

This list of 47 species of dragonflies and damselflies found at Black Hill is incomplete. More observations are needed to find the scarcer and less obvious species. Since the lake is still fairly young, new species are probably still colonizing it. The dates when adults are flying are also approximate, and can vary from year to year. As a rule, there are very few around before mid-May or after late September.

Dragonflies and damselflies spend most of their lives underwater as swimming insects with gills. The flying adults emerge from the water to mate and lay their eggs. Most species wander short distances from the water, but a few, such as the Green Darner, are known to migrate great distances to find new bodies of water. Dragonflies hold their wings out like an airplane when perched. Damselflies, which tend to be smaller and very slender, fold their wings along their body when perched. Three books with pictures to identify many of these species are: DRAGONFLIES OF FLORIDA, and DAMSELFLIES OF FLORIDA, by Sidney Dunkle, and DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES OF CAPE COD, by Virginia Carpenter.

KEY:

C - Common

U - Uncommon

R - Rare

P - perches horizontally, lands frequently

F - flies constantly, rarely lands, perches vertically

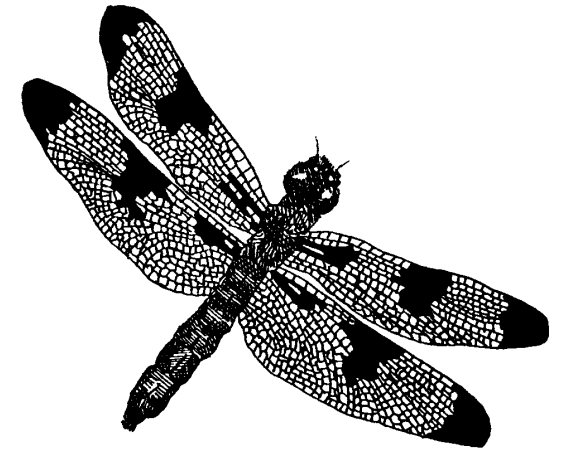
Special thanks to Dave Czaplak for preparing this checklist, and to Richard Orr for contributing additional species sightings.

Please report new sightings to the naturalists at Black Hill Visitor Center (301) 916-0220.

DRAGONFLIES					
Common Name	Latin name	Abundance	Time Period	Behavior	Habitat
Clubtails					
Black-shouldered Spinyleg	<i>Dromogomphus spinosus</i>	U	June - Sept	P	streams
Lancet Clubtail	<i>Gomphus exilis</i>	R	May - June	P	streams
Ashy Clubtail	<i>Gomphus lividus</i>	R	May - June	P	streams
Dragonhunter	<i>Hagenius brevistylus</i>	U	June - Sept	P	streams
Least Clubtail	<i>Stylogomphus albistylus</i>	R	June - ?	P	streams
Darners					
Shadow Darner	<i>Aeshna umbrosa</i>	U	Aug - Nov	F	swamps
Common Green Darner	<i>Anax junius</i>	C	Mar - Nov	F	lake, fields
Springtime Darner	<i>Basiaeschna janata</i>	U	April - May	F	streams
Cyrano Darner	<i>Nasiaeschna pentacantha</i>	R	June - July	F	streams
Cruisers					
Stream Cruiser	<i>Didymops transversa</i>	U	Apr - June	F	streams
Swift River Cruiser	<i>Macromia illinoiensis</i>	R	July - Sept	F	streams
Emeralds					
Common Baskettail	<i>Epitheca cynosura</i>	C	May - June	F	lake, streams
Prince Baskettail	<i>Epitheca princeps</i>	C	May - Sept	F	lake
Skimmers					
Calico Pennant	<i>Celithemis elisa</i>	U	May - Aug	P	lake, fields
Halloween Pennant	<i>Celithemis eponia</i>	U	June - Oct	P	lake, fields
Eastern Pondhawk	<i>Erythemis simplicicollis</i>	C	May - Oct	P	lake, fields
Eastern Spangled Skimmer	<i>Libellula cyanea</i>	R	May - Aug	P	swamps, fields
Slaty Skimmer	<i>Libellula incesta</i>	C	May - Sept	P	lake, fields
Widow Skimmer	<i>Libellula luctuosa</i>	C	May - Sept	P	lake, fields
Common Whitetail	<i>Libellula lydia</i>	C	Apr - Oct	P	lake, fields
Twelve-spotted Skimmer	<i>Libellula pulchella</i>	U	May - Sept	P	lake, fields
Painted Skimmer	<i>Libellula semifasciata</i>	R	Apr - Aug	P	swamps
Great Blue Skimmer	<i>Libellula vibrans</i>	C	May - Sept	P	swamps, streams
Blue Dasher (Blue Pirate)	<i>Pachydiplax longipennis</i>	C	May - Sept	P	lake, fields
Spot-winged Glider	<i>Pantala hymenea</i>	C	June - Oct	F	fields, powerline
Eastern Amberwing	<i>Perithemis tenera</i>	C	May - Sept	P	lake
Yellow-legged Meadowhawk	<i>Sympetrum vicinum</i>	C	June - Nov	P	swamps
Black-mantled Glider	<i>Tramea lacerata</i>	U	May - Oct	P	lake, fields
DAMSELFLIES					
Common Name	Latin Name	Abundance	Time Period	Behavior	Habitat
Broad-winged Damselfly					
Ebony Jewelwing	<i>Calopteryx maculata</i>	C	May - Aug	P	streams
Spreadwings					
Great Spreadwing	<i>Archilestes grandis</i>	R	Aug - Sept	P	fields
Slender Spreadwing	<i>Lestes rectangularis</i>	C	May - Oct	P	swamps
Pond Damselflies					
Blue-fronted Dancer	<i>Argia apicalis</i>	C	June - Oct	P	lake, streams
Violet (Variable) Dancer	<i>Argia fumipennis violacea</i>	U	June - Aug	P	streams
Powdered Dancer	<i>Argia moesta</i>	U	May - Oct	P	lake, streams
Blue-tipped Dancer	<i>Argia tibialis</i>	R	June - July	P	streams
Dusky Dancer	<i>Argia translata</i>	U	June - Aug	P	lake
Double-striped Bluet	<i>Enallagma basidens</i>	R	June - ?	P	lake
Familiar Bluet	<i>Enallagma civile</i>	C	May - Oct	P	lake

DAMSELFLIES (cont.) Common Name	Latin Name	Abundance	Time Period	Behavior	Habitat
Turquoise Bluet	<i>Enallagma divagans</i>	R	June - July	P	streams
Stream Bluet	<i>Enallagma exsulans</i>	U	May - Oct	P	streams
Skimming Bluet	<i>Enallagma geminatum</i>	U	May - Sept	P	lake
Orange Bluet	<i>Enallagma signatum</i>	C	May - Sept	P	lake
Slender Bluet	<i>Enallagma triviatum</i>	C	June - July	P	lake
Vesper Bluet	<i>Enallagma vesperum</i>	R	May - June	P	lake
Citrine Forktail	<i>Ischnura hastata</i>	R	Apr - Aug	P	lake
Fragile Forktail	<i>Ischnura posita posita</i>	C	Apr - Oct	P	lake
Eastern Forktail	<i>Ischnura verticalis</i>	U	May - Oct	P	lake

Dragonflies and Damselflies of Black Hill Regional Park



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The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning
Commission, Dept. of Park and Planning,
Montgomery County Parks