



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Funding Application – Student-Led Projects (Under \$10K)

Funding Criteria

A. General Rules

1. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to submit requests for funding. Student-led projects require a faculty or staff sponsor in order to have funds awarded.
2. Funding can only go to university-affiliated projects from students, faculty, staff, and departments.
3. All SSC projects must make a substantial impact on students. This may be a direct impact or an impact through education and engagement. All SSC funding is 100% from student green fees, so the projects funded by the students must benefit them.
4. SSC encourages innovation and new technologies – creative projects are encouraged to apply.
5. Unless a type of expense is specifically listed below as having restrictions, SSC can generally fund it. The items referenced below should not be taken as comprehensive list.

B. Things SSC Can Fund, On A Case-By-Case Basis

1. SSC can fund feasibility studies and design work; however, it must work toward ultimately addressing a sustainability need on campus.
2. SSC can fund staff positions that are related to improving campus sustainability. Strong preference will be given to proposals receiving matching funding from departments and/or plans for maintaining continuity of the position after the end of the initial grant.
3. SSC can fund outreach events with a central theme of sustainability, provided their primary audience is the general campus community.
4. SSC discourages funding requests for food and prizes but will consider proposals on a case by case basis that prove significant reasoning.
5. SSC can fund repairs and improvements to existing building systems as long as it works toward the goal of improving campus sustainability; however, a preference is shown to projects utilizing new or innovative ideas.
6. SSC can provide departments with loans for projects with a distinct payback on a case by case base. Loans will require a separate memorandum of understanding between SSC and departmental leadership pledging to repay the award in full and detailing the payback plan.

C. Things SSC Will Not Fund:

1. SSC will not fund projects with a primary end goal of generating revenue for non-University entities.
2. SSC will not fund personal lodging, food, beverage, and other travel expenses.
3. SSC will not fund any travel expenses.
4. SSC will not fund tuition or other forms of personal financial assistance for students beyond standard student employee wages.

Your funding application should include this application and any letters of support.

Please submit this completed application and any relevant supporting documentation by the deadline listed on the SSC website to 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 Student Sustainability Committee at Sustainability-Committee@illinois.edu.

General & Contact Information

Project Name: Sustainable Restoration and Growth of the South Arboretum Woods

Total Amount Requested from SSC: \$9,996.00

Project Topic Areas: Land & Water Education Energy
 Transportation Food & Waste

Applicant Name: Omar Kazi

Campus Affiliation (Unit/Department or RSO/Organization): Red Bison Ecological Restoration

Email Address: omarak2@illinois.edu

Check one:

- This project is solely my own **OR**
 This project is proposed on behalf of (name of student org., campus dept., etc.): Red Bison Ecological Restoration

Project Team Members

Name	Department	Email
Omar Kazi	Red Bison Ecological Restoration	omarak2@illinois.edu
Tyler Courson	Red Bison Ecological Restoration	tylerac2@illinois.edu

Student-Led Projects (Mandatory):

Name of Faculty or Staff Project Advisor: Kevin McSweeney

Advisor's Email Address: mcsween@illinois.edu

Financial Contact (Must be a full-time University of Illinois staff member)

Contact Name: Kevin McSweeney

Unit/Department: Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences

Email Address: mcsween@illinois.edu

Project Information

Please review the proposal materials and online content carefully. It is highly recommended you visit a working group meeting sometime during the proposal submission process.

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

We want to know: What is your project? What does it concretely produce, accomplish, or solve? Why is this project needed on campus?

The South Arboretum Woods is located at the south end of the UIUC campus, and is in dire need of the establishment of native plant species to support our current restoration work. Supplementing the removal of invasive species, native plantings will help to reduce the dominance of invasive species in this ecosystem. This will help native populations of flora and fauna to stabilize, and will increase overall biodiversity. Red Bison has been working in this area for over five years, applying principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to tackle common invasive species such as honeysuckle, buckthorn, garlic mustard, and others. The organization has also worked on planting native species in this area in the past.

The shed which Red Bison is currently using to store equipment in the South Arboretum Woods has begun to rot and decay, allowing pests such as mice to infiltrate and infest the facility. The shed itself is also not large enough to accommodate Red Bison's rapid expansion and purchases of new equipment. These factors combined make the purchase of a new shed essential to Red Bison's operations, or else it will be difficult to store equipment, and poor weather conditions could destroy our equipment in an ill-conditioned shed. Planting native trees will increase the biodiversity of the South Arboretum woods and assist in integrated pest management of invasive species which are currently being removed. The trees can also provide habitat for native insects, birds, and small mammals, as well as increase the aesthetic appeal of the woods. These trees need to be planted in the spring in order to grow effectively.

Where will the project be located? Are special permissions required for this project site?

If special permission is required for this location, please explain and submit any relevant letters of support with the application. SSC cannot fund projects without prior location approval.

This project will be located at the South Arboretum Woods. No special permissions are required for this project site.

