



## STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

### Semesterly Report

*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](mailto:sustainability-committee@illinois.edu).*

**Project Name:** Restoration of Lincoln Avenue Residence Hall's Native Plant Gardens

**Date of Report Submission:** 10/31/2023

**Project Purpose:**

The purpose of this project is to restore and upgrade the native plant gardens around the Lincoln Avenue Residence Hall. It also contributes to the goals set forth in the 2020 iCAP and the 2019 Campus Resilient Landscape Strategy by providing multi-functional spaces that will contribute to campus wellbeing, student learning opportunities, plant biodiversity, and habitat for pollinators & wildlife.

**Detailed Accounting of Expenditures to Date:**

Item	Total	Quantity	Vendor	Size
Purple Coneflower	\$75.00	50	Stantec	Plugs
Black-eyed Susan	\$75.00	50	Stantec	Plugs
Shipping	\$36.50			
Blue-stemmed Goldenrod	\$87.50	50	Stantec	Plugs
Great Blue Lobelia	\$85.00	20	Stantec	Quart
Purple Prairie Clover	\$22.50	5	Stantec	Quart
Shipping	\$60.00			
Little Bluestem	\$251.10	18	Country Arbors	Gallon
Orange Butterflyweed	\$299.00	20	Country Arbors	Gallon
Black-eyed Susan	\$35.80	4	Country Arbors	Gallon
Purple Coneflower	\$250.60	28	Country Arbors	Gallon
Tulips	\$39.20	40	Brent & Becky's	Bulb
Shipping	\$7.00			
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1324.20</b>			

**Project Progress to Date:**

Students planted over 300 native plants in the gardens during summer-fall 2023, either purchased from nurseries, or sourced from plants grown by myself, the Grant Project Manager/Hands-on Native Plant Care class instructor. We also weeded, watered, and mulched the gardens, and collected native seeds.

**Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:**

Spring 2023:

Students in the Hands-on Native Plant Care class prepped the gardens to be ready for summer/fall planting



Summer 2023:

High school students participating in the Discovering STEM in ACES summer science camp (for underserved & diverse students) planted about 50 plants. In addition, families participating in the ACES Family Academies (all ages) planted approximately 50 plants. Preschoolers from the UIUC Child Development Lab took a field trip to the gardens to help water the newly planted forbs and explore the gardens.





Fall 2023:

Students in the Hands-on Native Plant Care class planted hundreds of plants, weeded and mulched the gardens, and collected seeds. Many thanks to the UIUC Arboretum staff who helped us out on the largest planting day. In addition, about 60 8<sup>th</sup> graders from University Laboratory High School collected seeds and spread mulch as part of a hands-on campus visit to learn more about science at the college level.

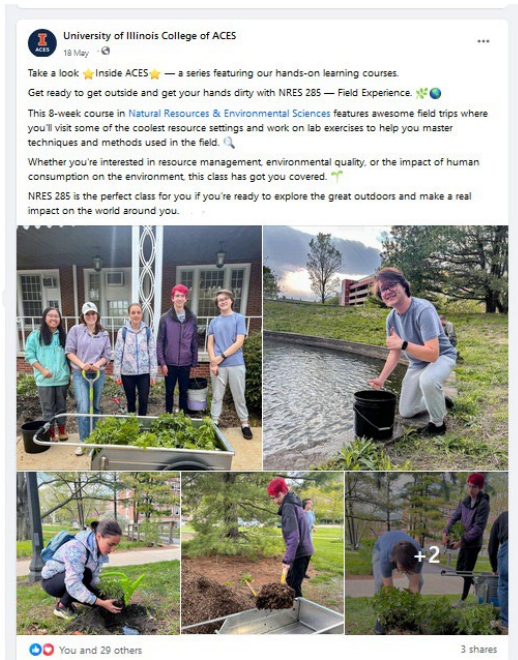


**Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:**

Three identical signs were placed in garden areas that were undergoing the most major revamp, stating that an upgrade was in progress, and that the gardens are a student project in the Sustainability Living Learning Community funded by a grant from the Student Sustainability Committee.



The College of ACES featured the gardens in a facebook post:



**Additional Comments:**

Fortunately we have not had to spend grant funds on mulch, since the UIUC Grounds Department has graciously provided that for us instead of us needing to source it through an outside vendor.

The gardens are now going dormant for the winter. I anticipate planting the rest of the plants funded by this grant during the spring Hands-on Native Plant Care class, March-May 2024.

Many thanks to the SSC for these grant funds, and to staff from the Sustainability LLC and the UIUC Housing and Grounds departments for their continued support for this project!