

The O'Malley Prairies

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Description

The O'Malley Prairies are two small parcels of land near the Monahan Outdoor Education Center. Both postage-stamp prairies are botanically diverse for their small size.

Acquisition

In 1991, the O'Malley family (brother and sister) from Weir, KS agreed to let the Department of Biology manage the property for educational purposes and, in turn, the O'Malley's would mow them yearly for hay.



Usage

These properties have been used for "Plant Taxonomy" and "Summer Flora" for plant identification and in "Soils" for soil and invertebrate sampling and analysis. An undergraduate Honors Project was conducted that collected and identified plants from the two prairies. Currently, Ian Robertson is conducting a more complete floristic survey as a topics project. The properties have also been use in "Terrestrial Field Ecology" for line transects.

Management

There is no active management. The parcels have been intermittently mowed or burned over the years.

Publications

1992. Timme, Stephen. O'Malley Prairie. pp. 29-32 *in*: J. Arruda (ed), Kansas Academy of Science Multidisciplinary Guidebook 6. Fall Field Trip to the Natural Areas of Southeast Kansas. Kansas Geological Survey Open-File Report 92-22. 91 pp.