

Proposal For the Establishment of a System of Restricted Development at the University of Montevallo's Gentry Springs Preserve Property

If it is the goal of the University of Montevallo to sustain the current level of pristine natural environment on the vast majority of its owned property at Gentry Springs, then the goal of environmental stewardship must be communicated in a way that officially recognizes that site as a "restricted development" area, in order to ensure that this goal will remain consistent and concrete in years to come. Likewise, if the restrictions placed on development at the site are too lax or stringent, the University of Montevallo may lose valuable opportunities to utilize the site as a unique and powerful resource for educational outreach, economic stimulus, and environmental conservation.

Therefore, the University of Montevallo Environmental Club proposes that the University of Montevallo Space Utilization Committee establish this property as a "restricted development" area, with all future development to be overseen and approved by a "Steering Committee" composed of student, faculty, and staff representatives, with specific composition, roles, responsibilities, and voting structure being outlined in the "Land Conservation and Management Document" drafted by the UMEC in specific pertinence to the Gentry Springs property.

The UMEC also asks that the members of the Space Utilization Committee accept that the by-laws and allowable/prohibited uses for the property as outlined in sections three and five of the LCM Document are suitable as the foundations for defining the "restricted development" parameters of the property.

In specific reference to the potential of the ten-mile trail system, the UMEC would ask that the members of this committee take into account the fact that this project, like all projects developed and implemented at this site, would be done primarily with the support of committed volunteer organizations educated on the aspects of sustainable trail design. Additionally, it should be recognized that the estimated amount of time needed to fully design and raise funds for a trail system of this size would take at least one year, and that after the completion of that phase, the idea of construction could only be proposed with the full approval of the UM Physical Plant, Police Department, and JWSO Complex Coordinators. Additionally, it should be noted that this latter phase could take anywhere between one and five years to complete, depending on the energy and priorities of the proposed "Steering Committee". More information specifically relevant to this and other potential volunteer development projects is available in more detail on **the "Timeline Projection" document.**

In specific reference to the potential educational resource that the site could serve as, the UMEC would ask that the members of this committee take into account the fact that connecting existing UM courses to this natural area can enhance student learning opportunities, increase freshman attraction and retention, and create new outreach opportunities to tour local and regional school systems. Additionally, allowing supervised visitations by trustworthy organizations such as the Boy and Girl Scouts of America, Boys' and

Girls' Club, and similar civic and religious groups has the potential to leave a lasting, positive impression of UM in the hearts and minds of both our community and region's youth.

In specific reference to the capacity of this project to increase UM's "green" image, the UMEC would ask that the members of this committee take into account the amount of consistent press coverage connecting UM to sustainable project, programs, and educational endeavors over the past two years, **as detailed in the "Public Appeal" portfolio.**

Finally, the UMEC would ask that, in their consideration of this proposal, the members of this committee recognize that the great majority of goals, strategies, and sustainable design development projects detailed in the LCM Document are intended as long-term "visions" of all that this site could be, and that the achievement of that vision is intended to be the responsibility of the members of the proposed "Steering Committee", that the progress of this project not interfere with other great work presently being done at the University of Montevallo.

A Note To Not Be Included in the Final Draft of This Document:

If need be, the Preserve can be established as a separate entity from the JWSO; however, Drs. Sterner and Patton would still serve within the organizational structure of the Steering Committee, with their supervision within that structure being separate from their supervision within the JWSO Complex. This idea is proposed to ensure that the UM administration can never sink their gnarling fangs into the current or future progress of the JWSO Complex.