CASE STUDY

Mayo Clinic Health System La Crosse Hospital Bed Tower

Advancing Community Healthcare Through High-Performance, Sustainable Design

BUILDING HISTORY & USE

For more than a century, Mayo Clinic Health System has served as a cornerstone of healthcare for the La Crosse region. Over time, however, the existing inpatient facilities on campus no longer aligned with the demands of modern medicine, patient expectations, or long-term operational efficiency.

In response, Mayo Clinic Health System undertook the development of a new, purpose-built hospital tower to replace the aging structure with a new inpatient tower. The goal extended beyond increasing capacity — it was an opportunity to modernize care delivery, improve patient and staff experience, and invest in a facility designed to perform well into the future, keeping high-quality care close to home.

Completed in 2024, the building integrates energy-efficient systems and flexible spaces that can adapt as care models evolve. The Bed Tower facility is the largest construction project in the system's regional history. Its completion strengthens Mayo Clinic Health System's role as a regional healthcare hub for La Crosse and the surrounding 7 Rivers Region for generations to come.

6
WELL SYSTEM

3,396
MBH HEATING DEMAND

828
TONS COOLING DEMAND

PROCESS

From the beginning, the Bed Tower was envisioned as a long-term healthcare asset — one that balanced clinical performance with environmental responsibility.

Early planning focused on reducing energy demand at the building scale through efficient massing, durable construction, and systems integration. The design team prioritized solutions that would support patient comfort and reliability while lowering operational impact over the life of the building.

A high-performance Darcy geothermal heating and cooling system was selected to serve the tower, leveraging stable subsurface temperatures to deliver efficient, low-carbon conditioning year-round. Paired with advanced lighting and building controls, this approach significantly reduces energy use compared to conventional hospital systems.

Together, these strategies align the Bed Tower with Mayo Clinic Health System's broader sustainability goals while supporting resilient, cost-effective healthcare operations.

DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

Design and construction of the Bed Tower were carefully coordinated within an active hospital campus, requiring close collaboration among clinical, facilities, and construction teams. Maintaining uninterrupted patient care throughout the project remained a critical priority.

Construction officially began in 2022 following extensive site preparation and utility coordination, and in 2024 the building was completed. The tower stands six stories above grade with an additional below-grade level and mechanical penthouse, delivering nearly 300,000 square feet of modern inpatient space that's ready to support advanced care in a durable, efficient, and future-ready environment.

BUILT TO SUPPORT TOMORROW'S CARE

The La Crosse Hospital Bed Tower represents more than a replacement facility — it is a strategic investment in resilient, responsible healthcare infrastructure.

By combining efficient systems, thoughtful planning, and long-term adaptability, Mayo Clinic Health System has created a building that supports exceptional patient care while reducing environmental impact and operational cost.

As healthcare continues to evolve, the Bed Tower stands as a model for how high-performance design can strengthen community hospitals and serve patients for generations to come.

P133-CS 1/26