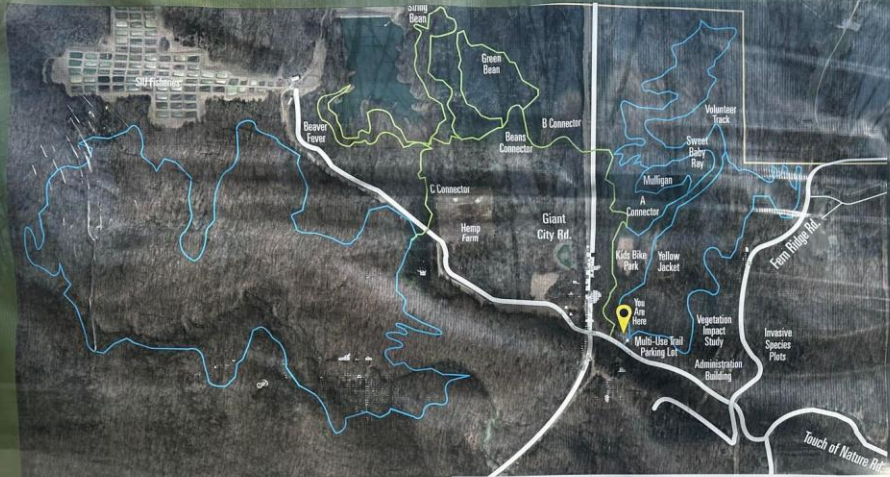


Green Fund Project Final Report

Name of person(s) completing report: Jeffrey Meverden
Identify if the person completing report is a student, faculty, and/or staff: Student/Graduate Assistant
Department: Touch of Nature
Contact Phone and email address: 224-723-2884 jeffrey.meverden@siu.edu
Faculty Advisor (if applicable): Thomas Brummer
Project Title: GA Touch of Nature Trails
Project ID #: 23SP102
Award Date: 04/18/2023
Completion Date: 05/31/2024
Total Funds Used: \$10,000

1. Provide a summary of your project/project experience.
 - a. Throughout the 23-24 school year I have worked on many facets regarding the sustainability of the TON Trails. With the overarching goal of my work here being sustainability, I broke it down into two main categories. Category 1 is community, category 2 is trail surfaces. Diving into my education and experience in working in and around community-based recreation, it was easy for me to make the transition to apply these themes in regards to another hobby of mine, which is trail use. A trail system and recreational area is largely successful based on how users develop their relationship with the property. I wanted to prioritize community involvement and create a sense of pride for users of the area to promote further responsible use of the trails. A big part of building community is balancing volunteer days in terms of tasks completed. This means that we could be focusing on any task depending on the goal of the day. In regards to trail surfaces projects include rock reinforcement of areas that hold moisture, re-grading areas of erosion to promote proper water drainage, doing preventative tree work to minimize downed trees blocking the trails after storms, increasing signage, building on a working mapping project to document all trails within the system. Another incredible community goal was achieving a partnership with Cobden High School to take on their own trail project within our system. Furthermore the partnership fostered with OPTIONS lead to a semester long volunteer who participated in weekly work with myself and he also attended every volunteer day.
2. 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.).
 - a. Throughout the 23-24 school year there have been; 457 hazardous trees removed, 9 signs added or repaired, 21 sections of rock reinforcement, 6,457 feet of trails added, 61 total volunteers, 18,514 feet of machine access road documented and re cleared. The overall goal of having trails that can weather storms, have easy access for repairs and continuing to build a community around the use of the property has been very successful.
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. (Reminder: you are required to promote your project using at least 2 items from the awardee website promotion list.)
 - a. The SIU Student Green Fund is verbally mentioned at the start of every volunteer trail work day, noted within each of our trail zone markers, promoted at Touch of Nature events with the pictured flyer, as well as within our website.
 - i. <https://ton.siu.edu/trailsandtraces/student-green-fee.php>

