



LILLY CENTER FOR  
**LAKES  
& STREAMS**

GRACE  
COLLEGE

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### 3 Benefits of a Green Roof

*By Dr. Nate Bosch, director of the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams*

Even if you are not familiar with gardening, you may have heard the term “green roof.” A green roof is exactly what it sounds like: a roof designed to grow certain plants. Beyond adding an element of beauty to the architecture of a building, green roofs are innovative on many levels.

The one the Lilly Center and others recently installed on the Dr. Dane A. Miller Science Complex at Grace College may be the first in Kosciusko County, but these unique roofs are popular across the nation. As of 2013, the city of Chicago had over 500 green roofs encompassing more than five million square feet. Just a few years ago, Ford’s truck assembly plant in Dearborn, Mich., installed a green roof that covers 10.4 acres and weighs 15 pounds per square foot soaking wet.

#### **Three Major Benefits**

There are several benefits to the green roof at Grace College; here are three of our favorites:

First, our green roof will collect and filter storm water. Before rain leaves the roof and enters the lakes and streams, the plants in our green roof help remove pollutants. The roots act like a filter, pulling harmful materials from the water. (As a bonus, a green roof will rarely need watered with a hose!)

Second, our green roof will extend the life of the roof and help keep the science complex warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. Ford's facility found that their green roof became a natural form of insulation, saving them up to five percent on heating and cooling costs each year.

Third, the green roof does not contribute to the heat produced by tarred and paved surface. The plants actually trap airborne dust and dirt before anyone breathes it in, effectively making the air cleaner.

Here is the best news: As of Wednesday, Sept. 26, the green roof at Grace College is installed! We extend special thanks to Aramark, Earth Source, Grace College student and staff members, LiveRoof, Heartland Restoration Services, and Carolyn and Kevan Johnston, who all helped in various ways to accomplish this project. Email [lakes@grace.edu](mailto:lakes@grace.edu) or call 574-372-5100, ext. 6446 to learn more or schedule a visit.

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The Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams at Grace College conducts research, provides resources, engages and educates residents, and collaborates with local organizations to make the lakes and streams of Kosciusko County clean, healthy, safe and beautiful. To date, the Lilly Center has conducted scientific research on over 30 streams and 40 lakes. The Lilly Center is driven to create a legacy of stewardship by equipping community members, visitors and future generations to understand and enjoy the county's natural beauty. For more information, visit [lakes.grace.edu](http://lakes.grace.edu).