

RESTORATION IN PROGRESS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Monmouth County Park System is working to remove invasive species along the Manasquan River Greenway and in Turkey Swamp Park. These areas have been infested with detrimental invasive species such as Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), and autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*). To preserve this integral habitat and the food sources our sensitive native wildlife requires, stewardship is necessary to restore healthy habitat conditions. Selective land clearing will take place on 9 acres along the Brookside Trail at the Manasquan River Greenway and 14 acres along the Tighe Trail at Turkey Swamp Park during early 2025. Subsequent work planned includes spot treatments of herbicide to control any regrowth of the invasive plants.



Understory dominated by Japanese barberry at Turkey Swamp Park

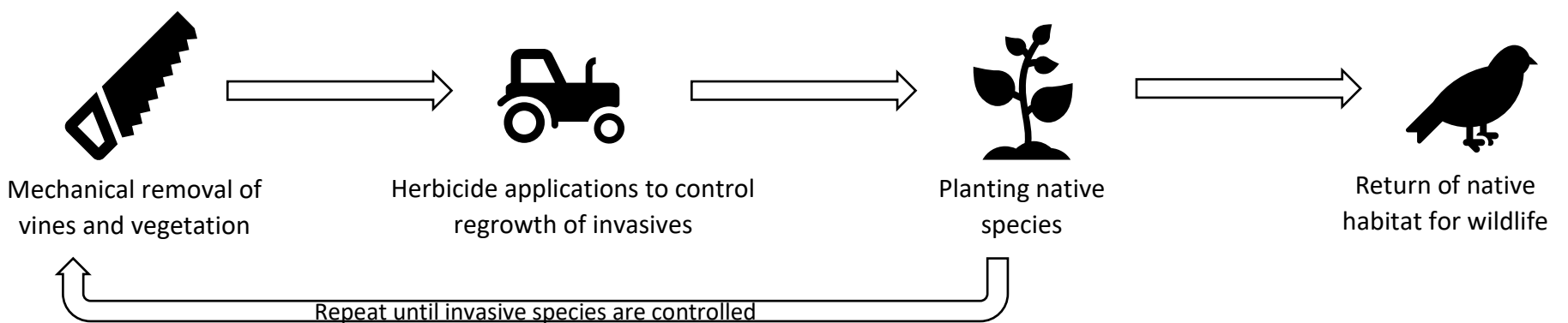
REASON FOR PROJECT

Invasive species are plants and animals that are non-native to an ecosystem and whose introduction causes environmental harm. Invasive plant species degrade native ecosystems by outcompeting native plants for resources such as habitat, water, nutrients, and light. Native plants are important to an ecosystem because native animals depend on them for survival. In the case of Japanese barberry, autumn olive, and Callery pear, these invasive species are fast-growing woody plants that quickly outgrow and shade native species. Additionally, forests infested with Japanese barberry have been shown to harbor increased black-legged tick populations. After the removal of the invasive species, native plants and animals can be restored to the area reverting the fields and forests to healthy habitat conditions.



Invasive olive and pear dominating field at the Manasquan Greenway

THE RESTORATION PROCESS



Please excuse the unsightly conditions of this area while the restoration is in progress. Landscape restorations are labor-intensive and full results may not be obvious for many years. The Monmouth County Park System apologizes for any inconvenience throughout the restoration period but expects that the final results will greatly improve the park for both visitors and wildlife.

