

Denver Museum of Nature & Science

Morgridge Family Exploration Center

- Collections space will house more than 1.4 million artifacts and specimens
- Five-story, 126,000-square-foot addition includes two below-grade floors for collections, three floors for education and exhibitions
- Creates dynamic spaces for the active discovery and exploration of science
- Achieves recognition for the museum as the region's premier institution of nature and science
- Establishes a memorable arrival and orientation experience for groups, and a lively, inviting space welcoming to all audiences
- Enables institutional synergy and collaboration between initiatives and departments
- More than 59,000 cubic yards of dirt removed from project site, and some 13,580 cubic yards of concrete poured
- Geothermal energy will heat and cool addition with recycled water from a Denver Water "purple pipe" system



An early 2012 aerial view of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science shows the site to the south (bottom of picture) as it was being prepared for excavation for the new storage and education facility.



By this point in early 2013, the two underground storage collection levels had been constructed on the site, ready for erection of the steel to support three upper floors.



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Denver Museum of Nature & Science

A Place for Everything

After more than 100 years in operation, the Denver Museum of Nature & Science will mark a first: a two-level, climate-controlled space dedicated to collections storage and conservation. The project also provides an architecturally distinctive addition to the south side of the museum, as well as spaces intended for young learners -- a key segment of the museum's 1.4 million visitors each year.



Rendering of oblique view to the west facade of the museum shows the patterning of the walls and another marked by numerous windows.



The above-ground Morgridge Family Exploration Center will feature a three-story atrium, education and exhibition spaces, and a Discovery Zone for young visitors.



Site plan shows the footprint of the new facility in darker blue and its relationship to the overall museum.



A fall 2012 concrete pour before sunrise delivered 1,000 cubic yards of concrete pour at one time -- about 7% of the total amount used during the project's construction.



The atrium and entry of the new facility are part of an open design where daylighting is an important element.



Recycled water from a "purple pipe" system will heat and cool the facility with geothermal energy.



The fall 2011 groundbreaking was attended by Denver Museum of Nature & Science officials and "representatives" of the areas of exploration showcased by the cultural facility -- from astronauts to dinosaurs.



The concrete and rebar "walls" seen under construction were an initial component of the project.