

Board Meeting
September 6, 2007

ACCEPT QUIT CLAIM DEED FOR ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS,
HORTICULTURE RESEARCH CENTER, URBANA

Action: Authorize Acceptance of Quit Claim Deed from State of Illinois for Approximately 90 Acres of Land Along the Northwest and Southwest Corner of Illinois Route 38 and Peck Road in St. Charles, Illinois, Urbana

Funding: No Funding Required

The Chancellor at Urbana recommends that the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign accept the quit claim deed from the State of Illinois for the approximately 90-acre property located along the northwest and southwest corner of Illinois Route 38 and Peck Road in St. Charles, Illinois (see attached map – property outlined in purple). The parcel of land is proposed to be accepted via quit claim deed from the State of Illinois to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The property, St. Charles Horticulture Research Center (SCHRC), is currently leased for twenty years by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from the State of Illinois Department of Corrections. The land is critical for use as a research and education center to fulfill a strategic goal of the SCHRC. The SCHRC resides within the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. Horticulture and natural resources are increasingly recognized as keystone issues for sustainability of metropolitan

communities and the SCHRC is uniquely positioned to programmatically address the sustainability challenges.

The property is critical to the strategic goal of the Research Center and its parent institution, which is to establish a powerful horticulture and natural resources field research program at the edge of the Chicago metropolitan area. The location of this facility gives it immediate access to both suburban and rural environments within and adjacent to the metropolitan area. It is also within the unique climatological zone of the metropolitan area.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Vice President/Chief Financial Officer and Comptroller concurs.

The President of the University recommends approval.