

Prairie Houses Information Booklet 2019-2020

PRAIRIE HOUSES

The Prairie Houses, **Jefferson Prairie, Rock Prairie, and Spring Prairie**, are three college-owned houses which offer a unique opportunity for Luther seniors who are interested in gaining an independent living and learning experience while keeping close ties to the campus community. Residents living in the Prairie Houses are considered on-campus residents for most purposes and are bound by the *Student Handbook* policies and *Housing and Dining Contract*. It is important to note that with greater independence comes greater responsibility. Residents are expected to treat other residents and college property with respect and civility at all times. If an inappropriate situation is confronted, the Resident Assistant and Area Coordinator will be involved and will take corrective actions. Policy violations could lead to the immediate eviction of residents from the Prairie House.

BICYCLE STORAGE

Bicycle storage is available on each property. Bicycle racks or some other place to lock bikes is available outside of each house. Bicycles should not be stored inside the houses or leaning against the houses.

BREAKS

The Prairie Houses will remain open for all breaks; however, any resident wishing to remain in their house for any part of the time the campus is closed must register in the Residence Life office. All houses will be inspected for health and safety issues during these periods, whether residents are staying in the houses or not. Student housing is not available in the Prairie Houses during the summer months. All residents must check out prior to 6:00 p.m. on the day of commencement.

CLEANING

Luther College custodians clean all bathrooms on a weekly basis. A schedule is made up early in the semester and distributed to all houses. Residents should have personal items stored when the custodian comes to the house, as they will not move personal items to clean behind or under them.

DESIGNATIONS

All Prairie Houses are designed for seven students with a combination of single, double and triple rooms; the configuration varies from house to house. Houses are not designated according to sex, but all residents of a house must be of the same sex. Groups of men and women meeting the application criteria have equal opportunity to apply to live in the Prairie Houses. All residents choose specific rooms within the house during this process, and *all room assignments are binding*.

FURNISHINGS

The rooms and furnishings are as follows:

- A full kitchen, including a range, oven, refrigerator/freezer, and microwave
- A dining area containing a table and chairs
- Each bedroom includes a dresser, an adjustable single bed that can be bunked if two residents are assigned to live in a room, a desk, chair, large closet, and data/cable and phone lines.
- There are mini-blinds in all windows; all living rooms have a cable/data port.
- Each house has a vacuum, broom and dustpan

All college-owned furnishings must remain in the house at all times. Students are responsible for providing all common-area furniture and removing same at the end of the year.

INTERNET

Wireless network access is available in all the houses; no wired Ethernet connections are available.

LAUNDRY AND RECYCLING

Both laundry facilities and recycling containers are available in each house. There is one card-operated washer and dryer per house. Recycling is picked up by Luther College facilities on a weekly basis. Garbage is picked up on Thursday mornings, but residents are advised to place garbage out at the curb on Wednesday night because pick up is very early.

LOCKOUTS

If you are locked out of your house, you should try to get in touch with the RA in the Sustainability House. If you are unable to reach that person, call Security (x2111). A fee of \$5.00 may be assessed for subsequent lockouts.

MEAL PLANS

No meal plan is required for Prairie House residents, but a variety of flexible off-campus meal plans is available. Contact Dining Services (x1030) for more details.

MID-YEAR VACANCIES

All spaces in the house must be full for the year. If there is an unexpected mid-year vacancy in the house, the remaining students will have the opportunity to fill the vacancy prior to December 1, 2018, with another student who meets the Prairie House criteria. After that time, the Residence Life office can assign a new student to fill the vacancy after notifying the residents of the house.

PARKING

A general parking permit is required for all students planning to park in the driveway of their assigned Prairie House. Parking may be available on the street, but students are then responsible to follow the parking policies of the City of Decorah. If you need more parking spaces, you are able to park in the Jenson-Noble Lot. A general parking permit also allows you to park in any general parking and student only areas. General parking areas include Regents Center, Farwell, Olson, City Pool lot, Library, Jenson, and Larsen.

GARAGE

The garages of all of the houses are locked and will not be accessible to students.

