# *Thank you for your commitment to green initiatives at the University of Illinois. One of the ongoing requirements listed in the terms of the funding agreement for your project is the submission of semesterly reports with key information about your project. In addition to this form, please provide additional financial documentation and/or progress photos if available.*

# *Please be as accurate as possible in describing the project (including possible setbacks or challenges in meeting the initial goals of the project). Not fully meeting your project's goals will not disqualify you from making future funding requests as long as your reports are as complete and accurate as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee, at* *sustainability-committee@illinois.edu**.*

**Project Name:** Identifying the Campus Benefits of a Large-Scale Prairie Experiment

**Date of Report Submission:** 1/24/2022

**Project Purpose:**

The goals of the project were 2 fold: 1) record data vital to enrolling a new large scale prairie experiment in the campus sustainability goals and 2) provide students with high quality research experience close to campus and make it accessible to students

**Detailed Accounting of Expenditures to Date:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Month | Expenditure type | Cost  |
| September  | Salary for Undergrad projects | 731.25 |
| September | Supplies for sampling  | 92.35 |
| September | Use of equipment at Phillips tract to work | 48.00 |
| September  | Auxiliary | 2.78 |
| September | Benefits for Undergrads | 55.95 |
| October | Salary for Undergrads  | 548.75 |
| October | Supplies for sampling  | 0.00 |
| October | Use of equipment at Phillips tract to work | 0.00 |
| October | Auxiliary | 2.09 |
| October | Benefits for Undergrads | 0.00 |
| October | Supplies for Undergrad projects | 0.00 |
| November  | Salary for Undergrads  | 122.50 |
| November | Supplies for sampling  | 0.00 |
| November | Use of equipment at Phillips tract to work | 0.00 |
| November | Auxiliary | 0.46 |
| November | Benefits for Undergrads | 0.00 |
| November | Supplies for Undergrad projects | 579.67 |
| November | Phillips Tract site maintenance | 3,600.00 |

**Project Progress to Date:**

During Winter 2021 we advertised and successfully recruited 3 students to work in the summer.

In April 2021 we began meeting weekly to help plan their summer projects and sampling

June, July and August 2021- summer sampling rounds lasting 2 weeks were completed.

June, July, and August 2021- students conducted their independent projects

In Fall of 2021 students continued sampling at the Prairie Experiment, and continued work on their independent projects. This included processing samples collected over the summer, and presenting their findings.

Thus far everything is running exactly to date.

**Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:**

Students have been heavily involved. They collected data in the Prairie Experiment related to measuring the biological and carbon benefits of the site. They also developed their own independent projects and have been working on them since the spring. One student has finished data collection for her project and has moved on to data analysis. They have also presented their preliminary findings to the lab community through oral presentations and at the SSC open house through posters.

**Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:**

To recruit students, flyers recently went out to 3 large majors that were likely to have students interested in conducting field work (Integrative Biology, Natural Resources, and Earth, Socieity and Sustainability). We are currently accepting applications for Summer 2022. We have received one application, and interest from 3 other students.

**Additional Comments:**

The two students who have worked with us continuously since spring 2021 will continue to work on their projects into the Spring 2022 semester. These two projects are moving along smoothly and they have put in many hours of hard work and planning. Two of our summer interns (Jamilyn Martin and Vicente Aldunate) are hoping to present their ultimate findings at the undergraduate research symposium in April.