

Project Name: Heifer International World Headquarters

Project Location: One World Ave, Little Rock, Arkansas

SITE TOUR – OUTLINE:

1. Purpose of the Project

- The site design for the Heifer International World Headquarters could not be initiated without consideration of Heifer's unqualified commitment to sustainability, conservation and education. The site design of the campus speaks their issues and demonstrates their reality through the following objectives: Integration of conservation and educational elements, reclamation of an industrial brownfield, leadership in energy and environmental design, constructed wetland that serves global-education as well as being practical, environmental purposes and sustainable parking field that will positively impact the Arkansas river watershed.
- The site design is conceived as a series of concentric rings that expand outward from a central commons, much like a drop ripples water or passing of the gift creates ever-expanding circles of hope in a village. One of these rings consists of a constructed wetland which creates an educational conservation experience with a global context. The wetland promotes biodiversity in a natural ecosystem. This is aided by planting of indigenous plant material to wetlands of Arkansas in a unified structured form reflective to the architecture. The intent is to draw native Arkansas wildlife back to the former industrial site while providing an educational campus for the surrounding urban environment and retreat for the employees of the campus. The site design and structured landscape forms represent the diversity and necessity of human communities, as well as good ecology.

2. Role of the Landscape Architect

- The landscape architect worked within a diverse group of designers and held the responsibility of using stormwater to drive the creative site design. The site design integrates the architecture and mission statement of Heifer International. This was accomplished with close coordination and collaboration with the architect and owner while leading sustainable site design strategies reflective of Heifer's public objective. The architect and landscape architect worked closely together and is apparent as the building feels as one with its surrounding environment. The landscape architect expressed the client's global objective and vision through the spatial integration of people, buildings, water, plants and wildlife as one ecosystem within an urban environment. The site serves as an educational campus for nearly 200,000 public visitors including our school children each year.

3. Significance

- The Heifer International World Headquarters site is a living classroom, designed to independently tell the urgent story of global water issues offering individuals a personal understanding of sustainable development and how it impacts their life. From the parking lot to the wetland once one leaves this site they will have a true understanding that "everything is connected to everything else".

4. Special Factors

- From start to finish the Heifer International site presented many challenges which were transferred into unique opportunities. The existing site was an industrial Brownfield with 95% pervious surface. The solid materials such as concrete were crushed and used as base material for the parking field. Brick pavement was recycled and used as entry paving and sidewalks. The heavy clay soils dug out of the basin area were utilized to line the constructed wetland around the office building therefore eliminating the need to haul this material off site. The project construction was completed in 2004 as the first Platinum LEED project certified in the state of Arkansas and has its 10th year anniversary next year. The public truly see the global ripple landscape architects have the ability to create.