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Respondent

19

Kevin McSweeney

11:04

Time to complete

Project Questionnaire

Please provide proper and accurate information.

1. Name of project *

Cultivating Indigenous Gardens within the Southern Arboretum Woodlands

2. Date project received financial award letter *

May 5, 2023

3. Date of forecasted project completion *

Summer 2026

4. Date of report submission *

2/19/2024

5. Marketing and promotion efforts to date *

None

6. Please describe project progress *

Field work has been delayed as discussions about plant selection and garden design are still underway among project collaborators. Chief Benjamin J. Barnes and Joel Barnes (The Shawnee Tribe, Miami, OK) visited campus in December 2023 for discussions with Assoc. Vice Chancellor Jacki Rand, Kevin McSweeney and Arboretum Staff and Prof. Bob Schooley (Dept. Head, NRES) to discuss project plans and tour the Arboretum. Sites for woodland plantings in the Southern Arboretum Woodlands (SAW) and display gardens (e.g., medicinal, herb, vegetable) were identified in the Hartley Gardens along with opportunities for fiber (bulrush) harvesting around the ponds adjacent to Japan House.


Work started in January on site preparation in the SAW and in the Hartley Gardens in anticipation of initial Spring planting of selected gardens. Attached images show dismantling of lath structures in the Hartley Garden in preparation for establishment of display gardens and site clearance in the SAW.

Chief Barnes proposed an iterative process for plant selection for plant selection and garden design. This involves sharing of ideas and concepts among the Shawnee and other Tribes, and campus scholars in disciplines such as history, plant and social sciences and colleagues in the Illinois Natural History Survey. These discussions are underway and will also include developing an outreach plan in preparation for garden installation. In light of delays launching the crucial field component of the project, we plan to request a no-cost extension.

7. Please describe how your project integrates student involvement and community outreach *

RSO Red Bison are partners on the project and are involved in planning and implementation. Community outreach will commence once plantings are established.

Project Documentation

8. Please upload updated financial documentation for your project<https://studentengagement.illinois.edu/student-sustainability/ssc/docs/SSC-Supplemental-Budget-Timeline.xlsx> * McSWEEN 304736-875425[38]. Kevin McSweeney.xls

9. Please upload project photography *



[Lath Demolition Kevin McSweeney.pdf](#)



[Site Clearance SAW Kevin McSweeney.pdf](#)