

How to get to Marietta Sand Prairie:



The Original 17-acre Marietta Sand prairie site was purchased in June 1983 and dedicated as a State Preserve September 6, 1984. Funds for this purchase were made available through a generous donation from Janet Paterson.

The 212-acre addition to the Marietta Sand Prairie was made possible by partnering with Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Martha-Ellen Tye Foundation, Pheasants Forever, REAP, Iowa Prairie Network, and donations from many others.

- Open to Public Hunting
- No Motor Vehicles Allowed
- Removing Plants is Prohibited

Marshall County Conservation Board
2349 – 233rd Street
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Sand Prairies

SAND PRAIRIES are distinguished by their soil substrate. The sand may have been deposited by either water or wind. Soil moisture varies from dry to wet, but the limited water-holding capacity of the coarse-textured sand generally results in a rather dry habitat. Consequently sand prairies support a sparse covering of vegetation. Grasses mostly are low-growing and scattered in tufts or bunches with spaces of bare sand. The appearance as well as the vegetation of the drier sand areas resembles the sand-hills of Kansas and Nebraska. For example, sand reedgrass and western ragweed are rather abundant on Iowa sand prairies, but that is the only place in our state where they are found. Dominant grasses of the dry sand prairie are little bluestem, sand reedgrass, Junegrass, tall dropseed, and needlegrass, along with characteristic flowers like partridge pea, sage, dotted mint, and prickly pear. As moisture availability increases the bare areas are filled in by plants, with big bluestem and Indian grass appearing among the dominant grasses along with blazing star, birdfoot violet, Missouri goldenrod, and savory leaf aster.

Like hill prairies, sand prairies originally were a small component of the total Iowa landscape. They are not generally suitable for cultivation, however, and consequently a larger percentage of them remain than of the true prairie.

Sand prairie flora and fauna are unique in Iowa. The Big Sand Mound south of Muscatine probably contains more rare plants and animals than any other single locality in our state. In addition, other sand prairies in the state also harbor rare plants. For example, only one locality is known in Iowa for each of the following: silky prairie clover, northern panic grass, and slender sedge, but all are associated with sand prairies.

*Reprinted from the book:
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Marietta Sand Prairie Preserve

1744 Knapp Ave, Albion

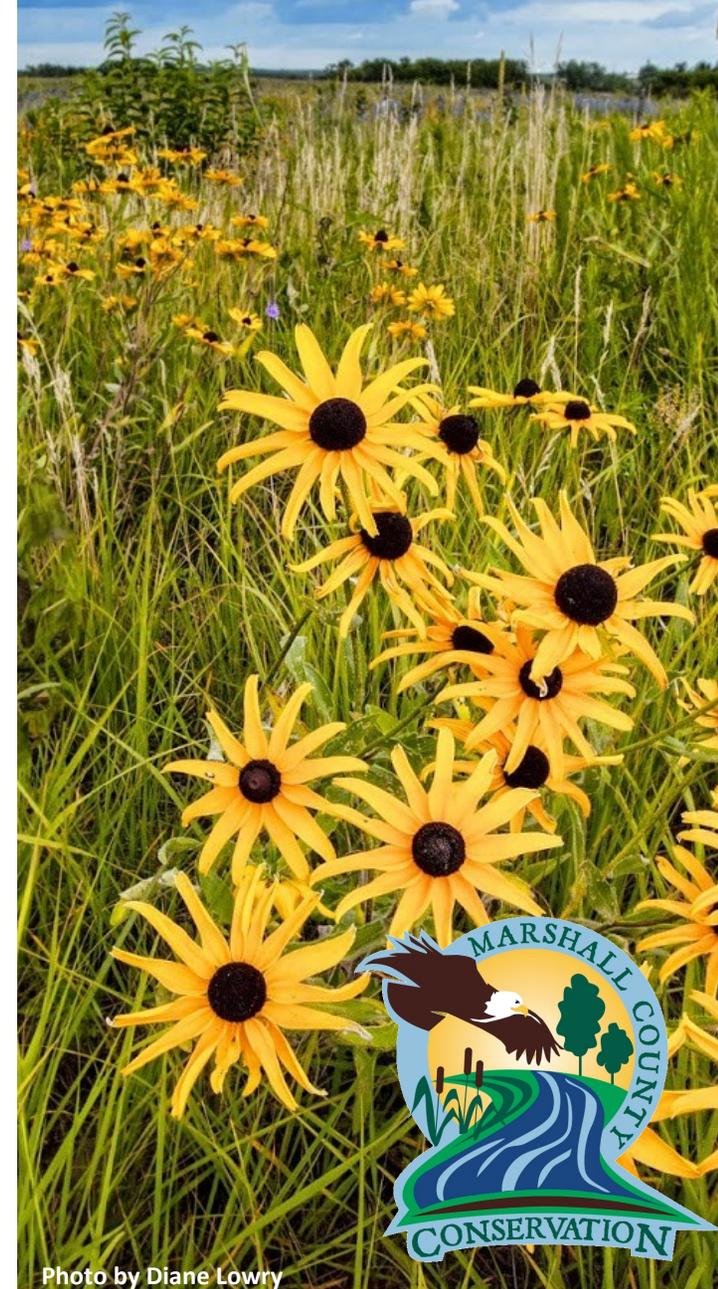


Photo by Diane Lowry





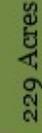
Marietta Sand Prairie Preserve

1744 Knapp Ave
Albion, Ia 50005

Wildlife Observation



Hunting



229 Acres



Parking

Operating Hours
5:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.

