



## STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

### Scope Change

*From time to time unforeseen challenges or opportunities can affect the planned budget, timeline, or overall goals of a project funded by the Student Sustainability Committee. Past examples of these situations include projects coming in under budget but having additional opportunities available, or inclement weather delaying the planting of agriculture projects.*

*Below please include a brief project summary and your requested changes. Attach additional documents as needed. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee at [sustainability-committee@illinois.edu](mailto:sustainability-committee@illinois.edu).*

### General Information

**Project Name:** Sustainable Restoration and Growth of the Southern Arboretum Woods (Student-led)

**Total Amount Requested from SSC:** \$9,996

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### Contact Information

**Applicant Name:** Dr. Kevin McSweeney (Project Advisor), Omar Kazi (Red Bison Treasurer), Tyler Courson (Red Bison President)

**Unit/Department:** Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences

**Email Address:** Dr. Kevin McSweeney: [mcsween@illinois.edu](mailto:mcsween@illinois.edu)

Omar Kazi: [omarak2@illinois.edu](mailto:omarak2@illinois.edu)

Tyler Courson: [tylerac2@illinois.edu](mailto:tylerac2@illinois.edu)

## **Project Information**

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

The broad goal of the project is to improve Red Bison's capacity in restoration activities in the Southern Arboretum Woods (SAW) and other locations in east central Illinois. We requested funding to replace our existing shed, which has deteriorated, and for the purchase of gardening supplies and native trees and plants.

Red Bison has been working in the SAW for the last five years largely focused on removal and suppression of invasive plants. We now plan to advance our restoration efforts by establishing native plants in the SAW with the goal of increasing native biodiversity (insects, birds etc.) in the woodlands.

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

Following discussions with Arboretum Director, Kevin McSweeney, we (Tyler Courson, President, Red Bison and Omar Kazi, Treasurer, Red Bison) have decided to request a shift in the budget so that we can purchase a larger shed that will serve the long-term needs of the club. Originally, we planned to purchase a 10' x 16' utility shed (\$3,370.00). McSweeney and Arboretum staff raised concerns about the size of the shed in terms of square footage, storage, and available workspaces. They recommended consulting Bear Creek Yard Creations, Arthur, IL for design and fabrication of a larger and sturdy shed. We have worked with Arboretum staff on the design of a shed that we consider will better meet the long-term needs of the club and provide reasonable security and protection for our equipment and supplies. The cost for this shed is \$9750.00.

This leaves \$246.00 in our grant account! However, Dr. McSweeney has proposed the short fall for gardening supplies and purchase of plant materials could be addressed by using funds from the 2 grants awarded by SSC to the Arboretum, as our common goals and collaboration are all focused on the same broad project of enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services in the SAW.

Please provide a brief summary of your requested scope change. How is your request different from your original plan?

The proposed SSC budget reallocations between Red Bison and the Arboretum represent no significant change to the scope and purpose of our work in the SAW. We are hoping that through this request, we can achieve more for the benefit of restoration efforts in SAW through the combination of resources available to both Red Bison and the Arboretum.

Additional comments (Optional)

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.