Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project


Photo: Sean Bagshaw

AFR in the Schools: 2011/2012 Season

Lomakatsi is offering AFR related educational opportunities for Ashland students throughout the 2011/2012 school year. In-class presentations coupled with hands-on field activities give students a holistic overview of the work being done on behalf of forest resiliency. Lomakatsi staff has been working with project partners in the development of lesson plans designed to encompass the many disciplines required for this project to occur. Guest presenters with expertise in fields such as botany, forestry, wildlife biology, soil science, fire ecology, and water quality help students understand and explore this community-based forest stewardship project.

In-Class Presentations – Includes interactive power point or hands-on activities

- Introduction to Forest and Watershed Restoration
- Introduction to Restoration Forestry and the Ashland Forest Resiliency Project
- Fire Ecology and Wildland Fire
- Our Water: Where does it come from and where does it go?
- Regional Wildlife
- Soil, Erosion and Water Quality

Field Activities

- Guided hikes including discussions about local flora and fauna; ecotypes/plant associations; topography; ecological restoration and more.
- Technical Forestry and Restoration Silviculture (three station rotation):
    1. Sample Plot Survey: Students use survey equipment to collect data for restoration forestry operations.
    2. Forestry Unit and Tree Designation Activity: Developing GPS skills, students flag off a small sample forestry units. Then with a basic understanding of forestry principles, students learn how to discern and mark trees of ecological importance, referred to as "leave trees."
    3. Thinning Activity: Students gain experience in restoration forestry by cutting and piling small diameter trees and brush for future burning.
- Learning GPS and Forestry Technology:
  Utilizing GPS units, students find hidden notes composed of ecology-based questions requiring the use of a compass, clinometer and other technical forestry equipment.
- Shifts in Plant Community Composition Driven by Fire Exclusion:
  A botanical study.
- Soil and Water Quality:
  A three station rotation including: 1) water sampling; 2) macroinvertebrate (water bugs) collection and; 3) soil studies.
- Controlled Burning (burn schedule dependent!):
  Students observe pile burning or under burning — common restoration forestry practices aimed at reducing fire fuels and invigorating soil and plant life.

The Nature Conservancy — Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

City of Ashland

Ashland Forest Resiliency — Stewardship Project

Forest Service — U.S. Department of Agriculture

Lomakatsi Restoration Project