



Wildflower Loop, Indian Creek Nature Center

The trail loops through a mature deciduous forest and has over the years provided a good display of spring ephemerals. Ephemerals are plants that grow and flower before the tree canopy above them has leafed-out, thus capturing the brief period of sunlight that reaches the floor in a forest. First to bloom is Hepatica, followed by Spring Beauty, whose leaves (and flowers) are gone by June 1st. Squirrel Corn and Dutchman’s Breeches follow very closely, then Blue Cohosh. The purple-hued vegetation of Blue Cohosh is noticeable before the flowers open. Toothwort flowers a bit after Blue Cohosh, and the flowers of both will be past by late May. The stems of the Blue Cohosh will be yellowed and sporting blue berries where the flowers were by late July. Leek leaves are abundant in the spring but will disappear with the warmer weather, though the plants will send up a flowering stalk in their place.



List of vascular plants and season of flowering or when most noticeable.

A = anytime Sp = Spring Su = Summer F = Fall

An asterisk (*) denotes a non-native species. A  denotes a picture of the plant is contained in the corresponding season’s “Wildflower Loop” brochure.

Ferns and Fern Allies		
Fern, Lady	Athyrium filix-femina ssp. angustum (A)	
Wood fern, Spinulose	Dryopteris carthusiana (A)	
Fern, Fancy	Dryopteris intermedia ssp. intermedia (A)	
Fern, Sensitive	Onoclea sensibilis (A)	
Fern, Royal	Osmunda regalis var. spectabilis (A)	
Fern, Christmas	Polystichum acrostichoides (A)	
Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes		
*Vernalgrass, Sweet	Anthoxanthum odoratum (Sp)	
Sedge	Carex albursina (Sp)	
Sedge, Filiform	Carex gracillima (Su)	
Sedge, Bladder	Carex intumescens (Su)	
Sedge, Loose-flowered	Carex laxiflora (Sp)	
Sedge, Radiate	Carex radiata (Sp)	
Rush, Path	Juncus tenuis (Su)	
Herbaceous Plants		
Baneberry, Red	Actaea rubra (Sp)	
Agrimony	Agrimonia gryposepala (Su)	
*Mustard, Garlic	Alliaria petiolata (Sp)	

Leek, Wild; Ramp	Allium tricoccum var. tricoccum (A)	
Jack-in-the-pulpit	Arisaema triphyllum ssp. triphyllum (Sp)	
Crinkleroot, Toothwort	Cardamine diphylla (Sp)	
Blue cohosh	Caulophyllum thalictroides (Sp)	
Enchanter's nightshade	Circaea lutetiana ssp. canadensis (Sp)	
Spring-beauty	Claytonia caroliniana (Sp)	
Goldthread	Coptis groenlandica (Sp)	
Squirrel Corn	Dicentra Canadensis (Sp)	
Dutchman's Breeches	Dicentra cucullaria (Sp)	
Troutlily; Dog-tooth violet	Erythronium americanum ssp. americanum (Sp)	
Strawberry, Wild	Fragaria virginiana (Sp)	
Bedstraw, Sweet-scented	Galium triflorum (Su)	
*Herb-robert	Geranium robertianum (A)	
Avens, White	Geum canadense (Su)	
Stickseed; Beggar-lice	Hackelia virginiana (Su)	
Liverleaf	Hepatica nobilis var. obtusa (Sp)	
Waterleaf, Virginia	Hydrophyllum virginianum (Sp)	
Jewelweed, Spotted	Impatiens capensis (Su)	
Indian-tobacco	Lobelia inflata (Su)	
Lily-of-the-Valley, False	Maianthemum canadense (Sp)	
Miterwort	Mitella diphylla (Sp)	
Clearweed	Pilea pumila (Su)	
Solomon's seal	Polygonatum pubescens (Sp)	
*Heal-all	Prunella vulgaris (Su)	
Buttercup, Kidney-leaf	Ranunculus abortivus (Sp)	
Blackberry, Common	Rubus allegheniensis (Su)	
Raspberry, Red	Rubus idaeus ssp. strigosus (Su)	
Raspberry, Dwarf	Rubus pubescens var. pubescens (Su)	
*Nightshade, Deadly	Solanum dulcamara var. dulcamara (Su)	
Aster; Calico	Symphotrichum lateriflorum var. lateriflorum (F)	
Aster, Purple-stemmed	Symphotrichum puniceum var. puniceum (F)	

Meadow-rue, Early	<i>Thalictrum dioicum</i> (Sp)	
Foamflower	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i> (Sp)	
Poison ivy	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i> ssp. <i>negundo</i> (A)	
Trillium, Purple or Red	<i>Trillium erectum</i> (Sp)	
Trillium, White	<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i> (Sp)	
Wild Oats	<i>Uvularia sessilifolia</i> (Sp)	
*Speedwell	<i>Veronica officinalis</i> (A)	
Violet, Sweet White	<i>Viola blanda</i> (Sp)	
Violet, Canada	<i>Viola canadensis</i> var. <i>canadensis</i> (Sp)	
Violet, Dog	<i>Viola labradorica</i> (Sp)	
Violet, Yellow	<i>Viola pubescens</i> var. <i>pubescens</i> (Sp)	
Violet, Common	<i>Viola sororia</i> (Sp)	
Shrubs		
Dogwood, Pagoda	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i> (Sp)	
Cherry, Choke	<i>Prunus virginiana</i> (A)	
Gooseberry, Prickly	<i>Ribes cynosbati</i> (Sp)	
Gooseberry, Northern	<i>Ribes hirtellum</i> (A)	
Elderberry, Red	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i> var. <i>racemosa</i> (Sp)	
Trees		
Maple, Sugar	<i>Acer saccharum</i> var. <i>saccharum</i> (A)	
Hickory, Shagbark	<i>Carya ovata</i> (A)	
Beech, American	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i> (A)	
Ash, White	<i>Fraxinus americana</i> (A)	
Butternut	<i>Juglans cinerea</i> (A)	
Hop hornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i> (A)	
Cherry, Black	<i>Prunus serotina</i> (A)	
Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i> var. <i>americana</i> (A)	
Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i> (A)	
Vines		
Virginia creeper, Woodbine	<i>Parthenocissus vitacea</i> (A)	
Grape, Frost or Riverbank	<i>Vitis riparia</i> (A)	