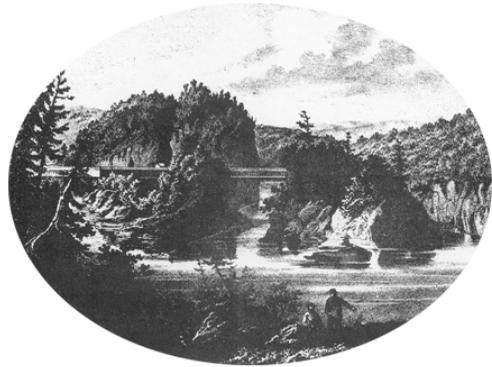


As the frost and snow of winter thaws, and the migratory birds return, the emergence of spring wildflowers is a welcome sight in the Winooski River Valley. Spring run-off and new warmth nurture the landscape into a speckled palette of showy blooms. Many of the Winooski Valley Park District's natural areas provide excellent habitat for spring-time wildflower splendor, and, in this guide, we have listed some of the most common flowers that occur in our public parks. Enjoy!



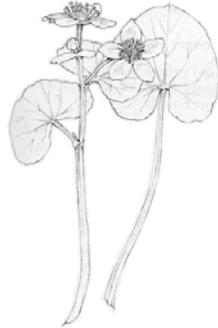
The Winooski Valley Park District is a cooperative partnership between the communities of Burlington, Colchester, Essex, Jericho, South Burlington, Williston, and Winooski. Its goals are to preserve outstanding natural areas close to where people live and work. We encourage all ages to use our parks as outdoor classrooms and for passive recreation—there is so much beauty to be found so close to our urban centers. The Park District's office is located at the Ethan Allen Homestead in Burlington where you can find a variety of maps, educational guides, and pamphlets about our trails and natural areas.

Reminder: Many wildflowers take up to eight years to produce their first bloom, so please do not pick them. Thank you for your cooperation and curiosity.

Yellow Flowers

Marsh Marigold *Caltha palustris*

Despite this flower's name, it bears little resemblance to a marigold. This plant grows low to the ground, and has shiny, bright yellow flowers. The leaves are heart-shaped and glossy. The Marsh Marigold blooms April through June and grows in swamps, ditches, and wet meadows.



Yellow Violet *Viola pensylvanica*

This small flower (3/4-1 inch) has five petals and grows low to the ground in woodland areas. The bottom three petals are veined with caramelized sugar colored lines. The leaves are **smooth** and heart-shaped—don't confuse them with similar looking Downy Yellow Violet whose leaves have **hairy** undersides.



Trout Lily *Erythronium americanum*

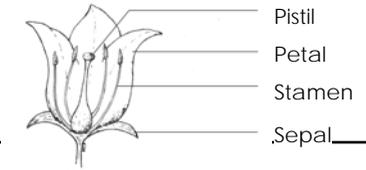
The Trout Lily gets its name from the spotted leaves that grow at the base of the plant resembling trout bellies. The ballpark mustard colored flower grows on a smooth, bare solitary



stalk, and displays three petals and three petal-like sepals. The Trout Lily can usually be found in rich woods and meadows.

The stem supports only a single pair of leaves which resemble a set of elongated spoons. The Carolina Spring Beauty grows mainly in moist woods.

Basic Flower Anatomy



White Flowers

White Trillium *Trillium grandiflorum*

This spring-time beauty displays a snowy flower which turns a pink color with age. It has three rippled-edge petals and three green stamens. The White Trillium also has three leaves arranged in a whorl around the stem. It can be seen growing in rich woods.



Dutchmen's Breeches *Dicentra cucullaria*

The flowers of this plant hang off their stems like rows of upside-down, white pantaloons. The arched stalks are leafless, but have feathery basal leaves. Dutchmen's Breeches are usually found in moist woods.



Carolina Spring Beauty *Claytonia caroliniana*

Veined with pale magenta lines, the five white petals of this plant reach upward like a circle of slightly cupped hands.



Bloodroot *Sanguinaria canadensis*

A member of the poppy family, this early spring flower displays eight to ten crisp white petals that surround a cluster of golden stamens. The flowers grow on a single stalk with one leaf that curls around it in an elegant scallop design that looks as though it has been blown forward by the wind. The Bloodroot gets its name from the reddish-orange juice that seeps from its stems when they are broken. The plant grows in rich woods and reaches about six inches high.



