



Bjornson Environmental & Recreational Center Timeline of Projects

The Bjornson Environmental & Recreational Center is a 443 acre school forest located in the Knapp hills. In addition to serving as an educational site for school programming, the site is also a functioning tree farm with an active forest management plan. Below is a recent timeline of major projects that have occurred and/or are planned at the site. In a typical year, the site is visited by K-12 classrooms, most frequently in the fall and/or spring, as well as by various community groups.

School Year 2015-2016

- Environmental Site Coordinator Vacancy - Position remained unfilled for school year

School Year 2016-2017

- Environmental Site Coordinator position filled by combining with District Innovation Specialist Position - Both positions vacated late summer 2017
- Completion of most recent timber sale harvest completed
- Update to main entrance road
- Meet with representatives of
- Dunn County Energy solar garden project approved

School Year 2017-2018

- Environmental Site Coordinator position filled by combining with Knapp/Downsville PE Position
- Dunn County Energy solar garden installed
- Timber sale planning - Select cutting/thinning of pine plantation

School Year 2018-2019

- Begin Review of Forest Management Plan with DNR
- Marking of trees for select cutting/thinning of pine plantation (Collaboration with DNR/Agriscience & Environmental Biology Classes - High School)
- Development of [environmental site goals](#) and associated action plan

Summer 2019

- Camping cabin maintenance begins - Installation of steel roofs, staining, and general maintenance
- Construction of "Tiny Home" accessible camping cabin - Eagle Scout Project
- Review of existing Environmental Education curriculum scope and sequence

School Year 2019-2020

- Begin update to K-5 Environmental Education curriculum
- Bidding process for timber harvest postponed due to mill shutdowns due to COVID-19 pandemic
- Timber harvest - (Select cutting/thinning of pine plantation) postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic

School Year 2020-2021

- Suspend classroom visits to SDMA Environmental Site due to COVID-19 mitigation protocols
- K-5 Environmental Education Team restarts work on updates to K-5 environmental education curriculum that was paused due to COVID-19 pandemic
- Meet with DNR Forester to review plans for updating timber harvest plans - Select cutting/thinning of pine plantation
- Meet with DNR Forester to investigate additional timber sale select/clear cut of an identified area for a deer enclosure on the site



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Summer 2021

- Review SDMA COVID-19 Plan for impact on use of SDMA Environmental Site
- Pilot use of SDMA Environmental Site for Summer School Environmental Art class

School Year 2021-2022

- Conduct bidding process for timber harvest - Select cutting/thinning of pine plantation
- Develop updated timeline for timber harvest and sale
- Orientate K-5 SDMA Staff on updated Environmental Education curriculum
- Pilot updated K-5 Environmental Education curriculum
- Develop maintenance work plan for summer 2022
- Review and update as needed Environmental Site Goals and Action Planning document

School Year 2022-2023

- Begin timber harvest - Select cutting/thinning of pine plantation
- Work with WI DNR to secure saplings from state nursery for replanting in logged areas
- Deliver updated K-5 Environmental Education curriculum
- Begin planning for trail improvements including increasing accessibility
- Develop maintenance work plan for summer 2023

School Year 2023-2024

- Review and update as needed [Environmental Site Goals and Action Planning document](#)