

Campus RainWorks Challenge Video Transcript for Illinois Institute of Technology Design Team

Narrator: Group L2 is made up of a mixture of students and majors, ranging from landscape architecture to engineering and environmental management. Their efforts began during the fall 2012 school semester, where their landscape architecture design studio prompted them to create water conservation measures for implementation on campus. The goal given to the group was to achieve 100% absorption of stormwater, creating a zero runoff system. They began the semester looking at water usage and design in an urban environment. This was done with the goal of establishing context and a common knowledge base for all of the involved students. Early on, they focused on the idea of corridors, or long linear stretches of empty space, within the IIT Campus. These corridors create barriers between the different sections of campus, resulting in a fractured environment. This led to the dual goals of conserving water on campus, while also fostering a greater sense of community and physical cohesion. The middle portion of the semester was spent on researching and developing various ideas to accomplish these goals. Ultimately, the design calls for the installation of permeable pavement alongside the existing concrete which will filter stormwater and divert it into adjacent gardens. All of this will occupy the currently underutilized space alongside the main pedestrian walkway. When the garden beds are dry, they can be used as both classrooms, and also social spaces for the students. The students and the group's faculty advisors presented this plan to the college's senior administration where it received positive feedback and support. It is the firm belief of all involved that achieving a 100% runoff reduction in the design areas is both realistic and worthwhile. Upon implementation, this project would be the first didactic landscape anywhere in the urban community that the campus resides in. It would also serve as a guide and model for other colleges in the nearby area. It is everyone's greatest hope to make this plan a reality.