WSU Arboretum & Wildlife Conservation Center

The WSU Arboretum & Wildlife Conservation Center (AWCC) is a bold concept. The idea is that people will be able to use what they learn here to enrich their lives. The AWCC offers hands on teaching, learning, and research in a series of innovative facilities and thoughtfully designed sustainable architecture.

In 2007, President Elson S. Floyd provided an opportunity for a 100 acre arboretum to be established on the WSU Pullman Campus. WSU Capital Planning & Development coordinated a Planning Committee that worked with The Portico Group and Miller Hull Partnership to develop a master plan for a site that had been managed by USDA for over 60 years.

Dedicating 170 acres to an Arboretum & Wildlife Conservation Center demonstrates a strong commitment to sustainability and our relationship to plants, animals, and the land.

The site and vision has expanded to 170 acres and includes a facility for grizzly bears and a facility for wild herbivores. It plans for a unique Biodiversity Center, a Living Machine™, an outdoor Raptor Amphitheater, trails, demonstration gardens, and a Story Circle to celebrate Native American Tribes, the forefathers of this land.

Many famous arboretums and national parks in the United States were built during the Great Depression. They are the places we cherish as a society because they were built during difficult times with attention to craftsmanship, quality construction, inventiveness, and creativity. The same opportunity exists at the WSU Arboretum & Wildlife Conservation Center. It is a place where we can empower our teachers, researchers, and students to demonstrate their skills and help build a center for sustainable living. The WSU Arboretum and Wildlife Conservation Center is where we learn to celebrate life and land as we honor the past and create the future.