

Trail Interpretive Sites

1 Bird Watchers' Paradise

Stop, look and listen! More than 33 species of nesting birds live in Laurier Woods (and many migratory birds stop over) right here within the limits of the City of North Bay. How many songs do you hear? How many birds can you spot?

2 Wetlands are Wonderful

With characteristics of both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, wetlands are the most biologically diverse of all ecosystems! Acting like giant sponges, these wetlands soak up rain and snow which helps reduce flooding in North Bay. They aid in erosion control, store excess water, replenish groundwater supplies and help filter polluted waters before releasing the water into the watershed.

3 The Beaver - An Ecosystem Engineer

In one year, a beaver family can consume 1 acre of poplar trees and as a result change the structure of a forest and the diversity of its tree species. As food becomes scarce the beavers will abandon this pond and it will become a meadow. It will then need a disturbance that will allow poplar, willow and birch to re-establish to get the beaver back.



4 Forest Zones

Start by looking up!

- Canopy:** home to hawks and owls - formed by the upper branches of trees up to 30 metres.
- Understory:** home to birds and insects - 10 to 15 metres high.
- Herb and shrub layers:** herbaceous plants, shrubs, tree seedlings, ferns, flying insects, mice, porcupine, raccoons and skunks.
- Forest floor:** decay and leaf litter support mushrooms, chipmunks, insects, amphibians and earthworms.



Laurier Woods Conservation Area Interpretive Trails Map



Laurier Woods Conservation Area Story

Located in the heart of the City of North Bay, the 250 acre Laurier Woods Conservation Area encompasses a provincially significant wetland, rocky outcrops and upland forest, and is a sanctuary to a broad range of wetland and woodland creatures, including migrating birds.

A 6 kilometre trail network spans the site offering excellent opportunities for hiking and wildlife observations. There is much to appreciate in Laurier Woods - some of which is featured at interpretive sites along the trail. Stop at the dipping platform on the beaver pond to catch a glimpse of the wetland birds and aquatic life. Have a seat at the Haist Lookout for a bird's eye view.



The **Friends of Laurier Woods** was established in 1989 as a non-profit, charitable organization committed to preserving the ecological integrity of the woods, enabling it to last as a legacy for future generations. Together with other organizations and agencies, the Friends of Laurier Woods spearheaded a campaign to save the area from urban encroachment. A Management Plan approved in 2004 identifies conservation, land-use planning, tourism, recreation, education and scientific research as key objectives. In 2006, the first 34 hectares was transferred to the Friends of Laurier Woods and the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority in joint ownership, and since then Laurier Woods is managed and maintained in partnership.

Laurier Woods is protected under the **Conservation Areas Regulation 125, R.R.O. 1990**. Visitors to Laurier Woods are encouraged to tread lightly and share wildlife observations on the entrance billboard.



To protect wildlife and show consideration for all users, **dogs are to be leashed and under control at all times.**



Become a member! Your support helps us maintain Laurier Woods Conservation Area. Funds raised are used to repair trails, boardwalks and replace signs. Your support as an annual member, a donor, and/or a volunteer makes a difference!

Yes! I support Friends of Laurier Woods.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Membership

Enclosed is my \$20 annual membership

Volunteering

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities

I am interested in serving as a Board Director

Donation

Enclosed is a cheque for

\$20 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

Please make cheques payable to Friends of Laurier Woods.

Receipts will be provided for donations over \$20.

Mail to: Friends of Laurier Woods

c/o North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority

15 Janey Ave., North Bay, ON P1C 1N1

Thank You!

For more information and details of events

sponsored by the **Friends**,

visit www.laurierwoods.com

Charitable #: 89406 5861 RR 0001

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5 Cavity Trees

Tree cavities are used by 25% of all wild vertebrate species that live in our region. It's a place for nesting, raising young, storing food and hibernation. Cavities created by decay or broken branches invite Saw-Whet and Barred Owls, White-breasted Nuthatches, Deer mice, Martens, Fishers, Raccoons, Porcupines and Weasels. Woodpeckers, Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches like to make their own cavities in these trees.



6 White and Red Pine

In early 1900's, Red and White Pine were exported to Britain to meet their high demand for square timber. Today, the White Pine has new fame as the official tree of Ontario. The difference between the two species can be found in their bark, needles and cones. Red Pine: reddish bark, 10 to 15 cm long needles bundled in two, smooth egg-shaped cone 5 cm long. White Pine: grey bark that darkens as it ages, 5 to 10 cm soft needles bundled in five, long slender cones 8 to 25 cm long.

7 Hydrology

Water flows into Laurier Woods from two subwatersheds: Parks Creek and Chippewa Creek. Parks Creek's headwaters originate from Circle Lake, flowing through Laurier Woods and the City, eventually reaching Lake Nipissing, drawing from an area of approximately 16 km². Chippewa Creek originates above the escarpment, flows into Lake Nipissing at Amelia Beach and drains approximately 40 km² of surrounding land.

8 Coniferous Tree Stand

A group of trees of different species with similar characteristics - like the coniferous trees you see here - but distinctly different from surrounding trees is called a "tree stand". The thick mat of pine needles creates an acidic soil. The acidity, together with the lack of sunlight reaching the forest floor, limits the type and diversity of plant species.

9 Forest Succession

The composition of trees changes over time based on the reproductive and growth adaptations of different tree species. Fast growing trees such as poplar that have wind dispersed seed usually establish in open areas. Insects like the forest tent caterpillar and diseases (and beavers) will preferentially eat and kill some of the poplar allowing spruce, pine and maple to become more dominant.



10 Up-rooted Trees

Trees that grow on the thin layer of soil that covers bedrock develop a horizontal root system that is shallow and prone to uprooting during heavy wind storms. A tree's stability in a storm is also affected by the strength of its wood, shape of the bole (trunk), and shape and size of the crown. Trees in sandy soils are more deeply rooted and more stable than those in clay layer or high water table.

11 Glacial Erratic

This large rock was carried by glacial ice, and could quite possibly have been carried hundreds of kilometres before resting here. Larger erratics are formed when glaciers crack pieces of bedrock off in a process called "plucking". Smaller erratics are formed when the rock is scraped in a process similar to sanding a piece of wood. They are important as they mark the path of a moving glacier.

12 Ottawa River Shipping Canal

Did you know that in the early 1900's there were plans to build a shipping canal along the Ottawa/Mattawa/French rivers? It would have crossed at this point along Jennings Lake. The survey drawings can be found at the North Bay Public Library.

Please help by reporting any incident of vandalism to the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority at 705-474-5420



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