

RESTORATION IN PROGRESS

HABITAT RESTORATION

The Monmouth County Park System is restoring wildlife habitat at Fisherman’s Cove Conservation Area. Park staff plans to restore the area that was once a parking lot into native habitat to support wildlife and improve passive recreation opportunities. As the last undeveloped land along the Manasquan Inlet, Fisherman’s Cove Conservation Area serves as vital habitat for wildlife. The Conservation Area is located along the Atlantic Flyway, a route that hundreds of bird species use during their annual migrations to and from their breeding sites. Fisherman’s Cove serves as an integral stopover for wildlife on this journey, and restoring and maintaining native habitat is important to their survival. In conjunction with the habitat restoration, invasive species management activities are ongoing to further improve habitat. The Park System recognizes the necessity for a holistic long-term site plan to properly restore what is one of the last vestiges of coastal wetland along the southern Monmouth County coast.



Flooded and degraded area after parking lot removal

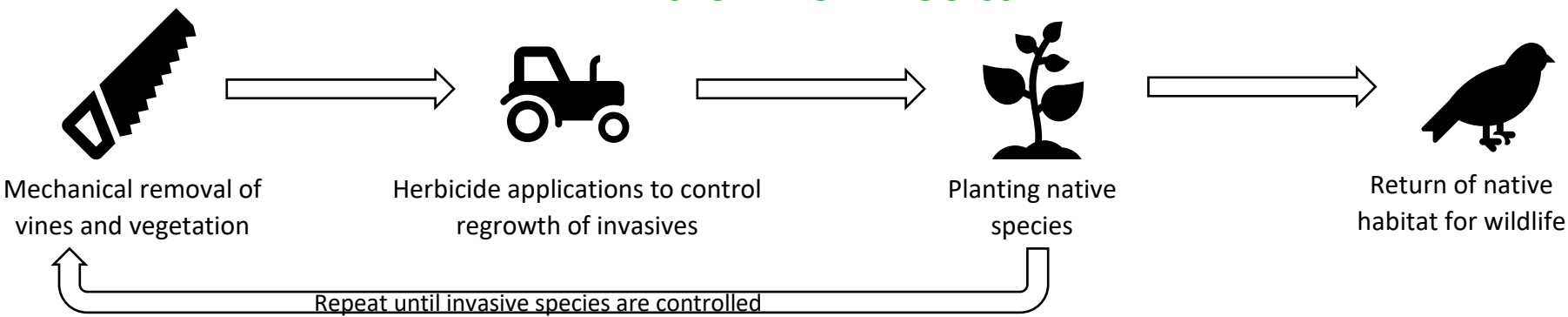
INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

This area is heavily infested with detrimental invasive species such as Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*), mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), and tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), the primary host of the spotted lantern fly. When an invasion of this degree occurs, stewardship is required to restore healthy habitat conditions, including the mechanical and chemical removal of several 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 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. Phragmites, mugwort and tree-of-heaven also disrupt hydrology and soil chemistry of a habitat, preventing native plants from thriving. After removal of the invasive species, native plants and animals can be restored to the area to protect wildlife habitat. As one of the Park System’s conservation areas, it is imperative that the Park System takes action to preserve this site.



Invasive mugwort and phragmites degrading field habitat

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 temporary inconveniences throughout the restoration period but expects that the final results will greatly improve the park for both visitors and wildlife.

