



Garden Report: September 2021

- **Monitoring:**
 - **CoCoRaHS** rain gauge watchers reported 3.04 inches of precipitation. Average for September is 3.1 inches.
- **Observations of note:**
 - **September interest:** Summer blooms began to fade as the fall season took over. However, the warm temperatures and typical precipitation have kept a few summer stragglers around, such as Cardinal Flower and Tall Bellflower. These species are blooming unusually late this year. Asters, Black Eyed Susan, and White Turtlehead are currently in peak bloom.
- **Social Media Highlights:**
 - Celebrated [Latinx Heritage Month](#), [Earth Wind & Fire Day](#), [Karen Folk's Birthday](#), the [fall equinox](#).
 - 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 took place throughout the month. See "Fall 2021 Projects" below.
- **Fall 2021 Projects:**
 - With funds from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Community Stewardship Grant, the RORG team expanded the rain garden and installed several trees between RORG and the McKinley Health Center parking lot. Work is ongoing around the Dorner Drive Retention Pond to convert what had been poor quality low-mow with high quality native vegetation.
 - CCMG & ECIMN volunteers, UIUC students from Landscape Architecture, Horticulture, and ASLA, Girl Scout Troop #2915, and various volunteers from around campus worked to install over 1,400 plants.
- **Presentations & Tours:**
 - Guided tours were given to Girl Scout Troop #2915, [LA 390](#), and the Student Chapter of UIUC ASLA.
 - Eliana and Layne were guests on Extension's [Good Growing podcast](#).
- **Published Blogs:**
 - [In the Garden: September](#)
 - [Improving Campus Sustainability One Green Space at a Time](#) (updated)
- **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/>.

