



# CITY OF ANN ARBOR PARK MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS MILLAGE

## NATURAL AREA PRESERVATION (NAP):

### WHAT IS NATURAL AREA PRESERVATION?



**NAP is entirely funded through the millage. NAP's mission is to protect and restore Ann Arbor's natural areas, and to foster an environmental ethic among its citizens.** NAP staff and volunteers do this by conducting a wide range of ecological stewardship activities to restore the native plant and animal communities throughout the Ann Arbor parks system's. That includes 1,318 acres of priority areas in the parks. We also prioritize stewardship activities by ecological health assessments of individual sites, their context within the parks system and volunteer interest.

### ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION/RECREATION IN NATURE

**Ecological restoration includes: reintroducing natural processes, such as fire, that benefit native plants and animals; improving habitat for wildlife; and controlling non-native invasive plants. Access to nature is facilitated by a network of hiking and mountain biking trails throughout Ann Arbor's natural areas.**



*Youth volunteers involved with an invasive plant project in one of our natural areas.*

#### **Remnant Native Plant Communities**

Annual management of remnant plant communities and control of invasive plant species on 500 acres of natural areas in 70 different city parks and nature areas, including Barton, Bird Hills, Black Pond Woods, Cedar Bend, Dolph, Furstenberg, Gallup, Marshall, Mary Beth Doyle, Miller, and Scarlett Mitchell.

#### **Historic Ecological Processes**

Manage multiple controlled burn crews to reintroduce fire to 100+ acres of park natural areas annually, taking special precautions to minimize impact to smoke-sensitive areas and fire sensitive species.

#### **Recreation in Nature**

Access to nature through 36 miles of footpaths, trails, bridges, and boardwalks that allow park users to enjoy bird watching, dog walking, geocaching, biking and hiking just minutes from their home.

MILLAGE REVENUE FUNDS PARK  
MAINTENANCE PROJECTS AND  
IMPROVEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE  
CITY OF ANN ARBOR PARKS SYSTEM

SCAN THIS CODE FOR DETAILS  
ABOUT THE PARKS MILLAGE:  
[A2GOV.ORG/PARKSMILLAGE](https://a2gov.org/parksmillage)



## BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT/MONITORING:

How healthy are our city natural areas? This question is answered by the biological monitoring performed by NAP staff and the volunteers they train. Knowing how and when wildlife species use the parks helps us manage those sites in ways that benefit wildlife. A few examples:



*Bird watchers participating in one of our survey programs.*

### **Breeding Bird Survey**

The parks are home to a multitude of birds and bird-watchers. Surveys have documented the return of Eastern Bluebirds to Gallup, Furstenberg, Kuebler-Langford, Barton, and other parks where nesting boxes were installed. The Huron River also attracts many species of birds that live near the water. Two osprey nesting platforms have been installed in the river in our effort to entice this recovering bird population back to the city.

### **Botanical Survey**

Over 1,200 species of plants have been documented growing in Ann Arbor's parks, including 22 that are state-listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern. These rare native plants benefit from NAP's ecological stewardship activities.

### **Reptile and Amphibian Surveys**

NAP volunteers have documented that Ann Arbor parks are home to at least 31 species of reptiles and amphibians, including five that are state-listed and one that is federally threatened. Artificial nesting and hibernation habitats have been created to help reptile and amphibian populations survive into the future.

### **Bat Survey**

A 2017 bat survey conducted in conjunction with the DNR revealed that Ann Arbor hosted more species of bat than any other area surveyed. Results of this survey are helping biologists understand more about the movements of these elusive species.

## VOLUNTEER OUTREACH/TRAINING:

**Volunteers are essential for fostering the strong environmental ethic which our community values. Volunteer programming welcomes all interested volunteers from elementary schools to colleges or professional groups to retired residents. Anyone with an interest in learning through service is met with open arms.**

### **Stewardship Workdays**

Each year NAP coordinates 120 public and private stewardship workdays with 2,500 volunteers contributing more than 10,000 volunteer hours towards natural area stewardship.

### **Park Stewards**

These individual volunteers have long-term relationships with a natural area. We currently have 66 park stewards caring for 35 natural areas.

### **Educational Events**

NAP coordinates eight volunteer trainings in ecological monitoring, controlled burns and leading workdays. NAP hosts 20 nature walks, bird walks or discussion groups focused on the care of natural areas each year.

You can find NAP at over one dozen community events throughout the year educating the public about the importance of nature and how they can help care for it.



*Natural Area Preservation staff members serve as educational liaisons during events such as Huron River Day.*