

SHELTER AND AMENITIES FOR THE SOUTHERN ARBORETUM WOODLANDS

The Southern Arboretum Woodlands (SAW) is in the process of transformation from a degraded, honeysuckle-infested woodland to a new resource for teaching, research, and outreach. Previously, the 26-acre area was a tall grass prairie subsequently drained for agriculture, then used as a tree plantation for entomological and plant pathology research. The suppression and control of invasive species in the understory of the SAW is transforming the area into an attractive, multipurpose outdoor laboratory.

OPPORTUNITY:

Student volunteers and interns are leading the repurposing activities with support from community volunteers. These activities provide our students with rich and rewarding hands-on experience in ecological restoration. During fall 2017, several classes in soil science and plant ecology used the SAW for field studies. Further expansion for classes and outreach programs in woodlot management are underway.

The SAW is within walking/biking distance from campus with a nearby bus stop, which makes it a tremendous ACES and campus asset. Many students prize hands-on field experience, which can be difficult to acquire because of constraints on their time, cost, and access. The proximity of the SAW to campus overcomes many of these constraints.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

A pavilion and composting toilet will greatly enhance the convenience and utility of activities in the SAW. The pavilion will serve as a locus for staging field classes and volunteer work parties and as a venue for ACES and community outreach events. Plans are underway for tree thinning in the SAW, which will provide lumber for construction of the pavilion and toilet. Design of the pavilion and toilet will be initially developed by students in the School of Architecture. The intent is to create a durable rustic structure consistent with the wooded surroundings.



College of Agricultural, Consumer
and Environmental Sciences



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