

Prairie Ecology Bus Center Comprehensive Master Plan: Interpretive Planning

Lakefield, MN



PEBC

The Prairie Ecology Bus Center (PEBC) is a traveling environmental learning center based in southwest Minnesota. The state-of-the-art, mobile scientific laboratory transports participants to parks and natural areas where they spend time exploring, observing, analyzing, and interpreting the ecology of the area.

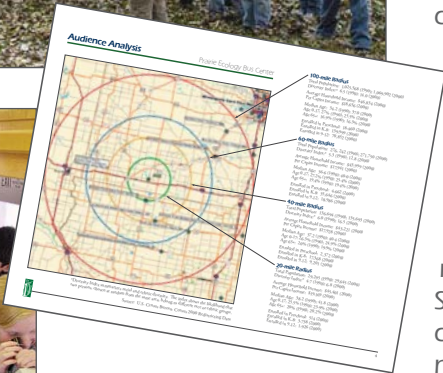
The 106 Group was hired as part of an interdisciplinary team of planners and architects to develop a comprehensive master plan for Sparks Park, where PEBC is headquartered. During the master planning process a strategic/business plan, site/facility plan, and interpretive plan were all developed in cooperation and alignment with one another.

As a mobile learning center, PEBC's facilities beyond the bus were rudimentary. The comprehensive master planning effort sought to further develop Sparks Park as an environmental learning site and to create a new facility in the park to better meet the needs of the bus program and to create a space where additional on-site programs could take place.

Throughout the planning process a series of site visits, workshops, and meetings informed the development of the master plan. The resulting master plan focuses on strategic action, incorporates green technology, integrates interpretation throughout the building and grounds, and articulates an environmental learning model that will help PEBC grow over the course of the next decade.



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