Campus Tour of Environmental Features

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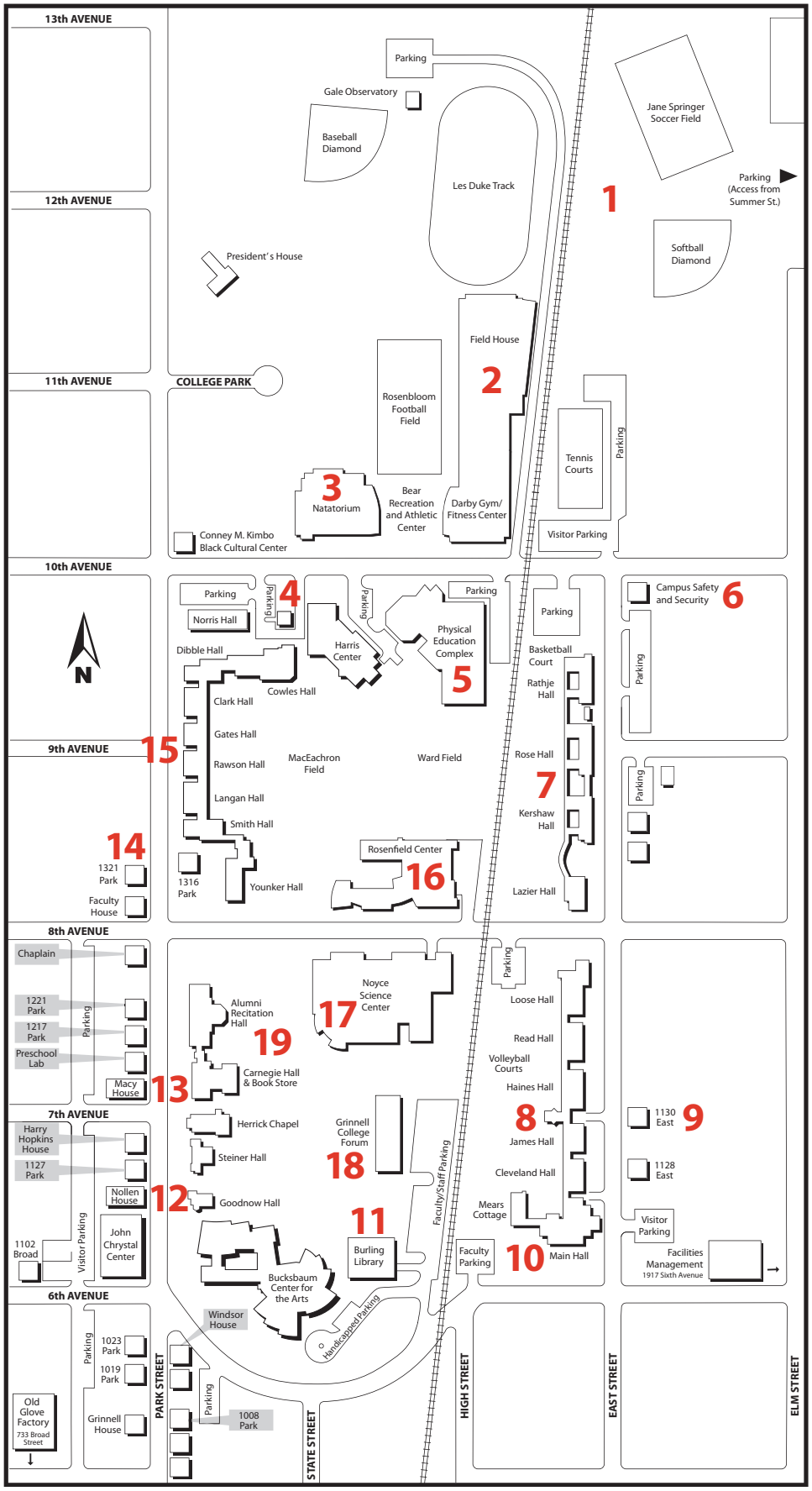

1) Athletic Fields/Native Landscaping: There are currently six acres of prairie and native landscaping on campus. Such plantings increase diversity, readily infiltrate storm water, and need no irrigation or mowing after establishment.

2) Indoor Gymnasium/Rainwater Catchment: Rainwater is collected from the field house roof, stored in a 35,000-gallon cistern, and used to irrigate the athletic fields and flush toilets. Rainwater capture has also been utilized at CERA's Environmental Education Center and the Noyce Science Center.

3) Natatorium/Geothermal: 133 geothermal wells, to the west of the natatorium, provide heating and cooling to the building. This is the second geothermal (ground source heat pump) installation by the College. Such installations typically reduce energy consumption by 50%.

