

*Welcome!*

# **RED OAK RAIN GARDEN 2.0**

## **Stakeholder Input Meeting 1**

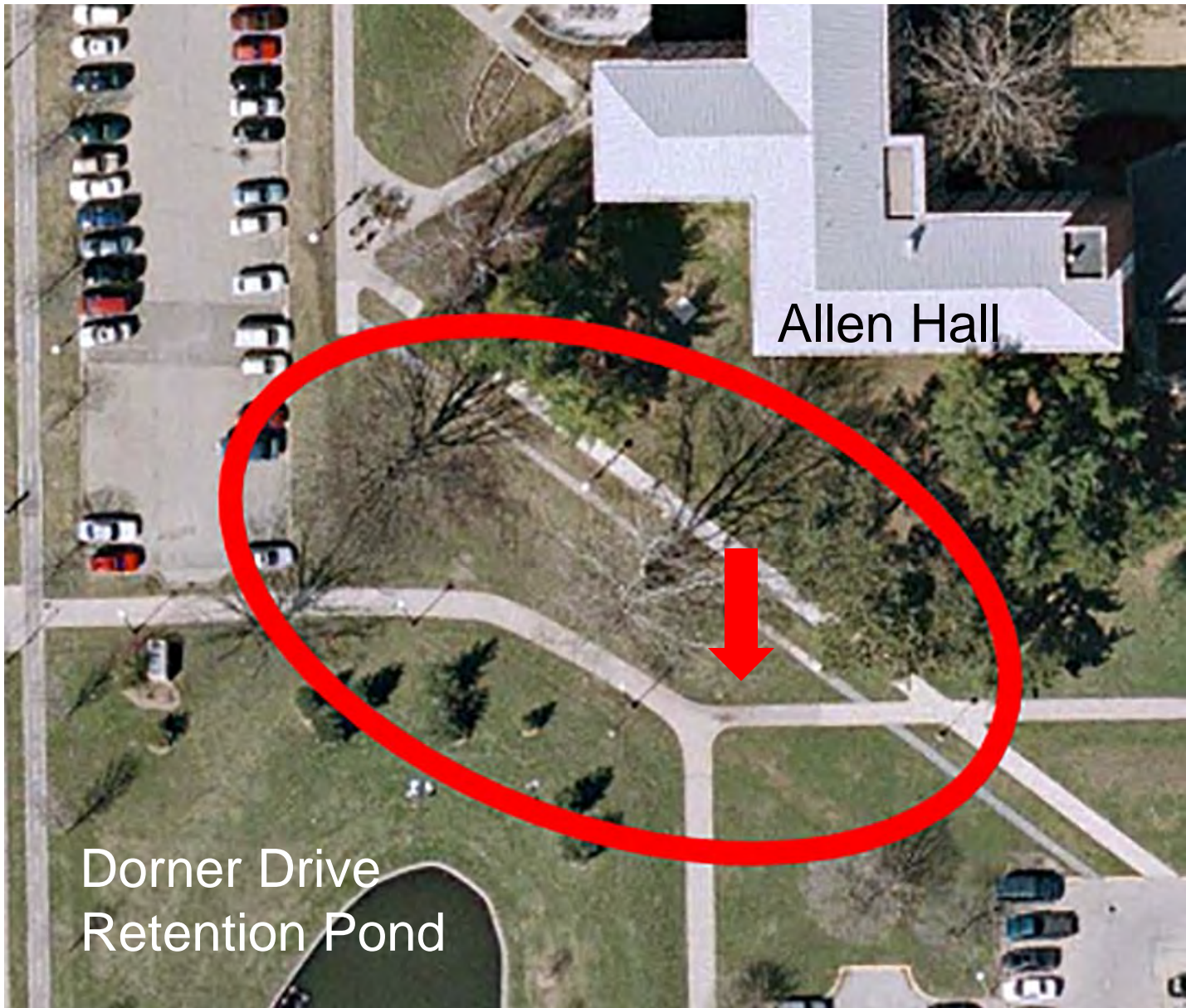
Eliana Brown, Illinois Water Resources Center and Champaign Co. Master Gardener  
Cameron Letterly, Illinois Water Resources Center  
Karen Folk, East Central Illinois Master Naturalist (on phone)  
Tony Endress, Natural Resources Environmental Sciences (on phone)

