

American Democracy Project Grant Application

In Celebration of Green Spaces, Pertle Springs Trail Enhancements

**Engaging Students in the preservation of a natural resource, while
building a foundation for understand the importance of green spaces.**

Amount Requested: \$1,500

Project Timeline: September 2015-December 2015

Total Budget: \$1,500

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Mike Busekrus
Coordinator of Outdoor & Experiential Education
Student Activities
UCM Garrison 195
660-543-8603 Busekrus@ucmo.edu

Scope of Project:

Pertle Springs serves as a recreation and educational destination for UCM students, alumni, faculty, staff, and the community alike. Recent efforts have focused attention on developing a long range plan for the future use of the area; one key area identified being the trail system. Currently more than 3 miles of trails exist, however no system exists for identifying the trails or their distances.

This project will engage students in not only the preservation and restoration of a natural resource, but also help to provide a foundation for understanding the importance of green space conservation in urban areas. In doing so this project will create a master trail starting point identified by an information kiosk that will visually identify the trail system, trail distances, suggested trail loops, and provide a simple fence structure to direct users to the appropriate starting point.



Current Pertle Springs trail system & proposed kiosk location

Currently many of the shorter connector trails exist because users have lost their way on the main trail, veered off path and inadvertently created a new path for others to follow. This can create environmentally unfriendly issues such as trail erosion and biological destruction. The first and simplest form of preventive action to combat these negative actions is persuasive outreach education such as trail signage.



Proposed kiosk structure

The addition of trail signage and trailhead kiosk will also provide many secondary benefits outside of reducing environmental impact including:

- Promoting wellness activities in the form of recreational hiking, mountain biking, trail running.
- Allowing ease of access for academic groups that are currently utilizing the area such as biology,

photography, anthropology, outdoor skills, and many others.

- Providing opportunities for non-academic groups to use the trails, such as Boy Scouts, and Girls Scouts.
- Providing the foundation for other development opportunities such as providing interpretive signage for the historically significant areas of Pertle that are accessed by the trails (Civilian Conservation Corp structures, former lodge structures, etc).

Student Involvement:

To date, students have invested more than 390 volunteer hours into the restoration of the trails of Pertle Springs. If successful in obtaining an ADP Grant, UCM Construction Management students would lead construction of the trailhead kiosk structure and its installation. Graphic Design students will be recruited to design the layout of the kiosk map and artwork for the signage. Finally, students from the Outdoor Skills 1 class will be utilized to determine actual trail distances, select trail marker post locations, and installation of trail marking blazes – see photo below.

Long term maintenance will continued to be carried out by student volunteers led by Student Activities staff on volunteer service days such as the Homecoming and MLK Service days.

Project Goals:

1. Establish a “master trailhead” location identified by roofed and signed kiosk to be constructed by students.
2. Students will identify current trails that are environmentally friendly that pose little environmental impact suitable for access.
3. Students will determine actual trail distances, and identify trail uses (ex: hiking vs. biking).
4. Provide on-trail marker posts identifying location on the trail and “blaze” all current trails.



Proposed trail marking post & blaze

Project Timeline:

Fall Semester 2015-

- **By September 30:** Connect with Construction Management students and finalize design for kiosk construction. Connect with Graphics Design students and finalize map, sign, and any artwork displayed. Students from the Outdoor Skills 1 class will determine actual trail distances.

- **By October 10:** Order all construction materials.
- **By October 31:** Install on trail marker posts and blaze current trails, construction of kiosk underway. Kiosk map board sent to printers.
- **By November 20:** Map board installed in kiosk, kiosk installed at master trail head location.

Evaluating Project Success:

Project success will largely be determined by trail users, a trails survey will be developed and posted at the site of the information kiosk along with a secure collection box. The survey will be posted for a period of 60 days after which the results will be compiled and shared with the Pertle Springs Enhancement Commission.

The Lasting Impact:

Providing a simple investment into resources the campus currently owns opens many doors for providing long term recreational, wellness, and educational opportunities to the UCM community and the greater Warrensburg community.

- Trails transform wasted and inaccessible space into a useable and accessible forms of recreation, not everyone wants to workout inside!
- Trails form the foundation for accessing the rich biological & ecological resources that Pertle provides.
- Trails protect the wetlands and improve the quality of water entering the lakes at Pertle.
- Trails protect the history that is entombed within Pertle.
- Trails provide an opportunity for everyone to experience the outdoors!

Organizations that commit to building structures that are environmentally friendly should also invest in securing the future of the green spaces that serve as a place to reconnect people with nature.

Budget:

Kiosk:

2: 6" x 6" x 12' treated post: \$37.57ea	\$112.71
10: 2" x 4" x 12' treated stud: \$7.17ea	\$71.70
1: 4' x 8' x 3/4" treated plywood: \$37.97ea	\$37.97
2: metal roofing panel: \$36.93ea	\$73.86
1: 4' x 8' x .25" Lexan panel: \$150ea	\$150
8: 80lb bags of concrete: \$3.98ea	\$31.84
1: 8lbs 3" coated deck screws: \$28.24	\$28.24
1: 1lb 1" self drilling roof screws: \$10.00	<u>\$10.00</u>
Subtotal:	\$516.32

Fencing:

6: 2 hole cedar end post: \$9.97ea	\$59.92
8: 10' cedar split fence rail: \$8.24ea	<u>\$65.92</u>
Subtotal:	\$125.84

Trail Marker Posts:

12: 4" x 4" x 8' treated post: \$8.27ea	\$99.24
100: aluminum trail markers: \$140	<u>\$140.00</u>
Subtotal:	\$239.24

Sign:

Materials & Printing 4' x 6' sign:	<u>\$600.00</u>
Subtotal:	\$600.00
Total:	\$1,481.14