

Chapter 1: Introduction

The overall goal of the Outdoor Learning Area (OLA) is to provide a place for any and all students and faculty members to share their ideas and goals for conservation initiatives on the NMU campus. The direction of the development of the OLA is meant to evolve with the ideas of the students involved and any student is allowed to be as involved as they would like. This space serves as both an educational tool and a place for recreation and leisure. We hope the OLA will continue to be a welcoming atmosphere for everyone on campus and help inspire people to care more for the environment.

This document is the product of years of student employees compiling information on the plant species that can be found in the OLA. This document is not free from errors in identification and it is meant to serve only as a reference, not a blueprint for the future of the OLA. Plant identification was done by Jane Fitkin and Jacklyn Lenten in 2020 to the best of their ability, some species are more accurately classified than others.

Additionally, some of the species in this document were planted in 2020 and at the time of this publication we do not know if they will survive the winter and reemerge in the spring of 2021. Some species' locations will vary widely from year to year in the GeoPark, others will spread wildly, and some will not come back at all.

The end of this document shares information about the creating process and ways to go about editing it in the future. Ideally, this document will be updated regularly to ensure the information is as accurate as possible and any additions or changes made within the OLA are documented.