Other than the project team, who will have a stake in the project? Please list other individuals, groups, or departments affiliated directly or indirectly by the project. This includes any entity providing funding (immediate, future, ongoing, matching, in-kind, etc.) and any entities that benefit from this project.

Please attach letters of commitment or support at the end of the application.

The University YMCA will have a stake in the project, as Red Bison is an organization of the YMCA. We will also work with the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences when planning restoration efforts. A letter of support from Dr. Kevin McSweeney has been attached.

How will this project involve and/or benefit students?

This includes both direct and indirect impact.

Students are the driving force of our projects through their volunteered time and efforts. Students who get involved by volunteering at Red Bison workdays will gain hands-on experience with restoration work and can learn about the principles and process of restoring a woodland ecosystem. At the beginning of each semester, student members can gain herbicide certification by attending a training session for free. This will allow students to handle herbicides such as glyphosate and triclopyr to control invasive plants which have been cut down. Students will also gain experience in identifying native and invasive woodland and prairie plant species, as well as using common field tools to manage these species. This will also strengthen and

foster a sense of environmental stewardship in students who are engaged with our organization. All students on campus will also benefit overall by the strengthening of a valuable natural area, which provides a service through carbon sequestration. The area will also increase in aesthetic appeal, and provide a healthier ecosystem for students to explore and study.

What are your specific outreach goals? How will this project inspire change at UIUC?

We hope to continuously update Red Bison members and the UIUC community about the progress of our projects through our emails and our Facebook page. We would also like to gain more volunteer members, especially following the ExploreACES event in early March, who would be able to assist us with plantings in the South Arboretum Woods.

We hope that this project will inspire change at UIUC by engaging students in an environment where they can work with students who share similar passions for sustainable solutions to environmental problems, and can see their work come to tangible fruition. This can motivate students to increase their engagement, invite more students to get involved in environmental volunteering, and to innovate new solutions to issues related to sustainability which our campus faces.

How will the project improve environmental sustainability at the Urbana-Champaign campus?

This project will work towards re-establishing and strengthening a valuable ecosystem on the UIUC campus. Through the support of native plant growth, we can alleviate and combat the damage caused by invasive species in the area, while increasing biodiversity. Native trees would also create habitats for native animals in the area and could support populations of struggling or endangered species. This project is also in line with the iCAP goals outlined related to land use and sequestration. One goal of iCAP is to expand native and sustainable plantings across campus which would require less irrigation and maintenance than other plant species, as well as strengthening pollinator populations. This would also increase carbon sequestration on campus, supporting the iCAP goal of achieving this through increased agroforestry.

If applicable, how does this project impact environmental injustice or social injustice?

N/A

Scope, Schedule, and Budget verification

What is the plan for project implementation? Describe the key steps of the project including the start date, target completion date, target date for submitting a final report, and any significant tasks or milestones.

Please be as detailed as possible.

This plan will be implemented as soon as the equipment and materials are obtained. Tree planting ideally needs to occur in the spring, so we would focus our efforts on planting trees in the South Arboretum Woods until the end of the Spring 2019 semester. Prairie seed would not be spread until the fall. A report regarding progress on tree plantings could be submitted by June 1, 2019. A progress report on prairie plantings would likely not be measurable until the following spring, and could be submitted by June 1, 2020.

List all budget items for which funding is being requested. Include cost and total amount for each item requested.

Please be as detailed as possible.

Please see the attached spreadsheet.

If the project is implemented, will you require ongoing funding? What is the strategy for supporting the project in order to cover replacement, operation, or renewal costs?

SSC provides funding on a case by case basis and should not be considered as an ongoing source of funding

This project would not require ongoing funding. The seeds and trees obtained would be planted as soon as possible.

Equipment such as augers and post drivers should last for at least 10 years, as long as they remain functional. A new utility shed would require no ongoing funding, and could also last for 10-15 years so long as it is well-maintained, large enough to meet the organization's needs, and is not destroyed by dangerous weather conditions or pests.

Please include any other obtained sources of funding. Have you applied for funding elsewhere?

Please attach any relevant letters of support as needed in a separate document.

Funding was obtained from an SSC microgrant last semester for equipment which we are using for invasive species removal on campus.

Have you applied for funding from SSC before? If so, for what project?

Yes. Red Bison applied for funding several years ago for a project based in the South Arboretum Woods. We recently also applied for and were granted a micro-grant for equipment to be used for the removal of invasive species in the South Arboretum Woods and the Florida Orchard Prairie on campus.

How will you bring awareness and publicize the project on campus? In addition to SSC, where will information about this project be reported?

This project will be publicized through the Red Bison Ecological Restoration Facebook page and Red Bison weekly emails, where updates following weekly workdays are posted. We will be working with SSLC to make announcements through their weekly newsletters as well. Red Bison also takes advantage of other relevant opportunities on campus (e.g. ExploreACES, ACES Fall Festival, Environmental Quad Day, etc.) to spread information about this project and opportunities for more students to get involved. Information about this project will also be reported to the University YMCA, as Red Bison is a student organization of the YMCA.