No Kidding, Goats Tackle Overgrowth at Woods Chapel Park; Lake Remembrance

Sometimes the best solution to a growing problem comes on four legs.

For years, dense brush and invasive vegetation continued to spread throughout portions of Woods Chapel Park. While the Blue Springs Parks & Recreation Maintenance Team worked diligently to manage the overgrowth, the vegetation returned thicker each season, making it increasingly difficult to maintain.

After learning about targeted goat grazing and researching its effectiveness, the Parks Department partnered with Goats Gone Green LLC, a Missouri-based vegetation management company specializing in environmentally friendly brush removal.

In early July, a herd of approximately 40 goats arrived at Woods Chapel Park to begin clearing a heavily overgrown 1.36-acre area. Over the course of about 30 days, the goats naturally consumed invasive plants, weeds and dense brush that had become difficult to reach with traditional maintenance methods.

Targeted grazing offers an eco-friendly alternative to heavy machinery and chemical herbicides. Goats are particularly effective in sensitive areas where equipment access is limited, helping reduce environmental impacts while restoring visibility and accessibility.

“Their grazing helped relieve overgrowth around the trail of the park and cleared an area where people would have been secluded and unsafe,” said Derek Mayden, Assistant Director of Park Services. “This project provided significant labor savings,

estimated at approximately 300 staff hours and more than $10,000 in equipment maintenance and salary costs.”

To safely manage the herd, Goats Gone Green installed solar-powered electric fencing around the grazing area, along with additional caution barriers to keep visitors at a safe distance. While residents were encouraged to observe the goats, feeding or touching the animals was discouraged.

The goats are monitored using GPS tracking technology, allowing the company to track herd locations, grazing activity and overall health. Fresh water is provided on-site, and the herd is regularly checked by company owner Kyle Alvis and his team throughout the project.

Following their successful work at Woods Chapel Park, the goats moved to areas around Lake Remembrance, where they will continue clearing overgrown vegetation and improving access to parkland and trails.

The project demonstrates how innovative, sustainable solutions can help maintain Blue Springs parks while improving safety, preserving natural areas and reducing maintenance costs.