Environmental Stewardship & Public Green Space

Designed with both sustainability and community well-being in mind, the Pea Patch Community Campus seamlessly integrates nature with modern infrastructure, ensuring a lasting legacy of environmental harmony and resilience.

Local Energy Resilience

A visionary step toward sustainability, the Food Bank and OPAL Community Land Trust will both integrate solar power generation into their new buildings.

- OPAL has received a grant to install solar panels on the 20 townhomes, which will be grid-tied to OPALCO's system, offsetting energy usage and generating some energy credits during the year.
- The Food Bank design includes a propane generator to keep their food stores and commercial kitchen up and running during power outages to keep serving their clientele. The infrastructure design includes provisions for solar and battery storage systems in the future when grant funding is obtained.

Eco-Friendly Design & Green Infrastructure

- **LEED Silver Certified Construction** ensuring high energy efficiency, environmental responsibility, and reduced operational costs.
- **Regenerative Food Gardens & Indigenous Herb Garden:** The campus vision includes innovative food gardens, including Freight Gardens, to promote year-round local food production and provide educational opportunities for all ages.

Revitalized Wetlands & Forest Management

The Campus will enhance its wetland and forested areas to foster a vibrant, biodiverse landscape:

- Public Access & Recreation: Over time, thoughtfully curated walking paths will invite the community to explore and connect with nature, offering a sanctuary for relaxation, education, and outdoor activities.
- Educational Integration: The adjacent elementary and preprimary schools will utilize these rich green spaces for outdoor learning, fostering environmental awareness and hands-on natural history projects among students.

Advanced Stormwater Management & Water Conservation

Recognizing the importance of water stewardship, the campus incorporates advanced stormwater and conservation measures to enhance environmental sustainability:

- **Stormwater Retention**: An underground detention system—capable of holding 60,000 cubic feet of stormwater runoff—will be strategically positioned beneath the new central parking area to regulate water flow effectively.
- **Bioretention Planters**: Lush, deeply mulched planting strips will serve as natural stormwater filters, trapping pollutants while simultaneously reducing runoff volume, mitigating flooding risks, and replenishing groundwater reserves.
- **Wetland Protection & Preservation:** Guided by expert wetland consultants, the campus development prioritizes ecological integrity by preserving half of its expansive 11-acre site in its natural state.
- **Drought-Tolerant Native Landscaping**: With an emphasis on sustainability, most of the site will feature native, drought-resistant plant species, minimizing irrigation demands. Additionally, the residential section of the campus will forgo an irrigation system entirely.
- **Rainwater Catchment System**: A dedicated water collection system at the Food Bank will support plant irrigation, bolstering the site's self-sufficiency.
- **Efficient Water Use Measures:** Low flow plumbing fixtures and shared centralized laundry facilities within residential areas will maximize water conservation efforts.

By prioritizing green spaces, responsible resource management, and innovative clean energy solutions, this campus sets a benchmark for future sustainable development in the County and region.