

Neithercut Woodland

Preserving a treasure trove of opportunities

Central Michigan University's Neithercut Woodland is an ideal resource to learn more about conservation and the environment.

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The woodland

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Neithercut Woodland is CMU's unspoiled 252-acre natural area located 30 minutes north of Mount Pleasant on M-115, just west of the US-10 junction.

Mid-Michigan elementary, junior high, senior high, and college-age students and their teachers are invited to discover a variety of outdoor education and recreation opportunities at this beautiful northern Michigan location.

In addition to educational course work and field trips in disciplines ranging from biology to geology, art, and music, the woodland and its self-guided trails can be used for outdoor activities such as hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. The Wakelin McNeel Nature Center offers continued learning and research opportunities and also is available year-round for small group and business retreats and meetings.

CMU's Neithercut Woodland offers diverse habitats for formal and informal conservation education, environmental interpretation, and outdoor recreation. These habitats include:

- ▶ Various aged hardwood forests
- ▶ Cedar and shrub swamps
- ▶ Fields and meadows
- ▶ Conifer plantations
- ▶ Beaver flowages
- ▶ A creek and vernal ponds

Area public school teachers and group leaders may choose to initiate self-directed learning projects at Neithercut, or they may seek cooperative ventures with CMU faculty, staff, or students. Teachers and leaders are encouraged to inquire about developing effective and interesting outdoor education experiences at the woodland, which they can implement later at their own facilities.

Neithercut Woodland trails

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Three marked trails accommodate conservation education, environmental interpretation, and outdoor recreation at Neithercut Woodland.

Arborvitae Trail

This general hiking and cross-country ski trail is 2.1 miles long. Hikers should anticipate a two-hour walk through scenic forests and forest openings.

Brookwood Trail

This trail is nearly a mile long and takes approximately 45 minutes to hike. A printed guide explains the natural phenomena encountered along this trail as it winds through a variety of habitats.

Freedom Path

This blacktop-surfaced trail for the handicapped is 1,325 feet long. It includes an elevated boardwalk and leads from the woodland parking lot through a marsh to the nature center.

Wakelin McNeel Nature Center

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The Wakelin McNeel Nature Center is an inviting lodge for area groups, organizations, and businesses to hold workshops, retreats, and seminars. A massive stone fireplace and electric heat warm the facility for winter uses.

This 1,900-square-foot cedar log building is handicapped-accessible and comfortably accommodates 50 people. The center contains a main meeting room, laboratory, restrooms, kitchenette, and storage facilities. Plant and animal reference collections, a small library, and necessary supplies and equipment are also available.