# Meeting agenda:

- Introductions
- Background: project history and site analysis
- Questions: Stakeholder Input

# **Introductions**

# Background



Allen Hall

Dorner Drive  
Retention Pond



**Pooling on sidewalk**

**Before 2006**



**Pooling on grass**

**and around Red Oak  
(that doesn't like it)**

**Before 2006**

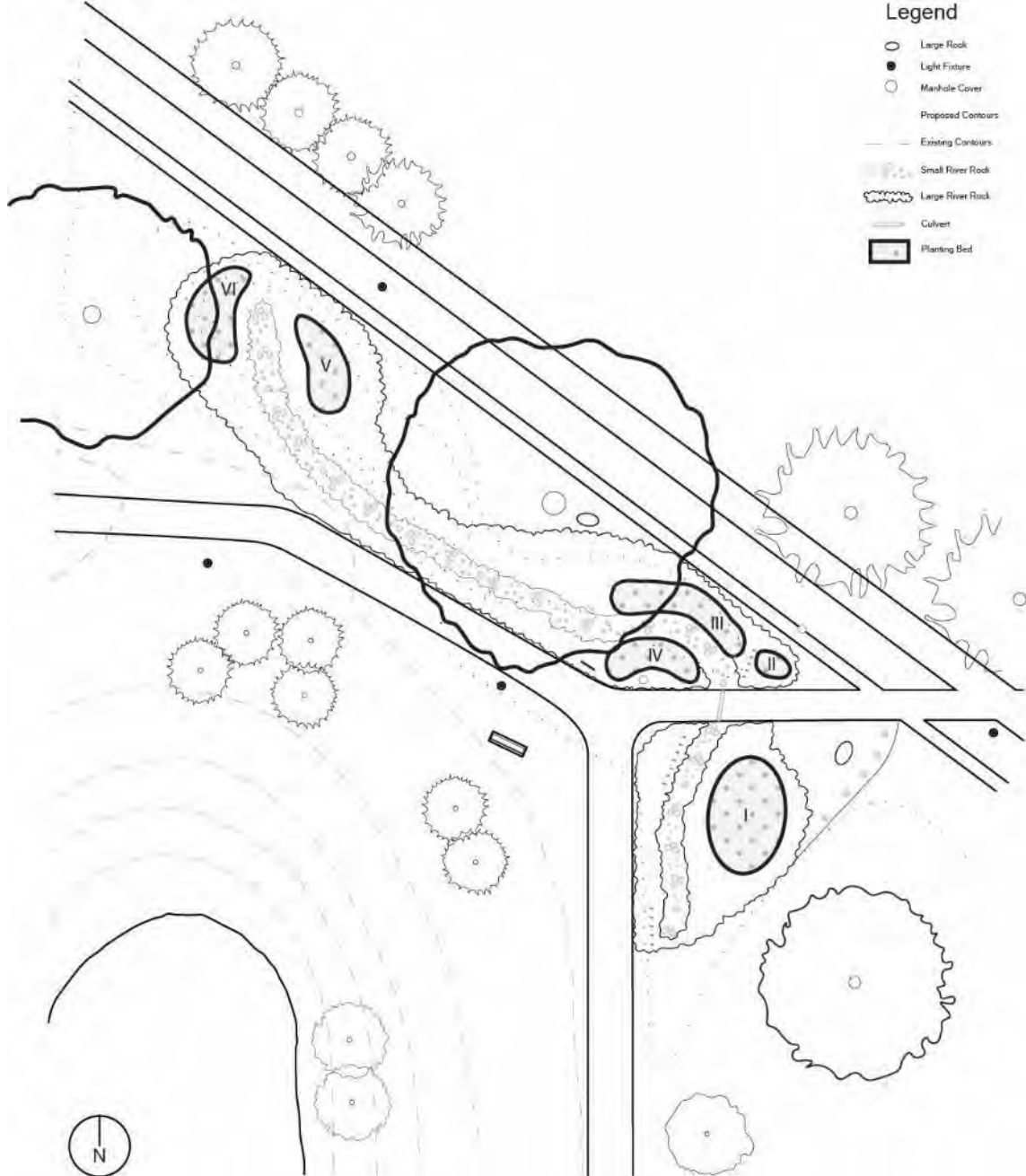
# **Faculty/Student Project**

Spring, Summer, and Fall 2006

Prof. Tony Endress' NRES Classes

Facilities & Services/Environmental Compliance in conjunction with the Environmental Council had funding for faculty/student projects that improve sustainability of campus infrastructure. One of these projects was the Red Oak Rain Garden. Prof. Tony Endress' Restoration Ecology classes designed and installed the rain garden with assistance from Facilities & Services and the City of Urbana and in cooperation with Housing Services. Art student Jennifer Astwood designed the "Prairie Fire" sculpture under the guidance of Prof. Alex Fekete.





**Legend**

- Large Rock
- Light Fixture
- Manhole Cover
- Proposed Contours
- - - Existing Contours
- ▨ Small River Rock
- ▩ Large River Rock
- ▭ Culvert
- ▭ Planting Bed

**RED OAK RAIN GARDEN  
Master Plan**

SCALE: 1" = 40'



**Special care went into digging around the tree roots. City of Urbana helped ensure only minimal damage.**



**Fall 2006**

**Students worked very hard**



**Fall 2006**



**Note: tile underneath  
sidewalk**

**Artist Jennifer Atwood  
placing sculpture bases**

**Fall 2006**

# A LOT of foot traffic sparked conversations about stormwater and gardening



Fall 2006



