



Common Wildflowers of the Natchez Trace Parkway



Black-Eyed Susan
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Spiderwort
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Spring Beauty
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More Than Just a Pretty Face...

The Natchez Trace Parkway is vibrant with wildflowers in the spring, and continues to put on a show through October. But the wildflowers of the Natchez Trace Parkway provide more than just beauty. They provide nectar for butterflies and hummingbirds, seeds for mice and birds, and browse for deer. They also stabilize the soil and are traditional sources of medicine—some still in use today. Please enjoy the flowers, but leave them as you found them.

Where to Look

Although you can see many wildflowers while driving along the Parkway itself, the best way to see a variety is by walking one of the trails. These trails, which take about 20 to 30 minutes to walk, stand out as some of the best. Please remember to bring water and insect repellent with you.

Rock Spring, Milepost (MP) 330.2

Rock Spring has wonderful spring wildflowers, but is probably best known for the jewelweed that blooms in the summer and autumn. The jewelweed attracts migrating hummingbirds in September, so bring binoculars.

Chickasaw Village, MP 261.8

The Chickasaw Village prairie is being restored and maintained through a regular burning program. As a result, summer prairie flowers abound. Take a walk along the Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail through the prairie. You'll find the most diversity closest to the Parkway.

Cypress Swamp, MP 122.0

Cypress Swamp's moist soil provides a haven for wetland wildflowers. Visit in the spring and early summer for the best variety, and keep your eyes open for herons and alligators, too.

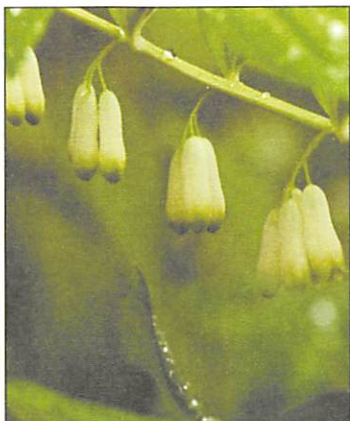
How to Use this List

This list contains some of the most common wildflowers found along the Natchez Trace Parkway. The plants are divided by flower color, and then listed in the order of bloom time. The Parkway has approximately 1,400 species of non-woody wildflowers, so this list should be considered a starting point.

Status: N=Plant Native to Area, NN=Non-Native, I=Invasive.

Distribution: NJ=Natchez, MS to Jackson, JT=Jackson to Tupelo, TT=Tupelo to the Tennessee state line, TN=Tennessee state line to Nashville, TN.

White/Green Flowers



Smooth Solomon's Seal
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Plant	Status	Bloom Time	Distribution			
			NJ	JT	TT	TN
Spring Beauty <i>Claytonia virginica</i>	N	February-May	x	x	x	x
Mayapple <i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	N	March-May	x	x	x	x
Spring Cress <i>Cardamine bulbosa</i>	N	March-May	x	x	x	x
False Solomon's Seal <i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>	N	March-June		x	x	x
Daisy Fleabane <i>Erigeron strigosus</i>	N	March-October	x	x	x	x
Water Hemlock <i>Cicuta maculata</i>	N, I	March-October	x	x	x	x
White Baneberry <i>Actaea pachypoda</i>	N	April-May		x	x	x
Smooth Solomon's Seal <i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	N	April-June	x	x	x	x
Japanese Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera japonica</i>	NN, I	April-September	x	x	x	x
Ox-Eye Daisy <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	NN, I	April-October	x	x	x	x
Wild Potato Vine <i>Ipomoea pandurata</i>	N, I	May-July	x	x	x	x
Queen Anne's Lace <i>Daucus carota</i>	NN, I	May-December	x	x	x	x
Spider Lily <i>Hymenocallis caroliniana</i>	N	June-September		x	x	x
White Heath Aster <i>Symphotrichum pilosum</i>	N	Sept.-November	x	x	x	x

Red/Pink/Orange Flowers



Rose Pink
NPS Photo

Plant	Status	Bloom Time	Distribution			
			NJ	JT	TT	TN
Little Sweet Betsy <i>Trillium cuneatum</i>	N	March-May	x	x	x	x
Crimson Clover <i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	NN	March-August	x	x	x	x
Evening Primrose <i>Oenothera speciosa</i>	N	March-September	x	x	x	x
Cross Vine <i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	N	April-June	x	x	x	x
Fire Pink <i>Silene virginica</i>	N	April-July			x	x
Woodland Pinkroot <i>Spigelia marilandica</i>	N	May-June	x	x	x	x
Butterfly Milkweed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	N	May-August	x	x	x	x
Meadow Beauty <i>Rhexia virginica</i>	N	May-October	x	x	x	x
Jewelweed <i>Impatiens capensis</i>	N	June-September	x	x	x	x
Trumpet Creeper <i>Campsis radicans</i>	N	June-October	x	x	x	x
Rose Pink <i>Sabatia angularis</i>	N	July-August	x	x	x	x
Cardinal Flower <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	N	July-October	x	x	x	x