Red Flowers

Wild Columbine *Aquilegia canadensis*

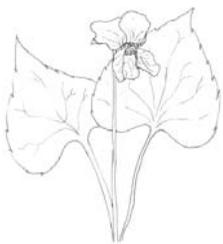
These dainty scarlet flowers appear April through June, and grow in rocky woods or on ledges. They have yellow centers formed by numerous golden stamens, and their leaves are lobed in threes. The drooping flowers of the Wild Columbine display "hooked" petals which contain tubes of sweet nectar.



Purple Flowers

Common Blue Violet *Viola papilionacea*

Moist woods and fields serve as ideal habitat for the Common Blue Violet, whose vibrant amethyst flowers can be seen growing low to the ground. Its five petals display deep plumb colored veins and white centers. The leaves and flowers of this plant grow on separate stems.



Pink Flowers

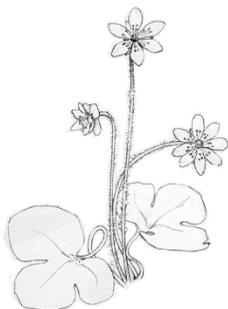
Fleabane *Erigeron philadelphicus*

The flower of the Common Fleabane is recognized by its light rose colored petals which fan out in numerous fringes around a yellowish-green disc. The stems and leaves are hairy. A native to Vermont, this spring-time "regular" can be seen growing in fields, thickets and roadsides.



Round-lobed Hepatica *Hepatica Americana*

The pale lavender flowers of the Round-lobed Hepatica first appear in April. Yet, their three-lobed, basal leaves are able to subsist throughout winter. Each flower has five to nine petals that surround numerous white stamens. The



Hepatica grows in shaded woods and calcium-rich soils.

Green Flowers

Skunk Cabbage *Symplocarpus foetidus*

This unique carnivorous plant can be seen growing in swampy woods and wet soils. If you peek inside the burgundy-brown and green "hoods", you can see tiny white flowers clustered in a compact ball. The large leaves unfurl from a tight roll, and maintain a "cabbage-like" appearance. It's pungent, fetid odor lures pollinating insects.



Best areas to see spring wildflowers In the Winooski Valley Park District

Ethan Allen Homestead,
Burlington

From Route 127 (Beltline or Northern Connector) take the North Avenue/Beaches Exit. The entrance road is directly off this interchange. (Follow the small, green highway signs)

Delta Park, Colchester
From Route 127 in Colchester. Turn onto Porters Point Road. Turn left onto Airport Road and left again onto Windemere Way which leads to Delta Park.

Winooski Nature Trail,
Winooski

The trail and parking lot is just off East Allen Street (Route 15) in Winooski, 200' west of railroad tracks.

Woodside Natural Area, Essex
Across from Fort Ethan Allen on Route 15.
Turn off Route 15 at the light opposite the West Dalton Drive entrance to the Fort.

Muddy Brook, South Burlington
From Route 15, turn onto Lime Kiln Road. Take the second left after Lime Kiln Bridge onto National Guard Avenue. Follow the Avenue onto Poor Farm Road. The parking lot is on the left. From Williston, take Route 2A and turn left onto Rive Cove Road. The parking lot will be on the right after crossing a small bridge.

Old Mill Park, Jericho
Follow Route 15 east through Essex Center. The parking lot and trails are on the left behind the Old Red Mill in Jericho.

Colchester Pond Natural Area,
Colchester
From Route 7, take 2A to East Road. Turn right onto Depot Road to Colchester Pond Road.

This guide was created by
Maggie Phelan,
AmeriCorps member at the
Winooski Valley Park District.
2003

Many of the illustrations in this guide were taken, with permission, from

Lawrence Newcomb's Wildflower Guide (1977), drawn by Gordon Morrison. Other illustrations were created by Maggie Phelan and Dana Hearn.

Other sources for wildflower information:

- **Wildflowers of Vermont** by Kate Carter, 2001.
- **The Audubon Field Guide to North American Flowers** by William A. Niering and Nancy C. Olmstead, 1979.



Burlington Colchester Essex Jericho
South Burlington Williston Winooski

**Winooski Valley Park
District**

**Ethan Allen Homestead
Burlington, Vermont 05401**

www.wvdpd.org

Tele: 802-863-5744
Fax: 802-865-0647
Email: wvdpd@sover.net

Winooski Valley Park District's



White Campion

Guide to Common Spring Wildflowers

Found at your Natural
Areas

Please look, don't pick.