

The Impact of Invasive Trees on Ann Arbor Parks

What We Have Done to our Parks?

John Mirsky

Chair, A2 Energy Commissioner

Member, A2 Environmental Commission (Energy Commissioner Liaison)

May 25, 2023

Consider the Following:

- Nonnative trees support only 1/35 of the insect biomass on native trees.
 - The diversity of insect species also declines.
 - Those insects are the base of the food pyramid for other native animal species.
- Nonnative trees shade out:
 - Native tree seedlings; when mature native trees die, there will be no progeny to replace them; and
 - Native shrubs and forest floor plants, including wildflowers.

Ann Arbor's B2B Trail of Invasives

- The Huron River is Ann Arbor's most prominent and valuable natural feature.
- **Dense thickets of nonnative trees obscure - and in many cases totally block - views of and hinder access to the River.**

B2B from the Gallup Park Bridge to the Pedestrian Bridge near Huron Towers and Mitchell Field

Riverbank on the North side of the B2B Trail
photographed every ~ 100' on October 1, 2022

















































































































B2B from the Intersection of Maiden Lane & Wall Street to the Cascades and Argo Dam

Riverbank on the South side of the B2B Trail
photographed every ~ 100' on October 1, 2022





















































































Other City of Ann Arbor Parks

Ruthven Nature Area

Walking north from Geddes Road

Photographed on May 25, 2023









Furstenberg Nature Area

Walking west from Gallup Park

Photographed on May 25, 2023









Miller Nature Area

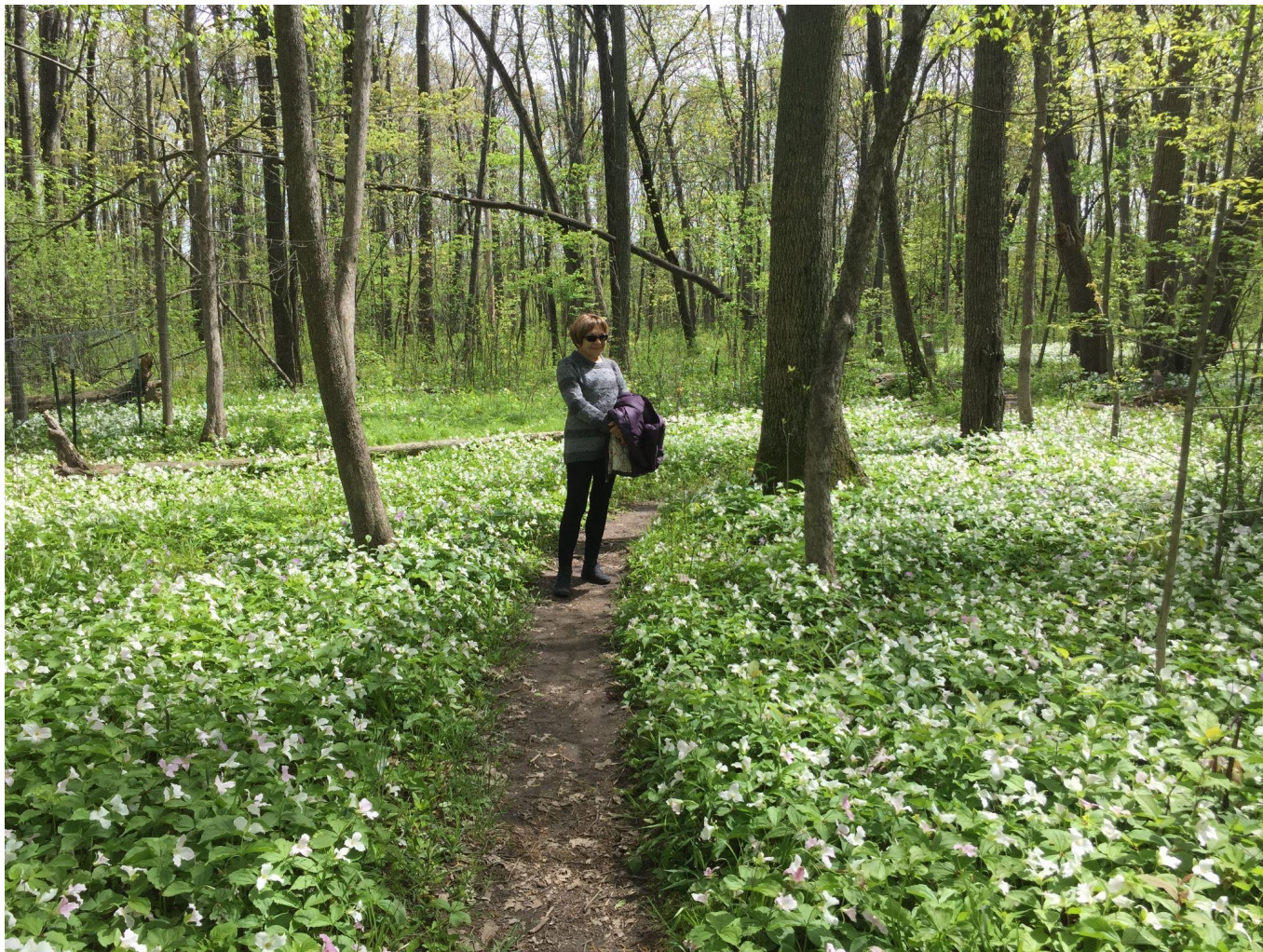
Photographed on October 16, 2022



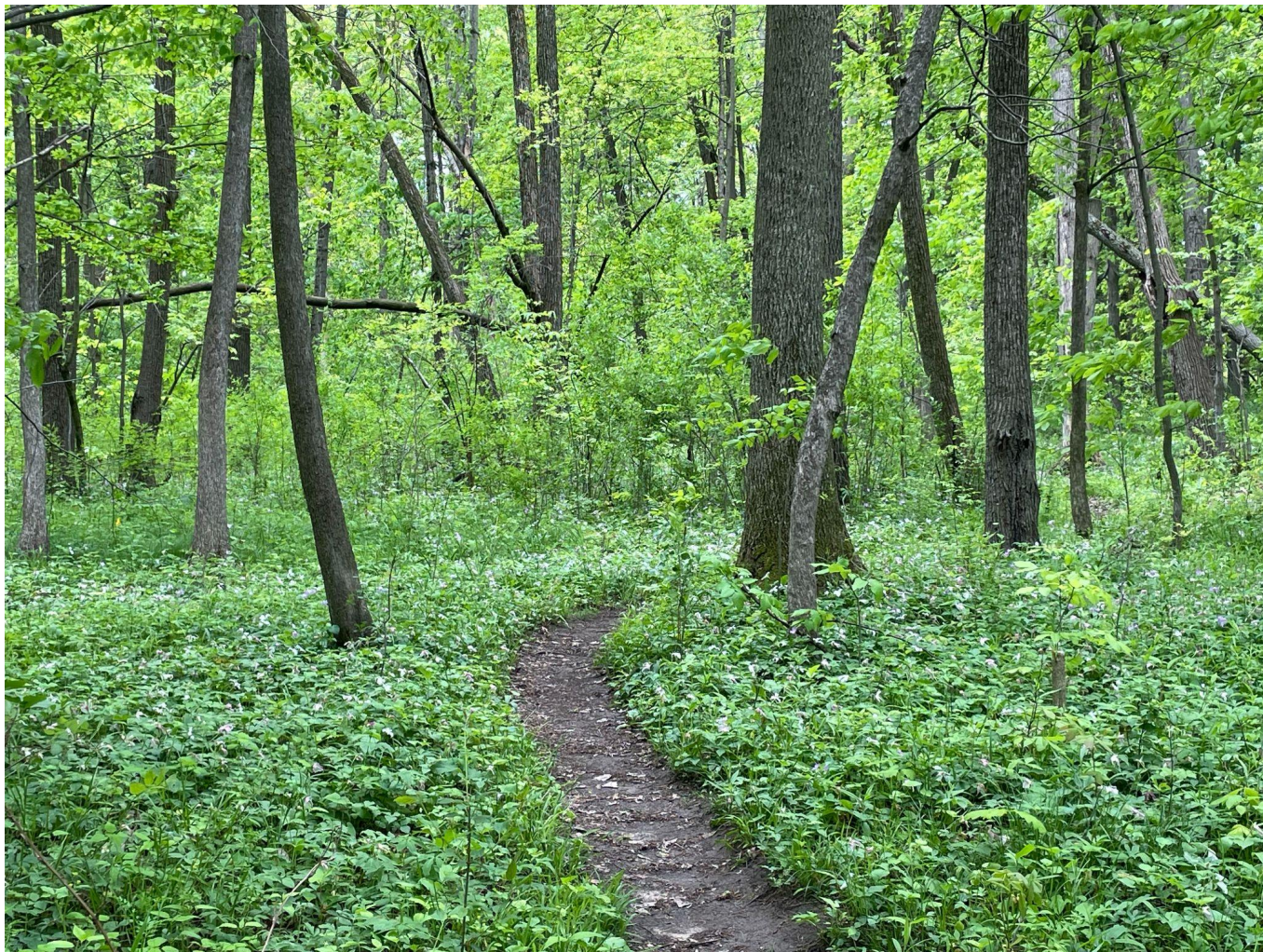


Mary Beth Doyle Park

Photographed on May 11, 2017 and (yet to be taken)



Photographed in
Spring 2017



Photographed
May 21, 2023



Photographed
May 21, 2023



Photographed
May 21, 2023



Photographed
May 21, 2023

My Favorite Park: My Backyard

Installed Native Prairie in the Foreground

**A Wall of Invasive Trees Starting on My Neighbor's
Lot in the Background**

Photographed on May 25, 2023



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What Can We Do About It?