

STUDENTS LIVING **CARDINAL**, **GOLD** AND **GREEN**

Awakening is a time of renewal, growth and fresh perspectives. As winter melts away and the first signs of spring emerge, the campus and community reawaken connections to outdoor spaces and places.

At Iowa State University, awakening means more than just the changing seasons, it is renewing projects and actions that assist in the collective growth, bloom and prosperity of nature. Student involvement, through club projects and campus initiatives, plays a key role in this spring awakening.

This month's edition of Students Living Cardinal Gold and Green highlights three student-infused commitments that empower this season of awakening on campus and within the community. Initiatives involving The Landscape Club at Iowa State University, Horticulture Hall green roof renovation and Anderson Sculpture Garden New Perennial Movement Sample Garden are each aiding in awakening for spring in meaningful ways. Through dedication, work and vision, these initiatives also demonstrate the continued cycle of action and action required for a sustainable future.

The Landscape Club at Iowa State University

The Landscape Club at Iowa State University provides students with hands-on design and installation experience, enhances learning opportunities and fosters connections through projects and

trips. These initiatives include an especially unique opportunity – bringing landscapes back to life following the winter months.

“Spring is a time for new growth and renewal, and our work directly impacts outdoor spaces around our campus and community,” said Jasmine Kanagy, president of The Landscape Club.



Photo Courtesy of The Landscape Club Instagram

Not only are the results of the club's work aesthetically pleasing, they are also mindful of sustainability. “We support a sustainable future by selecting appropriate plants, ensuring practical maintenance and creating designs that are both environmentally beneficial and easily maintained,” Kanagy noted.



Image Courtesy of Jasmine Kanagy

One of the priority initiatives of the club is their Spring Landscape Design Sessions. An opportunity for students to meet with local citizens and businesses, as clients, to envision and curate thriving and functional outdoor spaces that encourage biodiversity and environmental stability.



Photo Courtesy of Jasmine Kanagy

The results are well received and highly sought after, usually resulting in session sign-ups to be quickly filled with an impressive wait list. “We have seen people come to Design Sessions because of a recommendation from a past client,” Kanagy said, “We have also had past clients send us photos of their landscape after the installation of a design that our club has created,” she added.

The Landscape Club also provides and assists with seasonal projects to help rejuvenate landscapes around the ISU campus and within the community - including designing, planting and maintaining. “Many members may not initially recognize Landscape Club's impact on our campus and community, but they come to appreciate the impact through hands-on experiences,”

Kanagy noted, "... these are the moments that inspire our members to want to develop their knowledge beyond the club - integrating sustainable principles into their academic and professional journeys."



Photo Courtesy of the Department of Horticulture

Through these initiatives, The Landscape Club awakens a deeper awareness of sustainability and demonstrates how design and renewal can create lasting environmental benefits for the campus and beyond. Kanagy added, "We aim to provide practical, hands-on experiences that are able to elevate our members' knowledge while creating a positive impact on the campus and community."

Learn more about the empowering work of The Landscape Club at Iowa State University in awakening a more sustainable campus and community, and how to get involved with the club, by visiting the [Landscape Club](#) webpage on the Iowa State University Student Organizations website.

Horticulture Hall Green Roof Renovation

Ben Moss and Baylie Latter, both senior horticulture students, took on the challenge of renovating the 13-year-old green roof on Horticulture Hall. "I noticed the green roof started to look rough since it was planted in 2011, and I wanted to bring new life to the space," Moss said, "This was an opportunity to demonstrate the potential of a green roof. My goal was to apply the knowledge I've gained at Iowa State in a hands-on way," Moss added.



Photo Courtesy of Ben Moss

Moss resulted in a redesign strategy and the installation of 220 grasses and perennial sedum, during fall semester. The process to get there included milestones and impacts, equally as significant as the end result.

The project connected faculty members, industry professionals and students to ensure that the renovation was feasible and educationally valuable. "I focused on making the project meaningful to the right audience - horticulture students, and by maintaining a green roof within the building, they are gaining direct exposure to its possibilities," Moss noted.



