

Field Notes

Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

August 2003

Green Roof

Green roofs involve the creation of a "contained" green space on top of a human-made structure. A green roof system is an extension of the existing roof, which involves a special waterproof and root-repellant membrane, a drainage system, filter cloth, a lightweight growing medium and plants.

Here at the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre the building was designed to blend in with the natural environment with minimal visual impact. The green roof is one of several features that helped us accomplish this. The planted area of the roof is 2,620 sq.m. (28,190 sq.ft.)

Our green roof has many benefits:

- It allows the building to blend with the natural prairie environment.
- It recreates a prairie habitat and attracts wildlife including insects and birds that feed and nest.
- It reduces heating costs because it acts as an insulation layer.
- It reduces cooling costs because it minimizes the heat island effect of regular roofs.
- It reduces storm water runoff because the plants hold the rainwater and release it through transpiration.
- It provides an excellent interpretive tool for public awareness of conservation and a healthy environment.

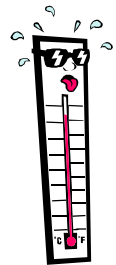


Did you know?

- That green roofs hold 70-80% of the precipitation that falls on them.



- That green roofs keep the roof temperature at 25°C compared to a gravel roof which can get as high as 80°C .



- That green roofs provide habitat for many different animals and plants.



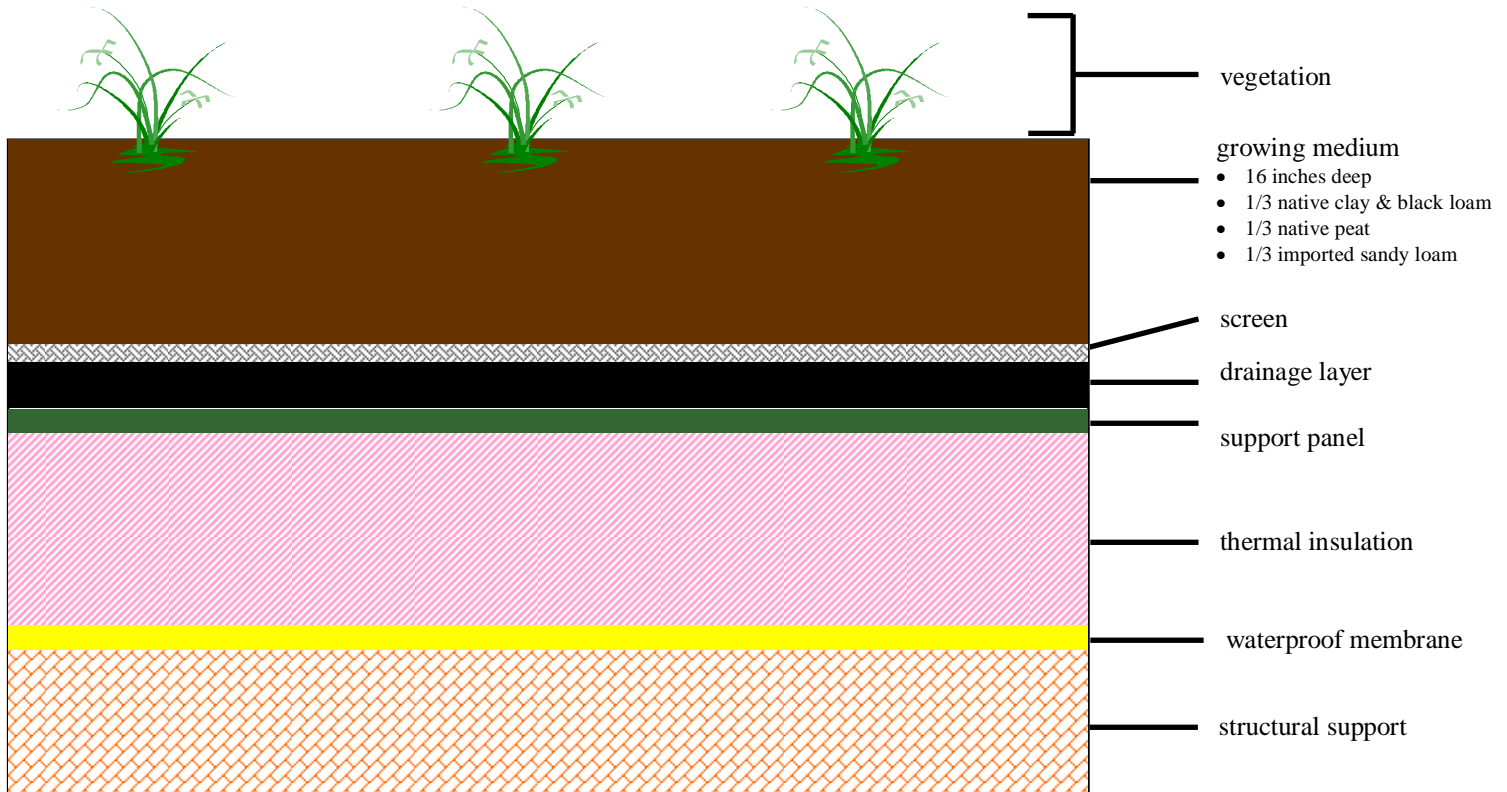
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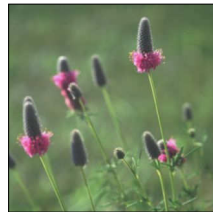
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A green roof has many layers so that it can hold the soil, plants, and water. A typical green roof might look something like this.



These are some of the plants that are growing on our roof.

- Three-flowered avens
- Alumroot
- Pink-flowered onion
- Western silvery aster
- Canada anemone
- Wild bergamot
- Blue giant hyssop
- Northern bedstraw
- Tall coneflower
- Prairie crocus
- Purple prairie-clover
- Big bluestem
- Little bluestem
- Indian grass
- Sweet grass
- Western wheatgrass
- Blue grama
- Side-oats grama



Recently our green roof was awarded the “*Green Roof Award of Excellence*”. Come and check out what is living on our roof!



Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre is a joint project of Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Province of Manitoba

