

Solon Prairie



713 East 5th St
Solon, IA 52333

Overview: Solon Prairie is a three-acre wet-mesic prairie. This prairie is a relict, meaning that it has never been plowed. Though often overlooked, this small park is a gem, and provides visitors with a dazzling display of color each year. 157 native plant species have been recorded on site. The prairie is located within the Solon city limits and is surrounded by housing developments.



History: The Solon Gun Club acquired the property in 1966 from the Kessler family, who had owned it since 1876. For the next seventeen years the land was used for a trapshooting range and a small clubhouse was located there. In 1983, the Solon Gun Club conveyed ownership to Johnson County Conservation (JCC). The area is preserved as a natural prairie and is available for public use as a botanical study area. A prairie management plan was developed for it in 1984, which includes a quadrennial burn management program, used to control invaders and enhance native species. Much native grass and wildflower seed has been gathered from this area for establishment in other JCC areas.



Features: The Prairie is a living natural history museum and gives the visitor a microcosmic view of the predominant vegetation of 80% of the state of Iowa at the time of settlement. It is a valuable outdoor classroom, and a great place for nature study and bird watching.



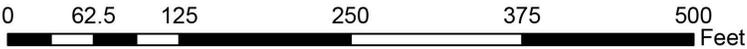
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Legend

- Parking
- Conservation Area
- Road Centerline



Park Location Within Johnson County