

RESTORATION IN PROGRESS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Monmouth County Park System is working to remove invasive species throughout Huber Woods Park. This area is heavily infested with detrimental invasive species called porcelain-berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), and mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*). When an invasion of this degree occurs, stewardship is required to restore healthy habitat conditions, including the mechanical removal of several plant species. Selective land clearing took place on a four-acre portion of Huber Woods Park during early 2022. Subsequently, herbicide applications were made to control any invasive regrowth, followed by seeding of native species in 2023. Further herbicide applications and tree plantings are planned for 2025.



Conditions after vine removal and native grass seeding in June 2024.

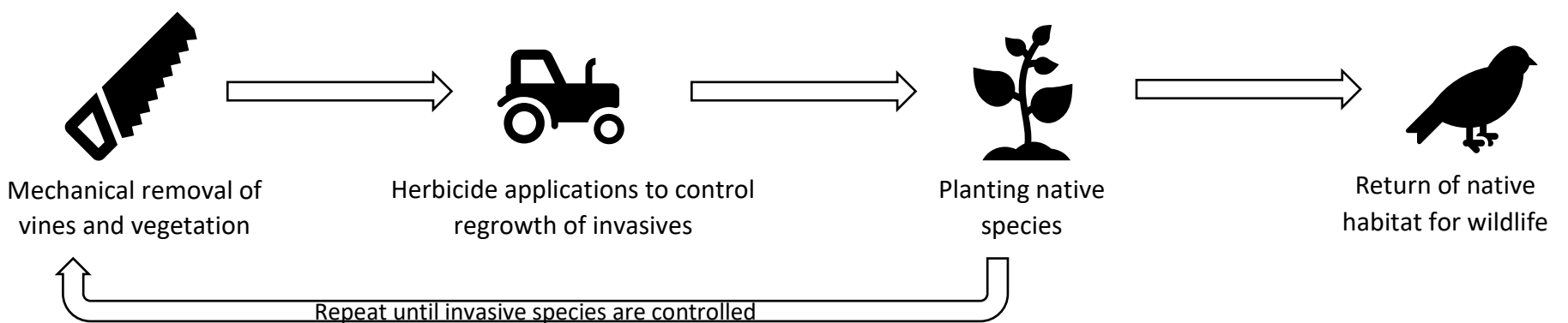
REASON FOR PROJECT

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 porcelain-berry, this invasive species is a climbing vine that can topple large trees if left unmanaged. Additionally, porcelain-berry spreads quickly and creates dense mats of vegetation that cover and prevent the growth of native vegetation. After removal of the invasive species, native plants and animals can be restored to the area to protect and improve forest health.



Initial site conditions in 2022: invasive vines smothering tall trees.

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 acknowledges any inconvenience throughout the restoration period but expects that the final results will greatly improve the park for both visitors and wildlife.

