

MEADOWS

Open habitat areas of mixed herbaceous vegetation. Some have been previously managed through mowing. Approximately 16.5 acres.

Management: Cool Season Meadow

- Mow early spring and late summer
- Spot treat for perennial invasives

Management: Warm Season Meadow

- Mow in June
- Spot treat for perennial invasives

Management: Short term

- Dormant mow
- Broadleaf-selective treatment (Canada thistle, callery pear, vines)

Management: Future

- Fire and/or portion dormant mowing to prevent woody species encroachment and promote meadow species
- Overseeding with desirable native species may increase diversity

WOODED WETLAND

Deciduous forest in low areas adjacent to herbaceous wetlands. Trees are mostly boxelder with multiflora rose and bush honeysuckles, and other non-native shrubs and vines. Approximately 4.5 acres.

Management recommendations

- Clear via hand-removal invasive shrubs and thin boxelder
- Replanting with native wet-tolerant trees and shrubs soon after

Future considerations

- Spot removal of vines and invasive shrubs

HERBACEOUS WETLAND

Open wet meadow areas dominated by invasive species, primarily *Phragmites* with several patches of reed canary grass. Native herbaceous species are almost non-existent. Approximately 3.6 acres of *Phragmites* and 0.7 acres of reed canary grass.

Management recommendations

- Dormant mow, June mow, late summer herbicide application
- 3 years of control
- Manage by section rather than whole area at once to retain some habitat for birds during transition to native wetland

Future considerations

- Spot treat for small populations of *Phragmites*, reed canary grass, and other invasive species

RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW)

Open or semi-open area along railroad tracks. Vegetation is primarily porcelain-berry and other non-native herbaceous species.

Management recommendations if permission IS obtained to treat invasives in Right-of-Way (ROW)

- Broadcast application of selective herbicide to control porcelain-berry
- Seed with desirable native meadow species
- Manage as meadow (mow, spot treat)

Management recommendations if permission IS NOT obtained to treat invasives in ROW

- Create mowed turf strip at ROW edge
- Manage interior as meadow (overseed, mow, spot treat)

MARGINAL WOODLANDS 1-3

Degraded, deciduous forest along Trestle Trail. Thin canopy consists of black walnut, mixed cherry, short boxelder, black locust. Approaching the Little Conestoga Creek, canopy makeup favors lowland species like sycamore, black walnut. Mid/understory is a mix of bush and vine honeysuckle, multiflora rose, blackberry, raspberry and porcelain-berry. Large woodland openings with thin or non-existent canopy are also present. Approximately 13 acres.

Management recommendations

- Invasive shrub removal through forestry mowing, cut stump treatment and removal, chipping
- Tree-of-Heaven (TOH) treatment (basal or hack-and-squirt)
- Thinning of the boxelder canopy in Marginal Woodland 1
- Foliar management of invasive vines
- ROW edge - re-establish native edge after clearing

Future considerations

- Re-establish woodland edge habitat through replanting of shrub thicket and/or woodland clearing habitat with mixed grasses/sedges
- Clear invasive understory and thin boxelder stands to establish clearing habitat or native shrub thickets. Vines are secondary consideration.



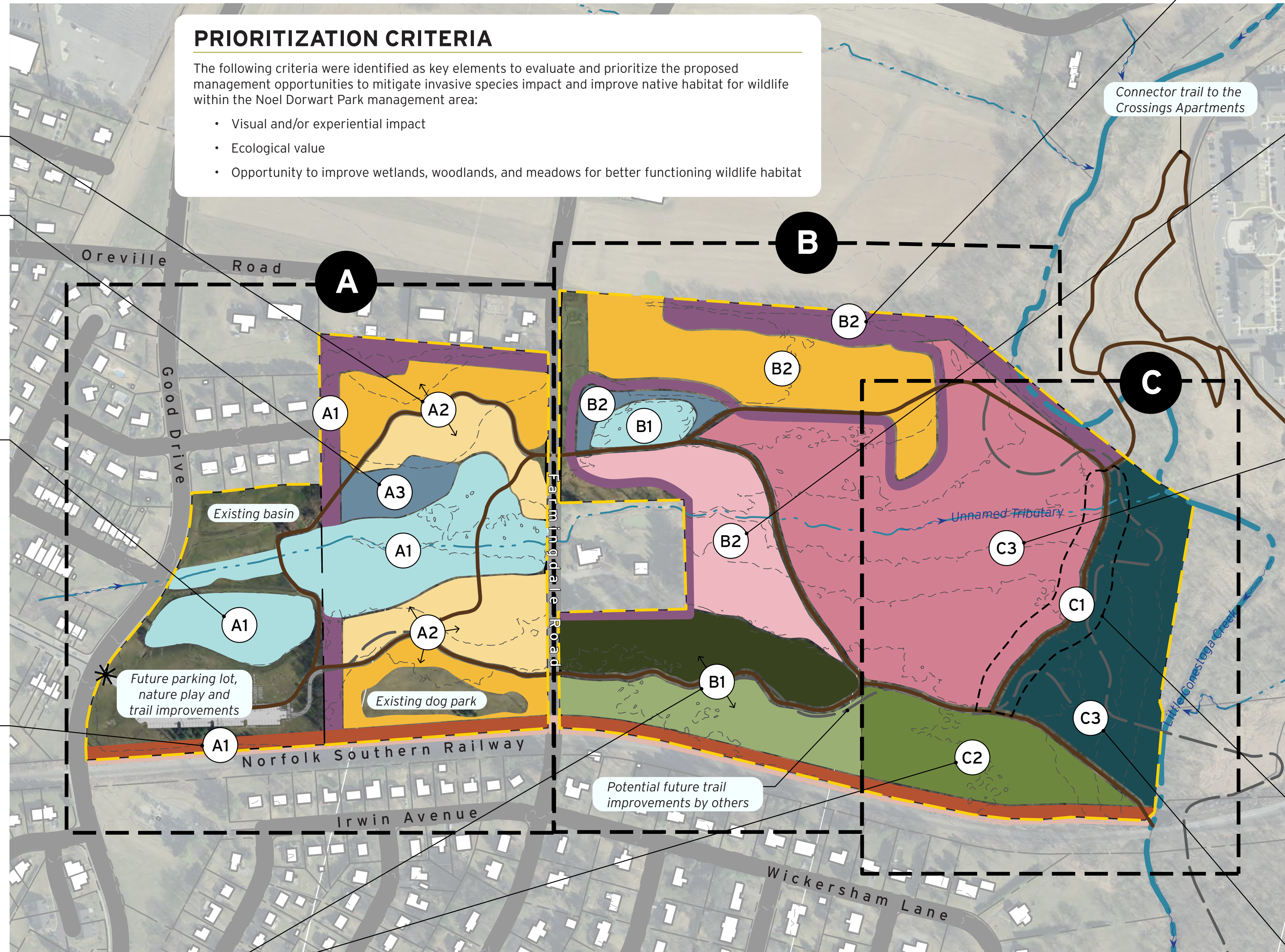
Vegetation Management Strategies Plan Noel Dorwart Park

