

## Bloodroot

### *Blooms: Early Spring*

In early spring when the flowers bloom, this plant is only about 3-5 inches tall. As the seed capsules develop, the leaves continue growing larger and taller, and can reach 12 inches tall. This plant's roots contain an acrid red sap.



## Solomon's Seal

### *Blooms: Late Spring*

This plant grows up to 2½ - 3 feet tall.

Leaves are borne along a single arching stem, and flowers hang down along the stem below the leaves.

After the dark blue fruits mature, the stem dies back until next spring.



## Prairie Trillium

### *Blooms: Spring*

This spring wildflower is about 1 foot tall. At the top of the stem, 3 mottled leaves surround a single reddish flower. By summertime, the leaves die back until next year.



## Dutchman's Breeches

### *Blooms: Early Spring*

This plant gets its name from its flowers, which resemble pants hung out to dry on a clothesline.

It is about 4-8 inches tall, with fern-like leaves.

Once done blooming, the leaves die back until next spring.



## Wild Ginger

### *Blooms: Spring*

The heart-shaped leaves and spreading nature of this plant makes it a popular native ground cover.

The small reddish flowers bloom close to the ground, and are probably pollinated by flies or beetles.

Ants help to disperse the seeds.



## History of Rayburn-Purnell Woods

This woodland is an old-growth oak-hickory forest. Some of the trees are believed to be over 175 years old!

The land was designated as a "woodlot" in the early 1900s for the purpose of providing lumber and fuel for woodstoves. Because it was set aside, it has never been farmed, and so many of the original wildflower species still grow here.

After being acquired by the Forest Preserves, it was named after the Rayburn and Purnell families of Mahomet, who previously owned the woods.

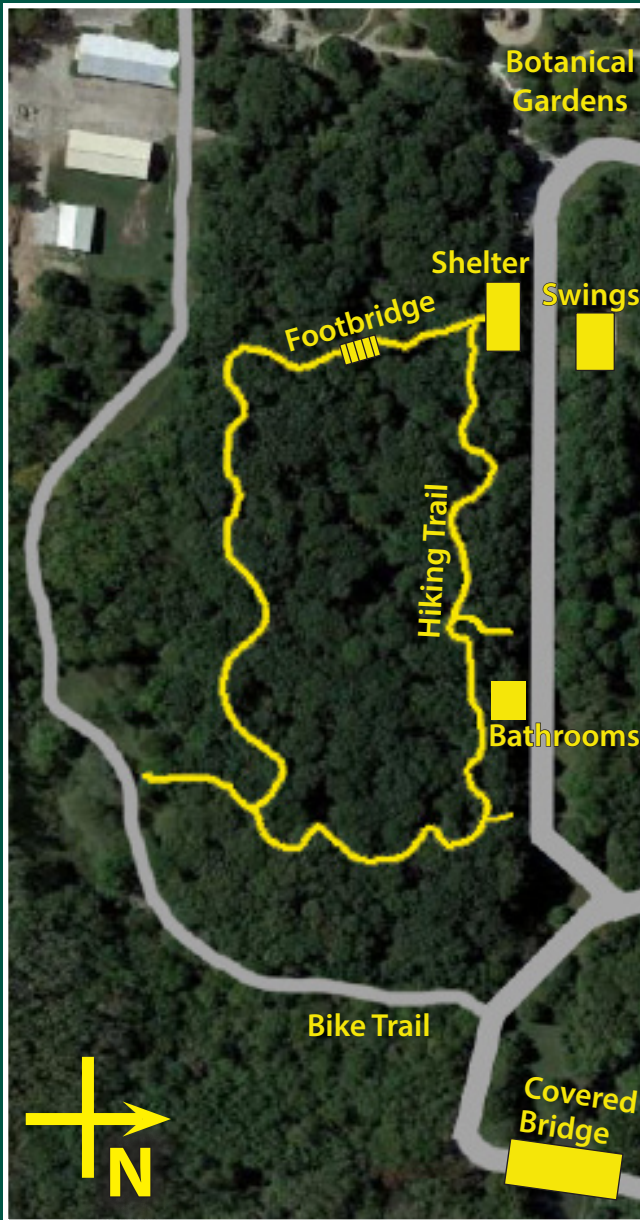
Forests originally covered 20% of Champaign County, most of them along rivers. (The other 80% was open prairie.)

These forests were important to Native Americans and settlers because they provided shelter from the wind and sun of the prairie, as well as food, wood, and other resources.

# RAYBURN- PURNELL TRAIL

## SPRING WILDFLOWER GUIDE

# Trail Map



## Welcome!

This spring wildflower hike will take approximately 30 to 45 minutes and is roughly 0.5 miles long.

The flowers in this guide are perennial spring wildflowers that are native to Illinois.

Enjoy your hike!

### Trout Lily

*Blooms: Early Spring*

It is said that the mottled leaves of this plant resemble trout, hence the common name. This plant can form colonies, spreading by seed and via rhizomes. The leaves die back once spring is over.



### Virginia Bluebells

*Blooms: Spring*

This beautiful plant grows up to 2½ feet tall, and often forms large colonies. The flowers are pinkish before opening and turn blue as they bloom. After the plant sets seed, the leaves die back until next spring.



### Wild Geranium

*Blooms: Spring*

This plant grows 1½ - 2 feet tall. Each leaf has 5 lobes and the pink flowers have 5 petals. As the seeds mature, the 5 slender seed capsules curl up to fling the seeds far from the mother plant. By summertime, the leaves die back until next year.



### Jack in the Pulpit

*Blooms: Late Spring*

This plant gets its name from the flower, which looks like a person standing in a covered pulpit.

After flowering, the leaves die back and the bright red berries develop. All parts of the plant are poisonous.



### Violet

*Blooms: Spring*

This common wildflower grows about 4 inches high; its short stature means it can be a beautiful addition to lawns. The flowers and young leaves are edible but bland-tasting.



### Spring Beauty

*Blooms: Spring*

This small plant is 3-6 inches tall. The flowers have 5 petals, and are white with pink stripes.

After setting seed, the grass-like leaves die back until next year.

Spring-blooming plants like this one are important sources of food for a variety of insect pollinators.



### Mayapple

*Blooms: Spring*

Sometimes called the 'umbrella plant', the mayapple has a single white flower borne where the stems of two large leaves meet.

Mayapples often form dense colonies via spreading rhizomes.

After fruiting, the leaves die back.

