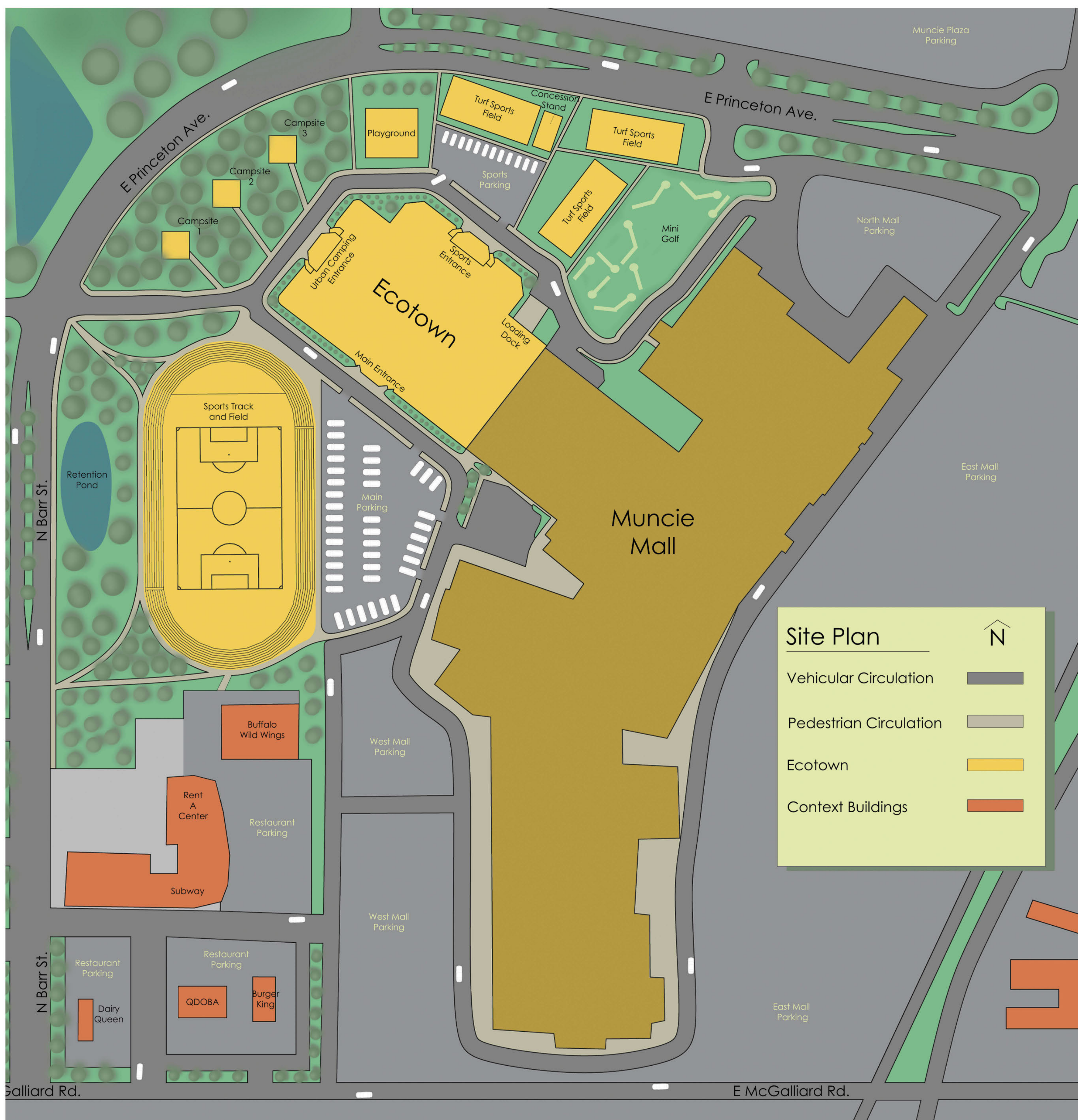


# Ecotown



## Overview

Ecotown is a holistic recreation center that provides opportunities for visitors to be active while having fun. Ecotown will contain some traditional gym features such as a basketball court, athletic turf court, as well as studios for dance, yoga, or other activities. However, Ecotown will stand out from other gyms and recreation centers because it offers unique activities that will promote health and sociability, such as a putt-putt course, a rock wall, a ropes course, urban camping sites, and nature trails. Instead of focusing solely on physical fitness, Ecotown will offer enjoyable recreation opportunities for visitors of all ages that encourage activity, education, and socialization.

The center will be physically and financially accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds, making it socially sustainable. The center will be located in the Muncie Mall where the previous Macy's store was located. This location will link to the Cardinal Greenway Trail and will be easily accessible for bikers. There is also a MITS bus stop on the mall property, so community members who rely on buses for transportation will be able to enjoy all the activities and amenities as well. Ecotown will be developed in phases to be cost effective, and this will allow for more affordable expansions in the future. Environmental sustainability is a core value of Ecotown, and Ecotown will use as many sustainable materials and building methods as possible, for example the project will include solar panels, permeable walkways, and passive systems for natural lighting and ventilation.



## Proposed Design

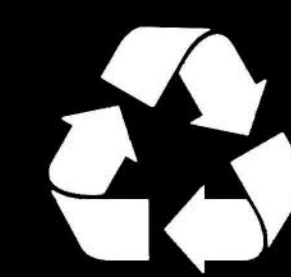
The design for Ecotown consists of various programming and circulation space in both indoor and outdoor areas. The full list of the indoor programming for Ecotown includes office spaces, a check-in area, a concession stand, a rock wall, ropes course, a portion of the putt putt course, basketball court, an indoor athletic field, and an indoor track. The outdoor programming will include a few athletic fields, a track, a portion of the putt-putt course, a playground, a concession stand, the urban campsites, and nature trails.

All of the program goals connect in the sense that they promote active recreation in a variety of ways, and offer entertainment for all ages. The design and placement of these programs encourages connectivity between them. The indoor programs overlap spatially, several of the programs connecting with the atrium and the indoor track looking down on several of the activities.



## Community Need

Muncie lacks a recreation center that offers entertaining activities that promote wellness and health, and sustainable lifestyles. Ecotown has features that differ from a traditional gym and focus more on enjoyable opportunities to be physically active. There is also a significant population in Muncie that is financially distressed and Ecotown will offer affordable and fun activities that can accommodate families who would not be able to afford a full priced gym membership. Different programs geared towards various age groups will also allow for different community groups to enjoy specific aspects of Ecotown.



## Sustainable Agenda

Ecotown will be built sustainably and will be designed so that its sustainable features help to educate the public. The building will use clean energy through solar panels and will use passive systems to maximize natural lighting and ventilation. The parking lot and nature trails will be made from Porous Pave, a sustainable, permeable pavement to prevent standing water and excess runoff. Signage will be posted throughout the center explaining how these sustainable systems operate, and offer suggestions on how visitors can implement these practices on a smaller scale. Ecotown will also offer recycling throughout its spaces and will have clear guides posted on what materials can be recycled.

