



EDGE OF APPALACHIA PRESERVE



Visiting the Preserve

The Edge of Appalachia is a nature preserve where all plants and animals are protected. Uses of the preserve include hiking, nature study, photography, education, and scientific research. Visitation hours are from sunrise to sunset. The preserve offers three public access areas: Buzzardroost Rock, Lynx Prairie and The Wilderness. Other areas of the preserve are accessible by special permission or through hikes and educational programs sponsored by Cincinnati Museum Center or The Nature Conservancy. Organized groups should contact the preserve in advance of their visit. Research projects require the approval of the Edge of Appalachia Research Committee.

Lynx Prairie

Lynx Prairie, the first project of The Nature Conservancy in Ohio, became a National Natural Landmark in 1967. This preserve features a series of natural grassland openings that appear as islands in an otherwise-forested area. These natural openings, referred to as cedar barrens or glades, are prevalent throughout the Edge of Appalachia Preserve System. Prairie-like in nature, cedar barrens have thin shallow soils with dolomitic bedrock at or near the surface, a significant amount of tree and shrub growth, and an abundance of native grasses and forbs. The summer-blooming grasses and forbs are at their peak from late July through September.

Over 200 plant species have been identified at Lynx, including the dominant grasses: big and little blue stem, indian grass and side-oats grama. Some of the more colorful flowering species include purple coneflower, prairie dock, rattlesnake master, and several species of blazing star. The trail at Lynx Prairie begins in the southeast corner of the East Liberty Church cemetery and is a series of loops: Green, White and Red. Enjoy the whole 1.9 miles of easy trail or circle back to the cemetery at any exit sign.

Directions to Lynx Prairie

From West Union travel east on State Route 125 for 9 miles to Tulip Road near the town of Lynx. Turn right on Tulip and go .3 miles to East Liberty Church, turn left into church parking lot and proceed to cemetery behind church. Park on side of cemetery lane and proceed to southeast corner of cemetery for trailhead.



Gary Meszaros, photographer