

FOREST MANAGEMENT: EMERSON COMMUNITY PROJECT PROFILE

February–November 2021

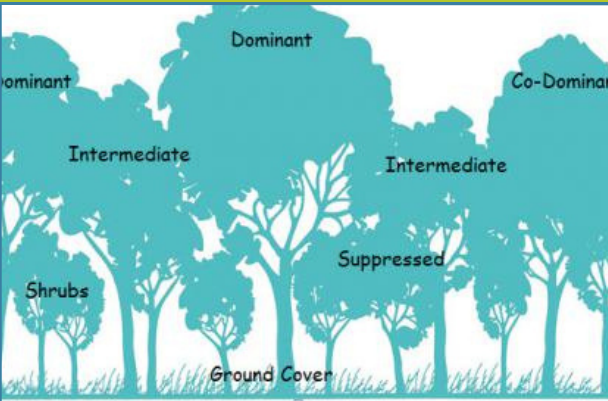


PURPOSE

Implement a forest restoration project for a 1-acre forest conservation easement in the Emerson community with a long-term goal of creating a healthy and functional forest that supports wildlife and provides sustainability education opportunities to the Emerson residents.

GOALS OF WOODLAND MANAGEMENT AT EMERSON

- Protect community assets of forests and trees to limit liability and enhance property values
- Enhance natural recruitment and regeneration of native tree and shrub species;
- Control invasive species through a basic risk assessment and prioritization process;
- Plant 75 native tree and plant species; and
- Engage the community through volunteer workdays and documenting the area's wildlife through the iNaturalist app



ASSESSING WOODLAND HEALTH

- EcoWorks documented current invasive and native plant coverage, by percent, in a 1-acre forest for different forest layers: tree canopy, understory, shrub layer, and ground layer.
- Native species that were present on the forest floor were also identified. Natives were compared against the existing tree canopy and the forest composition of typical temperate forests to determine which native species were missing from the forest.

BEFORE AND AFTER: DECLINE OF INVASIVES IN THE SHRUB LAYER



BEFORE

AFTER

Invasive species occupied up to 70% of the shrub layer before management. At the end of the 10 month period, the density of invasive species in the shrub layer was no more than 20%.

American Beautyberry
(*Callicarpa americana*)

Native Plants

Native plants have co-evolved over millennia with our local pollinators making them excellent sources of nectar and pollen. The native plants used in Emerson include:



- Northern Red Oak
- Hackberry
- Black Walnut
- Black Cherry
- Sassafras
- Persimmon
- Serviceberry
- Highbush Blueberry
- Witch Hazel

PROJECT PARTNERS INCLUDE:

