

September 20, 2017

Re: Red Oak Rain Garden 2.0

To the members of the Student Sustainability Committee (SSC):

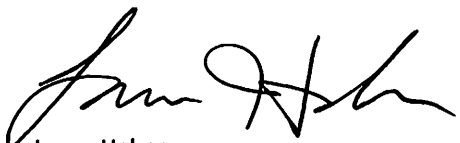
As program directors for Allen Hall and Lincoln Avenue Residence Hall, respectively, we administer University Housing innovation programs that include credit-granting courses, educational events, and volunteer activities. Our student residents are very interested in promoting campus sustainability.

We are excited to see Cameron Letterly submit the “Red Oak Rain Garden 2.0” proposal. As “neighbors” to this project, we think that its goals are aligned with those of our sustainable landscaping efforts. Building on them, the garden creates a place on campus that values beauty and ecology right where students live. This has multiple benefits to students – they don’t have to travel to see examples of sustainable landscaping and, in this case, stormwater management. The spaces themselves are important for student well-being – reducing stress and promoting learning. We see this project as an opportunity to augment our existing student programming with outreach events. Further, we can envision the area between the residence halls and the rain garden becoming a venue for outdoor classroom space.

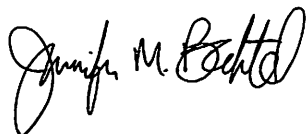
We’d like to partner with IWRC and IISG on creating outreach events that educate students about the benefits of multi-functional, sustainable landscaping and promoting these events to the student body. The students will have input in how this is accomplished. Additionally, we intend to explore the possibility of funding seating near the rain garden that could be used as outdoor classroom space.

In closing, we look forward to collaborating to make the rain garden and residential native plantings a place where students are immersed in sustainable landscaping and education.

Sincerely,



Laura Haber
Program and Academic Director of Unit One, Allen Hall



Jennifer Bechtel
Program Director, Innovation Living-Learning Community and Sustainability Living-Learning Community, LAR