*Please submit this completed application and any relevant supporting documentation by the deadline listed on the SSC website to* [*Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu*](mailto:Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu)*.The Working Group Chairs will be in contact with you regarding any questions about the application. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the SSC at* [*Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu*](mailto:Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu)*.*

# General Information

**Project Name:** The Native American House Garden Initiative

**Total Amount Requested from SSC:** $10,000.00

**Project Topic Area(s):** Energy Education Food & Waste

Land Water Transportation

# Contact Information

Applicant Name: Vincenzo Gudino

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**Project Team**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Department** | **Email** |
| Native American House | OIIR | nah@illinois.edu |
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# Project Information

Please provide a brief background of the project, the goals, and the desired outcomes:

The goal of this project is to utilize the existing space surrounding the Native American House on Nevada Street in Urbana, IL. Currently, the front and back yards consist of nothing but grass and dirt. In the front yard, we plan to construct a perimeter fence and cultivate different forms of food and vegetation (we originally planned to do this in the backyard, but we believe the lack of sunlight would limit their growth). We will create small mounds of dirt, onto which we will plant the 3 Sisters (Iroquois planting system of growing corn, winter squash, and climbing beans together). In the back, we plan to build a garden using indigenous plants that will house a space for outdoor studying and relaxing and another space for a prayer circle. We will also plant a pollinator strip in-between the fence and the actual crops.

A secondary use of the garden is to plant milkweed. Milkweed provides food and habitats for the Monarch Butterfly, whose population is declining. This is due to the lack of habitats throughout the US since many household’s view Milkweed as an unsightly, unwanted wildflower. If we were to plant milkweed on the outer perimeter of the garden, it would offer shelter and sustenance for the Monarch while also giving the garden additional pollinators.

We also plan on building a bioswale that will be a buffer between the parking lot just North of the land and the future garden. Bioswales are landscape elements designed to concentrate or remove silt and pollution out of surface runoff water. They consist of a swaled drainage course with gently sloped sides and are filled with vegetation, compost, and/or riprap. Additionally, Bioswales help mitigate flooding problems, which have been observed on the part of the lawn adjacent to the pavement. Its goal would also be to help educate students about the water crisis and why it’s important to decrease run off while increasing infiltration in order to lower water pollution and scarcity.

The final goal of this garden is to inspire other cultural houses and property owners to use their land is a more productive manner. It is a social norm to have clean cut grass on your property, but grass serves no purpose other than being aesthetically pleasing. With a garden, the land will increase in biodiversity of plants and animals, produce food, and hopefully increase the population of the monarch.

Please provide a brief summary of how students will be involved in the project:

Once "Facility and Services" moves the existing garbage bin and installs security cameras, it will be the responsibility of students to build and maintain the garden. These responsibilities will include: constructing flowerboxes, planting and watering of seeds, cleaning of garden (weeding and sweeping), and harvesting. When we are able to cultivate edible food in the garden, the students will harvest the food on a nearly weekly basis.

Please provide a brief summary of the project timeline:

We hope to finish the application and recieve funding by late Spring. We will begin construction of the garden at the beginnnig of the fall semester when students return from summer vacation. We hope to have everything build before winter, so by the time Spring comes around, we are ready to plant.

Additional comments

We will also work with F&S to build the fence, depending on how willing they will be to work with us (we have had trouble contacting them). We are working to incorporate a security camera in our design as well. We are the same group from last semester. We have made a few changes as well as bolstered our planning documents.