**A lot of plants went in...**

**Fall 2006**

**...and 60 ton of rock**



**Fall 2006**

# Ribbon cutting ceremony



**Rock was pristine**

**Spring 2007**



# Ribbon cutting ceremony



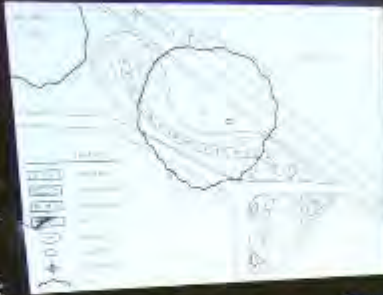
Spring 2007



**Fall 2007**

# RED OAK RAIN GARDEN

Welcome to the Red Oak Rain Garden - the first rain garden on campus!



Did you know that without the rain garden, you might be walking through a river? Prior to the garden, this area flooded during storms, impacting pedestrian walkways and threatening the life and limb of students.

The rain garden acts as a natural filter for the rain water and runoff. The garden design captures water for use in a variety of ways or allows the water to infiltrate into the ground and local waterways. The garden also acts as a natural filter for pollutants from stormwater runoff that are collected at walking up and filtering storm water while adding beauty to the landscape.

Project Artist In Residence (2006) Elizabeth Leung, Master Designer and installed the rain garden with assistance from Facilities & Services, the City of Uptown and its cooperation with Uptown Planning. To complement the garden, art student Jenelle Anderson designed the "Wanda Tree" sculpture under the guidance of Professor Alex Fildes.

This rain garden is a RISE Family Systems Project funded by Facilities & Services in cooperation with the Uptown Planning Council. Matthew D. Johnson, Director of Uptown Planning, designed the garden. Facilities & Services and other institutions provide additional assistance.

Thank you for visiting the Red Oak Rain Garden!



