

2024 WHEP State Contest
Senior Wildlife Management Plan
Scenario

Garvan Woodland Gardens is the botanical garden of the University of Arkansas. It was donated to the University several decades ago by local industrialist and philanthropist Verna Cook Garvan. Garvan Woodland Gardens' mission is to preserve and enhance a unique part of the Ouachita ecosystem. A primary focus is maintaining and improving native plants and wildlife diversity.

A prescribed burn was conducted in August 2023 at the Perry Wildflower Meadow. The board was impressed with the results. They have requested that your team prepare an in-depth 5-year plan for improving wildlife habitat at this site. Costs are not of consideration, within reason. The board has requested that the plan focus on the following species:

- The board is going to use your plan to apply for a state grant to fund improvements for bat habitat. The board wants your plan to increase the number of big brown bats.
- Old Man Rush, the proprietor of the meadow, saw a northern flicker for the first time at the Gardens. He was so impressed by this colorful critter that he convinced the board your plan should include increasing their population.
- A secret "birdy" benefactor said they would donate \$1,000 to the Gardens for each eastern bluebird seen when they visit the Perry Wildflower Meadow every summer. Therefore, the plan should include increasing the number of eastern bluebirds.
- Raccoons have been entering buildings at night and making a mess. They opened employee's snacks and even got inside the cafe's refrigerator. The board would like the plan to include reducing the number of raccoons.

The site for writing and mapping your plan activities is highlighted in a satellite image below at the Perry Wildflower Meadow. The approximate border of this management area is marked in blue to the shoreline. At the site, the area is indicated with bright flagging.



INSTRUCTIONS:

- **You have a maximum of 1 ½ hours to complete this team activity. Your plan will consist of three pages of paper, written on one side of each page.**
 - Write your management plan on one side of each of two pieces of paper (two pages maximum).
 - Draw a map on a third piece of paper and show your proposed wildlife habitat practices.
 - Write the names of team members and ID codes on the back of each answer page.
- Use the headings as described in the WHEP handbook when writing your plan.
- Write neatly. If the judges cannot read handwriting, that portion will not be graded and points deducted.
- Use the extra sheets of paper in your packet to brainstorm ideas and draft your plan or map. Once you are finished, place an X or fold up scrap papers, so it will not be confused with the plan you are turning in.
- Turn in your management plan and other papers to the station monitor. Keep your pencil and clipboard.
- Use any remaining time to prepare for ***oral reasons***.
- Seniors are to stay together and eat lunch as a group. No talking to Juniors, adults or any non-contestants about the contest, as this could be considered cheating and grounds for dismissal from the contest.

SAFETY NOTES:

- Keep out of the chained-off planted landscapes and areas with raised water sprinklers.
- Feel free to sit on rock walls and other areas around the building.
- When walking along rock footpaths, meadows, and woods, look where you place your feet.
- Watch for snakes, ticks, fire ants, wasps, and other critters.
- Watch for hidden holes.
- Walk portions of the area where easily accessible.
- Keep in sight of the contest judges.