



Natural Areas Preservation Program 2017 Stewardship Report



Prescribed fire at Raymond Goodrich Preserve

STEWARDSHIP

PROTECTS

Natural Resources



ENHANCES

Recreational Amenities



BUILDS

Community & Partner
Involvement





Stewardship Highlights

Maps with more information can be found in the following pages

- Land management activities intended to preserve biodiversity were conducted across 34 parks and preserves.
- The Gallinule has returned to Trinkle Marsh after being absent for 4 years, which has been a successful milestone in our continued management of invasive cattails and mute swans.
- The stewardship team completed prescribed fires across 68 acres at 11 parks and preserves, the most ever completed by staff in a year.
- Botanic inventories were newly produced for habitats in 8 preserves. Additionally inventories for 5 locations produced previously were updated and archived. In total, WCPARC has uploaded over 130 botanic surveys which are available to the public online at universalfqa.org.
- Farming contracts have been updated for 9 parks facilities. With the new contract, trail buffers will be installed at Koenn, Northfield Woods, and Brauer Preserves and at Rolling Hills Park, significantly improving hiking experiences for our visitors.
- WCPARC has agreed to work with USFWS and MNFI to plan for the fen at Park Lyndon to host reared Mitchell's satyr butterflies in an effort to save the threatened species.
- The first public hike on a conservation easement occurred in fall 2017. Over 25 people joined a hike lead by expert naturalists to explore the preserved Doll family farmland. An initial botanical inventory was also collected.
- The Messification Project at Scio Woods Preserve continues to benefit from a collaboration with students from the University of Michigan who use the site to conduct field research.
- 53 Volunteers from FCA assisted in the care of WCPARC Gardens and natural areas.
- WCPARC and MiOFO conducted hunting events at Leonard Preserve, 6 deer were harvested.
- The eastern parcel at Watkins Lake Preserve is being considered for restoration through a partnership with USFWS and Ducks Unlimited.
- The NEXUS partnership resulted in an \$18,000 donation that is being used to restore and improve wetland habitats at Rolling Hills Park.
- Trash, tires, and other debris were removed from the wetlands, woods, and grasslands at Whitmore Lake Preserve through a dedicated effort from volunteers and staff.
- Wayfinding signage were installed at Draper Houston and Whitmore Lake Preserves.
- In partnership with Huron River Watershed Council, Bioreserve Assessments were completed at Dominican Meadows and Gosline Preserves.
- Stream crossings were installed at Leonard and Kosch, vastly improving conditions for hikers and staff.
- Shoreline surveys were conducted in ponds and lakes to survey for aquatic invasive species.
- Staff documented habitats and have begun trail planning at 3 new acquisitions expected to be opened in 2018.