

Progress Report - Campus Sustainability Fund

December 2022 – Native Plant Gardens

Email:

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Project Manager Name:

Elise Gornish

Project Name:

Native plant garden installations across UArizona

Project Subaccount Number:

2242324

Project Summary Snapshot:

Please copy and paste the "Summary Snapshot" you provided in your project application.

UArizona student members of the Ecological Restoration club, HydroCats and Compost Cats will install native plant gardens across campus to replace water hungry lawns and bare spaces that contribute to the urban heat island effect. These gardens will enhance campus sustainability by reducing water and energy use while providing critical resources to local pollinators and beautify campus. Signage at the gardens will educate students about their value and a newly developed CURE (course-based undergraduate research experience) will provide opportunities for data collection across the gardens.

Requested Metrics:

Please report your project's metrics and their most recent number or response in a list format.

of gardens installed: 3

of square feet of native garden installation: 80

of species of plants installed: 31 unique species planted, for a total of 74 plants

of people in the core project team involved in planning and execution of the project (if they're a student/ staff/ faculty etc): 2 staff

of hours spent on this project: Staff (Funicelli): 23, (Gornish): 5; (students): 4

Project Accomplishments :

Please describe what aspects of the project have been accomplished. Be as descriptive and specific as possible. Examples of accomplishments could include: Held 4 public meetings totaling 130 attendees; Transitioned 300 square feet of dirt into usable garden space and signed on 14 community garden volunteers. Other examples of accomplishments could include sharing a confirmed schedule of events, the connections/contacts that have been established, etc.

Fruitful meetings occurred with Facilities Management where locations of current and future gardens were agreed upon. The ecological restoration club is excited to plan their own garden for next semester. Three gardens were planted on Saturday, November 12 with the ecological restoration club (17 members attended). The locations of the gardens are at the NW corner of BSW. A new collaboration has been developed with Grant McCormick where some future gardens will include water harvesting structures.

Next Steps:

Please detail the next steps for your project, numbering each step. (ie, 1. Connect with X Department to collaborate on the event, 2. Contact the catering options to confirm pricing, 3. Interview candidates for internship).

Locations for spring garden plantings will be determined. Currently we have 3 potential locations. Once they are decided on, necessary paperwork will be filed with the University Facilities Management office and the city office (blue flag). Data loggers will be used to collect data across planted plots (all data will be made freely available on the website (see end of this paragraph). Compost will be applied on planted gardens. Outreach events will be planned for spring. IT will have a draft website completed by end of Spring 2023, after which signs for each garden can be created (they will include QR codes for the website).

Challenges Faced:

Please identify and describe any obstacles/roadblocks you or your team have experienced, and detail how you've managed them/ will manage them. Should your project already be completed, please note what challenges you faced and what you would do differently.

Finding garden locations that are acceptable to Facilities Management is the biggest challenge of the moment. when creating the proposal, Facilities Management noted that they support the removal of grass and thrilled to have us work almost anywhere on campus (this sentiment was supported by a letter). However, we are finding that the office is extremely slow to agree to locations and continue to add more paperwork for each garden. To address this, we meet monthly with the office to ensure open communication between the project team and the people signing off on needed paperwork.

Project Support:

Can the CSF support you in addressing any roadblocks you've encountered? How else can the CSF support your project?

None - meetings with facilities management have been helpful to identify potential garden locations.

Photo Link:

Please copy hyperlinks to photos here should you not be able to individually upload photos.

Carianne Funicelli

Media/Links:

Please include links to any media coverage or events information (e.g. news, social media, websites, interviews, etc.)

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