WILDFLOWERS
OF WHYCHUS CANYON PRESERVE

ALAN ST. JOHN
Central Oregon, with its deserts and high mountain meadows, is chock full of wildflowers. Whychus Canyon Preserve offers a stunning introduction to some of the best wildflowers of Central Oregon’s sagebrush steppe, pine forest, and creekside corridors. Here are fifteen of our favorites:

**Goldfields, Crocidium multicaule.**
One of our very first wildflowers of the season! You’ll find these dime-size flowers carpeting the sagebrush flats. Single yellow flower with 8 rays ¼-½” long on a delicate stem up to 6” tall. **Blooms: March-April**

**Common larkspur, Delphinium nuttallianum.**
Distinctive purple flowers ¼-1¼” across with 5 sepals that look like petals. The uppermost petal has a long hollow spur that holds nectar. Cluster of 3-12 purple wildflowers on a slender stem 6-16” tall. Leaves are on the lowest part of the stem. **Blooms: May-June**

**Yellow bell, Fritillaria pudica.**
Beautiful yellow, pendant-shaped lily that can be found in grasslands to pine forest. Flowers are ¼” long and can be yellow to brownish-orange. Leaves are grasslike. Bulbs were a food source for Northwest tribes. **Blooms: March-April**

**Threadleaf phacelia, Phacelia linearis.**
Dense cluster of small purple flowers that grow on a stem up to 20” tall. Found in dry sandy soils in our sagebrush meadows. Flowers are ½-¾” across with 5 petals. Leaves are alternate and linear. **Blooms: May-June**

**Prairie star, Lithophragma parviflorum.**
An early bloomer with a delicate, white to lavender-pink, irregular flower atop a slender red stem. Found in sagebrush flats to pine forests. Flowers have 5 petals that are ¼” long atop a 4-12” tall stem. **Blooms: April-May**

**Tidy tips, Layia glandulosa.**
Small white aster with yellow center, on stalks 3” long. Ray-like flowers that are three-lobed at the tip. Grows in open and sandy soils in forest or grasslands. **Blooms: May-June**

**Sand lily, Leucocrinum montanum.**
Another early bloomer that can be found in sagebrush flats and pine forests. It grows in rosette-like bunches with 4-8 white flowers per bunch. Flowers have 6 petals; leaves are 4-8”, flat and linear. **Blooms: April-May**

**Foothill death camas, Toxicoscordion paniculatum.**
Delicate, white flowers at the top of a 8-20” tall stem. Poisonous! Found in open grasslands and meadows and is often confused (especially when not blooming) with blue camas, whose bulbs are edible. **Blooms: May-June**

**Spreading phlox, Phlox diffusa.**
Low-growing flower that prefers rocky crevices and exposed locations. Flowers have 5 pink-purple-white petals that create a mass of color. Adapted to extreme environments, cushion-like plants like phlox often have taproots 8-15’ deep! **Blooms: April-May**

**Showy townsendia, Townsendia florifera.**
Low-growing rosette with 18-30 pink, pale lavender, or white flowers around a yellow center. Each ray is ¼-½” long. Grows in sandy, gravelly soils on our sagebrush flats. **Blooms: May-June**

Disclaimer: While we’ve done our best to be accurate, bloom times are different every year, and species are often re-classified. Learn more about our native wildflowers on a guided Land Trust hike: deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes

Find the complete list of Whychus Canyon Preserve wildflowers at: deschuteslandtrust.org/wc-wildflowers
Spotted mountain bells, *Fritillaria atropurpurea*. A beautifully delicate native lily, found in forests near openings. Brownish, bell-shaped flowers have yellow-red spots and grow 5-25” tall. This uncommon lily takes a keen eye to find!

**Blooms: May-June**

Columbia puccoon, *Lithospermum ruderalis*. Pale yellow flower that blooms on the end of multiple, erect stems with narrow linear leaves. Overall 8-20” tall and is widespread in grasslands, forests, and rocky areas.

**Blooms: May-June**

Arrowleaf balsamroot, *Balsamorhiza sagittata*. One of our showiest wildflowers lighting up hillsides with sunny, disk-like faces. Grows in clumps with large widely triangular leaves that have heart-shaped bases. Yellow flowers are 2½-4” wide on 1-3’ stems

**Blooms: May-June**

Mariposa lily, *Calochortus macrocarpus*. A sagebrush jewel that blooms intensely lavender on tall 8-23” stems. Mariposa is ‘butterfly’ in Spanish, and kalo and chortos are Greek for ‘beautiful,’ and ‘grass.’

**Blooms: June-July**

Scarlet gilia, *Ipomopsis aggregata*. Trumpet-shaped, bright red flowers on stems up to 3’ tall. Flower color may vary from scarlet, speckled with white, to pale pink speckled with red. Grows in dry soils in woodland openings and meadows.

**Blooms: June-August**