Aquinas College is located on the eastern edge of Grand Rapids and houses several LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified buildings. Certification is given by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) to recognize the world’s greenest, energy-efficient, and high performing buildings.

The 70,000-square-foot athletic space was designed and constructed in collaboration by Integrated Architecture and Rockford Construction. Construction began in November 2013 and was completed in October 2014.

The new building was built on a sustainable site.

To decrease potable water use, irrigation was not installed and a drought tolerant plant mixture was selected. All of the storm water runoff from the parking lot is treated to remove total suspended solids (TSS) before being discharged into the adjacent stream. This necessary step helps avoid the deposition of nonpoint source pollution into waterways.

The building’s heating system consists of two Absolute Aire E-series direct fired air turnover units utilizing natural gas as the heating source. The E-series units are for reduced environmental impact, increased operating economy, optimized indoor air quality and space comfort.

Aligned with Aquinas College’s Zero Waste effort, waste stations consisting of recycling, composting and trash are located in common areas of the building with appropriate signage. Also aligned with the Zero Waste effort, construction of the building diverted 75 percent of the on-site generated construction waste from landfill.