View results

Respondent		Time to complete
11	Joshua Robinson	**01:11**

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

1

Please read and acknowledge the following:

- SSC funding can take **1 MONTH OR LONGER** to receive after the SSC has voted to approve a project because it includes several steps:
  - the authorization of an award letter by SSC, iSEE, Division of Student Affairs, the project's advisor *(student-led projects only)*, and the project lead;
  - the creation of the CFOP by the project team's departmental financial contact in conjunction with the project team;
  - the transfer of funds from SSC to the project's CFOP.
- If you are a project lead for a new project that is approved by the SSC, be sure to check your email regularly for the prompt to sign the award letter to help facilitate the efficiency of the process.
- Project teams for funded SSC projects do NOT receive funds directly. After a project's SSC funds have been transferred to the project's CFOP, the project team must work with the sponsoring department to purchase the approved budgeted items on behalf of the project team.
- If this project is funded, this application will be shared publicly on our SSC Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) portal so that others can learn from your project.
- Funded projects have grant reporting requirements. See our website for more information.

*

◉ I acknowledge that I have read this information.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Prior to starting your application, make sure you have the following information available:

- Project personnel including project lead, confirmed faculty/staff advisor, departmental financial contact, other team members
- Working Group attendance information
- Project title and abstract
- Project description including timelines, deliverables, detailed description about the project, project feasibility information
- Intended student impact(s)
- Intended sustainability impacts
- Optional supporting documentation (e.g., Working Group presentation, letters of support)
- Detailed project budget information

See our website for a sample application.

2

Today's Date

4/17/2025	🗓

3

Is the Project Lead a currently enrolled Illinois student? *

NOTE: Only currently enrolled Illinois students are eligible to be a Project Lead.

◉ YES (by selecting YES, you affirm that the Project Lead is a currently enrolled Illinois student)

◯ NO

4

Project Lead's Name *

Project Lead must be a currently enrolled Illinois student.

Joshua Robinson

5

Project Lead's University Email Address *

jcr10@illinois.edu

6

Project Lead's Department *

NRES

7

Has someone from the project team presented their proposed project at a SSC Working Group meeting this semester? *

If not, please attend one and present your project. After presenting your proposed project (and attendance has been documented by the SSC), please return here to complete your application. The Working Group meeting schedule can be found on the SSC website.

◉ YES

◯ NO

8

Select the Working Group meeting at which you presented. *

◯ Energy + Transportation & Infrastructure Working Group Meeting

◉ Food & Waste + Land, Air, & Water Working Group Meeting

◯ Education & Justice Working Group Meeting

9

Enter the date of the Working Group meeting you attended. *

4/7/2025

10

What is the name of your project? *

Vernal Pool and SAW Improvements

11

Total funding requested from the SSC for this project *

This application is restricted to students requesting $10,000 or less. The amount entered here must match the amount reflected in your detailed primary budget spreadsheet that you will submit with this application.

9087.6

Please enter a number less than or equal to 10000

12

Project Category *

◯ Education & Justice

◯ Energy

◯ Food & Waste

◉ Land, Air & Water

◯ Transportation & Infrastructure

13

Project Abstract *

In 100 words or less, briefly describe the project.

We will dig ephemeral wetlands, creating vernal pools in a low-lying area of the South Arboretum Woods. We will also continue improving the biodiversity of the entire forest through invasive removal, burning, and understory seeding.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

14

Describe your project in detail. Make sure you include sufficient details about your project so that the SSC can comprehensively evaluate the merits and feasibility of your project. *

Be sure to address the following:
-What are your project's goals and how do you intend to accomplish them?
-What are your project's deliverables?

Our project seeks to supply and equip environmental restoration in the South Arboretum Woods (SAW) of prairie, forest, and wetland ecosystems. Our goal is to improve habitat for residents of the SAW, such as amphibians, small mammals, and birds who need prairie and wetland plants. The implementation of our project will see heterogeneity in the landscape of the SAW, as wetland vegetation and an ephemeral pool provide unique services to the ecosystem than the rest of the forest. With new equipment for restoration, our volunteers can safely accomplish greater tasks during weekend workdays. Volunteers getting hands-on experience with restoration will connect them with peers sharing an interest in ecology, building an action-oriented community for future sustainability initiatives. The SAW is used as an educational site for courses in soil science to plant ID, due to its proximity to campus. More diversity of plants and wildlife will go onto increase the educational benefit the SAW provides students.

15

List your proposed project's timeline and major milestones. *

NOTE: SSC funding agreements remain active for two years. Thus, your timeline should reflect your activities over a two year period or less.

Excavate Vernal Pool 10/1/2025
Seed Vernal Pool 11/30/2025
Seed South Arboretum Woods 11/30/2025
Honeysuckle Removal From Designated Stands 3/15/2027 - Honeysuckle is a never-ending battle
Prescribed Fire In Designated Stands 1/1/2026

16

Has the project team spoken with UIUC's Division of Facilities and Services (F&S) personnel about the feasibility of the proposed project? *

NOTE: While this step is optional for many projects, all projects involving infrastructure (e.g., internal or external physical infrastructure of university buildings) or grounds (e.g., plantings, installing structures on campus grounds) must have F&S approval prior to receiving SSC funding. If you need assistance evaluating the feasibility of your proposed project, please reach out to SSC-Advisor@illinois.edu PRIOR to submitting your application.

◯ YES

◯ NOT YET

◉ N/A

STUDENT IMPACTS

17

How many students will be <u>directly</u> impacted by this project? *

120/year

18

How many students will be <u>indirectly</u> impacted by this project? *

200/year - can vary widely depending on level of impact.

