

life at the top



Up here on the second floor, staff and visitors get a bird's-eye view of the beautiful landscape, which is green in more ways than one.



You can't quite see it from here, but our roof includes photovoltaic panels. These use the sun to create power—as much as a quarter of the building's electricity—which helps

us rely less on non-renewable resources like oil and gas. And whatever energy we don't use, we can sell back to the utility. This literally makes our meter go backwards—not bad for a moment in the sun.



The land outside these windows tells the story of agricultural land use stretching 250 years in Leominster. Four former farmsteads once occupied the Doyle Reservation. When we began construction

Those who farmed this land, gathered the stones they came across and left them in piles by the edges of their fields. Today, we've used these same stones to build the walls that you see outside. In another example of making use of what's around us, the wooden lightpoles in the parking lot were harvested from trees on this property and then milled locally.



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The parking lots were carefully designed to be as green as possible. They're as small as we could make them under local zoning requirements. Large shade trees keep them cool—not like those acres of mall lots that shimmer on hot summer days. And we encourage alternative transportation with a bicycle storage area and changing room downstairs.

One more important feature of our site is a series of detention ponds that collect and help filter stormwater. These ponds prevent polluted runoff from heading straight into our streams and rivers.



did you know?

Americans love their lawn—58 million of us enthusiastically plant, weed, water, spray, and mow an estimated 25 million acres (an area the size of Pennsylvania). But our love affair with the lawn contributes to environmental problems due to chemicals, fertilizers, and excess watering. In New England alone, 30% of our water use is for lawns! But, we can change the way we think about the traditional lawn. They can be smaller and replaced with native plants, which provide habitat for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. Consider highbush cranberry and blueberry, bearberry, and native grasses such as little blue stem for your New England backyard.



energy and atmosphere



materials and resources



sustainable sites



indoor air quality



water efficiency

on the Doyle Center, the land had grown into a young, successional forest. Although we cut trees to make room for the Center, we ground them up and used them as mulch on the site. The landscape is planted with native plants and requires no irrigation.