

Prairie Crossing

Grayslake, Illinois, USA



Photo from shaw-co.com

Size:

667 acres

Dates:


1986 – ongoing






Project Team:


Prairie Holdings Corporation

Prairie Crossings is a residential development that aspires to conserve and protect the ecology of the site. Its intent is to enhance the environment, promote a healthy lifestyle, create a sense of place, build a sense of community, encourage economic and racial diversity, provide convenient and efficient transportation, conserve energy, foster lifelong learning and education, ensure attractive design and high quality construction, and ensure economic viability.

Goals & Strategies

 Place	
Limits to Growth	Goals: Goals not defined. Strategies: Strategies not reported.
Food	Goals: Goals not defined. Strategies: 14-acre organic farm, plots can be leased. Farmers market.
Habitat	Goals: 70% of the development set aside for preservation. Strategies: 22-acre lake. 160 acres of restored prairie, constructed wetlands, preserved wetlands. Native landscaping is promoted.
Transportation	Goals: Goals not defined. Strategies: Strategies not reported.

 Water	
Water	Goals: Utilize ecosystem services of stormwater filtration and retention. Strategies: Rainwater infiltration, water efficient appliances, wetland restoration to filter stormwater. Stormwater management plan and case study.
 Energy	
Energy	Goals: Houses constructed to use 50% less energy. Strategies: Energy Star standard for energy efficient construction for condo buildings. LEED ND certification. Single-family homes built to Building America Program standards. Energy-efficient appliances. School has geothermal heating. R-43 insulation in all ceilings.
 Health + Happiness (Details not provided by researchers)	
 Materials	
Material Plan	Goals: Goals not defined. Strategies: Strategies not reported.
Embodied Energy & Carbon	Goals: High-quality construction. Strategies: Double air-barrier construction. Use of recycled wood products, nontoxic glues, double-glazed windows with argon cavity.
Waste	Goals: Goals not defined. Strategies: Reduction of construction waste by 20%.
 Equity	
Neighborhood & Access	Goals: Goals not defined. Strategies: Public access to streets. Human-scale design.
Access to Nature	Goals: Goals not defined. Strategies: Resident participation in organic farm.
Access to Community Services	Goals: Goals not defined. Strategies: Town center, commuter train station, schools, community services. Conservation education.
Investment	Goals: Goals not defined. Strategies: Percentage of housing sales donated to Liberty Prairie Reserve.

 Beauty	
Beauty & Spirit	Goals: Goals not defined. Strategies: Art installations.
Inspiration	Goals: Goals not defined. Strategies: Strategies not reported.

> See next page for Performance Levels achieved

Performance Levels Achieved:

	Standard	Good	Better	Living	Regenerative
Place					
Limits to Growth					
Food					
Habitat					
Transportation					
Water					
Energy					
Health + Happiness					
Civilized Environment					
Neighborhood Design					
Biophilia					
Resilient Connections					
Materials					
Material Plan					
Embodied Energy & Carbon					
Waste					
Equity					
Neighborhood & Access					
Access to Nature					
Access to Community Services					
Investment					
Beauty					
Beauty & Spirit	Not specified				
Inspiration					

Sources:

<http://prairiecrossing.com/>

<https://www.terrain.org/unsprawl/9/>

**Note: This case study was developed using found information.*

21st Century Development is a model for the creation of regenerative communities that strives to provide a healthy environment for all people and living systems now and in a dynamic future.

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