



Project Description

- The Poricy Park Conservancy and Middletown Township received \$10,000 in grant assistance from Sustainable Jersey™ to implement Phase I of a Multi-Phase Project to remove invasive plant species within a two (2) acre area in Poricy Park, and establish the area with warm season grasses and perennial forbs that will require little to no maintenance.
- Phase I will take place during the Spring and Summer 2014, and Spring 2015 and use goats to remove invasive plant species. This technique is known as Prescriptive Grazing, and is a **natural and chemical-free** alternative for the removal of invasive plants.
- **Prescriptive Grazing** is the controlled harvest of vegetation with browsing or grazing animals. This natural technique has been re-discovered as an effective land management tool for hard to access areas, and areas overgrown with invasive exotic weeds.
- The grazing area is enclosed with a double perimeter of fencing. The **exterior green safety fence and interior solar-charged, electric fence** prevent the goats from wandering off, and protect people from coming in contact with the goats.
- A temporary wood shelter provides shade and protection from the elements for the goats.
- Buckets of clean water will be provided to the goats daily by Conservancy Staff and volunteers.



Project Goals

- To suppress invasive plant populations by reducing invasive plant seed production.
- To allow native plants to compete more effectively by stressing invasive plants.
- To improve water quality by utilizing biological controls to remove invasive plant populations rather than herbicides.
- To decrease soil loss and build organic matter in soils resulting in increased water holding capacity, increased water infiltration rates, and improved structural stability.
- To provide a safe and secure environment for grazing animals and the general public.



Project Impact

- Utilizing Sustainable Jersey™ funds for goats to remove invasive plant species at Poricy Park will have substantial environmental and instructional value. This will contribute to Poricy Park’s biodiversity and in the later Phases of the project create rich habitat for a variety of mammals, insects and birds.
- Removing invasive plant species will complement past efforts of the Township, Conservancy and the Monmouth County Park System’s initiatives to remove invasives in Poricy Park, and at nearby County parkland, reinforcing a multi-agency approach to an emerging regional problem.
- Reinforcing the importance of native plants to school-age children via the Conservancy’s educational programs at the Nature Center will foster multi-generational understanding of local ecology.
- Presence of grazing goats will enhance the colonial farm and pastoral image of the Park and raise the profile of “Middletown 350” living history events scheduled to take place at Poricy Park throughout 2014 that highlight the Park’s historic farm buildings, and colonial life.



Native Plants Provide Many Benefits!

(Source: New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team)

- ❑ Natives require little to no fertilizer, which is critical for the protection of water quality in our streams, rivers, ponds and drinking water.
- ❑ Natives have low water requirements – they typically don’t need extra watering between rain storms.
- ❑ Natives provide valuable food sources and shelter for native wildlife.

Inventory of Plant Species in the Grazing Area

Blackberries	Oriental Bittersweet
Canada Thistle	Poison Ivy
Choke cherry	Pokeberry
Golden rod	Porcelain Berry
Grapevine	Ragweed
Mile-A-Minute	Snake root



Milkweed	Sumac
Multiflora Rose	Virginia Creeper
Oak	Wild Geranium

***bold** denotes invasive species



Important Note!

- The inner fencing of the goat enclosure is **solar-charged, electric fence**. The outer fence is green safety fence. The double perimeter of fencing is intended to keep the goats from coming in contact with people and animals.

- All Animals must be leashed at all times inside the park (Middletown Twp. Code Chp. 193, Art. 1, Sec. 3, Regulated Activities). This is a year-round Township Park Rule. **Violation is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500 per offense or occasion.**

- The goats will be grazing during the Spring and Summer 2014, and Spring 2015.