

Muller Field Station

FINGER LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HONEOYE, NY

2021-2026 Strategic Plan





Contents

- 4 About Muller Field Station
- 6 Mission and Vision
- 8 Strategic Objectives
- 13 Conclusion

Acknowledgement of The Seneca Nation

Muller Field Station sits upon the traditional homelands of the Onondawaga (O-non-dowa-gah), The Seneca Nation. The Seneca Nation is one of the six nations of the Haudenosaunee, or Iroquois Confederacy. Acknowledging The Seneca peoples reminds us of our connection to the fertile land in which we live, learn, and work. We recognize, honor, and respect The Seneca peoples as the original stewards of the lands and waters on which MFS is situated upon. We express our deepest gratitude towards the traditional caretakers of this land. MFS is committed to establishing meaningful relationships and connections to The Seneca, and Haudenosaunee, peoples through advocacy, allyship, and collaborations that uplift indigenous stories, wisdom and voices.

About Muller Field Station

Finger Lake Community College's Muller Field Station (MFS) is a nearly 48 acre property in Honeoye, NY at the north end of the Honeoye Inlet and adjacent to the Department of Environmental Conservation's Honeoye Lake Wildlife Management Area. The Honeoye Lake watershed is a mosaic of 40 natural communities, including linear assemblages such as rocky headwater streams, expansive cover types, including Appalachian oak-hickory forest and silver maple-ash swamp, and small imbedded communities such as vernal pools and shale talus slope woodlands.

Surveys have identified more than 1,200 rare and common species in the area including: 11 species of conifers, 555 species of flowering plants, 27 species of fish, 20 species of amphibians, 200 species of insects and 75 non-flowering plants, such as lichens, mosses and ferns. Fifteen species of reptiles, including three Heritage-ranked species: the spiny soft-shell turtle, the timber rattlesnake and the coal skink call the Southern Honeoye Valley home. 159 species of birds migrate through or nest within the region alongside 32 species of mammals. Black bear and fisher have naturally returned, and river otters have been restored through a release program.

History

Emil and Florence Muller purchased what is now known as the Muller Field Station in 1967 and ultimately owned a total of 2500 acres in the area including more than two miles of the Honeoye Inlet. The Muller's envisioned preserving this unique natural habitat, rich in biodiversity, for generations to come. After Emil's death, Florence continued to work to leverage this land as an asset for education and community enrichment. In 1999 she donated the 48 acres along with the Swiss-style chalet which is now the Muller Field House, and continued to provide grants to the Station for ongoing projects and upgrades.

Muller Today

FLCC Field Experiences

MFS serves as a site for hands-on field experiences in a wetland setting for FLCC academic programs in the Environmental Conservation and Horticulture departments. Facilities include lab and classroom space along with a fish culturing station. FLCC students have the opportunity to engage in robust applied learning at MFS through curricular and co-curricular experiences that help to prepare FLCC students for transfer to a four year institution or to enter the workforce in a diversity of potential positions.

K-12 Programming

MFS is a destination for elementary, middle, and high school classes from the Rochester/Genesee/Finger Lakes region to further their environmental education experiences. Students have the opportunity to participate in programs tailored to their curriculum and are in accordance with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). MFS field trip experiences offer youth a positive experience with nature that is empowering and memorable. Students learn about the importance and function of wetland habitat and are introduced to professional wildlife management techniques that are used in scientific investigation.

Biological Field Station

FLCC is uniquely situated as a Community College to have access to two field stations: Muller and the East Hill Campus in Naples. As a member of the Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS), the programming and opportunities at MFS emphasize Education, Research, Discovery, and Stewardship. Like an ecosystem, the guiding principles are dependent on each other.

Community Resource

MFS serves as a resource for community organizations seeking a meeting or training location. A wide range of hosted and structured educational activities are offered to the general public throughout the year utilizing both the inside and outdoor resources of the Station including our popular *Speaking of Nature* lecture series.

