



NAP

NATURAL AREA PRESERVATION

Protecting and restoring Ann Arbor's natural areas and fostering an environmental ethic among its citizens

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Spring 2019

Park Focus: Huron Hills Golf Course Woods

Dana Novak, Outreach Assistant

Tucked into a quiet neighborhood in the hills of Ann Arbor's east side you'll find Huron Hills Golf Course Woods, one of Ann Arbor's hidden gems. It would be easy to miss if you didn't know about it. Like many of our nature areas, you have to either be very local or purposefully seek this place out to discover it. However, it's well worth discovering.

Huron Hills Golf Course was designed in 1922 by the "Johnny Appleseed of American Golf" Tom Bendelow. Visiting the hilly back 11 holes on the west side of Huron Parkway is a great way to get out and explore nature. The woods includes many large oaks nearing the 100+ year mark, thanks to the



The Woods, seen from the Golf Course

creation of the golf course. I have to agree with Doug Kelly, the City's Director of Golf, who called this "a beautiful secluded area."

There are two separate woodlands that hug holes 12 to 16 of the golf course. The west one is larger at nearly 13 acres and has an interpretive loop trail with a park bench and native woodland plant garden, courtesy of an Eagle Scout project. From this main loop there are more than a few trail offshoots leading to the golf course. The woods is best accessed from Hunting Valley Road between Foxcroft Road and Provincial Drive. The nondescript trail entrances are easy to miss so drive slowly. You can enjoy a nice stretch of the legs hiking along the hilly wooded ravines here. You'll find stands of Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) trees – very fragrant blue-tinted soft-needled conifers with drooping branches.

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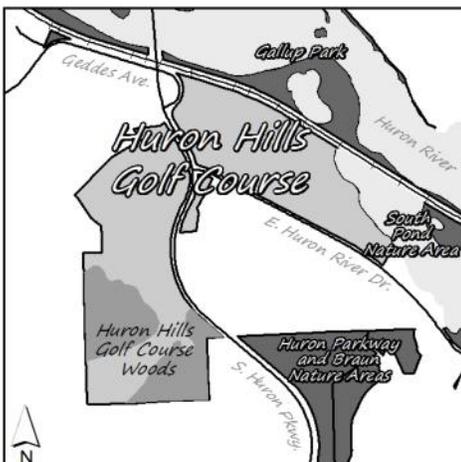
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A unit of the City of Ann Arbor
Community Services Area, Parks
and Recreation Services.

*The mission of Natural Area
Preservation is to protect and
restore Ann Arbor's natural areas
and to foster an environmental ethic
among its citizens.*

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funded by the voter-approved
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COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Hindsight is 20-20

I was recently re-reading some books about wilderness by one of my favorite authors, Sigurd Olson. If you don't know Sig, he was a prolific author, a professional canoe guide, and the person most responsible for the creation of the Boundary Waters Wilderness Canoe Area in northern Minnesota. Sig was an alumnus of my school – Northland College – so we read many books about his wilderness experiences. In school, we learned about “leave no trace” camping. So imagine my shock when I read Sig's account of paddling into a wilderness camp site back in the 1950s, making himself a bed of fresh-cut pine boughs, and then, after a peaceful campfire dinner watching the sunset, filling an empty pork-n-beans can with rocks and throwing it out into the lake! How could a leading proponent of wilderness do that!? What was Sig thinking!? Was that really considered to be a “best practice” back then?

And then I remembered the great Aldo Leopold – considered by many to be the Father of the modern field of Ecological Restoration. You may be familiar with his famous book, A Sand County Almanac, which got many of us thinking about our own Land Ethic and society's views of nature. Aldo wrote about his experiences restoring an old beat-up farm in the barren sand counties of central Wisconsin. This book has been another bible for people in my profession since it was published in 1946. What was Aldo's method for restoring this land? Did he hand-collect native species of plants within a tight geographic area to maintain the local genotype? No, he planted 40,000 red pine trees in a straight rows. That was considered revolutionary and cutting-edge at the time - a novel attempt to stop erosion and help the land heal. But we wouldn't consider it to be cutting-edge today. We have our own old pine plantations in Bird Hills and Marshall Nature Areas, and we're trying to figure out what to do with them now. It must have made sense to someone at the time to plant them. But what did they expect us to do with this unnatural monoculture of evenly spaced pine trees after they got big? Rows of even-aged pines laid out in a grid sure doesn't seem like ecological restoration to us now. What were they thinking!?

