Date: July 31, 2020
Name(s): Patrick Reinhardt
Unit/Department(s): Campus Recreation and Intramurals
E-mail address: preinhardt@georgiasouthern.edu
Phone: (912)478-8633
Project title: Golf Course Tree and Native Landscape Plantings
Amount granted: $5,000
Amount spent: $4,840.30

I. Project Outcomes/Value

The project goal was to plant a number of trees and native landscape plants on the golf course in order to create a more diverse habitat. The plantings will help with carbon sequestration, while providing visual interest.

Project Timeline –

The golf course tree and landscape plantings have been completed. Planting began in December 2019 and was completed in March 2020.

Project Outcomes -.

Tree plantings on the golf course provide an opportunity to increase tree populations, as well as provide an opportunity to increase the diversity of trees found on the golf course. The trees selected were a variety of different Oaks, Pines, and Red Buds. Native landscape plants and grasses included rhododendrons, native azaleas, Muhly grass, inkberry, and Florida Anise. The increased tree populations will be beneficial by creating additional carbon sequestration for the environment, as well increased wildlife habitat. Long term the trees will lead to a decrease in the amount of maintained turf on the golf course, will self-mulching the beds in which they were planted.

Sustainability Improvements –

The Golf Course Tree and Landscape Planting project has increased the biodiversity of the golf course, while providing a long-term benefit of carbon sequestration. Long term benefits also include the decrease in maintained turf areas. As the trees mature, they will create natural mulch beds that will have a decrease in maintenance compared to maintained turf. The trees also provide additional wildlife habitat. Landscape plantings provide both visual interest and wildlife benefits.

Outreach –

Publicity for the tree and landscape plantings has taken place through social media accounts that reach approximately 6,000 users. In addition, we were able to host approximately 75 golf course superintendents for an educational event discussing our tree planting efforts.

Budget report-
The proposed budget was for $5,000 in funding for plants and signs. We spent $4,840.30 on plants. Our in house marketing team was able to create and print signage and posters, in lieu of purchasing signage at a cost of $200.

Item Supplier Budgeted Amount Actual Amount Trees Wise Nurseries $4,800 $4,840.30

Signs $200 $0 Total $5,000 $4,840.30

II. Student and Community Impact

As a part of Campus Recreation and Intramurals, we are a large employer of students. Student employees are utilized as the primary labor source for the golf course, and the students were responsible for the installation of the plants. The students were also responsible for the watering of the plants during establishment.

The golf course is open to both students, and the general public. Because of this, any golfers that come to the property can see the tree and landscape plantings. During an average year, approximately 24,000 golfers play the golf course, with approximately 50% of the play coming from students, and 50% of the play coming from general public. Because of this, we were able to impact several thousand unique individuals.

Grant Leverage

The project was not used to leverage additional grants.

Project abstract

The Golf Course Tree and Native Landscape Planting was used to successfully plant almost 400 trees and native landscape plants to date on the Georgia Southern Golf Course at University Park. Through the planting of the trees, the golf course is able to increase its biodiversity and provide additional wildlife habitat. The benefits of the plants that were planted will be seen for many years, as the trees serve as a carbon sequestration point, while taking previously maintained areas and returning them to a more natural state. The plantings were completed with a staff of current student employees, and will be enjoyed by students for many years to come.