**Our Changing Ecosystems**

*Restoration, Climate Change, and Biodiversity,*

*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:* 1.5–4 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