

BLUE / VIOLET (CONTINUED)

Phlox (Polemoniaceae)

- **Greek Valerian** (*Polemonium reptans*): similar to Jacob's-ladder but stem weaker and fewer leaflets; stamens do not project beyond flower. Native. April – June

Snapdragon (Scrophulariaceae)

- **Thyme-leaved Speedwell** (*Veronica serpyllifolia*): creeping with small, 4-petaled flowers; leaves are small, opposite, toothless, short-stalked and oval. Alien. May – Sept.

Violet (Violaceae)

- **Common Blue Violet** (*Viola papilionacea*): leaf stalks longer than flower stalks. Native. March – June

GREEN

Arum (Araceae)

- **Jack-in-the-pulpit** (*Arisaema atrorubens*): flap-like spathe is green or purplish, often striped, and curves gracefully over the spadix; flowers are tiny at base of spadix; 1-2 leaves, long-stalked, 3-parted. Unlike commonly believed, is *not* carnivorous. Native. April – June

Honeysuckle (Caprifoliaceae)

- **Wild Coffee/Feverwort** (*Triosteum perfoliatum*): leaves paired with flaring margins along petioles, meeting and surrounding the stem; flowers bell-shaped with 5 long sepals; fruit orange, hairy. Native. May – July

Lily (Liliaceae)*

- **Solomon's-seal** (*Polygonatum biflorum*): see description under YELLOW

BROWN

Birthwort (Aristolochiaceae)

- **Wild Ginger** (*Asarum canadense*): see description under PINK / RED

Honeysuckle (Caprifoliaceae)

- **Wild Coffee/Feverwort** (*Triosteum perfoliatum*): see description under GREEN

GLOSSARY (CONTINUED)

- **Corolla**: the showy inner floral envelope; the segments (called petals) may be separate or joined.
- **Disk** (in composites): the round or button-like center (like in a daisy) composed of numerous tubular disk flowers, usually surrounded by a circle of ray flowers.
- **Floweret**: the individual flowers of a composite/aster flower head.
- **Head**: a crowded cluster of stalk-less, or nearly stalk-less, flowers.
- **Leaflets**: the smaller, individual parts of a compound leaf.
- **Lobed** (leaf): Indented, with outer projections rounded.
- **Native**: originally from this area; not introduced.
- **Opposite** (leaves, etc.): arranged directly across from each other.
- **Palmate** (leaf): divided or lobed so as to radiate from one point (as fingers from a palm).
- **Petal**: one of the segments of the corolla; usually colored; may be joined basally or separate.
- **Petiole**: the stalk, or stem, of a leaf.
- **Pistil**: the central female organ of a flower which comprises a swollen ovary at the base, a slender stalk (style) and a divided or knobbed tip (stigma).
- **Ray flowers**: the flat strap-like blades that encircle the disk flowers (as in a daisy).
- **Sepal**: an individual segment of the calyx; usually green; a small modified leaf near the rim of the flower.
- **Sessile**: without a stalk; attached directly.
- **Simple**: not divided into smaller leaflets; not compound.
- **Spadix**: a club-shaped stalk on which are crowded tiny blossoms.
- **Spathe**: the hooded or leaf-like sheath partly enfolding the spadix.
- **Spur**: a hollow, tubular extension on a flower.
- **Stamen**: the male flower organ (usually several on one individual) composed of a slender stalk with a knob (anther) at the tip which bears pollen.
- **Stigma**: the tip of the pistil; often knobbed or divided; sticky.
- **Stipule**: a small leaf-like appendage at the base of the petiole.
- **Style**: the slender stalk of the pistil.
- **Toothed** (leaf edges): jagged, not smooth.
- **Whorl**: three or more leaves, etc., radiating around a single point.

Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation

Administration Building
705 E. State Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46805
Phone: 260-427-6000 or 260-427-6005

Lindenwood Nature Preserve

Off of Lindenwood Ave. between Jefferson Blvd. and Bass Rd.; down the street from St. Francis University
Fort Wayne, IN
Phone: 260-427-6740



Play well... Live well

Spring Wildflowers

March – May*



*This account describes only wildflowers that normally start blooming in the months of March, April and May. For flowers which start blooming in June and later, see the Summer Wildflowers brochure.

Lindenwood Wildflowers

The wildflowers listed below are those that are most common and most-likely to be seen by park visitors; all species listed have been observed at the preserve in the past. Species are arranged by prominent flower color and then by Family. The months that are listed are the average blooming periods in this region for the flower. See the glossary for any obscure technical vocabulary included in the descriptions. A (*) located after the Family name indicates that certain general family characteristics were given in a previous color section. Note: edibility is not included; for your own benefit, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO INGEST ANY WILD PLANT.

