

**SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE
NATURE TRAIL AND NATIVE PRAIRIE GRASS PROJECT**

FINAL REPORT

**Submitted June 17, 1999
to**

**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
NATURAL HERITAGE DIVISION
WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FUND PROGRAM**

INTRODUCTION

In the summer of 1998, Southeastern Illinois College received notice from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources that the College's Small Project Program application requesting \$1,000 to develop a nature trail and native prairie grass area had been approved through IDNR's Natural Heritage Division's Wildlife Preservation Fund. The following is a final accounting of the accomplishments and expenditures of Southeastern's Nature Trail and Native Prairie Grass Area Project.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Plantings - Woodland Area -IDNR Wildlife Preservation Funds

The following plants and flowers have been purchased and are in the process of been planted in a 60' x 60' bed at the entrance to the Nature Trail Woodland Area. Installation of the plantings in the bed will be completed by June 30, 1999. Landscaping plans include propagating the plantings from the bed to the entire Nature Trail Woodland Area, which is approximately 350 feet long by some 150 feet wide. **A freeze-proof outdoor water hydrant has also been installed at the Woodland Site to insure that water is available for proper watering during the summer months.** Plantings include:

**Bleeding Heart
Trillium
Dogtooth Violet
Anemone
Bloodroot
Buttercup
Astilbe
Columbine
Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Solomon's Seal
Jacob's Ladder
Mayapple
Flowering Dogwood**

Currently, 85% of the trees in the Woodland Area is made up of White Oak, 5% Green Ash, 5% Persimmon, and 5% Black Cherry. Approximately 65% of the trees are of mature growth. Southeastern's Forestry Department uses current management techniques to care for the trees in the Woodland Area.

Proposed Plantings - Prairie Grass Area - Future State Nursery Acquisitions

**Big Blue Stem
Little Blue Stem
Tickseed Coreopsis
Black-Eyed Susan
Purple Coneflower
Shrub Lespedeza
Broomsedge
Fleabane
Ironwood
Goldenrod
Prairie Coneflower
Wild Quinine
Queen-Anne's Lace
Blazing Star
Cosmos**

Nongame Wildlife Currently Using the Woodland and Native Prairie Grass Areas

**Martins
Woodpeckers
Finches
Cardinals
*Blue Birds
Thrashes
Mocking Birds
Meadow Larks
Hummingbirds
Towhees
Raptors
Field Mice and Chipmunks
Black and Grey Rat Snakes
Speckled King Snakes and Garter Snakes
Blue and Black Racers
Butterflies
Bumble Bees and Honey Bees
Dragon Flies
Lady Bugs
Spiders**

* Ten Blue Bird Houses have been purchased with Wildlife Preservation Funds for the Native Prairie Area and will be erected by June 30, 1999.

Interpretive Signs and Visitors Bench

Two 4' x 4' treated signs have been erected at the entrances to the Nature Trail Woodland Area and the Native Prairie Grass Area. Color photographs of the signs will be submitted to IDNR by June 30, 1999. (See Attachments A & B for sign text.) The signs were purchased with Wildlife Preservation Funds. Also, a six-foot outdoor treated visitors bench has been ordered by the College and will be installed upon delivery to the campus. Total cost of the bench and installation comes to approximately \$1,000 and will be paid for by Southeastern Illinois College as its cash match for the grant. We wish to note that an outdoor drinking fountain at the entrance to the Nature Trail had been proposed in the grant; however, because of the exorbitant cost of an adequate outdoor drinking fountain (\$2,700), the College is asking that the fountain be eliminated from the items designated in the grant.

Nature Trail

The Woodland Nature Trail has been established and is being maintained on a regular basis. Hardwood chips to cover the Nature Trail have been ordered from the Illinois Department of Corrections and will be delivered and placed on the entire length of the Woodland Nature Trail during the summer of 1999. The wood chips are provided free of charge from the Department of Corrections. Labor will be provided by Corrections and the College.

Interpretive Brochure

The text for a visitor's guide and interpretive brochure for the Woodland Nature Trail and Native Prairie Grass Area will be completed and delivered to IDNR by June 30, 1999. (See Attachment C). The brochure will be available to students and the general public by August 30, 1999. A copy of the finished brochure will also be sent to IDNR by August 30, 1999. The cost for producing the brochure will be borne by the College.

CONCLUSIONS & SUMMARY

The College feels that with the Illinois Department of Natural Resource's help through the Wildlife Preservation Fund, it has accomplished its primary goal of creating an aesthetically pleasing natural area for public use and two highly functional habitat areas for nongame species to exist. Before this time, the area was an overgrown, abandoned farm road that had no use to the College or general public whatsoever. It is the College's position that the following eight objectives of the grant have been met or will be met by June 30, 1999:

- 1. Promote the understanding, appreciation and respect of Illinois' natural resources.**
- 2. Practice conservation and wise use of Illinois natural resources.**
- 3. Provide outdoor recreation for the various constituencies of the region.**
- 4. Develop and maintain suitable habitat for native plants and nongame wildlife.**

5. **Manage natural resources for the benefit of native plants, nongame wildlife, and humans.**
6. **Protect native plants and nongame wildlife.**
7. **Preserve Illinois's natural resources.**
8. **Transfer knowledge related to native plants and nongame wildlife.**

[Attached is the College's Invoice requesting IDNR's reimbursement for \$1,000 per the terms of the contract governing this project. Thank you for your help and assistance in making this project a success.]

**SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE
NATIVE PRAIRIE GRASS AREA**

FUNDED IN PART BY THE

**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
NATURAL HERITAGE DIVISION**

**FROM CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
ILLINOIS WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FUND**

THINGS YOU MAY SEE IN SOUTHEASTERN'S PRAIRIE GRASS AREA:

Big Blue Stem	Little Blue Stem	Tickseed Coreopsis
Black-eyed Susan	Purple Coneflower	Shrub Lespedeza
Broomsedge	Fleabane	Ironweed
Goldenrod	Prairie Coneflower	Wild Quinine
Blazing Star	Queen-Anne's Lace	Cosmos

SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE
WOODLAND NATURE TRAIL & NATIVE PRAIRIE GRASS AREA

VISITOR'S GUIDE

funded in part by the

SMALL PROJECT PROGRAM
THE ILLINOIS WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FUND

SPONSORED BY THE DIVISION OF NATURAL HERITAGE
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE