

URBAN CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION



The University of Southern Indiana has undertaken many conservation projects and efforts on campus. The campus is a growing university and many facilities and amenities have been added during the past several years. With each project the university staff and the design team works closely together to identify and implement conservation and “green” initiatives to improve the environment and to minimize adverse affects on the environment the construction of the projects could cause. Examples of conservation measures taken and green initiatives with projects recently completed

include:

A Native Planting in the Bent Twig Trail with the plants being donated by the Vanderburgh County SWCD as part of their Backyard Conservation program.

Construction of underground storm water containment and filtering system for our Valley Parking Lot constructed in 2009. The system collects the storm water run-off from the paved lot and allows the water to filter into the ground instead of draining directly into the natural drainage creek.

Addition of a rain garden with the construction of Parking Lot O performed during 2010. The rain garden allows for about two-thirds of the run-off from the pavement in the lot to be directed to the rain garden and to be filtered as it soaks into the soil.

The use of pervious, or porous, concrete in the 2009 expansion of Parking Lot E that allows for the storm water run-off from the pavement to be stored and filtered in the large sub surface storage area before the water is soaked into the soil.

Construction of 4.5 acre lake at the Student Housing area that collects the storm water run-off from much of the southern portion of the campus and allows for filtering and storage of the storm water and allows for a natural habitat for fish, geese, ducks, and other animals and reptiles.

Construction of the Business and Engineering Center building that meets the requirements for a “green” building and that is environmentally sensitive with the use of natural lighting throughout much of the building, that takes advantage of the sun angles into and on the building, that has great natural views of the campus, and is designed to be energy efficient with the heating, cooling, ventilation, and electrical systems and the glazing, roof, and exterior wall design and systems.

The use of pervious concrete under the large outdoor brick paved patios at the University Center construction project. The pervious concrete allows much of the storm water to filter through the brick paving and into the sub surface soil instead of running off of the surface.

Construction of nearly 2-1/2 miles of bike and walk trails are complete on campus that loop the campus and will connect the campus to Burdette Park and the bike trails in Union township with the completion of the last 1.2 miles to be constructed in 2011.

They have an active recycling program that collects paper, cardboard, aluminum cans, plastic containers throughout the campus and in our student housing areas. Recycling of steel, aluminum, and copper waste materials, carpet removed from renovation projects, and asphalt from road resurfacing projects.

They planted more than 1,100 trees on campus during the past 15 years.

University of Southern Indiana has an Environmental Stewardship Committee that consists of faculty and staff persons appointed by the president of the campus. This committee is active in guiding the campus activities to enhance the environment and the conservation of their natural resources.