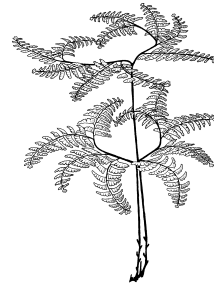


Fern Cliff Nature Preserve

County: Putnam Size: 150 acres
Ownership: The Nature Conservancy
Parking Coordinates: 39.60783, -86.9682



Maidenhair Fern



Location and Access

Parking, Rock climbing and rappelling are NOT allowed. From the intersection of Jackson and Walnut Streets in Greencastle, go 4.0 miles west on Walnut. After crossing Big Walnut Creek take the first road south. Follow the meandering road under the railroad overpass and along Big Walnut Creek bearing left at the next three intersections. Immediately after crossing Snake Creek turn right and go 1.0 mile to the entrance and small parking lot. An easy level, ½ mile trail begins at the parking lot; proceed around the gate.



Description: This preserve contains a mesic upland forest which is dominated by oak, beech, hickory, sugar maple, ash, wild cherry, tulip and others. The understory contains dogwood, hydrangea, pawpaw, and greenbriar, along with a large array of herbaceous plants.

Numerous sandstone ravines and cliffs run through the preserve supporting many species of ferns, liverworts, and mosses. Although not natural, there is an abandoned sandstone quarry in the northern part of the preserve that is slowly filling with sphagnum moss. The most noteworthy feature of the property is its large diversity of bryophytes (mosses and liverworts). This preserve is a registered National Natural Landmark.

Further Information:

The Nature Conservancy, Efroymsen Conservation Center, 620 E. Ohio St, Indianapolis, IN 46202.
(317) 951-8818. www.nature.org

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