

# Burrill/Morrill East Walkway Sustainable Improvements

**Environmental Compliance**

**April 4, 2012**

**Name of Group:** Environmental Compliance

**Primary Contacts:**

David Wilcoxon  
[dwilcoxe@illinois.edu](mailto:dwilcoxe@illinois.edu)  
217.333.3655

Eliana Brown  
[brown12@illinois.edu](mailto:brown12@illinois.edu)  
217.265.0760

Prof. Sarah Taylor-Lovell  
[stlovel@illinois.edu](mailto:stlovel@illinois.edu)  
217.244.3433

**Financial Contact:**

Tony Spurlock  
[spurlock@illinois.edu](mailto:spurlock@illinois.edu)  
217.265.4533

**1. Applicant Information and Mission Statement:**

Environmental Compliance is in the Division of Safety and Compliance within Facilities and Services (F&S). The mission of Safety and Compliance is to promote safe and environmentally sound work practices that advance the University's mission and interests by advising and consulting with faculty, staff and students.

**2. Proposal Summary:**

This is a proposal to re-envision a campus walkway as a sustainable, multifunctional landscape. Currently, the space between Burrill and Morrill Halls has planters with sparse, mostly non-native species. This project is an opportunity to introduce native shrubs, ferns, and woodland species that can flourish in the walkway's shady conditions. (See attached overall plan.) Additionally, this area's impervious concrete collects rainwater and floods areas of student pedestrian traffic. This project proposes to direct water to the large square planter in the middle of the walkway and convert it into a rain garden. (See attachments.) Further, the area just east of the rain garden will have six additional small planters that reduce the amount of concrete and collect rainwater. As the attached blooming plan shows, the suggested vegetation will aesthetically brighten the space.

**3. Project Benefits and Impact:**

This project includes a rain garden and the addition of native plants to existing beds. The rain garden's benefits include: water quality improvement, habitat creation, and groundwater recharge. Further, the rain garden will eliminate localized flooding in the walkway. The native plant selection includes species that benefit pollinators.

The site is a high traffic pedestrian area frequented by students and alumni. It is a walkway on the "Million Dollar Tour" that prospective donors to the University take while visiting campus. As such, this is a highly visible site where sustainable improvements will have a noticeable impact.

**4. Student Engagement:**

As was done in a prior SSC project in the walkway, there will be an opportunity for students to install plants under the direction of John Marlin. Marlin has agreed to serve in an advisory capacity for this project.

**5. Implementation Plan:**

Facilities and Services Division of Maintenance will perform the necessary concrete work, remove the rain garden soil, add an overflow drain, and prepare the beds for planting. A contractor will relocate three existing small trees. Students under the direction of John Marlin will install the new plants. F&S will provide mulch, watering and subsequent maintenance.

**6. Timeline:**

John Marlin will propagate the forbs this summer. Planting will occur in the fall semester after the weather cools. The preparatory work will occur two week prior. Once the project is complete, a sign will be installed.

**7. Publicity Plan to Acknowledge SSC Contribution:**

As mentioned, this is a high profile walkway that is frequented by prominent visitors to the University. The project includes a sign that thanks SSC’s contribution. Prior to the planting, F&S will issue a press release that acknowledges SSC.

**8. Future of Project:**

This project is a model for incorporating sustainable landscape features into existing infrastructure. It will serve as an experimental model for other parts of campus.

**9. Detailed Budget, Other Funding Options, Additional Grants:**

Please see the plant budget below. F&S will pay for a significant portion of this project including: concrete work, soil removal, overflow drain installation, sign, and mulch.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Tree relocation	\$900
Shrubs	\$374
Ferns	\$610
Forbs	\$3550
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5434</b>

Existing bushes

Remove bushes. Add *E. purpurea* and *R. hirta*

See "Rectagle"

Add ferns and woodland forbs

See "Rain Garden"

