



2019 Wildflower Weekend at Eagle Creek Park- Schedule of Events

Join us for naturalist led hikes and public programs at Eagle Creek Park's first annual Wildflower Weekend! While attending hikes you can make your own observations or contribute to citizen science by helping us document spring wildflower diversity in the park.

Most programs are free with park admission and do not require registration unless otherwise noted. Park admission is \$5 for in county residents and \$6 for out of county residents. Park entry fee is waived for paid programs. Please call the Earth Discovery Center (317-327-7148) with questions. All programs require minors to be accompanied by adults.

Saturday, April 27

1. 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Wild Edibles Hike

The Indiana landscape provides a bounty of edible plants. Learn how to identify edible plants and toxic look-a-likes to aid in survival situations, expand your taste palate, and gain a better appreciation for native plants with Indy Parks naturalist, Jessica Helmbold. Distance: 1 mile, Difficulty: Moderate
Location A- Front entrance, by bike racks located north of front doors

2. 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Story Time on the Reservoir

Our most popular pre-K program provides the opportunity for families to learn and grow with hands-on activities for all learning styles. This week's Story Time book, *Flowers are Calling* by Rita Gray, and activity stations will celebrate wildflowers in honor of our weekend-long event. **Location A- Exhibit hall or EDC shelter (final location is weather dependent)**

3. 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Introduction to Wildflowers Hike- Cabin Trail

EDC manager, Dawn VanDeman, will lead this hike geared for beginning wildflower enthusiasts, although all are welcome. The Cabin Trail is a moderate 1-mile loop, with stairs and hills along the second half of the trail. Along the way we'll see most of our common woodland spring wildflowers like spring beauty, prairie trillium, false rue anemone, and cutleaf toothwort, and hopefully some of our less common ones like drooping trillium. Distance: 1 mile, Difficulty: Moderate **Location A- Front entrance, by bike racks located north of front doors**

4. 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Wildflower ID hike- OC mesic woods

Tom Swinford, Assistant Director of DNR Division of Nature Preserves, will lead a 1-mile hike through this diverse section of the park. The exposed bluffs are home to shooting stars, fire pink, and other ephemerals that like living on the edge! We will also explore the Beech-Maple Loop that stays moist and shaded, providing a great home for ostrich fern, spring beauties, and wood poppies. Distance: 1 mile, Difficulty: Moderate **Location B**

5. 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Eagle Creek Park History in Flowers Hike

As a former naturalist and a current volunteer, Anne Cecere has developed a passion for Eagle Creek Park history. On a guided hike learn what various plants can teach us about the history of Eagle Creek Park. In this family-friendly program you'll use clues in the flora to find homesites, while hearing stories from the past. We will also identify wildflowers that we encounter along the way. Distance: 1 mile, Difficulty: Easy **Location A- Front entrance**

6. 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Wildflower ID hike- Eagle's Crest Nature Preserve

One of the most ecologically rich habitats in Marion County, Eagle's Crest Nature Preserve offers rolling hills, steep ravines, and panoramic views of the reservoir. Join Tom Swinford, Assistant Director of DNR Division of Nature Preserves, on this 1.75-mile rugged hike through a vast display of Virginia bluebells and other spring beauties. Distance: 1.75 mile, Difficulty: Rugged **Location C**

7. 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Shoreline Canoe Program Activity Fee: \$20.00/Canoe

Registration and additional program details at: indyparks.org, course code: 18984

This naturalist-led canoe tour will launch from the Earth Discovery Center boat ramp and follow the shoreline until reaching the newly-installed floating wetland. Along the way, naturalist guides will be looking for shoreline plants and signs that spring has arrived to the reservoir. Once arriving at the floating wetland (the first installed in the State of Indiana), paddlers will learn about this milestone. Discover which plants were chosen for this project based on their benefits to wildlife and water quality.

This program is limited to 10 canoes. Some paddling experience required. Each canoe can accommodate up to two adults with one child sitting in the middle seat. Price is per canoe. The adult registering is responsible for filling the canoe they are reserving. Two adult paddlers are recommended. All participants are required to wear PFDs for the duration of the program. PFDs are available for use or you are welcome to bring your own. **Location A- meet at front entrance and walk to floating dock**

8. 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Intro to iNaturalist

Be a citizen scientist by recording nature observations through iNaturalist! We'll go over the basics of using iNaturalist inside, and then we'll head out onto the trail to ID wildflowers and other plants and animals and add them to the Indianapolis City Nature Challenge. Join iNaturalist ahead of time and upload the iNaturalist app to your phone to get a jump start: www.inaturalist.org (photo observations can also be uploaded over a computer). To make observations you'll need a phone camera or regular camera. **Location A- Exhibit Hall**

9. 2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. Wildflower ID hike- Scott Starling Nature Sanctuary

Tucked in on the north end of the reservoir along Fishback Creek, Starling Sanctuary features a mosaic of habitats: forest, wetland, and prairie. Park Manager, Brittany Davis-Swinford, will guide us on an easy stroll to the Fishback Creek overlook, (1.0 mi) then through the wetland and prairie trail (.5 mi). The wetland trail might be a little muddy, bring waterproof footwear if you have it. Distance: 1.5mi, Difficulty: Easy **Location B**

10. 2:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. Native Pollinators Hike

Eagle Creek Park volunteer, Naomi D'Andrea, will lead a hike in search of spring ephemeral wildflowers and the native pollinators on which they rely. This family-friendly pollinator talk and hike will discuss the special relationships insects and wildflowers have developed over time and shed light on the importance of pollinator conservation. Distance: 1 mile, Difficulty: Easy **Location A- Front entrance**

11. 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Dinner with keynote speaker \$10 per ticket, limited to 30 spots

Registration at wildflowerdinner.eventbrite.com

Celebrate our first annual Wildflower Weekend along with Eagle Creek Park staff and event hike leaders at this catered, Mediterranean-themed dinner. Vegetarian and gluten-free options will be available to guests. Relax with friends, enjoy a delicious meal, and learn what wildflowers our leaders have recorded throughout the day. Registration is limited to the first 30 guests.

