

# GMWOW PULLING TOGETHER SEPARATELY



*Tina Stephens, NAP Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator  
City of Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation*



**Parks & Recreation**  
CITY OF ANN ARBOR



**Natural Area  
Preservation**

NAP's **Garlic Mustard Weed Out Week (GMWOW)** was held Friday, May 22, through Sunday, May 31, 2020, in lieu of our annual in-person Garlic Mustard Weed Out Day.



# GMWOW: FULLFILLING NEEDS WITH A VIRTUAL EVENT



Responding to many NAP volunteers requesting information on how they could help us during this time.



Giving permission for volunteers to help and directions on how and where they could help.



Providing a positive event that residents could participate in.



Recognizing the benefit to mental health of being outside in nature.



Mobilizing park stewards to direct their neighborhood groups to help out in a socially-distanced fashion.



Providing nature areas restoration and invasive species removal, otherwise unable to happen due to the pandemic and cancellation of 21 regularly scheduled public workdays.

# GMWOW PARTNERS

- The Stewardship Network
- Fjallraven
- UM Natural History Museum
- Ann Arbor Public Schools
- United Way of Washtenaw County





# GMWOW PARTICIPATION

- Anecdotal evidence of unreported pulling happening in many parks
- Piles of invasives pulled and left on trails, near park entrances (staff later picked up as found)



# GMWOW PARTICIPATION

This volunteer and several of his neighbors spread out across Miller Nature Area during the event and filled **thirty 13-gallon compost bags** with invasive species such as dame's rocket and garlic mustard. Then, he went above and beyond and came to help us load up and take away what they had pulled!





NAP

A2gov.org/GMWOW  
NAP@a2gov.org  
734.794.6627

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



NAP is funded by the 2019-2024 Park Maintenance and Capital Improvements Millage.

# volunteer for NATURE

## Garlic Mustard Weed Out Week! #GMWOW Pulling Separately Together

Friday, May 22nd—Sunday, May 31st

Enjoy Ann Arbor nature areas this spring by pulling invasive plants! Dispose of the weeds in city-collected compost or trash bins and report your efforts to the Stewardship Network. This is an unsupervised event, participate at your own discretion. Visit our website for more details!

### SOME INVASIVE TARGETS FOR THIS WORKDAY:



garlic mustard  
(*Allaria petiolata*)

- No natural predators
- Long growing season
- Seeds spread easily



narrowleaf bittercress  
(*Cardamine impatiens*)

- Seeds spread easily
- Long growing season

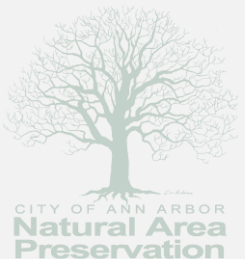
#### SAFETY:

- Stay at least 6-feet from volunteers outside of your household
- Do not touch your face or plants pulled by others
- Stay home if you feel sick

#### ATTIRE:

- Face mask
- Gardening gloves
- Long pants
- Layers
- Shoes suitable for wet ground
- Bring a bag to carry plants out of the park!

734.794.6627 | NAP@a2gov.org | www.A2gov.org/GMWOW | facebook.com/ann.arbor.NAP | #GMWOW





# GMWOW PRESS

Ann Arbor

## Event encouraging people to pull invasive plant species starts today

Published: May 22, 2020, 2:15 p.m.



Mlive article

**ALL ABOUT ANN ARBOR**

## Help pull spring invasive species in Ann Arbor this week

Garlic Mustard Weed Out Week running through Sunday

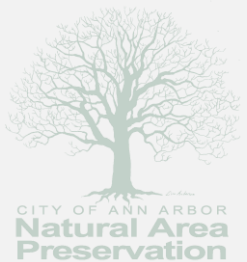
**Meredith Bruckner**, Community News Producer, All About Ann Arbor

Published: May 26, 2020 12:18 pm

Tags: Ann Arbor, City Of Ann Arbor, City Of Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation, Nature Areas, Parks, Ann Arbor Parks, Volunteer, Event, Ann Arbor Events, Nature, Environment, Invasive Plants, Michigan, Wildlife



Click-on-Detroit article





# GMWOW EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

## Where?

Pull in your own backyard or a City natural area near you! If you need suggestions, feel free to contact us at [NAP@a2gov.org](mailto:NAP@a2gov.org) or 734.794.6627.

## How?

First, come prepared! Bring a tote bag, garbage bag, or other carrying device with you to remove the invasive plants from the park. Dress in long pants thick enough to stand up to thorns, brush, poison ivy, ticks, and mosquitos (leggings aren't very protective); closed-toe shoes that can stand up to mud; gardening gloves; a face mask/cover; and clothes you don't mind getting dirty.

Second, look for these spring invasive plants!

### Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)



- In the mustard family, Brassicaceae.
- Biennial. First-year plants grow as a rosette that can get up to 6 inches tall and can remain green throughout the winter. In their second year, they develop into mature flowering plants.

of a cross that are mainly clustered at the top of the stem. Each flower is 1/3 to 1/4 inch in size. Bloom April through June.

Seeds grow in slender green siliques or skinny pods 1-3 inches long, each containing an average of 16 small, black, oblong seeds. Siliques turn tan and papery into the fall.

Gives off a distinct garlic or onion odor when crushed, thus "Alliaria" from the onion genus. Just below the root crown, the slender taproot has a distinct S-curve.

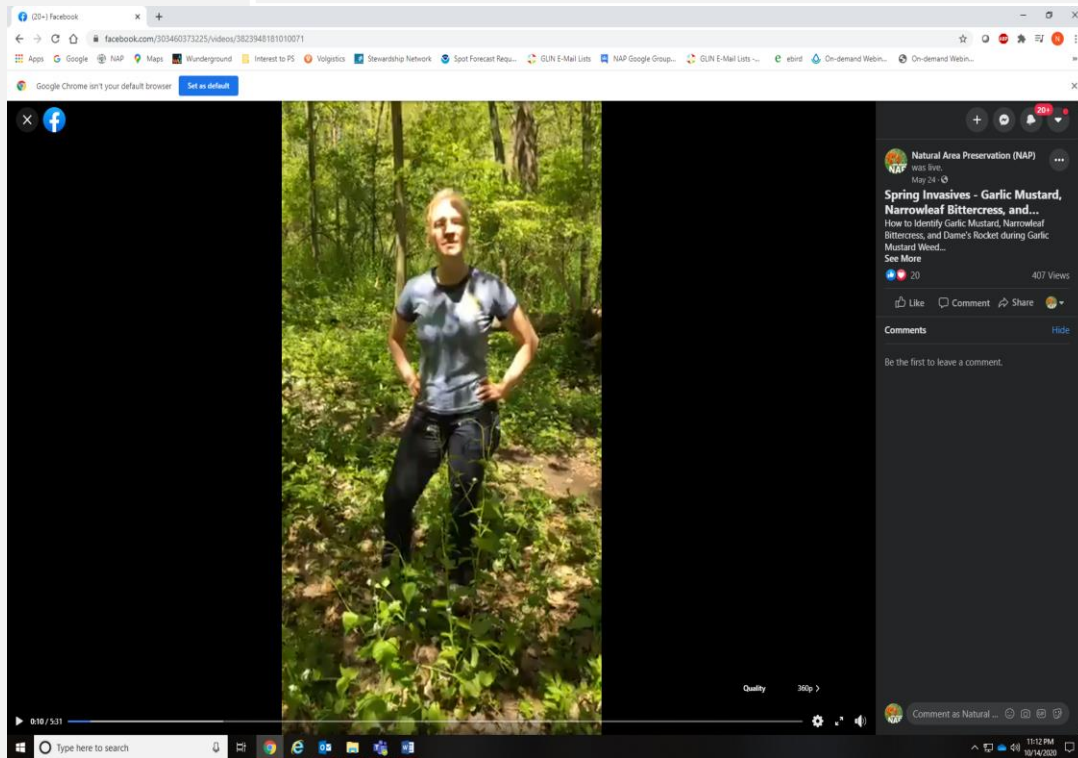


New NAP webpage added:

[www.a2gov.org/GMWOW](http://www.a2gov.org/GMWOW)

3 New Identification and How-to Pull Videos

# GMWOW EDUCATIONAL CONTENT



Facebook Live Events,  
livestreaming details and  
thanking participants

# GMWOW ON FACEBOOK

15

Posts

includes 2 live streams and 3  
Identification videos

11,960

People Reached

1,090

Engagements

(clicks to links, likes, shares, and  
comments)

187

Likes/Loves

29

Shares

646

Live Stream Views

# GMWOW AND TSN CHALLENGE

Submissions to The Stewardship Network's **Spring Invasive Species Challenge** Website

14

NAP-specific entries

38

Entries from Ann Arbor  
broadly

35

individuals pulled

3624

Estimated pounds  
pulled total



# GMWOW TESTIMONIALS

**Katie Carlisle wrote on Facebook:**

I spent some time today pulling dames rocket and bittercress to help with [Natural Area Preservation \(NAP\)](#)'s garlic mustard weed out week. It was lovely to explore Mary Beth Doyle Park, which has always been one of my favorites. The wild geranium are beautiful right now! [#gmwow Fjällräven](#)

**Amy Cherry commented on Facebook:**

Nice! It makes such a difference.

**Shari Thompson, a park neighbor to Miller, emailed us to say:**

...I live near Miller Park and have been pulling out the garlic mustard with a small group of friends. Other people have been doing the same as i see piles of it along the trails. We bring our own bags and take the GM out with us for disposal. This positive united community effort make a difference. Stay safe and healthy!