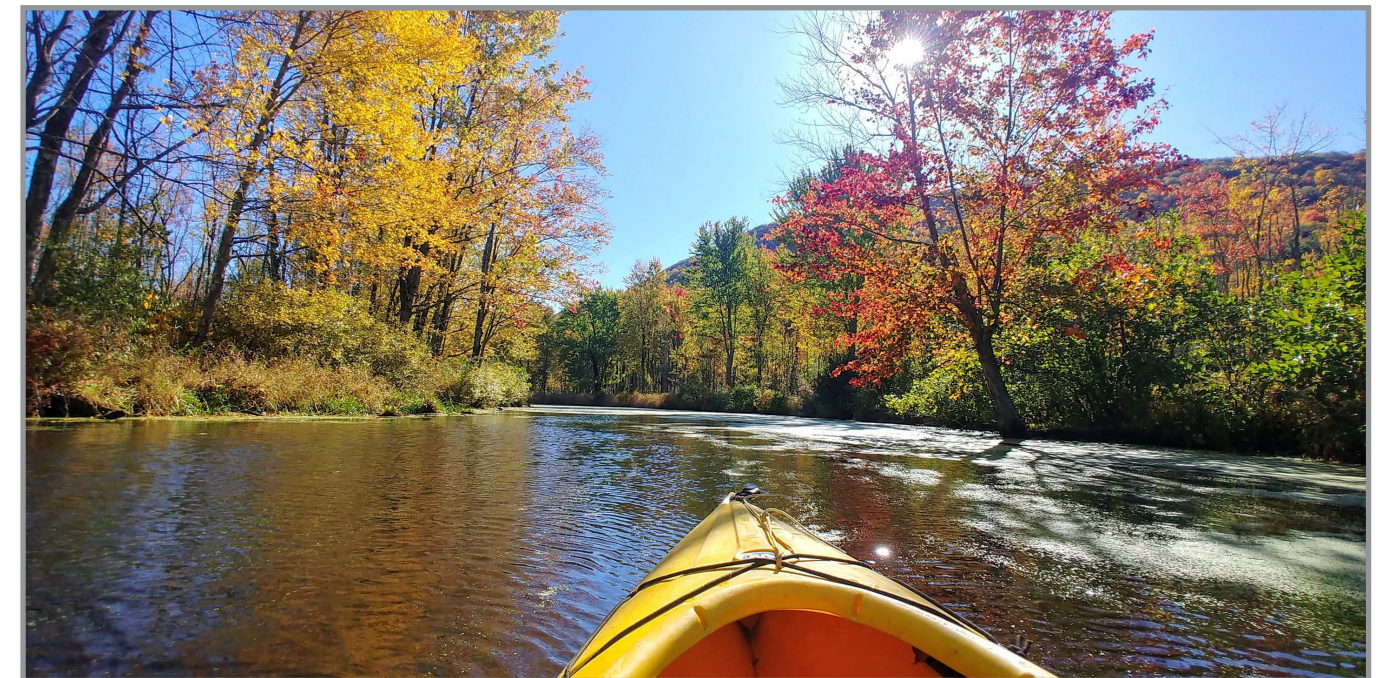


Vision

Muller Field Station provides immersive, experiential education for students and community members and strengthens people's connections to land and water through a commitment to regional partnerships and a culture of inquiry.

Mission

MFS is a leader among community college field stations making environmental conservation education and stewardship science accessible to everyone through collaborative learning experiences.



Strategic Objectives

1. FLCC student usage of MFS will increase by 50%.



How will we do it?

- Provide curricular and co-curricular opportunities for students to enhance their understanding and connection to the natural world.
- Create a MFS Internship Program to accommodate 20 paid internships for students annually.
- Support FLCC students through on-site conservation career and leadership building activities.
- Implement collaborative cross discipline programming for students and faculty in two departments outside of the Environmental Conservation and Horticulture.
- Create a plan to reduce barriers to student access at MFS including transportation from main campus to the site.

