

# Queens Botanical Garden: Visitor and Administration Building



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# History

- Early 20th century:  
Industrial ash dump
- 1939 World's Fair
- 1948: Queens  
Botanical Garden
- 1963: Main St.  
Location
- 2007: Completion of  
Visitor and  
Administration Building
- 2008: Awarded  
Platinum LEED



# Sustainable Site

- Easily accessible by public transportation
- Showers for employees
- Green Roof



# Stormwater Management

## Bioswales and Cleansing Biotope



# Water Efficiency

- Recycling Graywater (constructed wetland)
- Bathroom fixtures



## RESTROOM WATER SAVINGS

Our restrooms conserve clean water and send less waste to the City's sewer system. The public restrooms showcase low flow fixtures, waterless urinals, and toilets flushed with graywater. The water you use in the sink is cleaned by plants in the Constructed Wetland and then used to flush the toilets!

The staff restrooms have composting toilets, which require very little water and prevent water pollution by keeping waste out of the sewer system. Instead, waste is treated by living organisms like bacteria and worms, which turn it into useful compost.

# Energy and Atmosphere

- Solar panels
- Building orientation
- Geothermal heating system
- Efficient lighting system



*Photos from: QBG site*

# Materials and Resources



- Locally harvested or manufactured materials
- FSC certified wood

# Indoor Environmental Quality

- Operable windows in employees' rooms
- Sliding glass doors for custom ventilation
- Views to the garden
- No or low VOCs products used



# Challenges

- Coordinating with multiple contractors
- Sacrificing a bit of sustainability for points
- Funding

# Achievements

- Everything is working!
- Attracts lots of attention



# References

- Photo of solar panels and geothermal units:  
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Please see paper for complete list