

Proposal for a trail camera at the Fox River Sanctuary

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Background: The trail camera would be obtained through a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) program called Snapshot Wisconsin. The purpose of the Snapshot Wisconsin program is:

“...to monitor wildlife year-round, using a statewide network of trail cameras. The project will provide data needed for wildlife management decisions. It is also a unique opportunity for individuals, families, and students to get involved in monitoring the state’s valuable natural resources.” - WDNR, <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/research/projects/snapshot/>

Who: Photographs from the trail camera will be managed by Emma Koeppel, who is the site manager at the E.B. Shurts Environmental Education Center. After applying and being selected to host a trail camera through the WDNR, Emma will take part in a WDNR-hosted training session to learn how to setup and use the camera. Emma will upload the photos taken by the camera several times each year to the WDNR classification software called Zooniverse.

Initially, photos from the trail camera would be utilized by Environmental Studies students at South High School. The students will work on classifying the photos through the WDNR software, and will possibly integrate the data into their community-based class projects. In the future, it is the hope that the trail camera will be utilized as an educational resource for students of various ages throughout the school district.

Where: The trail camera would be located in the Fox River Sanctuary. The trail camera would be located off of all main trails to avoid capturing photos of people. The proposed location is in the wooded area southwest of the Glacial Drumlin Bike Trail bridge (Figure 1).

Timeline:

- October 17, 2016: present proposal to Waukesha Parks, Recreation and Forestry Board
- November 2016: apply to host a trail camera through the WDNR



Figure 1: Proposed location for the trail camera at the Fox River Sanctuary.