1- 4/28/25

2- UIUC Rainwater Management Plan

3- 5/5/23

4- 4/30/25

5- $200,000

6- $8070

7 - The project goals were to develop a comprehensive Rainwater Management Program for the university Urbana-Champaign campus. The project involved hiring a consulting firm to evaluate campus rainwater drainage, develop a report on the findings including green infrastructure recommendations to protect the existing stormwater system, mitigate or fully resolve known problems on campus, and create new rainwater management system improvement suggestions. This program will help the university transition into the emerging paradigm that focuses on treating rainwater as an asset rather than a nuisance. A public presentation/forum was also held on 4/2/25 to share the program with the campus community.

8-yes

9- 4/21/25

10 - The campus is a large area therefore the data collection and site visits took time to organize, analyze and complete. Coordinating the Building Facility Manager meetings with the appropriate contacts and developing the public input website for problem areas on campus took more time than anticipated. There were also multiple report reviews that occurred which took longer than anticipated but the grant completion timeline was still met.

11 - The project was completed on time with a report being developed as a final product which includes several green infrastructure recommendations that the campus may consider in the future. This project successfully compiled past and new rainwater drainage information into one document. Community outreach with the campus building facility managers, the local MS4 stormwater group and the public campus forum facilitated communication and public outreach which shared the program with the campus community. The final document has already helped guide campus partners toward more sustainable rainwater management. This includes an addition to an existing building and the campus Rainworks Challenge.

12 – The campus Rainwater Management Program will increase environmental awareness and stewardship by:

- Redefining stormwater as rainwater which is an asset that can be used versus a flooding nuisance.

- Recommending green infrastructure installations that will reduce stormwater runoff and decrease stream bank erosion, flooding and pollution in local waterways.

- Recommending aesthetically pleasing green infrastructure installments and “artful rainwater” features, which will draw students and the public into the sites, enhancing engagement between students and the campus ecological environment.

- Providing plans for educational signage at select proposed green infrastructure installments, outlining the environmental benefits of the installation.

- Providing knowledge that will create a sense of ownership in campus rainwater and a sense of responsibility to protect local waterways.

This project also supports the University iCAP 2020 by:

- Recommending green stormwater installations to help manage rainwater – this aligns with the Land & Water goal 4.2.3 to double green infrastructure installations on campus.

- Initiating a campus Rainwater Management Program – this supports the Resilience goal 8.2 to coordinate rainwater management plans for the entire urbanized areas of Champaign, Urbana, Savoy, and the university.

13 – Enhanced rainwater management can include a variety of green infrastructure practices that can potentially be designed, studied and/or used by students. Future project designs and installations can be used by various engineering, landscape architecture and sustainability classes. Since improved campus stormwater management will also decrease the number of areas prone to flooding on campus, there is potential for more green space that can be used by students for recreation and educational purposes. Reduced flooding will also improve the overall campus walkability. The aesthetically pleasing rainwater management installations will increase student engagement with their environment and campus community. The building facility manager meetings and the 4-2-25 public forum also provided communication platforms and opportunities for campus/student/staff involvement. Additionally, Professor Beth Scott coordinated the Rainworks Challenge student team using the Rainwater Management Program document.

14 - Community outreach provided the opportunity for engagement with all campus building facility managers, the local MS4 stormwater group representatives from the University of Illinois, City Champaign, City Urbana, Village Savoy, Champaign County, Champaign County Soil & Water Conservation District, and the IEPA). In addition to this, the program presentation/forum held on 4/2/25 was open to the public and facilitated communication and public outreach with all members of the community. Additionally, several areas in the project scope included economically disadvantaged communities.

15 – The team successfully completed the project by developing a comprehensive Rainwater Management Program for the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus. The rainwater drainage research was essential in providing green infrastructure recommendations that can provide opportunities for the campus to control flooding and use rainwater to create green spaces which support pollinators and create esthetically pleasing areas. The project report, public presentation and green infrastructure recommendations will increase knowledge and environmental stewardship thus transforming the paradigm to rainwater being an asset rather than a flooding nuisance.

16 - F&S promoted the Rainwater Management Program when the project information was finalized, and the public forum was scheduled for 4/2/25. Multiple emails were sent out to staff and students, included in campus newsletters, and also shared directly with organizing groups. A Rainwater Management Program website is also being developed that will provide a project description, link to the actual report and the forum recording <https://fs.illinois.edu/Projects/rainwater-management-program/>. Initially, it will also show up as a content block on the F&S homepage.

The SSC logo is included in the forum presentation, the final report and on the website. The report and the presentation SSC pages were shared and approved by SSC prior to publicizing.

17 – uploaded slides and final report