



Get to know your local native wildflowers!

Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) is one of the first spring ephemerals to flower. Its showy white petals are over two inches in width and open fully on sunny days. Flowers close at night as temperatures drop and resemble white candles. The solitary blue-gray leaf wrapped around the stem resembles a candle holder. The rhizome releases red juice when crushed or broken.

Insect notes: flies and bees circle around bloodroot flowers when they are open. Bloodroot does not supply nectar but has plenty of pollen for female bees to collect. The bees help to pollinate the flower so seeds are created.

When pollinators are not available, bloodroot flowers will self-pollinate around the third day of flowering. Bloodroot also **bribes ants into protecting their seeds**. Each seed has a fatty snack called an elaiosome, which the ants love. Ants carry the seeds into their nests, eat the elaiosomes, and toss the seeds into the "trash"—a perfect underground compost pile for jump-starting their seedlings the next year. You will find Bloodroot growing wild at Harris Whalen Park. Protect our local wildflowers by not picking or removing.



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