

February 25, 2014

Marika Nell, Chair
Student Sustainability Committee

Subject: Orchard Downs Sustainable Landscape Project Relocation

Dear Marika,

I regret to inform you that the project entitled "Orchard Downs Sustainable Landscape", approved for funding by the SSC in the fall 2012 funding cycle, will not be able to be completed as originally proposed in our application. Despite seeming approval of the landowner where the project was to be completed (Campus Housing), further review on their part and by central campus administration determined that the project could not be allowed at the proposed Orchard Downs location.

Despite this setback in location choice, our group would still very much like to complete the multifunctional landscape project at another campus location. The project concept has received nothing but positive support from all levels of campus. The location choice is the *only* hold up.

After reviewing our options and discussing the situation with project collaborators, we would like to propose two options for approval by the SSC for relocation of the multifunctional landscape project. The feasible location options that we have determined are as follows:

- 1) Allerton Park & Retreat Center – Allerton Park has a long track record of sustainable practices, including sustainable landscapes. The park entertains visitors of all sorts throughout the year: students, staff, faculty, and the general public. One type of landscape that is missing from the demonstration and outreach mission of Allerton Park is a multifunctional landscape (with a focus on edibles) of the type embodied by our proposal. Allerton Park has already provided full approval for a multifunctional landscape project to take place on its grounds in a location easily accessible by the public. Given approval of this location by the SSC, our multifunctional landscape project could be completed and installed at this location this spring without any more delays.
- 2) Fruit Farm – The Fruit Farm (located at the southeast corn of Lincoln & Windsor) is already home to a variety of sustainable campus projects, including the Sustainable Student Farm, the Woody Perennial Polyculture Research Site, and the Fresh Press papermaking initiative. Furthermore, several new multifunctional landscape research projects will be installed on the farm in the next few years. This location has become a central node for sustainability on campus. The relocation of the multifunctional landscape project to the Fruit Farm would give rise to many synergies the most other locations could not offer. The Department of Crop Sciences has already provided full approval for a multifunctional landscape demonstration project to take place on the Fruit Farm. Given approval of this location by the SSC, our multifunctional landscape project could be completed and installed at this location in the spring of 2015.
- 3) Combination of Above Locations – Given that both of the above locations have many, complementary benefits, another option for relocation of the multifunctional landscape project would be to split the funds between the two sites. The Allerton Park location can provide an immediately implemented project, greater visibility to the public, and the flexibility for a truly creative design, whereas the Fruit Farm location can provide greater student interaction, research collaboration, and synergies with existing projects. We feel that splitting the funds between locations would still allow for viable projects at both locations.

We apologize for any inconvenience this situation has caused, and we appreciate your consideration of our relocation request.

Sincerely,



Dr. Sarah Taylor Lovell
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