

What is LEED?

LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is an internationally-recognized, consensus-based green building certification system.



Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) in March 2000, LEED provides building owners, operators and the public with a framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions.

LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability and rewards projects that implement strategies for better environmental performance in the following five key areas:

- Sustainable Sites
- Water Efficiency
- Energy and Atmosphere
- Materials and Resources
- Indoor Environmental Quality.

Buildings can be awarded “innovation points” for other areas including education and outreach, green housekeeping and organic landscaping.

Buildings are evaluated and awarded LEED certification at one of four levels: Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum. The higher the level, the more aspects of green design and construction must be addressed and documented. Very few buildings reach the Platinum level. Robinson Nature Center was certified as LEED Platinum in February 2012.



CERTIFIED SILVER GOLD PLATINUM

LEED Tours and More Information

Robinson Nature Center offers tours of its green technologies during the center’s hours of operation. Tours must be scheduled in advance. Tours last approximately one hour and can be tailored to meet the needs of scouts, schools or private groups. For more information, call 410-313-0400.

Hours Of Operation

Wednesday-Saturday 9am-5pm
Sunday Noon-5pm
Closed Monday and Tuesday
Parking lot gates close at 5:30pm

Daily General Admission

Adults \$5
Children (3-17 years) \$3
Children under 3 years Free

Annual Passes

Annual pass holders are entitled to complimentary general admission to Robinson, use of its trails, a 10% markdown in the gift shop and discounted admission to certain programs. Annual passes are valid for 1 year from date of purchase.

(NR) = Non-Resident of Howard County.
Senior (50 years +) \$20 / \$40 (NR)
Student (with valid school ID) \$20 / \$40 (NR)
Individual \$25 / \$50 (NR)
Family (immediate household) \$50 / \$100 (NR)

Add an additional \$50 to any annual pass level to enjoy Friends of the Robinson Nature Center benefits.

Friends of Robinson Memberships

These memberships include an annual pass to the nature center, as well as friends-only benefits. Please visit www.friendsoftherobinsonnaturecenter.org for details.

Patron: \$175 Sustainer: \$500
Supporter: \$250 Lifetime: \$1,000



This brochure was printed on 100% recycled materials.



Green Construction for Green Education



Howard County
RECREATION & PARKS



6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044
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www.howardcountymd.gov/RobinsonNatureCenter

Robinson Nature Center is Green and Sustainable

The Robinson Nature Center is both a place to learn about the environment and a model of how sustainable design can help to preserve it. Robinson achieved a LEED Platinum certification - the highest LEED designation possible - in February 2012. At the time of the award, Robinson was among only five buildings in Maryland that had achieved this level of certification for new construction. The building uses green technologies (listed below) to reduce its environmental impact and to increase its energy efficiency.

- A **ground source heat pump** system, which cuts energy use by more than 30%
- A **vegetated green roof** to reduce stormwater runoff, and provide habitat for pollinators and other wildlife
- A **porous concrete parking lot** which allows rain water to filter through the lot's surface and to recharge groundwater supplies
- **Biofiltration** stormwater management features, such as rain gardens, to capture and treat stormwater on site instead of discharging runoff directly into streams
- **Recycled re-purposed and regional materials**, including concrete, steel, lumber and stone
- **Construction into hillside** to provide insulation, improve energy efficiency and minimize footprint
- **Water conservation** including waterless urinals, and low-flow sinks and showers
- **Solar panels** covering 40% of the roof and providing 13% green power generation
- **Low VOC paints** and interior materials with low odor and low emission for improved indoor air quality

(VOC - volatile organic compounds)



Check out the sustainable features of the nature center. Look for the round medallion signs, both outside and throughout the building, that explain how the design of the nature center is environmentally-friendly.



Green roof with native plantings



Repurposed logs & materials in play area



Educational demonstration areas



Sustainably-harvested wood beams



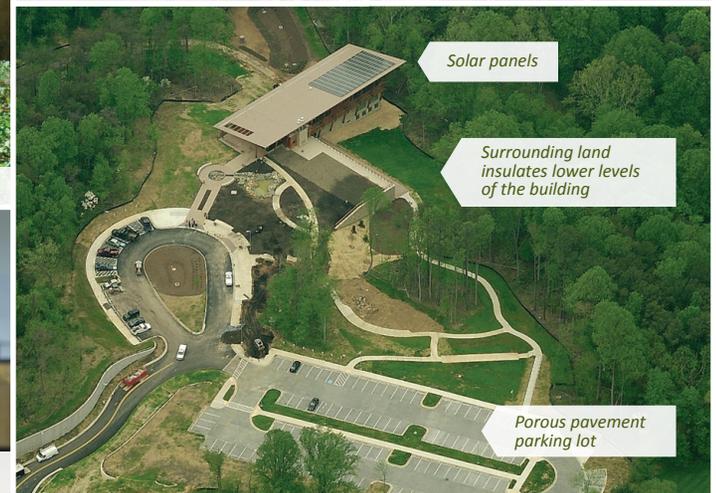
Planetarium dome made of recycled content



Environmental site design stormwater management



Cabinetry made of bamboo—a rapidly renewable resource



Solar panels

Surrounding land insulates lower levels of the building

Porous pavement parking lot