

Natural Area Preservation News

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Autumn 1997

The mission of the Natural Area Preservation Division is to protect, restore and champion the natural areas of Ann Arbor, especially those in the City's park and recreation system.

Natural Area Preservation is funded by the Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Department's voter-approved 1993-1998 Park Maintenance and Repair Millage.

Four Years of NAP - A Progress Report

by Dave Borneman

This November marks the 4th anniversary of Natural Area Preservation (NAP). It is also the month that Ann Arbor voters will decide whether or not to continue funding NAP through the Park Maintenance and Repair Millage. Because of this, it seemed to us that this edition of *NAP News* should be dedicated to two topics: a bit of reflection on our accomplishments and growth since our inception four years ago, and a look ahead at what NAP is proposing for the future. This article summarizes our major accomplishments.

Natural Features Inventory

- Documented the occurrence of 1,000 species of plants (including 12 listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern in Michigan) in 92 parks and natural areas in Ann Arbor.
- Documented the existence of 65 species of butterflies (one Special Concern) at 17 sites - probably the 1st such effort in any city in the U.S.!
- Documented the presence of 90 species of birds nesting at 30 sites - the 2nd known citywide inventory in the U.S.!
- Surveyed 142 wetlands to record populations of eight frog and toad, 7 salamander, 5 turtle, and 6 snake species documented this year.

Stewardship Activities

- Launched an aggressive campaign to restore native ecosystems by controlling invasive species in 28 of the City's highest quality natural areas.
- By removing these invasive shrubs, also increased visibility and safety along trails.
- Conducted 46 prescribed ecological burns on 318-acres and overcame the legal obstacles to using this valuable restoration tool in Michigan urban areas.
- Coordinated an 18-month water quality study in First and Second Sister Lakes.
- Coordinated an in-depth analysis of the Black Pond Woods ecosystems to better plan their management and to use as a model for monitoring other natural areas.
- Worked closely with the Huron River Watershed Council and other

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Parks & Recreation
CITY OF ANN ARBOR

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Coordinator's Corner: Ambassadors for Nature

I'm writing this at 35,000 feet, somewhere over South Dakota, on my way to the annual conference of the Natural Areas Association in Portland, Oregon. There I will give a presentation on "Prescribed Burning in an Urban Environment." Using our experiences in Ann Arbor as an example of what can be done by city governments and concerned citizens, I will describe how we care for the green spaces within our home community.

I will focus on our burn program, and brag about this spring's 20 burns on 200 acres. I will also touch on the volunteer workdays, the invasive species removal, the seed collecting, the trail work, and the other stewardship activities in which NAP is involved. And my colleagues in the environmental field will ask the same questions I get whenever I talk about NAP to people outside Ann Arbor: "Did you say you work for a City Parks Department?" "How did they get your program started?" "Where does the money come from?"

I'll hand out business cards to a few people who hang around after my talk or stop me in the hall later. The state and federal agency staff will file them away, but may pull them out the next time they want to "network" on some aspect of ecological stewardship. I'm more likely, however, to hear from the other city government employees and members of the public who are also part of the total conference attendance of five hundred. They'll say something like, "We really need this sort of thing in my city." They'll request copies of our newsletters, fact sheets, and other NAP and Department literature. Then, at some point in the future, they'll say to *their* city councils and park advisory commissions, "Look what Ann Arbor is doing..."

We sometimes take it for granted within the city limits of Ann Arbor, but we are actually *doing* the kind of environmental stewardship that most other communities across the country are only now beginning to *think* about doing. We are preserving our urban natural areas (at least those in the City parks). We're recognizing that forests, prairies, and wetlands *need* to be taken care of, just like golf courses, playgrounds, and softball diamonds.

So, on behalf of the entire NAP staff, let me thank you, the citizens of Ann Arbor, for giving us this opportunity to demonstrate what can be done at the local level, and for letting us be *ambassadors* to other communities.

Dave Borneman, Natural Area Preservation Coordinator

NAP-penings

Native Plants

The *Your Landscape and Our Natural Areas* brochure is being expanded. Four more brochures will soon be complete. These will provide information on featured native plants as well as planting information.

