

NOTABLE RECOGNITIONS



Notre Dame has been ranked 283rd in the world for Sustainability among over 1,700 universities by QS. They evaluate universities' operational, classroom, and alumni impact alongside the impact of research being done across the United Nations 17 sustainable development goals.



Tree Campus



The University is proud to be recognized as a Tree Campus by the Arbor Day Foundation, and is committed to preserving the natural beauty of campus flora. In 1966, the University's very first tree survey was conducted. Since then, multiple surveys have been completed to catalog Notre Dame's diverse tree canopy that spans the campus 1250 acres.



WEST CAMPUS SOLAR ARRAY



GEOTHERMAL INSTALLATION



HYDROELECTRIC DAM IN SOUTH BEND



GREEN ROOF ATOP THE JOYCE CENTER

WHAT IS NOTRE DAME SUSTAINABILITY?

Notre Dame Sustainability is more than just an office—it's a mission and strategy that expands across the entire campus. The University of Notre Dame strives to be a leader in sustainable operations, education & research, and a role model for responsible citizenship. The University recognizes its responsibility to conserve the natural environment while promoting resource stewardship, long-term economic prosperity, and social justice for all members of society.

For many years, the University has acted to inspire and encourage sustainability, both academically and operationally. Through the implementation of energy conservation measures across facilities, the design and construction of LEED-certified buildings, our active decarbonization commitment, and the establishment of Notre Dame Sustainability, the University has actively sought to advance sustainability through our operations.

The Notre Dame Sustainability Team supports the University's mission to care for our common home by connecting with departments across campus to collaborate as partners and subject matter experts, to assist with pursuing sustainable operations and solutions.

WHAT IS A GREEN TOUR?

A green tour provides a general overview of some of the many investments that Notre Dame has committed resources to for a more sustainable campus. Green tours can be experienced in person with a tour guide, or on your own virtually. You can explore more sustainable elements of Notre Dame's campus virtually by visiting our website, green.nd.edu/tour.

CAMPUS GREEN TOUR

SUSTAINABLE LANDMARKS OF NOTRE DAME



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TOGETHER, CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME



MAJOR SUSTAINABILITY EVENTS

2008: Aspirational Goals

Then President Rev. John Jenkins, C.S.C., declares sustainability a major goal for the University. Notre Dame Sustainability is established officially.

2009-10: Building Renovations, LEED Construction & Green Roof Installation

- Twenty-four campus buildings are renovated, reducing carbon emissions by 4,000 metric tons annually.
- The first four LEED Gold buildings receive certification.
- Notre Dame's first green roof is installed above the Morris Inn.

2011: Solar Panels, Lighting Upgrades, and EV Chargers

- Solar panels are installed atop Stinson-Remick and Fitzpatrick Halls.
- LED lighting is installed at the Word of Life Mural.
- New electric vehicle (EV) charging stations are installed on campus to support EV commuters.

2013-14: Continued Lighting Upgrades & The Sculpture Park

- An LED lighting system is installed in the Purcell Pavilion arena, reducing energy consumption by 73%.
- The Charles C. Hayes Sculpture Park is established.
- Lighting on the Golden Dome is switched to LEDs.

2015: Laudato Si'

- Pope Francis' encyclical, [Laudato Si'](#), is published, calling for us to care for our common home.
- Then President Rev. John Jenkins, C.S.C., responds to [Laudato Si'](#), committing to reduce the University's carbon emissions by more than half in 2030 and to cease burning coal by 2020.

2016: Geothermal

The East Campus geothermal system is installed near McCourtney Hall.

2017: Geothermal, Solar Array & Sculpture Park

- The East Campus geothermal system is installed.
- The Kenmore Solar Array is established in South Bend.

2018: Thermal Energy, Lighting Upgrades & Green Roof Installation

- The East Plant is developed for thermal energy production and storage.
- The Basilica transitions to LED lighting, which reduces energy consumption by 78%.
- Indiana's largest green roof is installed atop the Joyce Center at 68,900 square feet.

2019: Power Plant Upgrades & Grind2Energy

- Notre Dame ceases burning coal a year ahead of schedule.
- The University Power Plant installs combined cycle combustion gas turbines, replacing the older, less efficient boilers with lower emission-producing sources of energy.
- Grind2Energy is installed in the Dining Halls and Center for Culinary Excellence to reduce landfilled food waste.

2020: Geothermal Installations

Additional geothermal well systems are installed near Ricci Family Fields and Notre Dame Stadium Lot.

2021: Carbon-Neutrality Commitment

Notre Dame officially commits to becoming a carbon-neutral campus by 2050.

2022: Hydroelectric Power

The hydroelectric facility along the St. Joseph River commences operation.

2023: Renewable Energy, Additional EV Chargers & the Strategic Framework

- A fourth campus geothermal well field is installed under the Joyce Lot.
- New EV chargers are scheduled for installation across campus parking lots.
- The University begins construction of a new solar array near WNDU Studios.
- The 2033 Strategic Framework is published, establishing the Just Transformations to Sustainability Initiative as one of the primary outcomes.

