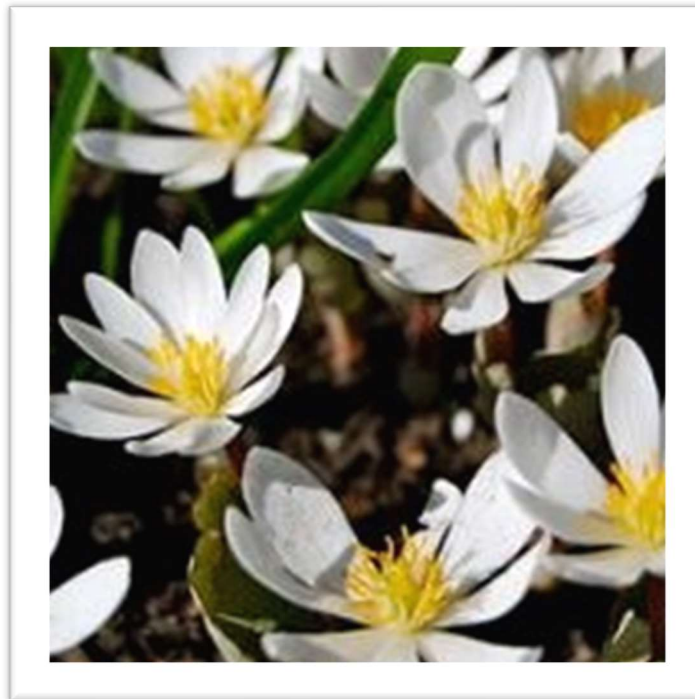


# Plants in the Park

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park  
Maryland and Washington, DC



*Photo by NPS*

The National Park Service  
US Department of Interior

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## Welcome to Your National Historical Park

*Explore a diverse range of flowers, shrubs, and trees that call the C&O Canal home with this guide! As you bike, hike, and enjoy the towpath, make sure to take the time to “smell the flowers” and reflect on your beautiful natural surroundings.*

**Plan your visit** – Keep this guide handy during your next outdoor adventure. Check out the C&O Canal [Plan Your Visit website](#) for important information prior to visiting the park. See the References and Resources section for more information and details about the nature you see.

**Contents** – This guide includes a sample of the various species of trees and wildflowers found in Maryland and DC. Although this is not a comprehensive field guide, it provides information on a variety of plants you may see in the park. The sections are organized by various locations along the C&O Canal with reference sections.

**Acknowledgements and Special Thanks** – Content and images in this guide was adapted from the [C&O Canal Association](#) Wildflower Guide. Picture credits are noted in captions. Public domain images were retrieved from [Wikimedia Commons](#) under the Creative Commons license.

**Engage your senses** – Look up, down, and all around you. Focus on a flower, tree, or plant you have never seen. What colors do you see? Observe the different parts of the plant. What are the size and shape differences among the various flowers and trees? What makes these plants unique?

**Viewing nature** – Make sure to refer to the Blooming Period table to see which flowers might be in season throughout the park.

**Leave No Trace** – Pack in, pack out! The C&O Canal is a trash free park. Trash should be packed up and taken out of the park. Learn more about [Leave No Trace](#) and how to [recreate responsibly](#) in your National Park.

**Protect Your Park** – Take a picture, not a plant! Please do not take pick any flowers, plants, leaves, or take home any part of nature from the Park. With your help, we can preserve your C&O Canal for generations to come.



## Cumberland to Spring Gap (Mile 184.5 to 173.4)

### Bloodroot

Scientific name: *Sanguinaria canadensis*  
Can grow to 10 inches, root has a reddish sap  
Found near mileposts 184-180



Figure 1 -- Photo of Bloodroot provided by the C&O Canal Association. Photo taken by Marj Richman.

### Periwinkle

Scientific name: *Vinca minor*  
Mat-forming plant, can grow to 8 inches  
Found near milepost 178



Figure 2 -- Photo of Periwinkle provided by the C&O Canal Association. Photo taken by Pat Hopson.

### Gill-over-the-ground

Scientific name: *Glechoma hederacea*  
Many wild bees collect pollinate this plant  
Found near mileposts 175 – 173



Figure 3 -- Photo of Gill-over-the-ground provided by the C&O Canal Association. Photo taken by Jim Heins.

### Dogtooth Violet or Trout Lily

Scientific name: *Erythronium americanum*  
Can grow to 10 inches (25 centimeters)  
Found near milepost 175



Figure 4 -- Photo of Dogtooth Violet courtesy of the C&O Canal Association. Photo taken by Marion Robertson.