Well, it's nice now to be on the wiser side of these situations. I would never throw my old cans into the lake when camping. And I'd never plant a pine plantation and call it ecological restoration. Yet I am confident that at some point in the future, someone will look back on our current stewardship activities here at NAP and wonder the very same thing: What were they thinking!? Ecological restoration is an iterative process. We learn from our mistakes. We take the information at hand, consider the best science available today, and make our best, informed decision on how to proceed. Then we look at the results, re-evaluate, make changes where needed, and try again. On and on it goes. Hopefully getting ever closer to the best possible solution to the problem, even though that problem is, itself, always evolving and getting more complex.

So, I'll try not to judge the actions of Sig or Aldo by today's standards. And I hope future generations will be as forgiving of me and NAP and what we think are the right decisions in ecological restoration that we are making today.

-David Borneman, Natural Area Preservation Manager

Oh Deer: A Sampling of Deer-Resistant Plants

Morgan Boyer
Deer Management Education Specialist

Many of us enjoy gardening, whether it's to provide food and habitat for bees and birds, to harvest home-grown vegetables and fruits, or just because it helps us connect to the outdoors. As spring unfolds, we are planning to spruce up our garden beds. However, sometimes gardens attract white-tailed deer, that, for a variety of reasons, may find them to be a botanical buffet. So how can we maintain an interesting and vibrant garden while co-existing with the local herd? A solid foundation of deer-resistant plants is a great place to start!



Deer browsing on a lawn

First, we have to acknowledge that no plant is known to be immune to deer browse. If it has been an especially harsh winter, if there are a lack of suitable alternative food sources, or if the herd population has increased substantially you may find even the toughest of coneflowers browsed. Second, choosing native plants is the surest bet, as these plants are best-suited to the conditions of Ann Arbor's soils and climate, making them most likely to establish themselves well in your garden. Please keep in mind that when planting native plants it is always best practice to use seeds or plants that are of the local genotype, so get them as locally as possible.

Deer do have their favorite plants to browse, and they're more attracted to places where their preferred food is easily available. Fresh spring flowers (like crocus and forsythia), plants with high water content (like hostas), and plants that produce sweet berries (like strawberries), will all attract deer. So avoid these plants or be prepared to defend them with fencing and deterrents!

Don't despair, there are many plants that are heartily deer-resistant and suit a variety of interests. Plants such as clammy-weed, nodding onion, and wood-sage all produce powerful scents that deer are reluctant to walk through, as the scent will linger on the deer and could potentially give them away to would-be predators. Some plants are simply unpalatable and not attractive for the deer to eat, such as most milkweeds, black cohosh, and royal fern, whose latex sap and astringent powerful flavors are off-putting to deer. Other plants, such as Virginia ground cherry and common elderberry, produce toxic chemicals in their foliage that will put off just about any herbivore.



Nodding onion

So what could you plant if you want to kick off a pollinator garden that will last for more than one season? Some recommendations are wild columbine, foxglove beard-tongue, and golden Alexander. If you want to try your hand at a vegetable and fruit bed, perhaps try rhubarb, squash, or raspberries. If you're like me, though, and looking for something fun and flashy, winterberry, little bluestem, and wood fern will do the trick and will help give your garden a little color through every season.

Remember, each herd eats differently, so what works for you may not work for your friend across town. Be willing to experiment, but do keep these deer-repelling characteristics and plants in mind when looking for a new plant for your garden. For more potential plant selections, please look into the deer-resistant plant guide the city has created to further support your gardening needs, found at: www.a2gov.org/deermanagement. Deer-resistant plants are just one way to help deter deer from your beloved garden bed, but there are plenty of other tips and tricks! If you have any further questions, please call the deer management hotline at 734.794.6295 or email staff at DeerManagement@a2gov.org.



