HORNER-MCLAUGHLIN WOODS:

Landscape change from 1940 to 2008



1940





2002



1966



2008



1984

In 1940, Horner Woods was a relatively large fragment of minimally disturbed oak woodland well known among local botanists as a stronghold for spring wildflowers. The surrounding land was mainly farmed, until the early 1960s, when M-14 was built.

The construction of the highway resulted in the loss of the northernmost part of the woods, as well as alterations to the hydrology of the area near the right-of-way.

A formerly cleared section in the southeast portion of University of Michigan property was used as a cabin site during the 1960s, and has gradually succeeded to woodland. This area currently contains a high percentage of non-indigenous invasive shrubs.

The western part of the property, donated by the McLaughlin family, is largely old farm fields, which have succeeded to shrubland and small trees. The northernmost part of the McLaughlin farm appears to have been maintained as an opencanopied grazing or woodlot, so many large old trees remain, and the area has filled in over time.