



Woodland Management with Goats at East Community Park 2019

Overview

Environmental Resources staff worked with Goat Dispatch to control buckthorn and other invasive species in the woodland at East Community Park in September, 2019. The timing and location was a great opportunity to try goat grazing. Chemical management that had taken place in previous years was not affecting the buckthorn, or other invasive species to the extent needed. To avoid having to use a brush mower again for this area, it was decided to try goat grazing. Goat grazing is an environmentally conscious way to control buckthorn as it greatly reduces chemical use yet manages buckthorn plants.

Grazing by goats at different times of year effects buckthorn differently. Grazing in September removes all the leaves and this significantly weakens the plant by forcing the plant to use energy to try and regrow leaves when it should be spending it's time absorbing sunlight and pulling the energy to it's roots. The buckthorn will come back in 2020, but with continued management at various times, we should be able to keep the population of buckthorn and other invasive species in-check.

Images on the back page illustrate the before grazing and after grazing of a few areas in the woods. The effects were very dramatic in person.



Fence Installation



Goats arriving at park



Goats being herded into woods



Filming educational video



Goats making headway 9/16/19



Practices

- ◆ Sustainable Woodland Management

Project Benefits

- Stunting buckthorn and other invasive species
- ◆ Promote natural management of woodland
- ◆ Education on chemical free options for woodland management

Timeline

- ◆ Goats were on property from 9/9 to 9/25/19

Contractor

- Goat Dispatch



Around 100 goats were used to manage 9 acres of woods

