

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Facilities & Services  
Physical Plant Service Building

1501 South Oak Street  
Champaign, IL 61820



Environmental Protection Agency  
Campus RainWorks Challenge  
RainWorks@epa.gov

December 7, 2017

RE: Entry D82: Campus Hydro ReDesigned: From Parking Lot to Integrated Stormwater Treatment Design

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign signed the Climate Nature Commitments, pledging to be carbon-neutral by 2050 and to build resilience to climate change in our local community. Our 2015 Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) includes many aspects of sustainability beyond the greenhouse gas emission goals, including an emphasis on green stormwater infrastructure, expansion of the use of native plants, and sustainability education through using the campus as a Living Learning Lab. The EPA's Campus RainWorks Challenge is an excellent process for engaging students and faculty in designing green solutions for campus stormwater issues.

At the beginning of this design process, university Landscape Architect Brent Lewis and I met with the RainWorks student team leader, Jessica Wiegand, to discuss the related university efforts and goals. We walked the site in question and shared some history about the site, current efforts in nearby areas, and constraints that the project team would need to incorporate. The RainWorks team also contacted several experts we recommended they speak with as they developed the design.

In the middle of their design efforts, the students provided facilities and planning staff with a draft design. After a thorough written review by the university Landscape Architect, I met with the project team and Water Resources Specialist Eliana Brown, to discuss the design and suggest a few modifications. The students were very great listeners and had a strong understanding of the work they had compiled at that time. I was impressed with their effort and commitment to creating an excellent multi-functional solution.

With the final design, the RainWorks team has incorporated all of the items indicated by the facilities and planning staff. They have designed a safe and sustainable solution to improve the functionality and aesthetics of a core area of the campus property. The recommended design improves several aspects of the area – including bikeways, sidewalks, parking areas, and buildings, so several university departments will be involved in funding and project approval. I can be reached at [mbwhite@illinois.edu](mailto:mbwhite@illinois.edu).

Thank you,

*Morgan White*

Morgan White  
Associate Director for Sustainability