Burn Season

Plans are underway for the Fall '97 Prescribed Burn Season. The burns are planned to take place between mid-October and mid-November depending on the fall weather. There will be no volunteer training for this season, but any previously trained volunteers are welcome to participate. Please call 996-3266 to let us know if you are available.

Celebrate

Join us for the end-of-the-season volunteer thank-you and potluck. This year's party will be held at the Cobblestone Farm Center barn Thursday, November 20, 6 - 9 p.m. We urge all who have volunteered or supported the NAP program to join us. Great food, short speeches, and door prizes.

Garden

If you haven't been out to the NAP Native Plant garden yet this season take a peek. The garden is located at the Leslie Science Center Project Grow Gardens, behind the compost center. It looks wonderful because of the efforts of Rita Berberian, (volunteer) and Cara Rockwell (staff); Tyrone Vincent has also put in a lot of time. One volunteer work session got pathways laid and plantings in the ground - thanks to all who participated. We hope to have another work-session to put up fencing, sometime in October. (Deer and rabbits have found out just how wonderful native plants can be!)

Web Site

The city of Ann Arbor has a web site! The address is <http://www.ci.ann-arbor.mi.us> NAP has a "page" and our calendar is updated on the main park activity calendar. In the future NAP will also have the text of our current newsletter, fact sheets and the text of our native plants & landscaping brochures.

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Vote

The citywide election will be held November 4. There are two park millage proposals on the ballot. The first is a renewal and increase of the current Park Maintenance and Repair Millage, which expires on June 30, 1998. These millage funds are used to care for new parks, perform additional forestry work on our 40,000 street trees, make safety and code required improvements and repairs to Park buildings and equipment, and continue the work of the horticulture program and the **Natural Area Preservation program**. The millage renewal with the increase is set at .4725 mils. See page 7 for information about future plans for NAP.

The second proposal funds an expansion of the Leslie Science Center, an environmental education facility. The bond issue is funded through a .14 mil property tax for five years. The bond proposal allows for the construction of a new environmental learning center designed to demonstrate sustainability of resources through innovative and energy conserving features. See page 14 for more information about this proposal.

For more information about the millage proposals, please call 994-2780.



Surveyors' notes, as shown on page 10, lead Natural Area Preservation to the Foster section of Barton Park. Located approximately 1/2 mile west of the Barton Dam parking lot on Huron River Drive, this site would have been characterized quite differently 175 years after these early notes were scribbled in 1819. In 1994, a surveyor likely would have noted: "shrub thickets, primarily buckthorn and gray dogwood, blanketing the site. A large oak canopy, yet poor regeneration of oaks or hickories evident."

What happened in the interim? How could the site have had such a transition? This landscape was subjected to many alterations inflicted on sites throughout the city: fire suppression, spread of invasive non-native seed, an alteration of seasonal flooding, and the establishment of a railroad bed through its interior. These had taken a toll on the natural quality of the site.

Three short years later, this park area is one of the most beautiful natural sites within the City's park system. Due, in large part, to the stewardship of the Natural Area Preservation (NAP) division and our many volunteers. The narrow stretch of land tucked between the railroad tracks and the river is a beautiful mixture of habitat types, including oak savanna, mesic (or moist) woodland, and fen (a type of wetland). NAP's restoration work has enhanced as diverse an array of plants and animals as can be found anywhere in the City.

NAP's efforts here began with a volunteer workday on April 8, 1995, an effort to prepare the site for a prescribed burn that spring. Since then there have been two additional workdays and two more burns in the following springs. The savanna now boasts a profusion of woodland sunflowers (*Helianthus divaricatus*), prairie dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*), golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*), and culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*). The nature of the savanna has shifted from a site dominated by dense shrub thickets to an area open enough to loft a frisbee through from one end to the other.

