

CONSTITUTION OF THE CALVIN COLLEGE ECOSYSTEM PRESERVE

Article I. Preamble

Believing it to be consistent with our professed concern for God's creation and with our desire to steward that creation in a sensitive fashion, Calvin College has reserved a large natural area on its east campus property as a nature preserve. This preserve includes within its boundaries several ponds and their watersheds which constitute the headwaters of Whiskey Creek. Due to the integrated character of these wetlands and the adjoining terrestrial ecosystem, or ecosystem complex, and the preserve has, therefore, been named the Calvin College Ecosystem Preserve (hereafter referred to as the Preserve).

Article II. Purpose of the Preserve

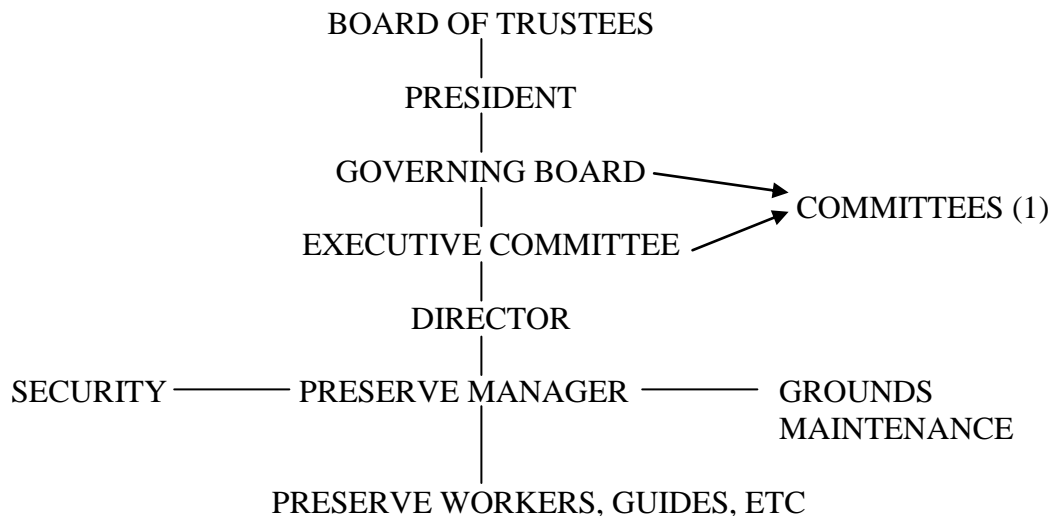
The purpose of the Preserve is fourfold:

- A. To preserve and restore within its boundaries: 1) a variety of ecological communities characteristic of the West Michigan area and 2) those features of the site which are essential to maintaining the integrity of its ecosystems.
- B. To provide Calvin College with an academic resource for the support of such course and research activities as are specifically designed to study the natural features of the Preserve.
- C. To provide a non-athletic recreational resource for the Calvin College community, in the use of which appreciation of the natural features of the Preserve will be emphasized.
- D. To provide for the larger community—of which Calvin College is a part—a recreational resource (as described in II.C.) and a center for environmental education.

In the development and use of the Preserve, priority will be given to these goals in the order in which they are listed here.

Article III. Governance and Staff

A. Structure:



Committees shall include those for Building and Grounds, Educational Programs, and Research. Each committee shall be chaired by a faculty member of the Governing Board.

