UIS Green Project Letter of Intent- Step 1

To complete your Green Project Letter of Intent, download this word document and type all answers to the questions below. Save your completed word document as a new file.

Once completed and saved to your device, return to the Green Projects website at http://www.uis.edu/greenprojects/get-involved/

Click the hyperlink titled, ***"Submit your completed UIS Green Project LOI"***
This can be found under **Step 1** of the "Submit a Green Project Proposal" section.

You will be redirected to an external WebQ. Upload your completed application by the deadline which can be found in the "**Timeline**" section of the Green Projects website.

If you have any questions regarding the application or submission process, please contact us at greenprojects@uis.edu.

Project Name: Planting Raingardens Around UIS Campus

Contact Information:

Project Team

Name	*UIS Student/Faculty/Staff & Department (or Office)*	*UIS Email*	*Phone #*
Nancy Cano	UIS Student	ncano4@uis.edu	630 597 3266

Organization/Affiliation: Any organization that wants to be involved!

Project Information:

Please provide a brief description of the project. What are the goals and the desired outcomes of the project?

Please address all of the above items including concrete examples of the desired outcomes.

This project will allow the planting of rain gardens throughout campus. Rain gardens consist of native plants that are accustomed to lots of water. The goals and outcomes of this project is to have more native plants on campus, to make campus be flood resilient, to attract more pollinators to campus, and to make campus look more beautiful in a sustainable way.

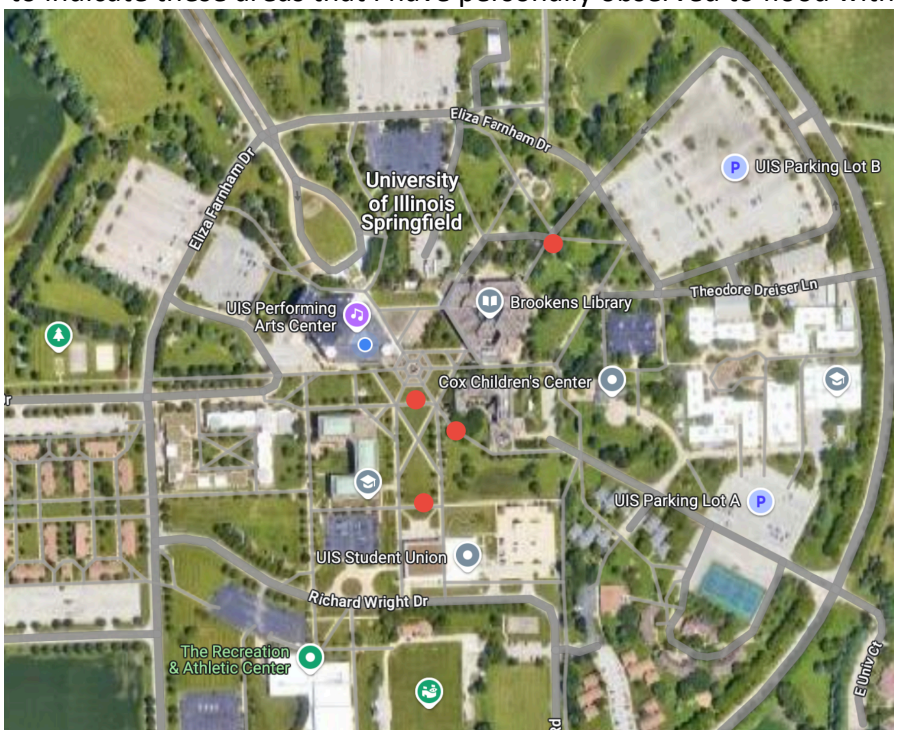
Please describe why this project matters to you and how it relates to sustainability.

How will it aid in promoting the sustainability culture on campus? Describe your long-term vision.

In my previous internship, I learned the wonders of raingardens. I want to continue promoting these raingardens and be part of implementing them at UIS. Implementing raingardens is a simple way to make campus more sustainable.

Where will the project be located?

In general, I hope that these raingardens will be planted in areas throughout campus that flood after it rains. I have provided a map to indicate these areas that I have personally observed to flood with red dots:



I recommend that part of this project includes surveys involving students and others mapping for other parts of campus that flood.

Please provide a brief summary of how students will be involved in or affected by the project:
Are there any relevant opportunities for student or multidisciplinary involvement with your project?
There are many ways that students can be involved in this project, whether that is through surveying areas that flood after rainfalls on campus or helping to construct/plant the raingardens.

