



2022

GRAZING SEASON  
REPORT

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# STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Tivoli Lake Preserve (TLP) encompasses 83 acres and is one of New York state's largest urban wildlife preserves—second only to Manhattan's Central Park. In 2014, the City of Albany created a visioning plan for Tivoli Lake Preserve with community input. The plan identified invasive species management as a core hurdle in increasing the usage of the preserve. Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) is an invasive species that has created limited visibility within the preserve. These invasive grasses trap and camouflage trash that is illegally dumped or blown into the preserve and grows in dense thickets that displace native plant species from thriving.

# PROPOSED SOLUTION

Use a flock of sheep to graze Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) as a manual control to help suppress the plants along a portion of the trail in Tivoli Lake Preserve. These treatments will be tracked in iMapInvasives to help support these studies.



# About us

## Our mission

Friends of Tivoli Lake Preserve and Farm, Inc. as a steward of the Preserve, facilitates conservation, environmental education, and outdoor recreation.

Our activities empower individuals and families to enjoy the natural world, promoting healthier and more peaceful communities.



**We are dedicated to supporting Tivoli Lake Preserve through vegetation management, education workshops, trail clean-ups and community engagement.**



# 2022 Grazing Outcomes

Friends of Tivoli Lake Preserve has been supporting the City of Albany with invasive species management since 2017 (with a break in 2020). We have a license agreement to do work to support the Preserve including using a flock of sheep to manage vegetation along a recently renovated trail.



**Increased awareness of using sheep as a non-invasive management technique.**

The flock not only love chomping on the invasive species, but they bring a sense of peace and an opportunity for environmental education in an environmental justice area of the City.



**Increased awareness of invasive species**

In addition to grazing Common Reed, the flock grazed additional species such as Wild Parsnip, Autumn Olive, and Purple Loosestrife.

