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Doral Glades Park Nature Center



Sustainable Performance Solutions LLC (SPS), a South Florida-based engineering firm with its practice limited to energy and sustainability consulting, has assisted in the newly-constructed Doral Glades Park Nature Center, in Doral, Florida, achieving Two Green Globes certification. SPS acted as both the sustainability consultant, providing Green Globes Professional services, and as the Commissioning Authority. The Nature Center, along with the rest of the 25 acre park, officially opened on August 2, 2019.

The project received the Two Green Globes rating from the Green Building Initiative, a nonprofit organization dedicated to accelerating the adoption of building practices that result in energy-efficient, healthier and environmentally sustainable buildings. This level of sustainability demonstrates the City of Doral's commitment to environmental efficiency practices. Some of the key features contributing to the certification included: preservation of the existing trees, shrubs, and undergrowth in the process of developing the Florida-friendly landscaping for the site, with irrigation being provided by on-site surface water; the use of LED lighting, high-efficiency variable refrigerant flow air conditioning, energy recovery ventilators, and a passive design utilizing efficient windows and roof, in order to reduce energy consumption by 59 percent from the baseline building; the use of 0.5 GPM flow fixtures, 1-pint urinals, and EPA Water Sense compliant 1.28 GPM toilets, in order to provide an annual potable water savings of 43 percent compared to the baseline case; the diversion of 85 percent of the construction waste from landfills; and the use of paints, floor materials, and sealants with no or low volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

In 2014, well before design of the Nature Center was begun, the City of Doral had already made the decision to invest in a green building for the new park. In addition to the City's Parks and Recreation leadership, other members of the project team included CPZ Architects, Chen-Moore & Associates, Giangrande Engineering & Planning, Miller Legg, Osborne Engineering, TRC Worldwide Engineering, and Pirtle Construction Co.