



Garden Report: August 2021

- **RORG Student Team:**
 - Sandra Bjerga wrapped up her work with the RORG team early in the month. She wrote a final blog detailing her experiences with us. See “Published Blogs” below.
- **Monitoring:**
 - **CoCoRaHS** rain gauge watchers reported 4.19 inches of precipitation. Average for August is 3.1 inches.
- **Observations of note:**
 - **August interest:** Showy summer blooms included Purple Poppy Mallow, Purple Coneflower, ‘Rozanne’ Geranium, Rosinweed, and Black Eyed Susan. Though not as many as last year, Monarch caterpillars have been seen consuming Swamp Milkweed and Butterflyweed.
- **Social Media Highlights:**
 - Celebrated the [First Day of Classes](#) and [National Dog Day](#).
 - Other popular posts included a [Hummingbird and Monarchs post](#), a shoutout to Facilities & Services for the [new trash bins](#), and photos from a [student orientation tour](#).
- **Volunteer Highlights:**
 - Regular workdays occur each Friday from 9:00-11:00am, weather dependent. The RORG Team and regular volunteers have continued to welcome and train new volunteers from the Champaign County Master Gardeners and East Central Illinois Master Naturalist programs. Several volunteer workdays have been scheduled for these organizations in September. See “Fall 2021 Projects” below.
- **Fall 2021 Projects:**
 - With funds from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Community Stewardship Grant, the RORG team is planning for an expansion of the rain garden, the installation of several trees between RORG and the McKinley Health Center parking lot, and the conversion of the Dorner Drive Retention Pond slopes from low-mow to high quality Illinois prairie and woodland.
- **Presentations & Tours:**
 - Guided tours were given to the [UIUC Child Development Lab](#), [Sustainability LLC](#), [Unit One/Allen Hall](#), and a UIUC [Urban Planning](#) class.
- **Published Blogs:**
 - [In the Garden: August](#)
 - [Looking Back on my RORG Experience](#)
- **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/>.

