

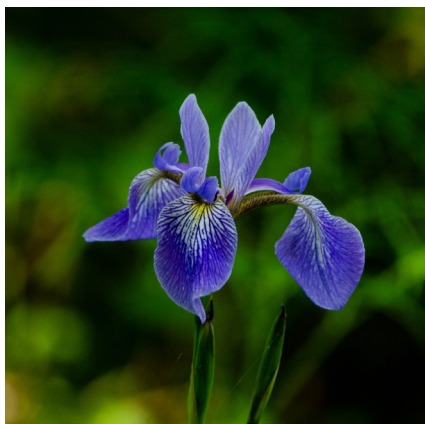


LAKEHEAD REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

WILD FOR WILDFLOWERS



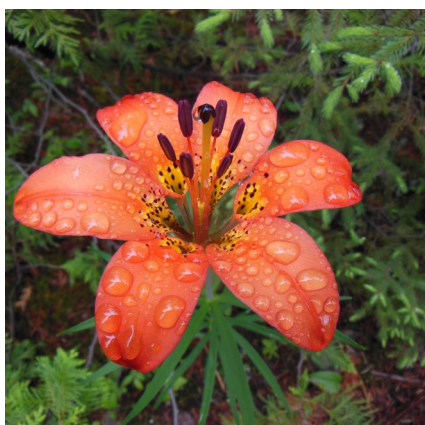
HAZELWOOD LAKE CONSERVATION AREA



Spring and summer bring an abundance of exciting and colourful wildflowers for all to appreciate. Not only can you and I appreciate them for their beauty and smell but so too do the numerous animals, birds and insects that require them for survival.

Let's find out more about the wildflowers here at Hazelwood Lake.

From May to October the wildflowers in our 'Plant Hardiness Zone 3' and forest types of both Boreal and Great-Lakes St Lawrence can be enjoyed for their beauty and their design that attract pollinators with specific shape, colour, smell and location.



We characterize wildflowers by their non-woody stem and brightly-coloured flowers. But with such an abundance of species it can be difficult to identify one species in particular.

Don't get overwhelmed. Grab a field guide or use a community science app like iNaturalist and get started.

Let's start by identifying

- when the flower is blooming,
- the flower colour and
- the plant size.

This is going to help us narrow down our choices and eventually pinpoint what we are looking at.

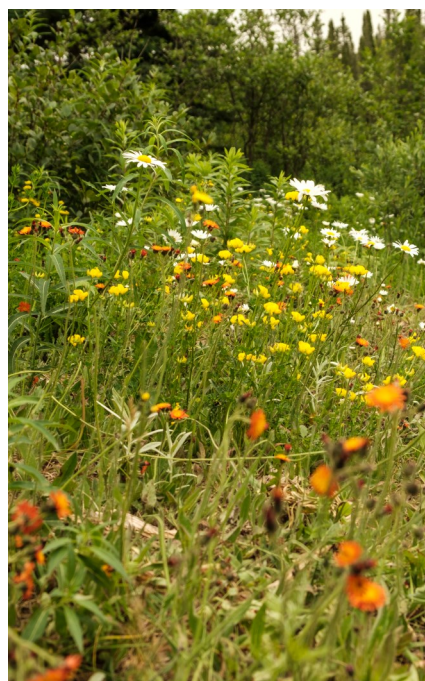
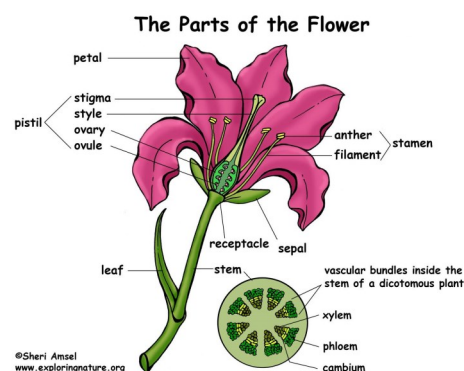
Then let's take a closer look at the leaves.

- Are they opposite each other,
- do they alternate along the stem or,
- are they whorled around the stem?
- Do the leaves have serrated edges or are they smooth?
- How many leaves are there and are they lobed or divided?

Next, let's look again at the flower, but this time specifically the shape.

- Is it asymmetrical or irregular?
- How many rays or petals does it have or are they fused?

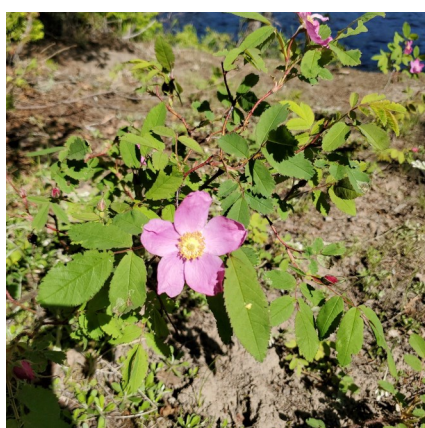
When you take a close look at these features on a wildflower you will be sure to narrow in on a wildflower in your field guide.



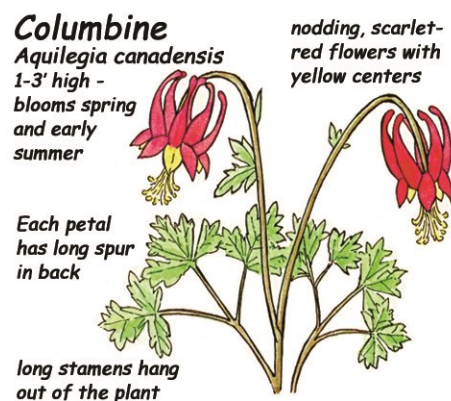


Here are just a few of the wildflowers you might see while you exploring the different habitats throughout the year:

Fireweed, bunchberry, blue-beaded lily, blue flag iris, white flat-topped aster, woodland iris, orange hawkweed, hairy goldenrod, wild rose, honeysuckle, bluebells, columbine, sarsaparilla, Canada mayflower and orchids.



Common names are helpful and usually easiest to remember. However, the scientific name is what really describes the plant and makes the name unique. Each species with a scientific (or latin) name uses the binomial system (meaning having two names) using the *Genus* and *species*.



You don't have to know what the flower name it to appreciate it. Many hours can be spent drawing, photographing or just enjoying the intricate morphologies of the plants.

And remember, take nothing but photos, leave nothing but footprints to conserve for a better tomorrow.

Activity/ Challenge:

Download the iNaturalist App before heading out. Visit a natural area such as Hazelwood Conservation Area (best time is June) and find at least 10 different flowers in bloom. Take a picture and upload your findings to your iNaturalist account to help you to identify what you have found as well as contribute to community science.