



- 7. BLOODROOT (*Sanguinaria Canadensis*) flowers remain in bloom for only 1 or 2

days and produce a fragrant scent. The seeds have fleshy appendages that are appealing to ants, who then carry seeds away to



new locations. This is a common method of seed distribution for woodland wildflowers, as wind speeds are greatly reduced in wooded areas.

- 8. WOODLAND PHLOX (*Phlox divaricatstem*) stems and leaves are hairy and sometimes even sticky. The floral scent is pleasantly sweet and



aromatic. The leaves of woodland phlox are eaten by various mammals, including rabbits, deer, and livestock.

- 9. PURPLE TRILLIUM (*Trillium erectum*), also known as WAKE ROBIN, takes about six years from seed to produce its first bloom, which will sprout in



early spring. Three mottled-looking leafy bracts appear first and surround three maroon flower petals. The

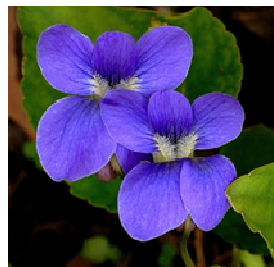
true leaves of this plant have been reduced in size and exist only underground.

- 10. DUTCHMAN'S BREECHES (*Dicentra cucullaria*) are some of the most recognizable flowers. Lacy leaves and



irregular shaped white flowers sprout from a pink bulb-like corm just under the surface of the ground.

- 11. VIOLET (*Violet spp.*) is the state flower of Illinois. While the native violet is purple, you may see two other colors of violets: yellow and white. This wild-



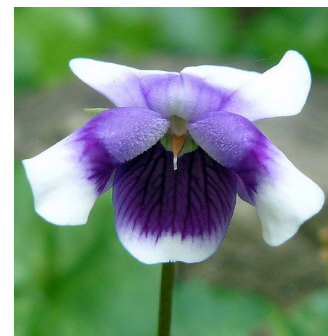
flower will adapt to lawns, especially if they are not mowed too often during the spring or cut too low.

The History of Rayburn-Purnell Woods

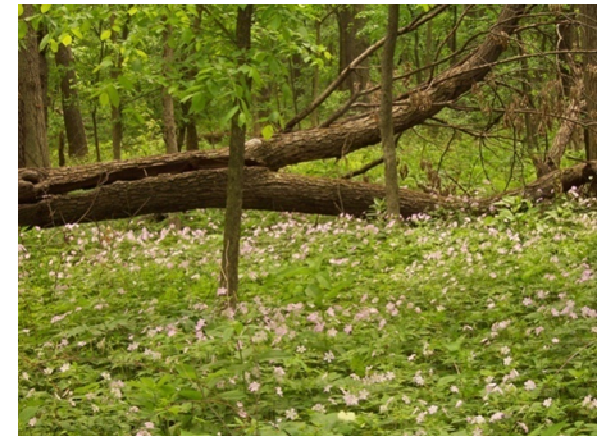
Forests originally covered 40% of Illinois, while the other 60% was open prairie. Providing shelter from the wind and sun of the open prairie, these forests were important to the early pioneers who traveled through Illinois.

This excellent example of an oak-hickory upland forest was acquired by the Forest Preserve District from the Purnell and Rayburn families of Mahomet. The land had been subdivided into "woodlots" in the early 1900s for the purpose of providing lumber and fuel for woodstoves.

Rayburn-Purnell Woods was officially established by the Champaign County Forest Preserve District in 1969. It is an old-growth forest composed primarily of native trees, some of which are believed to be over 175 years old.



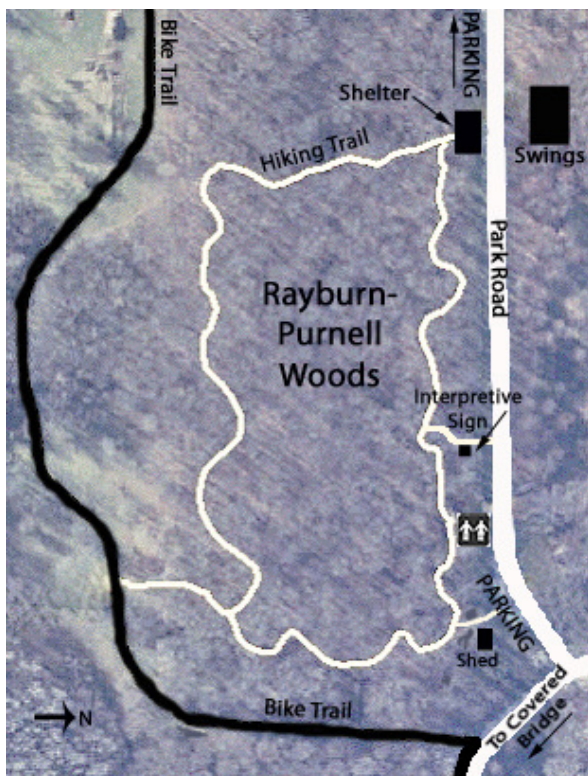
Rayburn-Purnell Woods Spring Wildflower Guide



Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve



Rayburn-Purnell Trail Map



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Welcome to Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve. A spring wildflower hike will take approximately 30 to 45 minutes and is roughly 0.44 miles long. This guide will help to explain the wildflowers that you may see during your hike. As you enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells to be found along the trail, please remember to respect nature by leaving plants and animals as they are and putting trash in its place.

1. **TROUT LILIES** (*Erythronium spp.*) get their name from their distinctly spotted leaves, similar to the pattern on a trout, and because their emergence often coincides with the start of trout season. There are two types found here, yellow and white. Immature plants produce a single leaf and fail to flower, while mature plants (over 7 years old) produce two leaves before they bloom.



2. **VIRGINIA BLUEBELLS** (*Mertensia virginica*) have tubular-shaped purple-blue flowers that are pollinated by insects looking for



nectar. Bluebells are unique in that all flowers will emerge on one side along the stem.

3. **WOODLAND GERANIUM** (*Geranium maculatum*) has lavender-pink flowers and seed capsules that curl upward and backward. When mature, these capsules split open and the seeds are flung with enough force to shoot them several feet away from the mother plant. The nectar and pollen of this plant attract bees, flies, and small butterflies. White-tailed deer eat the leaves, while chipmunks eat the seeds.



4. **WILD LEEK** (*Allium tricoccum*) is a member of the lily family whose flowers and leaves have a strong onion odor. The plant grows from a scallion-like bulb. The presence of this species is a sign that the original flora of the woodlands is still intact.



5. **MAYAPPLES** (*Podophyllum peltatum*) have umbrella-shaped leaves that almost hide the large white flowers underneath. The leaves are avoided by mammals because of their bitter taste and poisonous qualities. Mayapple seeds and root-like rhizomes are also poisonous, but the berries are edible if they are fully ripe. They are eaten by box turtles and such mammals as skunks and raccoons. The seeds can then be distributed to new locations in the feces of these animals.



6. **SPRING BEAUTY** (*Claytonia caroliniana*) flowers are small and white with pale violet to ultraviolet stripes radiating outward. These lines, which appear faint to our eyes, guide insects to the center of the flower for pollination. These flowers are among the first to bloom in the spring and are usually gone by June.

