

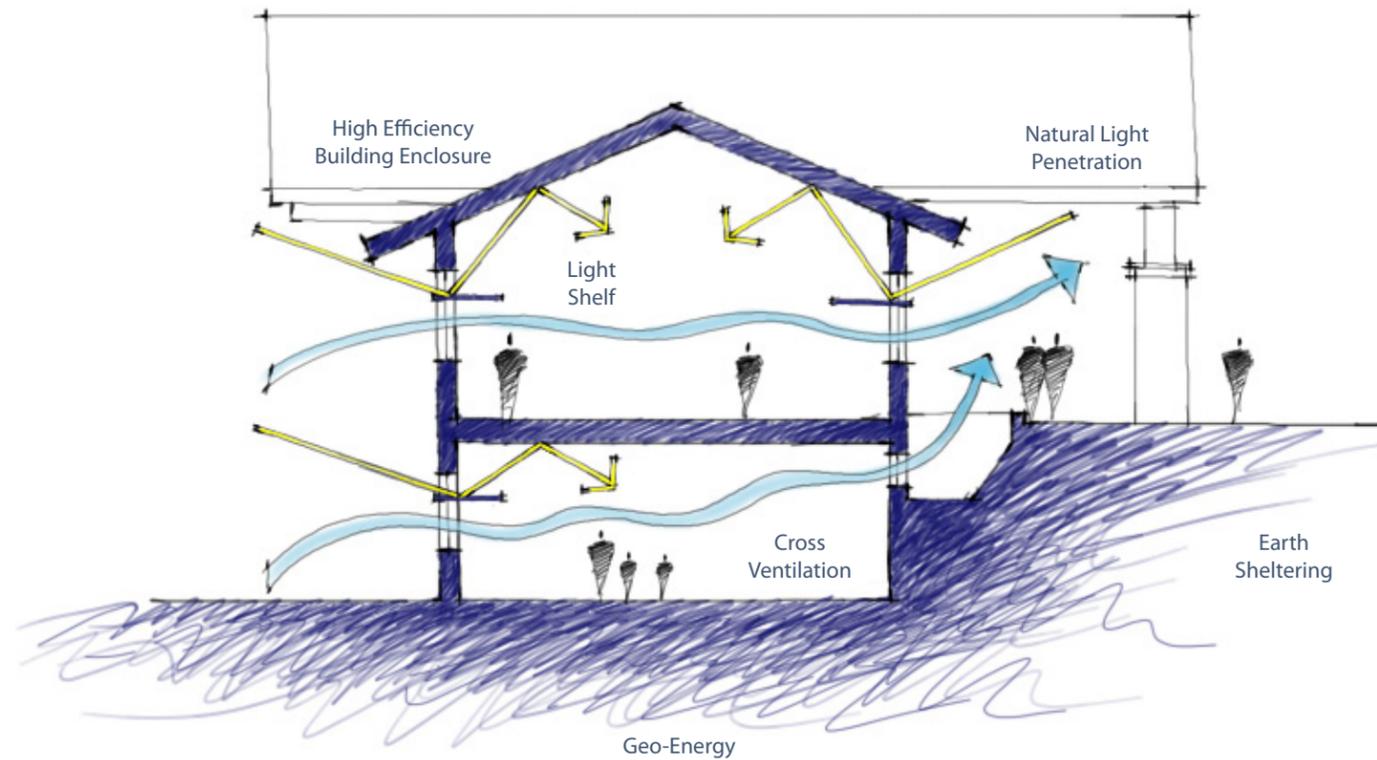
What This Is

This is a center that tells the good news story of Polk County and demonstrates the value of healthy construction. This building uses a carefully selected site, natural air flow, day lighting, local and renewable materials, water conservation, and geothermal heating/cooling (among other features) to capture the positive impacts of sensitive, thoughtful design. The spaces emphasize welcoming, learning, discovery, efficiency and safety.

Jester Park Conservation Center

Platform for Discovery, Gateway to Wonder

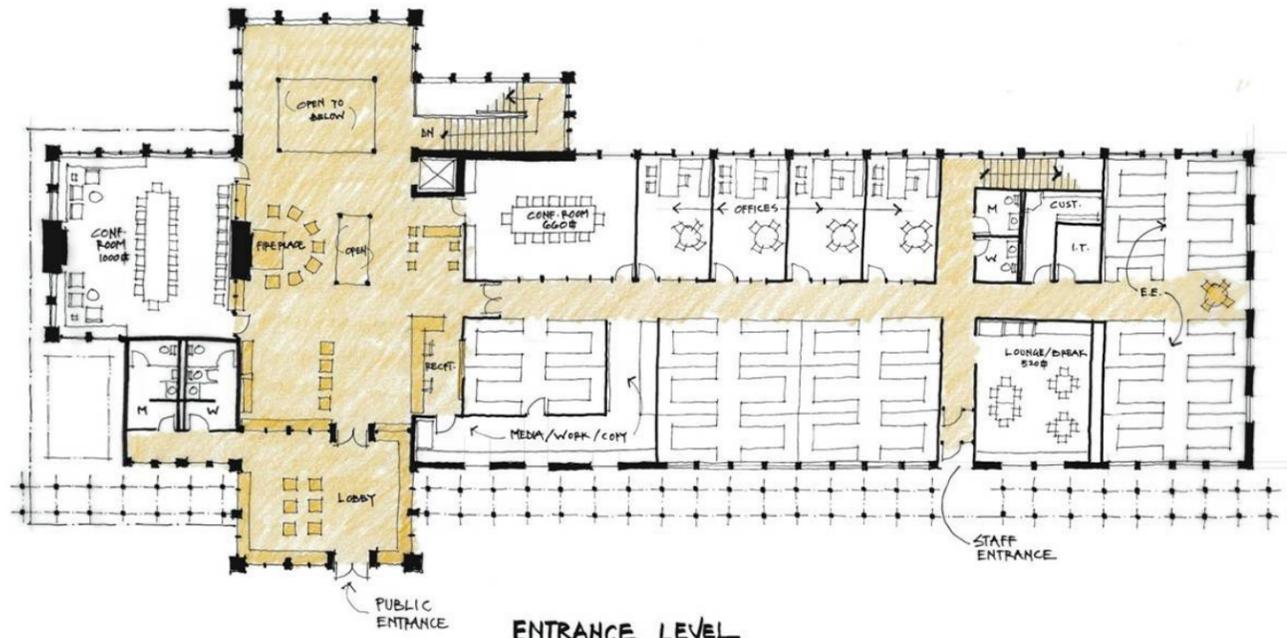
A section of the Jester Park Conservation Center demonstrates energy efficient and healthy building principles that anyone can use.



