

Campus Exterior Architectural Plan 2.0

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Introduction and Purpose

Penn State's Mission:

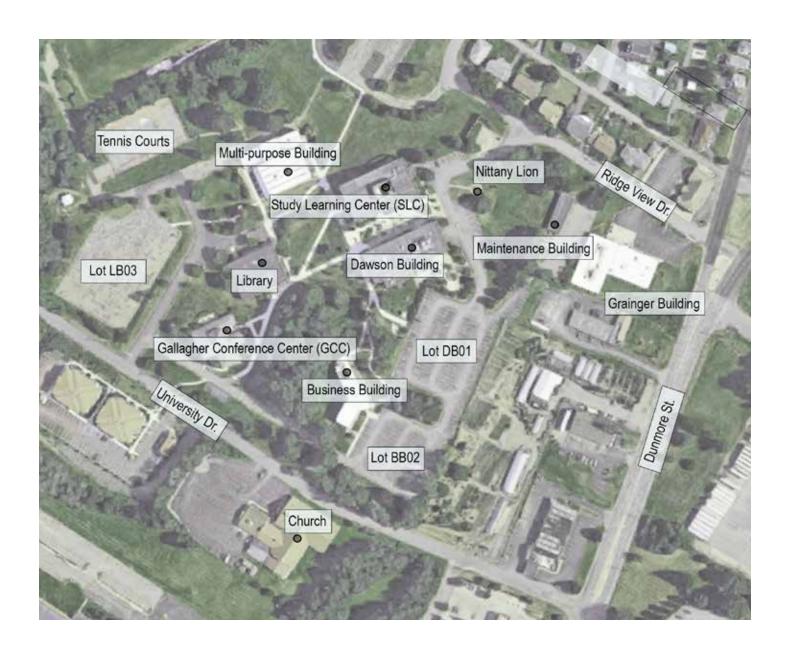
Penn State is a multi-campus public land-grant university that improves the lives of the people of Pennsylvania, the nation, and the world through integrated, high-quality programs in teaching, research, and service. The goal of campus buildings and grounds is to support this mission and to be a reflection of the high quality of these programs and the Penn State brand.

To assist in achieving this goal, a Campus Exterior Architecture Plan, known as a CEAP, is developed to suggest ways to improve the exterior aesthetic qualities of campus with low-cost and easy-to-implement concepts that can have meaningful impacts. This CEAP is an update from the previous plan and recommendations presented to Penn State Scranton in 2006.

The previous CEAP defined the existing conditions of the campus and areas that needed improvement. This update addresses the achievements on campus thus far, further specifies the areas that still need to be completed from the last CEAP, and illustrates several new recommendations that would greatly improve the campus exterior.

The improvement concepts are ranked or prioritized according to their visual impact and estimated cost. The concepts are not final designs. Further study and design are required prior to implementation.

Campus Aerial



Previous CEAP Status

In the previous CEAP presented to Penn State Scranton in 2006, the existing conditions were assessed and recommendations presented. Upon revisiting the campus, several of those recommendations have clearly been addressed and have created significant improvement. Other recommendations previously suggested are only partially complete or have not yet been addressed, and remain viable for the beautification of the Scranton Campus.

The following section recognizes the efforts already completed to beautify the campus and re-emphasizes what action still needs to be taken. Further recommendations not covered in the previous CEAP are also included, however, they should not be considered higher priority simply because they are newer suggestions – the former ideas remain just as feasible and beneficial.



Completed Recommendations

The following projects were suggestions made in the previous CEAP which have been fully carried out by the campus.

Completed Recommendations

Previous CEAP Status



Pavement Reductions





Wide ramp & steps replaced and narrowed



After Steps and walkway width reduced by half



Scranton

Completed Recommendations Previous CEAP Status

Pavement Reductions







Large concrete plaza removed at Gymnasium





Walkways and steps replaced and narrowed through core campus



The following projects were recommended in the previous CEAP. Some action has been taken by the campus to fulfill the suggestion, but there is progress still to be made. Projects are organized by first stating the steps the campus has taken and next showing the issues that still remain.

Previous CEAP Status

Signage

Previous Recommendation

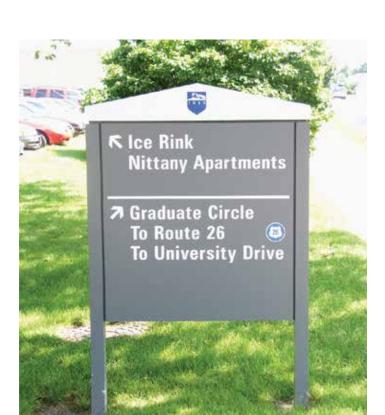
Comprehensive standardized signage across campus conveys a unified image. These examples illustrate the standard adopted at University Park.

