

Goats in the Garden Sustainable Grazing for Ecological Restoration and Land Management

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FORT WORTH
BOTANIC
GARDEN



Before



After

Why?

Remove/suppress target species to facilitate management, increase diversity, & improve habitat at Native Texas Boardwalk (NTB). Using goats saves on labor costs, reduces chemical usage & noise pollution, & educates guests.

Species Richness

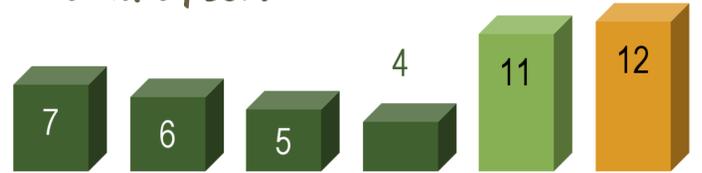


Whole area more species-rich than transect average...
...NTB is diverse!

Before...

Goats did their job so richness decreased...
...system should rebound over time!

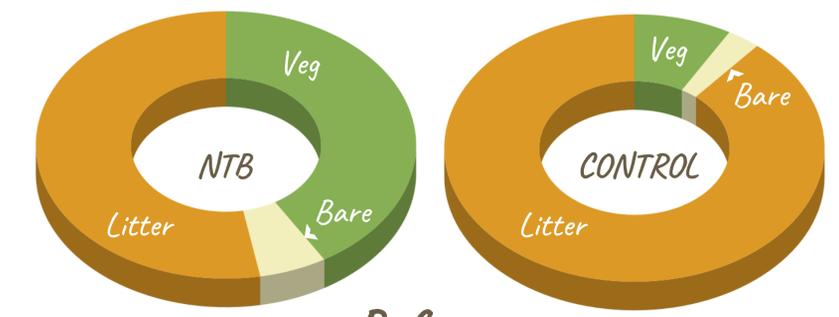
...and after!



Target Species Eaten?

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| wild rye
(<i>Elymus</i>) | privet
(<i>Ligustrum</i>) | wintercreeper
(<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| heavenly bamboo
(<i>Nandina domestica</i>) | greenbriar
(<i>Smilax</i>) | cherry laurel
(<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>) |

Vegetative Cover



Goats exposed more litter & bare ground by eating the plants!

Before...

...and after!

In the absence of goats, veg cover will normally increase in the Spring!

Goats in action!



More details here!