Sustainability at Roosevelt University

What's Going On / What You Can Do

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LIBS 201 Writing Social Justice
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Sustainability at Roosevelt
Off to a Running Start Since 2010

Sustainable Buildings & Operations
Wabash Building
Goodman Center
AUD retrofits
Schaumburg Campus Redevelopment

Academic Innovation
Sustainability Studies undergrad program launched Fall 2010 (1st in Chicago)
Environmental Science Minor revamped Fall 2012
SENCER pedagogy in Biology & Chem
Service Learning & Internships
Sustainability planning 2014-15

Student Organizations & Activism
RU Green (in need of revival!)
Net Impact (business and sustainability)
RU Reforesting (conservation)
RUrbanPioneers (Schaumburg garden)
RISE (student activism)
Sustainability at Roosevelt
Selected Awards & Recognition in 2012-15

Campus Operations / Facilities
LEED Gold: Wabash Building
LEED Silver: Goodman Athletic Center
Tree Campus USA and NWF Certified Habitat for RU Schaumburg
Green Innovation / Green School award from USGBC
IL Governor's Sustainability Award 2013

Academics
Business: Real Estate grad students win 2013 & 2014 Eisenberg competition
Science: Conservation Biology students travels to Tanzania to do environmental conservation; chemistry and environmental science students conduct research on local ecosystems
Sustainability Studies: students win prestigious NSF research fellowship, garner local internships, lead campus sustainability planning, write for SUST blog, create websites, doing service learning
Sustainability and RU's Academic Programs / Institutes

- Sustainability Studies
- Biology & Chemistry
- Bennett Institute of Real Estate
- Hospitality & Tourism Management
- Environmental Science
- Mansfield Institute for Social Justice
Sustainability Studies Program (Founded 2010): Major and Minor Options

• **Fosters environmental literacy** through interdisciplinary work in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities;

• **Engages public policy** concerns surrounding consumption, energy usage, and viable economic growth;

• **Explores social justice** issues on a range of fronts, including environmental justice, resource allocation, urban development, and social equity;

• **Educates students to be leaders** on issues of sustainability, one of the critical issues of the 21st century.
Sustainability Studies Major / Courses

**Core Courses**
- SUST 210  Sustainable Future
- SUST 220  Water
- SUST 230  Food
- SUST 240  Waste

**Advanced Courses**
- SUST 310  Energy & Climate Change
- SUST 320  Sprawl, Transportation, & Planning
- SUST 330  Biodiversity
- SUST 340  Policy, Law, & Ethics

**Special Options**
- SUST 350  Service & Sustainability
- SUST 390  Special Topics
- SUST 395  Internship
You've taken classes that look like this:

SENCER 2013 Symposium, RU Schaumburg Campus (full disclosure: this was an awesome session dedicated to civically engaged science/math student research)
But how about a class that look like this:
SUST 350 Service & Sustainability students working at Eden Place Nature Center and Farm, Chicago's South Side, Fall 2014 (M. Bryson)
Exploring the Chicago River

Understanding the river as a modified natural ecosystem (natural sciences)
Developing conservation policies (social and natural sciences)
Representing the river as a cultural resource (arts and humanities)
Restoring the river: water quality, biodiversity, riparian zone integrity, citizen access and recreation (all disciplines)

Sense of Place | Urban Sustainability
Canoeing the Upper North Branch

River as Wilderness
Paddling the West Fork of the Upper North Branch (October 2012)
Canoeing the Confluence

River as Architectural Wonderland
Heading south into the Loop where the N and S branches meet (October 2011)
Canoeing the South Branch

River as Industrial Wasteland
Paddling upstream on Bubbly Creek (Oct 2010)
Learning from History

A chicken stands upon Bubbly Creek, c.1911 (Chicago Historical Society)
Reshaping the Present

Hauling trash out of Bubbly Creek on a SUST service field trip (Feb. 2013)
Assessing Water Quality (Chemistry)