Although one can buy the plants, I recommend creating an event/volunteer opportunity for students to come and make seed balls using native plant seeds. Seed balls are very simple to make (it just needs clay, seeds, water, and potting soil!) and do not take much time to make. Sample Seed Ball Recipe: https://climatekids.nasa.gov/seed-ball/

I also envision that the UIS Community Garden as the project pertains to plants, gardening, and sustainability. The grounds staff at UIS will also need to be involved as the location of the project will fall under their domain.

After these rain gardens are installed, students will also enjoy mostly flood-free walkways!

Perhaps this project can be combined with another project that involves planting some wildflowers and grasses near/on residential areas.

Please provide a brief summary of the project timeline (Most approved projects are proposed in the Fall and implemented in the Spring)

A brief summary of total project timeline and key milestones

1. April/beginning of may - The place I would recommend buying the seeds/plants from Prairie Moon Nursery (https://www.prairiemoon.com/) or from 3 B Natives (https://3bnatives.com/). They are sustainable source for these plants. 3 B Natives ship out plants at the end of April/beginning of May, meaning that this project would likely have to be implemented in the 2025-2026 academic year if plants are bought. I believe they both ship out seeds whenever.

2. Creation of event for students and other parties to come together and make seedballs. This can be done really at any time since these seedballs can be kept in storage for months!

3. When there is not much snow and it begins to rain often, ask students and other interested parties to survey and map out locations throughout campus that flood after a rainfall. This survey will also allow us to estimate how many seeds need to be bought and how many seedballs to make.

4. Choose the areas of implementation.

5. Spring 2025 or Fall 2025 – Plant the seedballs/plants! If possible, allow students and interested parties to partake in coming together one days and planting the seedballs! To plant the seedballs, one does not have to dig a hole. You can simply drop the seed ball on top of soil, and that's it!

Please provide a brief itemized breakdown of the funds needed.

We will help you factor in the cost of labor and installation. If you have a plan for where you would like to purchase supplies from, provide it here and include a URL link to each item on the desired retailer's website.

Seed Ball Clay 1 kg https://shop.seed-balls.com/products/seed-ball-clay-1kg - $15

- Can also use clay powder (mix with water to make clay)

Potting Soil 8 quarts (https://www.target.com/p/miracle-gro-premium-potting-mix-8qt/-/A-13983742?ref=tgt_adv_xsf&AFID=google&CPNG=Patio%2BGarden&adgroup=84-16) - $6.00

- Can also use compost

Seeds - Prairie Moon Nursery

- https://www.prairiemoon.com/rain-garden-seed-packet-collection Rain Garden Packet - $ 21
  Includes:
  - Rose Milkweed (Asclepias incarnata) - 100 seeds
  - Joe Pye Weed (Eutrochium maculatum) - 400 seeds
  - Sneezeweed (Helenium autumnale) - 500 seeds
  - Cardinal Flower (Lobelia cardinalis) - 750 seeds
  - Obedient Plant (Physostegia virginiana) - 200 seeds
  - New England Aster (Symphyotrichum novae-angliae) - 500 seeds

TOTAL: $42

Other sources for seeds

3 B Natives

- might not have seed packets, and instead only have plants that cost a lot more.

Examples:

- Rose milkweed, Asclepias incarnata 100 seeds (https://3bnatives.com/products/asclepias-incarnata-swamp-milkweed-seed-packet) - $3
- Sneeze weed, Helenium autumnale 500 seeds (https://3bnatives.com/products/helenium-autumnale-sneezeweed-seed-packet) - $3

Do you have any suggestions for how we could measure the success of this project?

I suggest two ways to measure the success of this project. One is to measure the area and height of the water in floods in the locations that do flood after rainfalls before planting the seed balls. After the seed balls are planted and the plants have grown, measure these floods again and see if the area and height of the water has decreased, increased, or stayed the same. The second way is to see how many plants from the seed balls did end up germinating and growing from the ones that were planted. I suggest putting the same amount of seeds in each seed ball and multiplying that amount by the amount of seed balls made to estimate the amount of seeds planted.

Additional comments:

Any additional comments/relevant information about the project proposal

Here is a webpage that has more information on rain gardens: https://dnr.illinois.gov/education/plantlists/plantlistraingarden.html.

Another webpage on how to make seed balls: https://www.wildflower.org/learn/how-to/make-seed-balls.