

Forest cover

The St. Charles Ecopark has a young and changing forest. A neighborhood and the original Blanchette boat landing both stood on this park site. Tall cottonwood and sycamore trees remain from that time, and trees such as black willow, silver maple, mulberry, and box elder are quickly filling in the gaps.

In spring, before leaves block sunlight from reaching the forest floor, wildflowers bring color to the Ecopark. Look for spring beauty, wild sweet William, columbine, spiderwort, and others.

Like all riverbottom forests, the Ecopark forest is connected to the river. Flooding is part of life and change in the forest. Missouri River waters carry in silt, seeds, and nutrients, and can clear openings for new plants and trees.



Left to right: Silver maple leaves; Spiderwort, a spring wildflower; Jack-in-the-pulpit; Columbine.

Image credits: Simon Eugster (1); Missouri Department of Conservation (2,3,4).