Blue/Purple Flowers



Scaly Blazing Star
©Kristen Maxfield

Plant	Status	Bloom Time	Distribution			
			NJ	JT	TT	TN
Common Blue Violet <i>Viola sororia</i>	N	February-June	x	x	x	x
Tiny Bluets <i>Houstonia pusilla</i>	N	March-May	x	x	x	x
Common Periwinkle <i>Vinca minor</i>	NN, I	March-June				x
Ground Ivy <i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	NN, I	March-June		x	x	x
Lyreleaf Sage <i>Salvia lyrata</i>	N	March-June	x	x	x	x
Blue-Eyed Grass <i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	N	March-July	x	x	x	x
Spiderwort <i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	N	March-July	x	x	x	x
Dwarf Crested Iris <i>Iris cristata</i>	N	April-May		x	x	x
Wild Blue Phlox <i>Phlox divaricata</i>	N	April-June		x	x	x
Purple Deadnettle <i>Lamium purpureum</i>	NN, I	April-October	x	x	x	x
Self-Heal <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	N, I	April-December	x	x	x	x
Wild Petunia <i>Ruellia strepens</i>	N	May-July		x	x	x
Skullcap <i>Scutellaria integrifolia</i>	N	May-August	x	x	x	x
Crown Vetch <i>Securigera varia</i>	NN, I	May-September				x
Winter Vetch <i>Vicia villosa</i>	NN	May-September	x	x	x	x
Common Dayflower <i>Commelina communis</i>	NN, I	May-October	x	x	x	x
Chicory <i>Cichorium intybus</i>	NN, I	May-December	x	x	x	x
Butterfly Pea <i>Centrosema virginianum</i>	N	June-September	x	x	x	x
Monkey Flower <i>Mimulus alatus</i>	N	June-September	x	x	x	x
Wild Bergamot <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	N	June-September	x	x	x	x
Tall Morning Glory <i>Ipomoea purpurea</i>	NN, I	June-October	x	x	x	x
Kudzu <i>Pueraria montana</i>	NN, I	July-October	x	x	x	x
Scaly Blazing Star <i>Liatriis squarrosa</i>	N	July-October		x	x	x
Blue Wood Aster <i>Symphotrichum cordifolium</i>	N	July-October		x	x	x
Beggar Lice <i>Desmodium paniculatum</i>	N	July-October	x	x	x	x
Ironweed <i>Vernonia gigantea</i>	N	July-October	x	x	x	x

Yellow Flowers



Tickseed Coreopsis
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Plant	Status	Bloom Time	Distribution			
			NJ	JT	TT	TN
Carolina Jessamine <i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	N	January-April	x	x		
Early Buttercup <i>Ranunculus fascicularis</i>	N	March-May	x	x	x	x
Yellow Violet <i>Viola pubescens</i>	N	March-June			x	x
Butterweed <i>Packera glabella</i>	N, I	March-July	x	x	x	x
Yellow Wood Sorrel <i>Oxalis dillenii</i>	N	March-October	x	x	x	x
Golden Alexanders <i>Zizia aurea</i>	N	April-May		x	x	x
Tickseed Coreopsis <i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	N	April-June	x	x	x	x
Dwarf Dandelion <i>Krigia dandelion</i>	N	April-August	x	x	x	x
Yellow Sweet Clover <i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	NN, I	April-November	x	x	x	x
Sneezeweed <i>Helenium flexuosum</i>	N	May-August	x	x	x	x
St. Andrew's Cross <i>Hypericum hypericoides</i>	N	May-August	x	x	x	x
Black-Eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	N	May-September	x	x	x	x
Prairie Coneflower <i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	N	June-August		x	x	x
Prairie Dock <i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i>	N	July-September	x	x	x	x
Jerusalem Artichoke <i>Helianthus tuberosus</i>	N	July-October			x	x
Beggar Ticks <i>Bidens aristosa</i>	N	Aug.-November		x	x	x
Gray Goldenrod <i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	N	Sept.-November	x	x	x	x