

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Environmental Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Note of Appreciation for the Mitchell-Scarlett Woods  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 22, 2025 10:05:29 AM

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Hello,

My name is Jake Engels. I am a teacher at Scarlett Middle School. I live at 302 Middle Drive in Ypsilanti.

Given that the Environmental Commission is considering a resolution about the importance of natural areas, I wanted to share how valuable the Mitchell-Scarlett Woods is for our students at Scarlett Middle School. Unfortunately, middle school is a time when kids find themselves spending much more of their day indoors. Given that, I and many other teachers here at Scarlett are conscious of trying to get kids outside as much as we can.

The Woods has been immensely valuable in this pursuit. One student in particular comes to mind who has a hard time with a traditional classroom, but who came to life in the Woods in a way I had not seen before from him. Stories like this are numerous. Thinkers and writers focused on education for climate justice often emphasize the importance of coming to love nature and forming relationships with nature as a vital step toward action that protects our climate and our environment. Places like the woods make this possible for young people. I hope that Ann Arbor will ensure that these places are protected.

Thank You,

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