

Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie



4495 140th Street NE
Solon, IA 52333

Overview: The Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie is a 100-acre property north of Solon, Iowa. The property, which is located on a Paha Ridge, features 53 acres of relic prairie, wetland, and fen habitats, and the remaining 47 acres are currently in organic hay production. Johnson County Conservation (JCC) will restore this portion of the property to native ecosystems in coming years, and will develop a parking area and hiking trails. The property will be managed as a nature preserve, open for hiking and other nature appreciation activities.



History: The Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie was acquired by Johnson County Conservation in 2020. The property is named in memory of its previous owner and nature-loving steward of the land. Malinda's family had farmed here without use of chemicals and resisted its conversion to row crop agriculture since 1900. Botanists have known of the site for over a quarter century and have cataloged its 225 plant species, including several that are uncommon or rare. Johnson County Conservation was awarded an Iowa DNR Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant to help fund the purchase. The purchase was also funded in part by the Johnson County Conservation Bond, established by county voters in 2008 to purchase and protect natural areas from development.



Features:

- 225 plant species have been recorded on-site, including rare native species such as: Tall Green Milkweed (*Asclepias hirtella*) and Hill's Thistle (*Cirsium hillii*).
- This site is primitive and undeveloped. There are no bathrooms or structures on-site and no developed parking area currently. Visitors are welcome to hike throughout the property (there are no maintained trails at this time). Other recreational features of the preserve include bird-watching, and nature study of the area's botany and fen, wetland, and stream habitats.



Johnson County Conservation | www.johnson-county.com/conservation | 319-645-2315



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