2024: Geothermal Installation, Electric Vehicles & Composting Pilot

- Construction begins on the southeast geothermal plant north of the Joyce Center.
- Notre Dame's fifth geothermal well installation begins on the southeast district of campus near Jordan Hall of Science.
- Composting is piloted at scale during the inauguration picnic for Rev. Robert Dowd, C.S.C., resulting in over a ton of waste diverted from the landfill.

2025: Carbon Reduction Milestone

The University achieves a 49% reduction in carbon emissions.



SOLAR ARRAY ABOVE STINSON-REMICK HALL



WORD OF LIFE MURAL



CHARLES C. HAYES SCULPTURE PARK



GRIND2ENERGY FOOD SCRAPS



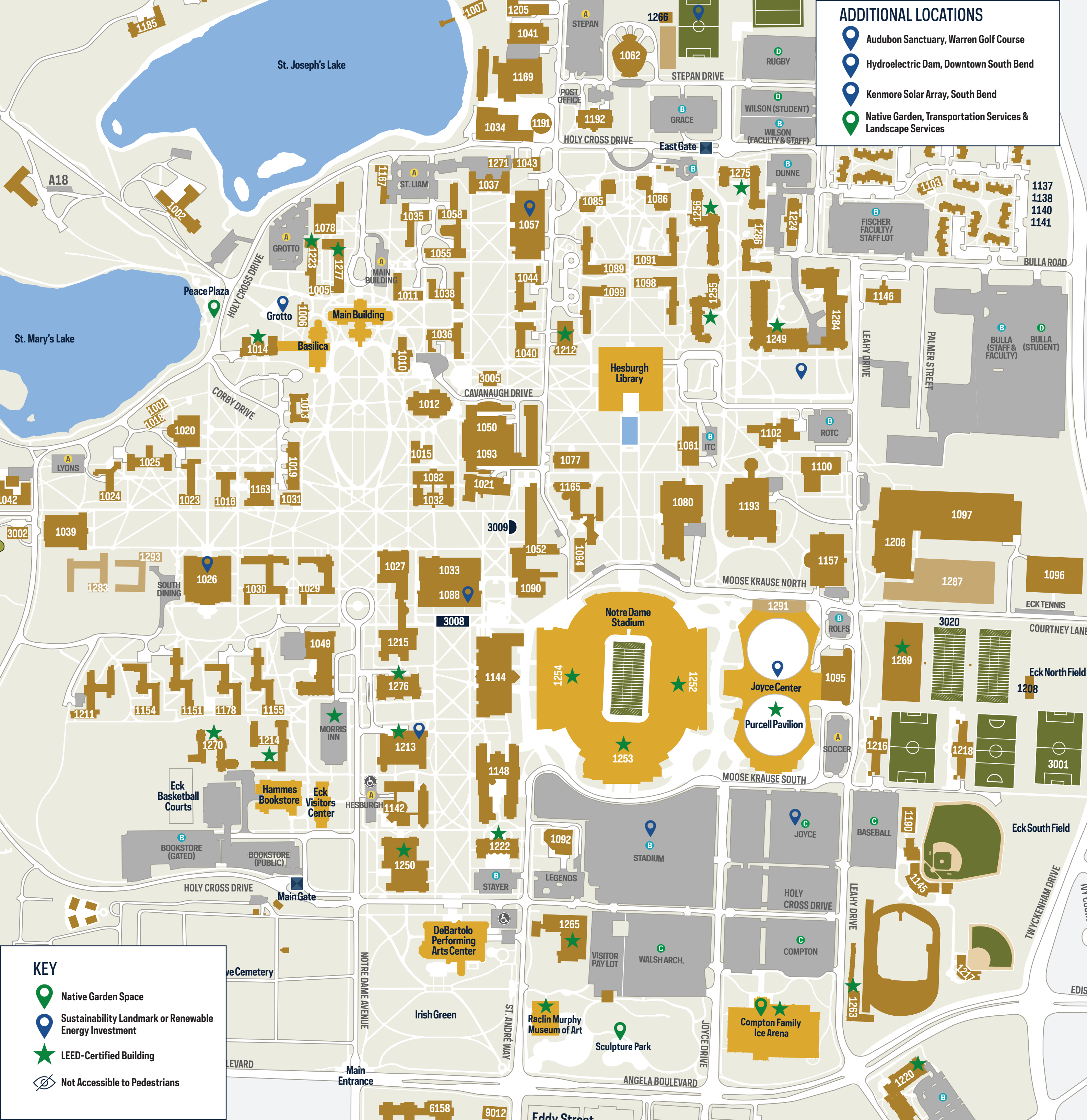
JOYCE CENTER GREEN ROOF



ELECTRIC VEHICLE FLEET



INAUGURATION PICNIC COMPOST



ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS

-  Audubon Sanctuary, Warren Golf Course
-  Hydroelectric Dam, Downtown South Bend
-  Kenmore Solar Array, South Bend
-  Native Garden, Transportation Services & Landscape Services

SUSTAINABLE LANDMARKS

Moving through campus' many pedestrian pathways provides opportunities to see sustainability in action at Notre Dame. Utilize the icons and corresponding map numbers as available to explore some of the University's sustainable investments.

