# *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:** Identifying the Campus Benefits of a Large-Scale Prairie Experiment

**Date of Report Submission:** 6/3/2022

**Project Purpose:**

The goals of the project were 2 fold: 1) record data vital to enrolling a new large scale prairie experiment in the campus sustainability goals and 2) provide students with high quality research experience close to campus and make it accessible to students

**Detailed Accounting of Expenditures to Date:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Month* | *Expenditure type* | *Cost* |
| February | Salary for Undergrads | 147.50 |
|  | Supplies for Undergrad projects | 170.06 |
|  | Auxiliary | 0.56 |
| March | Salary for Undergrads | 465.00 |
|  | Auxiliary | 1.77 |
|  | Supplies for Undergrad projects | 0.00 |
| April | Salary for Undergrads | 512.50 |
|  | Auxiliary | 1.95 |
| May | Salary for Undergrads | 160.00 |
|  | Access around Phillips Tract | 15.84 |
|  | Supplies for Undergrads | 31.24 |
|  | Auxiliary | .60 |

**Project Progress to Date:**

During Winter 2021 we advertised and successfully recruited 3 students to work in the summer.

In April 2021 we began meeting weekly to help plan their summer projects and sampling

June, July and August 2021- summer sampling rounds lasting 2 weeks were completed.

June, July, and August 2021- students conducted their independent projects

In Fall of 2021 students continued sampling at the Prairie Experiment, and continued work on their independent projects. This included processing samples collected over the summer, and presenting their findings.

During Winter 2022 we advertised and successfully recruited 3 students to work in the summer.

In April 2022 we began meeting weekly to help plan their summer projects and sampling.

Thus far everything is running exactly to date.

**Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:**

Summer 2021’s SSC hires were able to finish their projects, and two presented their findings at the undergraduate research symposium.

Two new students were hired for Summer 2022, and one student was rehired from our 2021 students. Since April these students have been engaging in a weekly mentored journal club and developing research questions and methods for independent projects to be sampled over the summer.

**Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:**

To recruit students, flyers went out to 3 large majors that were likely to have students interested in conducting field work (Integrative Biology, Natural Resources, and Earth, Society and Sustainability. This resulted in 6 applicants and zoom interviews. Offers were made to four students, but one was turned down resulting in a final 3 students being selected.

**Additional Comments:**

Starting on June 6th students will begin full-time work for the summer, including field sampling for the larger prairie sustainability project and for their own independent projects.

May expense reports are not yet posted and have not been included in this report.