

Pierce Cedar Creek Institute

Barry County, Michigan

Awards

Honor Award, 2001

American Institute of Architects,
Southwest Michigan Chapter



The mission statement of Pierce Cedar Creek Institute is to provide ecological education through classroom and outdoor education and research. The 570 acres of rolling land on which the Institute is located lends itself well to this mission. Fields, forests, lakes, a creek and wetlands provide a variety of educational opportunities for this \$6.2 million facility.

O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates, Inc. (OCBA) was retained as part of the design team which also included Slocum Associates Architects and Byce Associates Engineers to prepare a master plan for development. A two-day design workshop was held on site with members of the Pierce Foundation to create a master plan that would be sensitive to the variety of ecosystems existing on the property.

Recommendations of the plan included the design of a natural systems storm water management system that allows water to flow through vegetated swales, breaking down pollutants and slowing runoff released from the site. "Green architecture" concepts such as earth berming and solar orientation were also used to minimize the impact of buildings on the site and to provide appropriate facilities to promote the Institute's mission.



The team continued on to provide final site design, construction documents and construction administration services for the pierce Cedar Creek Institute, which opened in spring of 2001.

Client

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