NAP

VOLUNTEER STEWARDSHIP CALENDAR **SPRING 2019**

Volunteers assist NAP in all aspects of our work. Community involvement is vital to the success of NAP's conservation and education efforts. Please join us for one of these events!

For all of our **Stewardship Workdays**, please wear long pants and closed-toe shoes. Workdays are **free** and suitable for all ages. Minors must be accompanied by a guardian or have a signed release form. Contact NAP for release forms. Tools, snacks, and know-how provided.

To register for any of our **Kick-off & Training** events, call 734.794.6627 or send us an email at NAP@a2gov.org.

MARCH

Salamander Survey Kick-off & Training
Saturday, March 9, noon to 2 p.m.
Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin Ave.

Learn how to help NAP monitor salamanders in Ann Arbor's parks. Must be willing to walk in the woods on rainy nights in early spring, and look under logs in spring and summer. Please register by March 6.

Frog and Toad Survey Kick-off & Training
Saturday, March 9, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin Ave.

Everyone is invited to help monitor frog populations in Ann Arbor. No experience required! Once per month, March through June, travel a route through the city at night, stopping to listen for frogs along the way. Most routes require driving. Please register by March 6.

Photomonitoring Kick-off & Training
Saturday, March 23, 10 to 11 a.m.
NAP Office, 3875 E. Huron River Drive

Do you like photography and spending time outdoors? We need volunteers to take photos at specific locations in parks throughout the year to record ecological changes and track the progress of our restoration work. Please register by March 21.

Workday Leader Training
Saturday, March 23, noon to 3:30 p.m.
NAP Office, 3875 E. Huron River Drive

This is for volunteers interested in leading or co-leading NAP workdays. We will focus on procedures and tips to lead a successful workday. An interest in ecology is desired, but not required. Please dress for classroom and field training. Minimum age of 18. Please register by March 21.

APRIL

Breeding Bird Survey Kick-off & Training
Thursday, April 11, 7 to 9 p.m.
NAP Office, 3875 E. Huron River Drive

Learn how to survey for breeding birds in Ann Arbor's parks! Some experience in bird identification is necessary. Please register by April 8.

Stewardship Workday
Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m. to noon
Berkshire Creek Nature Area

This oak-hickory forest protects the waters of Mallett's Creek. Help restore it by removing invasive plants. Meet at the end of Warwick Road off Glenwood, north of Washtenaw Avenue.

Stewardship Workday
Sunday, April 14, 1 to 4 p.m.
Folkstone Park

Pulling invasive weeds is a great way to spend time outdoors this spring. Join us in pulling spring invasives to improve biodiversity. Meet at the park entrance at the north end of Folkstone Court.

Earth Day
Stewardship Workday
Saturday, April 20, 1 to 4 p.m.
Cedar Bend Nature Area



Enjoy views of the Huron River as you remove non-native plants. Help us improve this habitat for birds. Meet at the Island Park parking lot, at the end of Island Drive.

Nature Walk with AADL
Thursday, April 25, 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Mary Beth Doyle Park

Take a family-friendly walk through this park to look for wildflowers. Meet at the parking lot off Packard Road, across from Easy Street.

Arbor Day
Stewardship Workday
Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m. to noon
Mary Beth Doyle Park



Plant native shrubs in honor of Arbor Day! These shrubs will provide habitat for wildlife and help to protect the creek. Meet at the parking lot off Packard Road, across from Easy Street.

Stewardship Workday
Saturday, April 27, 1 to 4 p.m.
The Ponds Park

Celebrate the start of spring by beautifying a neighborhood park. Remove non-native plants threatening the native beauty. Meet at the park entrance on the corner of Emerald Ave. and Candlewick Drive.

Stewardship Workday
Sunday, April 28, 9 a.m. to noon
White Oak Nature Area

Discover one of Ann Arbor's hidden gems! Lend a hand removing invasive plants, we'll show you how to find them. Meet at the park entrance on White Oak Drive.

