

# Ciha Fen Preserve

 **5656 145th St NE**  
**Lisbon, IA 52253**

**Overview:** Ciha Fen Preserve is an 80-acre property located in the far northeast corner of the county. The preserve features a sand prairie/oak savanna complex on a wind-deposited sand ridge. It contains the Ciha Fen, which is one of the only two documented remaining nutrient-poor fens known in the state of Iowa. The area is also home to numerous rare plant and animals species.

**History:** This land's history with Johnson County Conservation (JCC) dates back to 2011 when the property was purchased from the Ciha family. The property was purchased in part with funding from the Johnson County Conservation Bond, established by Johnson County voters in 2008 to purchase and protect natural areas from development, in addition to funding through an Iowa DNR Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant. Prior to JCC's ownership of the land, the area was utilized as pasture ground and for agricultural production. JCC has since worked to enhance the native plant communities here through management of invasive species and regular prescribed burns.

## Features:

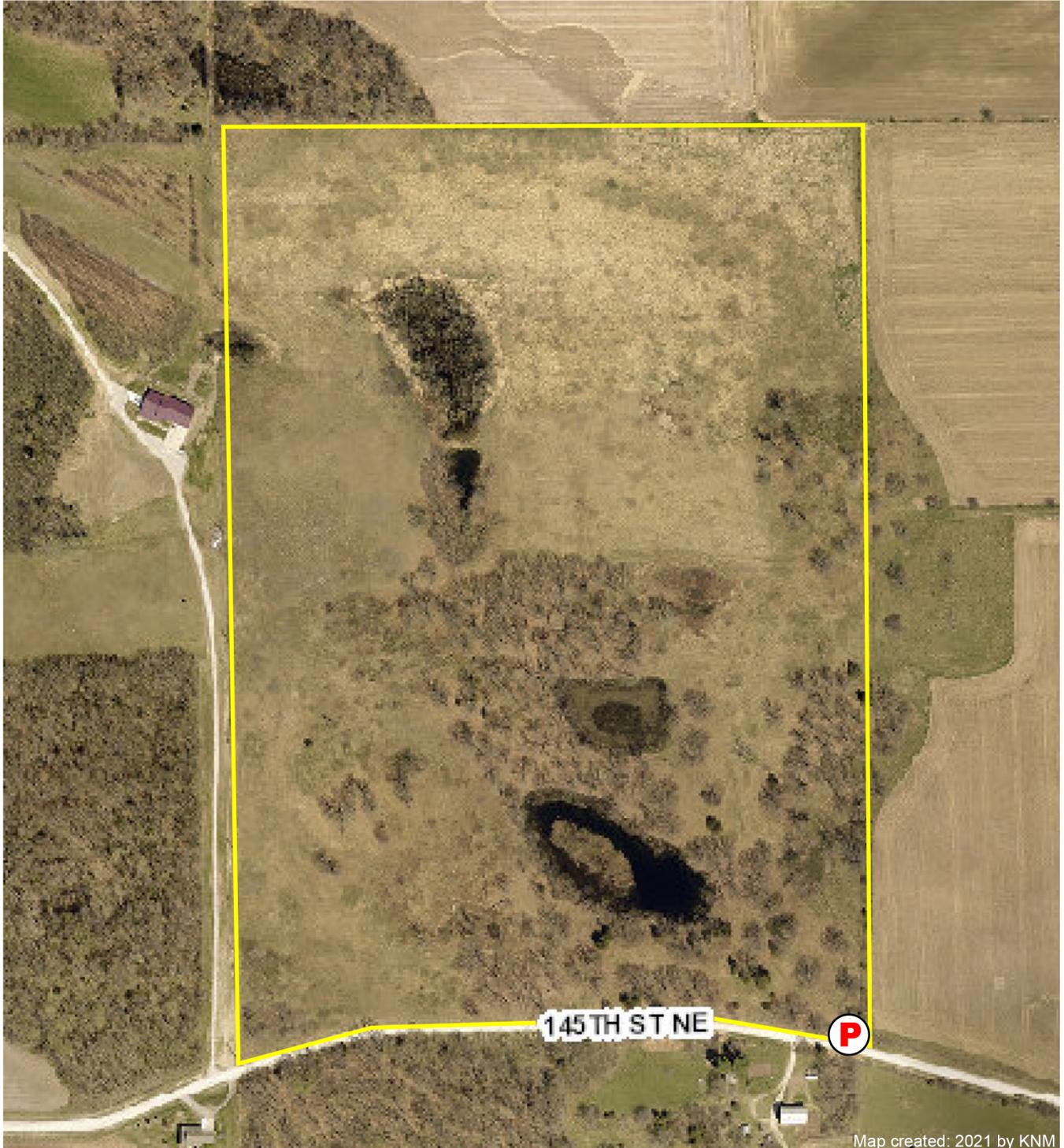
- 225 native plant species have been recorded onsite, including species of special concern such as Nodding Ladies' Tresses, Cleft Phlox, and Lance-leaved Violet.
- An abundance of wildlife find refuge at Ciha Fen Preserve, including species of Greatest Conservation Need, like Blanding's turtles, six-lined race runners, black-crowned night heron, and bull snakes. Hunting is not permitted.
- An interpretive panel near the fen describes the unique geological and hydrological properties of Ciha Fen. In addition to the fen, two other wetlands are onsite.
- This site is primitive and undeveloped. There are no bathrooms or structures onsite. Visitors are welcome to hike throughout the property (there are no maintained trails). Other recreational features of the preserve include bird-watching, photography, and nature study of the area's geology, hydrology, botany, and wetland habitats.

All photos credit of Aaron Basten



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Map created: 2021 by KNM

## Legend

-  Property Boundary
-  Parking Area

