



Michigan Technological University

School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science

Strategic Plan

December 2018

Vision

To be a global leader in the development and communication of science and technology related to the understanding, stewardship, and conservation of natural systems, of which humans are an integral part.

Mission

Given our changing world, we work to address the challenges in natural resource sustainability through education and training, novel research, innovation, and outreach.

Goals

We accomplish our mission by engaging with people, leading vibrant programs, and caring for the places we work and conduct research. We lead into the future by focusing on our students, their creativity, and the challenges and opportunities that they inherit.

People

Excellence - We promote excellence in students, faculty, staff, and alumni throughout their careers.

- Recruit, mentor, support, and retain students from diverse backgrounds and with diverse interests.
- Motivate our students to excel through hands-on educational programs.
- Recruit, support, and retain faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds and with diverse interests in teaching, research and outreach, and reward the excellence of their contributions.
- Provide world-class and global educational opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students.

Respect – We maintain interpersonal relationships that are inclusive and in which all people are valued.

- Recognize and value the range of interests and expertise within the School.
- Utilize opportunities to expand the areas of expertise that contribute to our education and research.
- Share and celebrate the achievements of the people in our community of scholars, students, staff and alumni.

Diversity - We provide opportunities in natural resource science, appreciation, and stewardship for all people.

- Identify and implement new ways to engage and retain an ever-increasing diversity of people in our programs.
- Create meaningful opportunities for diverse populations to interact with the natural world.
- Promote the importance of the natural world to the health and quality of life for all people.

Programs

The place of humans - We aim to better understand the role of humans in natural systems.

- Understand the effects of global change and the dynamics between human intervention and natural processes to achieve sustainability.
- Implement innovative programs that focus on the natural world and its interface with humans and engineered systems.
- Identify the impacts of humans on socio-ecological systems, and how critical dimensions of these systems can be protected and valued.

- Promote natural and managed systems that generate products and services of economic, ecological and social value.
- Engage in partnerships within and outside the University to strengthen and broaden our education, research and outreach programs.
- Broadly share our knowledge and findings to cultivate interest in, and understanding of, the natural world.

Educational programs - We offer educational programs to train the present and future leaders in ecosystem studies and stewardship.

- Provide education that focuses on adaptation of thought and of stewardship so that graduates are effective as a key component of the next generation.
- Engage Indigenous scholars and communities to incorporate Indigenous perspectives into curricula that educate about stewardship of land, water, and biodiversity.
- Engage broader populations of students in our programs through technological advances in program delivery.
- Implement programs that promote and provide support to our graduates as life-long learners.
- Promote the well-being of current and future generations of students as they lead in the ever-changing technological world.

Research with global impacts - We conduct research that advances understanding of the components, function, and sustainability of forests and related ecosystems around the world.

- Increase externally funded research to address interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary questions of importance to science and society.
- Conduct research that optimizes the integration of technologies for understanding the structure, function and trajectories of socio-ecological systems.
- Support growth of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research that focuses on the sustainability of natural systems and the products yielded by the effective stewardship of these systems.

Places

Physical space - We maintain high quality spaces for learning and for research, in an environment that is safe, accessible, and welcoming to all.

- Create spaces for education that are inclusive, safe, and conducive to the implementation of novel pedagogies.
- Focus resources on the indoor and outdoor environment for education and research on the main campus and at the Ford Center and Forest field campus.
- Integrate technology into education and research spaces and ensure that they are world-class.
- Promote physical safety, emotional well-being, and mindfulness in our community.

Natural areas - We steward land to convey our values of sustainable land management with a view to future generations.

- Manage lands in ways that acknowledge their heritage and with a view towards sustainability.
- Demonstrate land stewardship that reflects knowledge provided by all peoples, and that reflects adaptation to our changing world.
- Provide opportunities for research on lands overseen by the School that may not be feasible elsewhere.

Share the natural world - We provide opportunities and places for people to interact with nature

- Share the natural world with diverse audiences to inspire their interest and care for these systems.
- Facilitate meaningful interactions between people and the natural world that are respectful and that promote sustainability.
- Promote the connection between the natural world, goods and services provided by ecosystems, and the health and well-being of humans.
- Understand and demonstrate ethical behaviors in interactions among humans and the environment.