Ann Arbor Earth Day Festival
Sunday, April 28, noon to 4 p.m.
Leslie Science and Nature Center
1831 Traver Rd.



Join us in celebrating the earth! This free family-friendly event features displays from local organizations. For more information visit www.lesliesnc.org/a2earthday.

Stewardship Workday
Sunday, April 28, 1 to 4 p.m.
Molin Nature Area

Come get your hands dirty and restore native habitat. We'll be removing invasive plants such as garlic mustard. Meet at the end of Powell Road on Columbia.

STEWARDSHIP NETWORK
STEWARDS' CIRCLE

7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

Second Tuesday of every month

Bruegger's Bagels

709 N. University Avenue

Are you interested in learning more about how to care for natural areas? Then join the Stewardship Network's Huron Arbor cluster for an informal discussion on a monthly topic with volunteer and professional land stewards, plus others interested in nature. Free and open to anyone interested.

www.stewardshipnetwork.org.

Turtle Steward Kick-off & Training

Sunday, April 28, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin Ave.

Help us maintain and protect nest sites and look for turtles in habitats along the Huron River and nearby creeks! Training will be indoors. Please register by April 26.

MAY

Stewardship Workday

Saturday, May 4, 9 a.m. to noon

Furstenberg Native Garden

Come learn about native plants while making the native garden beautiful. Meet in the parking lot off Fuller Road.

Stewardship Workday

Saturday, May 4, 1 to 4 p.m.

Sunset Brooks Nature Area

This is a great place to enjoy the beauty of spring. Join us in clearing out invasive plants from this habitat. Meet at the park entrance on Sunset Road, at the end of Brooks Street.

Butterfly Survey Kick-off & Training

Saturday, May 4, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

NAP Office, 3875 E. Huron River Drive

Help us search our prairies and woodlands for butterflies throughout the summer. No experience in butterfly identification necessary, though it is helpful. Space is limited, so please register by May 2.

Stewardship Workday

Sunday, May 5, 9 a.m. to noon

Maryfield Wildwood Park

Spend the day beautifying a park. Help us remove ornamental plants to make room for natives. Meet at the intersection of Linwood and Wilton.

March 12: Personal Safety in the Field

Are you concerned about doing field work alone? What should you do if you see suspicious activity? What can you do to protect yourself? Join us and the Ann Arbor police to discuss keeping yourself safe while out in the field.

April 9: Rain Gardens

Are you interested in creating a rain garden on your property? Find out what makes a rain garden different than other gardens, get tips and tricks for installation and maintenance, and discover ways to talk to your neighbors about rain gardens.

May 14: Foraging

Wild foods foraging has grown in popularity in recent years. Humans have harvested wild foods for thousands of years but in this fragmented landscape it can put pressure on resources. It is also an opportunity to engage and reconnect people to stewardship. Join us for a conversation about the concerns, challenges, and opportunities of foraging.

Stewardship Workday

Sunday, May 5, 1 to 4 p.m.

Miller Nature Area

Park stewards have been making this woodland beautiful. Join them to pull invasive species. Meet at the Arborview Blvd. entrance, just east of Wildwood Avenue.

Stewardship Workday

Saturday, May 11, 9 a.m. to noon

Lakewood Nature Area

A rich spread of wildflowers can be found here. Help remove the invasive plants that threaten them. Meet us at the Lakewood Elementary School parking lot off Gralake Avenue.

Stewardship Workday

Saturday, May 11, 1 to 4 p.m.

Dolph Nature Area

The variety of ecosystems here support a diverse bird population. Help NAP protect this diversity by removing non-native species. Meet at the parking lot off Wagner Road.

Stewardship Workday

Sunday, May 12, 1 to 4 p.m.

Bird Hills Nature Area

This quiet oasis is home to a variety of trees. Help the native species by pulling non-native plants. Meet at the Bird Road entrance to the park, west of Huron River Drive.

Bird Walk

Friday, May 17, 6 to 8 p.m.

