SUSTAINABLE SITE DEVELOPMENT:
THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING AND PROTECTING SOILS

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Abstract

The Amery Regional Medical Center (ARMC) campus plan reflects the client’s mission “to provide … quality healthcare and to promote the health and wellness of our community” by creating a synergy between the hospital, the adjacent Apple River, and the greater Amery community. Constructed in 2006, the project serves as a regional precedent for its many sustainable features including: porous pavement, green roof, and bioretention.

The design and construction process exemplifies the importance of understanding site soils and the protection of soil health & structure. This presentation will explore the soil analysis process, soils as a design generator, and the nuances used to ensure soil protection.

Biography

Kevin Biehn has 16 years of experience as a landscape architect and fluvial geomorphologist. He possesses a unique blend of ecological, architectural and sustainable design expertise and has established a niche in water-centric projects.

Kevin has managed a diversity of challenging projects, including: the 1.6 million dollar Harriet Island Park Rehabilitation; the Rice Creek Meander Restoration, one of the largest stream restoration projects undertaken in Minnesota; and the Amery Regional Medical Center, a sustainable medical campus and recipient of both Minnesota and Wisconsin ASLA Landscape Architecture Design Awards.