NAP's involvement with the site actually began well before loppers were ever wielded. Staff first entered the site to conduct a complete plant inventory. We knew the area to be floristically rich based on the site's history. Rumors suggest that Foster was a 1930s study site for the renowned botanist Dr. Henry Gleason, joint author of the *Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada*. NAP's inventory efforts turned up 301 species, 228 of which are native - a strong showing for a 25-acre area. Building on the first year's efforts, follow-up inventories continued to add species to the list, and populations of existing species grew dramatically. The "ecological feedback" we receive from the site suggests that the combination of cutting and burning is a good one.

Foster has also served as a model of cooperation with Conrail that we have expanded to many other parks. Our relationship with the organization has enabled NAP to burn the entire area between the tracks and the river (Conrail's property actually extends approximately 50 feet beyond the rail).

Without the 1993 millage's passage, Foster would have continued to lose its biological richness. With our guidance, however, the old-time surveyors might not be so shocked by what they would find there today.

Want to see this park for yourself? Join the volunteer stewardship workday at Foster on October 1. See the calendar on page 9 for details.

Progress Reportcontinued from page 1

environmental organizations to improve the quality of the Huron River and its watershed.

Environmental Review

- Assisted with the assessment and acquisition of more than 100 acres of natural parkland: Arbor Hills, Bandemer, Bluffs, Brown addition, Leslie addition, and Northeast Area.
- Reviewed numerous park projects concerning trails, wetlands, woodlands, wildflower plantings, mowing, water quality, nuisance wildlife, and aesthetics.
- Assisted with the City's review of site plans (focusing on wetland and woodland issues).
- Helped revise city environmental protection ordinances , including (1) the new Natural Features Ordinance, and (2) the new Wetland Preservation Ordinance, which includes the City's *Invasive Species List*, the first of its kind in Michigan.

Education and Public Relations

- Educated the public about the value of natural areas through a 13-week newspaper series, a quarterly newsletter distributed to 600 people (this is our seventh issue), and the 110-page *Guide to the Natural Communities of the Huron River Corridor*.
- Published a Native Landscaping brochure and distributed more than 2,000 copies throughout southeast Michigan (and nationally as a model for other cities).
- Served on the Mountain Bike Task Force to help resolve conflicts between trail users in city parks.
- Provided national publicity to Ann Arbor's progressive Natural Area Preservation program through presentations at eight national, state, and regional conferences.
- Coordinated 112 stewardship workdays for 1,775 volunteers in 28 parks throughout Ann Arbor.

If we just look at the numbers, here's what we find:

Annual Statistics by Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30)						
MEASUREMENT	93/94	94/95	95/96	96/97	97/98*	5-yr total*
# of Volunteers in Inventory Projects	70	95	60	70	75	*370
Est. # of Volunteer hours spent on inventory	350	475	300	350	375	1,850
# of Volunteer Restoration Workdays	5	17	25	30	35	112
# of Volunteers in Restoration (~ = approx.)	~30	~180	340	525	700	1,775
# of Volunteer hours spent on restoration	110	749	948	1,100	1,150	4,057
# of Parks Worked In	5	20	23	26	28	28
# of acres being actively restored	2	45	49	55	60	*211
# of prescribed burns	2	5	17	20	20	66
# of acres burned	6	17	95	200	200	*518
# of Temporary Staff Work Hours	1,941	7,875	11,000	11,000	11,000	42,816

*The 97/98 numbers are estimates based on information collected so far this year. The 5-year total is a sum of previous years and may have some duplication from year to year.

Unique Environmental Center for the Community

by Kirsten Levinsohn & Cheryl Saam

Editor's Note: A bond will be proposed on the November ballot to fund construction for a new building for the Leslie Science Center (LSC) programs. Natural Area Preservation (NAP) and LSC currently share space at the "homestead" building (1831 Traver). Below is an explanation from LSC staff about the new building and its requested funding.

The Leslie Science Center has become a significant and extremely popular environmental learning center for youth and their families in the Ann Arbor community. In eight years of programming, annual attendance has increased dramatically from 174 to 17,000. Programs are offered in the mornings, afternoons, and evenings seven days a week. This year, more than 660 programs are being offered, including 31 one-week day camps.

