

BUENA VISTA TRAIL WILDFLOWER WALK

mid March to early April

Description: Counter-clockwise on Buena Vista Trail from West Climb Trail in Hillside to Hollow Reserve (Ussery or Hillside trailheads). Full loop requires trail-only access through private land. Difficulty: 2-3 miles roundtrip, 130 feet elevation gain. **Avoid when muddy!**

Plants listed in approximate order of encounter within category. * indicates native species

TREES AND SHRUBS (not in bloom)

Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) – non-native tree

***Big sagebrush** (*Artemisia tridentata* subsp. *tridentata*)

***Rubber rabbitbrush** (*Ericameria* [formerly *Chrysothamnus*] *nauseosa*) -- var. *hololeuca* is the more common larger variety; the smaller, more spindly var. *oreophila* is mostly on plateaus

SIGNIFICANT NOXIOUS WEEDS (not in bloom, but evident)

Feral or Cereal Rye (*Secale cereale*)

Rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*)

Medusahead grass (*Taeniatherum/Elymus caput-medusae*)

Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) -- other annual *Bromus* also present

St. Johnswort, Klamathweed (*Hypericum perforatum*)

PRIMARY BUNCHGRASSES (mostly not in bloom, but evident)

***Threeawn grass** (*Aristida purpurea* var. *longiseta*)

***Squirreltail grass** (*Elymus elymoides*, formerly *Sitanion hystrix*)

***Bluebunch wheatgrass** (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*, alternatively in *Agropyron* or *Elymus*)

Bulbous bluegrass (*Poa bulbosa*) – weedy non-native

***Sandberg bluegrass** (*Poa secunda*)

WILDFLOWERS POTENTIALLY IN BLOOM

***Woolly-pod milkvetch** (*Astragalus purshii* var. *glareosus*)

Spring whitlow-grass (*Draba verna*) – tiny white flowers with notched petals, non-native

Jagged chickweed (*Holosteum umbellata*) – inconspicuous non-native

Stork- or cranesbill, filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*) – non-native

Desert alyssum (*Alyssum desertorum*) – widespread non-native

Clasping pepperweed (*Lepidium perfoliatum*) – non-native

***Bulbous or pink woodlandstar/prairiestar** (*Lithophragma glabrum*, previously *L. bulbiferum*)

***Narrowleaf or Great Basin biscuitroot** (*Lomatium simplex*, previously included in *L. triternatum*, nine-leaf biscuitroot)

***Prickly-leaf phlox** (*Phlox aculeata*)

***Arrowleaf balsamroot** (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*)

***Aase's onion** (*Allium aaseae*) – rare regional endemic, locally abundant on this trail

***Dwarf or low pussytoes** (*Antennaria dimorpha*)

***Sagebrush buttercup** (*Ranunculus glaberrimus*) – can begin blooming in February

***Foothill or peak saxifrage** (*Micranthes/Saxifraga nidifica*)

***Cusick's or Wilcox's primrose** (*Primula cusickiana* var. *cusickiana*) – localized and rare

***Tansymustard** (*Descurainia* sp.) – native species difficult to distinguish, taxonomy in flux