

## What Does Habitat Restoration Look Like?

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Many [Eco-Articles](#), including the last edition's [Emergency Restoration to Rabbit Branch](#), discuss habitat restoration. Folks wondered how the process looks once plants start growing back. That answer depends on many factors, such as the type of restoration, its location (e.g., a deep forest or open meadow), weather patterns, soil conditions, proximity to water, how long the area has had to recover, and even how other people treat—or mistreat—the site. Pictured here is an example of habitat restoration at the Royal Lake Park's Dundalk Street entrance, photographed in early September. This plot festered with many invasive weeds, especially [multiflora rose](#) (*Rosa multiflora*), [Himalayan blackberry](#) (*Rubus armeniacus*), and a princess tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*). Two years after the last major workday, it now bursts with native species (A), such as paleleaf sunflower (*Helianthus strumosus*), late boneset (*Eupatorium serotinum*), jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), bottlebrush grass (*Elymus hystrix*), asters, and blackberries. Already, pollinators benefit from this project, such as the Sachem skipper (*Atalopedes campestris*) on the sunflower (B) and the thread waisted wasps (*Eremnophila aureonotata*) mating on boneset (C). It is a work in progress and still has remnants of stiltgrass and broadleaf dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) to be removed. As trees grow and block the light, shade-tolerant plants will replace some of the direct sun-loving species.

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