

From: Brown, Eliana

Sent: Thursday, September 02, 2021 2:56 PM

To: Haber, Laura Gwen; Murphy, Christopher ; Duffy, Kevin Ridge; Kotowski, Katrina; Metallo, Rosalie M; Craig, Robin; Harris, Kelli N; Elmore, Terrence Jerel; Kelly, Lisa Kaye; Ando, Amy W; Winter-Nelson, Karen E; Moore, Meredith Kaye; Brinkworth, Jessica F; Dalton, Matthew T

Cc: Knoche, Layne Harrison; Kar, Shibu; White, Morgan; Lewis, Brent C; Welch, Ryan B; Bugaj, Wayne M ; Charlebois, Patrice M; Charters, Hope K; Welander, Patricia Susan; swat-landwater list; Harper, Erin Elizabeth; Wilcoxon, David B; DeLorenzo, Stacey; Bowman, Dennis; Gardiner, Kate; Mackay, Andrew James; Colacicco, Frank

Subject: Red Oak Rain Garden and Dorner Drive Pond - upcoming work

Good afternoon Red Oak Rain Garden "neighbors",

For those that don't know me, I'm an Extension Water Quality Specialist and Director of the [Red Oak Rain Garden](#), located between Allen Hall/LAR and McKinley Health Center. As your campus "neighbor", I'm writing to let you that we're expanding our sustainable landscapes this fall. There will be some prep work near the garden and Dorner Drive Retention Pond. Vegetation will be treated to remove invasive/non-native species to make way for high-quality native plants. Long story short, over the coming weeks, these treated areas may look rougher than usual. But have no fear, good things are coming. And, happily, sidewalks will remain open.

Some prep work has already begun and starting Sep 13 volunteers will install more than a thousand plants west of the garden. Additionally, F&S Grounds will treat the pond's banks to prepare for prairie/woodland restoration but leave some areas as mowed grass for students to relax and gather in the future as they do now. Finally, at the end of the month, Country Arbors will plant new trees in the area between the garden and McKinley's parking lot.

In time, these new landscapes will provide pollinator habitat, water quality benefits, and serve as a model for future restorations on campus and throughout the state. My staff member Layne Knoche, Red Oak Rain Garden's designer, worked with F&S Campus Landscape Architect Brent Lewis on the attached plans. **You can expect that by spring 2022, your experience of walking through this part of campus will be even better than it is now!**

For more information, check out this [blog](#). If you're interested in learning more, sign up for our [newsletter](#).

The team and I are grateful to be your "neighbors". Please reach out if you have any questions or if you'd like to get involved. And feel free to forward this email to others.

Best regards,

C. ELIANA BROWN MSEE LEED AP NGICP *(she/her)*

Extension Water Quality Specialist

Director, [Red Oak Rain Garden](#)

[Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant](#) | [Cooperative Extension Service](#)

College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences Administration
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign