

George Mason University Campus Site

Contact: R. Chris Jones (rcjones@gmu.edu)

The George Mason University campus represents an ideal site for an urban/suburban research tract within the mid-Atlantic Piedmont ecoregion. Situated in central Fairfax County, Virginia, the campus contains an array of land cover treatments embedded in a formerly forested matrix. There are multistory buildings, lawns, sidewalks, roads and parking lots. There are also residual forest strips and blocks within the campus (see map below).

Encompassing about 150 ha, the campus is situated at the headwaters of Pohick Creek which drains to the tidal Potomac River at Gunston Cove. A number of small headwater streams begin on campus and two ponds have been built for stormwater control. The larger pond which lies adjacent to the Center for the Arts has been monitored intermittently since 2000. A smaller pond on the west campus has served as the focus for the Mason Ecological Observatory (area bounded by white on map below). Founded in 2005, this 1.3 ha tract has been set aside by the university as an area for nature study and experimentation. Plans are underway to install a wetland mesocosm compound and weather station on this site. A proposal has also been made to enlarge the Mason Ecological Observatory to include the area in green below.

The property is owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia and is under the control of the Board of Visitors and administration of George Mason University. The Provost and VP for Facilities have been briefed on the use of the campus for research activities and have indicated their full cooperation. The campus police provides round the clock security for campus. The campus is fully wired for high speed internet access and has a full IT support staff. Line power is available over most if not all of the campus.

Latitude: 38.83026

Longitude: 77.30651

Elevation: 109-137 m

Vicinity Map

