

September 18th, 2017

Re: Red Oak Rain Garden 2.0

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

We are co-presidents of Red Bison, which is the University of Illinois' student organization for ecological restoration. Our organization works to support native plants around campus, which creates habitat for wildlife and beautiful wildflower displays for people. As you know, one of our current restoration projects is the SSC funded Residential Native Plants at Lincoln Avenue Residence Hall Living and Learning Community. This project is nearby the Red Oak Rain Garden.

As proponents of ecological planting, we're excited to see Cameron Letterly submit the "Red Oak Rain Garden 2.0" proposal. His design shows how a stormwater management practice on campus can incorporate native plants and enhance the student experience. Thus, the project proposal aligns with our club's purpose of increasing plantings on campus. Further, the project is complementary to ours due to its location. Its proximity will help create a corridor of plants beneficial to pollinators and other wildlife and will raise awareness of these plants and pollinators in the campus community.

Red Bison intends to collaborate with this project to hold student tours and other educational events that highlight biodiversity on campus. Additionally, we'd like to lend our support to the Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists with volunteers on special workdays.

We look forward to seeing this rain garden become a place where students can gather and learn. It is certain to educate and inspire students for years to come.

Sincerely,

Rachel Daughtridge and Jenna Mattes
Red Bison, Co-Presidents