McCloskey's Burr Oak Savanna Nature Preserve

County: Lake Size: 54.6 acres

Ownership: Nature Preserves - IDNR

Location and Access

Parking. No trail. In Gary, take interchange 258 (I-65 and East 37th Ave). Turn left (east) onto East 37th Ave. and drive for about 0.6 mile to East Liverpool Rd and turn right (south). Take East Liverpool Rd for 1.5 miles to West 49th Ave and then turn right (west) onto West 49th Ave. Go 0.5 mile and the entrance to the preserve will be on your right.



Description: Bur oak savannas once covered thousands of acres in northwestern Indiana, primarily on loamy soils. This natural community type is currently one of the rarest communities in the state. Former bur oak savannas still occur, primarily in Lake County around Crown Point and Hobart. Due to fire suppression over many decades, the open savanna aspect and their associated complement of prairie plants in the understory have been lost at nearly all these sites.

McCloskey's Burr Oak Savanna protects bur oak savanna and tallgrass prairie habitats. Although it too is degraded, it offers great opportunities for restoration. This site has pockets of prairie vegetation, and the reinstatement of fire is already showing results.

Further Information:

Division of Nature Preserves Coastal Regional Ecologist, Derek Nimetz: dnimetz@dnr.in.gov