

Things to notice as you explore our preserves in May and June...

- Ephemeral wildflowers like trout lily, bloodroot, trillium and May apple are blooming in early May. Spot them along wooded trails.
- Prairie flowers such as Golden Alexander, Shooting Star, Prairie Phlox and Milkweed bloom in late May and Early June. Look for these colorful blossoms as you walk through the prairie.
- Warblers are returning from their winter habitats. Listen for their varied calls and look for them in wooded areas. Other birds such as the Gray Catbird, Goldfinch, and Red-Wing blackbird are active this time of year. How many different bird calls can you hear as you walk along the trail?
- Bluebirds and tree swallows are active in May and June. They are busy hunting for insects and raising their second brood of the season. Spot them near bluebird boxes in meadows and prairies.
- Listen for the banjo-like call of the green frog near wetlands. Look for leopard frogs, green frogs and bullfrogs along the edge of ponds on warm summer days. Look for toads and salamanders near temporary pools as the days get warmer and these ephemeral pools dry out during the summer.
- Adult dragonflies emerge in late May. Look for them darting about near ponds and wetlands. Spot turtles and snakes basking in the sun on warm days.

What other signs of the season do you notice in our preserves?

