

Campus Sustainability Features

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

- » Supply energy for recharging electric vehicles.
- » Encourage the use of electric vehicles to potentially reduce dependence on foreign oil and improve air quality around campus.
- » Available for use by any North Central College students, faculty, staff and approved guests.

Rain Gardens

- » Are shallow depressions that are planted with deep-rooted native plants and grasses.
- » Allow rainwater runoff from impervious areas like downspouts, driveways, walkways or compacted lawns to be absorbed back into the water table.
- » Filter pollutants from rainwater runoff and allow water to infiltrate deep into the ground to be used by nearby plants.
- » Reduce rainwater runoff from flowing into storm drains, which causes erosion, water pollution, flooding and diminished groundwater.
- » Are beautiful and create habitats for birds and beneficial insects.

LED Lighting

- » Stands for Light-Emitting Diode.
- » Is more efficient and long-lasting compared to other lighting options.
- » Does not produce heat, which makes incandescent bulbs hot to touch.
- » Does not contain any mercury and does not need “warm-up” time like fluorescent lights.

Other sustainability features throughout campus

- Water bottle refilling stations.
- Recycling collection.
 - » North Central College offers recycling of items beyond the commingled recycling program. Such items include electronics, plastic bags, light bulbs, dry erase markers, batteries and carpet.

Native Plants

- » Occur naturally in a particular region, ecosystem and habitat without direct or indirect human intervention.
- » Require little maintenance once established, resisting damage from freezing, drought and common diseases.
- » Do not need fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides or watering because they are adapted to the local region.
- » Improve water quality by controlling soil erosion and moderating floods and droughts.
- » Increase biodiversity.
- » Remove CO₂ from the atmosphere by absorbing it and using it in photosynthesis.

Campus Nursery

- » The nursery grows 85 trees and shrubs, including: tuliptree, oak, serviceberry, viburnum, buttonbush, ninebark, and hazelnut.
- » The variety of trees grown supports North Central's status as a Level II Arboretum campus.
- » Plants grow in the nursery for 2 – 4 years before being transplanted across campus.
- » Mulch for the nursery is made from pruned campus trees. Fall leaves and Coffee Lab grounds enrich the mulch to boost nutrients and deepen color.

Permeable Pavers

- » Over 75% of the main walkway on campus is made up of permeable pavers.
- » Comprised of layers of stone that allow water to infiltrate otherwise impermeable ground, controlling storm water at the source.
- » Filter pollutants picked up by water running over paved surfaces. Such pollutants include oil, salt, fertilizer, pesticides, pet waste, sediment, and other contaminants that should not be in freshwater.
- » Reduce water runoff, replenishing the water table and local aquifers, improving storm water management.

Composting

- » Food scraps are collected and turned into compost for use in the Campus Community Garden.
- » Kaufman Dining Hall composts nearly 37 tons of food scraps annually.
- » The Cage offers compostable flatware, napkins and plates.

DuPage County Adopt-A-Stream

- » The College has partnered with DuPage County and local nonprofits to adopt a section of the DuPage River, which borders campus.
- » Student and staff volunteers conduct two cleanups per year.
- » Through this partnership, North Central contributes to keeping the DuPage River healthy, clean and attractive while reducing debris that pollutes and clogs waterways.

Residence Hall / Recreation Center (Res/Rec): LEED Silver Certification

- » Geothermal heating and cooling system.
- » Precast building envelope.
- » Energy-efficient windows and lighting.
- » White membrane roof.
- » Water-efficient fixtures.
- » Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and energy storage system (Ess).

Res/Rec: Geothermal

- » Uses steady underground temperatures to heat and cool Res/Rec.
- » Contains 60 vertical underground loops that extend 650 feet into the ground.
- » Eliminates the need for natural gas lines.

Solar Installations

- » 30 solar thermal panels atop New Hall consist of evacuated tubes, which use the sun's energy to heat 30% of the domestic water needs for the building.
- » 1,632 solar PV panels and an ESS atop Res/Rec. This system provides 22% of the building's electricity.