This incredible success is not without its problems. The Center has far outgrown its existing space in the homestead living room and a converted garage. The tent that offered protection from rain and sun is completely worn out. We need to expand our facilities, and we would like to do so in an earth-friendly way.

To better meet the needs of the community, the City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Department has contracted with two architects to design a building that will provide urgently needed

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space and become a teaching tool in and of itself. The proposed building will demonstrate sustainable resources through innovative and energy-sustaining features, such as wind power, photovoltaics, a sod roof, and a water purification system.

The total cost of this proposed environmental education center will be \$2,400,000. LSC has already received a \$500,000 grant from the State of Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund; this will be matched by \$200,000 from the Francis Baker Wright and Eugene H. Leslie Trust Funds.

The LSC staff and Park Advisory Commission have recommended placing a bond issue to fund the expansion of the environmental education facilities on the November 1997 ballot at a level of .14 mils for five years, raising the balance of the building costs. This would cost the owner of an average-price home (\$143,000) just \$10 a year. The Center is continuing to seek additional fund-raising opportunities, such as donations, memberships, and corporate sponsors.

The Leslie Science Center receives no General Fund money; that is, it has been operating for the past eight years without any City tax funds. After the construction of the new building, the center will continue to be self-supporting, and operating costs will continue to come from revenues generated from programs.

The Parks and Recreation Department staff are confident that this unique building will enable the Leslie Science Center to meet existing and future needs in educating youth in environmental education.

For more information about the Leslie Science Center, please call the Leslie Science Center staff at 662-7802. A public meeting concerning the proposed expansion and new construction will be held September 24, 6 - 8:30 pm at the Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. Please call the number above for more information.

Butterfly Census

by David Cappaert, Inventory Staff

Butterflies have a lot to say about the parks where they are found. Monarchs in July tell us that there is a continuous supply of milkweed between here and Mexico, where the butterflies' grandparents began their migration. A furtive orange-and-black Harvester tells us that there are woolly aphids nearby; these are the prey of the caterpillar. An Eyed Brown or Baltimore tells us that we are near a wet prairie, where these species' host plants grow. And in Ann Arbor, a Mulberry Wing Skipper tells us that we are in Dhu Varren Park, the only location where this tiny wetland species has been seen.

Butterflies are perhaps the most valued insects that perform vital ecological services in Ann Arbor's parks. And when many species are present, they tell us of the thousands of other insect species that pollinate plants, process nutrients, and control (and sometimes promote) weeds and pests.

As part of our effort to restore and preserve 1,000 acres of Ann Arbor park natural areas, NAP counts species of butterflies as well as plants, breeding birds, amphibians and reptiles. We learn which species are present, where and when they occur, and how populations change over time. We can then design management strategies (such as exotic species removal or prescribed ecological burns) that maintain habitats and preserve diversity. Equally important, the surveys can provide a starting point for naturalists who find pleasure in the delicate complexity of nature.



In nearly 500 hours of observation over three years, the butterfly census has found that:

- Ann Arbor's parks host at least 65 species of butterflies. A one-day count on July 12, 1997 found 39 species. (Washtenaw County has 117 species; more than 700 species are found in the U.S.)
- Six species account for 70% of the observations: The European Skipper, Little Wood Satyr, Cabbage White, Clouded Sulphur, Wood Nymph and Pearl Crescent.
- Sixteen species were very rare, seen less than five times. The rarest are Compton's Tortiseshell and the Long Dash, which were each seen only once (Marshall Park).
- Several species have very limited distributions in Ann Arbor. For instance, Silvery Checkerspots are generally seen only (and abundantly) at Marshall Park; Mulberry Wing Skippers and Great Lakes Sedge Skippers are concentrated in Dhu Varren Park.
- The local natural areas with the most variety include: Furstenberg and Parker Mill (each with 35 species); Marshall, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, and the Ann Arbor Public Schools North Maple site (each with 34 species); Pioneer/Greenview, Dhu Varren, and Barton also had high variety.

If you can identify the local species, or would like to learn butterfly identification, you can participate in the census. Contact NAP at 996-3266.

