

Ripplinger/Gouker Prairie Preserve and Etnyre Forest Preserve



Byron Forest Preserve District

Address: 1700 Townline Road, Oregon

Year Acquired: 2008

Acreage: 52

Total Trails: 2 miles

Special Use: Leashed dogs allowed

Habitats: Prairie and oak savannas

The Ripplinger-Gouker prairie was restored from agricultural fields with native seed brought in from other sites. The north end of the preserve lies on a crest of the Rock River Valley and descends rather dramatically to the south, offering panoramic views along the way. The slope between displays a variety of native prairie plants and flowers through spring, summer, and fall. A small picnic shelter is available near the parking lot. This preserve allows leashed dogs on the trails.

The Etnyre woods were donated in 1990, making it one of the earliest pieces of land acquired by the forest preserve district. It has been improved through removal of invasive plants and thinning of the understory, as well as through prescribed burns. This preserve allows leashed dogs on the trails.