POLICIES

As a resident of the Prairies Houses, you are held accountable to the same standards as students living in other residence halls. However, higher expectations for Prairie House residents will be reflected in the sanctions and enforcement of policies rather than in actual changes in policy. In other words, a policy violation may lead to immediate eviction rather than lesser educational sanctions.

ROOM RATE

The 2019-2020 room charges for Prairie House rooms are:

Double/triple rooms:	\$5,430
Single rooms:	\$6,350

TELEPHONES

Each house has one phone and phone number assigned to that house; students can request a separate phone and voicemail through the ITS website.

ROOM DIMENSIONS

Since floor plans vary greatly from house to house, students are encouraged visit the houses for specific floor plans. Below is a list of room types in each house.

Jefferson Prairie	Rock Prairie	Spring Prairie
401 High St	611 Center St	619 Center St
Room 1-Single	Room 1-Single	Room 1-Single
Room 2-Double	Room 2-Single	Room 2-Double
Room 3-Double	Room 3-Double	Room 3-Double
Room 4-Double	Room 4-Triple	Room 4-Double

ROOM ARRANGEMENTS

Students are free to personalize the house within the limits set by campus policy (including no permanent fixtures or waterbeds), with a couple exceptions:

- All vents need to remain uncovered (upstairs bedrooms) for proper ventilation throughout the building.
- No lofts are allowed in the Prairie Houses, but students may bunk the beds.
- Please do not put dressers underneath beds; this has caused damage to dressers in the past.

Before you begin to decorate your house, you need to know a few things about closing. We will not have allowances for “excessive wear-and-tear.” Anything damaged beyond normal wear-and-tear (as judged by the Residence Life office and/or Facilities Management) will be replaced, especially if a policy violation has caused the damage. For example, if *one* screw is placed in a wall, that hole will be patched and the entire wall repainted at the residents’ expense. Also, if a carpet is stained excessively or burned at all, the entire carpet will be replaced at the residents’ expense.

TERMINOLOGY

House: The largest structure. There are three: Jefferson Prairie, Rock Prairie, and Spring Prairie

Room: Within each house, there are specific rooms. Bedroom numbers are indicated with a very small number in the upper corner of the doorframe (i.e. Spring Prairie -1).

TORNADO SHELTER

In case of severe weather, students should go to the lower level bathroom, shower, or basement.

WHAT TO BRING

Cooking utensils, flatware, glassware and dishes

Cleaning supplies

Linens, including 80” extra-long twin bedding

Trash cans

Common-area furniture such as couches, end tables, etc. (Dining table and chairs provided)

WHAT NOT TO BRING

Microwave
Pets
Candles or incense
Bedroom furniture

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 2-3 small nail holes in each room for hanging pictures are acceptable. You should not, however, use any permanent plastic hooks, large nails, sinkers, or screws in the walls. Any screws, mirrors, hooks, or other additions made to the house will need to be removed at the end of the year, and will result in charges for any damages to the walls.
- The area outside your house should be free from debris. Grills are allowed (grills should be at least 10 feet away from building while in use) during the fall and spring, but should not be stored inside during the winter. Bikes, trash, boxes, etc. are to be stored elsewhere.
- Quiet hours and courtesy hours do apply to the Prairie Houses.
- It is generally up to the residents to confront noise issues. If asked by another resident to reduce noise levels to a reasonable level at any time, you are expected to do so. Studying and sleeping take priority.
- Continuous noise issues should be referred to the RA.
- The alcohol policy is the same as in residence halls, though sanctions may be more severe.
- No amounts of alcohol in excess of personal consumption are permitted-this applies to large parties and the presence of kegs, bongos, tubs of alcoholic beverages, or other large amounts of alcohol.
- Outdoor areas are considered public areas; therefore, consumption of alcohol outside is also considered a violation of Luther's alcohol policy.
- Residents who host parties that include alcohol consumption by people who have not reached the legal drinking age, excessive alcohol consumption by students of any age, excessive noise, or other problematic behavior should expect to be reassigned or evicted from the house.