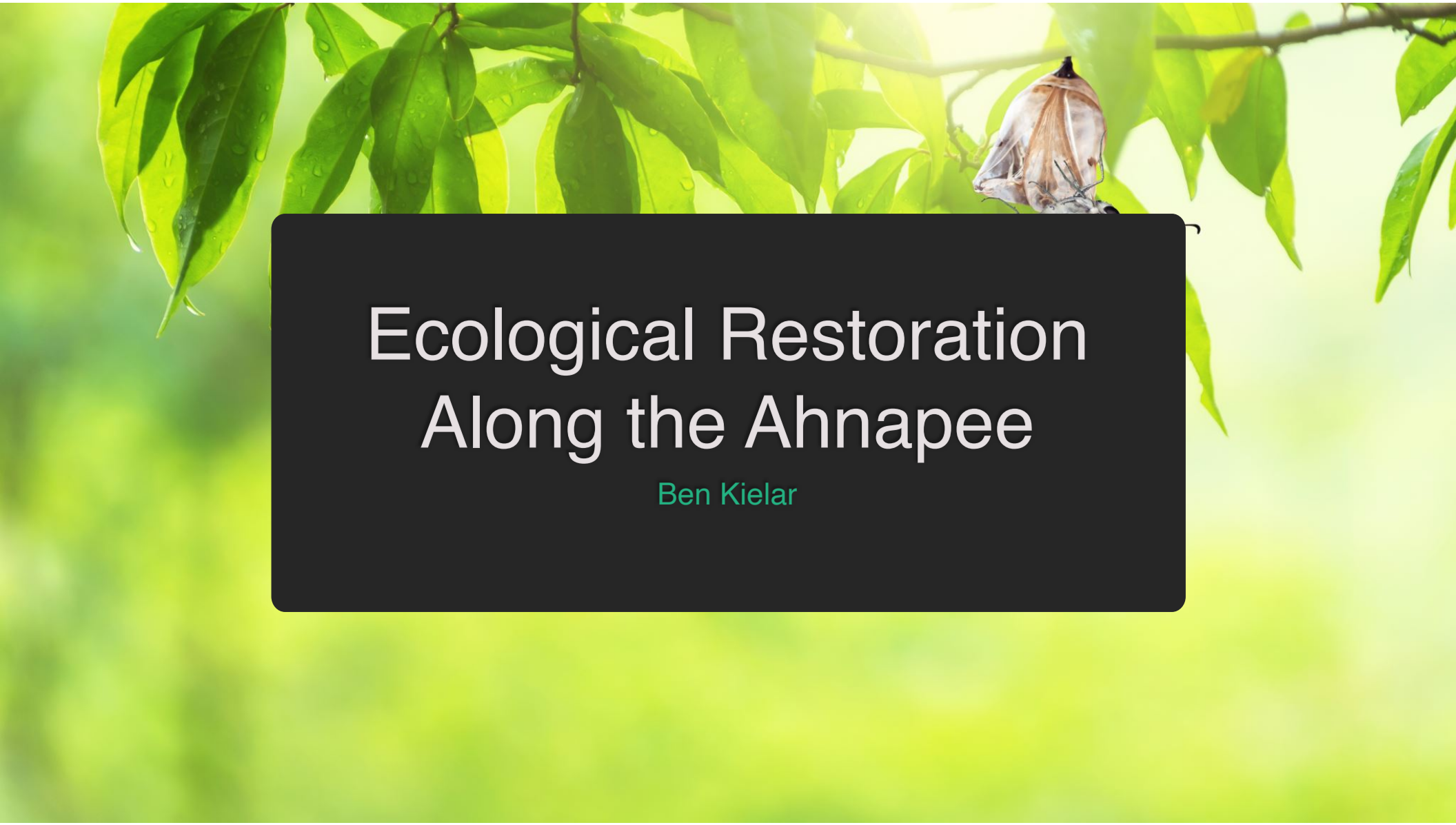

Ecological Restoration Along the Ahnapee

Ben Kielar

The Site

- Areas along the Ahnapee State Trail
- Michigan Street to Utah Street
- Long, narrow, split
- Varied plant communities
- Numerous invasives
- 8 to 10 acres

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Rationale

Forgotten and undermanaged

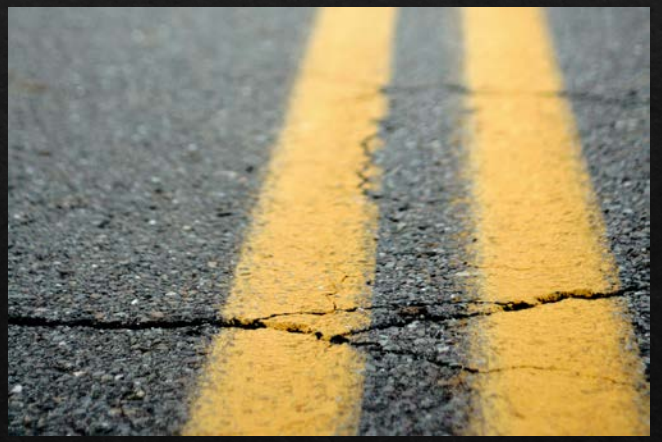
Proximity to humans

Vast potential

- Varied communities
- Shows promise through native plants and ecological functions
- Suppressed by invasives and lack of interventions

