

# 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.

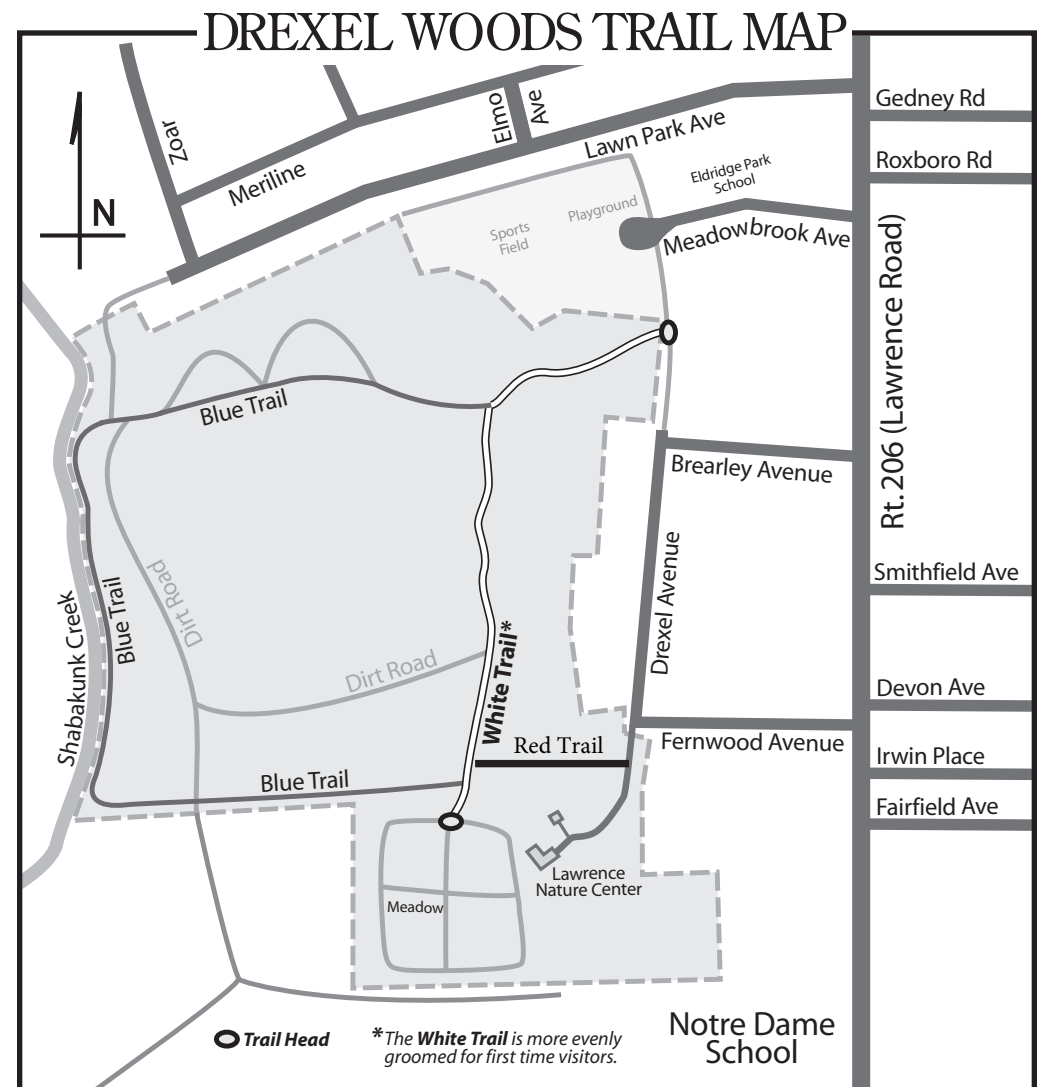
Giant beech trees toppled from old age make open spaces for hornbeam, the musclewood tree. You can get to hear the sound of woodthrushes, phoebes and ovenbird. The creek runs over gravel shoals and undermines banks of clay and is constantly rearranging the elements of this watershed.

## 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