

NATURAL AREA PRESERVATION

NAP's mission is to protect and restore Ann Arbor's natural areas and foster an environmental ethic within the community.



NAP Drone photo of a burn at Leslie Park Golf Course

Strategic Planning: A Vision for Success in a Changing World

Remy Long, Deputy Director

NAP's 30th anniversary – a milestone for our modest but vigorous division of Parks & Rec – is an occasion to look backwards and forward. I revel in the opportunity to inventory our strengths, acknowledge our shortcomings, celebrate our impacts, and strategize improvements. As readers, ardent supporters, dedicated volunteers, and more, **I invite you all participate in NAP's first-ever strategic planning process aimed at understanding what has been, what is, and what can be.**

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



IN THIS ISSUE:

Vision for Success

Photos From the Field.....page 4

NAPpenings.....pages 5-7

Staff Updates.....page 5

Events.....page 8



Staff and Park Stewards attend an oak wilt training

Great Blue Heron

Envisioning Together

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

NAP will be hosting several strategic planning meetings in November (*see page 8*) where you can tell us what aspects of our work you value most, where you think we fall short, where new opportunities exist, and help us build a vision for our long-term success.

BEFORE WE START our visioning around NAP's future, lets look at some consistent elements of our work over the past three decades:

BRIDGING COMMUNITIES

Some of NAP's efforts have had a steady presence and impact, like our innumerable volunteer workdays that consistently (and persistently) showcase the community's support for NAP's mission. NAP is so fortunate to have had thousands upon thousands of hands join us in the field and multiply our stewardship efforts. Brows collected sweat, bags were filled with invasives, and a connection with the natural world was deepened for many. This has been the relative constant in our mission: a

human community forming around the care for our natural communities, with NAP serving as a bridge between those communities.

ADAPTING TO CHANGE

Somewhat counterintuitively, another constant of NAP is change. The natural world NAP stewards has changed considerably the past thirty years. As new invasive species and pressures have emerged, NAP's partnership and management strategies have had to evolve. We've had to continually adapt, respond, and innovate – and the need to do so persists.

SYMBOLIZING STANDARDS

For many of us, the idea of NAP and prescribed fire are inseparable – but it wasn't always this way. NAP pushed the envelope and made a flashy but effective management tool a community standard – and the value of that slow and steady adoption of new norms can't be understated. It's why folks hiking in the parks often stop to commend the NAP crew's work. It's why folks keep on showing up to our volunteer workdays, and why we have increasingly large species datasets. That expression of participatory gratitude is emblematic of a growing understanding. What was once an innovative forefront of local conservation has become a widespread value.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Looking Forward

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

With those baseline features of NAP's work in mind, we must acknowledge some salient facts from the past three decades: (1) atmospheric CO₂ levels have risen from 357 parts per million to 419 ppm, and (2) new and existing invasive species and disease continue to emerge and spread, drawing heavily on limited resources and capacity. These are only two of the unrelenting environmental challenges we face.



Monarch visit



Map turtles basking

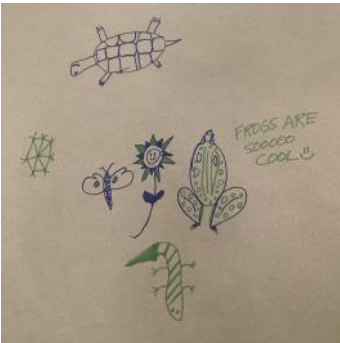
While we will struggle to slow the spread of invasives or disease, a key characteristic embodied by our staff and community is *relentless persistence*.

For me, these bleak actualities of our ecological condition are effectively countered by NAP's enduring traits: careful stewardship, nimbly shifting priorities, and robust support and engagement within the community for our mission. These strengths hearten my outlook on our collective future.

