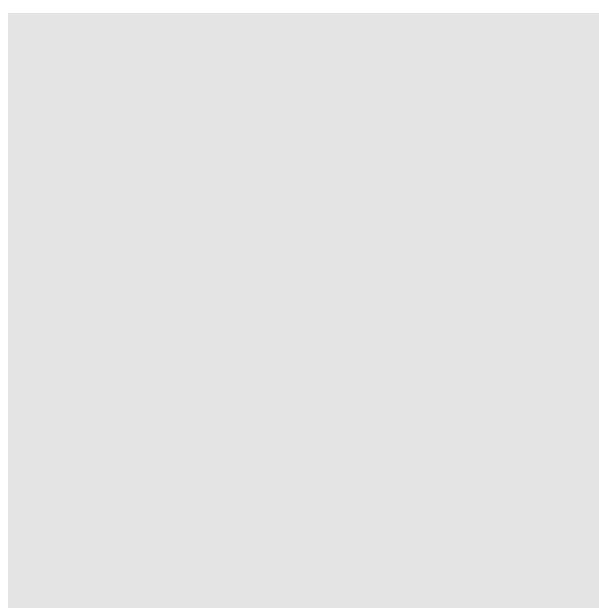


Home / News

http://www.bgdailynews.com/news/wku-to-add-building-to-outdoor-mcchesney-field-campus/article_4c55f791-77bd-593c-a98c-0f8ef8e90f8e.html

WKU to add building to outdoor McChesney Field Campus

AARON MUDD amudd@bgdailynews.com 17 hrs ago



Western Kentucky University's outdoor learning space at the McChesney Field Campus is getting a new building with classroom space and other facilities.

"We're looking at several different models," said Donald Smith, president of WKU's College Heights Foundation. "We're in the design stage right now."

In 2009, the children of longtime WKU educator Hardin Field McChesney donated 140 acres of land to WKU. The land, on the Green River in northern Warren County, is an "outdoor experiential laboratory," Smith said.

The land has been used for ROTC and athletics and its caves have been useful for karst studies, Smith said. However, the lack of any structures on the campus means no bathrooms or indoor classroom space.

Smith said WKU wants to add a pavilion, with facilities similar to Kereiakes Park.

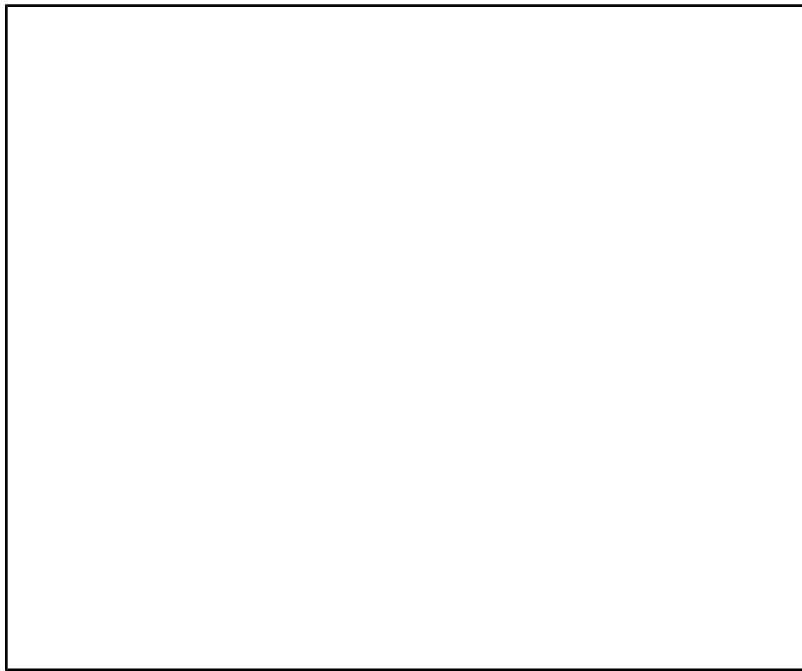
Although the project's timeline isn't finalized, he said the entire project could take nine months to a year. Eventually, the campus would also include living quarters for a graduate assistant, he said.

"We would break ground sometime this summer," he said.

The new building is made possible by a gift from Hardin Field McChesney Jr. in the memory of his sister Mary Frances McChesney Kindell.

Kindell, who was also an educator, passed away Saturday at the age of 103.

Kindell was a 1931 graduate of Bowling Green High School and a 1934 graduate of Western Kentucky Teachers College, which is now WKU.



For about 50 years, she taught English, Latin, music and journalism in Kentucky and Ohio, according to her obituary. She retired as a journalism teacher at Middletown High School in Ohio.

Clarence Page, a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and Chicago Tribune editorial board member, is one of her former students.

When Page visited WKU several years ago, McChesney Jr. got to spend an evening with Page and ask about the impression his sister made.

“ 'Your sister changed my life,' ” McChesney Jr. said of Page’s response.

The building will bear Kindell’s name and stand as a monument to her commitment to education.

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