

RED OAK RAIN GARDEN

Garden Report: October 2021

- **Monitoring:**
 - **CoCoRaHS** rain gauge watchers reported 5.16 inches of precipitation which is well above the average for October, which is 3.26 inches.
- **Observations of note:**
 - **October interest:** We're running about two weeks late on fall color compared to last year. Still, the fruit of Red Chokeberry turned brilliant red in the second half of the month, and will be followed soon by a vibrant display of red foliage. Spicebush turned golden yellow early in the month, and the color has lasted for several weeks now. Newly installed 'Rozanne' Geraniums are continuing their bloom, even after our first frosts of the year at the end of the month.
- **Social Media Highlights:**
 - Celebrated [UIUC Homecoming](#), [National Farmers Day](#), and [Halloween](#).
 - Other popular posts included an [inside look](#) at the RORG Bridge by UIUC F&S and a [heavy rain event](#).
- **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.
 - Trainees of the Fall 2021 Rainscaping course for CFIV Extension worked to install the last of the perennials for this year's garden expansion.
 - A group of students in the [Society of Women Engineers](#) helped to install hundreds of tulips.
- **Presentations & Tours:**
 - Guided tours were provided to the Fall 2021 Rainscaping class and to the Society of Women Engineers.
- **Published Blogs:**
 - Kate Gardiner, who served as the RORG Communications Manager, moved on from Extension. Read more in this [blog](#), dedicated to her farewell.
 - [In the Garden: October](#)
 - [Soft Landings](#) by guest blogger Erin Garrett, Energy and Environmental Stewardship Educator, University of Illinois Extension
- **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/>.