4. Provide evidence of how you used the Green Fund Marker in your project.
 - a. See attached photos
5. Is there anything you would do differently if you were to do a similar project in the future? If so, please describe.
 - a. I have no regrets of how I completed this year's project. In a document I have created outlining the job for future participants I highlight on the importance of community involvement especially for tackling the labor intensive projects. I think that focusing on involving the targeted user group is crucial to long term success.
6. Provide as an attachment to the email (see email address below) a minimum of 5 digital images. A minimum of one of the five images should include a person. Images should be of high a quality as possible and be attached in jpg format, if available. Images will be used to promote interest in sustainability projects on campus and may be used on our website and in other promotional material. These can be photos of the progress of the project or the completed project. Provide captions for photos here.
 - a. See attached photos
7. In 2-5 sentences, describe what you learned from completing the Green Fund grant process. Include a detailed response (Do not simply respond "yes" or "no.") to at least one of the following questions to help us understand how this project has impacted your overall university experience.
 - Do you have a different understanding of sustainability now than you did at the beginning of the process?
 - i. I think that I already had a very solid understanding of sustainability in many different scopes, throughout this process it was unique to work with the community and help further their understanding of what sustainability might look like in regards to the trails.
 - Did you apply knowledge or skills learned from courses at SIU?
 - i. Throughout the 23-24 contract I applied an accumulation of skills learned both through courses of my undergrad, hard skills learned through internships and formal employment, and applied current concepts that I was able to learn in course and directly apply to the work I was doing.
 - Did the completion of the Green Fund grant process help to prepare you for your future career opportunities?
 - i. Yes it did, without the Green Fund grant I would not have been funded for further education and more than likely would not have pursued higher education. This being said, the skills I learned throughout the process are as irreplaceable as the formal education that I have attained at the same time.
8. List suggestions for the SIU Sustainability Council to improve the Green Fund Award Process here:
 - a. I think that some sort of formal meeting with the sustainability council from award recipients would be very helpful to put titles to faces. As well as correlate goals and explain depth of the project further.



TRAIL SIGNAGE

A FEW WAYS TO PARK/PAY

- DAY PASS at parking kiosk
- ANNUAL PASS
- TON MEMBERSHIP
- TON SCHEDULE TO LEARN MORE

Trail Difficulty and Directions

Connectors to other Trails

Expect a Feature Soon (Jump, Pump Track, etc.)

One Way Trails Only

You've gone the wrong way, turn around



GET THE APPS

SEARCH: TOUCH OF NATURE



RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT



RAUSENBERGER FAMILY



Rotary Club of...

ABOUT THE TRAILS

Welcome to TON Trails. This trail system and it's features are funded and powered by our volunteers, donations, and grants. See the logos below for some of the people and organizations that have helped make this dream a reality. Hikers, bikers, and runners are all welcome to enjoy the trail system at your own risk. For the safety of riders and your pet, please leave your pet at home.

This system was designed with SIU Students, Southern Illinois community members, and Touch of Nature program participants in mind. Trails and features on the east side of Giant City Road were created as an introduction to mountain biking for our beginner level community members and for our program participants like summer campers. Crossing Giant City Road to the west introduces riders and hikers to some of the beauty of Southern Illinois and to some longer, more advanced rides on our western property. Our trails range from Easy to Very Difficult so please ride at your skill level.

JOIN OUR RIDER COMMUNITY on Facebook

HOW TO JOIN:

1. OPEN FACEBOOK
2. SEARCH FOR THE "TOUCH OF NATURE" GROUP
3. OPEN THE GROUP AND CLICK JOIN
4. ADD QUESTIONS, AND BEHIND THE SCENES TRAILS UPDATES. FIND & FOLLOW THE COMMUNITY!

OR SCAN QR TO JOIN!

TON.SIU.EDU

FUNDED BY THE
STUDENT GREEN FEE

ZONE

B



MTB
PROJECT



TRAILFORKS

STRAVA

BE A FRIEND OF NATURE!

Friend Membership Levels

Membership Level	Price
Student	\$10.00
Adult	\$20.00
Family (2 Adults, 2 Children)	\$50.00
Corporate	\$100.00
Life	\$1,000.00

Scan the QR code to become a friends member and make your donation.

ton.edu

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@SITTOUCHOFNATURE

TOUCH OF NATURE OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

FOLLOW US

TON MOUNTAIN BIKE

JOIN OUR RIDER COMMUNITY ON FACEBOOK!

HOW TO JOIN:

1. OPEN FACEBOOK
2. SEARCH FOR THE "TOUCH OF NATURE Mtb TRAIL RIDERS" GROUP
3. OPEN THE GROUP AND CLICK "JOIN"
4. ASK QUESTIONS, FIND A RIDING BUDDY, AND MORE IN THE TON Mtb COMMUNITY!

OR scan HERE TO JOIN!

TON MOUNTAIN BIKE

DID YOU KNOW...

DID YOU KNOW THAT TOUCH OF NATURE TRAILS ARE FUNDED IN PART BY THE STUDENT GREEN FEE?

THE STUDENT GREEN FEE FUNDS A GRADUATE ASSISTANT WHO HELPS MAINTAIN AND BUILD OUR TRAILS CREATING A COMMUNITY SPACE FOR ALL!

FUNDED BY THE STUDENT GREEN FEE

Explore MORE

SEEK YOUR OWN ADVENTURES

TON MOUNTAIN BIKE

BE A FRIEND OF NATURE!

Friend Membership Levels

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Corporate	\$100.00
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