

## Green Fund Project Final Report

This report may be published on the SIU sustainability website.

Name of person(s) completing report: Katy O'Keefe  
Department: SIU Touch of Nature  
Contact Phone and email address: (217)931-2209  
Faculty Advisor (if applicable):  
Project Title: Green Dawgs Day  
Project ID #: [17SP132](#)  
Award Date: 4/27/2017  
Completion Award: 4/8/2018  
Total Funds Used: \$1,610.82 (Only \$1567.72 was allocated/reimbursed.)

1. Please provide a write up of your project/project experience.

The goal of the Green Fund project, *Green Dawgs Day*, was to engage students with nature through outdoor immersion and connection with local sustainably minded organizations. On April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 students and community members were invited out to Touch of Nature for a free event which included zip lining, rock climbing, the pamper pole activity, interpretive nature hikes, and the chance to network with various local organizations with a mission towards sustainability. In addition, we provided a free shuttle service transporting guests from the SIU Student Center to Touch of Nature throughout the day. Not only did this provide a more environmentally friendly option for guests to come to Touch of Nature, it also granted guests access to the event and a natural environment regardless of ability to drive or own a car. The ability to be immersed and connected with nature can often be an exclusive experience due to the costs associated with needing to drive to most available hiking and outdoor areas. In addition, for people who have not been privileged with being shown or guided through the outdoors, it can often be a scaring and uncomfortable activity to do alone. Green Dawgs Day not only granted access to all persons for a day, but through the community organizations present, the event provided the guests with the resources to find other opportunities to be involved with nature regardless of experience or monetary restraints.

The weather on the day of the event was unfortunately cold, which I think lessened the numbers of people who attended, but we still had a good sized turnout for the near freezing weather! In addition, we had the WSIL Channel 3 news run a story and interview about the event which expanded the scope of the event by giving attention to the importance of the outdoors, as well as the Green Fund and Touch of Nature. Unfortunately the day of the event we had to cancel the scheduled paddling sessions due to weather. Participants were planned to sign up for the paddling sessions in the same room that the various organizations had tables set up in, and because they were no longer moving through there to sign up, I believe this diminished the number of people engaging with the organizations. Many people would come in for a moment, warm up, walk around a minute, then leave again. Even though there was not as much involvement with the participants and the organizations as planned, I still believe the event was successful due to the participants' engagement with nature and awareness of the resources that is Touch of Nature and the Green Fund.

2. Please provide a summary of your results (environmental, social, and/or economic) including quantifiable data as appropriate (ex. # of individuals reached, lbs. diverted from landfill, energy saved, etc.).

On the day of the event we had approximately 50 – 60 participants come out to Touch of Nature and engage in the various activities present. In addition we had support from thirteen organizations: The Geography and Environmental Resources Department, Environmental Studies, Outdoor Pursuits, Climbing Club, the Sustainability Office, Geography Club, Logic Gardens, Keep Carbondale Beautiful, Dayempur Farms, the U.S Forest Service, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Kids Korner, and Buila Family Farm. I believe that this event aided students in finding a new appreciation for the environment and local opportunities for getting involved in the sustainable community. Appreciation and awareness for the environment is the first step in leading someone to sustainable action. Green Dawgs Day worked to spark that appreciation in our students and community, while providing them the means to transform that appreciation into action through a connection with our communities sustainably minded organizations. The impact of this connection between people and their environment is something that could last generations to come, whether it is through small life changes, a fostered commitment to our earth, or simply a greater understanding of our natural world.

3. Summarize how your project promoted the Green Fee/Sustainability on campus including, but not limited to, flyers created, screenshots of website, signage, etc. Please include website links, if applicable.

For the project we promoted the event and the Green fund in a few capacities.

- 1). We had the event linked to the Touch of Nature homepage website leading up to the event: <https://ton.siu.edu/>

- 2) We did a campus mail drop for event flyers (appendix A).

- 3) We issued a press release detailing the event.

- 4) There were two ads in the Daily Egyptian Newspaper (appendices B and C).

- 5) A Facebook page was made for the event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/224148174798798/>

- 6) WSIL channel 3 covered the event with two segments on the five and ten o'clock news as well as a story: <http://www.wsilv.com/story/37906437/green-dawgs-day>

- 7) SIU News also posted an article detailing the event:

<https://news.siu.edu/2018/04/040418-green-dawgs-day-at-touch-of-nature.php>

These forms of promotion and the day of event signage included that the event was funded through the SIU Green Fund.

4. Is there anything you would do differently if you were to do a similar project in the future? If so, please describe.

In the future I would move the placement of the organizations so that they would have more interaction with the students. Potentially putting them in a building closer to the large activities or even having them set up outside. In addition I would try to change the date of the event in hopes of more suitable weather.

5. Please attach a minimum of 5 digital images –these will be images used to promote interest in sustainability projects on campus. These can be photos of the progress of the project or the completed project.















6. Optional: Do you have any suggestions for the SIU Sustainability Council to improve the Green Fund Award Process?

# GREEN DAWGS DAY

**April 8**  
**10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**



- Learn about environmental and recreational opportunities on campus.
- Meet and network with professionals for internships or volunteer opportunities.
- Take part in FREE
  - zip lining
  - rock climbing
  - canoeing
  - hiking
  - and much more!



## Bus Times

Touch of Nature will offer FREE shuttle service. Pickup is across from the SIU Student Center

### Leaving Student Center:

- 9:45 a.m.
- 10:45 a.m.
- 12:45 p.m.
- 1:45 p.m.

### Leaving Touch of Nature:

- 10:30 a.m.
- 12:30 p.m.
- 1:30 p.m.
- 3:45 p.m.



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**STUDENT GREEN FEE**

Individuals with disabilities are welcomed. Call 618/453-5738 to request accommodations.

**SIU**  
CARBONDALE

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
**TOUCH OF NATURE**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



618/453-1121 / [tonec@siu.edu](mailto:tonec@siu.edu) / [ton.siu.edu](http://ton.siu.edu)



**GREEN DAWGS DAY**  
April 8, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Learn about environmental and recreational opportunities on campus.
- Meet and network with professionals for internships or volunteer opportunities.
- Take part in FREE zip lining, rock climbing canoeing, hiking and much more!
- **Project Wild** workshop, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
\$25 - Register online or drop on in.

**FREE shuttle service starting at 9:45 a.m. across from the SIU Student Center.**

Visit our website  
[ton.siu.edu](http://ton.siu.edu)  
for more details.

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oney, MAIN STREET, ALTO PASS, IL 618-893-1639

**GREEN DAWGS DAY | Sunday April 8, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

- Learn about environmental and recreational opportunities.
- Meet and network with professionals in these fields.
- FREE zip lining, rock climbing, canoeing, hiking and much more!
- **Project Wild** workshop, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Visit [ton.siu.edu](http://ton.siu.edu) for more details.

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RENDERING THE  
**STUDENT GREEN FEE**

