# Dorner Drive project

Updated 9/15/2020 – call with Eliana, Ryan, Frank, Brent, Isaac, and Morgan

* From last call: 1) Layne will get the map to Brent this week. 2) Brent sent the marked up retaining wall map to Frank. Then Frank met on 9/2 with Robbie Bauer, Matt Dalton, and Rube King, and they are close to having the estimate done. They will have two prices 1) sketch that Brent put together, and 2) for the whole job – two options and the numbers will tell us. The SSC will tell us what they can fund.
* SSC – due 10/5 – I will put it together with help from others
* Planning and Buying Plants
	+ Layne will be working with Erin on that – with buy-in from Ryan and Brent. Layne and Erin will do conceptual stuff, with plant/seed mixes and some specific plugs and send it to Brent and Ryan for their approval.
	+ Buying the plants… Ryan could help out with ordering the plants – For the RORG, Layne spec’d the plants, then worked with Extension to order them – sourcing it from the vendors – then can F&S do the POs and take it from there? – Ryan says, sure – if Eliana’s team sources the materials, Ryan can get them ordered.
* Typical sources: Pizzo nursery (Jack Pizzo), Midwest ground covers, Extension’s native shrub and trees sale is from Possibility Place.
	+ If there is something we already buy in bulk – from Grounds – can confirm the vendors for sourcing the plants
	+ Can also check with vendor to see if they have it in stock – RORG efforts entailed getting new vendors
	+ Also seed mix and the plugs are separate.
	+ <https://www.pizzonursery.com/seed-mixes>
	+ <https://203304d9-e490-4fcf-b80b-068ea8799fb6.filesusr.com/ugd/1f441c_0711ed6035b04b50972b2e652014c866.pdf>
	+ <https://203304d9-e490-4fcf-b80b-068ea8799fb6.filesusr.com/ugd/1f441c_bdd36a604ab445f8adf601c1bcdc61cd.pdf>
	+ <https://203304d9-e490-4fcf-b80b-068ea8799fb6.filesusr.com/ugd/1f441c_9663a383a869488683b38834a6a0f2a8.pdf>
	+ I would go with Dry-mesic over the slope mix. Pretty much the same mix though.
* SSC applications
	+ no others from Brent
	+ Eliana likely will submit more applications – she said she would try to get the remainder to repay Grounds – but we do not recommend that she seek that aspect
* Student interaction?
	+ Benches? ADA compliant?
		- Yes, - should be ADA accessible
		- Just do an overlook – donors, such as Pizzo, State Farm, etc…

Updated by M. White on 9/1/2020

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Retaining wall maintenance:

* It’s only 3-3.5 feet deep, so shouldn’t need much funding – no geo-grid or anything
* Just take it apart, do some hand work, and put it back together
* Hopefully less than $100k
* Beth got the drawings to Brent – they are under buildings

Look at the trees:

* Ryan Welch looking at the trees? – chipping away at some of those saplings – talked about doing some work on the service berry out there – maybe lift those up slightly – and some aren’t in the best of shape – doing pretty well otherwise.
* Brent looked at them – just the mulberries – get rid of those

Add plant expenses:

* Keep total cost under $150k for request to SSC.
* Converting the low mow zones into high quality native plants – mezzic something: mezic and dry prairie plants – not a wet mezzic –
* Also say that this space will be a good attribute for the students for their well being etc.
* It is a native sanctuary nearby the residence halls.

Scope Discussion:

* Going to Pennsylvania? – would add Campus Rec – with Illini Woods to add bluebells in the non-park bench areas – away from picnic tables
* The ICECF grant expires August 2021 – want to get an extension to the fall of 2021
* Including Campus Rec could be included now and show it in phases, where we include who is included and what to – cover in Phase 1.
* Terry Elmore – the cuts coming to Campus Rec –
* ICECF is just a few thousand dollars – bring them into the conversation to see how they feel – remove mowing?
* Illini Grove – share the costs with F&S – we do the trees there and they mow the east side to Lincoln – all of the grove, back of tennis courts, and we maintain the Dorner tree frontage – from courts to Dorner – don’t really know where their property ends on the north side of the courts – not a lot of mowing, except under the trees
* What about between the two courts – 4-5 trees – any grass around the courts either they pay F&S to mow, or they mow them.
* South side is steep with a lot of rock – from Pennsylvania to the north end of the courts that is their responsibility, and we mow the Dorner side and the south for them
* Grounds handles the costs of maintaining the trees in Illini Grove.
* Eliana and Brent let Terry Elmore know – he is fine with it.

Design:

* Drawing of the area
* Include phase one, two, possible three
* Focus entirely on Dorner Pond
	+ Phases are
	+ Retaining wall
	+ spraying and seeding
	+ Plugs
	+ Benches, etc.

Decided: Only Dorner Pond at this time, don’t go all the way to the sidewalk

Next steps, as of 9/1/2020

1. Layne will outline area on a map, and Brent will confirm it.
2. Brent will mark up a map of the retaining wall, and Frank will get a cost estimate.

On another note: Eliana is seeking an extension and research proposal that would support Layne – would we be willing to be listed as collaborating partners and do we have any existing connections

* Students at Orchard Downs working with F&S – From the Ground Up
* Indigenous student group – faculty? Jenny Davis
* Jeff Matthews? Wetland delineation in NRES
* Bill Sullivan? Busy
* Eliana will send us more info about the grant: <https://extension.illinois.edu/connection/2020-extension-collaboration-grants-request-proposals>
* Include INHS – ask Jamie Ellis
* Next steps: Eliana will ask us in email and we will seek researchers. Thanks!