

JUDD GYM/STITZER YMCA CENTER

Landscape & Accessibility Improvements

Springfield College, Springfield, Massachusetts

Project Data

Date: 2010

Size 2-acres

Context: Urban college campus

Construction Date: 2010

Project Description:

Judd Gymnasium was built in 1894 and is the oldest building on the Springfield College campus. This is where James Naismith invented the game of basketball by nailing two peach baskets to the lower rail of the gymnasium's balcony. Originally known as the International YMCA Training School, Springfield College and Judd Gym grew and changed over time. In 2010, the college committed to renovating their oldest building, which, upon completion, now houses the College's new Stitzer YMCA Center that includes the College's Office of YMCA Relations, YMCA Hall of Fame, offices of the Association of YMCA Professionals, YMCA Club room, YMCA multipurpose room, and a new Springfield College museum and the college archives.



Aerial view of the plantings along the front walk



Mass-planting of white daffodils under grove of white birch



Miscellaneous plantings along the west side of Judd Gym

Springfield College hired EDC with Anne Wellington to work with Stephen Jablonski Architects and Erland Construction, Inc. to transform the landscape around Judd Gym with handicap parking and multi-seasonal plantings. City of Springfield Code required 2 on-site handicap access parking, which were placed immediately west of the building with a direct and accessible route to the front door. Plantings and earthen mounds were incorporated to direct and control pedestrian traffic as well as provide color and variety throughout the year. European Weeping Birch, Red Sprite Winterberry, low ornamental grasses, and evergreen yew and boxwood provide color and interest in winter. Mass plantings of 4,500 white daffodils announce the arrival of spring with a spectacular display of color before giving way to spring, summer and fall flower plants. Formal arrangements of plantings give way to sweeping curves and more naturalistic plantings depending upon location and task. Wherever possible, plantings were layered and include groundcover, perennials, shrubs, and ornamental trees – each fulfilling a specific design requirement.

Recipient of a 2011 Paul E. Tsongas Award from Preservation Massachusetts



Multi-seasonal plantings that also control pedestrian traffic