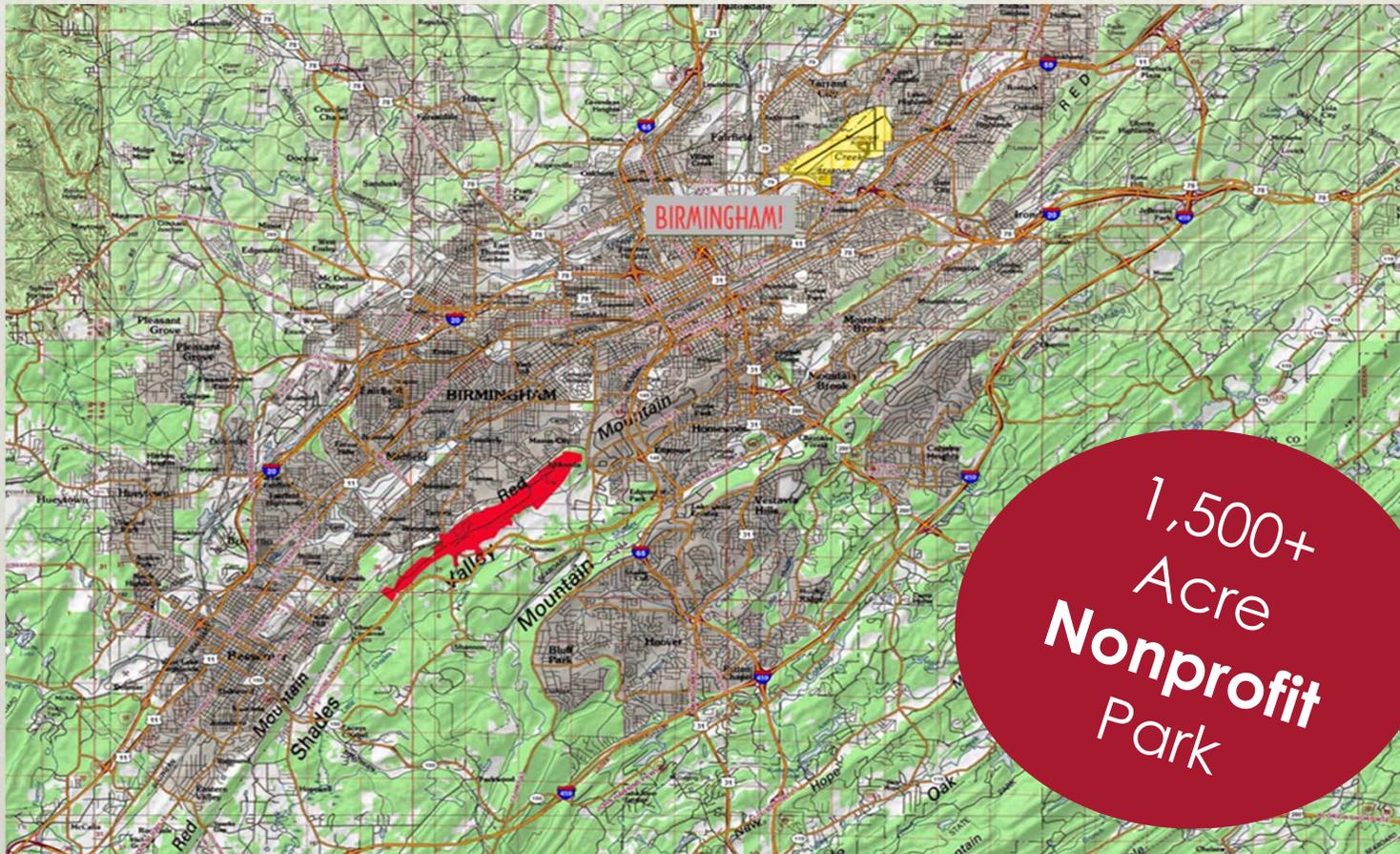


# BPD in Urban Forest Restoration: Red Mountain Park

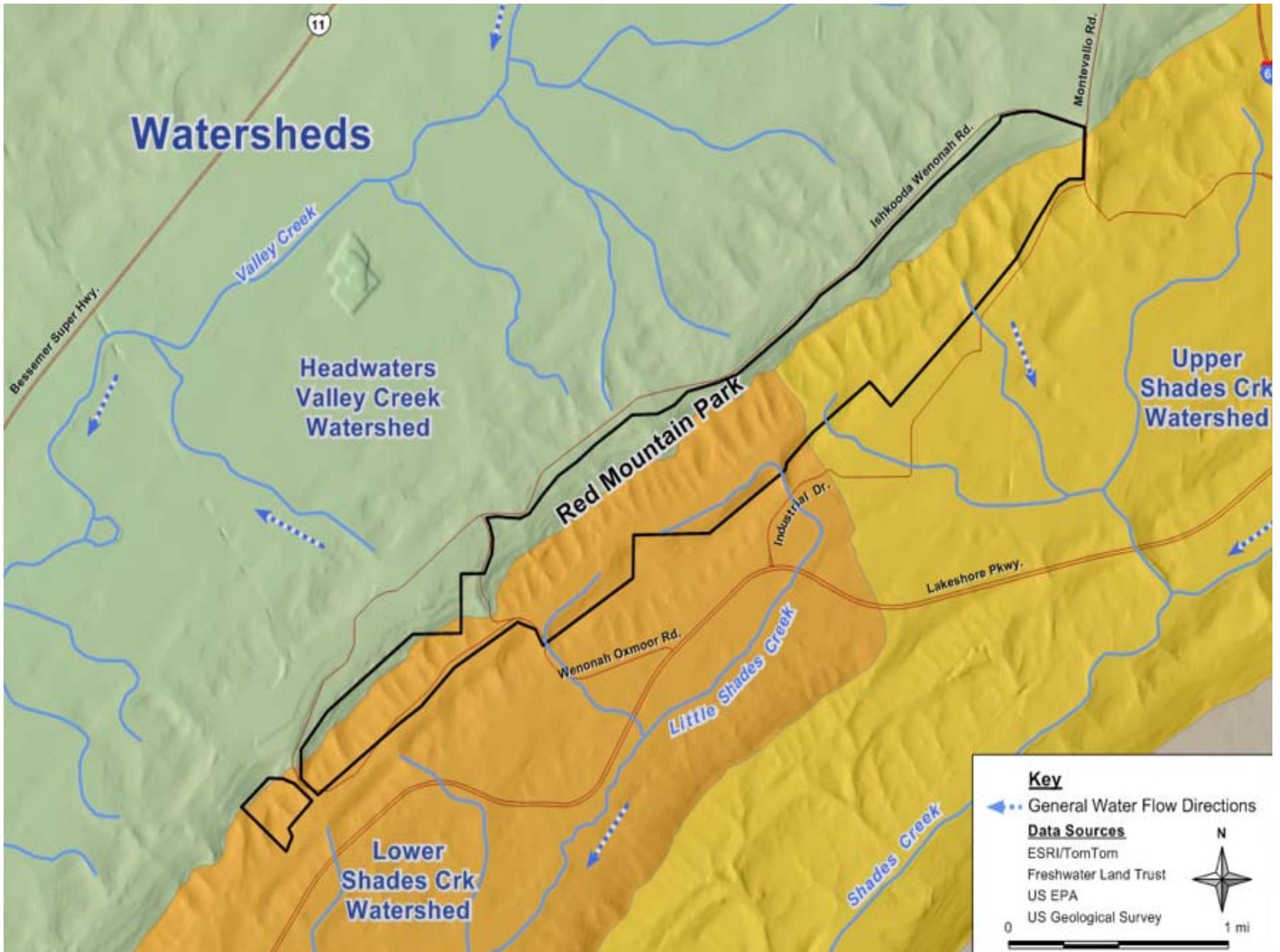


A signature urban Park, minutes from downtown Birmingham









# Disturbance Regimes

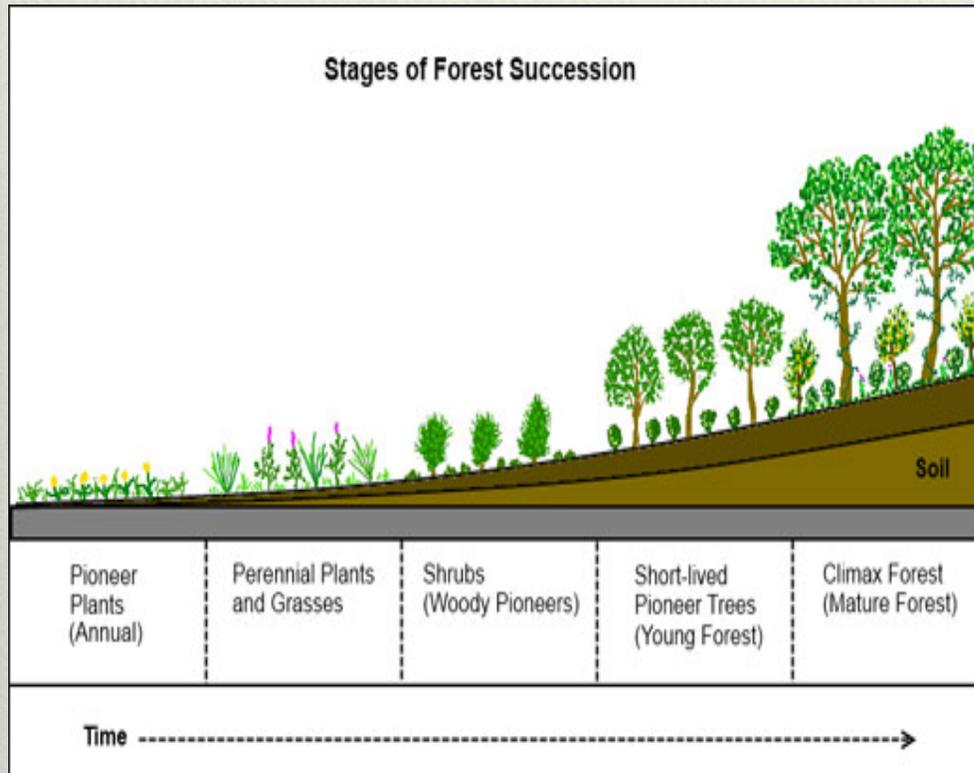




# *Integrated* Restoration

- ❖ “The use of native plants and re-establishment of ecological processes can regenerate a sense of **regional identity**, even in dense cities”  
(Hough, 1990)
  
- ❖ “Restoring urban forests offers an opportunity **to get the public involved in** healing, managing, and **understanding local ecosystems**”  
(Miller 2002, Jordan and Light 2003)

# Big Picture



# RMP Forest Management

- ❖ Prevent entry/spread
- ❖ Rehabilitate, restore or reclaim treated lands
- ❖ Map/monitor invasive priority zones
- ❖ Eradicate, control or contain, monitor results



