



January 29, 2012

Red Bison Ecological Restoration
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Re: Request for extension of funding deadline
Project: Florida Ave. and Orchard St. Prairie Restoration

Student Sustainability Committee:

We sincerely apologize for not completing the proposed steps of the Florida/Orchard prairie restoration project before the previously allocated funds expired on May 31st, 2011. Communication regarding project details among involved leaders and parties has been somewhat poor. Additionally, there has been some unexpected transitioning of project leaders/contacts.

We request that the deadline for using the previously available funds for this project be extended until the fall of 2012 to provide adequate time and funds for completion. We have made a commitment to continue this project in the best way possible, and would not be able to implement key steps without financial assistance from the Student Sustainability Committee.

Should you decide to extend the grant for this project, some changes in leadership and timeline would need to be made. Our previous contact with SSC was Suhail Barot and this has recently transitioned to Marcus Ricci. The primary contacts/leaders on our end of this project were Anton Endress and James Ellis. Both have requested that the student groups involved take charge of this project. Therefore, it will primarily be led by the President of Red Bison (Sarah Menning), the Conservation Chair of Students for Environmental Concerns (Rachael Wilson), and their advisor (Dr. John Marlin). However, leadership of student groups changes frequently, and so these need to be updated when necessary. For permanent contact regarding long-term progress, Dr. John Marlin and/or James Ellis may be referred to. Please see the contacts page for more information.

We request frequent and consistent communication with SSC for timely and orderly implementation of all steps of this project. The following are the proposed use of the remaining allocated funds for the project, timeline for the progression, and a proposal of who will be completing these steps.

COST/BUDGET

Previous remaining balance: \$31,448.39

Still needed as of today:

Herbicide Applications \$2,000

Future Seeds \$5,000

Interpretive Area (plugs, mulch, etc.) \$15,000

Landscape Architect/Other Labor \$5,000

Tools, benches and signage: \$4000

TOTAL COST: \$31,000

*Please note that these are estimates.

TIMELINE

February/March 2012

Select design for interpretive gardens

Design and order signage

Order plugs

April/May 2012

Weed control

Interpretive garden and signage implementation

Summer 2012 and beyond

Weed control and general maintenance

*Any steps that are not able to be taken this spring may be completed in the fall of 2012, depending on the amount of time and volunteers available for each step.

Spring activities will be completed by student groups Red Bison and Students for Environmental Concerns with the assistance of their advisors and occasionally other student groups on campus, Grand Prairie Friends, or Master Naturalists. Summer work is to be done by members of the same groups given their availability, with additional assistance from Grand Prairie Friends interns.

We thank you for your time and consideration of this proposal. The assistance of the Student Sustainability Committee is vital to the completion of this project. With your help, we can create a beautiful and inspiring natural area on campus for the benefit of UIUC students, Champaign-Urbana community members, and Earth itself.

Sincerely,



Sarah Menning
President, Red Bison

CONTACT INFORMATION

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