

Bylaws of The Northwest Illinois Prairie Enthusiasts

Article 1: Name. The name of this organization is “The Northwest Illinois Prairie Enthusiasts” (NIPE). NIPE is the northwest Illinois chapter of The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE), a not-for-profit corporation chartered in the State of Wisconsin.

Article 2: Location. “Northwest Illinois” is the northwestern portion of the State of Illinois, that is, JoDaviess, Carroll and Stephenson Counties. NIPE conducts its normal activities within Northwest Illinois.

Article 3: Purpose. The purpose and duty of NIPE and its members is to:

- inventory and protect the natural lands of Northwest Illinois
- create and operate nature preserves within Northwest Illinois
- assist other organizations and individuals to further these aims
- manage the lands owned or controlled by TPE in Northwest Illinois

The purpose and duty of TPE is to further these aims by providing common services to NIPE and its other chapters.

Article 4: Members. A person becomes a member of NIPE by endorsing its purposes and policies and by regular payment of its membership dues. Members are entitled to vote at meetings, receive regular NIPE publications and serve as officers and stewards.

Article 5: Stewards. A steward is a member who has been assigned particular duties by NIPE. The duties of a steward may include the protection of a particular place, community or species, liason with a particular group, individual or event, or any other duties NIPE may require.

Article 6: Officers. An officer is a member holding the position of NIPE President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. The President presides at meetings and coordinates the activities of stewards. The Vice President serves as public spokesman, manages the scheduling of events and assumes the duties of an absent President. The Vice President sends a quarterly activities report to TPE. The Secretary records the decisions of the chapter, maintains its permanent record and manages its membership role. The Treasurer records the transactions of the chapter and administers its finances. The Treasurer sends a financial report to all NIPE members each year during the month of January.

Article 7: Meetings. NIPE meetings are held every odd month at a regular time and place as determined by its officers. A vote of the membership may only be taken at such regularly scheduled meetings. Members may present arguments for or against proposed motions, both oral and written, prior to any vote. NIPE meetings are open to all TPE chapter members and their guests.

Article 8: Elections. Officers are elected by the majority of the members present and voting at the regularly scheduled meeting held each year during the month of July. Officers and Stewards serve for a term of up to one year, without compensation. A member may not hold multiple offices. A person becomes a steward after nomination by an officer and confirmation by the majority of the members present and voting at a regularly scheduled meeting. A member may assume multiple stewardship positions. An officer or steward may be dismissed by a two-thirds vote of the membership present and voting at a regularly scheduled meeting. An office vacancy is filled by election at the earliest regularly scheduled meeting.

Article 9: Policies. The following policies are hereby adopted:

- a) NIPE’s fiscal year coincides with that of TPE.
- b) NIPE funds are held in TPE approved accounts.
- c) endowment funds are kept in separate accounts.
- d) NIPE accounts are included in TPE audits.
- e) expenditures must be approved by a vote of the membership.
- f) endowment fund disbursements must honor the terms of such endowments.
- g) TPE Stewards will be selected each July to represent NIPE on the TPE Board of Directors.

Article 10: Amendments. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any two consecutive meetings. Members may present arguments for or against proposed amendments, oral and written, prior to both votes.