Cut square mini-planters with *Schizachyrium scoparium*

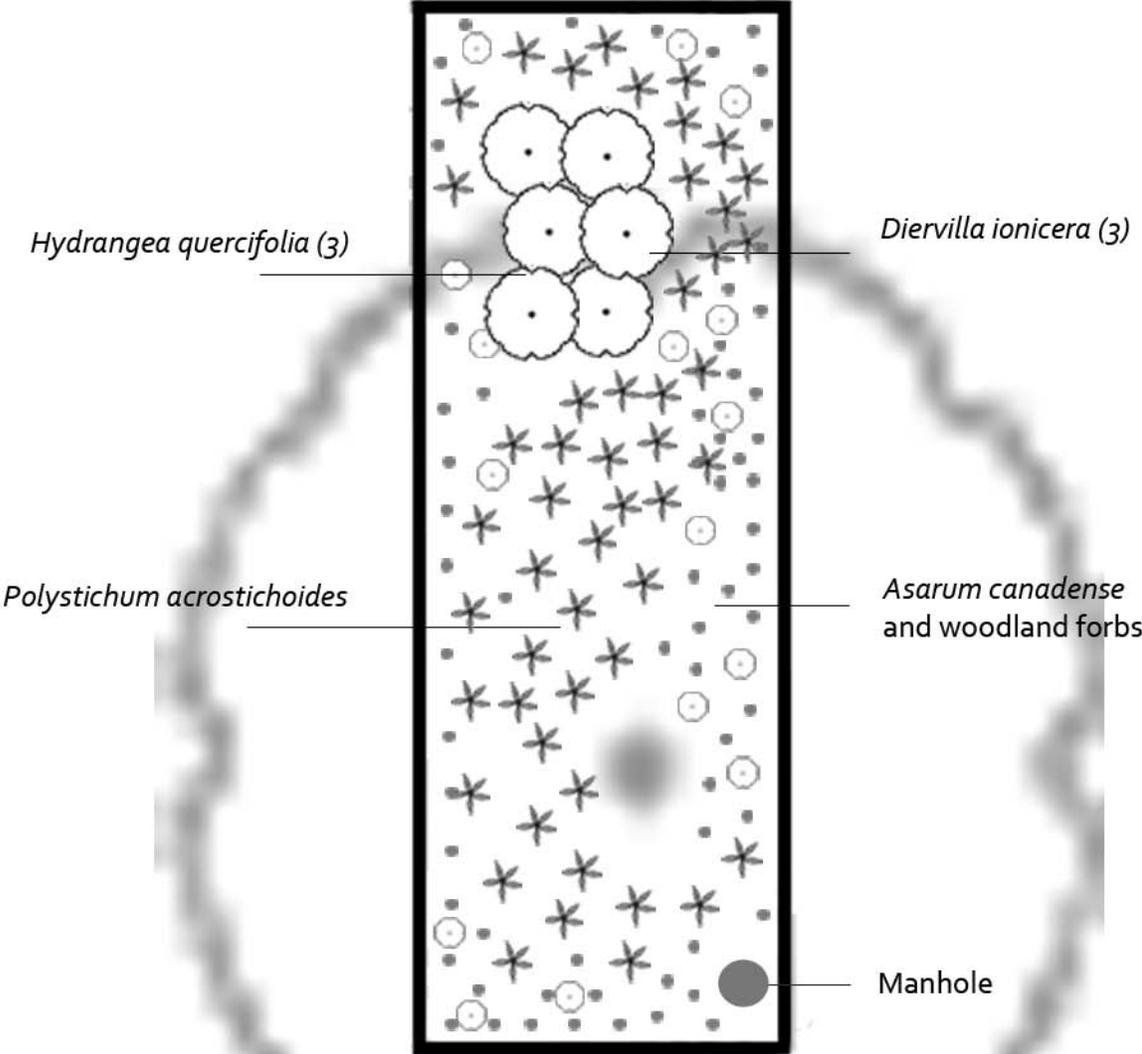
Existing *Echinachea purpurea*

Existing Brick Pavers

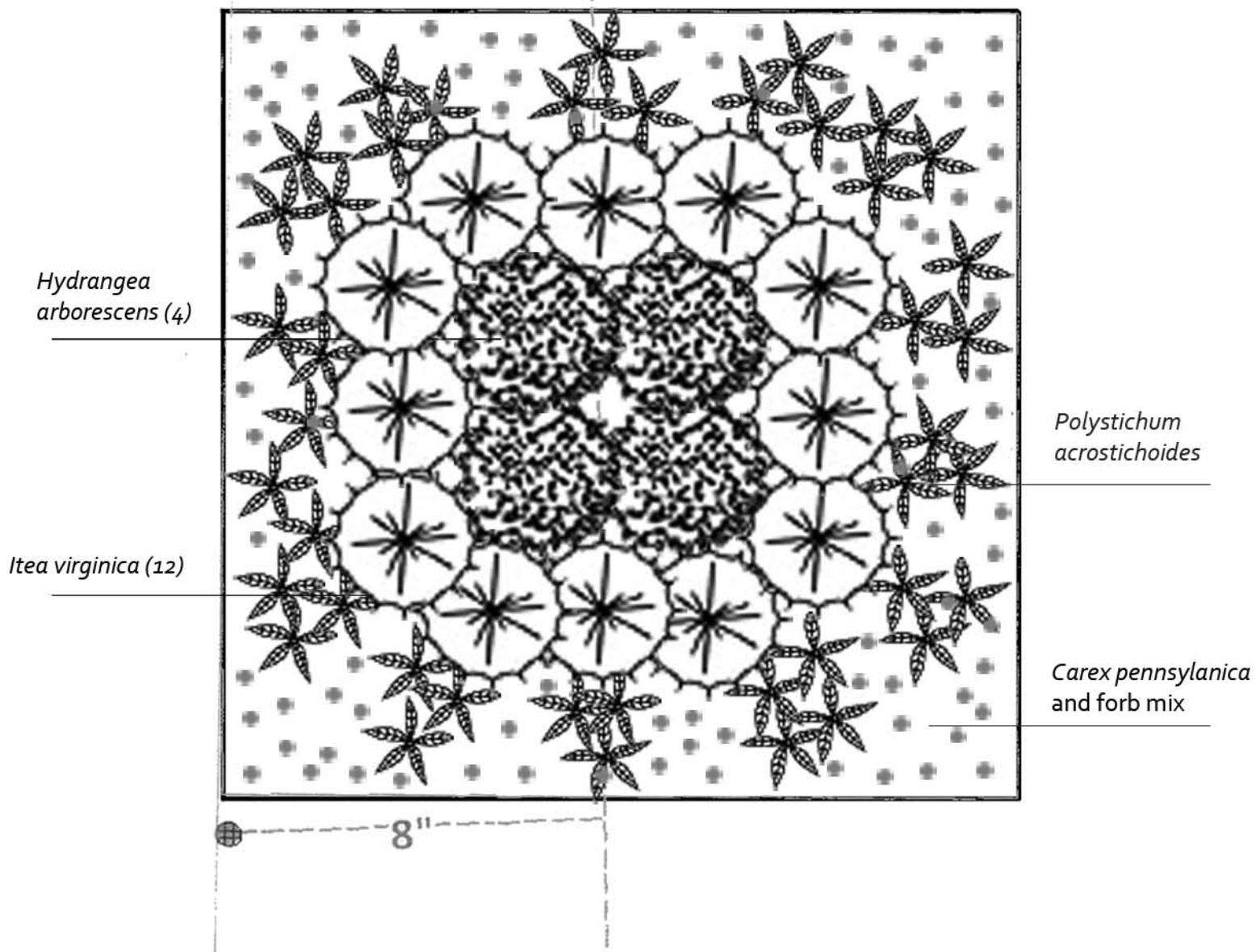
Existing *Echinachea purpurea*, *Rudbeckia hirta* and *Schizachyrium scoparium*

Goodwin Avenue

Rectangle



# Rain Garden



# Burrill/Morrill Bloom Schedule

