

Williams Prairie Preserve



2298 Black Hawk Ave NW
Oxford, IA 52322

Overview: Williams Prairie Preserve is a 21-acre property located in the northwest corner of the county. This preserve, which is best classified as a wet sedge meadow, is a biological gem and contains 315 native species!



History: The wet conditions of this property likely saved it from more intensive agricultural activity. John Williams, the property's namesake purchased this land in the early 1900's. He used the land primarily as a hayfield and possibly for grazing, but the land was never plowed. This site was discovered by University of Iowa botanists in the 1960s. In 1973, the land was deeded to The Nature Conservancy for protection, and the site was dedicated as a Biological State Preserve in 1976. Johnson County Conservation (JCC) managed the site in partnership with The Nature Conservancy for many years, before the property was deeded to JCC to 2013.



Features:

- 315 native vascular plant species and eight bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) have been documented on-site. One especially noteworthy flower found here is Marsh Marigold (top picture). These flowers can be found in expansive clusters in late April.
- Williams Prairie Preserve is also the home for several threatened and endangered animal species, including the Ornate Box Turtle. Hunting is not permitted.
- This site is primitive and undeveloped. There are no bathrooms or structures on-site. Visitors are welcome to hike throughout the property, but there are no maintained trails and by nature, the ground is often saturated throughout much of the property. Primary recreational features of the preserve include bird-watching, and nature study of the area's botany, and wetland habitats.

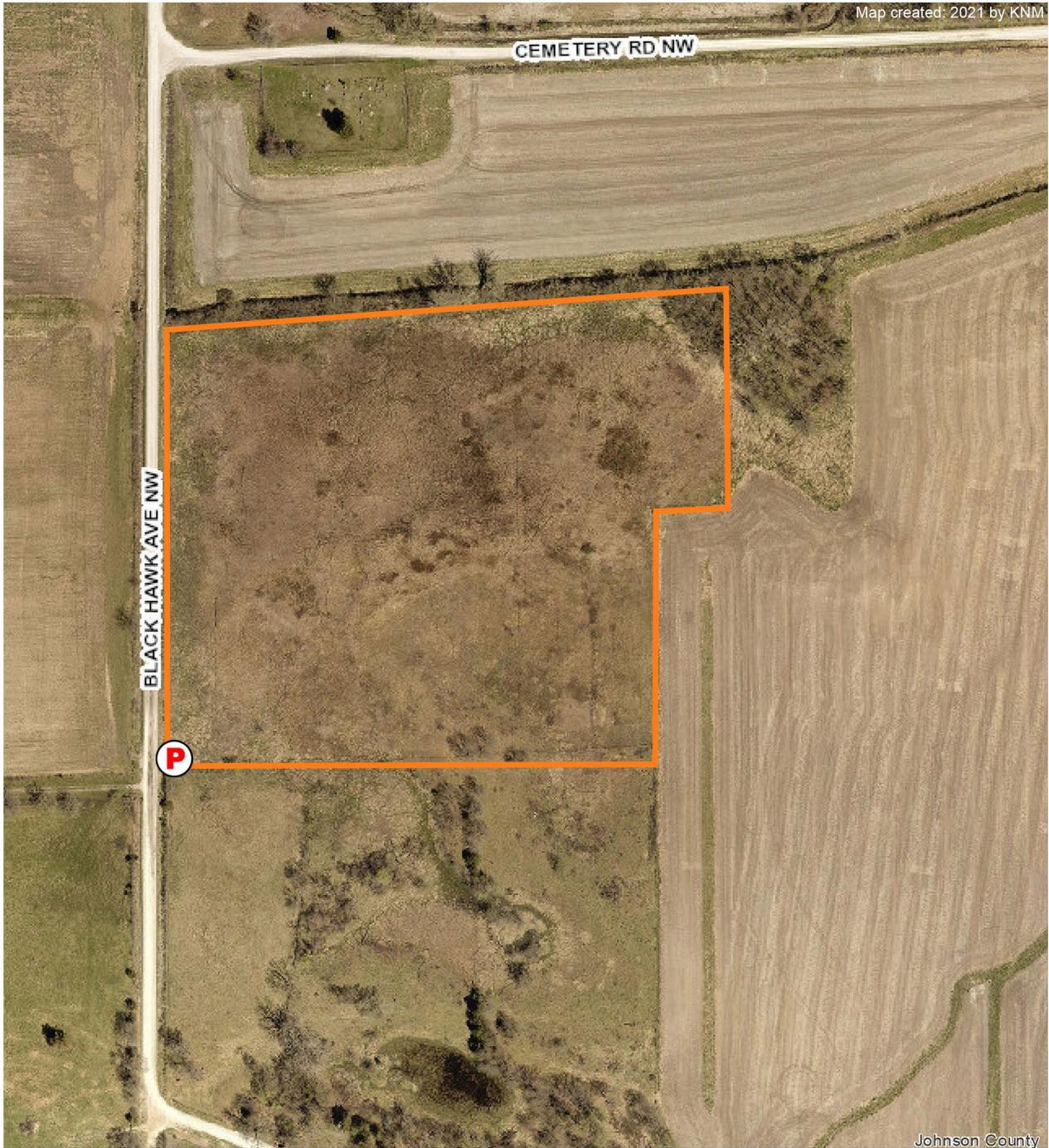


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Map created: 2021 by KNM



Legend

 Property Boundary

 Parking Area

