Why are Wildflowers Important?

Many species of wildlife are adapted to depend on specific flowers for their survival, such as the trout lily mining bee. Wildflowers serve as wonderful food sources, especially in

the early spring before
most other plants have
leafed out. Spring
Ephemerals
(ephemeral = lasting
for a very short time)
gain an advantage by
blooming early when
there is an abundance
of natural light unobstructed
by tree leaves. Throughout
Spring, Summer and Fall,
wildflowers also help our
water supply by acting as filters, reducing
erosion, and collecting runoff.

Threats

Two of the biggest threats to native plants are over-populated deer and invasive species. Without many natural predators, the density of White-tailed Deer has grown higher than our forests can support leading to overbrowsing of native plants. Invasive species also threaten wildflowers by altering the chemistry of

the soil, and crowding out natives. To preserve wildflowers, we need to actively protect our native species so future generations of visitors and wildlife alike can enjoy them.

Quick Guide to Wildflowers



Bloodroot



Jack in the pulpit



Daisy fleabane



Rue anemone



Dutchman's breeches



Spring beauty



Red trillium



Trout lily

Wildflowers of RSPP



This map was created to highlight areas of the preserve where wildflowers have been documented. As you visit each hotspot, look for some of our loved flower species.

If you would like to contribute to our project, please post to iNaturalist under the Rockefeller project or email Rebecca.Policello@parks.ny.gov for more info

https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/rockefeller-statepark-preserve

