



# REVEG

## Balancing Habitat Enhancement alongside Reliability

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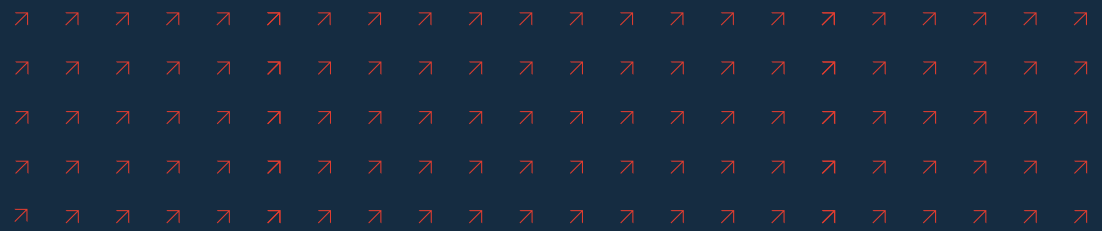
# What is REVEG?

**R**ight - of - way  
**E**cology  
**V**egetation  
**E**nhancement  
**G**roup

**REVEG** = A combination of ecological restoration efforts intended to enhance ROW habitats following years of utility vegetation management activities.

**Collaborators include representatives from:**

- Rutgers University
- Garden Club of New Jersey
- Raritan Valley Community College
- New Jersey Tree Foundation
- New Jersey Audubon



# Transmission Network

- 1,229 miles / 15,064 acres of maintained ROW
- Nearly 4,000 acres of selective herbicide application
- Nearly 100 acres of enhancement projects

## ★ 2015 – 2022

Rutgers University

Kim Russell, PhD.

- Bee population response to vegetation management treatments.

## ▲ 2016 – Present

Raritan Valley Community College:

Jay Kelly, PhD.

- Support planted population of American chaffseed (*Schwalbea americana*) by using IVM as a surrogate for fire.

## ✕ 2021 – Present

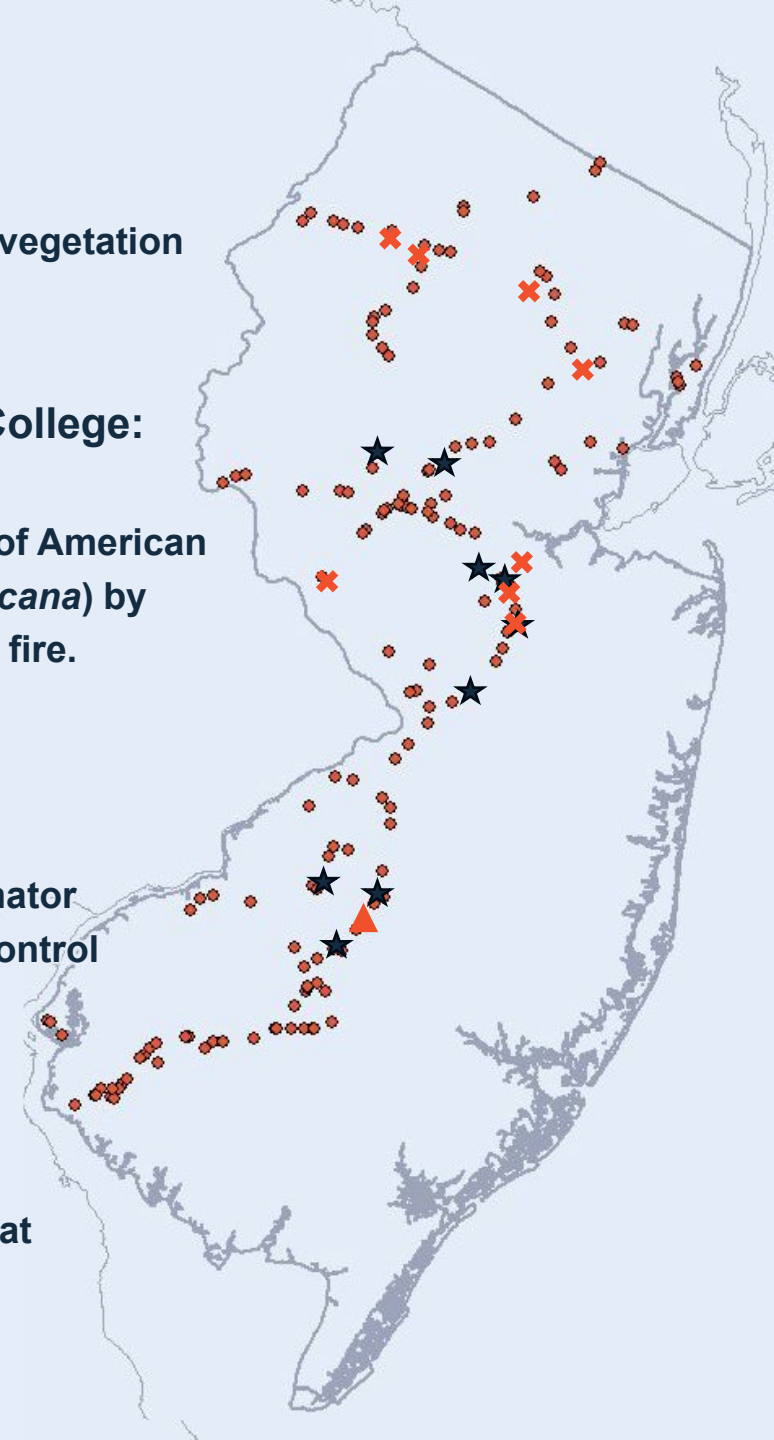
PSE&G

- Select locations (ROW-wide) monitoring changes in pollinator habitat following chemical control of invasive species

## ● 2021 – Present

CCAA

- A total of 156 plots
- 16.9 acres selected for habitat enhancement



# Trial, Error, Success

*So far*

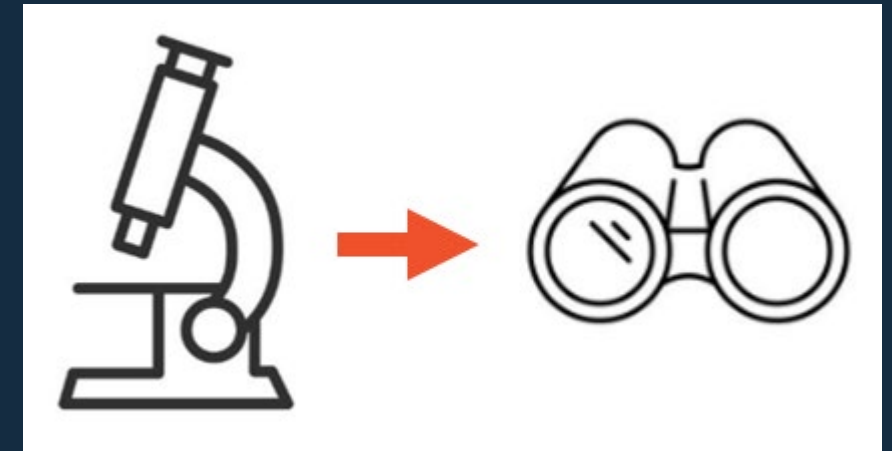


- Seeding requires significant preparation and continued management.
- Working with a large group has the benefits of collaboration but also calls for slower progression.
- Specific areas can be improved predictably with a concerted effort.

Large scale impacts are made easier with broader goals.

Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) of woody vegetation is the standard management on Electric Transmission Corridors.

- Can we apply this concept to **habitat enhancement**?
- By **reducing invasives** we can effectively **promote natives**!



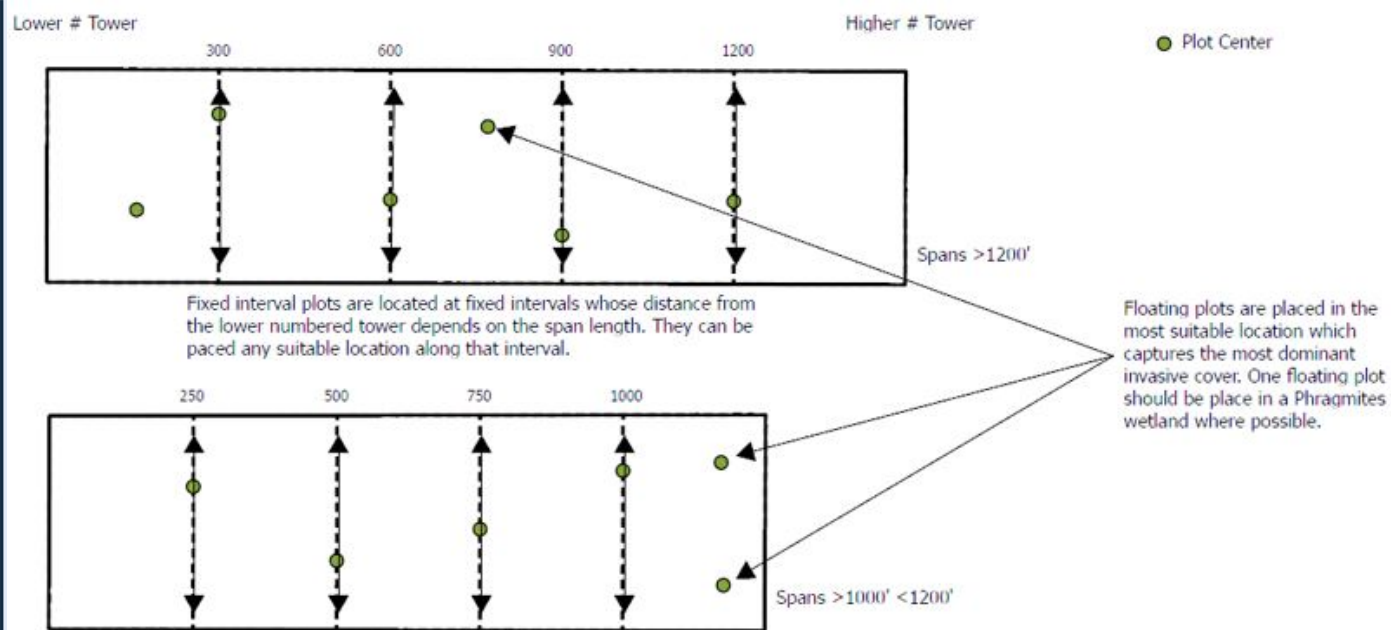
The next steps include tracking the community progression over time and tying easy indicators to other measurements of ecosystem health.



