



March 27, 2017

Norman Jones,
Associate Dean,
The Ohio State University at Mansfield

Research Wetlands and Classroom

The Research Wetlands and Classroom was constructed as an area for environmental studies, research, and community engagement activities at The Ohio State University at Mansfield. By taking advantage of the natural assets of the site, the Research Wetlands and Classroom increases the ability of the faculty to engage students directly with the campus's rich environmental resources on its 640 acres. The Research Wetlands and Classroom features a series of boardwalks and stations for students to perform research. The boardwalks are located on constructed wetlands rather than natural wetlands, allowing students to engage with the feature without damaging a delicate natural ecology. The site also features an outdoor hillside classroom created by placing sandstone in theatre-style seating on a slope with a limestone pad for the lecture area, comfortably accommodating 25-40 students and offering WiFi capability. The space also features educational signage along the boardwalk with information about wetlands plants and animals.

The innovative use of the Ohio State Mansfield's environmental resources has enriched the environmental, social, and economic components of the campus as well as the larger Mansfield community.

Sincerely,

Norman U. Jones