

ARIZONA WILDFLOWERS
Sonoran Conservancy of Fountain Hills
(www.scfh.org)
Updated February 2017

With good periodic rainfall from late fall through February, everyone's wondering whether 2017 will be a stellar year for wildflowers. We never really know, but here's some information that will help steer you in the right direction for viewing.

WEBSITES

There are several websites maintained by local organizations that provide up-to-date wildflower reports. Here are a few of them:

The Desert Botanical Garden maintains a Wildflower Tracking Site that is updated during March and April of each year: <https://www.dbg.org/wildflower-tracking-site>

Boyce Thompson Arboretum leads guided wildflower walks every Saturday and Sunday in March and April. Check out their website for further information and updates and photos of the wildflowers currently in bloom: <https://cals.arizona.edu/bta/events/wildflowers.html>

Maricopa County Parks has a blog on "pinterest" with wildflower photos and updates: <https://www.pinterest.com/mcpcpark/2017-go-wild-for-flowers/>

The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy (Scottsdale) has a wildflower watch on its website: <http://mcdowellsonoran.org/content/pages/wildflowerWatch#sthash.Qh3vb1Y3.dpbs>

DesertUSA maintains Desert Wildflower Reports for Arizona and also California, Nevada, Utah and New Mexico: <http://www.desertusa.com/wildflo/wildupdates.html>

Excellent blog with additional resources on Arizona Wildflowers: <http://www.arizonaadventures.com/arizona/blog/articles/arizona/desert-wildflowers/>

Don't overlook checking with the parks and preserves close to Fountain Hills. There are often guided wildflower hikes available free to the public. The three closest to Fountain Hills are: McDowell Mountain Regional Park (<http://www.maricopacountyparks.net/mcdowell-mountain-regional-park/>), the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy (<http://mcdowellsonoran.org/home#sthash.d3PQztBU.dpbs>) and the Sonoran Conservancy of Fountain Hills (<http://www.scfh.org>)

HIKES AND WALKS

Here are a few favorite places to hike or take a walk where wildflowers have in the past been in abundance.

Fountain Hills (www.scfh.org): The Lake Overlook Trail next to Fountain Park. The Botanical Garden off of Fountain Hills Boulevard.

McDowell Sonoran Conservancy (www.mcdowellsonoran.org): Sunrise Trail, hikes from Browns Ranch, Fraesfield, Tom's Thumb, and Lost Dog Wash Trailheads.

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McDowell Mountain Regional Park trails (<http://www.maricopacountyparks.net/mcdowell-mountain-regional-park/>) Telephone: 480-471-0173

Other parks in the Maricopa County Parks system (<http://www.maricopacountyparks.net>) including: Utery Mountain Regional Park, Cave Creek Regional Park, Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area, Lake Pleasant Regional Park

City of Phoenix Parks (<https://www.phoenix.gov/parks>), including: South Mountain Park, Phoenix Mountain Preserve

Lost Dutchman State Park (<https://azstateparks.com/lost-dutchman>)

Tonto National Forest (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/tonto/home>), encompassing almost 3 million acres of public lands, has endless opportunities for wildflower hikes and spectacular scenery. Some favorites are the Butcher Jones Trail on Saguaro Lake, Bulldog Canyon - a permitted ATV recreational area, Coffee flats and the Lost Dutchman Trails in the Superstition Mountain Wilderness Area, Bartlett Lake, Ballantine Trail, Barnhardt Trail. You can find more information about hiking trails at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/activity/tonto/recreation/hiking/?recid=35199&actid=50>. Call the applicable Ranger District for more information.

HAVE A GREAT TIME WILDFLOWER VIEWING!