

THE DREXEL WOODS

Drexel Woods is a 36 acre woods in the southern end of Lawrence which the township purchased in 1996 for open space, nature study and passive recreation.

The trees that now cover the hillside create a cool breathing place rich with food for wildlife. Sassafras, sweet gum, hickory, oak and beech trees provide seeds and nuts for migratory and resident songbirds. Deer and small mammals browse on maple, elm and sycamore sprouts.

The trails provide public access to this serene natural environment and are a part of a Lawrence's greenway network . Two of the Drexel trails have been blazed with paint squares. The white trail connects the trailheads at the Eldridge Park School field and at the nature center with each other. The blue trail leads to and follows the Shabakunk from the trailheads.

A single blaze means that you are on the trail. A double blaze tells you to look for a change in the trail. If a trail is not blazed, it could be an unauthorized ATV path, or the Elsa sewer line.

THE SHABAKUNK CREEK

The Shabakunk Creek is an essential element of this wooded watershed. It is the western boundary of the woods and flows along the Ewing-Lawrence township line. The blue trail brings you from busy roads into the heart of the hardwood swamp. White ash and tulip trees, ancient beeches and yellow birches house hawks, raccoons, owls, and woodpeckers.

From the woods, the creek flows behind Notre Dame High School and behind the Lawrence Shopping Center before it enters Colonial Lake and then joins the Assunpink Creek.

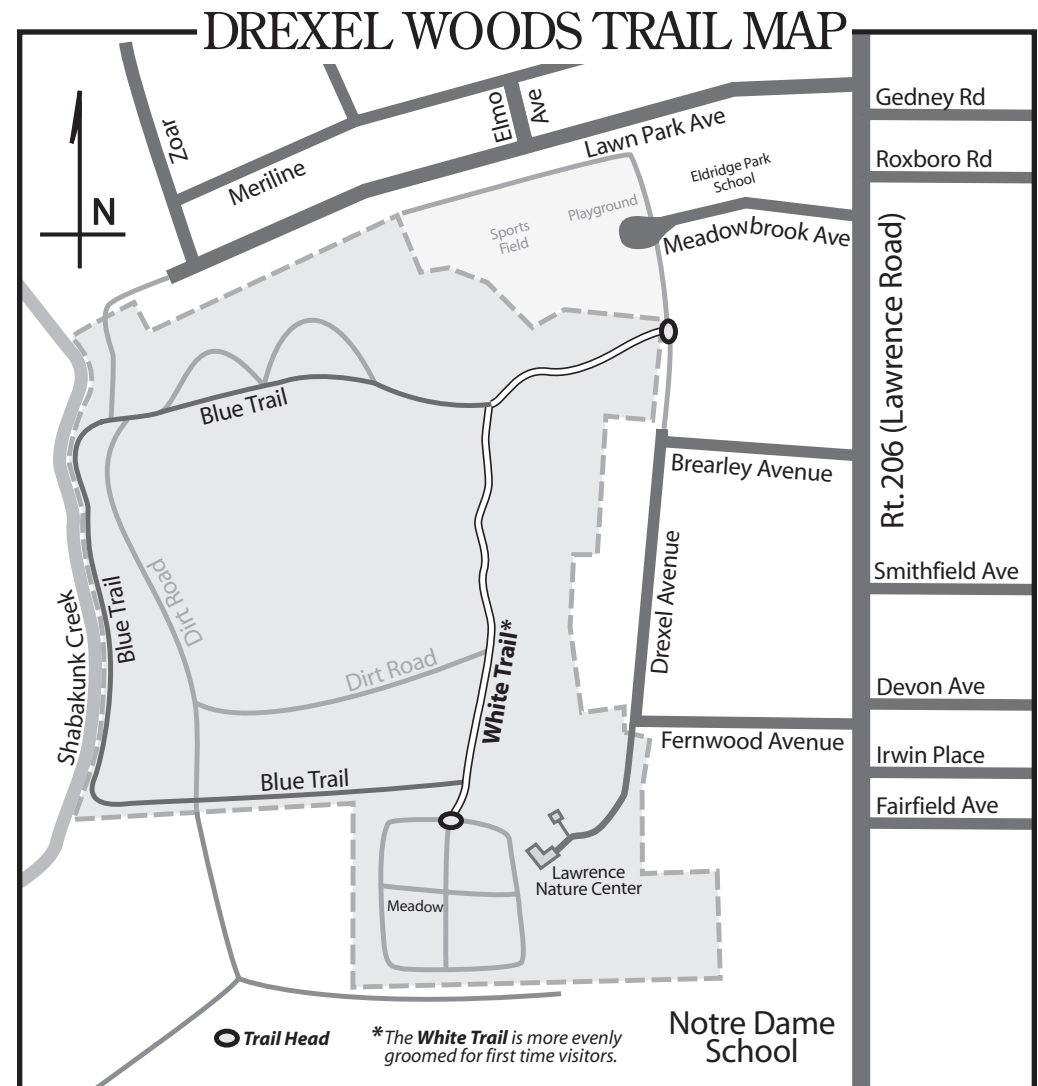
Giant beech trees toppled from old age make open spaces for horn-beam, the musclewood tree. You can get to hear the sound of wood-thrushes, phoebes and ovenbird. The creek runs over gravel shoals and undermines banks of clay and is constantly rearranging the elements of this watershed.

