Dunn's Woods is an active site for research by faculty and students. Areas of study include methods of Purple Wintercreeper control and native species restoration, the soil microbial community and its influence on growth of exotic vs. native plant species, and plant species traits such as drought tolerance. Research to date shows that hand-pulling of Purple Wintercreeper is the most effective removal technique, native plants can be slow to recover and are vulnerable to herbivory by rabbits and other animals, soil microbial composition differs underneath Purple Wintercreeper and promotes its growth, and Purple Wintercreeper is more tolerant of drought stress than common native species.

**Research**

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**Vision**

Dunn's Woods can be a showcase of Indiana's natural woodland heritage. Through research, teaching, and outreach, we can reduce the impact of exotic invasive species and restore the wood's beauty, species diversity, and ecological services. Transforming Dunn's Woods can help to transform people's sense of ecological connectedness within the landscape. Future activities include:

- Leading volunteers in removing exotic invasive plants
- Planting wildflowers and other native plants
- Developing courses, workshops, films, and other teaching and outreach materials
- Promoting awareness of ecological connections, methods of invasive species control, and restoration of native biodiversity within our local landscapes

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**Left:** Undergraduate Jacob Gube sampled soil from the root system of Purple Wintercreeper and other woodland plants for study of microbial communities.

**Center:** Undergraduate William Rutherford investigated drought tolerance of Purple Wintercreeper and native species.

**Right:** Graduate student Jonathan Bauer is investigating methods of removing Purple Wintercreeper and restoring native woodland species.
A volunteer day with IU students and faculty to remove Purple Wintercreeper and replace it with native woodland species. Photo credit: Heather Reynolds

Mayapple (Podophyllum peltatum), a common spring wildflower in Dunn’s Woods. Photo Credit: Heather Reynolds

The first IU class tree (1889), damaged and then cut down as a result of windstorms. It was a long-standing custom for every graduating class to plant a tree on campus. Photo credit: Heather Reynolds

Adam & Eve, Jean Paul Darriau, Bronze, 1968, Indiana University Art Museum. Adam was damaged by storms in Summer 2011. Photo credit: Heather Reynolds

Purple Wintercreeper covers much of the Woods in thick carpets like this, seen near the Maurer School of Law. Such dense growth inhibits wildflowers and other native plants. Photo credit: Heather Reynolds

Adam & Eve, Jean Paul Darriau, Bronze, 1968, Indiana University Art Museum. Adam was damaged by storms in Summer 2011. Photo credit: Heather Reynolds

Purple Wintercreeper covers much of the Woods in thick carpets like this, seen near the Maurer School of Law. Such dense growth inhibits wildflowers and other native plants. Photo credit: Heather Reynolds

Jack-in-the-Pulpit (Arisae-ma triphylla) is very sensitive to high densities of White-tailed Deer.

Yellow Trout Lily (Erythro-nium americanum) and pink spring beauty (Claytonia vir-gi-nica) are two of many wildflower species found in Dunn’s Woods. Photo credit: Heather Reynolds

A GIS map of Dunn’s Woods surrounded by the Old Crescent. Footpaths are in yellow.

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A seating area (Stewarts’ Hide-away) has been established in the center of the forest, with several benches for students, faculty and staff to relax, reflect, and enjoy the forest’s majestic beauty.

Kirkwood Observatory, built in 1900, possibly from stone gathered within the woods, stands at the western edge of Dunn’s Woods. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

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A GIS map of Dunn’s Woods surrounded by the Old Crescent. Footpaths are in yellow.

An old limestone quarry sits at the southwest end of Dunn’s Woods. Bore holes can still be seen in the limestone outcrops. Great Blue Lobelia (Lobelia siphilitica) and Blue Mistflower (Conoclini-um coelestinum) are among the native wildflowers that have been restored to this wetland area. Photo credit: Heather Reynolds

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White Fawn Lily (Erythro-nium albidum) a common spring wildflower in the eastern portion of Dunn’s Woods. Photo credit: Roger Hangarter

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