

Land, Habitat, and Watershed

Managing UCSC's Natural Areas



Ecologically diverse and physically spectacular, the UCSC campus comprises over 2,000 acres, including 1,400 acres of undevel-

oped natural land and hundreds of acres of landscaped or natural areas adjacent to buildings. The location of research and teaching facilities in close proximity to natural areas provides unparalleled opportunities for education and research. These lands serve as outdoor classrooms and living laboratories for UCSC students and faculty, and they also provide a much-used informal recreational resource.

UCSC envisions that by 2020, these important campus lands will be carefully managed and used by faculty, students, staff, and other regional stakeholders for a multitude of leading-edge research and stewardship projects. The campus will achieve a model balance between ecological integrity and the operation of a vibrant university.

From 2010–13, several key accomplishments have moved the campus closer to this vision. Student use of natural lands for education and research increased significantly, and working group members completed a number of clean-up and targeted restoration projects. Collaborations have increased with campus partners,

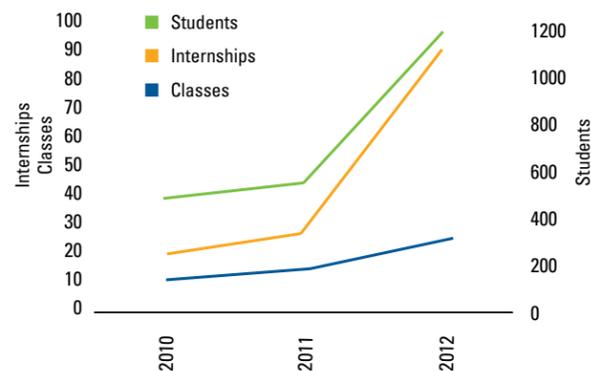
such as the Campus Natural Reserve, Site Stewardship Program, Arboretum, UCSC Greenhouses, and the Museum of Natural History Collections.

Goals and objectives for 2013–16 include increasing student engagement, better preserving the educational value of campus natural lands, enhancing protection of sensitive habitats and species, and broadening awareness of impacts to campus lands. Additionally, UCSC will complete key habitat management plans, increase watershed-focused restoration and reporting activities, and ensure appropriate management and monitoring of sensitive resources.

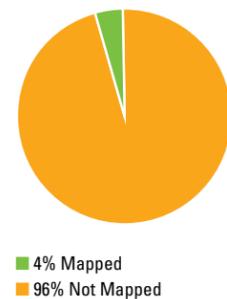
GOALS	OBJECTIVES
1. Increase student, faculty and staff engagement on campus natural lands through research, stewardship, and informal and formal learning.	Support >150 student interns and >500 volunteers actively engaged with stewardship, ecological research, and environmental education projects on the main campus each year. Engage >5,000 students in >35 formal undergraduate courses annually in educational, research, and/or stewardship activities on campus natural lands. Assess and create tracking systems for campus natural land use to set a baseline of current use. Actively pursue funding opportunities for permanent staff and operational resources to implement critical stewardship programs and initiatives that 1) support instruction and research; 2) support environmental compliance and protect sensitive species and habitats; and 3) enhance community safety and responsible enjoyment of campus natural areas.
2. Support public safety and protect sensitive species and habitats on the UCSC campus by engaging effective and proactive stewardship and maintenance practices for campus natural lands.	Create and implement a Landscape Management Plan for UCSC's main campus that includes a Fire and Vegetation Management Plan (FVMP) and Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP). These plans will implement effective habitat and sensitive species management and restoration and establish priorities for specific projects.
3. Increase campus and broader community appreciation and understanding of campus natural lands through development of outreach programs focused on stewardship, citizen science research, and environmental education.	Develop and begin implementing an academic plan centered on increasing the use of campus natural lands for education, research and outreach.

Key Metrics

Academic Use of Campus Natural Lands



2012-13 Proportion of Campus Mapped for Invasive Species



Scope and Purpose

Increase education, research and conservation activities in the UCSC campus natural areas while supporting sustainable land, habitat, and watershed management practices.