

**THE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSEMBLY (GSA) OF VIRGINIA TECH:  
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PROTECTION OF STADIUM WOODS**

Thursday, April 19th, 2012

Regarding the proposal to destroy a portion of Stadium Woods in order to construct an indoor athletic training facility for the football, soccer, and lacrosse teams:

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech has publicly committed itself to value sustainability and to engage in sound environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 Virginia Tech Master Plan Amendment designates the Stadium Woods as an “environmental greenway,” thus as a “significant reservation of lands, waterways, tree stands, and cultural landmarks for future generations”; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech has been designated as a Tree Campus USA; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Blacksburg, of which Virginia Tech is a part, has been designated as a Tree City USA; and

WHEREAS, the Stadium Woods are used by faculty and graduate students to conduct both classes and research, and also are used for environmental education for visiting K–12 students and adult learners; and

WHEREAS, the Stadium Woods are the only woodland on central campus that possesses characteristics of old-growth forest, comprising a self-contained forest ecosystem, populated by over fifty trees measuring greater than three feet in diameter, many of which are over 300 years of age, and is seasonally, inhabited by over 60 species of birds, many of which are neo-tropical migrants, not found in urbanized landscapes; and  
WHEREAS, the Stadium Woods are important for community storm water mitigation through canopy interception and forest soil detention, and provide soil erosion control through vegetative and litter cover and plant root systems; and

WHEREAS, the Stadium Woods are a living reminder of the natural history of campus and the region; and

WHEREAS, the Arboretum Committee of Virginia Tech, whose purpose is to advocate for wise stewardship of campus trees and forests and to provide technical advice to the administration of the University concerning matters related to these natural resources, strongly opposes this project; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Student Affairs of Virginia Tech and the Faculty Senate of Virginia Tech have likewise opposed the development of Stadium Woods; and

WHEREAS, the long-term utility and health of Stadium Woods will be negatively impacted by this building project, and that the unique character and benefits of the Stadium Woods will be irreparably harmed by the proposed building project;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Graduate Student Assembly of Virginia Tech asks that the Office of the President and Athletic Department of Virginia Tech stop all plans to develop Stadium Woods.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Graduate Student Assembly of Virginia Tech supports the building of an athletic facility at another location, provided that existing student facilities are replaced prior to or currently with demolition and remain accessible to on-campus students;

ADDITIONALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Graduate Student Assembly requests that the Office of the President begin the process to designate Stadium Woods as a permanently protected place.