Temperature

pH

Turbidity

Dissolved oxygen (DO)

Nutrients (nitrate, phosphate)

Bacterial indicators (coliform)

Metals and organic contaminants (lead, copper, benzene, PCBs, hexavalent chromium)

Emerging contaminants (pharmaceuticals, synthetic hormones, flame retardants)
Assessing Water Quality (Biology)

Sampling macro-invertebrate benthos in the North Branch (May 2010)
Engaging the Community

Identifying macro-invertebrates from the North Branch (May 2010)
Working on an Urban Farm

Building a hoop house, Chicago Lights Urban Farm, May 2012
Working on an Urban Farm

SUST 350 Service & Sustainability / Spring 2013
Action Research Projects for the Chicago Lights Urban Farm
SUST Action Research Projects

Community Empowerment and Youth Enrichment (CEYE) Program

Community Gardeners’ Guide

Farm Education Lessons and Activities

Knowing Your Neighborhood: Community Assets Brochure and Map

Rainwater Harvesting Plan

Self-Guided Tour and Farm Map (left)
Restoring Urban Communities

SUST 350 Service & Sustainability / Fall 2014
Planting trees at Eden Place Nature Center in Chicago's Fuller Park neighborhood
Studying Conservation Biology in Tanzania

BIOL 369 Conservation Biology travel course to Tanzania
Spring 2013 (photos by SUST grad Nicole Burns, BA '14)
Doing Research at the Field Museum

SUST majors Kristina Lugo and Colleen Dennis intern at the Botany Division, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago IL
SUST 240 Waste students conduct a waste audit of WB and AUD, Fall 2014 (M. Bryson)
Exploring Suburban Sustainability

Schaumburg's Sustainable Future
Student-authored website and blog focused on documenting & advancing sustainability in the suburbs (photo: Spring Valley Nature Center, M. Bryson)
Enhancing Suburban Biodiversity

Figure 1a. Natural Resource Inventory
Village of Schaumburg
Northeast Section

Map from the Schaumburg Biodiversity Plan (2004)
Roosevelt University is committed to transforming the Robin Campus into a truly sustainable site. The landscape plan here is being implemented using native plants and sustainable water conservation methods to transform this campus into an environmentally sustainable, cost-effective earthscape. The result: a beautiful setting which supports biodiversity, uses less water, costs less to maintain and enriches campus lifestyle.

**Good Stewardship Makes Good Sense**

**Economic:** the conversion to native plants was paid out of savings from funds previously spent on turf maintenance. The University saves 50% annually overall on landscape maintenance, primarily due to the native plantings which save 80% over the cost to maintain turf.

**Environmental:** Native plants require less fertilizer, herbicides, fuel and labor. They beautify and support biodiversity. Natives have deep roots which absorb water, reduce runoff, thus reducing energy and water use while providing effective bio-regulation of this habitat.

**Social:** The Robin Campus uses less resources and generates fewer pollutants, demonstrating corporate social responsibility by planting natives and observing sustainable site practices.
The RU Community Garden, summer/fall 2013 (photos: M. Radeck)
Prescribed burn of detention pond/wetland (April 2011)
Prairie restoration at detention pond (Fall 2012)
Transforming RU: from concrete slab . . .

Aerial view of RU Schaumburg Campus, pre-redevelopment (Google Maps)
Schaumburg Campus prairie restoration, Summer 2013
(photo: M. Radeck, a SUST major who also coined this phrase*)
Sustainability Studies Student Symposia, 2013-14

May 2014: campus redevelopment, FMNH collections, marine biodiversity (left); Oct 2013: agroecology, urban farming, transportation policy (right)

Sharing Knowledge at the SUST Symposium

Next SUST Symposium: 4/22, Earth Day, 3-5:30pm in WB 616
Free Refreshments! Scintillating Conversation!
Transforming yourself