

MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DATE: December 7, 2021

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Resolution File No. 21-873

Ordinance File No.

COMMITTEE: Parks, Energy and Environment

OFFERED BY SUPERVISOR(S): Haas

ADD AND/OR DELETE AS FOLLOWS:

Amend the WHEREAS clauses beginning on or near line 50 as follows:

WHEREAS, over the past several years, more businesses and municipalities have employed goats to manage landscaping as an alternative to mowing or weed-whacking ~~because goats will not eat or harm desirable vegetation~~; and

WHEREAS, in June 2020, Mequon started their own goat landscaping project in the Pukaite Woods section of Rotary Park, which is owned by the City of Mequon, but managed by the Mequon-Theinsville Sunrise Rotary in coordination with the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust; and

WHEREAS, over two weeks, 38 goats ~~removed all~~ defoliated and suppressed the buckthorn and honeysuckle in approximately five acres of park land; the Rotary will fundraise to continue the program in future years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Madison Parks Department also hired a herd of 40 goats in June 2020 to clear out buckthorn and honeysuckle on a two-acre park, which is normally difficult to manage due to its steep inclines and small size; and

WHEREAS, staff from the City of Madison Parks Department said the benefits of using the goats were “that we don't have to use chemicals and there isn't as much of an erosion risk because we don't have to bring in large equipment”; and

WHEREAS, in general, once the goats clear a portion of land, they can return months or even a year later to remove the same invasive species again and, over time, the invasive species are less likely to continue to grow back; and

WHEREAS, a minimum of 3-years intensive grazing, twice per year, is essential for suppressing woody invasive species population; and

WHEREAS, goats may be best used in the most vegetatively degraded sites with minimal potential for collateral damage to desirable varieties and species of plants; and

WHEREAS, municipalities that have employed the use of goats in their parks have also reported that it has brought communities together over a shared enjoyment of watching the goats work and play; and

WHEREAS, exploration of alternative landscaping methods allows staff to also investigate potential cost savings and environmental benefits that traditional methods lack; and

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors supports those methods by which we continue to protect our coastline, prevent erosion, and support environmentally friendly methods of managing park land; now, therefore,

Amend the final BE IT RESOLVED clause as follows:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the report shall be provided to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors for the ~~January~~ March 2022 standing committee cycle.