

SOME FLOODPLAIN FOREST NATIVE PLANTS IN CENTRAL INDIANA

Floodplain forests, occurring adjacent to rivers, help protect water quality, help prevent soil erosion, and promote the accumulation of organic, carbon-containing matter (See Ruch 2012 below). The following list of some native plants found in the Central Indiana White River floodplain forests was compiled in 2018 by Friends of the White River, using the literature cited after the list.

Trees

Acer saccharinum – silver maple
Platanus occidentalis – American sycamore
Acer negundo – box elder
Populus deltoides – eastern cottonwood
Celtis occidentalis – hackberry
Ulmus americana – American elm
Fraxinus spp. – ash species
Juglans nigra – black walnut
Aesculus glabra – Ohio buckeye
Salix nigra – black willow
Cercis canadensis- redbud
Ulmus rubra – slippery elm
Crataegus spp. – hawthorn
Gleditsia triacanthus – honey locust
Quercus macrocarpa – bur oak
Quercus shumardii- shumard oak
Carya laciniosa – shellbark hickory
Staphylea trifolia – bladdernut
Tilia americana – American basswood

Shrubs and Woody Vines

Sambucus canadensis – elderberry
Asimina triloba – pawpaw
Euonymus atropurpureus – wahoo
Lindera benzoin – spicebush
Cornus drummondii – rough-leaved dogwood
Parthenocissus quinquefolia – Virginia creeper
Toxicodendron radicans – poison ivy
Vitis riparia - riverbank grape
Vitis vulpina – frost grape

Herbaceous Wildflowers, Grasses and Sedges

Spring-Early Summer

Carex davisii – awned graceful sedge
Carex grisea – wood gray sedge (Inflated narrowleaf sedge)
Carex normalis – spreading oval sedge
Claytonia virginica – spring beauty
Cryptotaenia canadensis – honewort
Dicentra cucullaria – dutchman’s breeches
Galium aparine - cleavers
Geum vernum – spring avens
Hydrophyllum appendiculatum – appendaged waterleaf
Mertensia virginica –Virginia bluebells
Ranunculus abortivus – small-flowered buttercup
Viola sororia – common blue violet
Viola striata – cream violet

Summer-Fall

Eupatorium rugosum (*Argentina altissima*) – white snakeroot
Campanulastrum americanum (*Campanula americana*) – tall bellflower
Carex grayi – Gray's sedge
Cinna arundinacea – common wood reed
Elymus riparius – riverbank wild rye
Elymus virginicus - Virginia wild rye
Galium triflorum – fragrant bedstraw
Impatiens capensis – spotted touch-me-not
Laportea canadensis – wood nettle
Lactuca biennis- tall blue lettuce (blue wood lettuce)
Phlox paniculata – garden phlox
Pilea pumila – clearweed
Polygonum virginianum (*Tovara virginiana*) – Virginia knotweed
Rudbeckia laciniata – cutleaf coneflower
Sanicula spp. - snakeroot
Silphium perfoliatum – cup plant
Solidago gigantea – late goldenrod
Symphotrichum lanceolatum – paniced aster
Symphotrichum lateriflorum (*Aster lateriflorus*) – calico aster (side-flowering aster)
Stellaria pubera – great chickweed
Tradescantia subaspera – zigzag spiderwort
Verbesina alternifolia – wingstem

Literature Consulted:

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