



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

Latest News about the Race Track Nature Preserve, March 2017

On March 7-9, in a dramatic, and expected cost-effective step to address the dense Japanese barberry bush, porcelain berry vine, multiflora rose and miscanthus grass infestation in the flat basin area of the Race Track Nature Preserve, Larry Weaner Landscape Associates (LWLA, the natural landscape expert the Village hired through an open-bid process to restore the Race Track into a nature preserve) brought in a forestry mulching machine to grind up in a growth prohibitive manner invasive woody bushes and grasses.

Elimination of invasive plants has been of the highest priority of the TAB in a multi-year process to preserve and promote the native habitats and uncommon plants identified by naturalists John Yrizarry and Spider Barbour. Over the last year, the TAB has begun the removal of particularly virulent invasives such as Japanese knotweed, goutweed, Japanese angelica (Hercules club), mile-a-minute and phragmites. Once the invasives are under control, native plants are expected to germinate and replanting of native flowers, grasses, bushes and trees will begin.

Mindful of erosion control and storm water management along the slopes of Tuxedo Road and Clubhouse Road, LWLA did not mulch the hilly embankment areas.

Despite the disturbances and neglect of years past, the Race Track has been a surprising home for an exceptional number of unique and special native plants. The removal of the Japanese barberry has been shown increasingly in research studies to reduce the potential for ticks, and it will also allow native herbaceous plants to again flourish in the spring in areas previously dominated by the invasive plants.

The machine did not rake the soil in order not to cause soil disturbance and release dormant weed seeds which would then germinate and replace the weeds just removed.

On the advice of LWLA, the dead and chopped up vegetation debris was also left in place to preserve the natural cycling of nutrients back into the environment.

On April 8th, LWLA will present the vision and methodology for the preservation and restoration of the habitats and native flora and fauna of the Race Track Nature Preserve. They

will describe a “managed succession” – a carefully planned program of continued invasive removal and monitoring, and preservation and planting of native vegetation throughout the Race Track. Active management is expected to last for about three years. Thereafter, the Preserve will move into a sustainable phase. A healthy native habitat maintains itself, with some – but not intense – help.

The vision for the Race Track Nature Preserve is a meadow of native flowers and grasses that provides interests in all seasons, surrounded by a healthy forest of native trees and a robust understory. We are dedicated to a revitalized – and sustainable – Preserve providing a superlative sanctuary for native trees and plants, locally breeding and migrating birds, mammals, butterflies and amphibians. We envision a community site for the quiet enjoyment of nature, for fostering an appreciation of all natural resources – not only at the Race Track but throughout Tuxedo Park, and for the continued positive and lasting contribution to the quality of our air, water and ecosystem.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Racetrack Preserve

visit www.tptreeboard.org