Summer 2008



**Spring 2009**



**Summer 2009**

# Opportunity for hand's on education

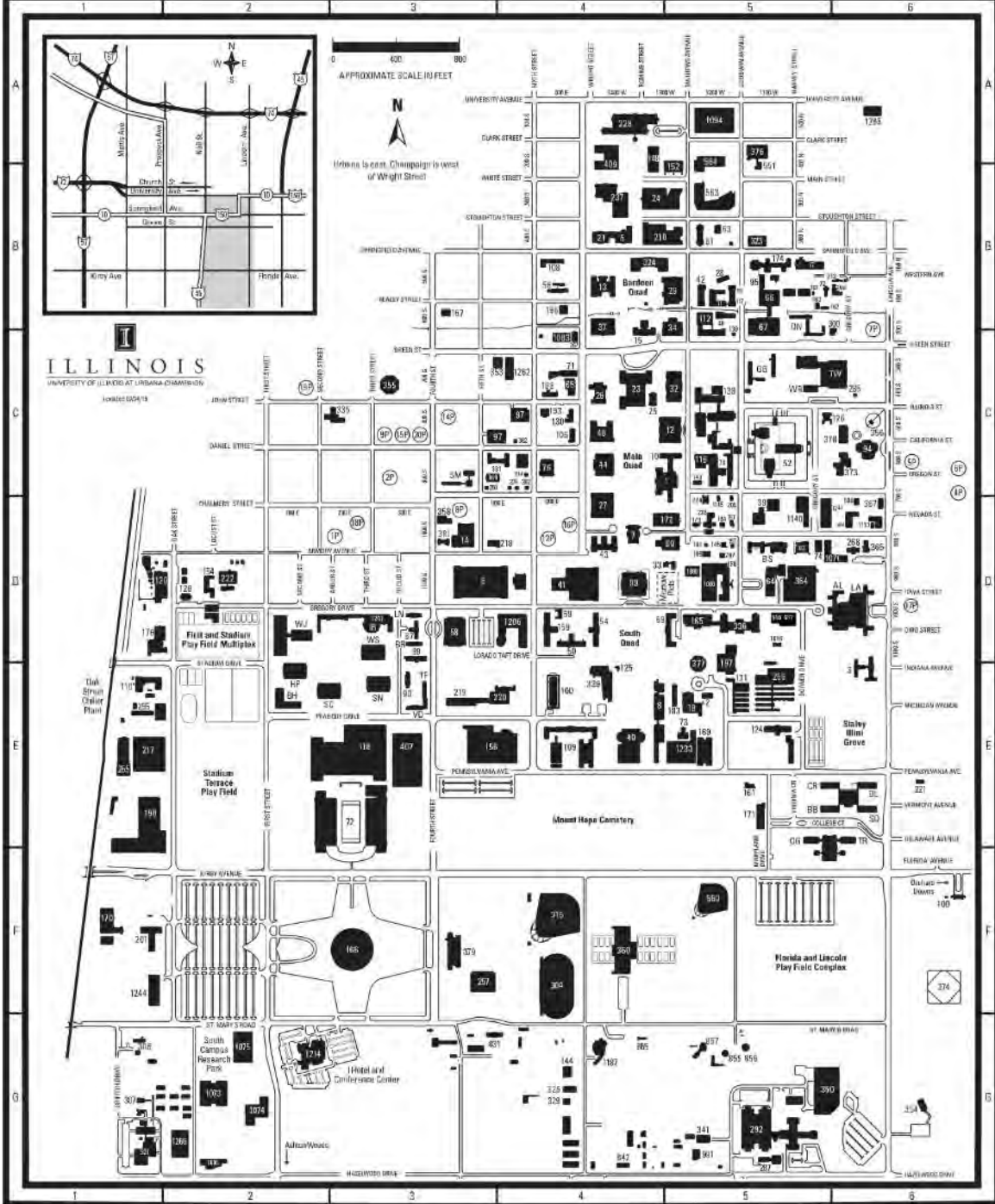


Fall 2010

**Now, few original plants remain  
However, it still functions well soaking up stormwater**



**Spring 2017**



**Campus is a large place.**

F&S Grounds does a great job of taking care of nearly a thousand acres with limited staff and budget.

