

# Kiowa County High School

**Project description:** After a tornado devastated Greensburg in 2007, residents, local government and businesses decided to rebuild in a way that modeled sustainability. In addition to its new LEED Platinum school building, the town's school campus features liberal use of native vegetation and several other examples of green infrastructure. A rain-collection system feeds into a 50,000-gallon cistern, where the collected water is then used for irrigation. Bioswales and rain gardens help to retain and filter stormwater, and constructed wetlands are used to treat wastewater.

**Project location:** 710 S Main St., Greensburg, Kansas

**Project partners:** The Kiowa County K-12 school was designed by Kansas City, Missouri-based architecture firm BNIM. Several state and federal agencies were involved in the process of rebuilding Greensburg including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Kansas Emergency Management Agency, Kansas Department of Commerce, Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Development Finance Authority and Kansas Housing Resources Corporation.



**Construction completed:** 2010

**Key green infrastructure components:**

- Rain gardens
- Bioswales
- Cisterns to capture rainwater for irrigation
- Constructed wetlands
- Native vegetation

**Environmental benefits:**

- Provides filtration of surface runoff entering the basin
- Infiltrates and reduces flow velocities while providing pretreatment for stormwater runoff
- Filters and removes sediments and pollutants from stormwater

