

COSSATOT RIVER STATE PARK - NATURAL AREA WILDFLOWER WALK

Wildflowers paint the landscape in magnificent splashes of color, all while working diligently behind the scenes to safeguard the very ecosystems they call home.

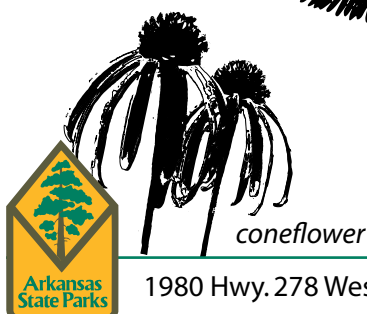
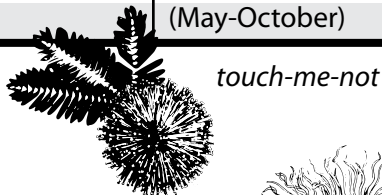
While you hike the park trails, how many colorful wildflowers can you spot? The first thing many people notice is their graceful beauty. But there is more to wildflowers than a pretty face. They serve essential ecosystem protections by stabilizing soils in riparian areas (near streams), providing shelter for small animals and insects, and serving as a source of food for many animals (including pollinators) that call the Cossatot River home. This worksheet may help you notice more wildflowers and even identify each's role in ecosystem protections. Wildflowers are beauty and brawn!

The park offers four trails where you can enjoy a Wildflower Walk. Please visit ArkansasStateParks.com/trails or call the park to learn more. Our park's mission is to maintain the natural and scenic quality of the Cossatot River corridor and provide natural resource education opportunities.

COLOR	FLOWERING PERIOD
WHITE	
spring beauty	(February-May)
bloodroot	(March-April)
mayapple	(March-May)
rue anemone	(March-May)
shooting star	(April-June)
blueberry	
wild potato vine	(May-September)
wild carrot/Queen Anne's lace	(May-October)
YELLOW	
trout lilly/ dogtooth violet	(March-May)
bristly buttercup	(March-June)
dwarf dandelion	(April-June)
lance-leaved coreopsis	(April-June)
black-eyed susan	(May-October)



COLOR	FLOWERING PERIOD
RED AND ORANGE	
fire pink	(April-June)
indian pink	(April-June)
butterflyweed	(May-September)
touch-me-not	(May-October)
PINK AND PURPLE	
bird's foot violet	(March-June)
rose verbena	(March-September)
violet wood sorrel	(April-June)
dwarf crested iris	(April-May)
horsemint	(April-June)
woodland spiderwort	(April-June)
pale purple coneflower	(May-July)
passionflower	(May-September)
Ouachita twistflower	*rare plant





DRAW A WILDFLOWER YOU SAW ON THE TRAIL:



OBSERVE

- What color are the petals? How many petals are there?
- What parts of the flowers can you identify (without digging up or damaging the plant)?
- Can you find any animals on or near the flower? Do you think they are using the plant for food or shelter?
- What features does the flower have to attract insects or pollinators? Why would they attract them?
- What features do the flowers have (if any) to defend themselves from being eaten?
- Do any of the flowers slightly vary in appearance? Why might they be different?

REFLECT / FURTHER ACTIVITIES

- Draw a food web that starts with a wildflower you observed.
- Make a flower, like the one you observed, with construction paper or recycled materials. Label the parts of the flower and plant.
- Pick wildflowers at home and press them between cardboard and newspaper in a large book. When the flowers have completely dried, you can use the flowers to make a craft. Try making a flower bookmark with contact paper or gluing the flowers on a paper to make a picture.
- Write a poem about your hike or the wildflower you observed.

