

# Whitman Woods Project

A S A N C T U A R Y   A T   L A U R E L   L A K E

Come Together @ "Whitman Woods"  
Sunday September 10, 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Guided Nature Walks | Show & Tell | Refreshments

**LAUREL SPRINGS, New Jersey** — "Whitman Woods" Project organizers are inviting Open Space proponents to "come together" on Sunday, September 10, to savor Indian Summer in this wooded, lakefront oasis. Visitors can explore the aspirational "Whitman Woods" site, join the conservation journey, network and strategize, or simply relax and commune with nature in the old growth, cathedral-like setting.

A large-scale preliminary Site Plan Map will be displayed to illustrate the passive park's potential; the drawing was ideated and realized thanks to the advisory efforts of Surveyor Jack Donovan, Environmental Consultant Joseph Arsenault and Landscape Architect Amy Cieslewicz (the latter of Taylor Design Group).

Naturalist and lifelong Laurel Springs resident Lloyd Shaw will lead complimentary Bird & Nature walks at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. In addition to his Whitman Woods Project advisory role, Shaw is a highly regarded South Jersey field guide who is an associate naturalist with Cape May Bird Observatory and New Jersey Audubon Society. The amateur ornithologist and botanist has documented rare and endangered flora and fauna at the 3.75-acre lakefront site for decades, and is a strong proponent of preserving the woods and glen in perpetuity. Shaw's bookend morning and afternoon walks will acquaint folks with the site's inherent and unique merits, and provide options for busy Sunday schedules. Indeed, before or after the Eagles' 1 o'clock kickoff, fans can visit the woods and scout for *actual* American Bald Eagles that frequently forage and fish at the site.

Raising awareness, funds and engagement on the 10<sup>th</sup> will enable Chadds Ford-based **North American Land Trust** — the intended "Whitman Woods" steward — to establish this "sanctuary at Laurel Lake" in honor of Walt Whitman, whose legendary poetry was profoundly influenced by his encounters with nature along the lakeshore here in the late 1800s. (Visit [whitmanwoods.org](http://whitmanwoods.org) for project details.)

Attendees are encouraged to wear long pants and closed shoes, and consider bringing a camp chair. Cold refreshments are "on Walt."

Aspirational "Whitman Woods" lies at the lake terminus of Glen and Beech avenues. Google 720 Glen Avenue, Laurel Springs, NJ 08021.