# Phased Remediation



**Species Specific Herbicide  
– Biology Dependent—**

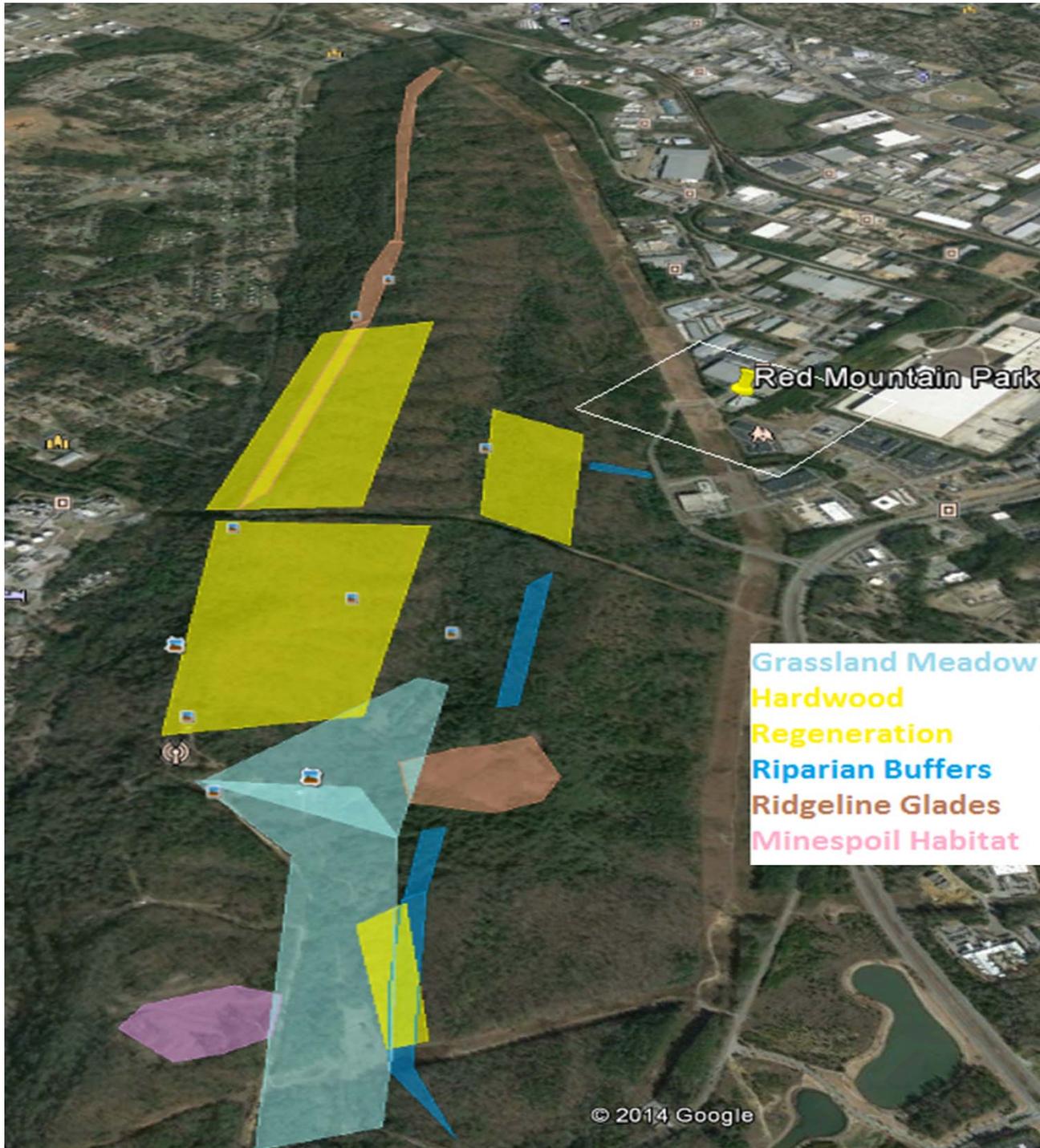


**Native  
Reintroduction**



**Innovative,  
Continued  
Progress**





Identify  
Prioritized  
Habitats



Seed Sources



Recreation



Wildlife

*Before*



Before





6

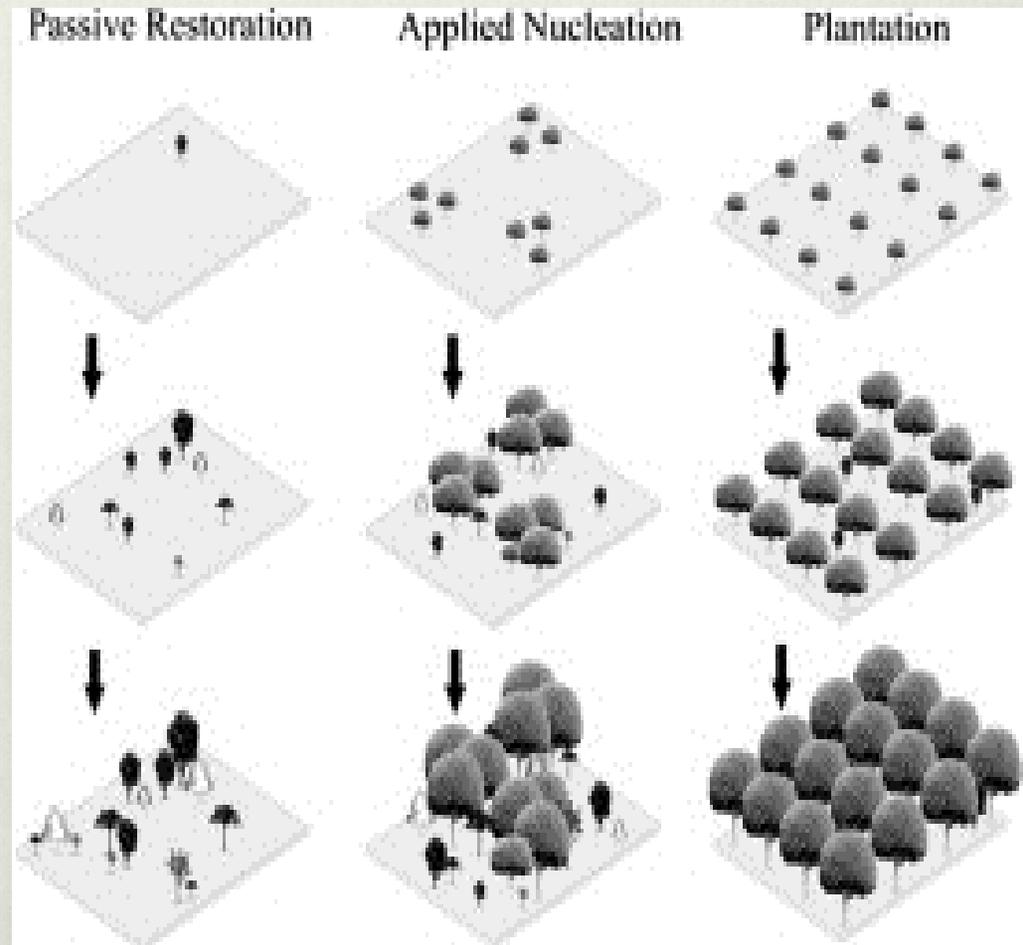
Months

12  
Months



# Ensuring Forest Sustainability

- ❖ Grove Replanting
- ❖ Local genetics
- ❖ "Eco-stratification"
- ❖ Pollinator habitat



# Restoring Natural Habitats...

## with the Help of Goats!

### What's going on here?

Red Mountain Park is implementing new and innovative methods for large scale land restoration to address decades of extensive invasive plant overgrowth. Goat browsing is just one strategy the Park is piloting as part of its comprehensive Forest Management Program.



Goats hard at work browsing invasive vegetation

### Why use goats?

Some beneficial aspects of goat browsing include,

1. Eliminates excessive use of chemicals
2. Replicates how invasive plants are controlled in a natural environmental setting
3. Goats produce helpful waste that fertilizes the soil for upcoming ecosystem restoration

### Why are there dogs?

To keep this hardworking herd safe, the dogs help guard the goats from any wild predators, mainly coyotes, while they graze and sleep.