We are working to enact a response to a global crisis on a local level – you'll find plenty of likeminded conservationists in the field with NAP. And while we will struggle to slow the spread of invasives or disease, a key characteristic embodied by our staff and community is *relentless persistence*. The staff, our volunteers, our supporters continually seek to understand emerging ecological changes from fungal diseases to destructive insects to aggressive non-native plants. This persistence is critical to safeguarding the resilient and biodiverse natural areas within the city. Without this impassioned staff and volunteer base, NAP wouldn't be able to fulfill its mission.

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD*

Snapshots from our annual Volunteer Appreciation Party (including some fantastic tabletop sketches)



Frogs are sooooo cool :)



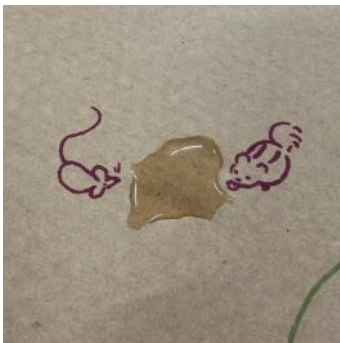
Moth friend



Turtle tower



Tiny house village



Drinking buddies



Ducks in a row, snake in the grass



Party-goers try their hand at "Mop Up"



Most of NAP's staff were able to pose for a group photo.

Back: Juliet, Becky, Matt, Em, George, Jess, Josh, Gabby, Volunteer Craig, Renée. Front: Remy, Dana, Leah. Not pictured: Tina, Eleva, and Rosie (Greenbelt).

**Usually this section shows photos from conservation crew out in the natural areas, but this time we are party-focused.*



NAP Drone photo of a burn at Leslie Park Golf Course

Looking Forward

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

I'm grateful for the ways NAP can serve as a vector of local progress toward the larger mosaic of conservation responses needed to holistically address the challenges we face. I'm also grateful for you: the reader, the volunteer, the budding conservationist, and the deeply rooted members of the NAP community. Please consider

attending a strategic planning meeting and letting us know what you think of our work, where you think we should invest more energy, where new opportunities exist, and share your vision of NAP's success in a changing world.

Strategic Planning Meetings schedule can be found on Page 8.

NAPPENINGS

Staff Updates

Welcome!



Rachel Maranto Stewardship Specialist

I'm an Indiana transplant who fell in love with Michigan spending summers on the beach in my dad's hometown of Harbert. I grew up in Fort

Wayne and graduated with a B.S. in Environmental Science from Indiana University, where I worked as a field tech on various research projects involving invasive plant ecology. After college, I moved out to Washington State for a couple years of restoration-focused AmeriCorps

service, got homesick, moved back in with my parents, then moved to Michigan in 2012 for a job on the NAP field crew! I'm returning to NAP after 10 years with the Michigan Nature Association, a statewide land trust, where I was responsible for managing stewardship, volunteers, and staff at MNA's sanctuaries in the Lower Peninsula. I'm elated to be back at NAP helping care for the city's impressive network of natural areas.

I live in Grass Lake with my wife Ashley, daughter Regina, and two cats, Rhubarb and Gil. Ash works at a native plant nursery and packs our tiny half acre full of beautiful native plants. In my free time I like to gravel bike, tickle the ivories, bake, and make up nonsensical songs about my cats.

Nature Stewardship VOLUNTEER REWARDS RANKINGS

Attend NAP events to receive points!

1
event

=

1
point



bur oak

prize: exclusive NAP event

30 points

Annika M.
Brooks C.
Craig P.

Dave C.
Jen R.
Jim Y.

Ron E.
Scott L.
Tiffany N.



buttonbush

prize: NAP hoodie

14 points

Aidan P.
Alec A.
Antoni W.
Brad S.
Brian G.
Carol M.

Catherine R.
Chiaki H.
Dan P.
Eileen H.
Ellen W.
Jonathan P.

Liz G.
Margot M.
Mark T.
Peter S.
Richard G.
Shari R.

