



Trail Access

- A series of interconnecting loops totaling 1.6 miles takes the hiker through the mosaic of prairie openings and surrounding forest that make up Lynx Prairie Preserve. The terrain is rolling and hiking conditions are considered easy. Due to soil conditions, sections of the trail may be muddy after rain-fall or in early spring. The unique characteristics of this alkaline and highly erodible soil help create the harsh conditions favorable to the drought tolerant prairie species. The trail head is located on Cline Road, a narrow gravel road that may not be suitable for buses or large RVs.

Hours and Use

- Trails are open dawn to dusk
- For your safety, please be aware of any posted rules & notices

Travel Directions

From West Union:

- From the Creek's Bend Visitor Information Pavilion located at 3223 Waggoner Riffle Road, West Union:
- Proceed north on Waggoner Riffle Road for 2.3 miles to State Route 125.
- Turn right (east) on Rt. 125 for 1.9 miles.
- Turn right (south) on Tulip Road for .8 mile.
- Turn left (east) on Cline Road for .6 mile to parking area. (Coordinates: N38.75928 W083.40695)

Site Overview

The E. Lucy Braun Lynx Prairie Preserve is the oldest component of the Edge of Appalachia Preserve System. The original 44-acre parcel was purchased in 1959 and was the first land acquired by the newly formed Ohio Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. This land protection effort has slowly grown to include 18,000 acres of some of the most botanically and geologically diverse areas in Ohio. Lynx Prairie is one of four areas designated as National Natural Landmarks within preserve system. The area that would become Lynx Prairie Preserve was studied extensively beginning in the 1920's by the late Dr. E. Lucy Braun, a professor at the University of Cincinnati and renowned botanist and ecologist and was later named in her honor. Dr. Braun advocated for the protection of this area as later did her students Richard and Lucile Durrell. The small xeric limestone prairie openings contain dozens of species considered rare or endangered in Ohio. This type of plant community is considered globally rare and is threatened not only by invasive species, but also natural forest succession which has accelerated due to lack of aboriginal fire and large native grazers such as bison on the landscape. Prescribed fire, manual cutting and mowing now keep plant succession in check. The Nature Conservancy has been working to protect the Edge of Appalachia Preserve with our collaborative partner Cincinnati Museum Center more than 50 years.

Characteristic Species:



Blackjack Oak



Woodcock



Purple Coneflower



Post Oak

The Nature Conservancy is the leading conservation organization in the world. We are an international, non-profit organization, and our mission is to preserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. The Nature Conservancy in Ohio was established in 1958 and has helped protect more than 60,000 acres of ecologically significant land and waters. For more information about us and our preserves, please visit nature.org/ohio or contact us:

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G E T I N V O L V E D

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Lynx Prairie Trail - 1.3 miles

Legend

- Red Loop
- White Loop
- Green Loop
- Preserve Property
- Bridge
- Parking
- Information

