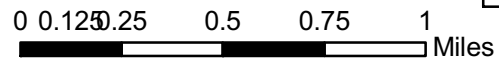
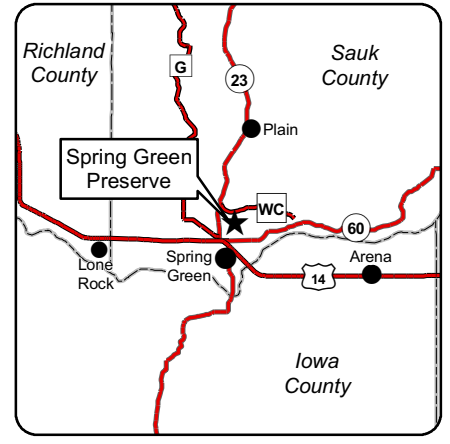


Spring Green Preserve

- Preserve boundary
- Lake
- River / Stream
- Highway
- Local Road
- Parking
- Ridge Trail - 1.6 miles



Directions: from the intersection of US Hwy 14 and State Hwy 23 near Spring Green travel north on 23 for 0.5 miles to the intersection with Jones Road on the right (east). Travel east on Jones Road for 0.75 miles; the preserve is on the left. Turn left into a dirt access road marked Angelo Lane, you'll see it just past a driveway marked with fire number E5196A. Park and head north up a dirt road to the preserve entrance and kiosk.



Spring Green Preserve

Why You Should Visit

Because you can get a taste of the American West - a land of cacti and lizards, sand dunes and dry grasses - without going far from home. Known as the "Wisconsin Desert," Spring Green is a place where forest meets bluff, and bluff levels off into plains and dunes. It is located in the unglaciated region of the state.

Hours and Conditions

Open year-round, dawn to dusk. At the trailhead, you will find a kiosk with information on the site and a map showing the trail.

Note that hunting for white-tailed deer is allowed at Spring Green Preserve during the regular posted seasons. Hunting is by permit only; see our website at www.nature.org/wisconsin or call the Madison office at 608/251-8140 for an application.

Warning: Please do not hike on the bluff.

What to See: Plants

Some plants common to Spring Green's prairies: compass plant, dwarf dandelion, leadplant, little bluestem and other prairie grasses, and puccoon. Though uncommon in Wisconsin, prickly pear cactus is abundant here. It blooms in late June, producing many large, pale yellow flowers.

What to See: Animals

Wolf spiders: They hunt at night, either by waiting near their burrows until unsuspecting insects walk past or by venturing out to seek prey. Ten species live here. Evidence of their activity are the small holes they dig into the ground, about the diameter of a pencil in the sand.

Eastern pocket gopher: This solitary creature digs and forms tunnels about one foot below the surface of the soil. The digging enriches the soil by mixing plant material and oxygen and creates habitat for small mammals and snakes. Evidence of eastern pocket gopher activity are the hundreds of small mounds of soil found in the grasslands.

Grassland birds: The Eastern meadowlark, vesper, grasshopper and lark sparrows, and the dickcissel live here. Habitat fragmentation and loss on both their breeding and wintering grounds is causing the decline of many species of grassland birds.

Why the Conservancy Selected This Site

Spring Green Preserve harbors some of Wisconsin's rarest plant communities, including sand prairie, dry bluff prairie, and black oak barrens. Due to changes in land use, all of these communities, which once covered thousands of acres across the state, have almost completely disappeared.

What the Conservancy Has Done/Is Doing

The Conservancy acquired its first parcel of land at Spring Green Preserve in 1971 and continues to work with neighbors to acquire additional lands that feature prairie.

Two primary types of land management activities occur here:

- Removal of red cedars that invade the prairies and shade out native plant species; and
- Use of controlled fires to suppress competing trees and shrubs, and to stimulate the growth of native grasses and wildflowers.