EcoLab Vision
The Ohio State University at Mansfield shares its borders and actively engages with the cities of Mansfield and Ontario, Ohio, as well as serves smaller communities throughout Richland County. Students came to Ohio State Mansfield last year from 42 of Ohio’s 88 counties, enjoying small classes taught by distinguished faculty to earn internationally-recognized world-class degrees. In addition to our close proximity to Cleveland and Columbus, students also discover a wealth of entertainment and culture - from shopping to first-run and drive-in films, from artistic performances to botanical gardens, from car racing to a hand-carved carrousel - are available just a short drive away throughout the year.
**OSU Mansfield Campus EcoLab Framework**

- Focuses on strategies for the use and preservation of our natural environment.
- Engages the eastern stream.
- Creates a more connected and interactive campus.
- Serves as a catalyst for cohesive interaction with the community.
- Supports our faculty, students, and community with an intellectually and culturally stimulating environment.

**EcoLab VISION**

A trail system surrounding the campus will link the distinct lab spaces of the EcoLab. The focus of each lab draws on the various existing ecological conditions throughout the site.

- **Riedl Hall Wetlands Classroom**
- **Vernal Pool Boardwalk**
- **Pine Plantations**
- **Legacy Forest Lookout**
- **Wetlands Stations**
- **Prairie Lab**

The overall campus will integrate traditional interior learning spaces and easy to access field research. A variety of EcoLabs will facilitate programs and learning opportunities across the site. This network of labs will be a major resource to the campus. By taking advantage of the natural assets of the site, this plan will increase the ability of the faculty to engage students with course material in the environment.
**A place for entry**
Located directly off of the entry drive from Route 39, this site becomes a gateway experience to entering the campus. This entrance highlights the EcoLab for new visitors and represents the ecological focus over the campus.

**A place for connection**
The scenic location and connection to the campus makes this space not only an academic addition, but also a casual gathering space, or an outdoor event venue.

---

**A place for entry**
Located near the future development of the new west entry drive from Lexington Springmill Road, this site maintains its ecologically sensitive location while easily connecting to the trail and campus.

**A place for connection**
The shelter elevated above the vernal pool offers space for classes to meet and study the vernal pool throughout the year, while a simple network of boardwalks allows users to closely interact with and examine the area.
A place for collaboration
Riedl Hall contains offices, administrative services, and classrooms, making this addition a gathering space easily accessible to faculty, staff and students.

A place for research
The combination of outdoor classroom space and two interactive wetlands adjacent to the heart of campus makes this an ideal area for wetlands education and research.

“...The proper development of our campus aquatic ecosystems will create an invaluable tool for faculty and student research. With improved conservation and access, we will expand our knowledge through inquiry, investigation and experimentation aimed at the discovery of facts, theories or laws that touch our daily lives and shape our future.”

Stephen M. Gavazzi, Ph.D
Dean and Director, The Ohio State University at Mansfield
VERNAL POOL BOARDWALK

A place for collaboration
This space connects quickly back the heart of the campus and benefits from the nearby parking lot of the Health Sciences Building, allowing easy access for students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

A place for research
The unique ecologies and seasonality of the vernal pool makes this site an exciting opportunity for research. The light nature of the boardwalk structure will allow students to engage with the pools without damaging these delicate ecologies.

“Stone Laboratory is the oldest freshwater lab in the country doing hands-on research and conservation of environmental resources by faculty, students, staff, and Ohio communities. It is exciting for us to partner with Ohio State Mansfield in their forests, freshwater streams, wetlands, and vernal pools to expand opportunities for even more high-quality science education with people of all ages.”

Dr. Jeffrey M. Reutter
Director, Ohio Sea Grant College Program, Stone Laboratory, Center for Lake Erie Area Research, and Great Lakes Aquatic Ecosystem Research Consortium, The Ohio State University
VISION:
Stephen M. Gavazzi, Dean and Director
Gavazzi.1@osu.edu 419.755.4221

SUPPORT:
Nick Orosan, Senior Director for Advancement
Orosan.1@osu.edu 419.755.4113

PROJECT:
Brian White, Planning Analyst and Project Manager
White.808@osu.edu 419.755.4227

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY AT MANSFIELD:
Riedl Hall, 1760 University Drive
Mansfield, Ohio
44906