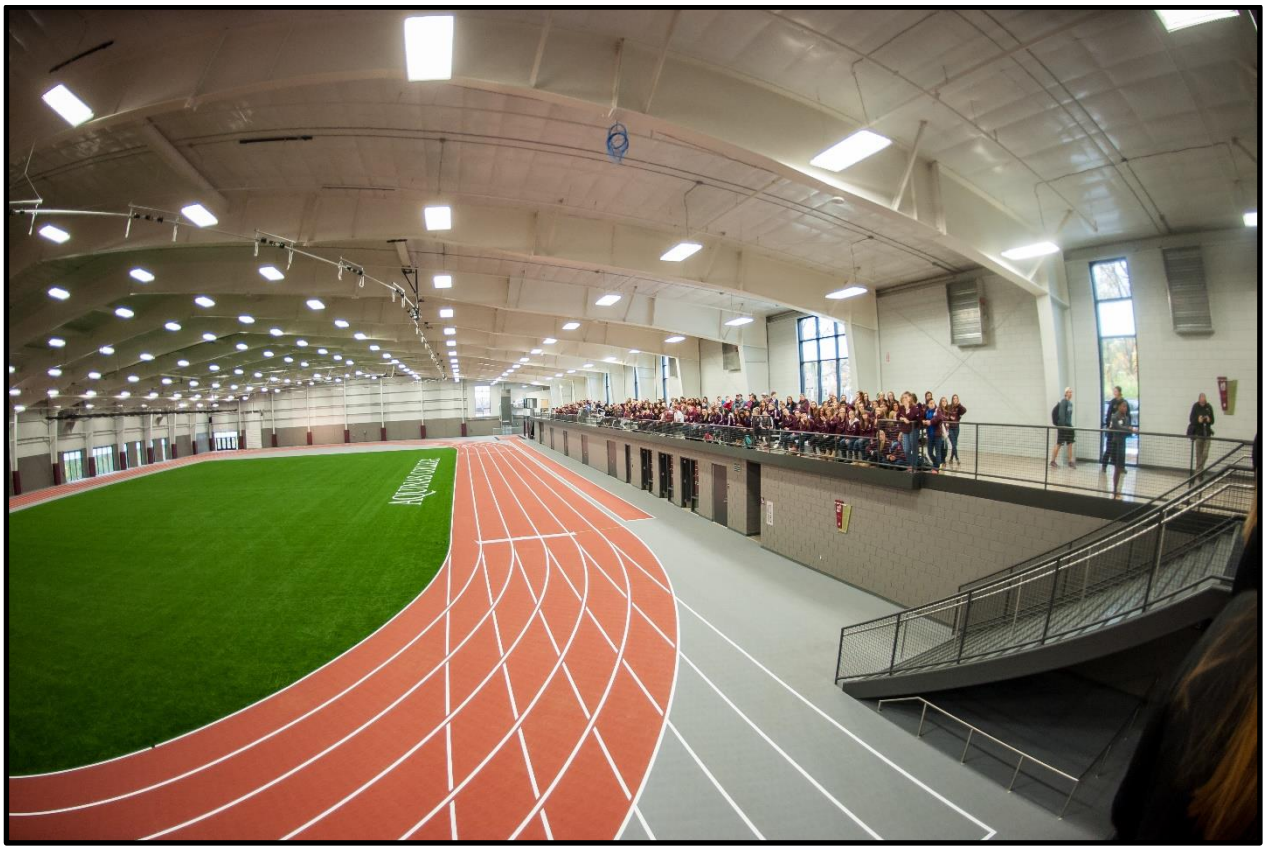
Alksnis Athletics and Recreation Building



Overview:

In its 70,000 square feet of athletic space, the Alksnis Athletics and Recreation Building (Alksnis) is a fieldhouse for opportunity, named for lead donors Greg (AQ '71) and Sally Alksnis. The venue accommodates student play, practice, and competition in as many as 11 different sports and provides a 200 meter track. It is also a space that encourages the gathering of community in an effective and purposeful environment to support athletes.

Apart from its ability to be used by multiple teams at the same time through its innovative curtain system, perhaps the most purposeful part of the space is its intentional design to meet LEED specifications. With features including an elaborate and efficient heating system within the building to special care of outside views, Alksnis possesses many notable green building features.

Sustainable Sites:

Careful consideration was taken to minimize impact to the building's 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 TSS (total suspended solids) before being discharged into the adjacent stream. This necessary step helps avoid the deposition of nonpoint source pollution into our waterways.

Energy Conservation:

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. The direct fired burners are 100% efficient, the fans are low horsepower axial fans, and the air turnover is continuous.

Temperature and CO2 sensing at the filtered return air inlet helps to maintain space comfort and indoor air quality. Outdoor air ventilation is supplied thru the air turnover units with supplemental sidewall exhaust fan / intake louvers combined during periods of high demand. Outdoor air dampers and staging of the fans are controlled thru the building management system utilizing CO2 sensors and demand control strategy.

The building is not air conditioned. Sidewall exhaust fans in conjunction with sidewall intake louvers are controlled through the building management system.

The building control system takes advantage of the cooler night temperatures to flush out building contaminants and precondition the space utilizing an economizer control strategy.

Waste Minimization:

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.

In the adjoining building (Sturrus Sports and Fitness Center), Terracycle collections are available to upcycle snack bags, candy wrappers, and granola bar wrappers.

Construction Waste Management:

Also aligned with Aquinas College's Zero Waste effort, construction of the building diverted 80% of the on-site generated construction waste from landfill. That was over 157.36 tons of waste diverted! The project team also developed and implemented a construction waste management plan that identified the materials to be diverted from landfill/incineration.

Local Economies:

A portion (over 10%) of the building materials were harvested, extracted, and manufactured from facilities within 500 miles of Aquinas College. By purchasing materials from regional manufacturers, we help support our local economy and reduce the environmental impact of transporting materials to the job site.

Reduce, Reuse, Renew:

The construction materials were carefully selected for Alksnis, with recycled content and reuse in mind. Over 35% of the materials used contain either post-consumer or post-industrial recycled content. Not only does the reuse of materials provide an economic benefit, but the practice also reduces harm to the environment by reclaiming materials that would have been sent to disposal facilities.

Clearing the Air:

Paints, varnishes, and cleaners contain Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), or compounds that contribute to ground-level ozone formation. According to the EPA, some VOCs are also suspected to cause cancer in animals. A majority of adhesives, sealants, paints, carpet, padding, and particleboard used in the Alksnis Athletics and Recreation Building are low VOC.

Per Aquinas policy, smoking is prohibited on campus. Aquinas is doing its part to "clear the air" and assure healthy indoor air quality for all staff, students, and visitors.