



Sanctuary at a Glance:

Location: Lenawee County

Size: 24 acres

History: MNA purchased the Frances Broehl Memorial No. 1 Nature Sanctuary in 1988.

About MNA:

The Michigan Nature Association is a nonprofit conservation organization working to protect Michigan's rare, threatened and endangered species by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

Established in 1952, MNA's members, donors, and volunteers have built a remarkable network of more than 170 nature sanctuaries across the state - the largest network of natural areas established and maintained by a nonprofit conservation organization in Michigan.



Michigan Nature Association

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Photo: Christina Witt

Located in Lenawee County, Frances Broehl Memorial No. 1 Nature Sanctuary was named for Myrtle Frances Broehl, a generous MNA benefactor who left a bequest in her will which helped purchase two sanctuaries in Lenawee County.

The area was once called Hostetler's Woods, after the former landowner Don Hostetler, who was an early MNA member, chemist, amateur naturalist, and the host of an outdoor radio program.

Broehl Memorial No. 1 is located in the Irish Hills, which were formed of gravel and glacial till deposited in moraines during the last ice age. The unusual glacial history of the Irish Hills is one reason that the area is home to a diverse array of natural communities.

The Forest at Broehl Memorial No. 1

The majority of Frances Broehl Memorial No. 1 is forested, with a small two-to-three-acre wetland in the southeastern corner of the sanctuary. The forest is primarily composed of oak-hickory with young beech and maple trees in the understory, indicating that the area is transitioning to a climax beech-maple forest.

Broehl Memorial No. 1 is also home to yellow birch trees, butternut and a modest collection of wildflowers. Wolf Creek flows through the sanctuary and different species of trillium grow abundantly during the spring.

The Threat of Invasive Species

The invasive plant garlic mustard is a threat to Frances Broehl Memorial No. 1 and is most prevalent along the boundaries, where it is trying to invade from neighboring properties. Volunteers have been pulling garlic mustard at the sanctuary for many years, in hopes that their efforts will minimize the species' presence and preserve the sanctuary's wildflower diversity.

A very few scattered woody invasives including autumn olive, multiflora rose and bush honey suckle have been observed and are pulled when they are encountered.

With the help of volunteers, MNA hopes to maintain the forest community, ensure the integrity of the water quality of Wolf Creek and keep invasive species populations from having a negative impact on the diversity of the sanctuary.

If you'd like to get involved on a volunteer basis or learn more about this nature sanctuary, contact the Michigan Nature Association at (866) 223-2231.

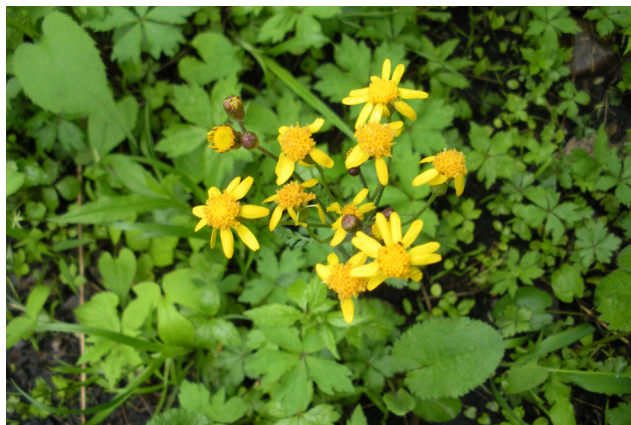


Photo: Christina Witt



Photo: Sherman Schultz

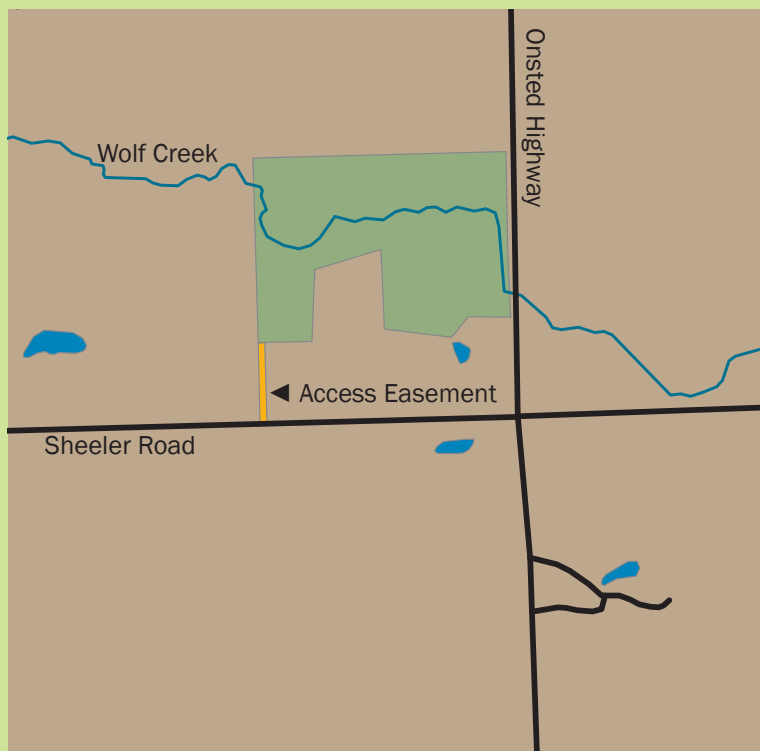
Planning Your Visit:

The stream in the sanctuary leads down to a marsh at the woods edge near Onsted Highway. The marsh is home to tamarack, yellowthroat and mink.

Visitors can access the sanctuary via a walking easement, which is marked with white diamonds. There are no trails, so visitors should come with a map and compass.

How to Get There:

From the intersection of US-12 and M-50, head east on M-50 to Onsted Highway. Turn south on Onsted Highway to Sheeler Road. Park on Sheeler Road near the intersection of Onsted Highway.



Sanctuary Map