

1. Knippenberg Center for Education and Educational Greenhouse

The Knippenberg Center provides space for educational programs, exhibits and community activities, a staff resource library and handicapped-accessible restrooms. Funding was provided by the Passaic County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Trust, the Wayne Township Open Space Fund and Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum. All the furniture, rugs and electronic equipment were donated by local supporters. The adjacent Educational Greenhouse complements the site, offering opportunities for hands-on programs and activities.

2. Wetlands Garden Located between the Pines Lake Drive West parking lot entrance and exit, the Wetlands Garden is an area in which water pools on the surface after heavy or prolonged rains. Plants that do well in this habitat and that are grown here include river birch, dappled willow, maiden grass, pennisetum and leucothoe. A wooden walkway extends into the area, for viewing both the garden and a plaque identifying the plants. The garden and walkway were generously donated by Pines Lake resident James Veale and family.

3. Native Plant Demonstration Garden The area in front of the Knippenberg Center offers an environmentally sustainable landscape and opportunities for native plant education. Funding for the garden was provided by the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust and the Ira A. Roschelle, MD Family Foundation.

4. Sensory Garden As the name implies, this is a garden of colorful blooms, interesting textures, restful sounds and fragrant blossoms for the senses of sight, touch, hearing, taste and smell. This space can be negotiated by wheelchairs, and raised flower beds permit easier access by handicapped visitors. Gardens are renewed each year by the horticultural staff and volunteers. The Lions Club of Wayne initiated a revised layout on the original site of a braille trail created by Dorothy Knippenberg and a local girl scout. Funding was provided by the Passaic County Board of Freeholders, the Lions Club of Wayne and Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum.

5. Summer Garden This colorful garden features an Adirondack-style bench designed by David Robinson. Funding was provided by a close friend of Dorothy Knippenberg.

5a. Propagation Greenhouse Our new greenhouse is on the site of the original rhododendron propagation greenhouse. It will be used to propagate rhododendrons and other valued plants and will serve as the working greenhouse for Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum volunteers to grow plants for plant sales and display gardens.

6. Laurel Pond One of the first construction projects in the arboretum, it is an expansion of an existing stream that helps to manage drainage and occasional seasonal high water. It is the primary irrigation source for the gardens and features two fountains.

7. Azalea Way This is a spectacular path especially in mid-May when azaleas, hybridized by Joseph Gable of Pennsylvania, are in full bloom. Among the hybrids are 'Herbert', 'Stewartonian', 'Rose Greeley' and on the right side, the newest addition, 'Laurelwood Sunset', bred by Dr. Al Fitzburgh. At the bend, on the uphill side, are a cluster of R. 'Windbeam', small-leaf rhododendrons hybridized by Guy Nearing, a gifted botanist who hybridized hardy and dwarf rhododendrons in New Jersey.

8. Knippenberg Memorial Gazebo This feature was constructed on the site where Dorothy and her volunteers would sit on a ring of tree stumps after a long work session. Overlooking the pond, the gazebo was created by David Robinson using wood of the osage orange and red cedar. Funds were provided by a close friend of Dorothy Knippenberg.

9. Brook Road This path meanders alongside the brook and passes several bridges built by Boy Scouts. See if you can spot the "Fairy Tree" and the "Bridge to Nowhere." Notice the tall white oaks, magnolias, river birch and a magnificent climbing hydrangea reaching high into the upper story of an ash tree.

10. Dorothy's Way This 500-ft path traverses the gentle slope parallel to Brook Road. It is believed that many of the plantings along its length were part of a Knippenberg hybrid trial area. Dorothy's award winning hybrid azaleodendron 'Carolina Rose' and R. 'Paul Vossberg', named by Dorothy, are located at the southerly end of Dorothy's Way. The rhododendrons usually bloom in late May. The memorial trail was constructed by volunteers of all ages and the wooden arbors at each end were Eagle Scout projects.

11. Lilac Walk Just before the South Rock Garden on the right is the entrance to a collection of lilacs with purple, blue, pink, white, yellow and bicolor blossoms. Full bloom usually occurs two weeks before and after Mother's Day. At the end of Lilac Walk is the "Back 40," an area left in its natural state where our mulch and compost are stored.

12. South Rock Garden One of Dorothy's favorites, this garden was maintained for many years by the Passaic County Master Gardener volunteers. Members of the North American Rock Garden Society initiated a restoration of this Garden, which is now being continued by Laurelwood Arboretum volunteers and staff. The garden also features a bridge built by an Eagle Scout.

13. Dawn Redwood Glade The Dawn Redwood is an unusual tree once known only from fossils but then discovered in China in 1947. It is one of the few deciduous, cone-bearing trees. Bright green needles turn brick red before shedding in autumn. This specimen was gifted to the Knippenbergs and was one of the first planted in the US.

14. Ridge Road This path offers unique views of the arboretum and features rare collections of hybrid rhododendrons and tall Eastern Hemlocks, remnants of old growth ravine forests that have existed since the last ice age.

15. Eastern Hemlock Laurelwood has one of the last remaining hemlock groves in the area.

16. 'Edith Bogue' Southern Magnolia At the corner of Ridge Road and Long Valley Road is a beautiful specimen featuring long, broad, glossy leaves. It is the hardest of the southern magnolias. It has 4" fragrant white flowers in July and is followed by red fruit in September and dried pods throughout the winter. The original seedling of this tree was purchased in 1917 from a Florida nursery by Edith Bogue of Montclair, NJ.

17. Hybrid Rhododendron Collection A grove of Dexter Rhododendrons grows just past Long Valley Road on the right. Charles Dexter, a hybridizer from Cape Cod, created some of the most beautiful big-leaf rhododendrons. On the left side is a mix of large- and small-leaf rhododendrons.

18. Spring Garden Directly facing you at the intersection of Ridge Road, Fairway and Easy Way is a statuesque Kousa (Japanese) dogwood. It is a deciduous tree native to eastern Asia with extremely showy flowers in late spring. Bulbs at its base are in bloom from April to May.

19. Easy Way Named for its slope, which is more gradual than Home Hill, Easy Way takes you back toward the Knippenberg Center. The hillside is covered with white foxglove in early summer because, loyal to Dorothy's wishes, staff and volunteers remove the errant pink ones that occasionally appear.

Self-Guided Tour and Map

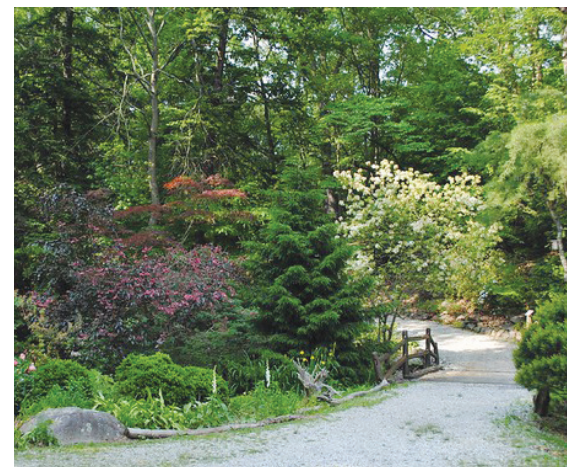


Photo by Lorraine Meyer

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