



Figure 2: A park field full of Black-eyed Susan.

### References and Additional Resources:

1. FCPR's Pleasant Grove Park -Trail Map-
2. <http://virginiawildflowers.org/>
3. Virginia Native Plant Society, <http://vnps.org/>
4. Wildflowers of the United States – Virginia, <http://uswildflowers.com/stateref.php?State=VA>
5. USDA Plants Database, <http://plants.usda.gov/java/>
6. Fluvanna County Parks and Recreation, <http://www.fluvannacounty.org/services/parks-and-recreation/>
7. Rivanna chapter, Virginia Master Naturalists, <http://www.vmn-rivanna.org/>

## Fluvanna Parks and Recreation

*Our mission is to promote opportunities for all residents and visitors to enjoy leisure activities in balance with the protection and conservation of Fluvanna County's natural resources.*

Some Wild Plants and Flowers at Pleasant Grove<sup>2,3,4,5</sup>: (Please note that many plants and flowers are seasonal, so to experience these fully you should schedule multiple visits.)

- Black-eyed Susan
- Yarrow
- St John's Wart
- Common Milkweed
- Native Grass (switch grass, little and big bluestem, Indiangrass, etc.)  
(*Regeneration in progress*)
- Christmas Fern
- May Apple
- Skunk Cabbage
- Daisy Fleabane
- Bulbous Buttercup
- Common Sneezeweed
- Tickseed
- American Beautyberry
- Small Bluet
- Chicory
- Wild Comfrey
- Johnny Jump-up
- Plantain
- Jimson Weed
- Wild Garlic
- Spring Beauty
- Ragweed
- Sumac

Fluvanna Parks and Recreation  
271 Pleasant Grove Drive  
P.O. Box 70  
Palmyra, VA 22963  
Phone: 434.589.2016  
<http://www.fluvannacounty.org/services/parks-and-recreation>

# Fluvanna County's Pleasant Grove Park: *A Natural Experience*

Fluvanna's Pleasant Grove Park serves many purposes, one of which is to provide park visitors with access to nature.

The Rivanna River and the adjacent forests and fields abound with wildlife, both plants and animals. The many habitats at Pleasant Grove are managed for wildlife richness and the park's many trails provide abundant opportunities to view this wildlife in its natural setting.

Please use this brochure as your guide to help enhance your enjoyment of nature while in our park.

We wish you a wonderful day at Pleasant Grove Park.



## Types of Habitat and Associated Wildlife:

- Untended Grassy Field  
(*Regeneration in Progress*)
  - Cottontails
  - Voles
  - Field Mice
  - Hawks
  - Turkey Vultures
  - Foxes
  - Quail (future)
  - Song Birds (sparrows, indigo buntings, etc.)
- Shrubs and Small Trees
  - Song Birds (catbirds, towhees, etc.)
  - Quail (future)
  - Deer
- Pine/ Transition Forest
  - Deer
  - Turkeys
- Mature Hardwood Forest
  - Squirrels
  - Deer
  - Turkeys
- River
  - River Otters
  - Ducks
  - Fish
  - Osprey

## Trails and Wildlife

Many of the Pleasant Grove Park's trails go through multiple habitats. (See separate trail map.<sup>1</sup>) Here's a quick guide to the habitats and trails:

To view the Untended Grassy Field habitat take the East Field Trail from the Pleasant Grove House through the front field abutting Route 53. A small section of the River Loop Trail at the Rivanna River also has an untended grassy field.

For the Shrubs and Small Trees habitat, see the first few hundred yards of the Heritage Trail from the picnic shelter (pole barns) to the hill descent. Also take the portion of the River Anne Trail as it abuts the Rivanna River.

Pine/ Transition Forest habitats are the most prevalent habitats at Pleasant Grove Park. The Heritage Trail exhibits this habitat on the hill descent, after the shrubs and small trees and, before the mixed hardwoods at the bottom. The Bush Arbor and Deer Valley Trails also offer good examples of the pine transition forest habitat. Near the Dog Park the Horseshoe Trail is your best bet for this habitat. While at the Library, the Beech Grove Trail leads to the Rockbrook Trail, also an excellent example of a pine/ transition forest habitat.

To view a Mature Hardwood Forest habitat, walk the North Hill Trail starting at the picnic shelter. Also the Heritage Trail after its descent into the bottom land from the pole

barns offers a mixed hardwood forest habitat.

The River Loop, Farm Hill and River Anne Trails provide excellent views of the River habitat.

Fluvanna has a wonderful history display at the Pleasant Grove House. While there we want to invite you to stop by the Heritage Trail Museum for more information on trails and habitats at the park.

If you need additional information on Pleasant Grove, or any of Fluvanna County's parks, please call us at 434-842-3150, or send us an email through our website<sup>6</sup>.

This brochure was developed with assistance from the Rivanna chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists<sup>7</sup>.



Figure 1: Eastern Cottontail