WHITE

Barberry (Berberidaceae): a grouping of dissimilar genera.

- **May-apple/Mandrake** (*Podophyllum peltatum*): single nodding 6-9 petaled flower found between and below two large, deeply notched, umbrella-like leaves. Native. April – June
- **Twinleaf** (*Jeffersonia diphylla*): 8-10 petaled flower suggests Bloodroot but note almost completely divided leaf. Native. April – May

Bedstraw (Rubiaceae): tiny flowers are in clusters toward the terminal end of stem; leaves are whorled in groups of 4, 6 or 8.

- **Northern Bedstraw** (*Galium boreale*): flowers in groups of three; leaves in whorls of 4. Native. May – Aug.

Buttercup (Ranunculaceae): in all of the below species (except White Baneberry) flowers do not have "petals"; the structures that are petal-like are really the plants' sepals, or, modified leaves.

- **Round-lobed Hepatica** (*Hepatica americana*): rounded, 3-lobed leaves, hairy stalks; 6-10 "petals"; flowers vary in color (white, pink, lavender, blue). Native. March - May
- **Rue Anemone** (*Anemonella thalictroides*): 2-3 flowers per stalk have 6-10 "petals"; leaves are small, whorled and 3-lobed. Native. March – May
- **White Baneberry** (*Actaea pachypoda*): flowers have 4-10 true petals with long bushy stamens and are in tight oblong clusters; leaves are divided and subdivided into sharply toothed leaflets; conspicuous fruit is a cluster of white berries, each with a red stalk. Native. May - June
- **Wood Anemone** (*Anemone quinquefolia*): 4-9 (usually 5) "petals"; deeply cut leaves appear to be divided into 3 or more. Native. April - June

Composite/Daisy (Asteraceae): the largest group of flowering plants. Flower heads consist of several flat strap-shaped flowers (rays) or small tube-like flowers (disks) arranged in a circle around a central disk. What is commonly believed to be the flowers' petals is in fact one individual flower.

- **Daisy Fleabane** (*Erigeron annuus*): 40-70 ray flowers per stalk; stem and leaves are hairy; leaves are numerous and strongly toothed. Native. May – Oct.

Lily (Liliaceae): lily species have bulb roots and flower parts in 3's or 6's (except for Wild Lily-of-the-valley); leaves are simple, smooth and parallel-veined.

- **False Solomon's-seal** (*Smilacina racemosa*): oval-shaped, alternate leaves along gracefully reclining stem; tiny flowers are clustered at terminal end. Fruit are bright red berries. (True

False Solomon's-seal Cont'd...

- Solomon's-seal has flowers in leaf axils, not in terminal cluster.)
Native. May – July
- **Large-flowered or White Trillium** (*Trillium grandiflorum*): the breath-taking beauty of the woods has 3 broad leaves and 3 large, showy petals that turn pink with age. Native. April – June
 - **Nodding Trillium** (*Trillium cernuum*): smaller version of the above species; flower dangles below the leaves and has pink anthers. Native. April – June
 - **White Trout Lily** (*Erythronium albidum*): similar to the more familiar yellow Trout-lily. May be tinged with yellow in center and with violet on back of petals. 2 basal leaves are splotchy-looking. Native. April – June
 - **Wild Lily-of-the-valley** (*Maianthemum canadense*): deeply cleft, heart-shaped leaf bases and 4-pointed flowers. Berries are white with spots, later turning pale red. Native. May – July

Mustard (Brassicaceae): flowers in this family are very similar, all with 4 petals that form a cross and all with 6 stamens. The single pistil develops into the characteristic mustard seedpod.

- **Cut-leaved Toothwort** (*Dentaria laciniata*): whorl of 3 leaves, each divided into 3 narrow, sharply toothed segments. Native. April - June
- **Garlic Mustard** (*Alliaria officianalis*): somewhat triangular, heart-shaped leaves are stalked and sharply toothed; strong garlic odor. Alien. April - June
- **Shepherd's Purse** (*Capsella bursa-pastoria*): flowers tiny; basal leaves dandelion-like, stem leaves small and clasping. Seedpods are flat and heart-shaped. Alien. April – Sept.
- **Smooth Rock Cress** (*Arabis laevigata*): smooth leaves have lobed bases that hug the stem. Native. April – July
- **Spring Cress** (*Cardamine bulbosa*): roundish, long-stalked basal leaves contrast with the sessile, toothed stem leaves. Bulb-like roots. Native. March – June

Parsley (Umbelliferae): plants in this family have numerous, small, 5-petaled flowers arranged in umbrella-like clusters (umbels).

