

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Facilities & Services

Physical Plant Service Building
1501 South Oak Street
Champaign, IL 61820



March 22, 2013

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for your proactive approach to working with us on the Orchard Downs Multifunctional Landscape project. We are glad to have courses that use the campus as a living learning laboratory, especially those like yours that integrate core concepts of sustainability in the lessons.

As you may know, our university has a Project Labor Agreement that impacts our ability to use student or volunteer labor on campus facilities or infrastructure. There are some cases where students have been able to volunteer their time, and other cases where the work was done by contractors or Facilities and Services employees. We are happy to work with you and the appropriate university representatives to clarify the best implementation method for this project. I recommend a meeting in the next few weeks to discuss the specific circumstances for this project.

Additionally, the campus approval for this project still needs to be confirmed, with the signed Memo of Understanding (MOU). The MOU will include the following points:

- The University Office of Capital Programs and Real Estate Services, through Kevin Duff, has indicated that Orchard Downs is designated as an area of campus slated for redevelopment, and there is no guarantee that the work performed through this project will remain during or after the redevelopment. Although the redevelopment is not currently scheduled, it could occur at any time. That is, it could begin as early as one year from now or years later.
- The maintenance of this area is overseen by University Housing. The specifics on how the results of this project will be maintained after implementation need to be confirmed and agreed upon by Housing. The F&S Grounds Superintendent, Ryan Welch, has indicated that the multifunctional landscape will require more recurring maintenance than the existing no mow zone.
- The implementation process and final design will also be described in the MOU. While the F&S Landscape Architect, Matt Edmonson, has met with you about this project, the actual campus approval will come after the implementation methodology is identified. The final design will need to be approved through the appropriate university process, which is dependent on the selected implementation methodology.

I look forward to working with you to address the implementation questions, and see this project progress. You can reach me at mbjohnst@illinois.edu or 217-344-0044 to help identify the participants for the discussion about how to implement this project.

Sincerely,

Morgan B. Johnston

Sustainability Coordinator