

The 100-Year Woods Plan

Updated Fall, 2023

Maryville College Woods Committee

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 Map*¹). 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 Forestry²).

B. Uses

The MC woods is a protected and managed multi-use forest. Maryville College constituents have the 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 Committee oversees the 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.”
2. Trail relocation, closure, and establishment
 - a. Trail alterations occur under the auspices of the MC Woods Committee and in collaboration with MC Cross Country Coaching Staff and MC Physical Plant
 - b. See VII B.

¹ <https://www.maryvillecollege.edu/wp-content/uploads/Documents/About/InsideMC/Woods/MCtrails.pdf>

² <https://www.maryvillecollege.edu/about/inside/woods/management/>

- III. Trees
 - A. Plots in the MC Woods are managed based on recommendations of the Tennessee Division of Forestry Stewardship Forest Management Plan².
 - 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 active 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. The 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 Creek as it enters campus, and (3) Brown Creek as it leaves campus.
- VI. Woods Education
 - A. Signage
 - 1. A large “Maryville College Woods” sign that includes the Stewardship Forest designation sign will designate entrance into the College Woods.
 - 2. Small signs are posted at other MC Woods entry points to designate rules of use.
 - B. Kiosks
 - 1. An informational kiosk is located in the MC Woods Parking Lot. This kiosk contains rules and maps. In addition, a QR code leads visitors to the MC Woods webpage.
 - 2. An educational kiosk is located along Morningside Drive near the entrance to the perimeter trail across from the RT Lodge entrance road.
 - 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. An example of this includes the 1956 timber harvest and the woods being made available for revenue generation (see *History of the Maryville College Woods, 1881 – 2012*³).
 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 Committee.
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 my 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.
2. Cards. Maryville college representatives who 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 I 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.

³ <https://www.maryvillecollege.edu/about/inside/woods/history/>