



## Garden Report: July 2021

- **Bridge Update:**
  - The boardwalk bridge officially opened to the public on July 21. Visitors to the garden have been thrilled to cross it!
- **RORG Student Team:**
  - Sandra Bjerga continues to help plan and develop social media. She recently interviewed Professor Tony Endress, who led the charge on the original build of the garden in 2006. The interview is currently being converted into a blog.
  - Sandra developed the Red Oak Rain Garden Plant Library on our website: <https://redoakraingarden.org/plants-of-the-red-oak-rain-garden/>
- **Monitoring:**
  - **CoCoRaHS** rain gauge watchers reported 3.62 inches of precipitation. Average for July is 4.5 inches.
- **Observations of note:**
  - **July interest:** Showy summer blooms include Purple Poppy Mallow, Purple Coneflower, 'Rozanne' Geranium, Butterflyweed, Yellow Coneflower, Royal Catchfly, Cardinal Flower, Joe Pye Weed, Tall Bellflower, and Rosinweed. Nodding Onion, installed in Fall 2020, is performing very well and was a great addition to the garden.
- **Social Media Highlights:**
  - Celebrated [4<sup>th</sup> of July](#).
  - Other popular posts included the [bridge completion announcement](#) and the [Woodland Brochure Series release](#).
- **Volunteer Highlights:**
  - Regular workdays occur each Friday from 9:00-11:00am, weather dependent. The RORG Team and regular volunteers have been welcoming and training several new volunteers from the Champaign County Master Gardeners and East Central Illinois Master Naturalist programs.
- **Fall 2021 Planning:**
  - With funds from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Community Stewardship Grant, the RORG team is planning for the installation of several trees between RORG and the McKinley Health Center parking lot. There will also be two new garden beds installed adjacent to RORG. Stay tuned for upcoming volunteer days in the month of September!
- **Presentations & Tours:**
  - The RORG team took July off to focus on the project and other work deliverables.
- **Published Blogs:**
  - [In the Garden: July](#)
- **Fundraising**
  - All Community Stewardship Challenge Grant goals have been met thanks to your generous support! Now that the bridge has been built, our fundraising focus shifts to the installation of an interpretive sign that explains what a rain garden is, as well as the general history of the Red Oak Rain Garden. If you're interested in supporting this phase of the project, please go to <https://redoakraingarden.org/support/>.