Botanical Blips by Bev Walters, Inventory Staff

It's been a very productive season so far. Changes in the areas that have undergone prescribed burning are especially interesting, and many native species are responding well.



blue-eyed
grass

This was especially evident when I visited Swift Run Drain this spring and saw numerous pale flowers of blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium albidum*) peeking out from beneath the umbels of golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*).

The glossy fronds of ebony spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*), a low-growing upland fern, have become more frequent at the Marshall and Ruthven Nature Areas and made a new appearance on a dry slope at Huron Parkway Nature Area. As I walk through many burned prairie areas now, I'm more often met with the strong but pleasant fragrance of mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*) wafting up as I brush past its leaves. It's soft white flowers will later join the blaze of orange already being produced by butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). At Barton, the few stray plants of showy goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*) have dramatically increased their population and promise to explode into a sea of golden waves this fall. Although not frequent in the parks, the purple pom-pom flowers of ironweed (*Vernonia missurica*) should also be more evident this fall. Visually appealing, but less huggable, both pasture thistle (*Cirsium discolor*) and pasture rose (*Rosa carolina*) seem to have benefited from the burns in many open locations. In wooded areas, Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*) and pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*), are showing up in new areas; we'll have to wait until next spring to see the effects on the spring woodland wildflowers.

NAP staff David Mindell and Greg Vaclavek came across a fall blooming species, new to our inventory. Upland boneset (*Eupatorium sessilifolium*), a species listed as threatened and known only in the area from historical records, had been hiding under a tangle of honeysuckle beaten back by the blazes this spring. This rare population now has a better chance at survival. Good work David and Greg!

The number of species in our inventory continues to climb and to my pleasant surprise the additions are not all weeds. Relocating a bog area at Dolph Park, which was known from previous records, yielded a nice array of new plants: Poison sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*), leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*), marsh cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*) and rattlesnake grass (*Glyceria canadensis*). As the 1997 field season ends, I will assess what new things have been found and tally our total number of species -- more on this in the next newsletter!

Funding NAP by David Borneman

When the 1993-1998 Park Maintenance and Repair Millage proposal was presented to voters before the April 5, 1993, election, the funds generated by the millage were allocated to three main categories: "Natural Area Preservation and Care for New Parks" (40.8%), "Deferred Maintenance and Repairs" (38.4%), and "Americans with Disabilities Act, Safety, and Code Compliance" (20.8%). Looking at the slice of pie allocated to "Natural Area Preservation and Care for New Parks," it is split between Forestry, Horticulture, Park Maintenance, and NAP. The result is that about 15% of the total millage has been allocated to NAP. During the five years of the millage, this percentage has generated annual revenues of \$140,000 to \$175,000.

In the first fiscal year, however, with NAP still in the start up phase and no staff even on board until November 15, 1993, most of the funds earmarked for NAP were unspent and put back into the fund balance. During the final three years of the millage, we have used those unspent funds to bring our annual budget up to \$200,000. This funding has allowed for the growth of NAP and the expansion of our programs and services.

With the end of the millage, however, comes the end of the fund balance. And, now that we are no longer in a start-up phase, we either need to increase our annual revenue or cut back on our staff and programs. That's one reason that the department is proposing an increase of the millage rate from .3654 to .4725.

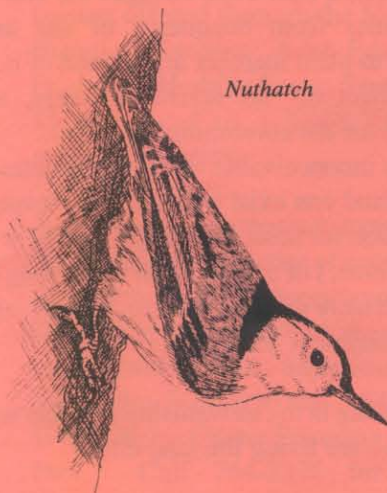
Another reason is the need to create an additional permanent staff position in NAP. You may be surprised to learn that of all the staff working for NAP (15 currently), only Dave Borneman (the NAP Coordinator) has a "permanent" position with benefits. That was fine when Dave was the only staff member and NAP's programs and responsibilities were much smaller. But then we started doing inventories, and volunteer workdays, and prescribed burns, and invasive species removals, and erosion control, and tackling a variety of other environmental issues.

