



**Sanctuary at a Glance:**

**Location:** Lapeer County

**Size:** 70 acres

**History:** Donated by Myron Zucker in January 1988.

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**About MNA:**

The Michigan Nature Association is a nonprofit conservation organization working to protect Michigan's rare, threatened and endangered species by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

Established in 1952, MNA's members, donors, and volunteers have built a remarkable network of more than 170 nature sanctuaries across the state – the largest network of natural areas established and maintained by a nonprofit conservation organization in Michigan.



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*Photo: Natalie Kent-Norkowski*

Myron and Isabel Zucker originally purchased this 70 acre property to protect it from being subdivided into 50 foot lots along the Flint River during the 1960s. The Zuckers were benefactors of MNA for many years. Myron donated this land to MNA after Isabel passed away in 1986.

This sanctuary consists of floodplain forest and mesic northern forest with large maples, beech trees and hemlocks. The widely meandering North Branch of the Flint River flows through the sanctuary and is bordered by a sizeable floodplain forest corridor. In the spring, the floodplain is crowded with wildflowers and dozens of native ferns.

Songbirds, owls and other wildlife reside at Zucker Memorial, including nesting wood ducks and blue-gray gnatcatchers. Wildflowers including bloodroot, hepatica, and trillium are found in the understory. A small pine plantation was planted along the southern boundary of the sanctuary.

Forested river floodplains provide corridors for wildlife to disperse from one area to another, which is especially important in urban and residential settings where fewer natural areas occur. Floodplains are essential to the natural processes of rivers to maintain ecological and hydrological functions. Floodplains benefit humans directly as they provide floodwater storage during high flow periods and help prevent upland flooding, which can result in property damage. When floodplains are developed or separated from rivers, there are frequently, and sometimes significant resulting flooding occurrences that affect cities and residential areas and property owners elsewhere along the river.

## Invasive Autumn Olive

Autumn olive is an invasive species which poses a threat at Zucker Memorial. Autumn olive has been observed along the sanctuary's southern boundary and has had initial management completed. However, follow-up work to manage seedlings, resprouts and missed plants will be necessary.



Photo: Al Menk



Photo: Jeff Ganley

## Planning Your Visit:

This sanctuary is class "A", so it is open to the public during daylight hours. No official parking area is maintained at the sanctuary, but parking along the side of Barnes Lake Rd is acceptable. One loop trail that meanders south of the river is maintained on the sanctuary.

## How to Get There:

The sanctuary is located off Barnes Lake Rd, just west of Lonsberry Rd in Lapeer County.



Sanctuary Map