

Geography 127: Physical Systems of the Environment Laboratory

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Accomplishments in 2005

Over the course of the semester the teaching assistants held three separate exercises in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. A total of ~100 students were enrolled in the course, however, laboratory sections consisted of smaller groups of ~15 students that traveled to the Preserve. The three exercises included:

- **Microclimate Studies** – students took several temperature and slope steepness measurements at a variety of locations in the Preserve and near the Eagle Heights community gardens. The collected data was analyzed and interpretations about microclimate variability were discussed.
- **Soils** – students visited three already established soil pits in the Preserve. Various soil description techniques were carried out at each location.
- **Vegetation** – students hiked around the Preserve to various sites on already established paths. Discussions focused on current vegetation conditions and pre-European settlement conditions.