- **Black Snakeroot** (*Sanicula marilandica*): long stalked palmate leaves with 5 leaflets (the lower 2 are cleft); leafy bracts at base of uneven umbels. Fruits are round and bristly. Native. May – July
- **Queen Anne's Lace/Wild Carrot** (*Daucus carota*): extremely flat clusters form a lace-like pattern, often with a single tiny deep purple floret in the center. Old flower clusters curl up into a cup-shaped "bird's nest"; leaves finely divided and subdivided. Alien. May – Oct.
- **Sweet Cicely** (*Osmorhiza claytoni*): a soft hairy plant with a round stem and fern-like leaves which are 3 times compoundly divided and bluntly toothed. Native. May – June

Pea (Fabaceae)

- **White Sweet Clover** (*Melilotus alba*): tri-part leaves and the shape of the flowers are clover-like but flowers more slender and in tapering clusters; leaves fragrant. Alien. May – Oct.

Poppy (Papaveraceae)

- **Bloodroot** (*Sanguinaria canadensis*): named for the orangish-red juice that flows from broken stem. Large, pale, lobed leaf embraces stalk of the showy 8-10 petaled flower. Native. March – May
- **Dutchman's Breeches** (*Dicentra cucullaria*): delicate spray of waxy, yellow-tipped flowers droops in a row from an arched stem. Each flower has 2 inflated spurs that suggest a pair of upside-

down pants. Leaves are heavily dissected and wispy. Native. April – May

Purslane (Portulacaceae)

- **Spring Beauty** (*Claytonia virginica*): pair of smooth, linear leaves resemble blades of grass. Petals are white or pale pink with darker pink veins. Native. March – May

Rose (Rosaceae)

- **Cinquefoil** (*Potentilla* sp.): many species, (including rough and rough-fruited), all with 5 petals and compound, toothed leaves. Flowers may be white or yellow. Native. March – Oct.
- **Wood Strawberry** (*Fragaria vesca*): flowers and fruit are held above the leaves; leaves smaller and more pointed than in common strawberry and seeds are on the surface, not embedded in pits. Alien. May – Aug.

Snapdragon (Scrophulariaceae)

- **Foxglove Beardtongue** (*Penstemon digitalis*): tubular, uneven 5-lobed flowers which derive their name from the tuft of hairs on one of the stamens. Leaves opposite, toothed and stalkless. Native. May - July

YELLOW

Bedstraw (Rubiaceae)*

- **Northern Bedstraw** (*Galium* sp.) see description under WHITE

Buttercup (Ranunculaceae)*

- **Common Buttercup** (*Ranunculus acris*): 5-7 glossy petals which overlap; leaves are palmately compound. Alien. May – Sept.

Composite/Daisy (Asteraceae): the largest group of flowering plants. Flower heads consist of several flat strap-shaped flowers (rays) or small tube-like flowers (disks) arranged in a circle around a central disk. What is commonly believed to be the flowers' petals is in fact one individual flower. Most species are summer wildflowers.

- **Common Dandelion** (*Taraxacum officinale*): familiar lawn "weed" has jagged-lobed leaves and hallow, milky stem; fluffy, white globular seeds. Alien. March – Sept.
- **Golden Ragwort** (*Senscio aureaus*): small, daisy-like flowers are arranged in flat-topped clusters and have sparse rays and finely cut leaves. Native. May - July

Lily (Liliaceae)*

- **Perfoliate Bellwort** (*Uvularia perfoliata*): single fragrant flower droops at the tip of a leafy stem which, due to leaves encircling stem, appears to pierce through the leaves. Native. May – June
- **Solomon's-seal** (*Polygonatum biflorum*): paired greenish-yellow flowers dangle beneath leaves which are arranged alternately on the stem; berries are blue-black. Compare to False-Solomon's-seal (WHITE). Native. April – June
- **Trout Lily** (*Erythronium americanum*): reflexed yellow petals and 2 broad basal leaves which appear mottled. Native. March – May

Mustard (Brassicaceae)*

- **Winter Cress** (*Barbarea vulgaris*): rounded tips on lower leaves; upper leaves are broad, toothed and clasp stem. Alien. April – Aug.

Rose (Rosaceae)

- **Cinquefoil** (*Potentilla* sp.): see description under WHITE

Snapdragon (Scrophulariaceae)

- **Wood Betony/Lousewort** (*Pedicularis canadensis*): flowers may be yellow, red, or both; plant is low-lying and hairy, topped with a broad whorl of tubular hooded flowers. Long and soft, hairy leaves (many of which are basal) are deeply incised and toothed. Native. April – June

Violet (Violaceae)

- **Downy Yellow Violet** (*Viola pubescens*): downy stems and leaves (especially along veins); leaves are heart-shaped; stipules are toothed. Flowers arise from stalk separate from leaf stalks. Native. April – May

Wood-sorrel (Oxalidaceae)

- **Yellow Wood-sorrel** (*Oxalis stricta*): delicate, heart-shaped, clover-like leaflets; seedpods form sharp angle with their bent stalks (appear folded). Flowers have 5 petals. Native. May – Oct.