2. Increase the quantity and efficacy of all research and monitoring taking place at MFS as a resource for FLCC and K-12 students, regional communities and associations and the broader scientific community.

How will we do it?

- Finalize a research proposal procedures and implementation plan by Spring 2021.
- Create and institutionalize the use of an accessible and centralized geo-referenced database for Environmental Conservation and Horticulture Department research at MFS and beyond.
- Initiate two new long-term monitoring projects at MFS.
- Engage FLCC and K-12 students in regular research and monitoring activities
- Launch a MFS Research Day by 2024 that would engage FLCC and K-12 students as well as community members.



3. Increase K-12 student nature experiences at MFS, especially for historically underrepresented students.

How will we do it?

- Increase outreach to students, educators and parents in urban K-12 school districts regionally.
- Create K-12 programming that aligns with NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) and Common Core curriculum to increase value of our programs in the eyes of teachers and administrators.
- Form partnerships and collaborate on long-term projects with at least three organizations that support and provide equitable outdoor experiences and education for Black, indigenous, and youth of color.*
- Develop and implement a summer camp experience at MFS.
- Increase virtual programming in order to expand our reach to students outside of this region.



** The term Black, indigenous, people of color (BIPOC) is increasingly being used to acknowledge that people of color face varying types of discrimination and prejudice. It emphasizes that systemic racism continues to oppress, invalidate, and deeply affect the lives of Black and Indigenous people in ways other people of color may not necessarily experience. Lastly and significantly, Black and Indigenous individuals and communities still bear the impact of slavery and genocide.*



4. Keep MFS modern and usable by adding, upgrading and maintaining facilities as well as regularly reviewing and updating policies and procedures.

How will we do it?

- Edit and update the MFS "Using Our Facilities" document for students, faculty, staff and community members.
- Create a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) manual for all mechanics.
- Create calendar of biennial/annual maintenance practices and procedures.
- Write a "current conditions report" that allows for annual updates including: dates/age of projects completed, warranties of items and workmanship, incomplete projects, and pending projects.
- Create and maintain inventories: canoes and related items, lab equipment, fisheries equipment, technology items, all hand tools and grounds maintenance equipment.
- Create a rotating schedule of consultations of skilled FLCC personnel to guide MFS on current and upcoming best practices i.e. technology, electrical, hvac, maintenance mechanical, etc.

5. Diversify the MFS funding stream to ensure the long term stability of the organization.

How will we do it?

- Create a transparent budgeting process and set tangible annual fundraising goals in collaboration with the FLCC Foundation.
- Secure funds from at least two additional grant making institutions.
- Increase smaller (\$1-\$500) one-time and/or recurring donations from individuals.



In Conclusion



Guided by this Strategic Plan, the MFS stewards - FLCC faculty and staff - will strive to cultivate education, research, discovery and sustainability. These goals identified above set out a 5-year vision for MFS. During this time, additional action steps will be identified as part of our ongoing strategic thinking—especially in the process of developing annual work plans. This Strategic Plan is not a static document, but will serve as a guide as we navigate the next five years even as conditions may shift and change.

At the heart of this work stands our ongoing dedication to the values that animate the Mission and Vision of MFS - the joy of seeing students get excited about and be successful in their learning and a desire to build and strengthen people's connection to land and the outdoors.

We are excited to have you join us to ensure that MFS rises to the challenge of meeting our goals and fulfilling our mission.

Many thanks to -

The Florence M. Muller Foundation

The Emil Muller Foundation

The Finger Lakes Community College Foundation

The FLCC Environmental Conservation and

Horticulture Department

The members of the Strategic Planning Committee -

Alexandria Esposito, Maura Sullivan, Berna Ticonchuk,

Patricia Thompson, John Van Niel and Jay Donahue

Our Community Partners

