



Walter Bradley Park Stewardship Midway, KY July, 2021 - present

In the heart of Midway is a well-loved park. Beginning in July of 2021, a partnership with the City of Midway, the Midway Parks Board and Friends of Walter Bradley Park, retained EcoGro to provide stewardship of the park and control of invasive species. Covering 28 acres of land, the park includes 4 miles of walking trails through a diverse spread of biomes; everything from open prairie to creeks and upland woods. For a typical stewardship visit, the EcoGro team coordinates in advance with Midway officials and park volunteers to discuss any urgent issues or needs and coordinate work priorities. This may involve focusing on sections of the park that may need particular attention or informing the team of upcoming events to keep the park looking its best. Once on site, the team conducts a walkthrough of the work areas to visually assess the area for hazards, erosion, invasive plants, or damage from human or other animal activity. Photos are taken to document site conditions and work performed. After the preliminary walkthrough, the team develops a work plan and assigns crew tasks to maximize efficiency.

Most of the work involves controlling invasive weeds and keeping trails clear and accessible. The effectiveness of selective herbicide applications and the timing of cutting back herbaceous plants are represented by the reduction of weeds each year.

Fallen trees, low growing limbs and other obstructions across trails may need to be cut up or removed. Trees and shrubs receive seasonal pruning to remove dead wood, allow pedestrian clearance and encourage proper structure.

Besides general stewardship, the team has also assisted with trail repairs. A series of water bars were installed on the Northside Trail to halt erosion and divert surface runoff off a steep slope. Today this section of the trail is holding fine with no signs of erosion. Our team is currently assessing different techniques for trail maintenance and quantifying the efficacy of various practices on the trails of Walter Bradley Park.



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