Project Profile

Evelyn Pease Tyner Interpretive Center

The Evelyn Pease Tyner Interpretive Center, in Glenview, Ill., opened on April 14, 2007 and was the first new construction, LEED Platinum building in Illinois. This is the fourth LEED Platinum building in Illinois and the first one outside Chicago limits.

Designed by Wight & Company, Darien, Ill.

The purpose of the center is to provide information for and to educate visitors about the pristine 32.5 acres of prairie land it is placed upon. The Tyner Center is an excellent example of how a man-made structure can harmonize with the natural environment. It is named after Dr. Evelyn Tyner a longtime Glenview resident, former Physical Sciences faculty member at Harold Washington College and volunteer. She has spent many years working to protect and enhance our natural resources.

Placed on Air Station Prairie, the center serves as a gateway to the collection of rare, native prairie vegetation which can be accessed by walking paths. There are informational panels along the outside of the building on the wetland deck as well as a sidewalk timeline and history wall for visitors.

The Tyner Center was designed to be green from the beginning of construction. It uses both vegetated and solar panels on the roof and a geothermal heating and cooling system. To partner with these energy saving building technologies, they chose BioBased Insulation® for its energy-efficiency and environmentally-responsible features. By using green building practices the Tyner Center was capable of qualifying for the highest LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification, platinum.

In total, the project earned 53 LEED credits: nine site credits, four water efficiency credits, 16 energy and atmosphere credits, seven materials and resources credits, 12 indoor environmental quality and five innovation and design credits. BioBased Insulation® can help builders earn credits in the energy and atmosphere, materials and resources and indoor environmental categories.