**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. All SSC funding is 100% from student green fees, so the projects funded by the students must benefit them.

**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 requests for food and prizes but will consider proposals on a case by case basis.
5. SSC can fund repairs and improvements to existing building systems as long as it works toward the goal of improving campus sustainability.
6. SSC can provide departments with loans for projects with a distinct payback. 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.

**Instructions**

*Submit this completed application and one map, graphic, or picture to* [*Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu*](mailto:Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu)*. Please adhere to the session word counts. The committee holds the right to decline applications over the designated word counts. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee Coordinator at* [*sustainability-committee@illinois.edu.*](mailto:sustainability-committee@illinois.edu.)

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

**Total Amount Requested from SSC:** $9912.39

**Primary Project Leader Name & Email:** Pam Leiter ([leiter@illinois.edu](mailto:leiter@illinois.edu)), Nathan Sanden ([nsanden@illinois.edu](mailto:nsanden@illinois.edu))

|  |
| --- |
| **Project Abstract:** In less than 100 words, briefly describe your project. |
| We hope to restore the native gardens around the Lincoln Avenue Residence halls. We will use the funds to purchase and plant native vegetation in accordance with the campus-approved plant list through the summer and fall of 2023. We hope to contribute to meeting the goals set 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, and plant biodiversity and shelter for pollinators. The NRES 285 -- Sustainability Grant Writing class developed this grant application. |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Education | Energy | Food & Waste | Land & Water | Transportation |
| Project Category |  |  |  | X |  |

**Project Team Member List** (student projects must include their faculty/staff advisor’s information)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | RSO/Department | Email Address |
| Pam Leiter | Natural Resources & Environmental Sciences (NRES); Grant Writing Class instructor | leiter@illinois.edu |
| Nathan Sanden | Housing Division, Assistant Director of Residential Life | nsanden@illinois.edu |
| Jake Jagiello | NRES – Grant Writing Class | jjagie2@illinois.edu |
| Catrina Kujawa | NRES – Grant Writing Class | ckujawa2@illinois.edu |
| Eva Houston | NRES – Grant Writing Class | enh3@illinois.edu |
| Clayton Bolen | NRES – Grant Writing Class | wcbolen2@illinois.edu |
| Sydney Curts | NRES – Grant Writing Class | scurts2@illinois.edu |
| Avery Viadero | NRES – Grant Writing Class | viadero2@illinois.edu |
| Natalie Reed | NRES – Grant Writing Class | nlreed2@illinois.edu |
| John Michelotti | NRES – Grant Writing Class | johndm8@illinois.edu |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Questions | Yes | No |
| Is this a student-led project?  *It’s staff-led but the NRES 285 Sustainability Grant Writing class developed this grant application.* | X | X |
| If applicable, have you received approval from Facilities & Services and/or site manager? | X |  |
| Do you have a plan for ongoing funding beyond SSC? (SSC cannot guarantee ongoing financial support) | X |  |
| Beyond SSC, do you have sources contributing funding or support (ex. staff time, external grants, etc.) to this project? | X |  |
| Have you applied for SSC funding previously?  *It is unknown whether these native plant gardens have been funded previously by the SSC. One of the students in the Sustainability Grant Writing Class NRES 285 has participated in SSC funding before (though for a different project), but the rest of the students have not.* |  | X |

|  |
| --- |
| **Project Timeline** |
| SSC funding agreements remain active for two years. Please list your project’s timeline and/or milestones. |
| * Buy and ship plants as soon as funds & plants are available (hopefully early summer 2023) * Plant summer 2023 through fall 2024 via both volunteering and Native Plant Care class participation * Continue to plant for empty spaces and maintain growth through spring 2025 via both volunteering and Native Plant Care class participation |

|  |
| --- |
| **Project Description** |
| In 250 words or less, describe your project. What does your project hope to accomplish? What are your project’s deliverables? Bullet points welcome. |
| Our project hopes are to restore five existing native plant gardens surrounding the Lincoln Avenue Residence (LAR) dormitories. Restoration would entail revamping the entrance garden, and filling-in plant gaps of the other gardens with more natives, such as Jacob’s Ladder, Orange Butterfly Weed, Great Blue Lobelia, Purple Coneflower, and others. These would be planted according to the light and landscape conditions on the perimeter of the buildings. The native plants would fulfill objectives of the iCAP and attract students, children, faculty, family and visitors to the area. It is our hope that a garden of pollinator flowers and deep-rooted plants home to the Midwest and Illinois would have the chance to put these once-widely distributed species back into the public eye through a proper and organized presentation.  The arrangement of these plants have been designed to draw the eye to these beds, to make them noticeable for those looking out of their dorm windows, sitting at the dining hall or pulling up the circle drive. If approved, these funds would be directed according to this project plan by our director, Pam Leiter, to purchase and install these plants by the work of future students in the latter seasons of this year and subsequent years through maintenance. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Environmental Impact** |
| In 200 words or less, how does your project increase environmental stewardship at UIUC? If applicable, what is the carbon, water, waste, and/or energy savings? Does your project relate to the iCAP? Bullet points welcome. |
| The restoration of native plant gardens will contribute to the goals set in the 2020 iCAP and 2019 Resilient Landscape Strategy. Increasing native biodiversity on campus can be achieved through projects such as our proposed native gardens.  The variety of native plants we have chosen will provide shelter for many species of insects, birds, and mammals. We plan to plant native flowering species which will help meet the 2020 iCAP goal [4.2.2] by providing additional ground-level pollinator-friendly landscaping on campus. The inclusion of native plants will increase biodiversity of plants and animals found on campus.  The water impacts of these gardens are also of importance. Section [4.2] Rainwater Management Plan looks to remedy flooding or inefficient use of rainwater. By planting native plants adapted to the site’s water conditions the gardens can assist with water infiltration into the soil to avoid flooding; it redirects water into the soil to be used by surrounding plants.  Once established, native plants also require less water and upkeep than ornamental varieties as they are adapted to the amount of rainfall in Illinois. Most do not require extensive pruning. We chose native plants best suited to each site’s light and water conditions to minimize maintenance. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Student Impact** |
| In 200 words or less, how will this project benefit students? How will students be involved with this project? What educational components are in your project? Bullet points welcome. |
| The NRES 285 Sustainability Grant Writing Class itself has already involved eight students in the process of grant writing – the students developed the Step I and II narratives, as well as the plant budget and renderings for this project.  Students, whether residents of LAR or passersby, will learn about vibrant and exciting species which formerly dominated the landscape and be exposed to flowers which are rarely seen in public settings today. Opportunities for hands-on experience gardening will be available to students through ecological education programs in the NRES department and the Sustainability LLC (Such as the Native Plant Care Class NRES 294 offered spring and fall semester each year), while also promoting the maintenance and upkeep of the gardens. In addition, high schoolers may engage with the gardens during on-campus summer camps.  The sense of pride and ownership that students are likely to feel lends itself to the longevity of, and continued student investment in, the garden beds. The presence of the full, lush, and diverse gardens in close proximity to residence halls and highly-trafficked areas, also lends itself to improved student wellbeing, and can lower the stress experienced by those involved with them. |

**Map of the Native Plant Gardens around Lincoln Avenue Residence Hall**