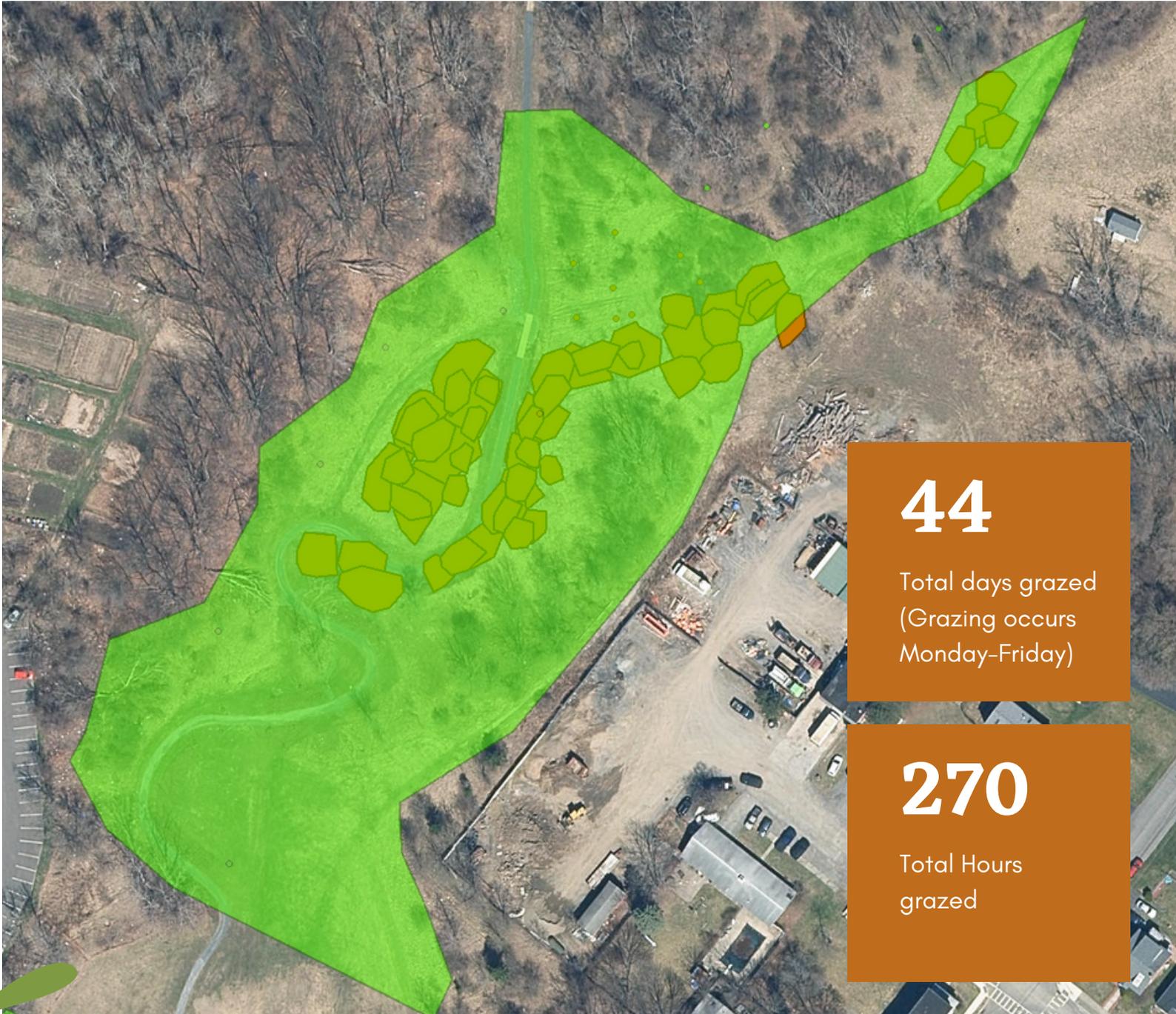


**Increased awareness of PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management)**

Our High School interns helped with the bioassessments and even cut the tops of the flowering Common Reed to help prevent the spread. Through these events, they learned about PRISM as a whole and shared this information with others.

# Grazing Zone and Treatments

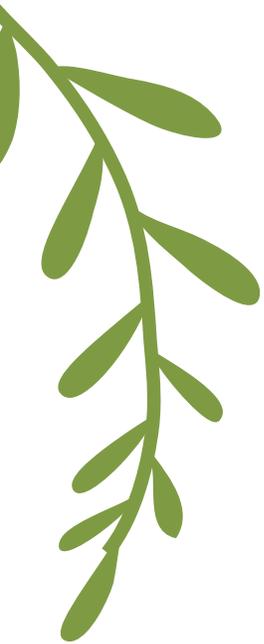
Our focus area and treatment zones tracked in iMapInvasives. This also shows the treatments tracked in 2021.



**Before...**



**After...**

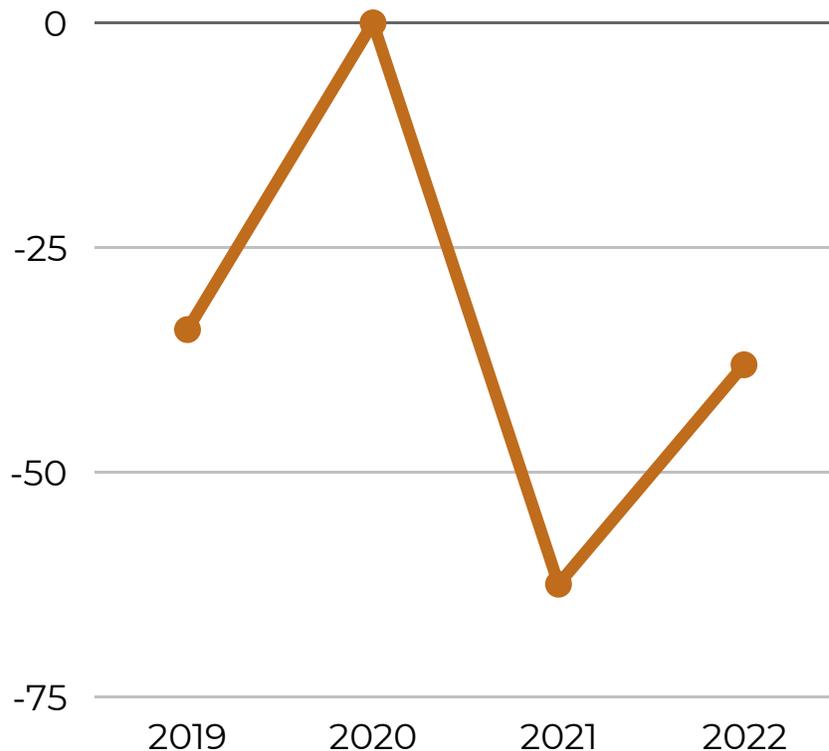


# Bioassessment



Grazing reduced the overall biomass of Common Reed.

	Before Treatment	After Treatment	Difference
Average Height	179.70 cm	111.44 cm	-68.26 cm
Biomass (m2)	37.55 g	23.29 g	-14.26 g
Relative Biomass	-37.98% reduction in biomass after treatment		



**This chart shows the overall "relative biomass" per m2 that was reduced after treatment. We did not graze in 2020 which is why why reduction was so drastic in 2021.**



# CHALLENGES /LEARNINGS

- It was a very dry year making it hard to find "sheep sitters" on the hottest days "Sheep sitters" help prevent guests from having dogs off-leash near the flock. There was an incident that prevented us from going through the regrowth. No sheep or humans were hurt, but we will make sure that the flock has "sheep sitters" when they are grazing.
- As the flock cleared areas under thickets, trash was revealed and needed to be picked up.



# WINS

- Despite the heat and our inability to go through the regrowth, the flock did an amazing job in a short amount of time. It has given us clarity that the grazing season is fairly short and confidence that they can clear the Common Reed along this part of the trail within two months.
- The flock even enjoyed eating Autumn Olive which helped with visibility even more under the thicket.



# Thank "ewe"!

We are grateful for our continued partnership with PRISM.



## Contact Us

Follow the project:  
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