### Cutleaf Toothwort

Scientific name: *Dentaria laciniate*  
Attracts butterflies and eaten by mice  
Found near milepost 175



Figure 5 -- Photo of Cutleaf Toothwort courtesy of the C&O Canal Association. Photo taken by Jim Heins.



## Town Creek to Stickpile (Mile 162.1 – 149.4)

### Common Mullein

Scientific name: *Verbascum Thapsus*

Hairy biennial plant that can grow over 6 feet  
Found near milepost 161



Figure 6 -- Photo of Common Mullein courtesy of the C&O Canal Association. Photo taken by Chris Cerniglia.

### Coltsfoot

Scientific name: *Tussilago farfara*

Found near Cumberland end of Paw Paw tunnel; looks like common Dandelion



Figure 7 -- Photo of Coltsfoot courtesy of the C&O Canal Association. Photo taken by Betsy Williamson.

### Virginia Bluebells

Scientific name: *Mertensia virginica*

Trumpet shape perennial; grows 1-2' tall  
Found near milepost 149.4, 132



Figure 8 -- Photo of Virginia Bluebells courtesy of Jim Heins from the C&O Canal Association.

## Stickpile to Cacapon Junction (Mile 149.4 – 133.6)

### Birdfoot Violet

Scientific name: *Viola pedata*

Leaves are bird foot shaped  
Found near milepost 150.2



Figure 9 -- Photo courtesy of Marion Robertson of the C&O Canal Association.

### Toadshade

Scientific name: *Trillium sessile*

Perennial; Foul smelling flower  
Found near milepost 147



Figure 10 -- Public domain photo of Toadshade plants in a bunch.

### Wild Columbine

Scientific name: *Aquilegia canadensis*




Fern-like plant with red and yellow flowers  
Found near milepost 146.5



Figure 11 -- Photo courtesy of Jim Heins of the C&O Canal Association.

<p><b>Jefferson Twinleaf</b>  Scientific name: <i>Jeffersonia diphylla</i>  Smooth leaves and white flowers  Found near milepost 145</p>  <p>Figure 12 -- Public domain photo of the Jefferson Twinleaf.</p>	<p><b>Dutchman's Breeches</b>  Scientific name: <i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>  Cluster of small pink and white bublets  Found near milepost 141</p>  <p>Figure 13 -- Photo of Dutchman's Breeches courtesy of Frank Wodarczyk from the C&amp;O Canal Association.</p>	<p><b>Squirrel corn</b>  Scientific name: <i>Dicentra canadensis</i>  Small yellow clustered bublets  Found near milepost 141</p>  <p>Figure 14 -- Photo of Squirrel corn courtesy of Frank Wodarczyk from the C&amp;O Canal Association.</p>
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## Cacapon Junction to Hancock (Mile 133.6 to 124.1)

<p><b>Spring Beauty</b>  Scientific name: <i>Claytonia virginica</i>  Low plant with loose clusters of pink or white flowers; Found near milepost 129</p>  <p>Figure 15 -- Public domain photo of the Virginia Spring Beauty.</p>	<p><b>Blue Phlox</b>  Scientific name: <i>Phlox divaricata</i>  Five lilac blue petals; Can form large colonies over time; Found near milepost 127</p>  <p>Figure 16 -- Public domain image. Cluster of Blue Phlox flowers.</p>	<p><b>Redbud</b>  Scientific name: <i>Cercis canadensis</i>  Tree with a short trunk and pink flowers; Found near milepost 126</p>  <p>Figure 17 -- Public domain image of Redbud flowers.</p>
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**Common Blue Violet**

Scientific name: *Viola sororia*

Short-stemmed herbaceous plant with purple flower; Found near milepost 118



Figure 18 -- Public domain image of Common Blue Violet.

**Downy Yellow Violet**

Scientific name: *Viola pubescens*

Found in woodlands meadows; Round yellow flower; Found near milepost 118



Figure 19 -- Public domain image of Downy Yellow Violet.

**Skunk Cabbage**

Scientific name: *Symplocarpus foetidus*

Low growing plant that exudes odor that attracts insects; Found near milepost 11



Figure 20 -- Public domain photo of Skunk Cabbage.

**McCoy's Ferry to Williamsport (Mile 110.4 – 99.7)****Wild Ginger**

Scientific name: *Asarum canadense*

Flowers are hairy and have tapered tips; Found near milepost 106



Figure 21 -- Public domain image of Wild Ginger flower.

**Canadian White Violet**

Scientific name: *Viola canadensis*

White blooms with yellow centers Found near milepost 106



Figure 22 -- Public domain image of Canadian White Violet.

