

Canaan Valley Institute Headquarters

Davis, West Virginia 2005-present



Section through entry drive and wetland basin.

Viridian Landscape Studio, formerly Rolf Sauer & Partners, is completing design and documentation services for a new headquarters facility for the Canaan Valley Institute, a nonprofit organization whose mission is the improvement and preservation of the natural resource watersheds and local communities in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia.

VLS is leading the design team in solving the challenge of building and project infrastructure siting to minimize visual and environmental impacts. The design team holistically studied these issues as well as the building systems, which include composting toilets, wind energy, natural ventilation, green roofing technologies and no night sky pollution.

A key landscape initiative is to repair and replant the site with soil and vegetation harvested during the construction process. Additionally, all stormwater will be infiltrated or reused in cisterns. Stormwater swales weave around walks and terraces creating lush habitats for local flora and fauna

and viewing opportunities for building users. Throughout the site, these technologies will be on display to serve as an educational exhibit to all who visit.



Plants identified for harvesting and reuse.



Above: Sketch for entry court and wetland.

Right: A pedestrian walk system provides both short and long hiking opportunities.