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Dave's time is now spent supervising staff, setting the long-range direction for NAP, budgeting, reviewing site plans, serving as a liaison to the rest of the department and other departments, and dealing with other administrative issues. He still serves as Burn Boss during our prescribed burns, and he tries to stay involved in day-to-day stewardship activities.

There is a need for other responsibilities to be undertaken by a staff member who is "permanent" and has a long-term perspective and knowledge of the parks. Although some wish we would make all of the NAP staff positions permanent, we are only proposing the addition of one permanent staff: an Ecological Stewardship Coordinator. This person's position would be similar to that currently filled by David Mindell, but would be expanded to include the following responsibilities: (1) Developing written management plans for all park natural areas where restoration work is needed (50-60 sites); (2) Developing written burn plans for all burn units (30-40 sites); (3) Serving as Burn Boss when needed; (4) Supervising the seasonal field crew and establishing their long-range management priorities.

This is the future we are proposing for NAP!



Nuthatch

If voters approve the Parks and Recreation Department's millage proposal at the ballot box on November 4, that will assure another five years of funding for NAP. What would we be doing during those five years? Here's a summary of what we are proposing:

- Ongoing inventory and management of all park natural areas:
 - conducting prescribed ecological burns
 - removing invasive species
 - updating plant and animal inventories
 - collecting and propagating native seeds and plants for use in restoration
 - writing comprehensive management plans for each site, including natural areas within developed parks
 - monitoring changes in natural areas due to stewardship activities, encroachment by invasive species, and over-grazing by deer
 - developing a ranking system to assess natural quality of wetlands, wildlife habitat, and parks in general.
- Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping of NAP activities and sites, as well as mapping critical linkages with nearby natural areas.
- Developing additional interpretive materials such as:
 - A sequel to the *Huron River Corridor* guide
 - Signs and brochures for various natural areas
 - Quarterly Newsletter (continuation)
 - Fact Sheet series on specific topics or species
- Expanding NAP's volunteer program through:
 - Increasing number of Volunteer Stewardship Workdays.
 - Developing a Volunteer Steward Program, in which trained individuals assist with community outreach and "adopt" a natural area where they assist with coordinating management activities.

We are also proposing that NAP collaborate with other divisions of the Parks and Recreation Department, as well as other City Departments, on the following projects:

- Develop city staff outreach programs to teach educators (Leslie Science Center staff and Park Rangers) and sensitize others (mowers, tree trimmers, Building and Planning Department staff) about our natural areas.
- Re-naturalize turf areas (e.g., Huron Parkway Blvd.) - potential for eventually lowering maintenance costs.
- Re-naturalize out-of-play areas of the golf courses - potential for eventually lowering maintenance costs.
- Broaden existing open space plan to more comprehensively address natural area preservation (including a Geographic Information System, or GIS) - work with surrounding townships to do the same thing for the greater Ann Arbor area.
- Assist with the development of new ordinances to protect natural features and the resulting increased involvement in site plan review.
- Continue restoration projects with Ann Arbor Public Schools (e.g., Project KEEP at Briarwood Mall, where we have helped middle school students re-create an oak savanna).
- With Forestry Division staff, develop policies regarding hazardous trees in natural areas.
- With Conrail, develop and implement ecological management plans for railroad right-of-ways near park natural areas.
- Undertake various water quality improvement projects (e.g., Sister Lakes, South Pond, and Mallett's Creek).

Volunteers with Natural Area Preservation

by Catriona Mortell

Occasionally, it is fortunate that I am the compiler of this newsletter. I get a chance to review what everyone else has submitted, and I have a bit of time to contemplate it all. My portion is to report on the volunteer activities over the last four years and I'll do that and provide an outline of what can happen in future years. The NAP Division operates very differently than other divisions in the Parks and Recreation Department because volunteers are such a big part of what we do - only a few other park programs utilize volunteers as much.

