

Furman University Living, Learning Labs

Summary:

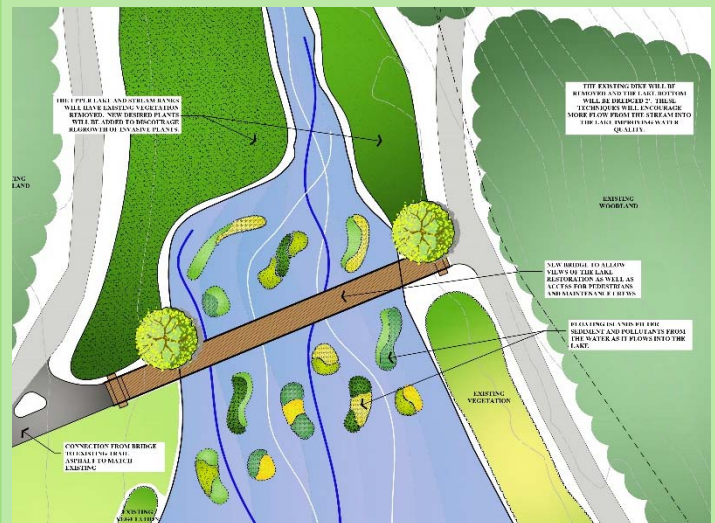
Furman Lake, officially called Swan Lake, is a 28-acre lake that sits right in the heart of campus and provides recreational, educational and natural amenities for more than 1,000,000 visits annually. The lake is fed by two streams and empties over the dam.

With extensive waterfowl habitation, lawns to the water's edge and upland runoff driving reduced depth and microalgal blooms, the ecological health of the lake was highly compromised. In 2006, Furman created a Lake Restoration Master Plan and has undertaken some significant improvements including a campaign to stop feeding the waterfowl, efforts to restore the riparian corridors, and replacing drain pipes with rain gardens around the lake's periphery.

A recent grant removed a gravel access road, created a series of marsh islands, and constructed a pedestrian foot and bike bridge to help enhance water quality and wildlife habitat. The lake area also harbors a rare and significant population of the Bunched Arrowhead.



Furman Lake Restoration



Ideas for Class:

- Collect water samples and analyze them in the water chemistry lab.
- Conduct pedestrian and biker user surveys around the lake.
- Compare and contrast constructed natural environments to more natural environments.
- Consider the lake's ecosystem and ecosystem services.
- Take pictures, create paintings, or write poetry about the lake.
- Explore the history of Furman Lake.
- Assess the effectiveness of rain gardens in reducing runoff and mitigating nutrient loading.

Who to Contact: The Lake Restoration project is jointly managed by the Facilities Department and the Shi Center. Contact Kelly Grant Purvis at 864-294-2517, kellygrant.purvis@furman.edu, or scan the QR code to arrange a visit