### Remember!

We welcome Visitors to enjoy, watch and take pictures of our goats hard at work, but please

1. Do so from a safe distance and DO NOT approach the electrified fencing
2. Allow the animals to work in peace and DO NOT tease the goats

### Questions?

If you have questions or would like to learn more, please contact:

Ian Hazelhoff, *Natural Resource Specialist*  
(205) 202-6043  
[ihazelhoff@redmountainpark.org](mailto:ihazelhoff@redmountainpark.org)



*Thank You to our Partners for funding this important work!*







6 Months



# Our Role, Together

- ❖ Educational opportunity – Universities, Public
- ❖ *Research Forest* – regulation-free, USFS, AFC
- ❖ Individual/Business involvement – “sow the seeds of ownership”
- ❖ Community Engagement

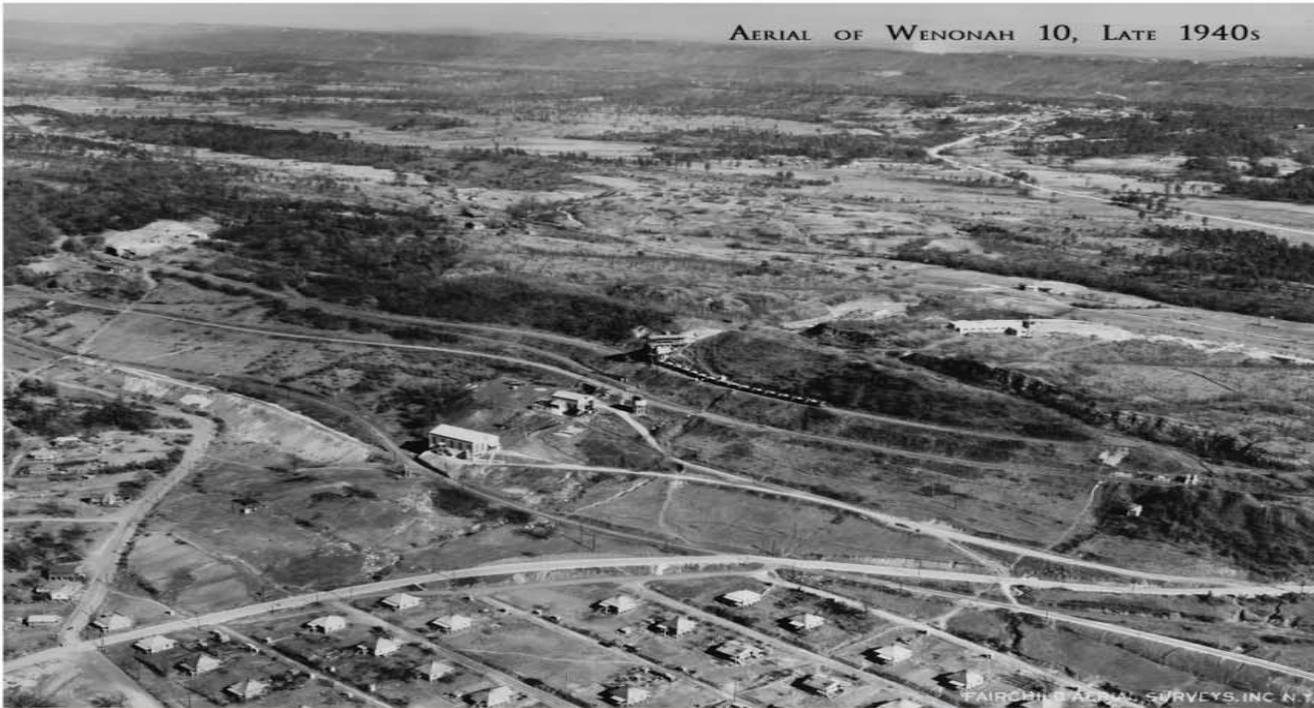
An aerial photograph of Red Mountain Park, showing a vast expanse of forest with some green clearings. In the background, the city of Birmingham is visible, with a red arrow pointing to the downtown area. The sky is clear and blue.

