RESTORATION IN PROGRESS

INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

This area is heavily infested with a detrimental invasive species called Japanese sand sedge (*Carex kobomugi*). When an invasion of this degree occurs, stewardship is required to restore healthy habitat conditions, including the mechanical and chemical removal of this plant species. 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 altering habitat and outcompeting native plants for resources such as water, nutrients, and light. Japanese sand sedge is an invasive species that dramatically alters the vegetation density on a dune, degrading the habitat for the sensitive wildlife species that depend on it. With limited breeding habitat available for shorebirds in Monmouth County, invasive species management and habitat improvement is critical.

Japanese sand sedge (*Carex kobomugi*)

ENHANCING ENDANGERED BIRD HABITAT

Several shorebird species, such as the federally endangered piping plover, rely on sparsely vegetated dunes above the high tide line to breed. Dense vegetation discourages these shorebirds from breeding because it provides cover for predators to stalk their nests. Invasive Japanese sand sedge threatens breeding piping plovers by growing across dune habitats in dense mats that are unnatural for this habitat. Though piping plover historically had success breeding at Seven Presidents Park, it has been several years since a breeding population has been able to establish here. By restoring this dune to natural, healthy habitat conditions the Monmouth County Park System and its partners in wildlife conservation aim to provide sensitive shorebirds a desirable breeding ground so future generations can enjoy the diverse wildlife our beaches have to offer.

Federally Endangered Piping Plover

MONMOUTH COUNTY PARK SYSTEM NEW JERSEY

CONSERVE WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF NEW JERSEY

COUNTY OF MONMOUTH 1683 NEW JERSEY

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