Victor C.
Walter P.
Yvonne B.



big bluestem

prize: NAP shirt

6 points

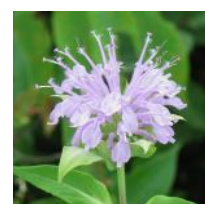
Alison A.
Ally K.
Angel F.
April G.
Audra E.
Bill N.
Bowei Z.
Carmela B.
Carolyn G.
Chris S.
Donald G.
Donald M.
Donna P.

Doug W.
Drew B.
Eli M.
Elizabeth H.
Elyce R.
Emily B.
Erika N.
Gwyn J.
Hannah S.
Ish H.
Jacob L.
Jamie H.
Jeff S.

Jerome P.
Joe R.
Jonathan D.
Juliet B.
Keith B.
Ken H.
Laura S.
Linda B.
Lisa J.
Lucas C.
Mack M.
Marcey C.
Margaret F.

Marilyn C.
Mark C.
Markus B.
Meghan T.
Molly B.
Muhammad A.
Olivia B.
Peggy K.
Rob D.
Sepi Y.
Sophia M.
Stephanie H.
Steven G.

Sydney A.
Theo C.
Tricia J.



bee balm

prize: NAP cap

3 points

Abi L.
Alex B.
Alex M.
Alice E.
Allison K.
Amy K.
Ankur H.
Anyia K.
Ashley K.
Ben C.
Ben G.
Bill R.
Bob M.
Bob Z.
Brandon B.
Brett H.
Bruce I.
Caitlin C.
Carol L.
Caroline A.
Catherine G.
Catherine L.

Christine S.
Colleen V.
Cooper A.
Daniel H.
David C.
Dawn H.
Derek S.
Derrick J.
Eliot A.
Elizabeth P.
Elizabeth S.
Ellie A.
Emiko S.
Ethan L.
Gary D.
Gina K.
Guillermo M.
Hajune K.
Henry P.
Ian H.
Izzy S.
Jacob Z.

Jan G.
Jasmine N.
Jason D.
Jason F.
Jessica A.
Jessica C.
Jim O.
Joanne S.
Jocelyn K.
Joe K.
John S.
Johnna M.
Jonathan B.
Judy S.
Justin I.
Karin M.
Kayra G.
Kelsey P.
Kristen G.
Kristin L.
Larissa S.
Leslie B.

Linnea T.
Lisa T.
Lissa S.
Lizzy C.
Maggie D.
Maggie R.
Marcy B.
Marisa M.
Martha H.
Mason J.
Matt B.
Matthew F.
Matthew S.
Melissa F.
Meredith M.
Michael P.
Mike S.
Milton P.
Morgan C.
Nico D.
Nui M.
Priscilla D.

Ray H.
Rebecca K.
Renée H.
Ria L.
Rob R.
Roger W.
Sal C.
Sam A.
Sam H.
Sandy B.
Sara M.
Sarah C.
Sarah S.
Sawako S.
Scott H.
Seamus A.
Simone C.
Sophia N.
Stacy M.
Steve L.
Stuart H.
Tavi K.

Ted T.
Tiffany F.
Timmy D.
Tracy B.
Vanya K.
Wil R.
Yuna H.
Zach F.
Zack G.

Nature Stewardship VOLUNTEER REWARDS RANKINGS



bloodroot

prize: NAP 2023 pin

1 point

1,428 volunteers!



UM AKA Beta Eta have volunteered at Cedar Bend several times this year!



Greenhills School students helped out at Miller Nature Area.



Employees of Everactive came to Foxfire West to lend a hand.

Thank you...

Many thanks to the individuals and groups who helped out with volunteer work or other support during the last few months. We could not make such a difference without you!

- **Arbor Psychology Group**
- **Everactive**
- **Girl Scout Troop 41602**
- **Greenhills School**
- **LGBT Outdoors**
- **Michigan Community Scholars**
- **Sing & Kaur**
- **UM AKA Beta Eta**
- **UM Beta Mu Epsilon**
- **UM Chi Epsilon**
- **UM Chi Psi**
- **UM Epsilon Eta**
- **UM LSA Student Government**
- **UM Redefined**
- **UM Running Club**
- **UM Sigma Gamma Tau**
- **UM Tau Beta Pi**

Thank you...