**Non-native Nodding Star-of-Bethlehem**

Scientific name: *Ornithogalum nutans*

Native to Europe; Gray to white drooping flowers; Found near milepost 106



Figure 23 -- Public domain image of the non-native plant the Nodding Star-of-Bethlehem.



## Williamsport to Dam 4 (Mile 99.7 – 84.4)

### Star Chickweed

Scientific name: *Stellaria pubera*

White star-like shape blossom and ovate leaves; Found near milepost 99



Figure 24 -- Public domain image of Star Chickweed.

### Red Trillium

Scientific name: *Trillium erectum*

Maroon petals; Odor attracts scavenging flies for pollination; Found near milepost 99



Figure 25 -- Public domain image of Red Trillium.

### Marsh Speedwell

Scientific name: *Veronica scutellata*

Found near moist habitats; Purple-green or reddish leaves; Found near milepost 92



Figure 26 -- Image of Marsh Speedwell flowers courtesy of Rachel Stewart of the C&O Canal Association.

### Dwarf Larkspur

Scientific name: *Delphinium tricorne*

Stringy thin stems with flowers of shades of blue; Found near milepost 90



Figure 27 -- Public domain image of Dwarf Larkspur.

### Non-native Dame's Rocket

Scientific name: *Hesperis matronalis*

Fragrant purple-like flowers with hairy stems Found near milepost 89



Figure 28 -- Public domain image of Dame's Rocket.



## Antietam to Brunswick Campground (Mile 69.4 – 54.0)

### Daisy Fleabane

Scientific name: *Erigeron annuus*

Yellow centers with thin white petals

Found near milepost 59



Figure 29 -- Photo courtesy of Frank Wodarczyk of the C&O Canal Association.

### Dogwood

Scientific name: *Cornus florida*

Small trees that grow wild along the towpath

Found near milepost 59



Figure 30 -- Photo courtesy of Frank Wodarczyk of the C&O Canal Association.

## Brunswick to Indian Flats (Mile 54.0 – 42.4)

### Celandine Poppy

Scientific name: *Stylophorum diphyllum*

Deep yellow flowers that bloom in patches

Found near milepost 51



Figure 31 -- Public domain image of Celandine Poppy.

### Mayapple

Scientific name: *Podophyllum peltatum*

White flowers and mature into a green, yellow or red fleshy fruit; Near milepost 50



Figure 32 -- Public domain image of Mayapple.

### Common Paw

Scientific name: *Asimina triloba*

Small tree with large green to yellow-brown fruit; Near milepost 48



Figure 33 -- Public domain image of the Common Paw.

## Indian Flats to Sycamore Landing (Mile 42.4 – 27.2)

### White Phlox

Scientific name: *Phlox pilosa*

Lavender flower petals with long, narrow, pointed-tip leaves; Near milepost 42.4



Figure 34 -- Public domain image of the White Phlox.

### Grape Hyacinth

Scientific name: *Muscari botryoides*

Purple flowers close together and almost completely round; Near milepost 33



Figure 35 -- Public domain image of the Grape Hyacinth.

## Sycamore Landing to Great Falls (Mile 27.2 – 14.3)

### Non-native Japanese Honeysuckle

Scientific name: *Lonicera japonica*

Twining vine with simple oval leaves; Flowers are yellow white; Near milepost 22



Figure 36 -- Public domain image of the Japanese Honeysuckle.

### Field Chickweed

Scientific name: *Cerastium arvense*

Creeper plant that mats with an upright white flower; Near milepost 21



Figure 37 -- Public domain image of the Field Chickweed.

### Jack-in-the-pulpit

Scientific name: *Arisaema triphyllum*

Three leaves growing together at the top of one long stem; Near milepost 20



Figure 38 -- Public domain image of the Jack-in-the-pulpit.

## Great Falls to Tidelock (Mile 14.3 – 0.0)

### Spiderwort

Scientific name: *Tradescantia virginiana*  
Blue purple flowers with simple leaves and tubular stems; Near milepost 14



Figure 39 -- Public domain image of Virginia Spiderwort.

### Bluets

Scientific name: *Houstonia caerulea*  
Pale blue petals and yellow center; Grows well in grasses; Near milepost 11



Figure 40 -- Public domain image of Bluets.

### Princess Tree

Scientific name: *Paulownia tomentosa*  
Fragrant flowers and lobed leaves on the tall tree; Near Tidelock



Figure 41 -- Public domain image of the Princess Tree's flowers.

### Bulbous Buttercup

Scientific name: *Ranunculus bulbosus*  
Three-lobed yellow flowers with long basal leaves; Near milepost 6



Figure 42 -- Public domain image of the Bulbous Buttercup.