Audubon Sanctuary (Warren Golf Course) - Situated on 250 wooded acres, the Warren Golf Course is a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. The course is one of only eight in the state of Indiana to have achieved the certification from Audubon International. The Cooperative Sanctuary Program helps golf courses to protect the environment, support wild bird populations, and also to preserve the natural components of the golfing tradition. To reach Audubon certification, course personnel demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in numerous areas, including water quality & conservation, education & outreach, habitat & wildlife management, and environmental planning.

Compton Ice Arena - The Compton is encompassed by a native wildflower garden, inviting beneficial pollinators to the region. Native wildflower gardens have the capacity to sequester carbon, typically require less water, are better adapted to local climates and soil types, and have a higher resiliency to pests. Multiple native gardens surround the perimeter of campus. Other notable native gardens are located near Transportation Services, Landscape Services, and Saint Mary's Lake.

 **Geothermal Well Fields** - Hidden beneath the Stadium & Joyce parking lots is a considerable source of geothermal energy for campus. This system circulates water 300 feet below campus, utilizing the Earth's consistent 50 degrees Fahrenheit temperature to provide heating and cooling for University buildings. Other geothermal well fields exist near McCourtney I and under the Ricci Athletic Fields.

 **Green Roofs (1029, 1039, 1215, 1252, 1253, 1254, Morris Inn, the Joyce Center)** - Notre Dame's first green roof was constructed in 2009 atop the Morris Inn. Since then, seven more buildings have been fitted with green roofs, for a total of 155,000 square feet of green roof. Today, the Joyce Center remains the largest green roof in Indiana at 68,900 square feet. Primarily a mix of perennial sedum, these living installations reduce heat island effects, insulate buildings to conserve heating and cooling energy requirements, reduce stormwater runoff, support pollinators, and can extend the life of a membrane roof between 20 to 40 years.

 **Grind2Energy (1026, 1057, Center for Culinary Excellence)** - In both Dining Halls and at the Center for Culinary Excellence, the University collects prep scraps and uneaten food that cannot be donated to the local community into its Grind2Energy (G2E) system. The G2E waste is later transported to an anaerobic digester to turn food waste into fuel, fertilizer, and bedding for a local dairy farm.

Grotto Candle Program (1006) - An iconic and sacred landmark for campus, The Grotto is a special place for prayer and contemplation accompanied by lighting a candle. Typically, used candle jars cannot be recycled because of wax residue. To overcome this challenge, the University has partnered with Quality Compound Manufacturing, which buys scrap wax for industrial use. This company saves the residue from the Grotto's candle glasses, and the clean glass jars are then reused by our candle supplier. This effort diverts nearly a quarter of a million candles from the landfill annually.

 **Hydroelectric Dam (downtown South Bend)** - Using technology of the past to power campus today, the University's hydroelectric dam utilizes the current of the St. Joseph River to spin turbines and generate electricity. At optimum water levels, the dam has the capacity to generate up to 7% of campus' electricity needs annually—offsetting carbon emissions equivalent to over one million gallons of gasoline each year.

LEED Buildings (multiple locations, see icon key) - LEED stands for **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design**. Committed to creating a more sustainable built environment, all of Notre Dame's new construction is developed with the intention of achieving LEED certification. LEED certifications are achieved through a rigorous scoring process in categories such as water and energy conservation, human health, climate resiliency, and environmental benefit.

Sculpture Park - Previously a coal ash pile, this space was completely remediated in 2013, and mimics a prairie grass landscape. Beyond being a stunning attraction for a peaceful walk on campus, the Sculpture Park acts as a retention basin for stormwater collection to prevent runoff and refresh aquifers. One of the notable plant species in the Park includes big bluestem grass, which has roots that can grow to eight feet deep below ground. These deep root systems prevent erosion, aid in water absorption to reduce severity of flooding events, sequester carbon, and give the plant resiliency to droughts.

 **Silva Cells (no map number)** - Below the trees throughout Notre Dame's parking lots, the University utilized silva cells during lot construction. These cells are grid-like systems that allow tree roots to grow freely underground without disrupting the pavement. Having healthy trees among paved areas and walking paths help to reduce heat island effects and absorb water to reduce severity of flooding events.

 **Solar Arrays (1088, 1213)** - Small solar arrays sit above two of Notre Dame's engineering buildings, Stinson-Remick and Fitzpatrick Halls. These installations offset the buildings' energy needs. Off campus, the Kenmore Solar Array supports a campus storage facility in South Bend.

West Campus Solar Array & Native Garden (no map number, west of WNDU Studios) - Just off the beaten path of Saint Mary's Lake walking trail, the West Campus Solar Array has the capacity to offset nearly 700 tons of carbon emissions annually—the equivalent of removing up to 137 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles from the road. Mixed within the panels are native flower species that support the local pollinator population.

There's more to explore. Visit green.nd.edu/tour.