The manual specifying the standards can be found at: www.opp.psu.edu/stnd/signage/index.html

STUDY LEARNING CENTER

Wall-mounted Building Identifier Sign

- Aluminum cutout letters mounted to non-illuminated painted aluminum backer pan.
- •6" high 1 1/2" deep satin finish letters
- Font style: Gill Sans Light



Directional Signage





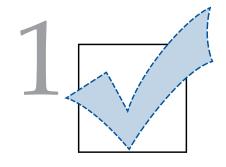
Campus Map / Way - finding



Previous CEAP Status

Signage

Remaining Updates





Replace way-finding sign panels because of deterioration



Avoid signs on buildings and temporary "yard" signs



Update to standard sign and sign post



Update Penn State logo throughout campus

Previous CEAP Status

Site Furnishings

Progress Made



New standard benches

Site furnishings designed in a style "family" provide a unifying aesthetic theme. The example shown here is stylistically neutral making it compatible with varying architectural styles present on the campus. Powder coated metal is attractive, comfortable and durable.

Planters should be appropriately sized for the space they occupy and be constructed of durable, quality material.



New standard cafe tables and planters

Previous CFAP Status

Site Furnishings Remaining Updates



Wood slat benches on Dawson South Plaza



Wire trash receptacles at a few locations near parking lots



Wood slat bench on walkway near Business Building



Metal picnic tables in lawn and next to Gymnasium



Concrete picnic tables near University Drive

Previous CEAP Status

Site Lighting Previous Recommendation

Plan for phased replacement of antiquated, inefficient walkway, roadway and parking lot lighting

The use of metal halide lamps in cut-off luminaries mounted to poles is recommended. Avoid the use of bollards due to vulnerability to snow removal operations and vandalism.

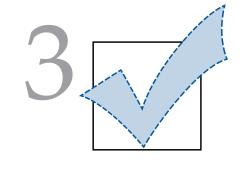
Light style should be contemporary and simple in nature. Suggest the use of light colored metallic finish. Appropriate examples are illustrated here.

Roadway and parking lot lighting should also be updated. Fixture style should compliment walkway lights but be scaled appropriately.

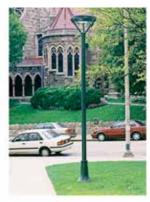


InVue Ascent pole light for roadways, parking and other vehicular oriented areas

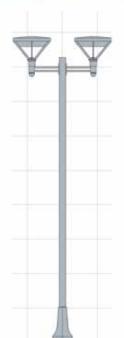
Manufacturer: Cooper Lighting











Argent "family" of lights for pedestrian oriented locations.

Manufacturer: Architectural Area Lighting

Partially Complete Recommendations Previous CEAP Status

3

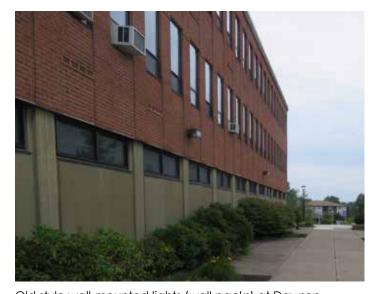
Site Lighting Remaining Updates



Non-standard parking lot light fixtures at Dawson parking lot



Non-standard parking lot light fixtures at Business parking lot



Old style wall-mounted lights (wall packs) at Dawson



Cobra-style lights on Campus Hill Road

Previous CEAP Status

4

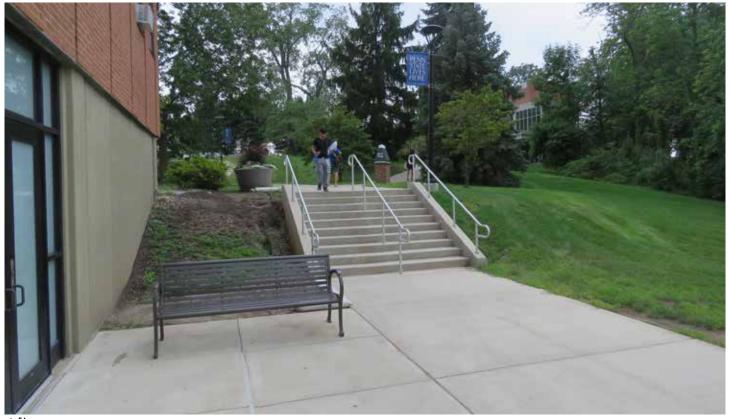
ADA Access

Dawson Building - Progress Made



The west entrance of Dawson was made accessible instead of the north entrance as originally proposed. The north entrance may be completed when the entire courtyard space is redone.

