



Self-Guided Wildflower Walks

Hogback Ridge Park

Hogback Ridge Park in Madison has one of the best spring wildflower displays in Lake Metroparks. Take a hike through this park's forested trails in **April and early May** to experience these flowers at their peak beauty.

Take the Hemlock Ridge Loop Trail from the parking lot on Emerson Road. The grassy area at the parking lot and near the bathrooms has large populations of spring beauties. Along the boardwalk to the steps, keep your eyes open for yellow trout lily, squirrel corn, mayapples, and the occasional large-flowered trillium.

Take the steps down into the Mill Creek valley to find an amazing abundance of flowers on the Bluebell Valley Path. Acres of wild leeks carpet the forest floor from the steps to the creek. As the path gets closer to the stream, more and more Virginia bluebells are mixed in until they become the dominate flower. At the creek, the majority of the wildflowers can be seen by heading left at the intersection (however, a can't miss scenic waterfall is located a little way to the right of the intersection).

Throughout the trail look for large-flowered and red trilliums, mayapples, bloodroot, hepatica, and more.

4700 Emerson Rd.
Madison Twp., Ohio 44057

Hemlock Ridge Loop Trail

- Trout lily
- Squirrel corn
- Mayapple
- Large-flowered trillium
- Spring beauty

Bluebell Valley Path

- Virginia bluebell
- Large-flowered trillium
- Red trillium
- Mayapple
- Bloodroot
- Hepatica

Indian Point Park

The Grand River and Paine Creek floodplains at Indian Point Park host an incredible diversity of native spring wildflowers. Visit from **April to early May** to see wildflowers during peak bloom.

Some of the best wildflower displays are along Seeley Road, especially the section that is closed to vehicles. Starting from the Paine Creek parking lot, walk east toward the bridge over Paine Creek. Look for spring beauties, mayapples, both large-flowered and red trilliums, meadow rue, Solomon's seal, cut-leaved toothwort, and more along the edges of the road. One of the largest and most accessible Virginia bluebell patches in the park district flourishes between the bridge and the base of the hill that leads up to the upper parking lot. During peak bloom, this area takes on a blue hue due to the huge number of flowers!

If you find yourself at the park in March, park at the West parking lot to hike the Skunk Cabbage Loop Trail. These plants grow in abundance along their namesake trail. These odd-looking flowers grow in wet woods along the entire trail.

Paine Creek parking lot
12951 Seeley Rd.
Leroy Twp., Ohio 44077

Seeley Rd. (pedestrian traffic only)

- Spring beauty
- Mayapple
- Large-flowered trillium
- Red trillium
- Meadow rue
- Solomon's seal
- Cut-leaved toothwort
- Virginia bluebell

West parking lot
12701 Seeley Rd.
Leroy Twp., Ohio 44077

Skunk Cabbage Loop Trail

- Skunk cabbage
- Virginia bluebell



Hepatica

Hepatica leaves have three spotted lobes and long-stemmed flowers that vary from white to lavender to pink. **March 15–April 30**



Large-flowered trillium

Large-flowered trillium are disappearing within the forests because they are a preferred food for deer. **April 15–May 15**



Virginia bluebell

Virginia bluebells are one of the showiest flowers of the spring. They are a common sight in floodplains. **April 20–May 15**



Trout lily

Yellow trout lily can be found in extensive colonies and can often be located prior to flowering by the mottled, flat leaves. **April 15–May 1**



Spring beauty

Spring beauty is a hardy wildflower found in most of the parks. They have whitish flowers tinged with pink. Two different species can be found in the park district: Virginia and Carolina. **March 30–May 10**



Bloodroot

Bloodroot has a large showy flower with a large rounded leaf with lobes. The name comes from the orange-red juices that can be found in the roots. **April 1–20**



Skunk cabbage

Skunk cabbage is one of the strangest looking wildflowers. Flowers are often described as looking like wizard's hoods and can produce their own heat. **Mid February–April 30**



Mayapple

Mayapple have large, umbrella-like leaves, produce a single white flower and can be found in damp, open woods. **April 30–May 30**



Meadow rue

Meadow rue are found in shaded woodlands or partially-shaded wetlands and display petal-less flowers with yellow stamens that hang like tassels. **April 15–May 15**



Squirrel corn

Squirrel corn has blueish fern-like leaves with broad heart-shaped delicate white flowers. **April 15–May 15**



Cut-leaved toothwort

Cut-leaved toothwort is named for the tooth-like projections on the underground stems. This plant has also historically been used to alleviate toothaches. **March 20–April 30**



Red trillium

Red trillium tends to occur in drier conditions and have large green leaves and three deep rose-colored petals. **April 1–20**



Solomon's seal

Solomon's seal has arching stems with greenish-white tubular flowers hanging in pairs. **April 30–May 30**

Bloom times may be earlier or later depending on weather conditions.