The 100-Year Woods Plan*
Maryville College Woods Group

I. Introduction

A. Description

1. The Maryville College woods include 140-forested acres on the southeastern side of the Maryville College campus (see Maryville College Woods sketch**). The MC woods is bordered on the northern border by intramural fields, the college cemetery, McArthur Pavilion, and the football field; Court Street on the western border; Wilkinson Pike on the southern border; private residences on the eastern border; and municipal holdings to the northeast.

2. Six distinct stands are located in the MC Woods, as designated by the Tennessee Division of Forestry. These individual stands are distinguished by forest type and land use, and management strategies differ for each stand (see Maryville College Forest Stewardship Plan, prepared by the Tennessee Division of Forestry**).

B. Uses

The MC woods is a protected and managed multi-use forest. Maryville College constituents have highest priority for using the woods and the woods are generally not available for rental or use by outside groups. Periodic usage by track clubs, scouting groups, educational groups, etc. is allowed, but only after approval from the MC Woods Group. The MC woods group oversees usage and health of the woods.

II. Woods Management

A. Trails

1. Trail names

   a. Trails are named with descriptive titles such as “Log Bridge Trail” and “Spring House Trail.”

   b. With a donation (amount to be determined), individuals may add their name to the existing trail name (e.g., the Tom Bogart Spring House Trail). All funds generated from trail names are placed in a restricted account for woods management.

   c. Individuals or groups (e.g., Kiwanis, Master Gardener, etc.) may “adopt a trail.” These adoptions will include some routine care (such as eliminating encroaching Privet and litter removal).

2. Trail relocation, closure, and establishment

   a. Trail alterations occur under the auspices of the MC Woods group and in collaboration with MC Cross Country coaching staff and MC Physical Plant.

   b. See VII B.

*Passed by MC Board of Directors Fall, 2013. Revised Spring, 2014.
** linked to www.maryvillecollege.edu/woods
III. Trees

A. Plots in the MC Woods are managed based on recommendations of the Tennessee Division of Forestry Stewardship Forest Management Plan**.

B. Limited harvest may be warranted in efforts to promote forest health; if so, an outside company will be contracted for harvesting and trails will be protected.

IV. Invasive/exotics

A. The health of the MC woods requires the control and/or removal of invasive and exotic plants. Active control of English Ivy, Bush Honeysuckle, and Chinese Privet is necessary in some areas.

B. Eradication of invasive and exotic plants is not possible; however, control in targeted areas will occur according to a multi-year plan that will be annually updated by the MC woods committee. Methods for eradication of English Ivy will be based on the results of the University of Tennessee study conducted from 2012-2013.

V. Creeks

A. Quality of water flowing off campus shall not be any worse than the quality of the water when it enters campus.

B. Water quality is analyzed by Biology classes on an annual basis, measuring at (1) Duncan branch as it enters campus, (2) Brown's Creek as it enters campus, and (3) Brown's Creek as it leaves campus.

VI. Woods Education

A. Signage
   1. A large “Entering the Maryville College Woods” sign should be installed near McArthur Pavilion. This should include the Stewardship Forest designation sign.
   2. Small signs are posted at all other woods entry points to designate rules of use.

B. Map
   The MC Woods Kiosk contains rules, maps, and educational materials. In addition, sketch of the MC woods with trail designations is available on the MC website.

C. Mechanisms of Education
   1. Kiosk /signage
   2. Website
   3. MC classes
   4. Seminars/Forums
VII. Future Forest and Resource Use

A. Decision making principles
   1. The MC woods will remain designated as a Tennessee Stewardship Forest.
   2. Management efforts are developed and implemented based on the Stewardship Forest designation.
   3. The MC woods will not be exploited exclusively for money. Examples of this include the 1956 timber harvest and the woods being made available for revenue generation (see History of the Maryville College Woods, 1881-2012*).
   4. Forest health and multiple-use principles (curricular and co-curricular) guide any future land and resource use.

B. Forest-use changes and encroachment will be addressed by the MC woods group.
   1. Forest-use changes and encroachment will be approved only in rare circumstances.
   2. Any proposed changes to the forest (e.g., new trail installation, new structure inclusion, non-senior study research project, alterations necessary for a new use, etc.) should be submitted to woods@maryvillecollege.edu and will be evaluated by the MC woods committee on its individual merits and based on the following criteria:
      a. The change must promote the health of a climax mixed mesophytic forest community.
      b. The change must promote human-powered outdoor activity by MC community members.
      c. The change is on a relatively small scale.
      d. The change must result in an improvement in the aesthetic value of the MC woods.

VIII. Woods Security

A. Education
   1. Kiosk. A kiosk and entry signs have clearly stated rules. For, 2013-2014, the following apply:

   Maryville College Woods
   A Protected & Managed Forest
   www.maryvillecollege.edu/woods

   - Leave no trace: carry out what you carry in.
   - Pets must be on a leash at all times.
   - Stay on existing trails.
   - The MCW is an alcohol/drug/smoke free area.
   - Bicycles are permitted in designated areas only.
   - Groups larger than 10 must inquire about usage at www.maryvillecollege.edu/woods.
   - Not permitted: Collection of any resource (unless authorized)
     Motorized vehicles (unless authorized)
     Overnight stays
     Fires

   Please report any violations to MC Security at 981-8112.
2. Cards. Maryville College representatives that regularly visit the woods may carry business cards printed with these rules. Individuals found violating the rules will be given a card to clarify the rules.

3. Students. The rules for the woods are printed in the student handbook. In addition, new students and large groups that regularly visit the college woods will be given the cards mentioned in (2).

4. Website. The website, linked at www.maryvillecollege.edu/woods has pertinent information.

B. Authority
   1. Enforcement of MC woods rules is under the auspices of Maryville College security (and ultimately Maryville City Police).
   2. Repeat offenders may be asked to stay out of the woods and/or the MC campus.