BPD in Urban Forest Restoration:
Red Mountain Park
A signature urban Park, minutes from downtown Birmingham

1,500+ Acre Nonprofit Park
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

Stages of Forest Succession

- Pioneer Plants (Annual)
- Perennial Plants and Grasses
- Shrubs (Woody Pioneers)
- Short-lived Pioneer Trees (Young Forest)
- Climax Forest (Mature Forest)

Time
RMP Forest Management

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

Species Specific Herbicide
– Biology Dependent—

Innovative, Continued Progress

Native Reintroduction
Identify Prioritized Habitats

Seed Sources

Recreation

Wildlife
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.

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:

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Thank You to our Partners for funding this important work!
Our Role, Together

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


- http://www.nature.org/cs/groups/webcontent/@web/@brazil/documents/media/prd_018291.jpg