

CAMPUS RAISES THE BAR ON SUSTAINABLE LAND DEVELOPMENT

COLBY COLLEGE ATHLETIC FIELDS

Waterville, Maine | Project Size: 30 acres | Certification: SITES Certified



Home to 2,000 students, Colby College is a private liberal arts school located in Waterville, Maine. With more than 80 percent of Colby students participating in organized athletics, being outdoors or connected to nature is a key part of the Colby experience. The three new, tiered fields provide outstanding facilities for soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, and many other recreational uses, including national camps, competitions, and trainings. The Colby athletic fields project consists of three varsity athletic fields, making up a new, 70-acre-plus outdoor competition center that is on track to be among the finest in the NCAA's Division III.



WATER

Basins beneath the fields were implemented to slow and clean runoff. An irrigation system was incorporated to conserve water by automatically adjusting to precipitation and evaporation rates with the use of rain and soil sensors to ensure watering only occurs when necessary. Previous existing playing surfaces consisted of two natural grass surfaces and one knitted nylon artificial field. The new surface has no watering requirements, which has helped the college save 15,000 gallons of water representing \$4,511.25 per use.



PLANTS

The college engages biology students to identify and remove invasive plant species from defined vegetation and soil protection zones. This is an on-going initiative to protect native plant communities and support wildlife habitats.



SOIL

All of the topsoil from the pre-existing playing fields was reused onsite. This helped minimize the need to import materials from offsite.



MATERIALS

Sixty-one percent of the total materials costs included materials and products that were manufactured and extracted locally, helping minimize the total distance traveled to bring materials onsite.



HUMAN HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Students and the larger community are connected to nature through varsity sports, intramurals, and health and wellness classes. The site has plenty of seating and viewing space to encourage groups to come to the fields and spend time enjoying all the games. In addition, the fields were constructed on a slope to provide unobstructed views of the surrounding nature, making a quiet place for visitors to relax and recharge while watching the game or just visiting the site.

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CERTIFIED: SITES CERTIFIED, NOVEMBER 2018

SITES SCORECARD SUMMARY	POSSIBLE POINTS	POINTS EARNED
Site Context	13	5
Pre-Design Assessment + Planning	3	3
Site Design		
Water	23	4
Soil + Vegetation	40	4
Materials Selection	41	11
Human Health + Well-being	30	24
Construction	17	3
Operations + Maintenance	22	14
Education + Performance Monitoring	11	3
Innovation or Exemplary Performance	9	3
TOTAL POINTS	200	74

CERTIFIED = 70 | SILVER = 85 | GOLD = 100 | PLATINUM = 135

SITES is administered by Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI) and is based on the understanding that land is a crucial part of the built environment. The certification program creates regenerative systems and fosters resilience; ensures future resource supply and mitigates climate change; transforms the market through design, development and maintenance practices; and enhances human wellbeing and strengthens the community. SITES-certified projects can help reduce water and energy demand, improve air quality and promote human health and wellbeing. [Learn more at sustainablesites.org](https://www.sustainablesites.org)