But I also wanted to touch upon why the volunteer program plays such an important role in NAP. There are two reasons, the first being that we can get more accomplished.

The task at hand is a large one - we have 1,000 acres to cover and much restoration is needed. More acres can undergo active restoration, stewardship, and monitoring with the aid of volunteer time and effort.



The other part is a bit more philosophic but just as practical. The work NAP does is within natural communities. These communities have undergone tremendous changes in a short period of time, directly or indirectly as a result of humans. These areas will always have humans as part of the community. We can positively affect the natural community and make amends for those accelerated changes through ecological stewardship. Through involving the human community in restoration and stewardship, we can reconnect to the natural community and realize the positive influence we humans have on it.

So it began, on a cold January day, "Superbowl Sunday '94," with the first volunteer stewardship workday in Bird Hills Park. In the spring of '94 the first inventory got underway with overwhelming volunteer support seeking out plant species in the parks. The program grew with more workdays, inventories and prescribed burns. Numbers of volunteers have increased as have our projects: about 100 volunteers our first year, 275 the next, then 400, and about 600 so far this year.

As we continue, the hope is that volunteers will become more involved as stewards for specific parks. These stewards will team with staff to plan "their" parks' stewardship and will take the lead in organizing the community to work within the park. We hope that active volunteers can help recruit more volunteers and act as community contacts for the NAP program. Plans include a network of stewardship volunteers connected with other programs such as the U-M Arboretum, The Nature Conservancy, Huron River Watershed Council and others. Through this network, we hope to offer programs of interest and the opportunity to learn from others.

Why so much development in volunteer activities? We can reach more areas, get more done with community involvement and the community can play an important role in the care for natural areas.

Recommended Reading

by Catriona Mortell

I was recently reminded of a book from the very beginning of my 'environmental' education. The book made such an impact on me then as I started in college and it still does. I do believe that year I insisted everyone at home read it - and I bought copies for all. The book is the *Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold. Read it!

At the Midwest Oak-Savanna and Woodland Conference this past July, I heard an idea that brought me to *Sand County* again. That idea is that people involved in stewardship and restoration are "living the land ethic." Those of you who have read the book will understand this statement; for those who haven't, here is some background.

The last section of the book is titled "The Upshot." As Leopold describes it: "The Upshot sets forth, in more logical terms, some of the ideas whereby we dissenters rationalize our dissent." Within this section is a discussion of the land ethic. My summary could not do Leopold's words justice, so I will provide you with some of his prose.

"All ethics so far evolved rest upon a single premise: that the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts. His instincts prompt him to compete for his place in that community, but his ethics prompt him also to co-operate (perhaps in order that there may be a place to compete for)..."

The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land. In short, a land ethic changes the role of *Homo sapiens* from conqueror of the land community to plain member and citizen of it. It implies respect for his fellow-members, and also respect for the community as such...

It is inconceivable to me that an ethical relation to land can exist without love, respect, and admiration for land, and a high regard for its value. By value, I of course mean something far broader than mere economic value; I mean value in the philosophical sense."

By participating in the stewardship projects with NAP you too are living the land ethic.

Volunteer Stewardship Calendar Autumn 1997

September

Hollywood Park - Saturday September 20, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Join us for invasive species removal at this 2 acre wooded gem on the city's west side. Meet at the park on Sequoia Parkway.

Bird Hills Park - Saturday September 27, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. This trail maintenance workday will be co-sponsored by R.E.I. It is part of their community service project. A retailer in outdoor recreation equipment, REI also works to educate their customers and staff in stewardship of recreational opportunities. Join us with REI. This is a great chance for NAP volunteers to introduce new volunteers to stewardship and restoration in our city parks. Please bring work gloves, and tools (labeled with your name) if possible. Also as a crowd is expected - bike or take public transit! Meet at the Newport Rd. parking area.

October

Foster Park (northwestern Barton Park) - Wednesday October 1, 6:00 - 8:00 pm. (NEW TIME) Join us for an evening work-session of seed collection and invasive species removal. Meet on Huron River Drive just west of Warrington Dr on the river side of the street.

