

## New cam gives you the chance to watch bison at home Dec 15, 2016



There's no guarantee to see them, but the new webcam to provide live views of the bison herd at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie is up and running — a project of the U.S. Forest Service in partnership with the National Forest Foundation.

The EarthCam system covers areas where the bison have been known to graze, giving the public a chance to get a glimpse of the herd.

See the bison cam here.

While the webcam will operate around the clock, the grazing pattern of the herd is unpredictable and no times are identified as better than others for when the herd will be visible.

The bison cam was installed 25 feet above the ground and is solar powered.

You can watch this from a computer without charge, but there is a fee of \$4.99 to download the mobile app. You will be viewing live action when there is a red box in the upper left corner that says LIVE. Otherwise, you might be viewing a clip from the archive during technical difficulties or maintenance.

There also is no guarantee on-site visitors to Midewin will see the bison in their 400-acre pasture. It is located south of Midewin's Iron Bridge Trailhead off Illinois Route 53, about 2.5 miles north of the welcome center, which is about two miles north of Wilmington.

New scopes, too

Other new features for visitors looking for the bison are two new 20-power telescopes that have been installed at areas overlooking the site. The scopes are mounted at two levels, an upper level and one lower and accessible to individuals in wheelchairs. There is no charge to use the telescopes.

Midewin trails are open from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, and can accommodate bicycles and horses. Trail maps are available online at fs.usda.gov/main/midewin/maps-pubs.