Some specialized areas of campus (such as the Japan House Garden) have agreements in place for volunteer work.





Spring 2017

# **MOU between Extension and F&S**

Garden become community project for  
Champaign County Master Gardeners and  
East Central Illinois Master Naturalists



**Volunteers began weeding, and weeding, and weeding**



**Bare spots revealing  
landscape fabric**

**Spring 2017**



**Spring 2017**



Spring 2017

# Current condition

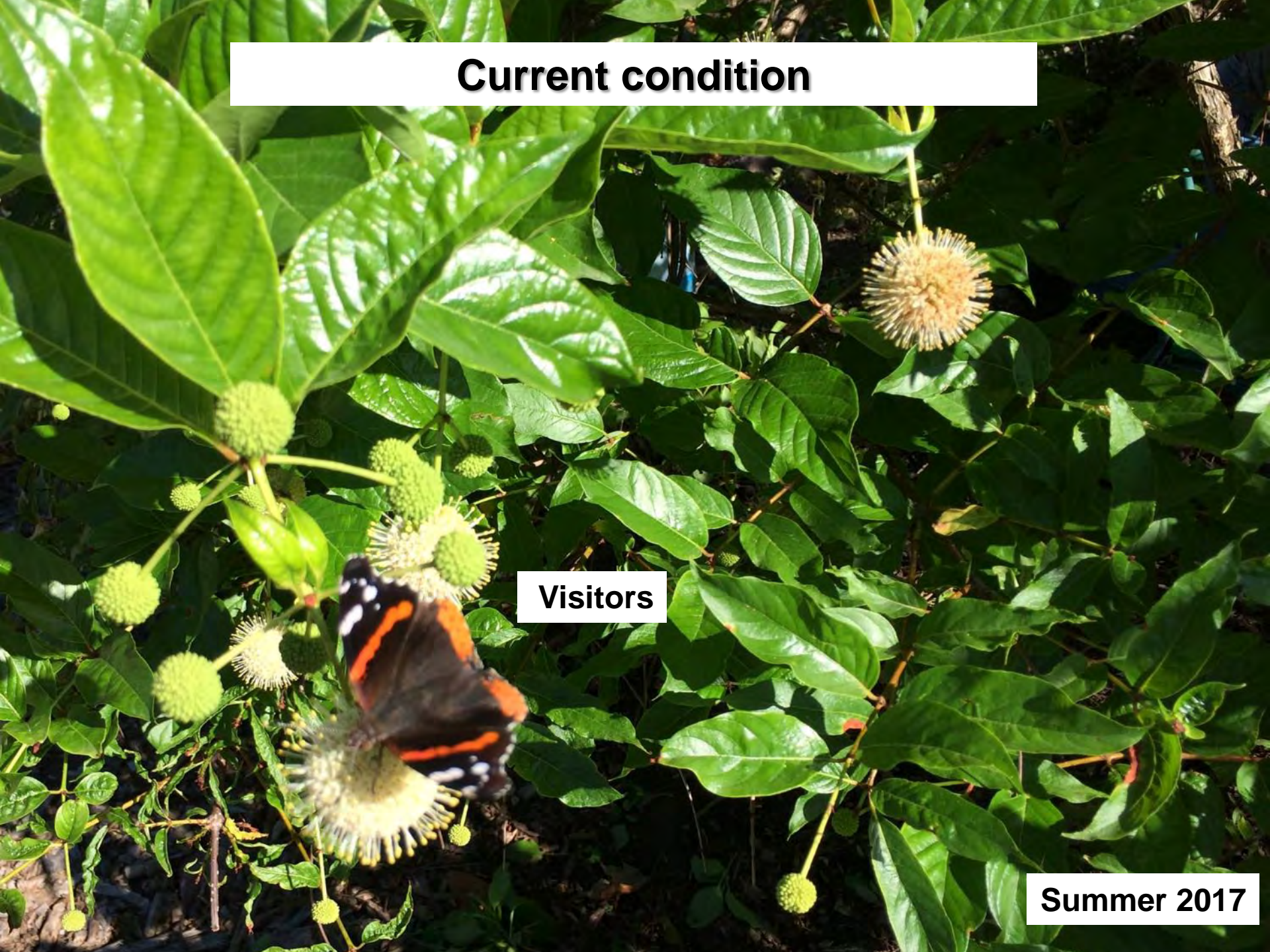


Summer 2017

**Current condition**

**Visitors**

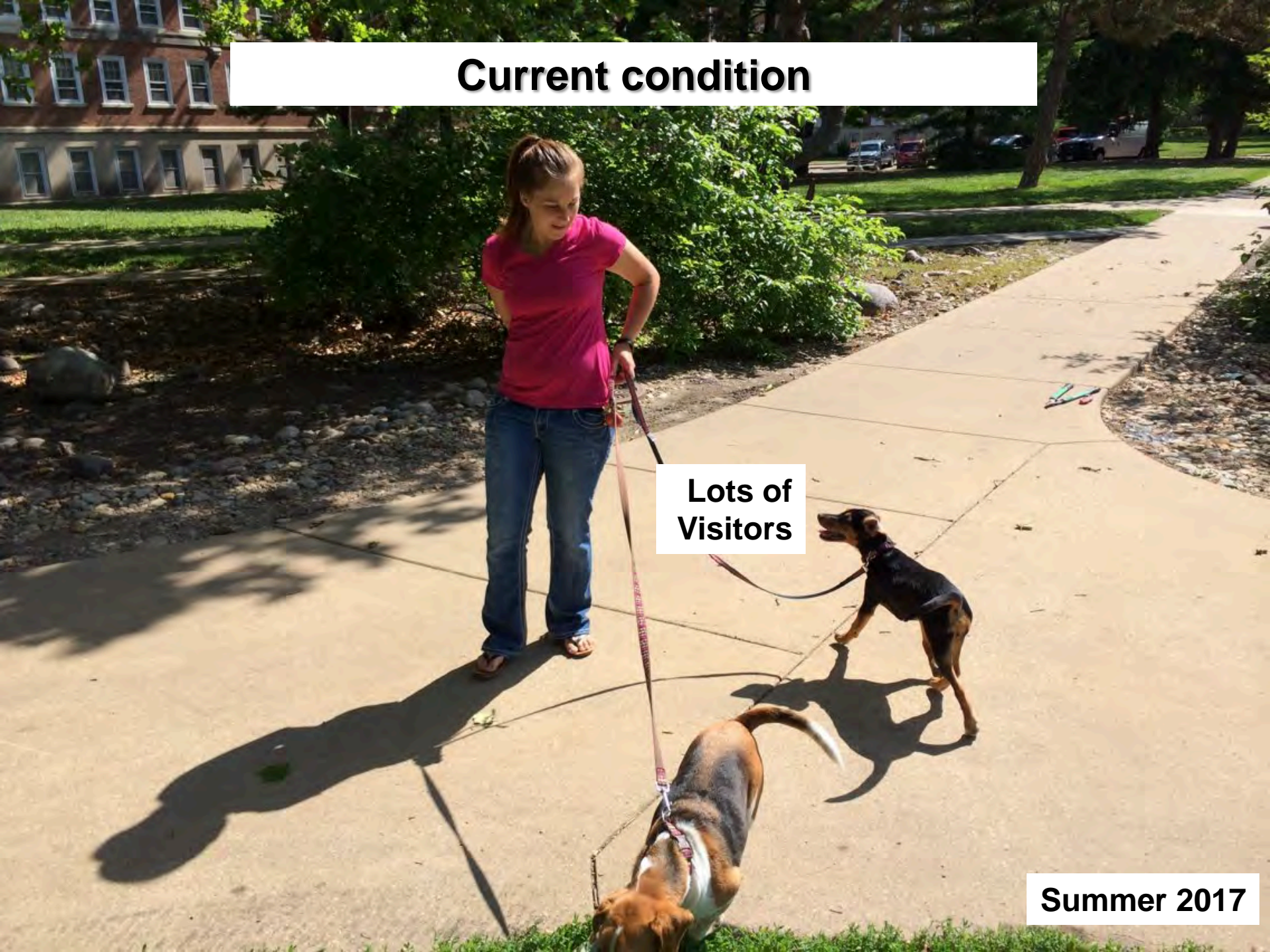
**Summer 2017**

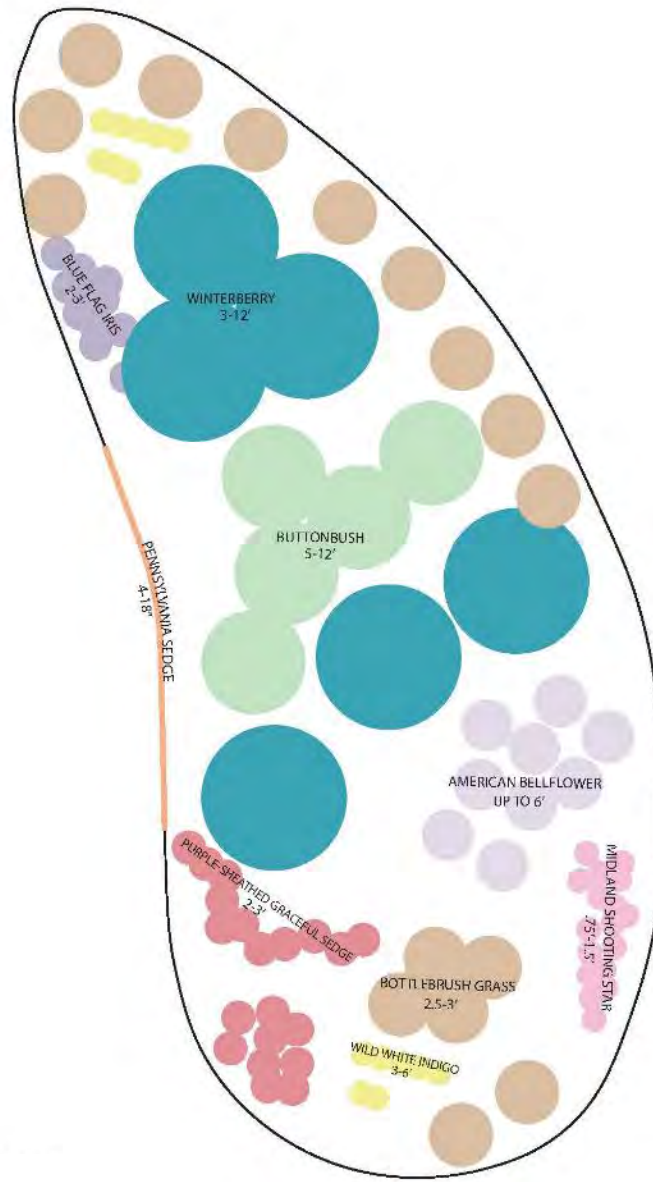


# Current condition

**Lots of  
Visitors**

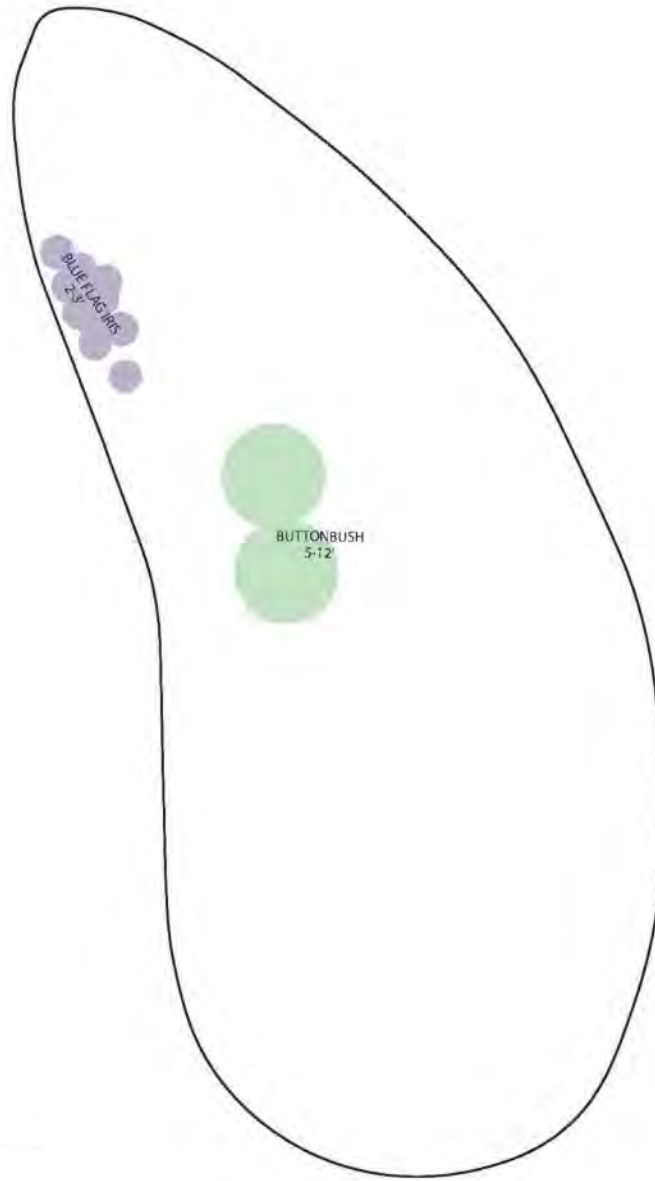
**Summer 2017**





Original planting plan





