



RED OAK RAIN GARDEN

Garden Report: June 2020

- **Extension volunteers:**
 - Prepared to welcome Extension volunteers back in the garden July 6! Installed updated signs to help comply with social distancing. We could use some help with recruitment.
- **Monitoring:**
 - Developed an online garden observation reporting system (thanks to Tabitha Elder and based off of the Horticulture Hotline). Consulted with Diane Plewa from the Plant Clinic.
 - Enrolled in CoCoRaHS precipitation monitoring program.
- **Observations of note:**
 - In early June, grass across from garden had grown tall and was going to seed, which worried us. Timing was good because when we contacted F&S, they were allowed to put more staff towards these tasks and it was mowed immediately.
 - **June blooms:** butterfly weed, purple poppy mallow, pale purple coneflower, purple coneflower, grey-headed coneflower, royal catchfly, New Jersey tea, cardinal flower, Rozanne geranium, smooth phlox. The Summer 2020 Plant Collection featured on the website's homepage: <https://redoakraingarden.org>
- **Social media highlight:**
 - "Songbird Spotlight" series featured birds found in the garden. Created in collaboration with conservation ecologist Noah Horsley.
- **Progress** toward Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Grant (as of 7/8/20):
 - **Volunteer Stewardship** to be completed by 8/31/2021.
 - Physical: 28 hours. [Need 400 hours to receive \$4,000.]
 - Social Media: 33.5 hours [Need 100 hours to receive \$2,000.]
 - **Donation Match**
 - Worked with Bev Friese (retired U of I Foundation staff), who is reviewing the fundraising plan. [Need to raise \$7,000 to receive \$21,000.]