ORANGE

Buttercup (Ranunculaceae)*

- **Columbine** (*Aquilegia canadensis*): flowers are drooping bells with 5 long curved spurs; leaves are divided and subdivided into 3's. Native. April – July

PINK / RED

Birthwort (Aristolochiaceae)

- **Wild Ginger** (*Asarum canadense*): flower is at ground level between two heart-shaped leaves and is rarely seen by passerby (unless leaves are parted). Flower is brownish-red, hairy and cup-shaped with 3 lobes. Native. April – May

Buttercup (Ranunculaceae)*

- **Columbine** (*Aquilegia canadensis*): see description under ORANGE
- **Composite/Daisy (Asteraceae)***
- **Common Fleabane** (*Erigeron philadelphicus*): very numerous, slender rays in small flower heads; leaves clasp stem. Native. April – July
- **Robin-plantain** (*Erigeron pulchellus*): similar to Common Fleabane but shorter and larger-flowered; very soft and hairy with few ray flowers per head; basal leaves with longer stalks, are bluntly toothed and broad toward tip. Native. April – June

Geranium (Geraniaceae)

- **Wild Geranium** (*Geranium maculatum*): 5-parted deeply lobed leaves; pink or purple flowers have 5 petals and are rose-like and have long "beak" in the center. Native. April – June

Lily (Liliaceae)*

- **Toadshade Trillium** (*Trillium sessile*): leaves, petals and sepals in whorls of 3; this trillium species has stalk-less flowers with small, erect petals and erect, spreading sepals. Flowers are maroon or purplish. Native. April – June
- **Wild Garlic** (*Allium canadense*): few pink or whitish flowers mixed with bulblets atop long, slender stalk; leaves flattened and occur near base. Native. May – July

Milkweed (Asclepiadaceae)

- **Blunt-leaved Milkweed** (*Asclepias amplexicauli*): leaves are wavy at edges and deeply clasp stem. Native. May – July

Mustard (Brassicaceae)*

- **Cut-leaved Toothwort** (*Dentaria laciniata*): see description under WHITE
- **Purple Cress** (*Cardamine douglassii*): basal leaves long-stalked and rounded; stem leaves stalk-less and slightly toothed; stem hairy. Native. March - May

Phlox (Polemoniaceae)

- **Deptford Pink** (*Dianthus armeria*): stem very slender with stiff, needle-like leaves; petals have white spots near base; long, bristly bracts. Alien. May – July
- **Sleepy Catchfly** (*Silene antirrhina*): tiny flowers with inflated "bladder" below petals (which are very small or absent); black sticky sections on stems. Native. May – Sept.
- **Wild Sweet-William** (*Phlox maculata*): similar to above but with purple-spotted stems and longer corolla tubes; flowers also in longer, more cylindrical cluster. Native. May – Sept.

Pink (Caryophyllaceae): all pinks have 5-petaled flowers, a tubed calyx and paired, opposite, simple leaves.

- **Fire Pink** (*Silene virginica*): narrow, deep scarlet petals which are notched at the tip; long flower stalks and broader leaves. Native. April – June

BLUE / VIOLET

Buttercup (Ranunculaceae)*

- **Round-lobed Hepatica** (*Hepatica americana*): see description under WHITE

Composite/Daisy (Asteraceae)*

- **Robin-plantain** (*Erigeron pulchellus*): see description under PINK / RED

Iris (Iridaceae)

- **Blue Eyed Grass** (*Sisyrinchium* sp.): several species, all stiff and grass-like with 6 petals tipped with a small point; fruit is a small, round pod. Native. May – July

Nightshade (Solanaceae)

- **Horsenettle** (*Solanum carolinense*): flowers similar to Nightshade but larger and lobes wider; leaves rough and widely toothed; stems prickly; berries orange. Native. May – Oct.

Mint (Labiatae): plants in this family are easy to identify due to their square-shaped stems (roll between thumb and forefinger to feel edges) and the aromatic minty odor. Flowers are small and have two "lips", an upper and a lower, which form a tube called the corolla.

- **Gill-over-the-ground/Ground-ivy** (*Glechoma hederacea*): creeping and ivy-like with kidney-shaped leaves which are often purplish; flowers are in whorls in leaf axils. Alien. April – July

Phlox (Polemoniaceae)

- **Blue Phlox** (*Phlox divaricata*): wild species the garden flower; flowers radiate from the tip of stem; 5 petals are wedge-shaped and stamens are completely hidden; stem hairy and sticky. Native. April – June