

SITE & LANDSCAPE DESIGN

APPLEBEE'S RESTAURANT SUPPORT CENTER

The site concept incorporates color, seasonal interests, creation of views and vistas, and positive connections between the parking and building entrances. The plants attract butterflies, song birds and other living organisms. In addition, the site is cost effective in terms of maintenance and operation. The use of native plants require minimal watering after the establishment period. Buffalo grass, wildflower and prairie grass planting provide the basis for perimeter plantings which have deep rooting systems that require no fertilizers or pesticides and minimal mowing. The site requires minimal to no chemicals (herbicides and pesticides) and deals with stormwater on site. A series of vegetated swales are incorporated in the parking lots, sediment basin, sand filters, and wetland to clean the majority of pavement runoff, allowing oils, salts and sediments to be cleansed with on site natural systems.

The new Support Center features three outdoor spaces located between building wings for Associate use, pleasant viewing, and function. The courtyards are an essential component of the Support Center and act as a direct connection with nature and the environment. Proximate access to the outdoors can boost individual performance and attitude and was a design goal that was fundamental to Applebee's Associates.

Each courtyard promotes a relaxed outdoor environment with options for retreats, entertainment spaces, or an extended workplace for the Associates. Each courtyard includes sustainable design measures and allows for a greater connection to the landscape surrounding the building - including great views of the lakes to the east.

As an extension of the Culinary Center, the **North Courtyard** incorporates herb gardens, flower cutting beds, and accommodations for outdoor grilling. The courtyard allows for outdoor cooking classes/demonstrations. All these elements take place under the shade of a large Ginkgo tree and four smaller flowering Crabapple trees, which are placed within sections of grass, lending this space as a unique garden experience. This courtyard allows for dramatic views of the lakes to the east and the prairie plantings outside of the courtyard. A terraced rain garden helps to enclose the courtyard and visibly promotes the stormwater management goals for the site by collecting and filtering rainwater from the roof.

The **Central Courtyard** is designed to function as a flexible outdoor environment suitable for both large gatherings and small groups. The courtyard is an extension of the associate dining atrium and provides opportunities for outside dining and group gatherings. Sections of terraced grass and a stepped rain garden help infiltrate stormwater. A paved pathway connects this courtyard to the public walk system surrounding the lakes for exercise and access to the office park neighborhood.

The **South Courtyard** offers an exceptional place for viewing and working. The courtyard provides intimate spaces for small gatherings. It includes three outdoor seating zones of various sizes for teaming or meetings and are secluded due to small walls, earthen berms, and plant material. Rain garden runnels direct the flow of stormwater through the courtyard. A planting palette of native grasses in dramatic arcing patterns and bamboo give the South Courtyard a unique character.