Gallup Park

Take an evening walk with NAP's Ornithologist. We'll look for Baltimore Orioles and many other birds along the river. Bring binoculars if you have them. Meet at the Gallup Canoe Livery.

21st Annual Garlic Mustard Weed Out Day

Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m. to noon

We will need lots of hands to pull invasive garlic mustard all around Ann Arbor. This is a great volunteer opportunity of families. See page 8 for details.

Stewardship Workday

Sunday, May 19, 9 a.m. to noon

Fuller Park

This floodplain forest contains many water-loving species. Help pull non-native species that degrade the quality of their habitat. Meet at the Island Park parking lot at the end of Island Drive.

Huron River Day

Sunday, May 19, noon to 4 p.m.

Gallup Park

Enjoy the beautiful Huron River with free family-friendly activities. Listen to live music, eat delicious local food, and paddle a boat with \$5 canoe and kayak rentals. For more information visit www.a2gov.org/hrd.



Stewardship Workday

Sunday, May 25, 1 to 4 p.m.

Bluffs Nature Area

This diverse park is a must-explore for any nature lover. Join us to keep the native species thriving by removing invasive plants. Meet in the parking lot off Main Street, just north of Lake Shore Drive.

Nature Walk with AADL

Thursday, May 30, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Bird Hills Nature Area

Join us for a family-friendly walk through the wooded hills to look for plants and other wildlife. Meet at the Bird Road entrance to the park.

Huron Hills Golf Course Woods

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Douglas fir

These trees are native to western North America, but not considered invasive here, and this is one of the few populations in our nature areas.

The east side woodland is slightly smaller, at just over 10 acres. It adjoins the busy Huron Parkway, where you can hop off the sidewalk onto a trail that takes you through gently rolling hills, past glacial

erratic granite boulders, and along a small wetland eventually leading to the end of the fairway for hole 13.

Course managers have been working to add a continuous path for golf carts over the last year or two. This new crushed gravel surface makes a very handy walking path skirting the edges and linking the two sides of the woods for a longer hike. “We welcome walkers (on this path) December 15th through March 1st but don’t want anyone getting hit by golf balls,” said Kelly. Use caution and respect golfers when visiting this area in warmer months.

Another great activity in this area is downhill sledding. I often drive by and see families zooming down the hills tucked between the woods on snowy days and wish I could join them. If you’re looking for a new sledding hill come next winter, this is supposedly one of the longest hills in the city without being too steep for comfort. You can access the sled area by parking at the golf course and crossing Huron Parkway at the crosswalk by Huron River Drive.

The woods are mostly open and relatively free of invasives. This spring you’ll be rewarded with plenty of the usual suspects for spring wildflowers, including the not-so-commonly seen early-blooming Dutchman’s breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), the flowers of



Dutchman’s breeches

which look exactly like little white pantaloons hanging upside down, with miniature yellow petals on the flower tips.

Flowering dogwood trees (*Cornus florida*) are here to enjoy as well. There is also a population of the native wood

poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*), not to be confused with the invasive celandine (*Chelidonium majus*). You can tell the difference by the densely hairy elliptical seedpods of the native vs. the long, smooth seedpods of the invasive.

Another great feature of the woods is the remarkable diversity of bird species found there, especially considering the small acreage. Few small parks anywhere are a breeding home for some of these species, including Acadian Flycatchers and Cerulean Warblers. Wood Thrushes have been found here too and, during migration, Connecticut Warblers. This could be due to the high quality of woods, or because the area is home to some remnant populations of these birds.

So, the next time you’re cruising along Huron Parkway between Washtenaw Avenue and Huron River Drive, look to the west where it gets hilly to glimpse the scenic views of the woods surrounding the golf course. Hopefully you’ve been inspired to get out and discover this park for yourself – there’s a lot to see and do in all seasons!

Join us at Huron Hills Golf Course Woods for Garlic Mustard Weed-Out Day, May 18. See the back page for more details.

NAPpenings

Welcome, new Park Stewards!

