

Grounds Ecology: The Lake and Landscape

Our Vision for the Grounds Ecology:

Creating an unusual but ecologically stable environment that is a joy to experience and reflects something of the process of working out the big picture of the gospel in the natural environment – for others to share and appreciate.

Restoration History



February 2006

The Crossing's new building was just taking shape on the relatively barren shoreline of the lake.

Summer 2008

A view of the vibrant and diverse native vegetation growing around the lake. The [Grow Native](#) concepts promoted by the Missouri Department of Conservation, along with other contributions from ecologists and botanists, helped make this vision into a reality.





December 2014

All ponds and lakes need management – especially in an urban environment where lake life is challenged by intense surrounding land use. While the shoreline was flourishing, the shallowness of the lake (partially due to silt buildup), and the degraded water chemistry were pointing to a short lifespan. Then a leak occurred, and the need to find a long-term solution was more pressing. Fortunately, all this occurred during the latest construction phase.

Purpose

The Crossing's lake is in the watershed of one of the tributaries of the Hinkson Creek river system. As such, it serves the vital role of filtering runoff from the parking lot and surrounding area. The overflow from the lake then returns to the Hinkson Creek river system.

The lake has enjoyed Best Management Practice (BMP) status by the City and has been visited by a number of City-organized tours of engineers and land and landscape developers. MU professors and student groups have also visited the lake as part of their coursework. Our ecological solutions used to curb a previously prolific Canada goose population were lauded by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). The contributions of expertise by MDC is gratefully acknowledged.



Activities Around the Lake

The lakeshore environment is a peaceful place for prayer, meditation, reading, painting, and conversations. Families enjoy taking their kids around the lake to explore the diversity of flowering plants, frogs, turtles, insects, birds, rabbits. And Kids Club has included the lake and the lake shore environment in its summer programming.

Rebuilding of the lake and the shoreline will enable much of this very enjoyable and educational environment to return.

Join our Facebook group, [The Crossing: Lake and Landscaping](#), to find out more about how to get involved in periodic work groups that care for the lake, or to learn about growing native plant species that contribute to the health of the environment.

Lake and Landscape Management

Much of the lakeshore is managed by a group of volunteers led by [Leszek Vincent](#). The cultivation of plant species native to the mid-West enables the management needs to be relatively low – amidst the very variable Missouri weather – it's a very environmentally friendly approach.

[Andrew Baier](#) oversees the overall needs of the landscaping of The Crossing Campus.

