

From: McSweeney, Kevin
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 6:42 PM
To: Marlin, John C
Subject: SSC support

Dear John,

I enthusiastically support your proposal “Providing Native Plantings at the Arboretum” which you are submitting to the SSC.

The proposal goals are consistent with new thrusts at the Arboretum that are designed to expand native plantings within the property. My staff and I are committed to assisting with project implementation and monitoring.

I am optimistic that the project will enrich the Arboretum’s mission in a various ways, including:

Providing a valuable outdoor laboratory that will be used for formal and informal education about the role of native plants in provision of ecosystem services such as pollination and improving soil quality.

Demonstrations of small-scale native plantings that can be adapted by local residents for use on their properties.

Providing management options that reduce maintenance costs and enhance sustainability of the Arboretum enterprise.

Providing volunteer opportunities for students and local groups that are embedded in the practical principles of restoration ecology.

I have no doubt other benefits will emerge as the project unfolds. I look forward to working with you, our students and colleagues on this important and exciting initiative.

Best wishes,

Kevin

Kevin McSweeney

Director, University of Illinois Arboretum