### Virginia Waterleaf

Scientific name: *Hydrophyllum virginianum*  
Flowers are blue white and can be found in colonies in wooded areas; Near milepost 3



Figure 43 -- Public domain image of the Virginia Waterleaf.

## Blooming Periods

Flower	Blooming Period
Bloodroot <i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	March – May
Periwinkle <i>Vinca minor</i>	March – June
Gill-over-the-ground <i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	April – July
Dogtooth Violet <i>Erythronium americanum</i>	April – June
Cutleaf Toothwort <i>Dentaria laciniata</i>	April – June
Common Mullein <i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	June – September
Coltsfoot <i>Tussilago farfara</i>	March – June
Virginia Bluebells <i>Mertensia virginica</i>	March – May
Birdfoot Violet <i>Viola pedate</i>	April – June
Toadshade <i>Trillium sessile</i>	April – June
Wild Columbine <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	April – June
Jefferson Twinleaf <i>Jeffersonia diphylla</i>	April – May
Dutchman's Breeches <i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>	April – May
Squirrel corn <i>Dicentra canadensis</i>	April – May
Spring Beauty <i>Claytonia virginica</i>	March – May
Blue Phlox <i>Phlox divaricata</i>	April – June
Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	April – May
Common Blue Violet <i>Viola sororia</i>	March – June
Downy Yellow Violet <i>Viola pubescens</i>	April – June
Wild Ginger <i>Asarum canadense</i>	April – May
Canadian White Violet <i>Viola canadensis</i>	April – July
Nodding Star-of-Bethlehem (Non-native) <i>Ornithogalum nutans</i>	April – May

(Continued) Flower	Blooming Period
Star Chickweed <i>Stellaria pubera</i>	March – May
Red Trillium <i>Trillium erectum</i>	April – June
Marsh Speedwell <i>Veronica scutellata</i>	May – Sept
Dwarf Larkspur <i>Delphinium tricorne</i>	April – May
Dame's Rocket (Non-native) <i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	May – July
Daisy Fleabane <i>Erigeron annuus</i>	May – Oct
Dogwood <i>Cornus florida</i>	April – May
Celandine Poppy <i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i>	March – May
Mayapple <i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	April – June
Common Paw <i>Asimina triloba</i>	April – May
White Phlox <i>Phlox pilosa</i>	May – June
Grape Hyacinth <i>Muscari botryoides</i>	April – May
Japanese Honeysuckle (Non-native) <i>Lonicera japonica</i>	April – July
Field Chickweed <i>Cerastium arvense</i>	April – July
Jack-in-the-pulpit <i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	April – June
Spiderwort <i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>	April – July
Bluets <i>Houstonia caerulea</i>	April – June



## 2015 Superintendent's Compendium

For a full copy of the C&O Canal National Historical Park 2015 Superintendent's Compendium follow the link:

<https://www.nps.gov/choh/learn/management/upload/CHOH-compendium-2016.pdf>

In **Section 2.1(c)(1)** of the 2015 Superintendent's Compendium, it reads:

*Edible fruits, nuts, berries, and mushrooms may be gathered by hand for personal use or consumption. Commercial use is prohibited. Removal of fruits, nuts, berries, and mushrooms cannot disturb the remainder of the plant. Possession of plant fruits, nuts, berries, and mushrooms are limited to the following quantities:*

<b>Fruit/Nut/Berry</b>	<b>Daily per Person Limit</b>
Walnuts	1 Bushel
Hickory Nuts (sp.)	1 Bushel
Acorns (Oak sp.)	1 Bushel
Apples	1 Bushel
Cherries	½ Gallon
Blackberries	½ Gallon
Raspberries	½ Gallon
Dewberries	½ Gallon
Strawberries	½ Gallon
Huckleberry species	½ Gallon
Elderberries	½ Gallon
Wine berries	½ Gallon
Paw Paws	½ Gallon
Mushroom species	½ Gallon

## References and Resources

**Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park** | [Wildflower Information Page](#)

To view more pictures and learn more information about wildflowers at the C&O Canal, make sure to visit the Wildflower Information Page on the Park website.

**The C&O Canal Association** | [Wildflower Guide](#)

This guide uses information from the C&O Canal's partner organization, the C&O Canal Association, resource document on wildflowers found along the Canal.

**NPSpecies** | [Species List](#)

Interested in learning *even more* about the plants found at the C&O Canal National Historical Park?! Click here to view the full species list provided by the National Park Service's Integrated Resource Management Applications ([IRMA](#)) Portal

**Wikimedia Commons** | [Main page](#)

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