**Overview**

The George N. Parks Minuteman Marching Band Building is now the single home for the *Pride and Class of New England*. The building includes a large indoor practice and performance space that can contain the entire 300-person marching band, and two smaller group practice spaces. Incorporating the existing Grinnell Arena gave the percussion section its own practice space. The new facility also includes additional storage rooms (for instruments, uniforms and music), and office and conference space for band staff. This building is ADA accessible and is projected to achieve LEED Gold certification during the Fall of 2011.

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**Sustainable Sites**

Site selection is an important step in the building process because it impacts transportation choices, has the potential to preserve green space, and affects overall campus functionality. The site chosen for the new Marching Band Building positively impacts the campus’ built environment in many ways, including:

- Locating student services within the campus core.
- Reusing the existing site of Grinnell Hall preserves surrounding greenfields.
- Close proximity to campus shuttle bus stops reduces private vehicle traffic to the site.
- On-site bicycle storage reduces fossil fuel travel to the site.

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**Water Efficiency, Materials & Resources**

Utilizing resources to their fullest potential is a priority for UMass Amherst. Consideration was made in the design and construction of this facility to ensure the responsible use, reuse and recycling of materials and resources, including:

- Drought resistant landscaping does not need permanent irrigation.
- High efficiency plumbing fixtures reduce potable water usage.
- Building materials with high recycled content minimized the use of natural resources.
- Recycled 85.2% of construction waste reduced impacts on local landfills.
UMass Amherst strives to reduce energy use on campus through sustainable building design. The team employed many strategies, including:

- High efficiency heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.
- Increased insulation.
- Aggressive window glazing.
- Efficient lighting design.

The design team also sought to improve the quality of the indoor air by increasing the ventilation rates over code by nearly 100%.