Molly Brookshire
Pittsview Park

Lisa Johnson
Miller Nature Area

Victor Morales-Rios
Traver Creek Nature Area

Thank you!

Many thanks to the groups who volunteered with NAP recently. We could not make such a difference without you!

Boy Scouts of America Troop 5

Boy Scouts of America Troop 457

EMU Circle K International

UM Community Scholars Program

UM Environ 201 Class

UM Epsilon Eta

UM Phi Chi Theta

UM Sigma Chi

UM Wesley Foundation

City Nature Challenge

April 26th – May 5th.

City Nature Challenge is a global project dedicated to recognizing the wonderful wild things that make your community worthwhile! Join over 170 cities and see who can make the most observations of nature, who can find the most species, and who can engage the most people in their community.

Find out more and sign up to participate by going to iNaturalist.org and searching for “City Nature Challenge 2019: Ann Arbor”



STAFF UPDATES

FAREWELL...



CHRIS ROBEY

Field Crew

Time sure does sneak up on you! I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the last ten months with NAP. For the next few months, I'll be in Colorado, teaching high school English for

the High Mountain Institute. Come fall of next year, I hope to begin working toward a Master of Landscape Architecture degree. I owe thanks for this experience as much to the people as to the woodlands, wetlands and prairies we've worked to protect and restore. You've made this all worthwhile. A fond farewell to you my friends. It's been an honor and a pleasure.



KAYLA MCGUIRE

Field Crew

While I am sad to be leaving, I am very grateful for all the opportunities I have received while working at NAP. I look forward to participating in workdays and controlled burns as

a volunteer who has learned so much about the natural world around me. I hope that one day my work will again allow me to partner with NAP for the progression of environmental stewardship. I'd like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who took the time to teach me so many things during my time here.

WELCOME...



SEAN LEVIN-POMPETZKI

Field Crew

Growing up in Southeast Michigan, I always wanted to be a part of protecting, preserving, and restoring the natural world. I started doing this type of work as a volunteer in college. I have also

done natural resource work for the Forest Service in the summers of 2017 and 2018. I am excited for the opportunity NAP has given me to continue doing this work. I am excited to be able to share my love and interest in the natural world with the city of Ann Arbor.



HART DAVIS

Field Crew

As far back as I can remember I have been drawn to the natural world. I graduated from Albion College with a bachelors degree in biology. Since graduation I have served in AmeriCorps, working

alongside the Michigan DNR on forestry and wildlife projects, and with the Conservation Corps at the Bosque Del Apache wildlife refuge in New Mexico, conducting field camera studies on the endangered New Mexico Jumping Mouse. I look forward to working with NAP and improving Ann Arbor's natural areas!

Would you like to be part of the NAP Staff team? Follow the city jobs website (a2gov.org/jobs). Positions can open throughout the year. NAP also has unpaid internships that provide valuable experience! For internship information contact NAP directly: NAP@a2gov.org or 734.794.6627.

Natural Area Preservation

City of Ann Arbor
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21st Annual Garlic Mustard Weed-Out Day Saturday, May 18, 2019, 9 a.m. to noon



Garlic Mustard Weed-Out Day is an annual tradition where volunteers hand-pull garlic mustard in natural areas all around Ann Arbor. Garlic mustard is an aggressive Eurasian invasive species that can quickly crowd out native plant species and decrease natural diversity in the woods. Identifying and pulling garlic mustard is fun and easy for all ages, making this a great opportunity for families.

Participating Parks:

Argo Nature Area– Meet in the parking lot north of the Argo Canoe Livery, off Longshore Drive.

Black Pond Woods Nature Area– Meet us on Tibbits Court, off of Pontiac Trail.

Hannah Nature Area– Meet at the west end of Bath Street, off Seventh, just north of West Huron Street.

Huron Hills Golf Course Woods– Meet us on Hunting Valley Road off Provincial Drive.

Huron Parkway Nature Area– Meet at the Park Stewards' house: 3470 Woodland Road, off East Huron River Drive.

Leslie Woods Nature Area– Meet us at the park entrance at the north end of Upland Drive, north of Plymouth Road.