**Rock “fowled” by mud and tree debris**



**Spring 2017**

**London Planetree drops many sticks and the tile is nearly blocked**



**Area prone to vandalism**



**Spring 2008**

**Area prone to vandalism**



**Summer 2008**

# Red Twig Dogwood is overgrown



May 2017



**If pruned, could look like this in winter  
but it is maintenance dependent.**

# **Pedestrian paths of desire formed**



February 2017





**Including one through the garden**



**Even in winter**



# Project goals:

- Comply with University rules and integrate into University aesthetics.
- Serve stakeholders (users).
- Provide environmental and horticultural education.

# Preliminary conclusions

Design will....

- Preserve the existing trees and be predominantly native plants.
- Create a path through garden.
- Not depend on herbicide for weed control but will practice IPM (Integrated Pest Management).



# **University Integration Questions**

Is this a place you would feel  
comfortable walking/sitting  
at night?

How much, if at all, should this site reflect the formality of the campus landscape?



# **Services Provided Questions**



Do you park in the adjacent garage  
F-29 (Dorner & Gregory) or F-11  
(Behind McKinley)?

Do you live in Urbana and walk by  
the garden on the way  
to your office?

Do you purposefully walk by the garden, or don't even know about it, or perhaps even avoid it?

How do you interact with it?



Have you ever passed through the “trails” that cuts through the site?



If seating were available in this site,  
would you sit here?

Are there any student programs that  
would want to use the space?



Have you ever utilized the bike path(s) or racks located adjacent to the site? Are they easy to access?

How likely are you to visit this location during the winter, other than as a passing point?



# **Education and Outreach Questions**

# What medium of outreach would be most suitable for this garden (Brochure, Digital Platform, Periodic Garden Tours, Signage)?





Any faculty that would like to  
integrate research?

# Closing Question

If there could be one suggestion that you would give to the site, either in regards to a service it doesn't provide, or something you would like to see put in place, what would that be?

*Thank you!*

**What happens next?**

Meeting 2: Thu, July 20  
3 – 4:30 pm