THE NATURE CENTER

The Lawrence Nature Center adjoins the Drexel Woods and was the home of Carl and Lucille Rinck. The house and garage were constructed in 1941 of recycled brick from the Trenton pottery where Carl worked. They followed the custom of the time and landscaped the property around their home with exotic trees like the redwood near the patio. Lucy, widowed, enjoyed the neighborhood children, let them

cut through her 9 acres, and taught them about birds. After she died at 95, the township added her property to the Drexel Woods.

The building and garage and meadow are at the beginning of a transformation into a nature center, when it will house educational displays, provide space and materials for local school nature programs and meeting space for nature study groups.



PLANTS

garlic mustard
onion grass
Jack-in-the-pulpit
thistle
spring beauty
lily-of-the-valley
dog-toothed-violet
jewelweed
tree clubmoss
Wild Lily of the Valley
grape-hyacinth
daffodil
star-of-bethlehem
mayapple
dwarf cinquefoil
small-flowered crowfoot

goldenrod
common chickweed
skunk-cabbage
common dandelion
periwinkle
violets
yellow violet
poverty grass
fern
moss
agave
Japanese barberry
gray dogwood
dogwood
Morrow's bush honeysuckle
rhododendron
azalea
multiflora rose
arrowwood
Norway maple
box elder
red maple
tree-of-heaven
American hornbeam
shagbark hickory
possible persimmon
Russian olive
winged euonymous
American beech
white ash
American holly
eastern red cedar
spicebush
sweet gum
tulip poplar
eastern hop-hornbeam
Norway spruce
eastern white pine
sycamore
black cherry
choke cherry
white oak
black oak
pin oak
red oak
sassafras
Eastern hemlock
slippery elm
Japanese maple
magnolia tree
douglas fir
Asiatic bittersweet
running strawberry-bush
Japanese honeysuckle
Virginia creeper
poison ivy
raspberry
blackberry
greenbrier
grape
frost grape
ivy

BIRDS

Observed at Drexel Woods/
Lawrence Nature Center

American crow
American goldfinch
American redstart
American robin
bald eagle*
belted kingfisher
black-capped chickadee
black & white warbler
blue jay
blue-gray gnatcatcher
brown creeper
brown thrasher
brown-headed cowbird
Canada goose
catbird
common grackle
common yellowthroat
Cooper's hawk
dark-eyed junco
downy woodpecker
Eastern towhee
European starling
great crested flycatcher
great egret*
great horned owl
house sparrow
house wren
dark-eyed junco
mallard
mourning dove
northern cardinal
northern common flicker



Great Horned Owl

northern oriole
ovenbird
prairie warbler
red-bellied woodpecker
red-shouldered hawk
red-tailed hawk
rock dove (pigeon)
scarlet tanager
tufted titmouse
turkey vulture
white-breasted nuthatch
white-throated sparrow
wild turkey
wood thrush
yellow warbler
yellow-rumped warbler

* = flyover

Lawrence Township, the Lawrence Nature Center Friends and local community and educational groups are working to make Drexel Woods an example of public and private stewardship offering environmental education and public access to the community. For more information, contact:

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L A W R E N C E
N A T U R E C E N T E R

Drexel Woods
TRAIL MAP
&
HISTORY
Plants & Birds