

Stockton Students Find Hope for Bridgeton's Sunset

Lake J(4m/T577 f)-1.3(8.307 -FT) TJ 0 Tc -0.001 Tw [(; Ph)0.

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Other teams of students looked at macroinvertebrates, which are indicators of water quality, and found the highest populations were species that are the most tolerant of pollution. Fish, reptiles, amphibians, raptors and waterfowl, including a large population of resident geese, were also studied through seine netting and observation, sometimes by kayak for the waterfowl that live past the shoreline.

Thomas Johnson, a senior Environmental Science major from Tabernacle, Burlington County, flew a drone to access the more remote areas in search of suitable habitat.

Kimberly Dudek, a senior Environmental Science major from Pine Beach, Ocean County, explained that her work focused on answering the question: "What can we do to improve the health of the forest and increase biodiversity?"

Her team gained hands-on experience developing a forest management plan tailored to the park environment. They found a healthy oak-dominated forest that could benefit from some clear cuts and thinning of trees to open up space that would attract species that prefer a young forest habitat. Controlled burning is a management technique they would avoid, based on the proximity to residents in the city.