Walter Parry for becoming a new Park Steward at Furstenberg Nature Area!

Dave Crockett for becoming a new Park Steward at Brokaw Nature Area!

NATURAL AREA PRESERVATION

3875 E. Huron River Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Phone: 734.794.6627

Email: NAP@a2gov.org

Website: a2gov.org/NAP

Facebook: [@ann.arbor.nap](https://www.facebook.com/ann.arbor.nap)

Natural Area Preservation is funded by the voter-approved 2020-2026 Park Maintenance & Capital Improvements Millage.

EVENTS

Upcoming Volunteer Workdays

Find full details at a2gov.org/NAPEvents

- Leslie Woods Nature Area 11/4
- Black Pond Woods Nature Area 11/4
- Arbor Hills Nature Area 11/5
- Marshall Nature Area 11/10
- Brokaw Nature Area 11/11
- Bird Hills Nature Area 11/11
- Gallup Wet Prairie 11/18
- Furstenberg Nature Area 11/18
- Dolph Nature Area 11/18
- Braun Nature Area 11/19
- Kuebler Langford Nature Area 12/2
- Foxfire West Nature Area 12/9
- Argo Nature Area 12/16

Oak Wilt 101 Public Meeting

Join us to learn about oak wilt and the City's remediation plan. Find full details at a2gov.org/NAPEvents

Online Meeting—Zoom

<https://nap.a2gov.org/OakWiltMeeting>

Wednesday, Nov 29, 6-8 p.m.

Strategic Planning Meetings

See the feature article starting on page 1 for more on strategic planning. Find full event details at a2gov.org/NAPEvents

Traverwood Branch Program Room —Ann Arbor District Library

3333 Traverwood Dr

Thursday, Nov 9, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Westgate Branch West Side Room —Ann Arbor District Library

2503 Jackson Ave

Monday, Nov 13, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Online Meeting—Zoom

Registration Required at:

<http://nap.a2gov.org/SPMeeting23>

Thursday, Nov 16, 7-9:00 p.m.

Malletts Creek Branch Program Room —Ann Arbor District Library

3090 East Eisenhower Pkwy

Monday, Nov 20, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

K-5 FOREST FRIDAYS, AND NATURE CRAFTS!

Introducing: Youth Nature Programs!

Join **Eleva Potter, NAP**

Environmental Education and Engagement Coordinator, for a

kid-focused nature walk, followed by a nature activity. Find full details at

a2gov.org/NAPEvents

K-5 FOREST FRIDAY: SQUIRREL SURVIVAL

Friday, Nov 3, 4-5:30 p.m.

Island Park Shelter B

Can you find enough food to be ready to winter? Learn about Michigan squirrels and what they're up to right now. We'll identify local squirrel food sources and see how many you can find! *Not recommended for participants with acorn, walnut, or hickory allergies.*

NATURE CRAFTS: BUILD A BUG

Tuesday, Nov 7

Grades K-2, 10-11:30 a.m.

Grades 3-5, 1-2:30 p.m.

Southeast Area Park Shelter

Kids will learn about local bugs, what they're doing to get ready for winter, and then build their own bug out of natural materials to take home!

K-5 FOREST FRIDAY: MAMMAL MANSIONS

Friday, Nov 10, 4-5:30 p.m.

Olson Park Shelter

Learn what Michigan mammals are doing to get ready for winter and then you'll get to build your own shelter to see if you can stay warm and dry!

K-5 FOREST FRIDAY: TO BUILD A FIRE

Friday, Nov 17, 4-5:30 p.m.

Bandemer Nature Area Shelter

Humans have used fire to survive winter for millennia. Learn different fire building techniques and see if you can keep your own fire going!

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Preregistration through VolunteerHub is required.