

News

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SAINT LOUIS ZOO RECEIVES SILVER LEED CERTIFICATION FOR ORTHWEIN ANIMAL NUTRITION CENTER

With a strong interest in environment friendly construction, the Saint Louis Zoo has received a LEED® Silver certification for its William R. Orthwein, Jr. and Laura Rand Orthwein Animal Nutrition Center. The U.S. Green Building Council developed the LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™ to encourage the design and construction of energy efficient and high performing buildings.

Opened in 2007, the Zoo's new Animal Nutrition Center provides for food storage, preparation and delivery to the Saint Louis Zoo's more than 22,800 residents, ranging from American burying beetles to Asian elephants. In addition, the nutrition center includes a fully equipped laboratory for visiting and resident scientists to study the links between animal nutrition and a healthy environment, in zoos and in the wild. On the lower level of the nutrition center is the Exploration Outpost, a new multi-purpose facility for Education classes and activities on Zoo grounds.

"While the Zoo has used sustainable design concepts over the past 10 years, the Animal Nutrition Center is our first LEED certified building," says Dr. Jeffrey P. Bonner, president & CEO of the Zoo. "We're proud of this milestone, and our goal is to continue our environmental stewardship with high performance facility design and operation."

About half the nutrition center's roof has been planted as a green meadow (approximately 5,000 square feet), diverting 50% of storm water runoff. The green roof lessens the heat island effect and creates habitat for insect life,

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including plants that attract butterflies.

Glazed windows have been concentrated along the northeast face, providing daylight for offices, laboratory and diets prep rooms and allowing outdoor, self-guided tours for visitors and school groups of activities inside. High efficiency HVAC systems recover heating and cooling typically allowed to exit to the atmosphere. They also contain a misting system designed to cool rooftop equipment and improve efficiency.

Operable windows in all "people" areas are a low tech but efficient way to provide personal thermal control. Lighting in the nutrition center is high efficiency fluorescent on a photocell management system. Low volatile organic compound materials were used in construction. Ornamental garden areas feature medicinal plants common to Missouri and requiring no irrigation.

The building design affords maximum efficiency for food preparation, allowing the Zoo to eliminate less efficient offsite storage. Larger storage areas reduce our number of deliveries by half, cutting use of fuel and greenhouse gas emissions. About 90 percent of building materials were assembled or manufactured with a 500-mile radius, also reducing use of fuel and greenhouse gas emission.

Members of the Orthwein Nutrition Center's project team are St. Louis-based. The architect of the nutrition center is Fox Architects. The general contractor is Hankins Construction Company.

The Saint Louis Zoo has been named America's #1 Zoo by Zagat Survey and Parenting Magazine. Admission to the Saint Louis Zoo is free. During summer months through September 1, 2008, the Zoo is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and to 8 p.m. on Fridays for Jungle Boogie and Dinoroarus. It will close at 5 p.m. on June 20, July 23 and August 27. No concert June 20 and July 4. For more information about the Zoo, visit www.stlzoo.org.

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