B. Governing Board

1. Membership. The Governing Board shall consist of ten members, eight drawn from the college community and two at-large members.
 - a. Those from the college community shall consist of four from academic departments which have professional and educational interest in the Preserve, two from the college administration, one from the student body and one from the college Board of Trustees. Because of their professional expertise and strong academic interests in the Preserve, the departments of Biology and of Geology, Geography and Environmental Studies shall always be represented on the board. Administration members shall consist of the Provost and one other administrator. The Provost (or his/her designate) shall represent the academic administration of the college while the second member from the administration shall represent areas of the administration not directly involved in academic oversight.
 - b. At-large members of the Governing Board may be representatives of publics served by the Preserve or individuals who have professional interest and expertise in the restoration and preservation of natural areas. At-large members should profess a Christian perspective and have a good understanding of the mission of Calvin College.
 - c. Executive Committee. The Governing Board shall form an Executive Committee consisting of the two administration representatives and the chairs of the three committees of the Governing Board (see III.A.).
2. Appointment
 - a. Appointment procedures. The Provost (or his/her designate) shall be a permanent member of the Governing Board. Faculty members of the Governing Board shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees. The President shall appoint the second administration representative and, upon recommendation of the Governing Board, the at-large members. The Student Senate shall appoint the student member from a list of junior or senior candidates recommended by the Governing Board. The representative from the Board of Trustees shall be appointed by that body.
 - b. Terms of office. Board members from the faculty, the Board of Trustees and the administration (excluding the Provost or designate) shall normally be appointed for a term of three consecutive years. The terms of at-large members may vary in length but shall, in no case, be longer than six years. The term of the student member may also vary but shall be no longer than three years.
3. Function. In general the Governing Board shall be empowered to initiate and control all aspects of the function of the Preserve. In executing this function the Governing Board shall:

- a. Formulate a long-range plan for the development of the Preserve according to the objectives stated in Article II;
 - b. Oversee the development of the Preserve and its programs;
 - c. Appoint, with the approval of the President and the Board of Trustees of the college, a Preserve Director and Preserve Manager;
 - d. Devise methods of encouraging the college faculty to use the Preserve in ways consistent with its purpose;
 - e. Request and administer budgets designated for such encouragement, for meeting restoration objectives and maintenance and for other matters related to achievement of the long-range plan;
 - f. Encourage program development in areas of community service;
 - g. Report annually to the college President on Preserve activities, including written tabulation of the actions of the Board and its Executive Committee, the uses made of the Preserve by the college and the community during the preceding year and a plan for the coming year;
 - h. Authorize its Executive Committee to give interim approval to exceptional requests or needs that are consistent with the goals and long-term plan for the Preserve and with the adopted annual budget and plan;
 - i. Assure an enlarging store of information about the Preserve and assure the accessibility of that information for programs of the college, community education and research.
4. Meetings. The Governing Board shall meet at least semi-annually to review Preserve business. The Executive Committee of the Board shall meet monthly or at the request of the Director.

C. Staff

1. Director

- a. Appointment. The Director shall be a faculty person from either the Department of Biology or the Department of Geology, geography and Environmental Studies.
- b. Responsibilities. The Director shall:
 - 1) Supervise execution of plans, budgets and policy adopted by the Governing board;
 - 2) Oversee all research activities on the Preserve and make major management decisions according to the long-term plan adopted by the Board;
 - 3) In conjunction with the Preserve Manager and Executive Committee, develop and recommend to the Governing Board an annual plan for Preserve activities, an annual budget and such other policies as may be necessary;
 - 4) Bring matters of management or educational policy to the consideration of the Executive Committee in a timely fashion;
 - 5) Supervise the development of databases covering the Preserve area, its history, and research work done on it;
 - 6) Report on all activities of the Preserve at each meeting of the Governing Board;

- 7) Attend meetings of the Governing Board and Executive Committee;
 - 8) Report annually to the faculty.
- c. Compensation. The Director of the Ecosystem Preserve shall be compensated with relief from teaching one course per year.

2. Preserve Manager

- a. Qualifications. The Preserve Manager shall have appropriate credentials (minimum of a B.A. or M.S.) and experience in environmental sciences, environmental education, wildlife science or management of ecologically sensitive areas.
- b. Responsibilities. Under supervision of the Director, the Preserve Manager shall be in charge of day-to-day Preserve operation. As such, the Manager's duties shall include;
 - 1) Coordinating educational and research uses of the Preserve;
 - 2) Executing management policy adopted by the Governing board;
 - 3) Coordinating maintenance of Preserve facilities with the Director of the Physical Plan and maintaining liaison with the Security Office,;
 - 4) Supervising and coordinating work of other Preserve staff;
 - 5) Developing educational displays, literature and programs for use in college and community education;
 - 6) Interacting with the college and community to facilitate use of the Preserve;
 - 7) Other duties as may be assigned by the Governing Board.

Article IV. Amendment

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Governing Board and majority approval by the faculty and the College Board of Trustees.