

Goals Articulation for MacDaniels Nut Grove

Developed by S. Gabriel 12/5/08

1. Education

- a. Students in the *Practicum in Forest Farming* course learn about managing forest for a variety of uses through a series of hands-on activities, focusing on the cultivation, harvesting, processing, and marketing of such products.
- b. Students also learn the **permaculture design process** for land use and come away with the knowledge that they have had an impact on shaping the future of the Nut Grove and adjacent sites.
- c. The general public, including members of the university community, townies, and other visitors work parties and workshops. A self-guided tour, areas for bird and wildlife viewing, and permanent student exhibits about aspects of managing a forest farm encourage recreational and educational use.

2. Research

- a. Students and staff grow a wide range of non timber forest crops (extensive) by taking advantage of the diversity of niches on the site whenever possible, and they grow mushrooms intensively to demonstrate the potential for income generation through forest farming.
- b. The grove is a central gathering point that offers a comparison of different agroforestry systems including alley cropping, windbreaks, forest gardening, maple syrup production, ecosystem restoration, and the use of animals.
- c. Participants test strategies for ecosystem repair including soil rehabilitation, use of nitrogen fixing and nutrient accumulator species, and the implementation of features to reduce erosion and runoff.
- d. The site contains trials testing productivity and health of plant guilds including those that boast jugalone tolerance, soil building capabilities, and crop production potential.

3. Outreach:

- a. A consistent font, typeface, website and brochure help promote the development and upcoming events at the nut grove.
- b. A **management team** consisting of students with background and interest in forest farming, faculty, and graduate students oversees the maintenance and promotion of the site.

The team schedules several yearly celebrations, work parties, and workshops. The site is well connected to other area Agroforestry sites of interest, and encourages users to visit them in addition to MNG.

Activities and observations are well documented in a binder with history, pictures, and notes on maintenance. The binder is made available onsite for reference by students and visitors. Records are also posted online.

- c. The **Friends of MacDaniels Nut Grove** is revived and seeks facilitate a sense of community ownership. Club activities are funding through a CSA type program of yields from the grove.

The club maintains a semester newsletter on the activities in the grove and shares it with community and especially alumni who are recorded in a database.

4. Facilities

- a. Entrances are clearly marked with a welcoming feature (i.e. arch or kiosk) and provide general information on the nut grove and surrounding areas
- b. Signage both informs visitors about the location of exhibits and facilities and also offers interpretive information about management techniques, research projects, and interesting facts.
- c. Work areas are clearly defined and constructed to conceal tools and materials safely and securely. These areas are located away from main routes of travel and points of interest.
- d. Access and circulation flows revolve around the center of the nut grove where facilities provide sheltered classroom space and a social gathering spot with a fire pit. Trails are systematic and an educational loop is clearly defined for visitors.