

SIU Sustainability Council Projects
Final Report

Project title: Restoration Club Prairie Garden

Project I.D. #: 101210

Award date: December 10, 2012

Completion date: September 4, 2013

Funds used (if different from award amount)

Brief write up of project/project experience (not to exceed 250 words)

The experience of re-building the Campus Prairie Garden was incredibly rewarding. Throughout the re-construction we were able to involve many members of our SIU community. For those of us who were more directly involved with the administrative aspects of the project, it was very insightful to see how our ideas came to fruition with the help of many individuals across several departments. What is most exciting is that the garden is still and will always be a work in progress. We have received more money from the Green Fund to continue to maintain and improve the garden (e.g. weeding, mulching, replacing dead specimens, and adding more species). Feedback about the garden has been fantastic. I personally have heard many people say nice things about its aesthetic value and usefulness in the classroom. Several classes have already reported using it for educational purposes. Overall, I think the experience has been a positive one for all those involved.

Best things learned/produced from project

Understanding the different levels of organization and people that have to come together to make something like this possible. As far as the end product, the signs, stone pathway, and perimeter roping were all excellent ideas and really enhance the garden's appeal. Also, a summer caretaker is crucial for preventing takeover by undesirable species.

How do you define sustainability?

Persistence without maintenance from non-local entities

Has this changed over the course of your project? If so, how?

It has made me appreciate more the importance of community and the legacies that are nurtured therein.

What do you see as the next step for the project?

Continued maintenance and improvement of the specimens and number of species represented in the garden, within limits, of course. If it were to become too congested it would lose its appeal. Also, mulching, weeding, etc...

Optional: Suggestions for the SIUC Sustainability Council

Better system for submitting proposals. I had difficulty using entering text into the pdf proposal template. The PCard system for use of funds. The current process involved with making purchases is rather inconvenient

Attach a minimum of five images – these will be used to promote interest in Sustainability Council projects.