

RED OAK RAIN GARDEN

Garden Report: September 2020

- **Fall 2020 Installation:**
 - Extension Volunteers and UIUC Landscape Architecture and Horticulture classes helped to install ~1100 additional plants at the garden. New species include Virginia Bluebells, Shooting Star, Wild Hyacinth, Woodland Phlox and Nodding Onion.
 - Orange Tulips to be installed the week of October 19th.
- **More Fall Plans:**
 - Working with Ext. Hort. Educator Ryan Pankau and F&S to address Red Oak tree health.
- **New RORG Student Team:**
 - This semester, RORG is hosting a team of 4 students from UIUC Instructor Eric Green's Environmental Studies (ENVS) 492: Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Capstone class. They will be involved in our social media campaigns, soil health and stormwater data tracking, and documentation of various events taking place at the Rain Garden.
- **Monitoring:**
 - **CoCoRHaS** rain gauge watchers reported very few rainfall events over the past month.
 - **Soil:** RORG Student Team performed soil infiltration testing using equipment loaned to us by UIUC Crop Sciences. Data was recorded and will be housed on our website in the future.
- **Observations of note:**
 - **September blooms:** Purple Poppy Mallow, White Turtlehead, Purple Coneflower, Rose Mallow, Grey-Headed Coneflower, Black Eyed Susan, Royal Catchfly, Rosin Weed, Smooth Blue Aster. Fall 2020 Plant Collection and Zoom backgrounds are featured on the [website](#).
 - **Build it and they will come:** Many species of songbirds have been spotted in and around RORG. Finches have been seen eating seed from Coneflower and Rosin Weed.
- **Social media highlights:**
 - Kate Gardiner interviewed the designer of the Prairie Fire Sculptures found in the garden and wrote a popular [blog post](#) on them.
 - Introduced our Fall Semester 2020 RORG Student Team members.
- **Progress toward Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Grant (as of 10/07/20):**
 - **Volunteer Stewardship to be completed by 8/31/21.**
 - Physical: 185.5 hours. [Need 400 hours to receive \$4,000.]
 - Social Media: 55 hours. [Need 100 hours to receive \$2,000.]
 - **Donation Match**
 - Almost halfway there! We're at \$3044.38 [Need \$7,000 to receive \$21,000.]

