

**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**  
**and the**  
**WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**