

Wildflowers

Spring is the time of year to discover many native wildflowers. The Ridgeview Park Nature Trail boasts many of nature's beautiful treasures. View the brilliant blue of the Virginia Bluebells, deep maroon flowers of Wild Ginger, and the pure white blossoms of Bloodroot, as well as many other wildflowers. The following list will help you identify some of our "wildest flowers".

Stellaria pubera - Star Chickweed

White flowers appear from March to May

Sanguinaria canadensis - Bloodroot

A single white flower appears from March to May. The flower stalk is often surrounded by a lobed, basal leaf. Red juice from the underground stem was used by Indians as a dye, war paint, and insect repellent. The generic name, from Latin *sanguinarius*, means "bleeding".

Erythronium americanum - Trout Lily



A pair of brownish-mottled leaves sheath the base of a stalk that bears a solitary nodding flower, yellow inside, bronzy outside from March to June. The name "Trout Lily" refers to the similarity between the leaf markings and those of the brown or brook trout.

Uvularia sessilifolia - Sessile Bellwort



One or two creamy-yellow, narrow bell-shaped, drooping flowers appear from April to June at the top of an angled stem. At one time these plants were thought to be good for treating throat diseases because of the

drooping flowers resembled the uvula, the soft lobe hanging into the throat.

Polygonatum biflorum - Solomon's Seal

Greenish white flowers hang from the leaf axils on an arching stem from May to June. Rhizomes are edible.

Podophyllum peltatum - Mayapple



A solitary, nodding flower is borne in the crotch of a pair of large, deeply lobed leaves from April to May. The Fruit is a large, fleshy, lemon-like berry. Fruits are edible, but the leaves and stems are poisonous.

Cardamine concatenata - Cut-leaved Toothwort

Clusters of white or pink flowers are borne on erect stems, in April and May, with deeply lobed and sharply toothed leaves. The name "Toothwort" refers to tooth like projections on the underground stems or rhizomes.

Claytonia virginica - Spring Beauty

Pink or white flowers, striped with dark pink appear from March to May. A single pair of long, dark green, leaves is present midway up the stem. Roots are edible, potato like structures with a sweet chestnut-like flavor.

Viola sororia - Common Blue Violet

Blue flowers appear from March to June on separate stems from the heart-shaped leaves. Leaves and flowers are edible and high in vitamins A and C.

Viola blanda - Sweet White Violet

Fragrant white flowers form in April and May on separate stems from the shiny, dark green, heart-shaped leaves.

Mertensia virginica - Virginia Bluebells



Clusters of pink buds open into light blue trumpet-shaped flowers from March to June. Leaves are long, oval, and untoothed.

Asarum canadense - Wild Ginger



Three to six inch heart-shaped leaves hide the red-brown cup shaped flowers, which are borne at ground level in April and May. The leaves, when broken, give off a ginger-like aroma.

Arisaema triphyllum - Jack-in-the-pulpit

The flower, appearing in April and May, consists of a leaf-like hood (spathe) and a central column (spadix), which bears clusters of pollen bearing male flowers at the top and a cluster of female flowers near the base. The hood has a pattern of maroon and white stripes. One or two leaves, separated into 3 leaflets, extend above the flower. The underground tuber is peppery to the taste and causes a strong burning reaction if eaten raw.



Trillium sp. - Trilliums

All are characterized by a whorl of three leaves. Flowers range from white, purple, pink, red and yellow. Trilliums flower from April to June, some with unpleasant odors.