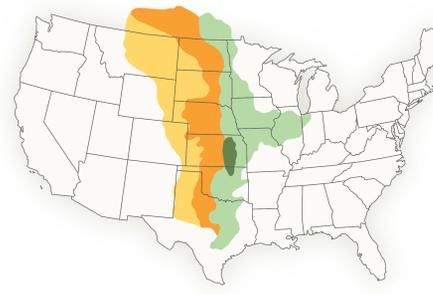
Each year plants grow back from an underground web of roots

Root systems can reach 8-12 feet deep

Deep roots help grasses survive extreme heat, cold, drought, and flood

Grasses spread through seeds and rhizomes in their roots

HISTORIC PRAIRIE REGIONS



SHORTGRASS MIXED-GRASS TALLGRASS FLINT HILLS (PART OF TALLGRASS)

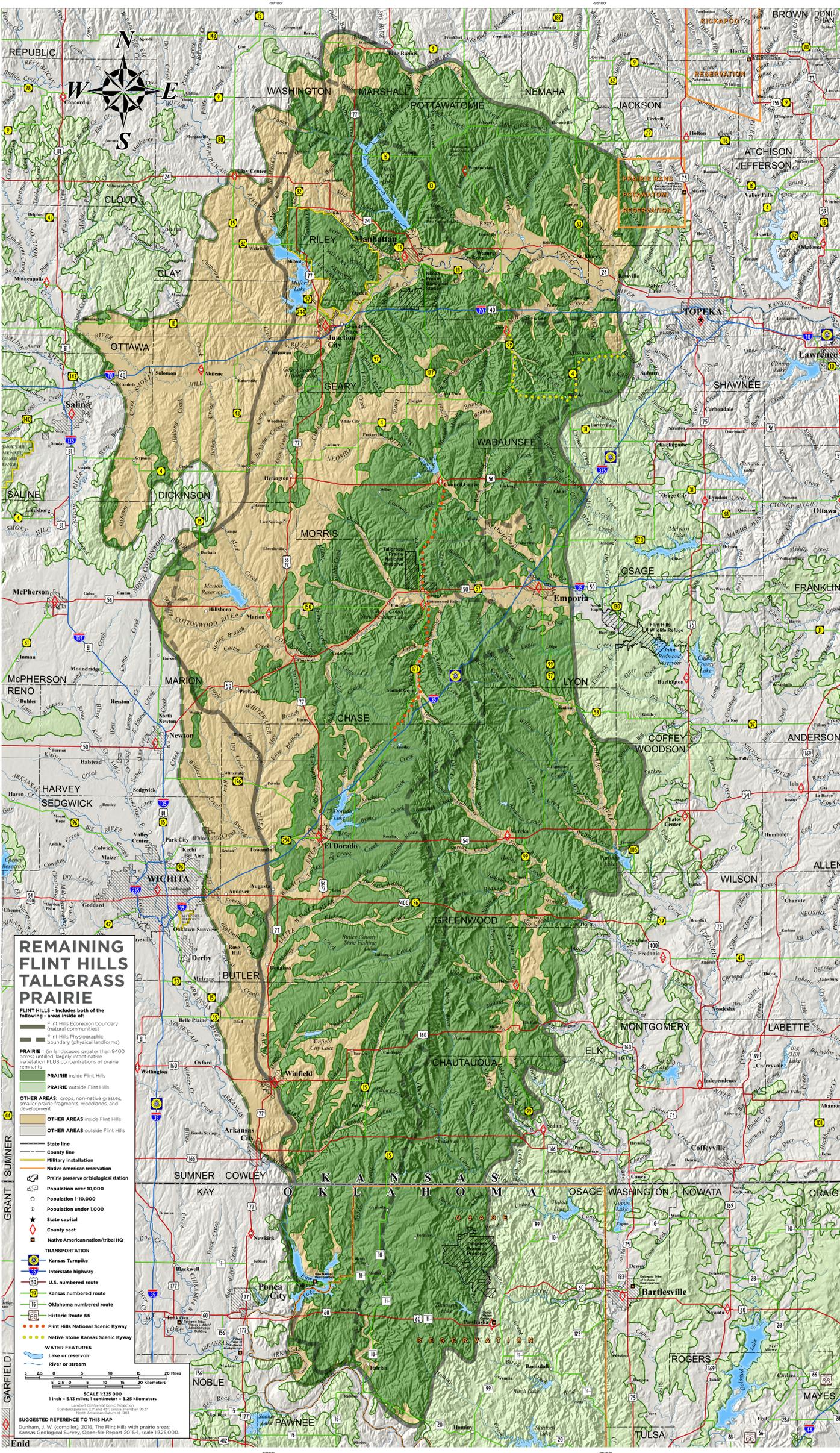
The FLINT HILLS are the LAST STAND of the TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

- Tallgrass prairie is the most altered ecosystem in North America
- Only 4% remains of the original tallgrass prairie
- 96% of the tallgrass prairie has been plowed or developed
- 2/3 of remaining tallgrass prairie is in the Flint Hills
- The Flint Hills are the largest expanse of tallgrass prairie left in North America

EXPLORE THE WEBSITE

for in-depth info on the Flint Hills, the map, and teaching resources:

flinthillsdiscovery.org/map



REMAINING FLINT HILLS TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

- FLINT HILLS - includes both of the following - areas inside of:
- Flint Hills Ecoregion boundary (natural communities)
 - Flint Hills Physiographic boundary (physical landforms)
- PRAIRIE = (in landscapes greater than 9400 acres) untilled, largely intact native vegetation PLUS concentrations of prairie remnants
- PRAIRIE inside Flint Hills
 - PRAIRIE outside Flint Hills
- OTHER AREAS: crops, non-native grasses, smaller prairie fragments, woodlands, and development
- OTHER AREAS inside Flint Hills
 - OTHER AREAS outside Flint Hills
- State line
- County line
- Military installation
- Native American reservation
- Prairie preserve or biological station
- Population over 10,000
- Population 1-10,000
- Population under 1,000
- State capital
- County seat
- Native American nation/tribal HQ
- TRANSPORTATION
- Kansas Turnpike
 - Interstate highway
 - U.S. numbered route
 - Kansas numbered route
 - Oklahoma numbered route
 - Historic Route 66
 - Flint Hills National Scenic Byway
 - Native Stone Kansas Scenic Byway
- WATER FEATURES
- Lake or reservoir
 - River or stream
- 1 inch = 5.13 miles, 1 centimeter = 3.25 kilometers
- SCALE 1:325,000
- SUGGESTED REFERENCE TO THIS MAP: Dunham, J. W. (compiler), 2016, The Flint Hills with prairie areas: Kansas Geological Survey, Open-File Report 2016-1, scale 1:325,000.