



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS MASTER NATURALISTS (ECIMN)  
and  
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS (CCMG)  
and  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS FACILITIES AND SERVICES (F&S)**

**I. Purpose and Scope**

This MOU is intended to establish a cooperative effort to maintain the Red Oak Rain Garden, located at 1005 W Gregory St. Urbana, IL on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus. This MOU defines the terms and conditions under which each party will cooperate and coordinate activities necessary to maintain a functional rain garden.

**II. Background**

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. For additional visual interest, art student Jennifer Astwood designed the "Prairie Fire" sculptures under the guidance of Prof. Alex Fekete. The Red Oak Rain Garden is a BLUE Illinois Faculty/Student project funded by Facilities & Services in conjunction with the Environmental Council. Karie Neucomm, then a CCMG, and Eliana Brown, ECIMN Urban Systems instructor, helped plan the project.

The rain garden was established in Fall 2006 to solve a local flooding issue on a campus walkway. Excess rainwater also impaired the health of a nearby red oak tree. The garden resolves both issues and continues to provide storm water control for the immediate area.

Structural features include a tile underneath the sidewalk and the aforementioned sculptures.

**III. Responsibilities Under This MOU (ECIMN)**

1. Establish a contact person within ECIMN to coordinate with F&S when necessary

2. Provide expertise in rain garden design and maintenance. This includes plant selection and placement
3. Provide volunteers to assist in inspection and maintenance of the garden during the growing season, including times when school is not in session. Volunteer activities will include pruning, weeding, planting, and fall leaf removal
4. Aid in the development and distribution of educational materials (no financial commitment)

#### **IV. Champaign County Master Gardeners (CCMG)**

1. Establish a contact person within CCMG to coordinate with F&S when necessary
2. Provide expertise in rain garden design and maintenance. This includes plant selection and placement
3. Provide volunteers to assist in inspection and maintenance of the garden during the growing season, including times when school is not in session. Volunteer activities will include pruning, weeding, planting, and fall leaf removal
4. Aid in the development and distribution of educational materials (no financial commitment)

#### **V. Responsibilities Under This MOU (University of Illinois Facilities and Services)**

1. Establish a contact person at F&S to coordinate with ECIMN and CCMG volunteers when necessary
2. Provide monetary assistance when needed to replace plants, obtain mulch landscape fabric and rock
3. Provide herbicide application when requested by ECIMN or CCMG, who will minimize its necessity
4. Remove trash and accumulated sediment from the garden on an as needed basis
5. Provide any repairs to the structural features when required

#### **VI. Understanding:**

In consideration of the above premises, it is mutually agreed upon and understood by and among the parties to this MOU that:

1. This MOU may be revised as necessary by mutual consent of the parties by execution of a written amendment signed and dated by all parties. This MOU will be reviewed annually and revised if necessary
2. Any party may terminate its participation in this MOU by providing written notice to all other parties
3. Any modification or alteration of the rain garden must be approved by ECIMN, CCMG and F&S
4. Contact personnel are established each year by both parties on a continuing basis to enhance communication between both parties. The ECIMN or CCMG contacts shall notify the F&S contact via email prior to each volunteer workday in the rain garden regarding what is being done by the respective volunteer group
5. This MOU reflects an entirely voluntary commitment between the parties. This MOU in no way obligates or restricts the activity of any party. No party shall have any right, power, or authority to create any obligation, express or implied, on behalf of any other party or parties

**VII. Funding**

ECIMN and CCMG will not provide any funding for this garden.

**VIII. Effective Date and Signatures**

By signature below, the parties to this MOU certify that the individuals listed in this document as representatives of the parties hereto are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this agreement. It shall be in place from 3/20/2017 to 3/20/2018.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 County Extension Director                      Date  
 University of Illinois Extension

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Superintendent of Grounds                      Date  
 University of Illinois F&S

\_\_\_\_\_  
 President    Date  
 East Central Illinois Master Naturalists

\_\_\_\_\_  
 President    Date  
 Champaign County Master Gardeners