Image Courtesy of Ben Moss

Additionally, the planning process incorporated student perceptions and surveys. "The biggest takeaway from student feedback was the desire for more exposure to green roofs on campus," Moss said, "While green roofs provide significant environmental and sustainability benefits, they need visibility and public awareness to gain broader support. I focused on making this green roof as visually appealing as possible to capture people's attention and spark interest in the potential of green roofs," he added.



Photo Courtesy of Ben Moss

By creating a space that visually looks more appealing, interest in green infrastructure is also created. This project can inspire students to think beyond traditional landscapes and awaken what nature can exist in our

designed spaces. Moss noted, "I hope that increased exposure will inspire more students to consider green roofs and green infrastructure in their projects or future careers. The key is to take initiative, if you have the ability to make something happen, don't wait for someone else to start."

The Horticulture Hall green roof renovation has both raised awareness of the unique opportunities to integrate landscapes into the built environment and fostered a connected and inquisitive culture of sustainability that will grow, well beyond the plantings, year after year. Awakening greater appreciation for sustainability and inspiring further exploration of green infrastructure.



Photo Courtesy of Ben Moss

"This spring, around 700 bulbs will bloom on the green roof. I encourage people to check it out when the weather warms up; it should be a really exciting transformation," Moss offered.

Learn more about the renovation by reading the October 21, 2024, news story, "[Horticulture Hall's green roof gets a makeover](#)," on the [College of Agriculture and Life Sciences website](#).

Anderson Sculpture Garden New Perennial Movement Sample Garden

The New Perennial Movement Sample Garden is a living collection of plants in the Anderson Sculpture Garden at Iowa State University. The garden is designed to support pollinators and benefit campus visitors. The curated mix of perennial flowers and grasses, which draw season-long interest, serves as a dynamic backdrop for displaying the different sculptures.

This project began with a donation to University Museums in supporting the expansion of the Anderson Sculpture Garden, and involved collaboration and partnership from campus partners including University Museums, Facilities Planning and Management, Reiman Gardens and the Landscape Architecture and Horticulture departments at Iowa State University.



Photo Courtesy of University Museums

Students were also active team members in this project. "Current students were involved in the planning process. Several thousand perennials, grasses, and bulbs were planted by students in different classes and clubs," Cindy Haynes, Professor in the

Department of Horticulture, said. "We were fortunate to have a landscape design/horticulture alumni design this garden... and a former Anderson Sculpture Garden intern, and horticulture alumni, as a committee member," she added.



Photo Courtesy of Cindy Haynes

The project offered an especially uniquely immersive student connection with nature and application of sustainability in a built environment. "When planting perennials with students in my classes, I was impressed by their dedication to proper planting and their interest in the design process," Haynes said. "Understanding the benefits of gardens and landscapes on reducing erosion, improving soils and attracting pollinators allows students to see new options, think and learn more about sustainability and practice ways they can be more sustainable where they live now and in the future," she noted.

In addition, students found themselves applying team building and leadership skills in a very diversified, versatile and transferable manner. "I was so

impressed how students worked together in planting so many plants in a short time,” Haynes said. The students’ teamwork highlights the potential for future sustainability engagement and empowerment - fostering a persistent and engaged culture of environmental stewardship at Iowa State and beyond.



Photo Courtesy of University Museums

The finished product, set to be featured in full during this spring’s bloom, will offer campus community members and all visitors to Iowa State University a personalized opportunity to connect with their natural world, discover a new sense of place and consider their role in ensuring a sustainable future.



Photo Courtesy of University Museums

Learn more about the Anderson Sculpture Garden New Perennial Movement Sample Garden by attending the University Museums event, “*Pollen Power: Harnessing the Potential of Perennials for Pollinator Conservation*”, March 25, 5:30–6:30 p.m. in the Anderson Sculpture Garden, or reading the University Museums press release. Additional information is available on the [University Museums website](#).

An Awakening Month Ahead

The awakening of spring breathes new energy into our campus and community, sparking motivation, action and impact – as exemplified by The Landscape Club at Iowa State University, the Horticulture Hall green roof renovation and Anderson Sculpture Garden New Perennial Movement Sample Garden – as well as a multitude of additional student organizations, projects and initiatives not featured in this month’s article.

Through diversified vision, creativity and commitment, each March offers a reenvisioned opportunity of awakening for the warmer seasons ahead. As showcased by these student-infused commitments, every action is a step toward sustaining the future.

