



By Mark Herman, Superintendent of Education

After two and a half years of planning and construction, the new Jarrett Prairie Center Museum opened to the public on October 20, 2016. The expanded museum space boasts expanded views of the Jarrett Prairie Nature Preserve and more than 4,000 square feet of new exhibits and hands-on learning opportunities for visitors of all ages. Just a few of the exciting new exhibits include an immersive theater that teels visitors about local prairie ecology, several large natural history dioramas and historical artifacts, fossil exhibits, prairie restoration information, a prairie agriculture exhibit that lets visitors design their own farm. Also included in the renovation will be a new 2,600 square foot wrap around outdoor observation deck to enhance the already unique rental space. The deck will be completed in the spring of 2017.

The museum's new immersive theater which features the beloved children's "wolf den" bur oak tree from the old museum is sponsored by Byron Bank. The new state-of-the-art renovated kitchen is sponsored by the Prairie Forge Group of St. Charles, Illinois who served as architects for the entire renovation project.

OSF Medical Group is also a generous sponsor of the newly renovated museum.

The new museum will serve as a resource for learning and a center for eco-tourism promoting an understanding about the importance of our natural lands in the Rock River region. Admission to the Jarrett Prairie Center Museum is free and open to the public seven days a week. For more information about museum education programs or to set up a guided tour, contact Mark at 815-234-8535 ext. 217. If you are interested in reserving the museum for a private rental, contact Raul at 815-234-8535 ext. 200.



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