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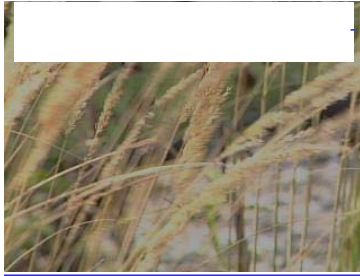
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Thinking Green at Avera

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At the end of this week, Sioux Falls will play host to the "Plain Green" conference, which will focus on what we can do to make the environment around us better, safer and healthier.

A prime example of green development can be found on the campus of Avera McKennan hospital...near the Prairie Center. we took a look for ourselves this afternoon.

The soothing sound of running water would be a welcome addition to most any type of medical setting.

At the Prairie Center on the Avera McKennan campus, a large open pond is the centerpiece to a larger green project, one that

focuses on improving health through a serene setting and the very real impact it can have on the world around us.

"We're only put into the world one time, one chance and a lot of it comes down to how you're going to leave it for your kids, for the next generation." Erik Helland with Landscape Garden Center designed this project and is very philosophical about it.

The pond collects chemical runoff from the campus and the natural design of the pond cleans that water before it is released into the Big Sioux River.

The prairie grasses here are natural to South Dakota, meaning no real extra chemical measures need to be taken to keep these grasses alive.

Avera takes this project very seriously and Dick Molseed with Avera tells us why. "So that the future can be greener, healthier and better for all and that we're not creating an environment that causes health issues, we're creating an environment that is wonderful to be in and can help us be healthy human beings."

Avera is working to incorporate more green elements into it's locations across the region, not just here in Sioux Falls.

Erik Helland says one thing they're conscious of is water conservation, which is why this project is equipped with a smart irrigation system. "It will only water when it is required, when the weather dictates, it's basically it's own weather station."

In other words, you'll never see the sprinklers on here while it's raining. The system focuses on saving water, not wasting it.

Again, the Plain Green conference will be held this Friday, October 14th, at the Orpheum Theater in Sioux Falls.

To visit the conference's web site, visit the news links section of our web site at [ksfy.com](#) .

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