



## 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 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Wildflower Weekend! While attending hikes you can make your own observations or contribute to citizen science by helping 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. **Call the Earth Discovery Center (317-327-7148) with questions.**

**Park admission is \$6 for Marion County residents and \$7 for out of county residents. All programs require minors to be accompanied by adults.**

**Hikes, free with park admission**

**Non-hiking programs, free with park admission**

**Programs requiring pre-registration and fee**

### Friday, April 18

**1. 1:00 pm-2:30 pm Wildflower ID Hike- Bear Overlook**

This natural surface trail meets ABA accessibility standards but might be a little muddy in places with seasonal rain. Eagle Creek Park Manager, Brittany Davis-Swinford, will guide us on an easy stroll to see beautiful spring ephemerals. This newer section of trail loops us through high-quality forest habitat and some scrubby areas, picking up great species diversity. Auto gate fee is \$6/or accepts pass. Distance: 1 mile, Difficulty: Easy **Location E**

**2. 4:30 pm-5:30 pm Sounds of Spring: Frog Call Frenzy**

April showers bring May...frogs? Amphibians are some of the earliest animals to emerge in the springtime. In this family-friendly activity, participants will find out what it's like to be a calling frog in a busy pond. EDC Naturalist Katie Kolcun will lead the activity for ages 6-9, and afterwards, participants will get to meet some of the Earth Discovery Center's ambassador amphibians. It'll be un-frog-gettable! **Location A (EDC outside)**

### Saturday, April 19

**3. 9:00 am-11:30 am Wildflower ID Hike- Eagle's Crest**

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, Director of Land Preservation with Sycamore Land Trust, on this 1.75-mile rugged hike through a vast display of Virginia bluebells and other spring beauties.

Distance: 1.75 miles, Difficulty: Rugged **Location D**

**4. 10:00 am-11:00 am Story Time on the Reservoir – Wake Up, Woods**

Let's celebrate wildflowers and their pollinators with *Wake Up, Woods* by Shane Gibson and Michael Homoya with beautiful illustrations by Gillian Harris. Katie Kolcun, EDC Naturalist, will set up activity stations for children ages 2-6 to create, play, and discover the wonderful world of flowers at their own pace. An adult must stay for the duration of the program.

**Location A (EDC Shelter outside)**

**5. 10:00 am-12:00 pm Introduction to Wildflowers Hike- Cabin Trail**

Kashena Hottinger, Interior Horticulturalist for Garfield Conservatory, 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 including spring beauty, prairie trillium, false rue anemone, and cut-leaved toothwort, and hopefully some of our less common ones like drooping trillium.

Distance: 1 mile, Difficulty: Moderate **Location A (EDC outside)**

**6. 12:00 pm-12:30 pm Box Turtles and Blooms**

If an animal eats a wildflower, how can that benefit the flower? Sometimes it does, but sometimes it doesn't. Join EDC Naturalist, Katie Kolcun, to learn the role Eastern box turtles take in seed dispersal of wildflowers. The box turtles will be munching on snacks during this program. This program will take place in the grass outside of the Earth Discovery Center unless the weather requires the box turtles remain indoors.

**Location A (EDC outside)**

**7. 1:00 pm-3:00 pm Handmade Papermaking \$10/person, limited to 12 people  
Pre-registration Required [www.indyparks.org](http://www.indyparks.org) (33814)**

Looking for a fun new craft to learn? Come learn how to make recycled paper at Eagle Creek Park's Wildflower Weekend. From pulp to product, you will create your own unique sheets of paper! (Please note that the paper needs to dry in place overnight and will not be ready to take home on the same day as the program. Participants can return to collect their finished paper sheets from the Earth Discovery Center on a later day). All materials will be provided but participants are welcome to bring in their own additional paper, flower petals and small seeds to use if they wish. Park gate entry fee is included with the cost of the program. Participants ages 13-17 years old need to be registered and attend with a registered adult.

**Location A (EDC Wet Lab)**

**8. 1:00 pm-2:30 pm Wildflowers and Salamanders**

Meet at Lilly Lake Shelter for a hike through some of the older forest just south of the lake where an abundance of wildflower species can be found. We'll also look for redback salamanders that live in the same habitat and learn about their fascinating life history. This hike will be family friendly. Children ages 7 and up may enjoy this hike that combines plants and animals.

Distance: 1 mile, Difficulty: Easy **Location C**

**9. 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Seed Bombs**

After the Handmade Papermaking program has wrapped up, join us in the Wet Lab to use the leftover paper pulp and seeds to create your own seed bombs! All ages are welcome. No pre-registration is required. Free while supplies last.

**Location A (EDC Wet Lab)**

**10. 3:00 pm-4:00 pm Wildflower Tea \$5/person, limited to 25 people  
Pre-registration required [www.indyparks.org](http://www.indyparks.org) (35170)**

Join Kashena Hottinger, Interior Horticulturalist for Garfield Conservatory, for a tea-licious native wildflower tea tasting! Infuse your day with knowledge about the wildflowers that are used to brew these interesting drinks, steep into the medicinal histories of each cup, and taste a variety of herbal blends. Park gate entry fee is included with the cost of the program. Participants ages 12-17 years old need to be registered and attend with a registered adult

Sip, sip, hooray!  
**Location A (EDC Dry Lab)**

**11. 2:00 pm-4:00 pm Wildflower ID Hike- OC mesic woods**

Tom Swinford, Director of Land Preservation for Sycamore Land Trust, 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, @ OC**

## Sunday, April 20

**12. 10:00 am-12:00 pm 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 our local expert, Jessica Helmbold, Assistant Manager of Garfield Conservatory.

