

Progress Report - Campus Sustainability Fund

March 2023 – Native Plant Gardens

Email:

egornish@arizona.edu

Project Manager Name:

who is submitting this project?

Elise Gornish

Project Name:

Native Plant Gardens

Project Subaccount Number:

2242324

Project Summary Snapshot:

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

Response

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.

Response

- # of gardens installed - 3
- # of square feet of native garden installation - 22 %
- Change of heat and humidity after the garden installation using the hobo logger - NA
- # of species of plants installed - 17
- # of outreach events conducted - 0
- # of attendees to outreach events (categorized into students/ staff/ community members) - NA
- # of people in the core project team involved in planning and execution of the project (if they're a student/ staff/ faculty etc). - 4
- # of hours spent on this project (broken up by students/ staff/ can be estimated) - 60

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.

Response

Along with members of the ecological restoration club and sorority members, we installed 3 pollinator gardens last semester (Nov). The project website is expected to be completed in the next two months, after which, signs will be made.

Every year Grant McCormick creates water harvesting basins somewhere on campus with his water harvesting class. He was planning on working on an area (on the east side of the math building) that we had targeted for planting. So, we worked together and had the class install water harvesting features (mostly through earth moving and rock placement) and then we installed plants! Win-win!

Next Steps:

Response

1. We have 5 new proposed locations for pollinator gardens in the next few months (deployment in March and April): Math East (2 sites); McClelland Park North; Marvel South and the Cooper Center.
2. We are planning our first outreach event which will likely be held in April and will be a plant drawing/pollinator learning event with a graduate student artist.
3. Meetings with Compost Cats in the next few weeks will lead to another planned outreach event.
4. We plan to deploy compost on each garden (on half of the garden) in late April and begin taking sensor measurements in May.

Spring plantings will engage Compost Cats/Students for Sustainability, MycoCats and GALS (high school girls and their on-campus mentors).

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.

Response:

We just learned that we now need to submit a new form before planting – it's a blue flag form to the city that essentially ensures that we aren't digging where there are gas lines. These forms need to be submitted within three weeks of a planting. And Facilities Management is still cutting down some plants in old planted areas so we now meet with them monthly to stay on track.

Project Support:

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

Response:

None.

Photo Upload:

Please upload or provide links (below) to relevant photos.

Response:

* 20230217_163841.jpg

[https://sustainability.arizona.edu/system/files/webform/csrf_progress_report/288/20230217_163841.jpg] Photo Link Attached
photo is the beginning of the water harvesting project that will accompany the pollinator garden at Math East.

Photo Link:

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

Response:

Attached photo is the beginning of the water harvesting project that will accompany the pollinator garden at Math East.

Media/Links:

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

Response:

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