

# GOATS AT BURR OAK PARK 2021

## ANN ARBOR PARKS AND RECREATION

In 2021, a park neighbor expressed concern about the large amount of non-native invasive shrubs and poison ivy growing in the park's natural area. There was also an almost complete lack of visibility into the woods, which made exploring the space less inviting and led to safety concerns with park neighbors and visitors.

After thinking back to the success of our [Goats at Gallup](#) project at the [Gallup Park](#) islands, we considered hiring a herd of goats from Twin Willow Ranch in Milan, MI to eat and push back some of this overgrowth and poison ivy. Adopt-a-Park reached out to the Liberty Glen Homeowners Association, who are park adopters, along with the Liberty Oaks Association, to share the potential project and initiate community engagement.

In August 2021, Adopt-a-Park hosted a public survey to share the proposed project and provide an opportunity for residents to voice their support or concern about changes to the park and the goat visit. 92% of survey participants did not have a concern with the project or hiring goats. View the [survey results](#) with identifiable information redacted.

The goats visited the park from August 13<sup>th</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>, requiring the goats to be fenced in small sections and being moved around in week-long increments. The goats made a significant change during their three-week visit, creating visibility through the wooded space and making the nonnative invasive shrubs more accessible for further stewardship. After the goats completed their work, Adopt-a-Park staff and volunteers hosted two fall workdays to begin cutting down the shrubs after the leaves had been eaten.

On August 23<sup>rd</sup> Adopt-a-Park staff and Twin Willow Ranch hosted a Goat Open House event for residents to learn about the project and have an opportunity to interact with the goats. Over 100 people joined us!

This project is expected to be long-term, with possible follow up visits by the goats and repeated workdays and staff support to remove the stands of nonnative invasive shrubs. In the future, staff will assess the space to determine if additional plantings will be necessary to restore and maintain the space. The intention is to preserve the wooded area but to create a space that is more open and less dominated by buckthorn, honeysuckle, and poison ivy.



**Parks & Recreation**  
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-a-Park**

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Before Goat Visit



After Goat Visit





**Park property line**  
**Proposed vegetation management and goat area**