4) Boiler Plant/Reverse Osmosis Machine and Insulation: The steam plant operates very efficiently with variable frequency drives, maximum insulation, and a reverse osmosis machine that not only saves a considerable amount of energy, but also reduces water consumption by more than 80%.

5) Physical Education Complex/Recycled Demolition: 80% of the materials generated by the demolition of the PEC will be recycled or re-used.

6) Security/Car Sharing and Prius Fleet: All sedans in the car-pool fleet are hybrid vehicles. In cooperation with Hertz Connect, the college also provides car-sharing opportunities for faculty, staff, students, and the Grinnell community. Anyone over the age of 18 can become a member.

7) East Campus/LEED Certification: The four East Campus residence halls were LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)-certified by the U.S. Green Building Council in 2007. With the anticipated certification of the Charles Benson Bear '39 Recreation and Athletic Center, eight buildings on campus will be LEED-certified, accounting for 33% of campus square footage.

8) South Campus/Vending Misers: The South Campus loggia provides an accessible look at a technology installed on all campus vending machines, the "Vending Miser." This technology adds a motion sensor to each vending machine. The machines are then powered down when the adjacent area is vacant and powered on at intervals sufficient to keep the beverages sufficiently cool.

9) Eco House/Sustainable Living: Eco House is the campus's sustainable living residence. Residents aim to serve as a hub for environmentalism on campus and in the greater Grinnell community by hosting events to raise awareness on environmental sustainability, testing energy-efficient technologies for Facilities Management, and conducting community outreach.

10) Main Hall/NSO Flea Market: The flea market during New Student Orientation is one way in which the college is trying to reduce landfilled waste. Each spring, as students leave campus, Facilities Management collects and sorts all usable items left behind at the end of the school year. All clothing and bedding items, averaging 25 pallets per year, are donated to Goodwill. Most of the remaining items are stored over the summer and sold to first-year students as they arrive on campus the following fall.
Local Foods Co-op: In an effort to increase the accessibility of local food to the Grinnell College community, Grinnell students have created the Local Foods Co-op. This effort is primarily student-driven. A dedicated group of students works with local food producers to generate a list of items available monthly. They take orders from the Grinnell community, buy the food in bulk, and then provide a location for consumers to pick up their respective orders.

11) Burling Library/First Large-Scale CFL Replacement: The library staff was very interested in reducing energy consumption and consequently worked with students to organize the first large-scale CFL (compact fluorescent lamp) replacement on campus. Subsequently, Facilities Management has an ongoing effort to install CFLs or LEDs in all fixtures it maintains.

12) Nollen House/Policies: Grinnell College's commitment to sustainability can be summarized by several important policies and commitments. These include the "Statement of Environmental Responsibility," the "Green Building Guidelines," and the "Emissions Reduction Commitment."

13) Center for Prairie Studies: The Center for Prairie Studies was created in 1999 with the goal of using the college's geographic location as a teaching and learning resource. The name "prairie studies" was selected to acknowledge our inescapable connection to the land and also because of its resonance with such varied subjects as prairie-style architecture, prairie populism, and the prairie-plains indigenous culture area. The center has provided a much greater "sense of place" to the entire Grinnell community.

14) Student Garden: The student garden provides a space for students to grow their own vegetables and experiment with food production. During the summer when production exceeds consumption, excess is donated to the local food pantry.

15) North Campus/Recycling: Every residence hall has a location dedicated to the collection of recyclables. Bins are provided for white and colored paper, newsprint and magazines, tin/aluminum, cardboard, glass, plastics, and redeemables. Items such as batteries, packing peanuts, used printer cartridges, and burned-out CFLs can be sent to Facilities Management for recycling.

16) Joe Rosenfield '25 Center/Compost and Used Oil: All food and paper waste generated by the dining hall is pulped on campus and composted at a local farm, reducing landfilled waste by approximately 3,000 pounds per week. Dining Services also arranges for all used vegetable oil to be collected by a local biodiesel producer.

17) Robert N. Noyce '49 Science Center/ LEED: The Science Center received LEED Silver certification in 2008 and demonstrates a number of energy-saving technologies common to most new campus buildings. A heat recovery unit transfers heat from outgoing air to incoming air during the heating season. A white reflective roof reduces cooling needs in the summer, and variable air volume fume hoods greatly reduce the amount of conditioned air moved through hoods when unused or fully closed.

18) ITS/ Energy Savings and Recycled Paper: All computers purchased by ITS are Energy Star-rated. In addition, ITS is implementing a software package that allows for the remote power-down of all public computers. As a large buyer of campus paper, ITS purchases 100% postconsumer recycled paper.

19) Academic Quad/Sustainability in the Curriculum: Sustainability topics are becoming more common across the curriculum. Examples include concentrations such as environmental studies and policy studies, and other efforts, such as the Expanding Knowledge Initiative. In addition, environmentally related data are collected for campus and placed in a database to be used in classes and student research.