

## Master Plan for Immaculate Heart of Mary

Location: Monroe, Michigan  
Client: Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary  
Size: 280 acres  
Cost: \$2 million  
Status: Completed in 2003



Master Site Plan for IHM

“Because living sustainably requires a transformation of consciousness, the campus as a whole will provide opportunities for learnings and experiences necessary for transformational education of mind, body and spirit” -- IHM Vision, 1999

Together with Susan Maxman & Partners, Architects, Viridian Landscape Studio worked to create an ecologically sound development plan that would sustain the religious order, promote spirituality, and maintain the ecological health of the 280-acre campus. The Sisters envisioned a master plan and site improvements that made tangible their philosophy of living sustainably. The ambitious program for the campus separated vehicular and pedestrian circulation, converted lawns to sustainable meadows, integrated stormwater management with wet meadows and swales, demonstrated natural graywater treatment with a constructed wetland, preserved rare oak savannah habitat, cultivated organic gardens and created contemplative spaces. It also mapped potential sites for an eco-village, composting facility and community supported agriculture. This \$2 million dollar site improvement plan was completed in Spring 2003. In 2006 the project was LEED certified and was selected by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Committee on the Environment (COTE) as one of its Top 10 Green Projects.



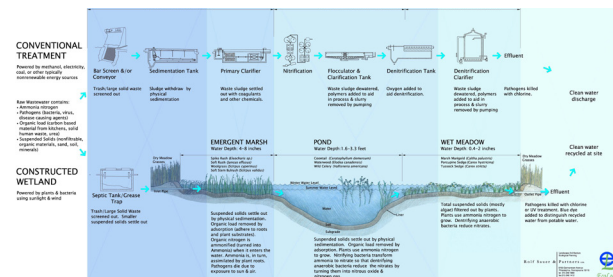
View of Motherhouse within newly established meadow



Constructed Graywater Wetlands



Gathering Spaces in Motherhouse Courtyards



Graywater wetland diagram



Mature meadows - six years after installation.



## Sitework for Immaculate Heart of Mary

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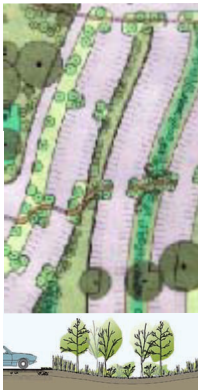


Photo: Eric D. Upshultz

Stormwater runoff from parking lots, roads and building roofs are cleansed and retained in wetland swales and wet meadows, planted with meadow grasses, shrubs and trees. The use of vegetated swales and wet meadows enables IHM to divert almost a million gallons of water a year from the municipal storm sewer system.



Photo: Eric D. Upshultz

Historic entrance drives will become park pedestrian paths in the new circulation system, and acres of lawn will be converted to meadows with wetland stormwater basins.