# Dorner Drive project

Updated by M. White on 9/1/2020

Team: Eliana Brown (brown12@illinois.edu); Knoche, Layne Harrison <lknoch2@illinois.edu>; Harper, Erin Elizabeth <harper7@illinois.edu>; Colacicco, Frank <frankc10@illinois.edu>; Lewis, Brent C <bcl@illinois.edu>; Williams, Isaac R <isacwil@illinois.edu>; Welch, Ryan B rbwelch@illinois.edu

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!