

# Rockford Environmental Science Academy



1999 Illinois Association of School Boards **Award of Merit** for Excellence in Design of Educational Environments  
2000 Association of Licensed Architects (ALA) **Award of Merit**  
2000 School Construction News and Design Share **Award of Honor**

## Rockford School District #205 · Rockford, Illinois

This project features a 48-acre site devoted to outdoor education. The property is linked with the adjacent Klehm Arboretum for cooperative learning. Features of the development include an outdoor classroom, student and community gardens, fitness trails, a wetland development, and a prairie restoration.

The academy's 1,200 students are housed in small learning communities of 400 students, with three teams each. The unique "cross" plan creates a strong team identity for all nine areas, with each "house" having its own sense of community. The core curriculum is delivered within the individual team areas which include their own fully equipped science lab and dedicated technology resource area.

The building is organized for easy circulation to the public elements, including the library, student commons, administration, multimedia lab, art, music, and physical education areas. The heart of the school is the unusual "Earth Center", a flexible environmental studio featuring hydroponics, stream tables, aquariums, and a functional greenhouse. All public areas are zoned for evening use by the community. Other unique features include a large community room and an indoor six-lane swimming pool.

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## School District Goals

- A magnet theme incorporating environmental studies into the core curriculum;
- A challenging and engaging learning environment;
- “Magnetic” design to attract prospective students from around the District.



## General Contractor

Sjostrum & Sons, Inc.

## Budget

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| ▫ Building Size     | 146,125 SF     |
| ▫ Student Capacity  | 1200           |
| ▫ Budget            | \$16,900,000   |
| ▫ Construction Cost | \$15,157,180   |
| ▫ % Difference      | 10.31%         |
|                     | (Under Budget) |

## Time

- |                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| ▫ Construction Start | April 1998  |
| ▫ Completion Date    | August 1999 |

## Contact

Richard Nelson, District Architect  
815.966.3082

## Local Affiliate Architect

Winters Barr Truitt Architects

## Mechanical/Electrical/Structural Engineers

KJWW Engineering Consultants  
Naperville, Illinois



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