Miller Park - Saturday October 4, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Join us at this west side park for invasive species removal. Meet at the park entrance on Arborview Blvd.

Sylvan Park - Saturday October 18, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Join us for invasive species removal and seedling planting at this southeast side park. Meet at the park entrance near Margaret Dr.

November

City-wide Election - on November 4. Two Parks Department proposals are on the ballot.

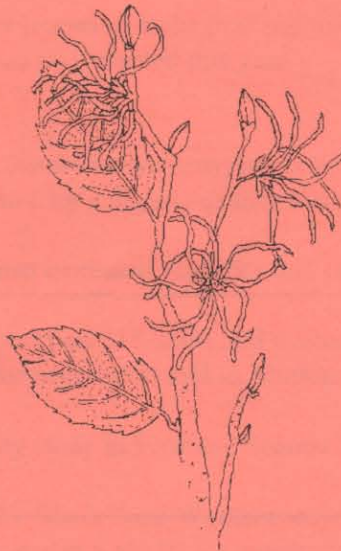
Greenview Park - Saturday November 8, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Join us for invasive species removal and other projects. Meet at the park entrance on Greenview Drive.

Cedar Bend Park - Saturday November 15, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Join us on the final workday of the season for an erosion control project. Meet at the park entrance off Cedar Bend Dr., near the perennial garden.

Volunteer Appreciation Night & Potluck Dinner. Thursday November 20, 6:00- 9:00 pm. Please join the celebration at Cobblestone Farm Barn.

If you can't convince your friends and neighbors of the evils of invasive species perhaps Dr. Warren ("Herb") Wagner can. Check out the two-day session offered through the Matthaei Botanical Gardens' Adult Education Program. Herb's class is September 18 and 21. Call 313-998-7061 for more information.

A day long symposium examining the concept and practice of ecosystem management will be sponsored by the U-M School of Natural Resources and Environment. September 25, Thursday - from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm at U-M Alumni Center Founders Room. Free. Call 764-2376 for more information.



Witch Hazel

Other stewardship opportunities:

Workdays are held at the U-M Arboretum Dow field the second Saturday of every month. Call Susan Letts for more information at 313-763-5832.

The Nature Conservancy has three sites in our area that have ongoing restoration projects. Call Liesl Kardatzke for more information at 517-332-1741.

The Huron River Watershed Council's Adopt-a-Stream Program has various volunteer stream monitors throughout the watershed. Call 769-5971 for more information.

N. 00th
 4.03 Between Sections 17 & 18
 34.15 N.O. 25 in diam
 40.00 Run 3 N E
 65.00 Set 1/2 mile Post N.O. 34 S 13 W 69 & 20 17 N 35 E 31
 80.00 Set Post at Newcom, 240 mds Yellow 4 N 71 E W 22
 Hickory 18 S 2 E 79
 80.00 Corner of Secs 7, 8, 17 & 18 is in the river. No bearing trees.
 Very hilly oak land
 N 89 E On Random line between Secs 8 & 17
 1.50 Set Post on corner of Secs N.O. 40 S 50 E 90
 B.O. 25 N 64 E 82
 240.00 Set Camp 1/2 mile Post
 41.00
 45.85
 80.00
 89.34
 40.00

"[The] corner of sections 7, 8, 17, and 18 is in the river. No bearing trees. Very hilly oak land." So read the notes of the surveyor who, in May of 1819, traipsed by the site which would one day become the Foster section of Barton Park. Descriptions of "white oak 40 inches," "black oak 25 inches," "white oak 34 inches," and "hickory 18 inches" abound.

Find out how these survey notes from 1819 lead Natural Area Preservation to a "Restoration Gem" on page 3

Check out the volunteer stewardship calendar on page 9.

Look on pages 2 & 3 for Natural Area Preservation - happenings (aka NAP-penings!)

Is the address information below - correct? Or would you like to be added to our mailing list? Please call (996-3266) or write the NAP office (address below) with any updates or requests.

Natural Area Preservation
 City of Ann Arbor
 Dept. of Parks and Recreation
 1831 Traver Rd
 Ann Arbor, MI 48105

