



Project Profile

Client:

Delaware Nature Society

Design Professional:

Homsey Architects

Location:

Hockessin, DE

Delivery Method:

Construction Management

Key Challenges:

- To construct a building that blended into the landscape which was sloped and contoured.
- To complete construction on schedule and budget while the center remained fully operational.

Ashland Nature Center

This project encompassed the construction of a new 20,000 square foot heavy timber framed overnight lodge and various renovations and additions to the administrative building which included administrative offices, field guide offices, a gift shop, conference room, library, and auditorium. Bancroft was charged with two major challenges during this project. The first was to blend the overnight lodge into the landscape - this task was achieved by constructing the building of cedar wood, bending the three and a half inch thick tongue and groove floor planks to compliment the land contours, and incorporating a step terraced septic system. The second challenge involved the installation of a sprinkler system in order to comply with current building codes. With no available water source nearby, it seemed that the only alternative was to install a diesel pump, well, and water tower which would exceed the project's budget. Through value engineering, Bancroft recommended the installation of the NFPA13R system which is a code compliant life safety device. This plan reduced project cost by \$500,000 and enabled DNS to proceed.