



Student Government Resolution 115.006

A Resolution in Continued Support of Beta Beta Beta's Restoration Efforts at Bear Creek

On Truman State University's Campus

Sponsored by Environmental Affairs Chair Adrian Wheeler, Committee Members Senators Chris Hornsey and Wyatt Mansell, and Vice President Molly Turner

WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long term best interests of the Student Association in the formulation of the University policy and in the fulfillment of the University mission; and
- Truman State University's Sustainability Pledge states that Truman is committed to a reduction in waste, more responsible interactions with fellow citizens, and stewardship practices that keep future generations in mindⁱ; and
- Truman is a member of the Missouri Student Environmental Coalition (MSEC)ⁱⁱ; and
- Truman is a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)ⁱⁱⁱ; and
- In March of 2014, Truman was recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation, and became a Tree Campus USA which included the development of student educational programs, a Tree Care Plan and "began planting trees as a follow-up to planning done with the Missouri Conservation Department, and approximately 423 native trees and shrubs were planted" between 2013 and 2014^{iv}; and
- On February 23, 2014 the Student Government passed a resolution in support of the "Bear Creek Restoration Project"^v; and
- Bear Creek suffers from extensive problems with erosion which has caused dangerous drop offs along the creek banks causing the creek to cave in on itself, and has damaged infrastructure including the Red Barn Creek Bridge;
- Bear Creek runs through Truman's campus, specifically within Red Barn Park, near the Student Recreation Center, Stokes Stadium, the United States Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps and soccer fields, and is in close relation to student dormitories such as, West Campus Suites, Centennial Hall, Barnett Hall; and
- Bear Creek is extremely susceptible to flash flooding after heavy storms due to runoff from the Bear Creek's close vicinity to campus parking lots, fields, park, lawns and other impervious surfaces; and



- Runoff into Bear Creek has caused increased levels of pollutants in the water including gasoline, nitrogen fertilizers, herbicides and animal waste; and
- In 2011, Dr. Cynthia Cooper found that E. Coli levels in the creek are dangerously high and nine times over the level safe for skin contact (10,000 bacteria per 100mL, safe levels are 1,100 per 100mL); and
- Truman State University students have continuously expressed their concerns regarding Bear Creek throughout various means of communication^{vi}; and
- Aerial photos of Truman State University's campus from the 1950's revealed a forested Bear Creek; and
- Since the passage of the Spring 2014 resolution in support of the "Bear Creek Restoration Project" by Student Government, three hundred trees—including trees native to Missouri—have been planted along the bank of the creek, and efforts have already been made to decrease long-term erosion and increase campus biodiversity within the past year; and
- With the help of the Student Government's support for the Bear Creek Restoration Project, in May of 2014 the Beta Beta Beta Environmental Committee initiated the planting of a rain garden consisting of wetland flowers which help improve water quality of Bear Creek through a filtering process, provide habitats for pollinator species, such as the Monarch Butterfly, and improve the beautification of Truman State University's campus as a whole^{vii}; and
- Many endeavors have been undertaken to keep Bear Creek clean and continue the restoration project throughout the past year, such as events where environmentally, civically engaged students pick up trash surrounding the creek or plant trees at events such as Earth day^{viii}; and
- Over the next ten years, Beta Beta Beta and their Conservation Committee plan to plant ten thousand trees along the bank of the creek in continuous efforts to help decrease erosion, increase campus biodiversity and beautify the campus; and
- The ten thousand saplings going towards the "10 Years 10,000 Trees" project will be donated to Truman State University's campus through the Missouri Department of Conservation Stream Team fund; and
- Dave Rector, the Vice President for Administration, Finance, and Planning, has expressed his support for the project.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT,

- Commends August Kerston^{ix}, Michele Woolbright^x, Jacob Kaiser, Dr. Cindy Cooper, Clayton Dillavou, and members of the Beta Beta Beta Conservation Committee for being environmentally proactive by



raising awareness about the problems concerning Bear Creek, and for continuing to pursue, amend, and provide additions to their original solution; and

- Renews corroboration of the Student Government's "Bear Creek Restoration Project" resolution passed in 2014, implemented by the Conservation Committee within Beta Beta Beta at Truman State University; and
- Is in support of continuous restoration efforts by Beta Beta Beta, specifically including "10 Years, 10,000 Trees" project; and
- Encourages future efforts by students, faculty, staff, and administrators to continue to work towards Bear Creek clean up.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT,

