



2020 Wildflower Weekend at Eagle Creek Park- Schedule of Events

Join us for naturalist-led hikes and public programs for all ages at Eagle Creek Park's second 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. Come prepared with appropriate shoes and clothing to hit the trails, lunches and snacks, and a water bottle to make the most of the weekend's offerings.

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 18

1. 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.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 Assistant Director of DNR Division of Nature Preserves, Tom Swinford, 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**

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, *Wake Up, Woods*, 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.-11:30 a.m. Introduction to Wildflowers Hike- Cabin Trail

Garfield Park manager, Fritz Nerding, will lead this hike geared for beginning wildflower enthusiasts, although all are welcome. The Cabin Trail is a moderate 1-mile loop, with stairs, hills, and potential areas of mud along 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. 10:45 a.m.-12:15 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**

5. 12:00 p.m.- 2:00 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. Eagle Creek 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 possible. Distance: 1.5mi, Difficulty: Easy **Location D**

6. 12:30 p.m.- 1:30 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**

7. 1:30-3:00 p.m. Garlic mustard pull

Team up with Eagle Creek Park staff and volunteers to learn about the effects of invasive plant species. We will take a short hike to a location near the EDC to remove garlic mustard, an exotic invasive plant which negatively impacts native wildflowers. Please wear long sleeves, pants, work gloves, sturdy shoes, and bring water. Distance: 1 mile, Difficulty: Easy **Location A- Front Entrance**

8. 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Wildflower ID hike- OC mesic woods

Assistant Director of DNR Division of Nature Preserves, Tom Swinford, 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**

9. 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Intro to Indigo Ink Activity Fee: \$10.00/person, Registration Required

Registration and additional program details at: indyparks.org, course code: 21719

Using indigo ink, one of the oldest plant dyes in the world, participants will create their own patterns on a take-home textile. Participants will learn about the process behind indigo ink and be guided through the practice of “shabori”, a Japanese artform for fabric art. **Location A- inside classroom**

10. 3:00-4:00 p.m. Wildlife-Friendly Habitat Workshop

The Certified Wildlife Habitat Workshop is a unique educational opportunity for individuals and families who are interested in protecting the natural beauty and local wildlife of Indiana. Program participants will learn about native plants and animals, explore the links between their communities and larger ecosystems, and discover how to create a wildlife-friendly habitat. The Indiana Wildlife Federation, the state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, developed this course to connect property owners and managers to nature in a fun and educational way. **Location A- inside classroom**

11. 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Dinner with keynote speaker \$12 per ticket, limited to 30 spots

Registration at wildflowerdinner.eventbrite.com

Celebrate our second annual Wildflower Weekend along with Eagle Creek Park staff and event program and 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.

5:00 p.m. Keynote Speaker: Wild Edibles

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.

Location A- Exhibit Hall

Sunday, April 19

12. 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. Birds and Blooms Hike

Join Will Schaust, Ornithology Center manager, 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- restrooms will be made available directly before and after hike.**

13. 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Wildflower ID Hike- Eagle's Crest Nature Preserve

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 DNR Division of Nature Preserves staff on this 1.75-mile rugged trail. This is an exceptional site for many spring ephemerals. Distance: 1.75 mile, Difficulty: Rugged

Location C

14. 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. Fungus ID Hike

Wildflowers are not the only thing popping up around the park in spring. Join Hoosier Mushroom Society hike leaders on a guided fungus foray. Discussion of major fungus groups, characteristics 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 (EDC building open from 1-5pm)**

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 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. 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 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 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m.- 5 p.m. Sunday.

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!

