

Sustainability Fee Project Grant Report

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Project Title: *Sustainable Serenity: Trading Pollution for Clean Air and High Spirits*

Amount Granted: \$39,238.45

Amount Spent: \$39,226.28

1. Project Outcome/Value

Project Timeline—Project is completed

Project Outcomes

1. Improve and protect the Endangered Plant Collection, North and South Woodlands, Longleaf Pine Habitat, and Native Plant Landscape Garden by installing a fencing system of 100% recyclable material that significantly increases security and reduces traffic noise within the Garden. This project will improve the appearance of the Garden from both the road and within by completely hiding the sound/security fence with existing and new plant material.

Outcome: Fencing and sound wall were installed along Fair Road and Martha's Lane, noticeably reducing visual and audio noise within the Garden. The impact of this is profound, and truly makes the Garden a refuge for students, the campus community, and visitors.

2. Improve air quality, stop soil erosion and aid in storm water mitigation by installing a Woodlands Centerpiece Garden as part of the fence at the end of the existing Magnolia Allee. This garden will serve as part of the fence and will join the North and South Woodlands. It will add botanically significant plantings to the Garden's collection while enhancing the Magnolia Allee area, where many students enjoy shady picnics, relax, and even get married. The Woodlands Centerpiece Garden will add 10 botanically significant large trees and numerous shrubs and vines to create a stunning display that also effectively blocks the traffic and addresses pollution from outside the Garden.

Outcome: Three new species of Japanese maples and one new redbud were installed as the basis for the Woodlands Centerpiece garden. A row of viburnum, anise, and other natives were planted behind them and along the fence, adding to the collection and further reducing noise.

3. Protect the greenspace from vandalism.

Outcome: No vandalism has occurred since 8 foot tall fence was installed.

4. Encourage green lifestyles among students by advertising the improved Garden in the George-Anne and through other campus and student venues.

Outcome: Staff and even student workers have observed and commented on the increase of student use of the Garden. This part of the project was so successful that the Garden is developing an ad campaign for the 2018-19 school year.

Sustainability Improvements. This project vastly improved the Garden as a sanctuary and resource for the GSU community. Prior to these improvements, a trip to certain parts of the Garden was something of an assault on the senses. With the addition of this fence and plantings, the Garden now feels like enclosed, safe sanctuary. The difference is profound. Thank you for improving this valuable greenspace for the entire community.

Outreach: This project was publicized at Garden events, and will be publicized in our Fall newsletter.

II Student and Community Impact

Undergrads employed by grant: 10 hours/week X 10 students X 20 weeks = 2,000 student hours

Grad students: 0

Volunteers: 3 hours/week X 8 weeks X 20 students = 480 volunteer hours

students reached through classes or other means = 400

community members reached = 10,000 (visitors, event rentals, members)

Grant Leverage

Due to the increased appeal of the Garden for event rentals, we expect that important source of operating revenue to increase. Already, we have received 2 requests from donors interested in potential honoring opportunities around the allee, thanks to the improved serenity of the area.

Project abstract:

The *Sustainable Serenity* project enhances and protects 11 acres of natural, uninterrupted greenspace adjacent to the GSU campus by enclosing the Endangered Plant Garden, North and South Woodlands, Longleaf Pine Forest, and Native Plant Landscape with an environmentally sustainable sound/security fence and botanically significant plantings. The fence is constructed with sustainably produced materials and a 100% recyclable soundproofing material, and the plantings mitigate storm water runoff, filter pollutants from water and air, and produce enough oxygen to support 40 students each year. The enhanced greenspace experience, advertised in various ways, including ads in the George-Anne, encourages students to connect to nature through their Botanic Garden. This project was so successful that the Garden plans to continue the ad campaign to attract the GSU community and visitors to campus.



