

Explore CLC as a Living Laboratory

With this **Living Lab Trail**, the College of Lake County (CLC) is carrying out its Vision to be “a leader in providing innovative education and workforce solutions.”

The Living Lab Trail transforms its campus into a meta-learning experience, not just a place to learn, but also a place from which to learn.



Interpretative signage for main features on the outer trail connect that highlight on the campus with issues and opportunities both in the community and with similar issues around the world. The backsides of these signs connect learning opportunities at the college with related careers in that field. Interpretative signage fosters a connection between the campus features and the world around us, stimulates critical thinking and connects technology with meaningful careers.



CLC hoop house – a living laboratory for sustainability and wellness

The Campus Farm is an example of this connection. Students help to grow vegetables and herbs at the farm without any artificial fertilizers or herbicides, which they sell at the farm market or to Café Willow. The Café prepares dishes made from this produce and sends food scraps back for compost. The Living Lab Trail signage highlights students’ connection with the nutrient cycle and how they help to close the loop.

Wellness and sustainability go hand in hand. While visitors explore the prairies and wetlands on campus, they can learn about the

10 Dimensions of Wellness and gain health and wellness benefits by engaging with these natural areas.

The Living Lab Trail is an experiential teaching tool not only for CLC students, but also for staff, younger students and other community members.

The Living Lab Trail



Highlighted Trail Stops:

- Campus Farm and composting food scraps
 - Apiary and Bee Campus USA
 - Arboretum and Tree Campus USA
- Prairie, Wetland, Woodland and Lake natural area restoration
- Opportunities to explore 10 dimensions of Wellness
- Geothermal Heat Exchange System for three main building wings
- Science Building as example of USGBC LEED Green Building Standards
 - Energy Efficiency with variable frequency drives
 - Solar Photovoltaic (PV) systems, solar shading and heat reflectivity
 - Green Roofs and Rainwater Catchment for Sanitary Use
- Café Willow with local and plant-based prepared meal options
- Bioswales for stormwater management
- Bicycle Repair, Green Vehicle Parking and Electric Vehicle Charge Stations

Feature Signage:

- Education about sustainable features at the college
- Connections to education, training and careers
- Applications for at home, in the community and around the world