# *Thank you for your commitment to green initiatives at the University of Illinois. One of the ongoing requirements listed in the terms of the funding agreement for your project is the submission of semesterly reports with key information about your project. In addition to this form, please provide additional financial documentation and/or progress photos if available.*

# *Please be as accurate as possible in describing the project (including possible setbacks or challenges in meeting the initial goals of the project). Not fully meeting your project's goals will not disqualify you from making future funding requests as long as your reports are as complete and accurate as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee, at* [*sustainability-committee@illinois.edu*](mailto:sustainability-committee@illinois.edu)*.*

**Project Name:** Red Oak Rain Garden

**Date of Report Submission:** 8/22/2018

**Project Purpose:**

The goal for this project is to replant the Red Oak Rain Garden with several key outcomes in mind. First, the garden will continue to be effective in its role of absorbing stormwater. The plantings will be hardy for their environment, salt-tolerant, and native when appropriate. Plus, they will be attractive to pollinators and birds, and visually appealing over several seasons. Finally, the garden will be an inspirational and educational resource for students (in and out of the classroom), faculty, visitors, and community members.

**Detailed Accounting of Expenditures to Date:**

Due to a delay (see below), the expenditures have been for an erosion control blanket and for “under construction” signage. This totals approximately $100.

**Project Progress to Date:**

The project team wants to ensure that the final design is achievable and sustainable. As such, there has been significant communication with the F&S landscape architect and transportation coordinator. At the same time, several rainstorms revealed that there is ponding on the existing sidewalk. Therefore, the discussions resulted in a redesign of the sidewalk through the garden to be a multi-modal and a plan to raise the existing sidewalk in low areas. There has been a delay in getting this redesign due to out of date survey points and getting these points has proved difficult. Prof. Art Schmidt has recently offered to provide this information so the design can continue and a cost estimate can be obtained from the F&S Cement Shop.

Rock removal has proved to be a larger job than anticipated. On April 21, Red Bison and on August 6, Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists worked several hours but numerous small rocks remain and a mechanical option is being explored.

**Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:**

12 Red Bison student volunteers and 2 student designers

**Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:**

None at this time.

**Additional Comments:**

A project team member was out on FMLA for several months, which delayed the project.

Revised timeline for garden creation as of Aug 15, 2018:

1. ~~Contact Service Office to request topo survey from F&S (done)~~ As of Aug 17, F&S can’t get the aerial survey due to canopy cover. Will be obtaining the information from Art Schmidt.
2. Layne Knoche to use topo survey points to create sidewalk grading plan. This plan will include raising the existing sidewalks to prevent the periodic flooding they experience and a new multi-modal sidewalk that goes through the garden west of the London Planetree.
3. Send sidewalk grading plan to Cement Shop to request a cost estimate. I will likely need to ask Student Sustainability Committee (SSC) for additional funds via a Scope of Work change. They meet biweekly. Per conversation with the SSC Coordinator, they may ask for a new proposal. If so, this is due September 24.
4. Cement Shop to install sidewalk. The project extent depends on funding granted by SSC. Note that the existing tile may be reinstalled or cleaned at this time. And the existing bike path may be removed at this time too.
5. Contact Service Office to request Grounds help with rock removal. End date: October 15. After this is done, may need a MN/MG workday to help remove landscape fabric from the removed rock.
6. If possible, MG/MN to plant shrubs. Place erosion control blanket and secure with stakes. Cut an “x” with box cutters to plant bulbs.
7. Grounds to apply mulch.
8. Decomposed granite installed before other planting. This may be late this fall or early next spring.
9. Phase in planting during spring 2019.



