

# UPDATE ON *Lake Lily Island* RESTORATION

For several years, the island in Lake Lily has been covered with dense invasive vegetation, which restricted wildlife access and contributed to muck as it decayed. Initial plans called for selective thinning, but inspection revealed that 90% of the vegetation was invasive and needed to be removed.

## PHASE 1.

Earlier this year, a planned controlled burn by the New Jersey Forestry Service was canceled due to persistent damp conditions. Instead, the Borough hired a contractor to cut to ground level the invasive vegetation. On May 20 and 21, a company was hired to remove debris and roots. All material was transported by boat from the island to the street. Public Works picked up and disposed of the massive amount of vegetation removed from the island.

With the island cleared, a black plastic barrier was installed on the island surface to prevent regrowth. The plastic barrier is doing a superb job. It even survived the July 21 tornado crossing the lake. The only island areas where the stubborn invasives have returned are on the island's outer edges where mature tree stumps were too large to remove and the plastic barrier could not adequately cover these areas. During the Fall, the remaining stumps will be removed. This will create a blank canvas for the next phase of the three phase rejuvenation project.



THE ISLAND CLEARED OF VEGETATION,  
READY FOR RESTORATION.

## PHASE 2.

This phase of the Island Restoration Project will be the landscaping design, preparation and planting phase. Most of the planning and preparation activities will hopefully take place during Fall 2026 and early Spring 2027. CMP Borough and Friends of Lake Lily welcome input and ideas from the community. The new landscaping will consist of a variety of native plantings including nature-friendly shrubbery, colorful perennials and native dwarf tree species. One of the challenges of this phase will be measures to prevent geese and other foraging wildlife from damaging the new plantings. This may include temporary installation of a small wildlife fence to prevent entry to the island. While birds can obviously fly onto the island, it is hoped that those with the potential for the most damage are waterfowl (Canada geese and swans) that prefer to walk onto the island and would be deterred by a fence. The conclusion of Phase 2 would be the assessment of the success of the initial planting of native species. This could take up to a year or more.

## PHASE 3.

The final phase is arguably the most critical phase. This would be the maintenance and ongoing management of Lake Lily Island. Hopefully, most of what was planted in Phase 2 will thrive, but some may need to be replaced or relocated. The key will be to create a perpetual plan for continued maintenance and management of the beautifully restored island, a natural treasure for Cape May Point.

*The island project is jointly funded by Friends of Lake Lily and the Cape May Point Taxpayers Association.*

## A LOOK BACK: THE 1992 RESTORATION

Many longtime residents may remember the 1992 communitywide restoration effort, which focused on shoreline beautification, water quality, and revitalizing the island. That project set the stage for today's ongoing commitment to lake stewardship.



COMMUNITY RESTORATION EFFORTS IN 1992 LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR ONGOING LAKE STEWARDSHIP.