Winston Park will be one of the first buildings in the Tampa Bay area to pursue and achieve the latest version of the USGBC’s LEED certification—LEEDv4. This updated standard raises the bar for a holistically built, environmentally conscious building.

Our approach is to deliver a responsible, efficient and healthy building that will promote a high-quality environment for the occupants and those that engage with the Boys and Girls Club at Winston Park. We will evaluate all decisions through the lens cost-effective approaches that meet budgetary goals, while taking into account the long-term operational cost savings and positive human health impacts of green buildings.

The Building as an Educational Tool
An overarching theme that we plan to follow includes making the building, and its surroundings an educational learning tool to help support the STEM education focus of Boys and Girls Clubs. Picture walls showing what is behind walls (electric wires, insulation, water pipes, etc.), educational signage highlighting specific green building features, and added design elements that create interactive opportunities are all being considered.

Local Site Design
The building orientation was altered to maximize optimal daylight exposure, while reducing energy consumption and glare concerns. Further, this shift provided construction costs savings due to a reduction in structural needs.

Utilizing native and adapted plantings, our goal is to eliminate the need for permanent irrigation (a significant cost savings in initial capital, but also in ongoing maintenance costs) and utilize bio-swales to capture and treat stormwater on-site. Integration of a learning garden—perhaps hydroponics—could be a part of the plan.

The Importance of Water Conservation and Access
Water efficient, yet durable, plumbing fixtures are being specified to reduce ongoing water use, and provide a learning opportunity about the importance and value of water conservation.

Energy Efficiency
Clerestory windows, LED lighting, efficient HVAC systems design and other features help the building consume less energy and improve comfort. Daylight harvesting, lighting control strategies and even solar energy are being considered to reduce operational costs for long-term financial savings.

Healthy Materials and Indoor Air Environment
All building finish materials aim to meet LEED’s strict low VOC standards, as well as other environmental third-party standards to ensure a healthy indoor air environment. A comprehensive Indoor Air Quality Management Plan will be implemented during construction to reduce contaminants and maximize building health during construction and after occupancy.