

Rochester Museum & Science Center • October 2016

Behind the Scenes at the RMSC

Green Infrastructure

The RMSC campus is undergoing an exciting green infrastructure sustainability renovation that will help to reduce stormwater by soaking it back into the ground and improve water quality and urban ecology.

Green infrastructure practices on the outdoor campus include rain gardens, a porous pavement parking lot and sidewalks, a green roof and rain barrels. Rain gardens catch, filter and infiltrate stormwater runoff. The new learning pavilion provides guests with the opportunity to discover green infrastructure practices and features a green roof with a variety of plants and a water collection area to capture roof runoff. Nancy Gong's beautiful art piece is sponsored by the RMSC Women's Council.



Rain Garden Theater and other indoor exhibits are part of the green infrastructure project that educate visitors



▲ Artistic, glass educational display created by local artist Nancy Gong shows the Genesee watershed and comes alive during rain events

The project was designed by Thomas Robinson with Barton & Loguidice, P.C. and is being built by The Pike Company. Porous parking lots are a fairly new practice, and this was the first one this group of Pike employees had completed. They learned a lot about the benefits of the pavement and admired the beauty and functionality of the landscaping and rain gardens. The project's partners included Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). RIT students incorporated the campus transformation into their environmental science senior capstone class with the objectives of designing and implementing a monitoring plan and system to demonstrate the effectiveness of the green infrastructure practices with supporting scientific data.

Visit the new pavilion, indoor exhibition and porous parking lot to learn about green infrastructure practices and what can be done to improve local water quality. The project is made possible by the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation's (EFC) Green Infrastructure Grant Program (GIGP), through New York State's Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) and the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council.

Collections Preservation

At the suggestion of accreditation professionals from the American Alliance of Museums, we are upgrading the way we care for objects. The RMSC worked with consultants as part of a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to address the ways we store and preserve our community's valuable collections. We developed an energy-efficient, rational space-use plan to upgrade our collections storage. The team prioritized collections that are frequently accessed for exhibits, programs and research; that are scattered between buildings; and that could be threatened by their current storage conditions for the first phase of improvement. Since then we have received four grants that will help us take these plans forward. Matching dollars will help us bring these projects to completion.

By providing for the long-term preservation and accessibility of these collections, we are ensuring that these irreplaceable sources of inspiration and the stories they tell are at the center of our vision for the future.

Contact the RMSC
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