Additional copies of this resolution are disseminated to the University President, Troy Paino; Provost/Vice President of Student Affairs, Susan Thomas; Dean of Student Affairs, Lou Ann Gilchrist; Chief Information Officer, Donna Liss; Vice President for Administration, Finance, and Planning at Truman David Rector; University Board of Governors; Physical Plant; the President's Office; Faculty Senate; Graduate Council; Undergraduate Council; the President's Sustainability Action Committee; Truman Faculty Members: Dr. Cindy Cooper and Clayton Dillavou; The Missouri Department of Conservation Stream Team Unit: Stream Team Coordination Biologists, Mark Van Patten, Kat Lackman, and Amy Meier; Stream Team Biologists, April Perry; Stream Services Program Supervisor, Sherry Fischer; Beta Beta Beta; Truman Students: August Kerston, Michele Woolbright, Jacob Kaiser; the Public Relations Office; and the Truman Media Network.



ⁱ For more information about the Sustainability Pledge at Truman State University, visit the Truman Sustainability, "Education and Research" section of the University's website. Only Truman faculty, staff, administration and students can take the Sustainability Pledge by using their TruView login information. As of the May 9, 2013 eight hundred sixty people have taken the Sustainability Pledge. To visit the webpage directly, please, see <http://sustainability.truman.edu/education-and-research/>.

ⁱⁱ The Missouri Student Environmental Coalition (MSEC) "is a network of Missouri students and organizations dedicated to improving the environmental impact of the state through action, advocacy, and education." The mission of MSEC, as quoted from their website is: "Unify the youth environmental movement of Missouri to turn ideas into action and support students to achieve an ecologically sound, socially just, and economically viable state for the benefit of all life, present and future." For more information, please see the MSEC website at <https://sites.google.com/site/mostudentenvironmentcoalition/>. More information on MSEC's relationship with Truman State University's Inter-Campus Collaboration on Sustainability can be found at <http://sustainability.truman.edu/public-engagement/>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Truman is a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). "AASHE is helping to create a brighter future of opportunity for all by advancing sustainability in higher education. By creating a diverse community engaged in sharing ideas and promising practices, AASHE provides administrators, faculty, staff and students, as well as the business that serve them, with: thought leadership and essential knowledge resources; outstanding opportunities for professional development; and a unique framework for demonstrating the value and competitive edge created by sustainability initiatives." (aashe.org) On the AASHE website, you can find their mission, values, and goals at <http://www.aashe.org/about/aashe-mission-vision-goals>. More information on AASHE's relationship with Truman State University's Inter-Campus Collaboration on Sustainability can be found at <http://sustainability.truman.edu/public-engagement/>. The President's Sustainability Action Committee (PSAC) also mentions AASHE within their 2013-2014 annual report (page six). The report can be found at <http://admissions.truman.edu/web/FlexPaperZine/view.asp?file=SustainabilityAnnualReport2013-2014.pdf>.

^{iv} In March of 2014, Truman State University became a Tree Campus USA. "The Tree Campus USA program helps colleges and universities around the country establish and sustain healthy community forests". (arborday.org) for more information, please see <http://www.arborday.org/programs/treecampususa/> and the PSAC annual report: ibidem, link three, on pages three and five. For more information on Truman as a Tree Campus and AASHE, see <https://stars.aashe.org/institutions/truman-state-university-mo/report/2012-03-14/OP/grounds/OP-T2-21/>. For information on Truman students planting trees, see link in endnote viii.

^v Truman State University's newsletter, the Index, published an article titled, "Students plan to restore Bear Creek" which made the front page: <http://index.truman.edu/pdf/2013-2014/february6/page1.pdf>.

^{vi} See the Editorials section for the article titled "Protect our streams," from Truman's newsletter, the Index at <http://index.truman.edu/pdf/2013-2014/september26/page4.pdf>.

^{vii} KIRX News released an article titled, "Truman State Students Work to Improve Bear Creek Water Quality" at <http://kirx.vncnews.com/2015/02/10/truman-state-students-work-to-improve-bear-creek-water-quality/>.

For more information about Butterflies in the rain garden, please, see following endnote link.

^{viii} Heartland Connection wrote an article about Truman State University's Earth Day from 2014 where they planted trees in an article titled, "Truman students plant trees on campus for Earth Day." The news station also broadcasted information about the event and took an interview with Truman student, August Kersten. See the both the article and the news clip at <http://www.heartlandconnection.com/news/story.aspx?id=1034662>.

^{ix} August Kersten is mentioned in article and was interviewed on the broadcasted news from Heartland Connection titled, "Truman students look to improve a campus creek." To read the article and watch the news clip, go to <http://www.heartlandconnection.com/news/story.aspx?id=998651#.VOBNwvNF-n8>.

^x Ibidem.