Downtown Birmingham

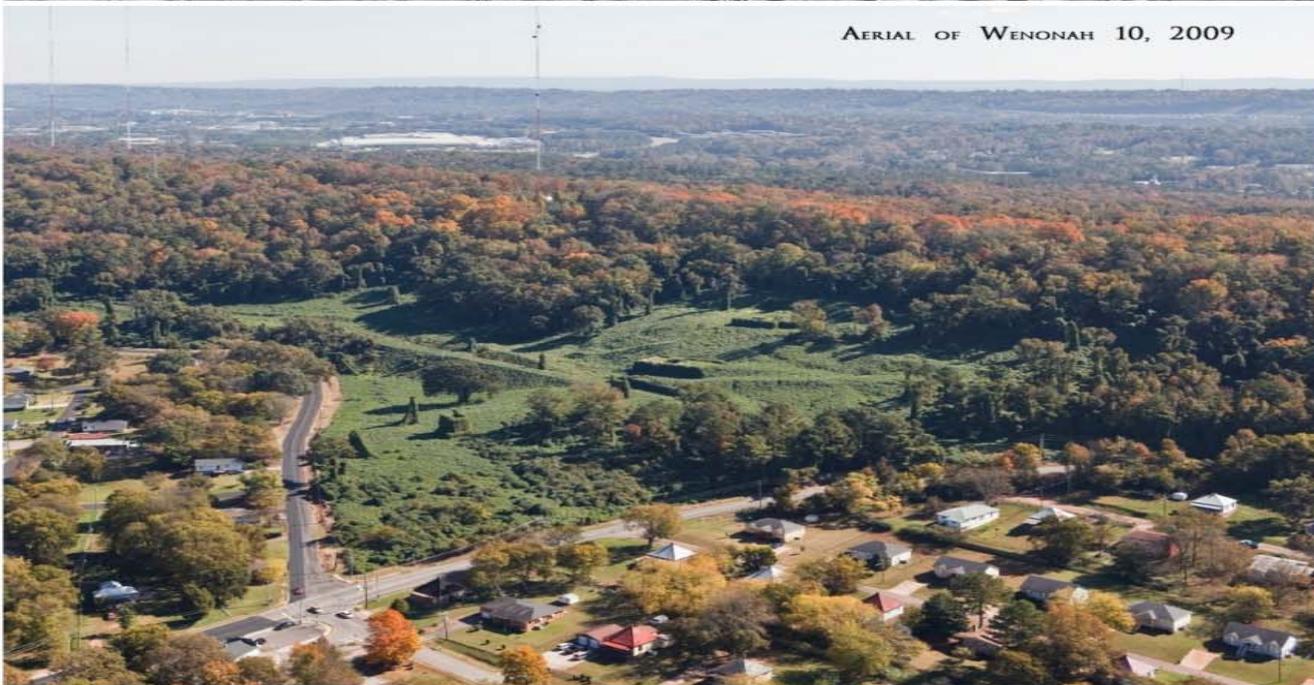
## **Red Mountain Park is:**

- A 1,500 acre green space
- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
- NOT reliant on city, county, state or federal funding
- Reliant on the generosity of community investors
- Generating operations income via Programs and Adventure Area revenue
- Debt-free and on track to become financially self-sustaining by 2018

AERIAL OF WENONAH 10, LATE 1940s



AERIAL OF WENONAH 10, 2009



QUESTIONS?

## *Sources*

- ❖ Miller, James H.; Manning, Steven T.; Enloe, Stephen F. 2010. **A management guide for invasive plants in southern forests**. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-131. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 120 p.
- ❖ <http://trekbirmingham.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Watersheds.png>
- ❖ [http://www.nature.org/cs/groups/webcontent/@web/@brazil/documents/media/prd\\_018291.jpg](http://www.nature.org/cs/groups/webcontent/@web/@brazil/documents/media/prd_018291.jpg)