

# Kramer Original Woods Nature Preserve

(Henry Kramer)

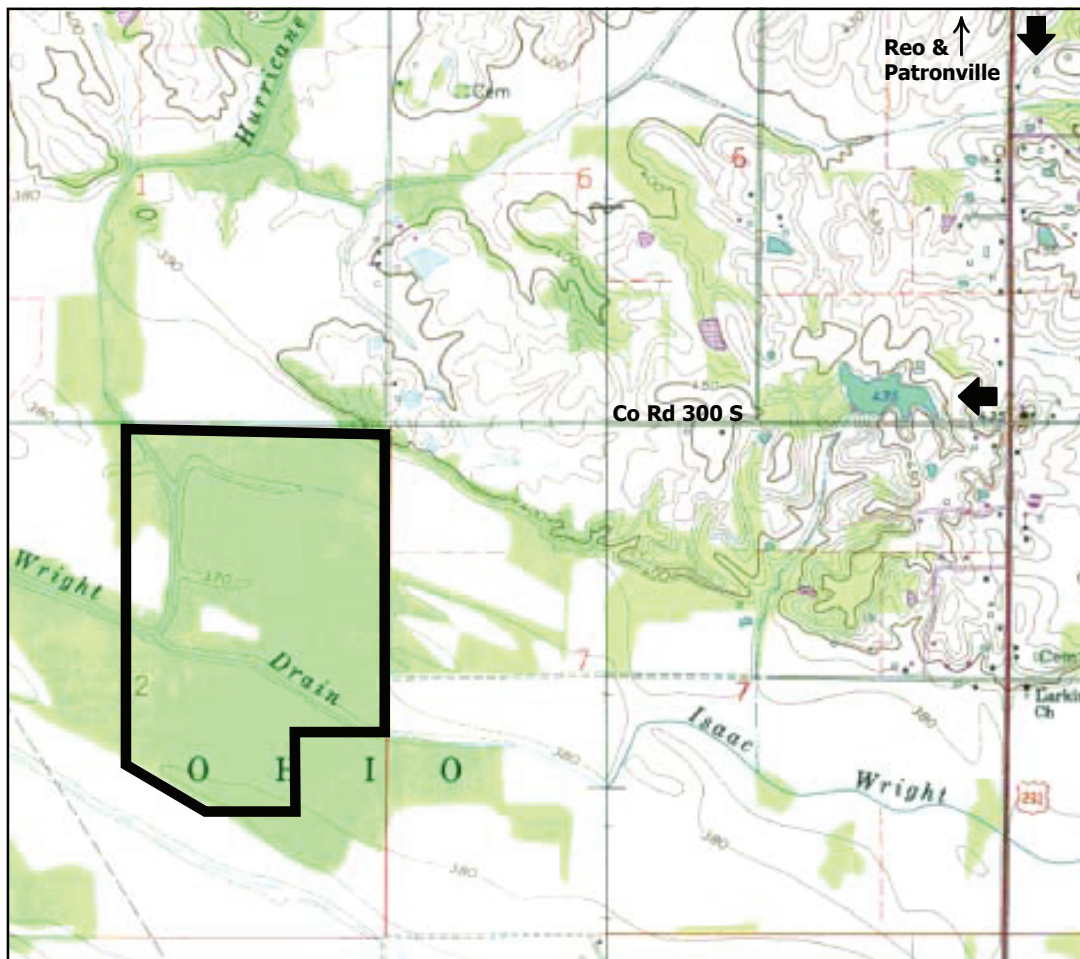
County: Spencer                      Size: 220 acres  
Ownership: Nature Preserves - IDNR

## Location and Access

**Park along road. No trail.** The community of Reo in Spencer County is located at the intersection of SR 66 and US 231 (between Richland City and Rockport). From this intersection go south on US 231 towards Owensboro, KY. Go south for about 4.0 mi to Co Rd 300S, turn right (west) and continue for about 1.5 mi. Kramer Woods is on the left (south) side of the road. Park along the south side of the road.



This area is often wet during the spring and winter—dress appropriately. Although the terrain is relatively flat, visiting the entire area requires crossing 2 deep and steep-walled ditches. (continued...)



## Further Information:

Division of Nature Preserves Southwest Regional Ecologist, Brian Abrell: [babrell@dnr.in.gov](mailto:babrell@dnr.in.gov)

## Description:

This nature preserve was originally part of the farmstead of State Senator Henry Kramer, who was elected in 1878. Throughout the years the family protected these woods from major disturbance. Kathryn and Helen Hougland, granddaughters of Henry Kramer, bequeathed the property to The Nature Conservancy for protection as a memorial to their grandfather. The woods was dedicated as Indiana's 200th Nature Preserve in November of 2003. The property is registered as a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service.

Henry Kramer's Original Woods is an old-growth southern hardwood bottomland forest situated on the floodplain of the Ohio River. Dominant tree species include Shumard's red oak, shellbark hickory, pin oak, sweet gum, swamp white oak, and formerly American elm. This is a most impressive stand of hardwoods, with the average acre containing over 6 trees greater than 30 inches in diameter, and the average tree size of 14.6 inches in diameter among the highest in Indiana.

