**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. This may be a direct impact or an impact through education and engagement. All SSC funding is 100% from student green fees, so the projects funded by the students must benefit them.
4. SSC encourages innovation and new technologies – creative projects are encouraged to apply.
5. Unless a type of expense is specifically listed below as having restrictions, SSC can generally fund it. The items referenced below should not be taken as comprehensive list.

**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 funding requests for food and prizes but will consider proposals on a case by case basis that prove significant reasoning.
5. SSC can fund repairs and improvements to existing building systems as long as it works toward the goal of improving campus sustainability; however, a preference is shown to projects utilizing new or innovative ideas.
6. SSC can provide departments with loans for projects with a distinct payback on a case by case base. 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 for students beyond standard student employee wages.

**Your funding application should include this application and any letters of support.**

*Please submit this completed application and any relevant supporting documentation by the deadline listed on the SSC website to* [*Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu*](mailto:Sustainability-Committee@Illinois.edu)*. The Working Group Chairs will be in contact with you regarding any questions about the application. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee at* [*Sustainability-Committee@illinois.edu.*](mailto:Sustainability-Committee@illinois.edu.)

**General & Contact Information**

**Project Name:** Dorner Drive Retention Pond Transformation

**Total Amount Requested from SSC:** $9,820

**Project Topic Areas:**  Land & Water  Education  Energy

Transportation  Food & Waste

**Applicant Name:** Marcus Benoff, Landscape Architecture student

**Campus Affiliation (Unit/Department or RSO/Organization):** Landscape Architecture

**Email Address:** mbenoff2@illinois.edu

**Check one:**

This project is solely my own ***OR***

This project is proposed on behalf of (name of student org., campus dept., etc.): UIUC American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)-Student Chapter

**Project Team Members**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Department** | **Email** |
| Eliana Brown | Extension | brown12@illinois.edu |
| Layne Knoche and Erin Harper | Extension | lknoch2@illinois.edu; harper7@illinois.edu |
| Prasanta Kalita and Rabin Bhattarai | Agricultural and Biological Engineering | pkalita@illinois.edu; rbhatta2@illinois.edu |
| Brent Lewis | Facilities & Services | bcl@illinois.edu |

**Student-Led Projects (Mandatory):**

Name of Faculty or Staff Project Advisor: Eliana Brown  
Advisor’s Email Address: brown12@illinois.edu

**Financial Contact *(Must be a full-time University of Illinois staff member)***

Contact Name: Patricia Welander

Unit/Department: Extension

Email Address: pattiw@illinois.edu

**Project Information**

*Please review the proposal materials and online content carefully. It is highly recommended you visit a working group meeting sometime during the proposal submission process.*

**Please provide a brief background of the project, its goals, and the desired outcomes:**

*We want to know: What is your project? What does it concretely produce, accomplish, or solve? Why is this project needed on campus?*

The University of Illinois is the flagship university of Illinois -- the prairie state. Today, less than 3,000 acres of original prairie remain of the approximate 33 million acres that existed across the state pre-European settlement. This project will introduce the first sizable area of high-quality restored prairie on the main campus, bringing with it a host of educational opportunities and various levels of hands-on service learning for campus and community that will exist well into the future. The conversion from its current state of low-mow lawn filled with aggressive, invasive weed species, will also reduce maintenance inputs while helping to provide habitat for pollinators and other forms of wildlife.

**Where will the project be located? Are special permissions required for this project site?**

*If special permission is required for this location, please explain and submit any relevant letters of support with the application. SSC cannot fund projects without prior location approval.*

**The Dorner Drive Retention Pond is located on the University of Illinois campus between the Plant Sciences Laboratory and the McKinley Health Center, on the east side of Dorner Drive. Special permission has been granted by Brent Lewis, University Landscape Architect. See the attached letter of support.**

**Other than the project team, who will have a stake in the project? Please list other individuals, groups, or departments affiliated directly or indirectly by the project. This includes any entity providing funding (immediate, future, ongoing, matching, in-kind, etc.) and any entities that benefit from this project.**

*Please attach letters of commitment or support at the end of the application.*

No letters of commitment were sought, but we believe that the following UIUC departments would benefit from the existence of this project: the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Landscape Architecture, the Department of Agricultural & Biological Engineering, and the Department of Crop Sciences.

**How will this project involve and/or benefit students?**

*This includes both direct and indirect impact.*

**The project has direct involvement of the UIUC American Student Landscape Architecture (ASLA)-Student Chapter, an RSO of which I am President. These students will gain training and experience with a relatively large native plant prairie seed installation. They will be joined by Agricultural and Biological Engineering students and Extension volunteers, who will participate with erosion control measures. Further, this project benefits the greater student body by providing a place of well-being and restoration at the only pond on the main campus.**

**What are your specific outreach goals? How will this project inspire change at UIUC?**

**Having a prairie on campus represents a paradigm shift in our landscape. Traditional landscape practices such as mown lawns, traditional low-mow sites, chemical applications, etc. must be reconsidered in favor of exemplary sustainable ones. By building a beautiful example of a high-quality prairie restoration at the heart of a campus home to over 50,000 people, we hope to inspire both current and future generations to rethink lawns (on campus and in the home landscape). By working in tandem with Illinois Extension and its various organizations, such as the East Central Illinois Master Naturalists, various forms of outreach and education can be achieved through virtual and in-person workshops, publications, and guided tours.**

**How will the project improve environmental sustainability at the Urbana-Champaign campus?**

This project improves campus environmental sustainability by being on the forefront of exemplary sustainable landscapes. The benefit of these kinds of projects to pollinators and water quality is well documented. The seed mixes being installed will contain approximately 60 species, representing establishment of a biodiverse landscape. Further, proximity to the Red Oak Rain Garden begins to form a corridor of demonstration sustainable landscapes that are especially beneficial to wildlife. The project takes care to preserve the underlying soil and protect water quality with the installation of erosion control measures.

**If applicable, how does this project impact environmental injustice or social injustice?**

**n/a**

**Scope, Schedule, and Budget verification**

**What is the plan for project implementation? Describe the key steps of the project including the start date, target completion date, target date for submitting a final report, and any significant tasks or milestones.** *Please be as detailed as possible.*

This project has been prepped by Facilities & Services with grant funding from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. The start date of this portion of the project is December 1, 2021. Target completion date is April 30, 2022 with a target date for final report of May 31, 2022.

**List all budget items for which funding is being requested. Include cost and total amount for each item requested.**

*Please be as detailed as possible.*

*Seed $1,350*

*Erosion Control material $8,500*

**If the project is implemented, will you require ongoing funding? What is the strategy for supporting the project in order to cover replacement, operation, or renewal costs?**

*SSC provides funding on a case by case basis and should not be considered as an ongoing source of funding*

*No ongoing funding from SSC would be required. Care will be provided by a partnership between Facilties & Services and Illinois Extension.*

**Please include any other obtained sources of funding. Have you applied for funding elsewhere?**

*Please attach any relevant letters of support as needed in a separate document.*

Other obtained sources of funding are under a grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. These funds have covered habitat establishment preparation treatment and a portion of the native plant seed.

**Have you applied for funding from SSC before? If so, for what project?**

No

**How will you bring awareness and publicize the project on campus? In addition to SSC, where will information about this project be reported?**

The ASLA Student Chapter will promote the project via social media. Illinois Extension will issue a press release about the project and also promote via social media. The iCAP Portal website will post updates to the existing Dorner Drive Retention Pond project page. The Facilities & Services unit will also promote this project via their website and online presence.