

## PUBLIC ART

The Town's Percent for Art Ordinance set aside funds for public art. The Public Arts Commission selected Larry Kirkland as the artist for the Town Operations Center. Kirkland is noted for his mastery and skill in using engraved stone, cast bronze, glass, water and light.

Located near the entrance to the Chapel Hill Transit Administration building, **Around Town** is an engraved marble bench, 40 feet in length, sited on the sidewalk between the parking lot and the front door. The carved and engraved Carrara marble "bench"



is a place to sit and relax outside. Along the length of the bench, the back shifts sides, suggesting that a participant, like a bus passenger, can look out into nature when facing one direction, or to the community from the other. Engraved into the surfaces of the bench are symbols and destinations: church steeples, classical columns of UNC buildings, birds and wildlife, and bicyclists.

**In Our Hands** was created as an outdoor plaza and a gathering space for special events. Discussions with Public Works employees informed the selection of the tools and symbols of their work, which were cast into bronze and mounted onto the wall. All these tools are a timeless tribute to those who work as caretakers of the Town and honor their work.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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# TOWN OPERATIONS CENTER



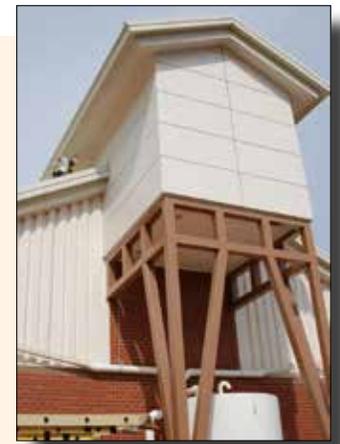
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL  
SENSITIVITY

FISCAL PRUDENCE

# SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES OF TOWN OPERATIONS CENTER

The Town Operations Center, the largest capital project in Chapel Hill government's history at \$52 million, officially opened on Millhouse Road in Chapel Hill, N.C., in September 2007. The center, which houses the Public Works and Transportation departments, reflects the Council's key values of sustainable development, environmental sensitivity and fiscal prudence. Its design includes a number of features intended to reduce the facility's use of non-renewable resources and minimize its impact on the environment. The project includes a geothermal heating system, underground tanks to hold rainwater for flushing toilets and irrigation, and both passive and active solar design features. There are four primary buildings occupying about 54 acres of the 96-acre site. Visitors are encouraged to walk the "sustainability trail," a half-mile trail with information markers that highlight the center's sustainability features. For more information or to schedule tours, please see the "Contact Us" panel on the back of this brochure.



## WATER CONSERVATION

The Town Operations Center reduces its dependence on the community's water supply by including systems to capture and reuse water. Cisterns, located below the gabled ends of the primary buildings, are supplemented by a series of underground storage tanks to collect water from the gutters of the buildings. Collected rain water is used throughout the buildings to supply toilets. It is also used in vehicle wash facilities and as a source of irrigation for Town landscaping projects, both on and off the site.



## SOLAR ORIENTED DESIGN

The primary buildings of the Town Operations Center are oriented lengthwise, directly east to west, providing them with the best exposure for solar benefit. Photovoltaic panels are located on south facing roof sections to supplement the facility's energy consumption. Solar water heating panels are also located on these roof sections. Clerestory windows, located just below the upper roof sections, provide diffuse interior light while limiting summer heat gain. This use of "daylighting" reduces the facility's use of electric light fixtures and provides a work environment that is more comfortable and productive.

## BIO-RETENTION

Stormwater runoff from many paved areas on the site is directed to shallow depressions where it is temporarily retained. These bio-retention areas are also known as "rain gardens." Bio-retention areas are constructed of a deep layer of porous soil. The porosity of this special soil mix permits water to infiltrate and reduces the volume of runoff.

## TREE PRESERVATION

Most of the developed areas on the Town Operations Center site were either pasture or young pine woods prior to construction. During the design of the facility a tree survey was done to identify those areas of the site where significant trees were located. The area between the Public Works Administration Building and Interstate 40 is an excellent example of a remnant mature oak-hickory forest, characteristic of upland sites in the North Carolina Piedmont that have remained undisturbed for many years. The locations of buildings, parking lots and other constructed elements were located to preserve forest.

## PERMEABLE PAVEMENT

Permeable asphalt and "grass pave" are employed on the site. This system allows water to infiltrate through the paving, reducing runoff.

## WATER QUALITY POND

Large ponds were constructed to capture the site's runoff and provide an opportunity for suspended sediment to settle thereby improving water quality. The ponds can also retain significant quantities of water to help control the rate and volume of runoff.



## STREAM BUFFERING

The Town's Land Use Management Ordinance identifies areas adjacent to streams as "Resource Conservation Districts." The Town Operations Center was designed to minimize disturbance in these areas. A short section of an intermittent stream is located between the Transportation Building and the employee parking lot.

