



## Leaflet

**Activity sheets** are available from the info boxes or online

### ❖ Fairy houses

New fairy houses are coming to the park again this April. Be on the lookout! We will post updates on Facebook.

### ❖ Volunteer days

We are organizing a service day on **March 13, Sunday from 1 to 4 pm** for Merion Elementary School families. Activities include invasive plant control, planting, mulching and games. Please join us!

Other volunteer days this spring:

April 9, Saturday, 9-12

May 14, Saturday 9-12

June 12, Sunday 1-4

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### ❖ Bird nest boxes and bat houses

Our cavity nesting birds can be in short supply of quality real estate, since older trees are often taken down for safety reasons. If you have nest boxes, early March is a good time to clean them. If you don't have any yet, there is still time to buy and install some.

Sizes and preferred locations vary by species. Buy the kinds that are easy to open and clean. To find more advice on nest boxes, visit [wdfw.wa.gov/living/projects/nestboxes/](http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/projects/nestboxes/)

The number of hibernating bats have declined by over 90% due to white nose syndrome causing fungal disease, habitat loss, and other factors. You can help by installing a bat house at a suitable location. Bat houses should be placed away from trees for easy access. Read more here: [www.batcon.org](http://www.batcon.org)




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## ❖ What is in Bloom?

The flowers are almost a month ahead compared to last year. In addition to the Persian ironwood and witch hazels, the tommies, (*Crocus tommasinianus*) are also in bloom, coloring the ground purple.

These plants below usually bloom later, but we might be able to enjoy some of them this month. Something to look forward to!

	<p style="text-align: center;">Cornelian Cherry (<i>Cornus mas</i>) Non-native</p> <p>This small tree, or large shrub, belongs to the dogwood family. It probably got its name from its red fruit that has one pit in the middle. Fruit is tart and used to make jam.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">In the dogwood collection south of the bridge.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Spicebush (<i>Lindera benzoin</i>) Native</p> <p>A woodland shrub that grows in well-drained soil and part to full shade. The male and female flowers are on separate plants. Larval host for spicebush swallowtail butterfly.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Near the post office end of the park, by the creek.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Weeping Higan Cherry (<i>Prunus subhirtella "Pendula"</i>) Non-native</p> <p>A weeping tree with single pink flowers before the leaves emerge in early spring.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Near the north (post office) end of the park.</p>





	<p>Flowering Cherry "Okame" (<i>Prunus x incam</i> "Okame") Non-native</p> <p>This plant forms a broad-columnar small tree that rounds out with age. It bears deep pink blooms in early spring. Near north end of park, and by Merion Rd.</p>
	<p>Higan Cherry "Autumnalis" (<i>Prunus subhirtella</i> "Autumnalis") Non-native</p> <p>This small flowering tree originates in Japan. It bears white to pink flowers, which may emerge intermittently from autumn through to spring. <b>This is the tree you saw blooming late fall.</b> One tree near big beech tree at north end by Merion Rd, another north of the bridge.</p>
	<p>Higan Cherry "Snow Fountain" (<i>Prunus subhirtella</i> "Snow Fountain") Non-native</p> <p>This is a slow growing weeping cherry. It has cascading branches all the way to the ground, giving the appearance of a white or snow fountain when covered with pure white flowers in early spring. Near the bridge at the center of the park.</p>
	<p>Flowering Cherry "Kwanzan" (<i>Prunus serrulata</i> "Kwanzan") Non-native</p> <p>Very showy double pink flowers in pendant clusters in April. Vase shaped tree is 20-25 ft tall and wide. By the bridge at center of park and at the south end, near the stream.</p>



	<p style="text-align: center;">Magnolia "Elizabeth" (<i>acuminata x denudata</i>) Non-native</p> <p>A multi-stemmed shrub. Noted for its 4-5 inch double, light yellow flowers that are lightly scented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">North of the bridge, by the open grass area.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Star Magnolia (<i>Magnolia stellata</i>) Non-native</p> <p>Slow-growing shrub, or small tree, native to Japan. It bears large, showy white or pink flowers in early spring, before its leaves open.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">North side of park, by Merion Rd and the big beech tree.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Magnolia "Jane" (<i>Magnolia x "Jane"</i>) Non-native</p> <p>Hardy shrub or small tree. Flowers are tulip-shaped and lightly scented, reddish purple outside, white inside. They open late in spring to avoid frost damage.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">North of the bridge along the walking path.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Flowering Quince (<i>Chaenomeles sp.</i>) Non-native</p> <p>Showy, pink, red or white flowers from early to mid-spring; foliage opens red-bronze then turns dark green in summer; fruits can be used for jellies when ripe.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Around the manhole by Merion Rd, north of Latches Ln.</p>

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	<p style="text-align: center;">Shadbush, Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier</i> sp.) Native</p> <p>A small tree for multi-season interest. White flowers bloom in spring followed by purple fruit in summer, then orange fall color.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">South end of park.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Forsythia (<i>Forsythia</i> sp.) Non-native</p> <p>Well known spring flowering shrub. The flowers are bright yellow and produced before the leaves.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">In the woodland area.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Redbud (<i>Cercis canadensis</i>) Native</p> <p>The flowers are light to dark magenta pink and appear in clusters on bare stems before the leaves, sometimes on the trunk itself from spring to early summer. The Red leaf "Forest Pansy" cultivar is at Latches Ln entrance.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">North end of the park, corner of Merion Rd and Civic Cir.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">White Flowering redbud (<i>Cercis Canadensis</i> "Alba") Native</p> <p>White flowers bloom profusely on bare branches in early spring before the foliage emerges. Flowers are followed by flattened bean-like dry seedpods that mature to brown in summer.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">North end of the park, corner of Merion Rd and Civic Cir.</p>



	<p style="text-align: center;">Violet Species (<i>Viola sp.</i>) <i>Native and non-native species</i></p> <p>Woodland plant. Flower colors vary in the genus, ranging from violet, various shades of blue, yellow, and white. Some types are bicolored, often blue and yellow. Mainly in the wooded area, across the bridge.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Daffodils (<i>Narcissus sp.</i>) Non-native</p> <p>A popular spring flowering bulb with many cultivars. Native to Europe, North Africa and West Asia. Most common bloom color is yellow, but can be white, pink, orange or a combination of these. Mostly along the stream.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Woodland Phlox "London Grove Blue" (<i>Phlox divaricata</i>) Native</p> <p>A spreading wildflower with stems typically reaching 12-15" tall. Occurs in rich woods, fields and along streams. Loose clusters of slightly fragrant flowers appear at the stem tips in spring. Just south of the bridge by the stream.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Creeping woodland Phlox "Home Fires" (<i>Phlox stolonifera</i>) Native</p> <p>Native to wooded areas and stream banks. Loose clusters of fragrant, tubular, lavender flowers with five petal-like, rounded lobes appear on upright, leafy flowering stems, which rise above the foliage in spring. Just south of the bridge by the stream.</p>

