# *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:** Student-led census of the Trelease Woods Forest Dynamics Plot

**Date of Report Submission:** 2/10/2019

**Project Progress to Date:**

1. Purchase of Census Materials (06/30/18): We purchased all the equipment and materials needed for the census. Some additional small purchases have been made as the census has continued and will be needed over the next year – replacement tape measurements, new batteries for the laser range finder. We also needed to send one laser range finder in for repair (under warranty)
2. Recruitment of undergraduate student census workers (up to 10/2/19). **A total of 69 undergraduate students recruited from SIB, NRES, AHS and Animal Sciences have worked on the census**. During the Fall 18, Spring 19 and Fall 19 semesters Students spent 4-8 hours a week tagging, mapping and identifying trees. These students received research credit for their work. In addition, nine of these students completed independent research projects in Trelease woods related to the census. These were related to themes of sustainability: researching deer population densities in Trelease and censusing standing dead trees in the woods as part of an overall biomass inventory. For ten weeks during the summer, SSC, LAS and NRES funded 9 undergraduate students (all of whom had previously worked on the census for credit) as hourly workers. One graduate student, Ms. Sierra Perez has coordinated the student research teams in the Fall and Spring semester and over the summer.
3. Student orientation and training: Training was completed as planned. In addition, we gave students quizzes on the census methods and spent time in the field with the students throughout each semester. Experienced students assisted with the training of the new student cohorts and with training of volunteer workers from the Illinois Master Naturalist program
4. Progress with completion of the census: As of 10/2/19 we have completed 56% of Trelease Woods (54 of the 96 quarter-hectare quadrats). These 54 quadrats contained 17,675 trees have been identified, mapped and tagged. Based on progress to date we estimate that the final count will be close to 31,000 trees. Fortunately, the ‘harder’ part of Trelease has been done leaving quadrats in the relatively open parts of the northern end of the woods.
5. We anticipate that the full census of 96 quadrats will be completed by the end of summer 2020.

**Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:**

We have recruited students to become involved in the census broadly from LAS, ACES and AHS by advertising online and promoting the project in undergraduate classes (e.g., IB150, IB203).

LAS produced both a video and a news story about the Trelease census, which we hope will bring this project to the attention of additional students and will help provide additional funding for undergraduate student support. Both LAS and NRES are committed to the success of the project by providing vehicles to transport students to the field and some additional funding for student stipends.

Trelease Census new story: https://las.illinois.edu/news/2019-09-06/trelease-woods

Trelease Census video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYD1s0Dj2yQ> (viewed 1090 times)