Past to Present

- Orchard and farmland
  - 1938, 1954, 1961, 1974
- ATC Corridor
- Hwy 57/42
  - Department of Transportation
- Ahnapee Trail
  - DNR
- Current conditions

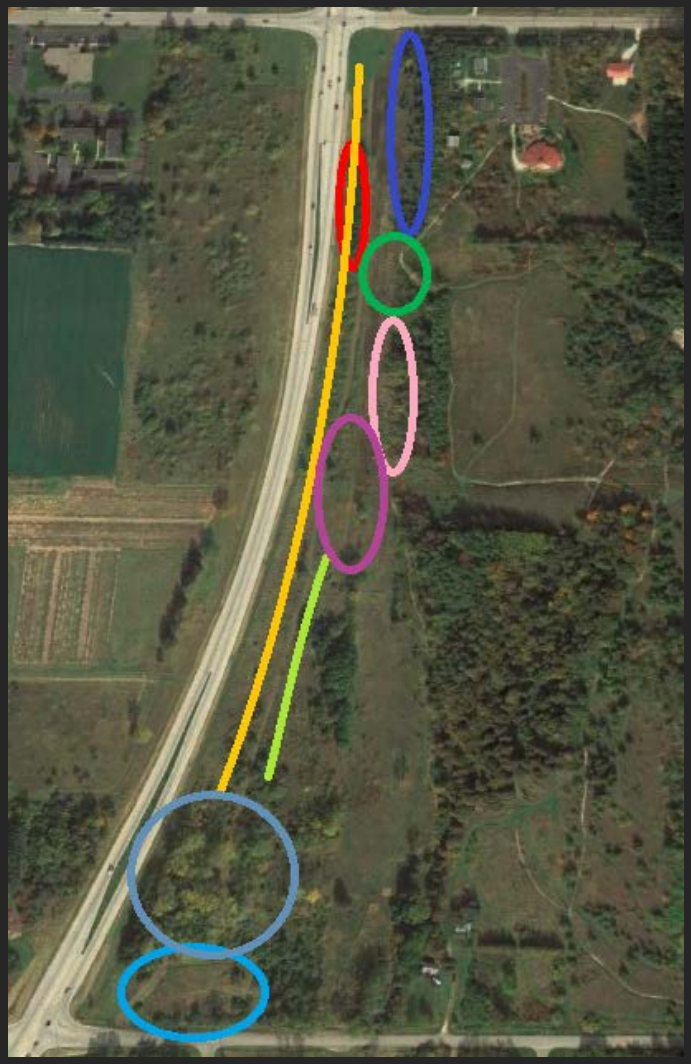


The Possible Future

- Use existing plants and topography as a guide
- Remove invasives
- Take advantage of native species
- Reference Communities
  - Northern Wet-Mesic Forest
  - Shrub Carr
  - Northern Sedge Meadow
  - Bracken Grassland

The How

- Remove and replace blue spruce and soften wood edge
- Remove black locust “grove” and honeysuckle, replace with shrubs/trees
- Natural pollinator zone in high traffic/overlap area where trails meet
- Remove buckthorn to prevent spread and allow native growth
- Plant large trees south of ATC corridor that offer long term stability
- Work outward from areas with more natives (Bradley Method)
- Engage through volunteer work, signage and walkthroughs/ tour



