

Landscaping



Sustainable Landscaping

Landscaping at Macalester is governed by our Sustainable Landscape Master Plan. We want our landscape to reflect the college's broader sustainability goals, act as an educational resource, and have a purposeful aesthetic and beauty. The Macalester GIS Sustainability Tour Map includes a "Landscaping" tab that shows where some of these features are located.

Macalester has had a long-standing commitment to sustainable, pollinator-friendly landscaping. Some of our efforts include, in addition to our Landscaping Master Plan, the creation of the Pollinator Path, annual Pollinator Day events, and hosting a Pollinate Minnesota bee hive at the Ordway Field Station.

Awards

Macalester-Groveland Community Council

2008 – Native Plants Award

Beyond Pesticides and Center for Food Safety, BEE Protective Campaign

2016 – BEE Protective Campus, first designated neonicotinoid-free campus in Minnesota

Programs

-  **Pollinator Friendly:** Mac Student Emily Sylvestre '16 spearheaded a campaign with the Center for Food Safety to make Macalester the **first pollinator-friendly, neonicotinoid-free college in Minnesota** in April 2016. She worked closely with facilities to develop a resolution which was signed by the Vice President of Administration and Finance and the Assistant Vice President of Facilities. The resolution committed us to discontinuing neonicotinoid pesticides, and encouraging development and education of pollinator areas on campus.
-  **Pollinator Path:** Sustainability Office students partnered with the University of St. Thomas staff to create a campus Pollinator Path with signage in **eight locations** - seven on campus and one at the Ordway Field Station. Signs highlight pollinator friendly landscaping and educate the community.
-  **Bee hive:** The Katharine **Ordway Natural History Study Area** hosts a honey bee hive maintained by Pollinate Minnesota. The hive is used for education.
-  **Prairie:** Historically, **Minnesota was 1/3 diverse grassland**. Today, less than 1% of that prairie remains. In 2004, Facilities prepared and planted an unused patch of grass behind Olin-Rice with **over 80 different native grasses and flowers**. In addition to restoring the natural landscape, it provides benefits such as reduced costs, less maintenance, improves soil quality, reduces pollutants in runoff water, increases beauty, and creates a habitat for native insects and animals.
-  **Permeable Pavers:** First used at Markim Hall and then expanded to five locations covering more than 21,000 square feet across campus, permeable pavers allow **stormwater to infiltrate into the ground**. Permeable pavers are created with sized gaps in between which are filled with pebbles that allow water to sink into the ground.
-  **Green Roofs:** Macalester is home to two green roofs on campus: one on top of **the Fishbowl** (the link between Turck and Doty dormitories), and on **top of Kagin**. Both projects were developed by MacCARES in 2006 and 2007 and replanted by the Sustainability Office. Green roofs reduce the amount of impervious surfaces in an urban landscape, and contribute to the controlling and filtering of stormwater. They also provide **economic benefits** because they tend to **increase the lifetime of a roof by 30 years**, increase property value, and increase insulation potential, meaning less energy usage/costs for heating and cooling.
-  **Campus Trees:** The Sustainable Landscape Master Plan calls for the campus to have at least a **50% tree canopy coverage** in order to act as a wind breaker. This blocks chilly northwestern winds and helps alleviate ground-level winds, making foot travel more bearable in the winter, and conserves building energy.