6:30 p.m. Keynote Speaker: "27 Years of Resource Management at Eagle Creek Park", presented by DPW Land Stewardship Ecologists, Brenda Howard and Jacob Brinkman

In 1992, the newly developed Land Stewardship Division implemented their first habitat restoration project, partnering with US Fish & Wildlife Service and Pike High School to plant a thousand acorns to help reforest an old farm field in Scott Starling Nature Sanctuary. Since then, they have actively managed our natural areas through deer management, wetland mitigation, pollinator plantings, prairie plantings, and invasive species control, helping Eagle Creek Park strive to become "Indy's Best Nature Experience" for our over one million park visitors. **Location A- Exhibit Hall**

Sunday, April 28

12. 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. **Wildflower Yoga** **Activity Fee: \$7.00, preregistration required**

Registration and additional program details at: indyparks.org, course code: 18983

Co-founder and yoga instructor Colleen Donahoe from Wild Persimmon School of Wellness has developed a yoga routine with poses inspired by wildflowers. Join her for this one hour outdoor yoga session focusing on breathing, relaxation, and exercise. Surrounded by the sights and sounds of Eagle Creek Park this program will begin with guided relaxation. Variations will be offered to keep this program accessible to all levels of experience and mobility. This program is most appropriate for teens and adults. Anyone under the age of 18 must be registered and attend with a registered adult. Wildflower Yoga will take place on the Earth Discovery Center Deck overlooking the reservoir or in a grassy area surrounded by forests. Please check in at the Earth Discovery Center by 9:50 a.m. to find out the location and choose your mat space. **Location A- back deck or next to building, participant numbers dependent**

13. 10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m. **Birds and Blooms Hike**

Join Molly Goodwin, naturalist from the Ornithology Center, to learn the birds of Eagle Creek and the unique relationships they have with spring wildflowers. Explore the trails around the Ornithology Center on this relaxed guided hike. Binoculars are provided for use, making this hike perfect for the whole family. Distance: 1.5 mile, Difficulty: Easy **Location B**

14. 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. **Wildflower ID Hike- Eagle's Crest**

If you missed this hike on Saturday, or just really love this special place, join us for another hike through Eagle's Crest Nature Preserve. Join Jason Larson, Regional Ecologist for DNR Division of Nature Preserves, and Fritz Nerding, Garfield Park Manager, on this 1.75-mile rugged trail. This is an exceptional site for many spring ephemerals. Distance: 1.75 mile, Difficulty: Rugged **Location C**

15. 11:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. **Invasive plant talk and garlic mustard pull**

Team up with Land Stewardship staff to remove garlic mustard, an exotic invasive plant which negatively impacts native wildflowers in the park. Please wear long sleeves, pants, work gloves, sturdy shoes, and bring water. Distance: 1 mile, Difficulty: Easy **Location A**

16. 1:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. **Fungus ID Hike**

Wildflowers are not the only thing popping up around the park in spring. Join President of the Hoosier Mushroom Society, Stephen Russell, on a guided fungus foray. Discussion of major fungus groups, characterizes to look for in identification, and human uses will be talking points on this family-friendly identification hike. Distance: 1.5 mile, Difficulty: Moderate **Location A- front entrance**

Eagle Creek Park Wildflower Weekend Program Locations

Location A- Earth Discovery Center, 5901 Delong Road, Indianapolis, IN 45654, 317-327-7148

The Earth Discovery Center is a year-round nature center with a variety of environmental education themed displays and amenities. Parking, restrooms, water fountains, park maps, and nature center staff are available throughout the day. Building is open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday for this event. The EDC shelter is located on the south end of the EDC parking lot by the GOAPE cabin.

Location B- Ornithology Center, 6515 Delong Road, Indianapolis, IN 46278, 317-327-2473

The Earth Ornithology Center is a year-round nature center with a variety of environmental education themed displays focusing on birds. Parking, restrooms, water fountains, park maps, and nature center staff are available throughout the day. Building is open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday for this event.

Locations C and D are located on the west side of the reservoir. There are no restrooms or water fountains available at these sites. There are no gatehouses or fees to enter locations C and D during this event.

Location C- Eagle's Crest Nature Preserve, 7201 Fishback Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46278

There are no restrooms or water fountains available at this site. Turn in at the sign, Eagle's Crest at Eagle Creek Park, and continue driving past opened gate. Driveway will continue through soccer fields until you arrive at additional parking and house structure.

Location D- Scott Starling Nature Sanctuary, 8245 Wilson Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46278

There are no restrooms or water fountains available at this site. Pull into gravel parking lot with sign, Starling Nature Sanctuary Eagle Creek Park, to gather for this hike.

Special thanks to our event partner organizations and Eagle Creek Park Volunteers!

