

Friends of the Forest Preserves works to protect, restore, and promote the forest preserves of Cook County for the benefit of people and nature.

We are a non-profit organization that works to ensure that the forest preserves, together with their plants and animals, are here in perpetuity for future generations to enjoy.

To become a member or learn more:

www.fotfp.org

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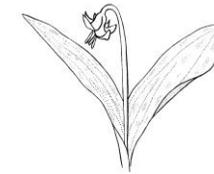
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All illustrations courtesy of Kathleen Marie Garness

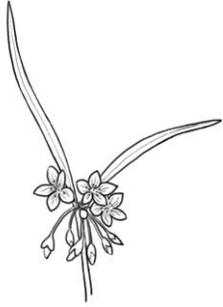


Spring Wildflower Guide



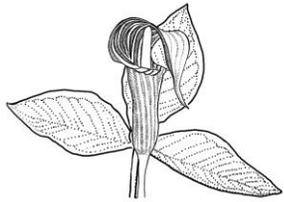
Spring is a special time to visit your local forest preserve. Many woodland wildflowers appear only for a short time from April through May.

These are some of the more common flowers you may see. Enjoy them but don't take them home. Leave them in our woodlands to feed butterflies and bees and for all of us to enjoy!



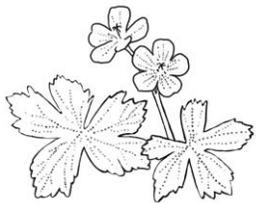
Spring Beauty

These sweet little flowers are white or pale pink with stripes radiating from the base of the petals. They often grow in colonies that carpet areas of the woodland floor. It's best to look for them on sunny days because the blooms may close up on cloudy days



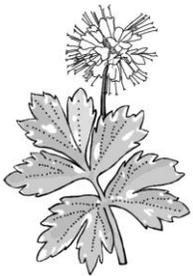
Jack-in-the-Pulpit

This flower is a special treat to behold. Look for from mid-April through May. The name is derived from the spadix ("Jack") who sits in the spathe (pulpit-like) leaf. The three leaves grow on a separate stalk from the flower.



Wild Geranium

This is one of the larger spring wildflowers, growing up to two feet high. It is one of our most common forest preserve flowers with color ranging from pink to lavender.



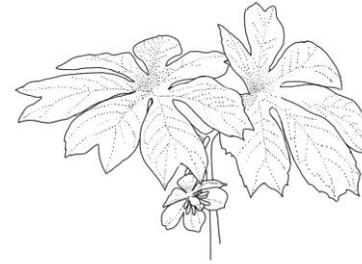
Virginia Water Leaf

This wildflower's petals vary in color from pale purple to white and have very distinctive leaves with scattered white patches that look like water stains.



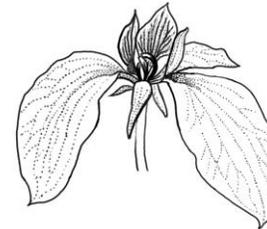
Trout Lily

This lily comes in yellow and white varieties. Notice the graceful, backward flaring petals. Trout lily leaves have a mottled appearance that some people liken to fish scales. This beauty blooms in April.



Mayapple

Mayapple colonies look like little green umbrellas spread over the woodland floor. Their pretty white flowers bloom in May. Look for the flower and later "apple" at the fork where the leaves join the stem. But don't eat them! They are poisonous.



Trillium

The trillium produces some of the showiest displays in our woodlands. It comes in red and white varieties and usually grows in patches. The name trillium refers to the fact that each plant has three leaves and each flower has three petals.



Spring Cress

This delicate flower has four white petals and grows in moist woodlands. It is related to broccoli and radishes but you would never know it.