

## **Pasque Flowers at River Terrace Prairie SNA by Ginny Gaynor**

Celebrate spring with a pilgrimage to see the pasque flowers at River Terrace Prairie. Hundreds of pasque flowers flourish at this amazing dry sand - gravel prairie. Though a bit far from home, there are so few places with a multitude of pasque flowers, this is well worth the drive. And if you're captivated, you'll want to return later in the season for prairie smoke, great-flowered penstemon, prickly pear cactus, and a whole array of dry prairie species.

**Bloom status:** Visited 4/6/2020 and dozens of pasque flowers were blooming. Estimated pasque flower peak bloom is this weekend and into next week.

**Website:** [www.dnr.state.mn.us/snas/detail.html?id=sna01066](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/snas/detail.html?id=sna01066)

**Location:** About an hour's drive from Hudson, on the Cannon Valley Trail between Cannon Falls and Welsh, MN. For detailed directions, check googlemaps and DNR website.

**Parking and amenities:** There is parking for 2 cars by the SNA sign and additional parking across the street to the north. No toilets. Rough foottrail but no maintained trails. Much of the site is open so it is easy to navigate.

**Public status:** MN DNR Scientific and Natural Area

**Fee:** None

**When you're there:** From the parking area and SNA sign, head through the gate towards the hill. A rough footpath will veer to the right and take you to the open hillside. (If you head straight up the hill through brush, you're going the hard way.) The pasque flowers are along the slope, above and below the trail. See attached map.