



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Funding Award and Acceptance Letter

December 9th, 2022

Project: **A student-driven recensus of the Trelease Woods Forest Dynamics plot**

Dear **Dr. James Dalling**,

On behalf of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Student Sustainability Committee (SSC), we would like to thank you for initiating a project that improves the sustainability of our campus. SSC is pleased to inform you that your project will receive **\$72,721.00** in grant funding.

In order to remain eligible for this award, you must agree to the following conditions:

1. The project must be completed within two years. A final report of all work completed should be provided to the SSC Assistant Director by **December 9th, 2024**.
2. Project status updates and detailed account statements must be provided at the end of each semester, in the method requested, until the project is completed.
3. The Contact Person will be individually responsible for all official communication and the execution of this agreement.
4. The awardee will take the appropriate steps to create a CFOP with OBFS UAFR University Accounting Services. The CFOP provided for this award shall strictly be used for the money awarded in this proposal.
5. Any substantial modifications to project scope, budget, or timeline must first be approved by SSC. These requests must be submitted in a formal letter to the Chair and the Assistant Director.
6. All projects will be expected to follow campus policies and procedures as well as any applicable State and Federal laws.
7. SSC reserves the right to revoke funding if the project does not comply with the terms and conditions outlined in this letter.
8. Any press releases or educational/promotional materials involving the project should acknowledge SSC funding.
9. Any signage involving the project or events surrounding this project should include SSC's logo and/or a statement of which fee funded the project. Projects must coordinate with SSC to ensure promotion appropriately highlights the SSC's contributions to the project.

If you agree to the terms and conditions for the funding, please sign on the designated line at the bottom of this letter. If you have any questions regarding these requirements please contact the SSC, at [sustainability-committee@illinois.edu](mailto:sustainability-committee@illinois.edu). You will be notified when the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs officially approves this project. Again, thank you for your interest in improving the sustainability of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. We look forward to working with you in the future.



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

**SSC Signatories**

*Jack Reicherts*

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Jack Reicherts, Chair  
Student Sustainability Committee

**Awardee Signatory**

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Dr. James Dalling  
Applicant

**Faculty or Staff Project Advisor  
(for Student-Led Projects)**

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N/A  
Faculty/Staff Project Advisor

**iSEE Signatory**

*Madhu Khanna*

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Dr. Madhu Khanna, Director  
Institute for Sustainability, Energy & Environment

**Student Affairs Signatory**

*Dr. Danita M. B. Young*

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Dr. Danita Brown Young, Vice Chancellor  
Division of Student Affairs



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## Project Information

**Project:** A Student-Driven Recensus of the Trelease Woods Forest Dynamics Plot

### Funding Source:

Cleaner Energy Technologies Fee (302571)

Sustainable Campus Environment Fee (303692)

**Funding Amount:** \$72,721.00

**Receiving Campus Unit:** School of Integrative Biology

**Unit Financial Contact:** Penny Broga

**E-mail:** broga@illinois.edu

### Project Description:

Trelease Woods is an exceptionally rare example of undisturbed, old growth eastern deciduous forest in Illinois. A university property since 1917, it has a long history of ecological research, making it one of the most studied forests in North America. Highlights include transformative work on food webs, forest succession, and climate change effects on phenology (leaf flush and flowering of trees and forest herbs). Unique datasets exist on the vegetative composition of Trelease dating back to the 1920s, however until 2018 there was no complete tree inventory of the forest. With SSC support we trained 70 students that over 3 years mapped, measured and identified every tree (31,980 individual trees) using the standardized protocol of ForestGeo – a global network of forest dynamics plots coordinated by the Smithsonian Institution. Trelease Woods is now the 73<sup>rd</sup> plot to join this network (<https://forestgeo.si.edu/sites/north-america/trelease-woods>). Completion of this census has allowed us to provide hands-on training opportunities in forest ecology to an unprecedented number of undergrads from four different UIUC colleges. It also leveraged funding from the Provost's Initiative on Teaching Advancement and Integrative Biology to support an RA to generate class projects for >300 undergrads a year to use data from the census in IB203,372, and NRES219.

Inclusion of Trelease Woods in the ForestGeo network requires us to recensus Trelease Woods every five years. This allows researchers from around the world to synthesize data on how forest ecosystems are changing. A critical component of this work is to determine what role forests play as either carbon sources or sinks in the global carbon budget. Recensusing Trelease will also contribute to local-scale carbon monitoring efforts, helping campus determine carbon storage trends for this



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property. Accordingly, in Fall 2023 we will recensus Trelease using the same protocol as 2018. We will remeasure all trees to record tree growth and mortality and add new trees that have grown large enough to be included in the census. This is a key step in establishing the Trelease Woods plot.

This project will provide:

- Training for an additional 50+ undergraduate census workers
- First measurement of Trelease forest growth and mortality
- New undergraduate research opportunities tracking changing carbon storage patterns in forests
- Educate students on the critical importance of forests in mitigating and reducing carbon emissions

This proposal directly funds:

- 11 month graduate student RA: \$32,846.00
- 6 hourly paid undergraduate workers at \$13/hour (490 hours): \$6,370.00
- Factory servicing of TruPulse 360R laser range: \$600.00
- Tape inserts for forestry suppliers, 5 M diameter tape: \$180.00
- SPI plastic dial caliper: \$179.80
- Nelson paint Nel-script tree marking paint: \$500.00
- Aluminum nails (1 lb. box): \$20.25
- Forestry supplies vinyl tree tape (rolls): \$175