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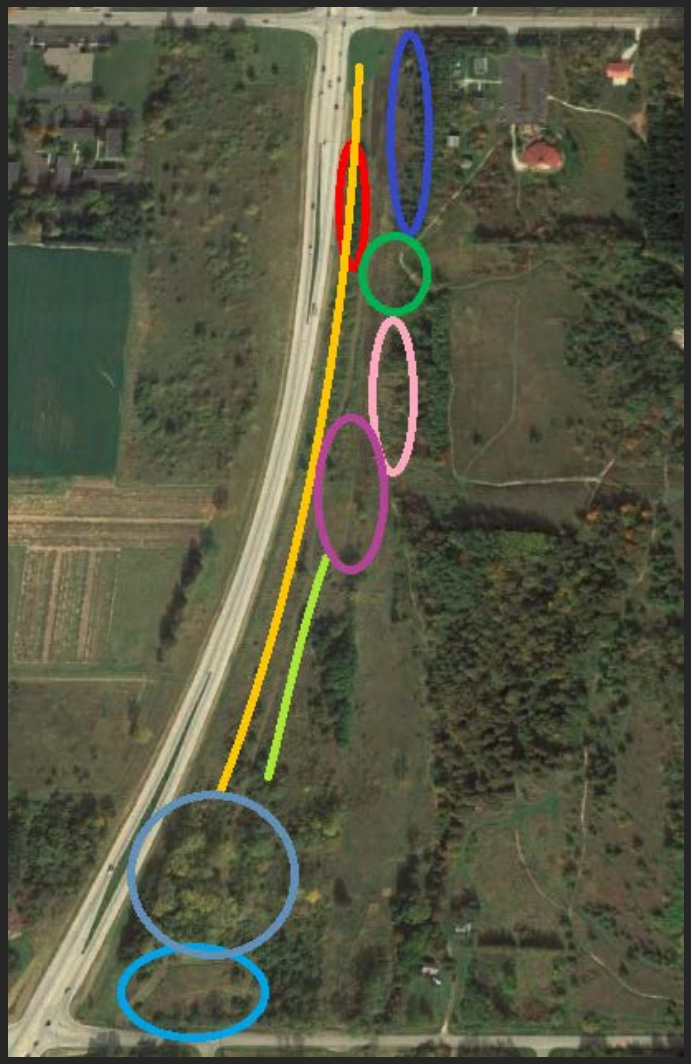

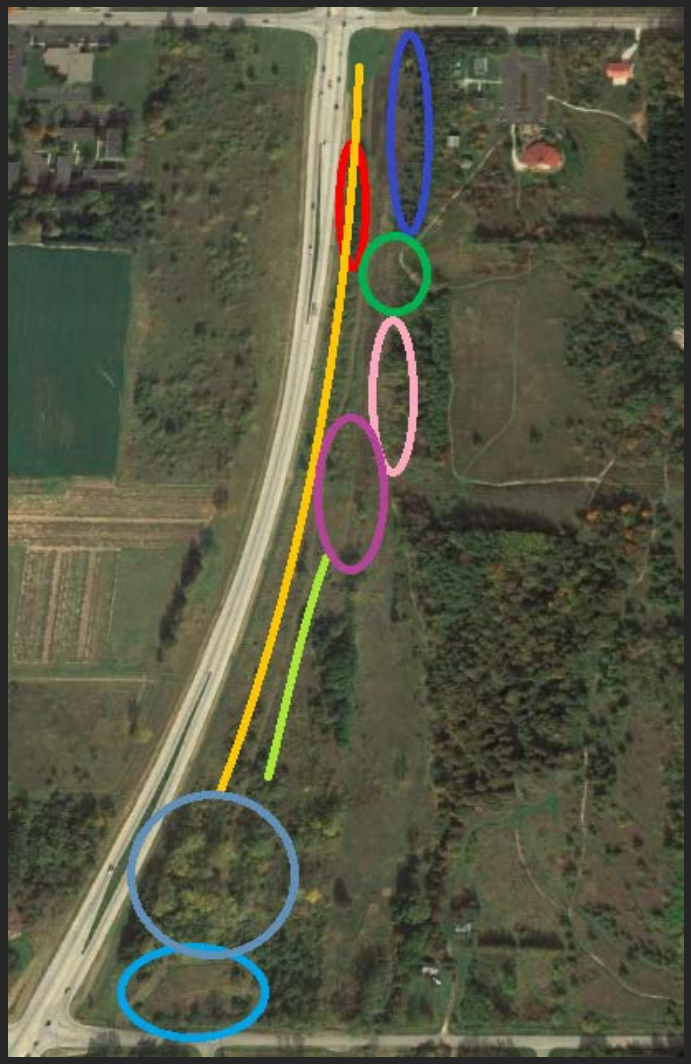

Non-Woody Plants	Priority	Comments	Treatment
Phragmites (phragmites australis)	High	Not yet widespread, prevention is key	Cut and treat
Cattail (typha latifolia)	High	Not yet widespread, prevention is key	Cut below waterline pull
Reed Canary Grass (Phalaris arundinacea)	Medium	Limited to patches of monoculture but prevention of further spread is important	Cut, bundle and trea top, hand pull, (contr burn)
Canada Thistle (Cirsium arvense)	Low	Very widespread but not taking over	Hand pull

Monitoring and Management

- Crossroad employee-based monitoring
- Community-based monitoring
- Volunteer opportunities
- Continual Bradley Method (if implemented)
- Continued incremental management of
  - Honeysuckle and Black locust
  - Blue spruce, Scotch pine
  - Herbaceous invasives

Appreciation

- Dan, Nancy and Chris
- Cohort members
- Crossroads board members and staff
- Guest faculty
- Parents