

Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center

Goal:

The intention and approach to the design of the city of Joplin's nature center is based upon the idea of providing a memorable place for people to learn about and respect the delicacy and importance of the land — especially the Chert Glade. Only 65 acres of Chert Glade, a desert-like clearing in a forest, exist in the world, much of it on the site.

Project Description:

The exterior of the building is designed to look like a Chert rock. Interior features include rock-like masses at the entry of the building, a pathway leading visitors through the building past the reception desk and out to the glade constructed of materials which echo the skylight shape, an extensive growing green roof system, slopes and unique walls on each side of the building – glass on the north, east and west walls is minimal, however, the south walls contain much glass to maximize the views to the glade and facilitate good passive solar design. This design along with good insulation adds to occupant comfort and efficiency of mechanical systems.

Community Benefits and Lessons Learned:

The focus of the site and building was designed to be as environmentally responsible as possible. The center is oriented for optimum solar efficiency and all spaces have access to natural lighting. The passive solar design, ground source heat pumps, and thick and well insulated walls support client's corporate culture and teaches visitors about conservation. An extensive growing green roof system was planted with no-maintenance plants and the parking lot is paved with permeable asphalt, keeping rainwater runoff to a minimum. There are also bioswales located on the property to catch the small amount of runoff and keep the glades free from human contaminants.

Funding Sources and Partnerships:

National Audubon Society
Missouri Department of Conservation
City of Joplin, Missouri

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The green roof requires no maintenance and saves energy.



The exterior of the building is surrounded by natural grass and environmentally friendly walkways and parking areas.



The aquarium follows the natural floor slope.