

# NEWSLETTER



*Buildings of Excellence award*

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## WHAT'S HAPPENED

Following receipt of a special permit, our appointed contractor began felling trees on February 22, 2023. Using only chainsaws, the work was carried out safely and efficiently in compliance with the state imposed restrictions. The work was completed ahead of schedule on March 18, 2023.

Prior to this work starting, every tree was inspected and tagged. Boundary construction fencing was also installed to outline the limits of disturbance, which separated the trees to be felled from those which were being preserved. Some of the trees will be reused on site, others will be later removed for processing.



*Tree cutting*



*Fencing installation*



*Tagging of trees*

## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) recognized our project as part of the [Buildings of Excellence Competition](#). The competition selects best in class early building design for carbon neutral buildings and is awarded to demonstration projects. Our award was for the design of the residence buildings.

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This was the only project in the Mid-Hudson region to win the award this year. Some of our environmentally friendly design features include:

- **Sustainable structure:** The ten residential buildings are designed as mass-timber buildings rather than traditional concrete construction. Mass timber is a new category of wood product comprised of multiple solid wood panels nailed or glued together
- **Geothermal energy:** A geothermal borefield with ground-source heat pumps will exchange energy to both heat and cool the facilities
- **Carbon-neutral ready:** An electrified site powered by New York State's electrical power grid. This means that the site can be powered from sustainable energy sources such as hydroelectric, solar, wind, and biomass, in addition to fossil fuels

## LANDSCAPING STRATEGY

When designing a project of this size, not only is attention given to creating structures that are aesthetically pleasing, we also consider how the structures sit within the natural surroundings and how to retain this look and feel across the site.



*Native species re-planting\**



*Grass re-planting\**

As part of our landscaping strategy to keep and enhance the site's natural beauty, existing features such as wetlands will be kept. Some of the wetlands are showing signs of degradation and our plan is to restore and enhance them. There were also several invasive plant species identified, which we will remove and re-plant with native species. Bio-retention ponds will provide natural filtration of rainwater. A number of gabion and rock terrace retaining walls will be built, using the stone already on site. These and many other features will complement the natural surroundings.



*Bio-retention pond\**

*\* images from a similar project completed by Jehovah's Witnesses*

## WHAT'S COMING UP?

The removal of all felled trees from site will take place in the coming months once the permit has been received.

The upcoming work calls for very diligent erosion and sediment control measures due to the elevation changes across the site. By proper planning, we will greatly reduce the impact of soil disturbance activities on nearby resources. Swale stream corridors, check dams, and ponds, will all be incorporated as part of the overall site design.

Additionally, in compliance with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, a qualified inspector will conduct regular site inspections. To ensure compliance in areas where soil disturbance activity will temporarily stop, small barriers or dams constructed of stone, bagged sand, or gravel, will be laid across drainage channels to reduce erosion and flow velocities in the channel.

## CONTACT US

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to know more about us, we would like to hear from you. Please contact a local member of our team, **Jesse Goedecke**.

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