



Funding Award and Acceptance Letter

April 24, 2013

Project Leader: Sarah Taylor Lovell  
Project Team: Kevin Wolz, Dustin Kelly  
Project: Orchard Downs Sustainable Landscape

Re: Sustainable Campus Environment Fee – Award Recommendation

Dear Sarah Taylor Lovell:

On behalf of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Student Sustainability Committee (SSC), we would like to thank you for considering the funds raised by the Sustainable Campus Environment Fee to implement a project that improves the sustainability of our campus.

SSC is pleased to inform you that we are recommending to the Center for a Sustainable Environment that the Orchard Downs Sustainable Landscape project **receive \$113,860 in grant funding** for the project as outlined in the application. SSC would like to see extra emphasis placed on the education and outreach component of this project.

In order to remain eligible for this award, you must agree to the following conditions:

1. All funds must be spent by May 31, 2016.
2. A final report of all work completed should be provided by June 30, 2016.
3. Project status updates and detailed account statements must be provided at the end of each semester until the project is completed.
4. Each project is required to fulfill some kind of outreach component which may require a poster submittal, videos, photos, etc. The project applicant will work with SSC to determine the best form of outreach.
5. Any substantial modifications to project scope, budget, or timeline must first be approved by SSC.
6. All projects will be expected to follow campus policies and procedures as well as any applicable State and Federal laws.
7. SSC reserves the right to revoke funding if the project does not comply with the terms and conditions outlined in this letter.

If you agree to the terms and conditions for the funding, please sign on the designated line at the bottom of this letter. If you have any questions regarding these requirements please contact the SSC Program Advisor, McKenzie Beverage, at [mbeverag@illinois.edu](mailto:mbeverag@illinois.edu). You will be notified when the Center for a Sustainable Environment officially approves this project. Again, thank you for your interest in improving the sustainability of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. We look forward to working with you in the future.

SSC Signatories

Marika Nell  
Chair, Student Sustainability Committee

Teresa Tousignant  
Treasurer, Student Sustainability Committee

Awardee Signatory

Dr. Sarah Taylor Lovell  
Department of Crop Sciences

Center for a Sustainable Environment Signatory

Pradeep Khanna, Associate Chancellor  
Acting Director, Center for a Sustainable Environment



### Project Information

**Project:** Orchard Downs Sustainable Landscape

**Funding Source:** Sustainable Campus Environment Fee

**Funding Amount:** \$113,860

**Award Code:** 1-303692-802050-802502-802ORC

**Receiving Campus Unit:** Department of Crop Sciences

**Unit Financial Contact:** Anna Tammen

**E-mail:** amtammen@illinois.edu **Phone:** 217-333-3422

**Primary Contact Person:** Sarah Taylor Lovell

**E-mail:** stlovell@illinois.edu **Phone:** 217-244-3433

### Applicant Project Description:

The Orchard Downs Graduate Housing Complex is a vibrant community of students and their families from over 70 countries. This community is very interested and engaged in sustainability issues as evidenced by the existence of the Orchard Downs vibrant community garden, their lively interaction with the adjacent arboretum, and other activities that take place in the complex. The area around the Orchard Downs community, therefore, is an optimal place to location and foster new sustainable land-use initiatives.

Demolition of the oldest buildings at the community's northeast corner (SW corner of Florida Ave. and Race St.) in the late 1990s left approximately 17 acres of land now only utilized by the occasional dog-walker. While most of the area's surface is currently a grassy "no-mow" area, the land is home to a sparse but diverse canopy of mature trees, including red oak, sycamore, sweet gum, tulip tree, and jack pine. The ecological value of this area is enormous, and its proximity to campus makes it a prime location for a sustainable land-use demonstration. This land represents a HUGE educational, recreational, research, and ecological opportunity that is currently being severely underutilized due to neglect and lack of engaging features.

The primary goal of the project is to transform a portion of the Orchard Downs land area to an engaging multifunctional landscape. This landscape will include native plantings (prairie, savanna, and forest), edible fruits and nuts, educational interactions, organic art installations, and a recreational space that would provide Illinois students and nearby residents with the closest thing they have on campus to functioning, native ecosystem. The desired outcome is create a sustainable, healthy landscape that can serve as a model and learning tool for students, local residents, and campus visitors. The site exists as an interface with the community, so it would help to elevate the important work of SSC to promote sustainability on campus, with students and the public.