



Sustainability: New Welcome Center

The Dawes Arboretum is pursuing LEED and SITES certifications at the silver level to demonstrate our commitment to a sustainable project.

- LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the most widely used green building rating system and focuses on building performance and sustainability.
- SITES (The Sustainable SITES Initiative) is a rating system that guides and certifies sustainability in landscapes and outdoor spaces.
- The programs are complementary and can be used in tandem to maximize sustainability efforts across the project.
- Silver level designations for both programs signify we have gone beyond the minimum requirements for certification.
- Achieving certification is consistent with The Arboretum's mission and shows our commitment to the environment and sustainable practices.
- Additional benefits include both energy and water cost savings. It will create a more comfortable and healthier environment for our guests and staff as well as the flora and fauna found at Dawes.

At The Arboretum

- LEED certification efforts focus on four primary areas during building construction:
 1. Energy – optimize energy performance through better construction design and energy efficient equipment.
 2. Water - reduce both indoor and outdoor water use.
 3. Materials and Waste – make thoughtful product selection based on sustainability goals. Reduce waste during construction. Efforts to incorporate wood from the Dawes property are planned as part of the process.
 4. Health and Human Experiences - enhance indoor air quality strategies, include the use of low-emitting materials and provide thermal comfort and manage light, including the use of daylight.
- SITES certification efforts focus on 6 areas during the landscape construction:
 1. Water – Reduce outdoor water use and runoff. Design functional stormwater systems as landscape features.
 2. Vegetation – Conserve special trees and plant communities, plant native plants and reduce heat island effects.

3. Materials Selection – Use salvaged materials and plants. Use regional materials where possible.
4. Human Health and Wellbeing – Protect historic and cultural areas, reduce light pollution and provide accessible and safe and welcoming spaces that support mental restoration.
5. Construction – Divert landscape construction materials, vegetation, rocks and soil from the landfill.
6. Operations/Management - Recycle organic matter, reduce pesticide and fertilizer use and reduce outdoor energy consumption.