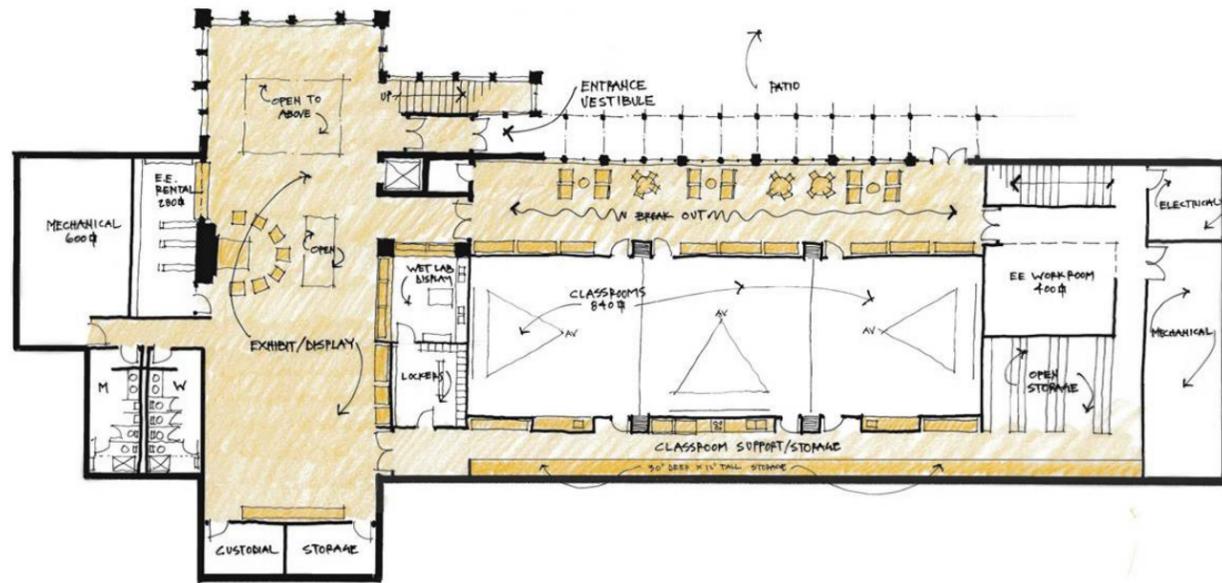
How to Do This

We propose this project as a public-private partnership that includes private donors, foundations, non-governmental organizations, and local/state and federal funding. To learn more about your role in this project, please contact the Polk County Conservation Board.





ENTRANCE LEVEL
12 SEPTEMBER 2013



WALK OUT LEVEL
12 SEPTEMBER 2013



CONSERVATION CENTER - REAR VIEW

Why We Must Do This

Economic Development and Tourism – a significant tourist attraction and welcome center, portal to the family of Polk County Parks, and Jester Park’s new front porch. Tourists, students, educators, families and others will connect through this center to the groundbreaking natural playscape and bison/elk exhibit, restored woodlands, Saylorville Lake, and a network of nature trails to achieve Louv’s goals of immersing children back into nature. Tourists will not be able to resist!

Leadership in Education – from science labs to art walk, this center combines the power of scientific discovery with the wonders of exploring nature and the arts. With the staff’s exceptional naturalists and their innovative work in education evaluation, Polk County continues to be a leader in outdoor education for the state and region from this site.

Improved Safety – Placement of a public safe room in this center addresses the need for safe haven in a storm to serve campers, picnickers, and golfers. The center provides a safe learning and work environment for visitors and staff.

Conservation Showcase – This center demonstrates conservation and sustainable design with a cost-effective approach. Students and their families will have hands-on opportunities to discover what they can do in their own homes to conserve energy, save water, and to build or remodel in a way that will save them operating and maintenance costs in the future – just like they do it at Jester Park’s Conservation Center.

Efficiency and Community Connections Enhanced – This center gives the public immediate access to Polk County Conservation staff resources and services. The information and interpretive areas welcome, orient and connect visitors to the park, the county, and the region. With modern office facilities as part of the plan, staff productivity and health improves.

PLATFORM FOR DISCOVERY, GATEWAY TO WONDER

At the heart of Central Iowa, in the state’s most populous county, Jester Park Conservation Center will serve as the state’s premier conservation center. As a place where education and tourism intersect, this facility will provide unparalleled value to Polk County and its partners. Richard Louv’s *Last Child in the Woods* has resonated strongly with teachers and parents. Louv builds a strong case for the need to reconnect to the great outdoors. Parents and teachers identify. They stand as eyewitnesses to lethargy, stilted imaginations, and too often obesity in a generation hooked on video games and the latest apps. This center re-engages visitors with the science, art, and freedom of the great outdoors.

