

Our Changing Ecosystems: Restoration, Climate Change, and Biodiversity, with work party, grades 6–8

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn how ecological restoration increases biodiversity in managed ecosystems and how climate change influences our restoration practices.
- If a long day component is added, students will participate in the practice of land care management.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Length: 3–4 hours

Grade level: 6–8

Season: All

Student to naturalist ratio: 15:1

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- Collect ecosystem data to understand community dynamics.
- Compare restored to non-restored land.
- Observe consequences of climate change on natural landscapes.
- Observe and discuss human interactions and relationships to the land.
- Analyze Arboretum phenological records, past and present.
- Create a systems map, identifying how parts of the system are connected.
- Remove invasive species, collect seeds, and/or seed a site (longer day component).

STANDARDS ADDRESSED

[Wisconsin Standards for Environmental Literacy and Sustainability](#)

ELS.EX2.B.m

ELS.EX3.B.m Examine the relationships among resource use, environmental quality, and human health and well-being.

ELS.EX5.B.m

ELS.EN7.C.m

[Wisconsin Standards for Science](#)

SCI.LS2.C.m

SCI.LS2.D.m

[Next Generation Science Standards](#)

MS-LS2-4

WORK PARTY

- Students will participate in a land care volunteer project for 1–1.5 hours.
- A lunch or snack break will be scheduled between the learning segment and volunteer segment.
- Students must come dressed in long pants, long sleeves, and closed-toed shoes.
- Students are expected to follow all UW–Madison Arboretum safety protocols.

- The project will vary depending on the season.
- This portion of the field trip will be canceled in bad weather.
- The cost of this is the same as a two-hour field trip.
- Maximum number of students: 30.