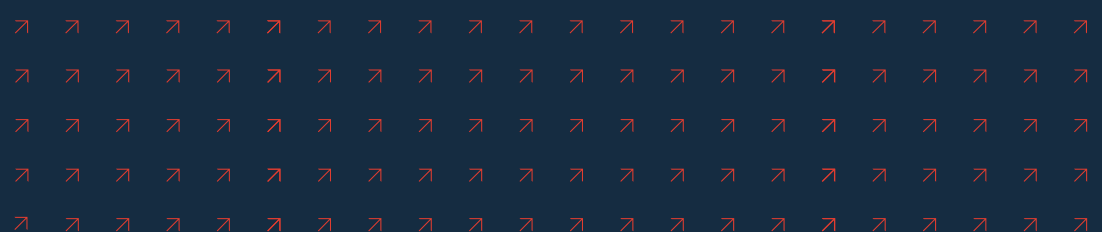
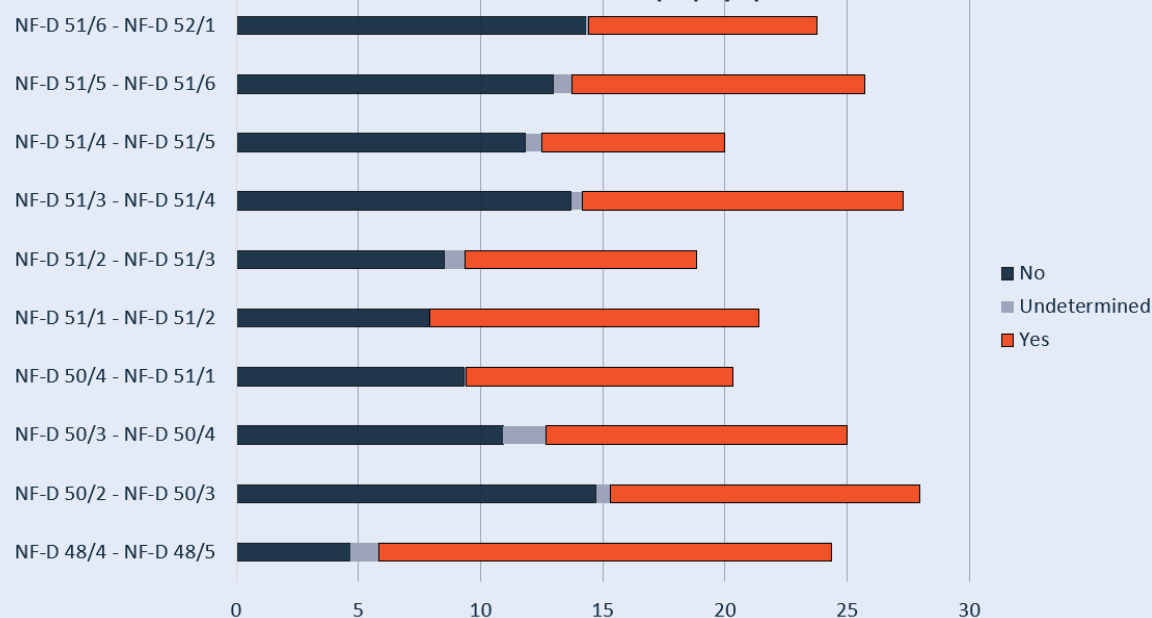
# Standardizing Data Collection

• A myriad of different (but similar) initiatives necessitated a standardized tool to gather plant community data to:

- Establish baseline conditions.
- Guide site-specific management and goals (IVM).
- Demonstrate the achievement/failure of goals.



Native Versus Invasive Plant Species Total Cover (m<sup>2</sup>) By Span





 Thank  
*you*

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