

Spring Wildflower Hunt!

These flowers are all found in Western Wildlife Corridor nature preserves. See how many you can find...but remember, today's flowers are tomorrow's seeds. Take pix, but don't pick!



Level 1: Abundant and Showy Flowers

Virginia Bluebells



- bell-shaped light pink to blue-violet flowers
- spinach-like leaves

Trout Lily



- bright yellow swept-back petals
- leaves dappled with reddish spots

Spring Beauty



- pale pink flowers with 5 striped petals
- narrow, grass-like leaves

Cut-Leaf Toothwort



- pale pink or purplish flowers with 4 petals
- jagged-edged leaves with 5 lobes

Eastern Redbud



- don't forget: trees have flowers too!
- bright magenta flowers cluster along twigs

False Rue Anemone



- white flowers with 5 oval petals
- lobed leaves are often reddish in early spring

Dutchman's Breeches



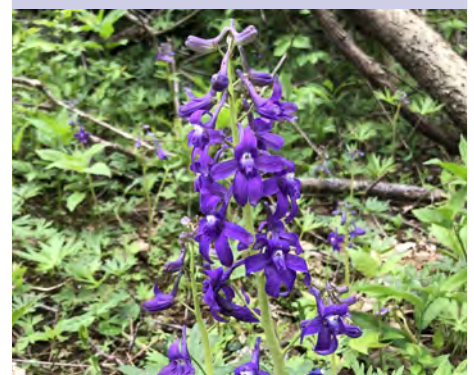
- white flowers look like upside-down pants!
- finely cut, feathery leaves

Wild Hyacinth / Atlantic Camas



- very pale blue-violet star-shaped flowers
- long, thin, blade-like leaves

Dwarf Larkspur



- deep purple flowers resemble witches' hats
- unusual, divided leaves have pointed lobes

Level 2: Less Conspicuous or Less Common Flowers

It might be harder to find these flowers, but it's worth the effort! Try searching for them at Bender Mountain Nature Preserve.

Sessile Trillium / Toadshade



- very dark red flower with no stem
- always with three beautifully dappled leaves

Great (Appendaged) Waterleaf



- violet flowers with 5 slightly pointed petals
- big, velvety leaves resemble maple leaves

Downy Yellow Violet



- sunny yellow flower with 5 petals
- heart-shaped leaves with toothy edges

White Fawnlily



- just like a trout lily, but translucent white
- name refers to the delicately spotted leaves

Blue-Eyed Mary



- upper petals white; lower ones true blue
- smooth, slightly pointed leaves hug the stem

Jack-in-the-Pulpit



- conical flower with spadix ("Jack") inside
- large, fleshy, three-lobed leaves

Wood (Celandine) Poppy



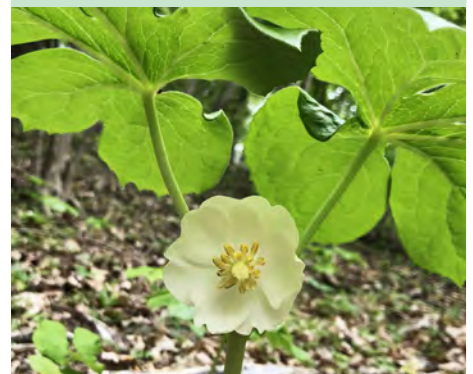
- large, deep yellow flower with 4 soft petals
- elaborately lobed, elegant leaves

Purple Cress



- buds purple, fading to near white when open
- soft, fleshy, pointed leaves with wavy edges

Mayapple



- look hard: white flower hides under leaves!
- lobed leaves resemble green umbrellas

Most of these flowers are known as "spring ephemerals" because they are often the first plants to appear when the days begin to lengthen, and their blooms are very short-lived. Some plants flower for a single day! After flowering, the leaves of many of these plants die back to the roots, waiting to repeat the cycle next spring. Different species bloom at different times of the season, so if you want to find all of these species, be sure to visit our preserves several times throughout the spring months.

Level 3: Unusual, Overlooked, and Rare Flowers

Now's the time to test your skills! These flowers are uncommon, easy to confuse with other flowers, or just hard to see.

Harbinger-of-Spring



- tiny flowers come up in late winter (February)
- delicate, fern-like leaves remain in spring

Pawpaw



- deep red, bell-shaped blooms hang from twigs
- trees produce delicious fruit in early autumn

Rue Anemone



- white or (rare) pink flowers with >5 petals
- lobed leaves similar to false rue anemone

Spicebush



- tiny bright yellow flowers open in February
- an often-overlooked understory shrub

Miami Mist



- fringed, blue-violet flowers are like no other
- soft, fern-like leaves have pointed tips

Squirrel Corn



- heart-shaped flowers grow on upright stalk
- leaves almost identical to Dutchman's breeches

Bloodroot



- 8–12 white petals; blooms for only one day
- unusual round leaves with deeply lobed edge

False Mermaidweed



- 3 green sepals hide 3 miniscule white petals
- a common plant, but usually unnoticed

Wild Ginger



- dark red flowers are cup-shaped with 3 sepals
- flowers hide under fleshy, heart-shaped leaves

Many of these delicate native flowers cannot grow in areas that have been taken over by invasive plants such as Amur honeysuckle and garlic mustard. Since its establishment in 1992, Western Wildlife Corridor has been working to protect and restore natural habitat on Cincinnati's west side by removing invasive plants to allow native species to thrive. As a result, our preserves are some of the best places in Cincinnati to see diverse native plants and the animals that depend on them! To learn more about supporting our work through volunteering, membership, or donation, please visit www.westernwildlifecorridor.org, follow us on Facebook, or send an e-mail to wwc7@yahoo.com.