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SHAW NATURE RESERVE

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

The Shaw Nature Reserve

307 Pinetum Loop Rd,
Gray Summit, MO 63039
(314) 577-9555



Hours & Admission

Hours:

Open 7 days a week

September 1–30:
8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

October 1–March 31:
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

April 1–August 31:
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Bascom House:
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

Admission:

\$5 general admission
\$3 seniors 65 & over
Free children 12 & under
Free for Missouri Botanical Garden members.
Groups click [here](#).

Wheelchair Accessibility:

What's In Bloom



Every Friday we take pictures of what's in bloom and post them on our Facebook page. We feature a variety of plants and places in the Whitmire Wildflower Garden.

[View pictures](#)

Pet Policy



While service animals are welcome at the Nature Reserve, if you would like to hike with your pet, we recommend visiting state and county parks. Pets are not permitted at Shaw Nature Reserve.

- [St. Louis County parks pet page](#)
- [Missouri State parks pet page](#)
- [Service animal policy](#)

Photo Contest



August 1–31

Win prizes by participating in our Instagram photo contest. Whether you are using a smartphone or a DSLR camera, we'd love to see those amazing shots.

[Learn more](#)

Saturday Happenings



Guided hikes and lunch-and-learns on Saturdays. No registration required. Free with admission.

[Learn more](#)

Fall Wildflower Market

Featured Classes and Events

SOLD OUT Wednesday Walkers

September 4, 2019
10:00 am - 11:30 am
[Shaw Nature Reserve > Visitor Center](#)

SOLD OUT Gourd Crafting

September 5, 2019
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
[Shaw Nature Reserve > Carriage House](#)

Native Plant Tea

September 5, 2019
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
[Shaw Nature Reserve > Carriage House](#)

Fall Wildflower Market

September 6, 2019
2:00 pm - 7:00 pm
[Shaw Nature Reserve > Glassberg Family Pavilion](#)



What's in Bloom

Blazing star (*Liatris spp.*) is abundant around Pinetum Lake and in the prairies. This bright blue or purple flower is striking to see among the yellow flowers that also bloom this month. These plants can have a taproot that extends to depths of 15 feet. The small flowers open from the top to bottom on the spikes, unlike most plants whose flowers open from the bottom upward as the spike develops. On one spike there can be 40 individual flowers depending on the species. Look for swallowtail butterflies resting on these plants.

Featured Trail

On a morning hike through the **prairie** you'll be rewarded with colorful birds such as goldfinch and indigo bunting as they feed on seed heads. View beautiful dewy spider webs that sparkle in the sunlight, and the yellows of **stiff goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*)** and **Maximilian sunflowers (*Helianthus maximilianii*)** interspersed with the purple of **prairie blazing star (*Liatris pycnostachya*)**. There are three separate prairies for you to visit. You can park at the **Maritz Trail House** and walk north to the prairie, stroll through the **Whitmire Wildflower Garden** prairie (south of the Glassberg Pavilions), or park at the **Bus Stop** and walk south to the prairie observation platform.

Wildlife

August brings hot and humid weather so most animals are active during the twilight hours around dawn or dusk, these animals are known as crepuscular. Early morning birders will spot Eastern bluebirds, goldfinches, cardinals, robins, black-caped chickadees and more. At dusk, hikers will hear the bullfrogs singing 'jug o rum' and might see turtles enjoying the last few rays of evening sunshine.

Garden Party Lights

Thursdays–Sundays until October 19 | Doors open at 6 p.m.
at the Missouri Botanical Garden



The Garden is your after-hours destination for drinks, music, food, and



What's in Bloom

Pink, white, and yellow waterlilies are blooming in the **wetland**. These plants carpet the two largest cells of our wetland during the summer and are a favorite spot for frogs and dragonflies to sit and rest. You can access them by parking at the **Bus Stop** and walking this mostly flat, 1.3-mile long trail.

Featured Trail

The summer is a great time to enjoy a journey through the shady paths of the **Rus Goddard River Trail**. To access this approximately 2-mile loop trail, you can park at the **Maritz Trail House**. The whole family will enjoy exploring under the canopy of the **paw paw (*Asimina triloba*) trees**. Bats have been found resting on the underside of their large leaves so make sure to look up while you are hiking. The gravel bar along this trail is a favorite destination for all ages. Take a close look at the riverbank and you might find softshell turtles resting among the willows. During summer hikes, please remember to carry plenty of water and protect yourself from the sun by wearing a hat and sunscreen.



Did You Know

We have a **Nature Explore Classroom** that is the perfect place to visit with your family to enjoy shade, the sand boxes, climbing logs, spider web net, and more. Continue on to the **Sense of Wonder Woodland** to see who is living in the Insect Hotel, trek across the tree-mendous bridge, crawl on the tree-ceratops log, and more! It is a good idea to use bug spray to protect yourself from mosquitoes and ticks.

Wildlife

July is a great time to practice your dragonfly identification. On a hike in the **Whitmire Wildflower Garden** you might see a blue dasher (*Pachydiplax longipennis*) dragonfly at the boardwalk pond