



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Funding Award and Acceptance Letter

May 1st, 2020

Project: Enhancing Ecosystem Services in the Southern Arboretum Woodlands: Habitat Improvement and Reusing Lumber

Dear Mx. Kevin McSweeney:

On behalf of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Student Sustainability Committee (SSC), I would like to thank you for considering the funds raised by the Sustainable Campus Environment Fee to implement a project that improves the sustainability of our campus. SSC is pleased to inform you that we are recommending to the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE) that your project receives **\$113,066** in grant funding.

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

1. A final report of all work completed should be provided to the SSC Program Coordinator by May of 2022.
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 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 Coordinator.
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. 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

Joseph Edwards

Joseph Edwards, Chair

Jonah Messinger

Jonah Messinger, Treasurer
Student Sustainability Committee

Awardee Signatory

Kevin McSweeney

Kevin McSweeney
Applicant

iSEE Signatory

Evan H DeLucia

Dr. Evan DeLucia, Director
Institute for Sustainability, Energy & Environment

Student Affairs Signatory

Dr. Danita M. B. Young

Dr. Danita Brown Young
Division of Student Affairs



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Project Information

Project: Enhancing Ecosystem Services in the Southern Arboretum Woodlands: Habitat Improvement and Reusing Lumber

Funding Source: Sustainable Campus Environment Fee

Funding Amount: \$113,066

Receiving Campus Unit: NRES

Unit Financial Contact: Kelly Sullan

E-mail: sullan@illinois.edu

Project Description:

The goal of the project is to create a diverse mosaic of mesic woodland and savanna communities in the Southern Arboretum Woodlands (SAW) through targeted transformation of the current block-like arrangement of similar aged trees originally planted as a research plantation. A 12-acre tract in the SAW encompassing moderately well drained Catlin soil and suitable for mesic native species has been selected for this project (Figures 1 & 2). A detailed inventory of the trees within the tract will be undertaken to identify (i) trees suitable for producing high quality lumber, (ii) trees to remain as 'nurses' to provide canopy protection for establishment of native trees and (iii) standing dead wood trees and logs to remain to promote habitat diversity for animals, plants and microorganisms. A similar inventory will be conducted in the Illini Forest Plantations. We will use the SAW list of native trees and understory species developed by Iris Lee and reviewed by Emeritus Professors Ken Robertson and John Taft for selection of suitable species from the mesic category for planting. The understory selections include species specifically targeted for benefitting wildlife (cover, fruits for birds, flowers for pollinators etc.) Ongoing suppression of invasive species will continue as needed during site preparation and establishment of native flora. Trees selected for milling will cut by professionally certified foresters and stored at the Illini Forest Plantations. A contractor will be hired to mill the logs into lumber to specified architecturally suitable dimensions (typically 1-2" thick). The freshly sawn lumber will then be transported, stored, dried, and made available for future sustainable building projects (e.g., renovation of solar decathlon houses, planned shelter at the SAW [Figure 3], north Arboretum, and Illini Forest Plantations). Students will be hired to assist in all phases of the project and have the option of obtaining certifications in chainsaw safety, pesticide application and restoration management.

This proposal directly funds:

1. Student and non-student wages
2. Miscellaneous Tree-removal materials
3. Website, social media, and GIS software
4. Milling
5. Trees, Shrubs, Grasses
6. Signage