19

What are the intended student impacts? *

At the minimum, be sure to address the following:
-How will this project benefit students?
-How will students be involved with this project?
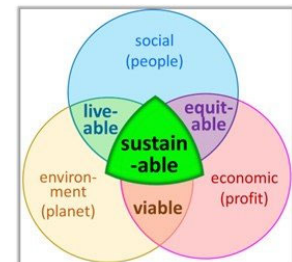**-What educational components are there in this project?**

Students have led prairie and forest understory restoration in the South Arboretum Woods for nearly a decade. This work has helped start careers in ecosystem management for many alumni of Red Bison. Students will continue to benefit from the development of new skills, the aesthetic value of a well-managed forest, and from the food-producing native plants. To continue this legacy, we require more tools like brush cutters, allowing for more efficient invasive species removal. Supplies like tree tubes will improve the survivorship of trees we plant, motivating students to return to the plants and assist them as they grow. During the vernal pool restoration, students will help guide the excavation of the pool, observe as the subsoil is compacted, and then the topsoil is brought back to the pool location, educating them on how vernal pool restoration is done. Students will also bring light to the forest floor by removing invasive species and fill the plant void with sedge meadow species and shrub cuttings. In the summer, students will help weed the site to ensure the survival of the desired plants. The process of prairie restoration will give students experience with prescribed fire, plant anatomy, and identification of flowers and grasses native to Illinois.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACTS

20

Authentic sustainability consists of the overlapping area of 3 spheres: Environment, Society, and Economy.

Describe how your project addresses sustainability. *

The enhancement of the South Arboretum Woods creates a more liveable environment for students and community members alike. Red Bison strives to create a welcoming environment where all students are welcome to participate in the work and planning of projects in the SAW. Our project is viable so long as the plants are too. The great thing about perennial species is that they pay dividends if you can get them on your site.

21

How does your project promote and increase environmental stewardship at UIUC? *

If applicable, also address what the carbon, water, waste, and/or energy savings is associated with your project.

The Vernal Pool Project would increase the buy-in felt by students toward campus sustainability by giving them hands-on experience in restoration. The pond would be an artery where people can go in the spring to observe amphibian life and in the fall, where bird watchers can appreciate migration. The slower water movement in our site, combined with a diversified plant community, will improve the soil's ability to hold carbon. Rather than allowing water to flow off-site, precipitation will be held in the spring to support amphibians and birds that rely on ephemeral pools. More attention paid to this corner of campus will stimulate more campus enthusiasm towards environmental stewardship. This site will also provide cuttings and seeds for future projects in ecological restoration. With restoration supplies, we can support conservation projects across UIUC properties.

22

Does your project aim to advance one or more of the Illinois Climate Action Plan's (iCAP) objectives? If so, indicate which and describe how. If not, enter N/A. *

A full list can be found here: https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/objectives

The Vernal Pool will uplift campus resilience via the promotion of native sedge meadow and shrubland habitat, which provides clean water, supports insect diversity, helps provide a refuge for wildlife, and improves landscape resilience to episodes of extreme heat. Sedge species concentrate salt in their tissues, making them extremely valuable for deer, lessening the browse pressure on sensitive young trees. Wetland plants and their associated soil microbiome can process wastes, nutrients, and slow the process of soil erosion. The SAW currently is a haven for wildlife, having a prolonged hydroperiod (the length in which our vernal pool site is flooded) will provide wildlife with a source of drinking water. Further, this project will be a catalyst for new ideas, which will expand the mission of environmental stewardship that ICAP wishes to expand.

FACULTY/STAFF ADVISOR

All student-led projects require a Faculty/Staff Advisor. NOTE: Project teams must obtain confirmation from faculty/staff PRIOR to listing them as an advisor.

23

Faculty/Staff Advisor's Full Name *

Justin Vozzo

24

Faculty/Staff Advisor's Department *

Extension Forestry

25

Faculty/Staff Advisor's University Email Address *

vozzo2@illinois.edu

PROJECT'S FINANCIAL CONTACT

The project's Financial Contact must be a full-time Illinois employee who has the authority to request a CFOP, manage the project's expenditures, and generate financial reports on behalf of the project.

26

Financial Contact's Full Name *

Lisa Kelly

27

Financial Contact's Department *

Natural Resources Environmental Science

28

Financial Contact's University Email Address *

kellywil@illinois.edu

29

Are there additional members of your project team? *

○ YES

◉ NO

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

30

OPTIONAL: Please attach any letters of commitment or support here, along with any supplemental media that will support your application (Working Group presentations, photos, etc.).

PROJECT FINANCES

31

Describe how SSC funds will be used in your project.

NOTE: Only address the use of SSC funds, specifically, even if the project will be funded by multiple sources.

For acquiring equipment, seeds, and other restoration supplies. All labor will be done by volunteers.

32

If additional funding is required to achieve your project's goals, do you have a plan in place to obtain additional funding from other sources? *

NOTE: SSC cannot guarantee financial support beyond that provided in an approved funding agreement.

○ YES

○ NOT YET

◉ N/A

33

Has your project team or department previously been awarded funding from the SSC for the same or a similar project? *

○ YES

◉ NO

34

Download, complete, and submit the **SSC-Budget-Timeline_NEW APPLICATION_template** file linked below.

https://studentengagement.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/2024-09/SSC-Budget-Timeline-NEW-APPLICATION-template.xlsx
*

Please be very detailed so that the SSC can fully evaluate the merit of your funding request. Your proposed budget should total the amount you are requesting and should correlate well with the the description of how you will spend SSC funds on your project on this application. The budget template allows you to also submit alternative budgets in addition to your main budget.

📊 SSC-Budget-Timeline-NEW-APPLICATION-template_Joshua Robinson.xlsx