



News Release

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[Nancy Livingston](#)

Public Relations

651-779-3222

Fax 651-779-3470

[Century College](#)

3300 Century Avenue North

White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Century's New Parking Lot a Model of Eco-Friendliness

Century's new multi-million-dollar parking lot – constructed just in time for the record-setting fall enrollment – is a model of eco-friendliness and efficiency.

For example, every drop of rainwater that falls on the West Campus \$3.2-million parking lot goes through a treatment process before draining into the wetland complex south of the campus buildings. Portions of the lot have porous asphalt pavement, and portions of the Stormwater Education Island also is composed of porous pavers and porous concrete, reducing runoff. The stormwater treatment system, unlike a traditional stormwater pond, involves a series of underground chambers with rock at the bottom to promote infiltration.

Trees on the Stormwater Education Island are planted in a structural soil system that allows them to have sufficient air and uncompacted soil, and stores water to allow for growth. The rubber mulch, which is made out of tires, keeps the soil cooler, retains moisture for the trees and inhibits weed growth.

Much of the pavement from the old lot was ground up on site and used as a base for the new lot. Light fixtures were selected on the basis of energy consumption and longer life cycle. The berm along Century Avenue between the lot and the sidewalk was planted with a special turf that requires less mowing, fertilizer and water. Pedestrian and driver safety was enhanced by drastically reducing the number of times pedestrians must cross drive lanes in the lot.

The Century parking lot project won approval from the Valley Branch Watershed District and the City of White Bear Lake. Several public meetings were held to address neighborhood concerns.

“We were very fortunate to have had dry weather for this project,” said landscape architect Stuart Krahn of Bonestroo, the St. Paul firm that designed the lot. “We were working with a compressed schedule from May to August so that the project could be done for the start of school in the fall.”

Because the dollars Century borrowed for the project stretched farther than anticipated, the college also was able to rehabilitate its East Campus lot with a new overlay of pavement.

“After talking about this need for years, Century students, staff and faculty were incredibly patient as we worked to improve our parking lots,” said Dr. Mike Bruner, Century vice president of student services and facilities. “We are thrilled that we were able to stretch our dollars and provide these important improvements in a timely manner.”