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08/01/12

Dr. Grenita Lathan, Superintendent  
Peoria Public Schools - District 150  
3202 N. Wisconsin Ave.  
Peoria, IL 61603

Dear Ms. Lathan:

RE: Rain Garden adjacent to Valeska Hinton Early Childhood Education Center

The City of Peoria has hired Foth Infrastructure and Environment to manage its storm water programs. One of the tasks is to facilitate building a rain garden. The City of Peoria has received a grant from Illinois American Water Company to build a rain garden on public property.

The City is building a rain garden as a demonstration project to be used to educate citizens on the benefits of rain gardens and the use of native plants. Rain gardens capture storm water runoff and allow the water to infiltrate into the ground instead of entering the storm water infrastructure system. Native plants have deep root systems that help break down the soil to allow for more infiltration and have water quality benefits because they help clean urban storm water runoff. The City hopes that this demonstration project will encourage private property owners to build rain gardens and use native plants throughout the City.

The selected location for the rain garden is near the southeast corner of the intersection of Macarthur Highway and Richard Allen Drive, and adjacent to Valeska Hinton Early Childhood Education Center. See the attached location map. The City of Peoria would like to build the rain garden on both sides of the sidewalk in this area to give the feeling of walking through the rain garden.

The rain garden will be approximately 500 square feet with the majority of the area built on City property. The distance from the back of the sidewalk to the Right of Way (property) line varies from approximately 3 feet to 11 feet. The City is requesting permission from the school to build the rain garden on school property in the event that the rain garden encroaches on the school property.

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The rain garden will be built and maintained by volunteers. So far, we have the involvement of the Sierra Club, the Peoria Park District, the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and the Spring Grove Neighborhood Homeowners Association. If the school is interested in volunteering to help build and or maintain the rain garden, please let us know. The **tentative** ground breaking date is Thursday September 27, 2012 and the **tentative** build date is Saturday September 29, 2012. The City will supply information on native planting and give away a limited quantity of wildflower seed packets at the event.

While our plan is to build the rain garden primarily on City property, we are requesting permission from Valeska Hinton and the Peoria Public School District 150 should there be any encroachment on school property. Our next rain garden design meeting is August 15, 2012. If possible, we are requesting your response by August 14, 2012. If we cannot build partially on school property, we will build the rain garden on only City property.

We look forward to educating all our citizens, including our children, on the benefits of native vegetation and being good stewards of the environment.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 309-691-5300 or by email at [Andrea.Klopfenstein@foth.com](mailto:Andrea.Klopfenstein@foth.com) .

Sincerely,

Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC



Andrea Klopfenstein  
*Civil Engineer*

cc: Ann Bond- Principal Valeska Hinton Early Childhood Education Center  
Dave Meyer- Interim Director Building and Grounds  
Volunteers on the Rain Garden committee  
Jane Gerdes- City of Peoria- electronic copy

Proposed Location of the City of Peoria Rain Garden



Disclaimer: Data is provided 'as is' without warranty or any representation of accuracy, timeliness or completeness. The burden for determining fitness for, or the appropriateness for use, rests solely on the requester. The requester acknowledges and accepts the limitations of the Data, including the fact that the Data is in a constant state of maintenance. This website is NOT intended to be used for legal litigation or boundary disputes and is informational only. -Peoria County GIS Division

Map Scale  
1 inch = 400 feet  
7/24/2012