

# The Great Park Pursuit

## Plant and Flower Press

Pressing or preserving leaves and flowers is a great way to remember your trip and learn about Nebraska's native plants. Try making this simple plant and flower press before you head out on your Great Park Pursuit adventures. When you find a cool leaf or an amazing flower, try preserving it with your press. After it is dry, you can make a bookmark with it!

Materials Needed:

- left-over corrugated cardboard from boxes
- newspaper
- straps or thick rubber bands
- plants or flowers... find them on your Great Park Pursuits
- colored card stock or thick paper (regular paper will work, too)
- clear packing tape



Step #1:

Cut five pieces of corrugated cardboard to approximately 5in. x 7in. Cut newspaper to the same size. Layer cardboard and newspaper - cardboard, newspaper, newspaper, cardboard, newspaper, newspaper, cardboard. Start and end with a piece of cardboard. Place two or three thick rubber bands around your stack of cardboard/newspaper. Now your plant press is complete!

Step 2:

Head out on your Great Park Pursuit. Collect leaves and flowers along your way. Place the leaves and flowers you collect between the two sheets of newspaper. Let the plants dry for 7-10 days.

Step #3:

Take out your flattened, dry plants and place them on a narrow piece of card stock (approximately 6 in. x 2 in. Once you have the plants and flowers arranged just as you like, cover the paper with a long strip of clear packing tape. Turn the bookmark



over and cover this side with a long strip of clear packing tape, too. Now your bookmark is complete!