Distance: 1 mile, Difficulty: Moderate **Location A, EDC**

**13. 1:00 pm-3:00 pm 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 Kevin Tungsveck, Senior Ecologist at Eco Logic and expert plant guide, on this 1.75-mile rugged trail. This is an exceptional site for many spring ephemerals and one of the most special places in Indianapolis. Distance: 1.75 mile, Difficulty: Rugged **Location D**

**14. 1:00 pm -2:00 pm Birds & Blooms Hike**

Join the Nawrocki Family (Ornithology Center Manager Jenna McElroy) 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 miles, Difficulty: Easy **Location B, @ OC**

**15. 2:00 pm- 4:00 pm Forest Bathing Hike \$15/person, limited to 20 people  
Pre-registration Required [www.indyparks.org](http://www.indyparks.org) (35298)**

Join Certified Association of Nature & Forest Therapy (ANFT) Guide and Ornithology Center Assistant Manager, Donna Riner, for a guided Forest Bathing experience. We will engage our senses to "bathe" in nature. The experience includes opportunities to wander short distances, sit, stand, and share with others. We will meet at the Earth Discovery Center front doors at 2:00 pm and conclude around 4:00 pm, ending with tea and snacks. Park gate entry fee is included with the cost of the program. Participants ages 15-17 years old need to be registered and attend with a registered adult. Distance: 1 mile, Difficulty: Easy **Location A (EDC outside)**

**16. 3:00 pm-4:00 pm Nature's Stinkers**

Skunks are the most famous of stinkers, but there are also stinky turtles, stinky bats, even stinky flowers, and many of them live right here at Eagle Creek Park! Meet some of our favorite stinky plants and animals and learn why smelling like rotten meat instead of roses can help these stinkers survive and thrive! **Location A (EDC Exhibit Hall)**

### Activities going on all weekend long:

**i-Naturalist project** – the Eagle Creek Wildflower Weekend i-Naturalist project will automatically include all plant observations made within Eagle Creek Park, April 19-20.

**Self-guided Wildflower Hike** – will be set up on the Pin Oak loop trail across from the Earth Discovery Center. Many wildflower specimens along the trail will be labeled to help with your plant identification.

**Nature Centers** – the **Earth Discovery Center** will be open to the public 10 am – 5 pm on Friday and Saturday and 1 pm – 5 pm on Sunday. Wildflower coloring sheets and scavenger hunts will be available. The **Ornithology Center** will be open to the public 10 am – 5 pm on Friday and Saturday and 1 pm – 5 pm on Sunday.

## Eagle Creek Park Wildflower Weekend Program Locations

### Location A- Earth Discovery Center, 5901 Delong Road, Indianapolis, IN 46254, 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 10 am-5 pm Friday and Saturday and 1 pm-5 pm Sunday. Hikes meet in front of the building, but please keep path open for others to enter and exit the nature center. The Exhibit Hall is located on the upper level of the nature center. The Wet Lab is located on the lower level of the nature center. The EDC shelter is located on the south end of the EDC parking lot behind the Go Ape 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 10 am-5 pm Friday and Saturday and 1 pm- 5 pm Sunday. Hikes will meet in front of the building.

### Location C- Lilly Lake Shelter, follow park signage.

Lilly Lake Shelter is a hexagon shelter with a brown roof located on the east shore of Lilly Lake with restrooms nearby. There is no drinking fountain at this location. Parking is available across the street from the shelter or in the Lilly Lake South Parking Lot.

**Locations D and E are located on the west side of the reservoir. Do not enter through the 56<sup>th</sup> St. Gatehouse or the 71<sup>st</sup> St. Gatehouse for these locations.**

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

There is no running water available at this site but a portalet will be available for use. 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 E- Bear Overlook, 8600 W 56<sup>th</sup>, Indianapolis, IN 46254

There is no running water available at this site but a portalet will be available for use. Groups will gather at the Galyan's Bear statue. There are automated gates at this location. Be prepared to scan an Eagle Creek Park Pass or use a credit card for parking when you enter this location.

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

## Check out our merchandise!

**All proceeds support the environmental education program at Eagle Creek Park!**

**Native Plants for Sale** – at the Earth Discovery Center 10 am on Saturday and go until we are sold out.

**Wildflower merchandise** – wildflower t-shirts and stickers featuring beautiful designs by Melbry Arts, will be available for purchase at the Earth Discovery Center, 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday with limited availability on Sunday.

**Donations** – We always accept donations to further our environmental education programs and help support our animal ambassadors. You can donate any amount here: [eaglecreekpark.org/support/#Donate](http://eaglecreekpark.org/support/#Donate)