Lancaster County, PA
December 18, 2024

PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

The following criteria were identified as key elements to evaluate and prioritize the proposed management opportunities to mitigate invasive species impact and improve native habitat for wildlife within the Noel Dorwart Park management area:

- Visual and/or experiential impact
- Ecological value
- Opportunity to improve wetlands, woodlands, and meadows for better functioning wildlife habitat



HEDGEROW & FOREST EDGE

Narrow strips of woody species along property edges and transition areas between woods and meadow areas. A mix of native trees and non-native shrub species and vines. Approximately 3.3 acres of hedgerow and 5.8 acres of edge.

Management recommendations

- Brush hog/forestry mow to clear
- Stump treat shrubs, foliar spray or pull vines (English ivy)
- Replant with native trees/shrubs

Future considerations

- Spot removal of vines and invasive shrubs

MATURE WOODLAND 1

Open forest consisting of mixed hardwoods. Midstory is a mix of native and non-native shrubs including spicebush and bush honeysuckle, respectively. Forest floor dominated by cool season grasses, non-native forbs and Japanese stiltgrass. Approximately 8 acres.

Management recommendations

- TOH treatment (basal or hack-and-squirt)
- Invasive shrubs (hand cut and treat)
- Foliar management of invasive vines

Future considerations

- Stiltgrass management using a pre-emergent herbicide
- Regeneration of the forest floor through current vegetation management and/or supplemental planting of native woodland species (e.g. sedges)
- Managed succession of areas disturbed from invasive species removal (selective treatments, removals as needed)

MATURE WOODLAND 2

Mature canopy consisting of mixed hardwoods, transitioning to lowland hickories, sycamores, black walnuts. Midstory a mix of native and non-native shrubs including spicebush, bush honeysuckle, and privet. The midstory is thicker than in Mature Woodland 1. Stiltgrass is prevalent on the forest floor. Approximately 7.7 acres.

Management recommendations

- TOH treatment (basal or hack-and-squirt)
- Removal of invasive shrubs to favor native understory, via cut stump treatment

Future considerations

- Stiltgrass management using a pre-emergent herbicide
- Regeneration of the forest floor through current vegetation management and/or supplemental planting of native woodland species (e.g. sedges)
- Managed succession of areas disturbed from invasive species removal (selective treatments, removals as needed)

CREEK TRAIL

Between the Mature Woodland 2 and Upland / Lowland Transition zones, a wall of privet lines both sides of Creek Trail.

Management recommendations

- Remove privet-dominated vegetation wall within 100 feet of the trail

UPLAND / LOWLAND TRANSITION

Mature woodland characterized by transitional habitat sloping down to reed canary grass flats along the Little Conestoga Creek. Prevalent loss of ash canopy. Canopy consists of mixed hardwoods including sycamore, black walnut, hickories. Understory consists of privet, bush honeysuckle, multiflora rose and Osage orange. Approximately 9.4 acres.

Management recommendations

- TOH treatment (basal or hack-and-squirt)

Future considerations

- Management of reed canary grass along the Little Conestoga Creek, with the intent to eradicate and replant with native wet meadow mix

LEGEND

- Park Boundary
- - - Parcel Line (Lancaster County, 2024)
- - - Existing Major Contour
- - - Existing Stream (Lancaster County, 2014)
- Existing Trail
- Potential Little Conestoga Blue-Green Corridor Trail
- ✱ Park Entrance

PRIORITIZATION

- **A** — Priority Group
- **A1** — Priority Order Identifier

MANAGEMENT UNIT

- Railroad Right-of-Way
- Hedgerow & Forest Edge
- Meadow - Cool Season
- Meadow - Warm Season
- Herbaceous Wetland
- Wooded Wetland
- Marginal Woodland 1
- Marginal Woodland 2
- Marginal Woodland 3
- Mature Woodland 1
- Mature Woodland 2
- Upland / Lowland Transition
- Creek Trail