Before

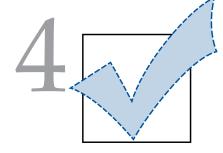


After

Previous CEAP Status

ADA Access

Dawson Building - Remaining Updates



Cost Estimate: < \$10K



Proposed



Existing

Eliminate step by replacing existing walk and sloping to threshold. Install door opener. Avoid the use of carpet mats in exterior locations.



In-Progress Recommendations

The following projects were recommended in the previous CEAP and are currently being undertaken by the campus, be it either in the planning or the implementation phases.

In Progress Recommendations

Previous CEAP Status

Air Conditioners

Dawson Building



Window air conditioning units have been improved in efficiency and aesthetic appearance. Utilize units that are less visible on the exterior.

Before



After

In Progress Recommendations Previous CEAP Status

2

Tennis Court

Due to its visual prominence from the core of campus it is recommended that this site be re-mediated in one of three ways: Tennis court use (new surface, fence, nets), Parking (resurface, lighting, access) or remove the existing fence and paving and restore to grass surface.



In Progress Recommendations Previous CEAP Status

Ridge View Drive Entrance Landscaping Opportunity



Eliminate unused concrete slab and replace with enhanced landscape planting. Install two vertical wall mounted flagpoles for display of US and PA flags.

Before



After

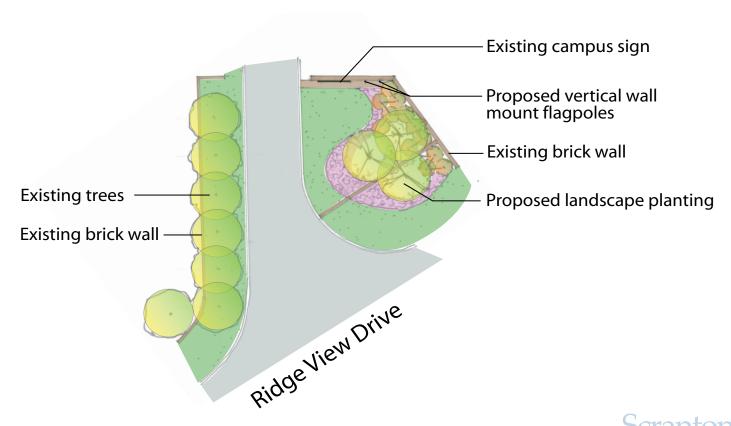
Ridge View Drive Entrance Landscaping Opportunity

Water valve vault to remain



Stone memorial to remain or be relocated







Incomplete Recommendations

The following projects were recommended in the previous CEAP but have not yet been undertaken by the campus.

Incomplete Recommendations

Previous CEAP Status

Dawson Building Entry

West Entrance

Cost Estimate: < \$10K

The existing entry points to Dawson Building are nondescript. A roof or awning structure at each entry point will visually identify the entrance as well as provide shelter from inclement weather.

The design and material for the awning must complement the architectural style of the building. Other instances occur across campus that would benefit from this treatment. Examples include the Nursing Education entrance at the Library and Police Services.





Existing



Option 1



Option 3

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The following projects were recommended in the previous CEAP, and have either been fulfilled to that recommendation or have not been completed. In this CEAP, new recommendations are provided for those past project suggestions. Projects are organized by first listing the previous recommendation and than describing what is currently being recommended.

Previous CEAP Status

O'Neill Highway To Campus on University Drive - Previous Suggestion

Pedestrian Access

Pedestrian access to campus from public transportation at O'Neill Highway requires walking in the street or grass for at least a portion of the route. Propose the installation of a sidewalk from campus to the highway.



Existing



Proposed

Previous CEAP Status

O'Neill Highway To Campus on University Drive - New Suggestion

Pedestrian Access



Cost Estimate: > \$100K

The acquisition of the Grainger Property by the campus makes the connection between O'Neill and campus even more valid. Building is currently inaccessible from the rest of campus. Recommend introducing a walkway connecting campus and parking to the Grainger building and to O'Neill, running along Ridge-view Drive and Dunmore Street.

This project could be integrated in a larger project to improve the exterior, landscaping, and parking of the Grainger building (New Improvement Recommendations #2, page 40 - 41).





Previous CEAP Status

Pending

Nittany Lion Shrine Landscaping Opportunity - Previous Suggestion

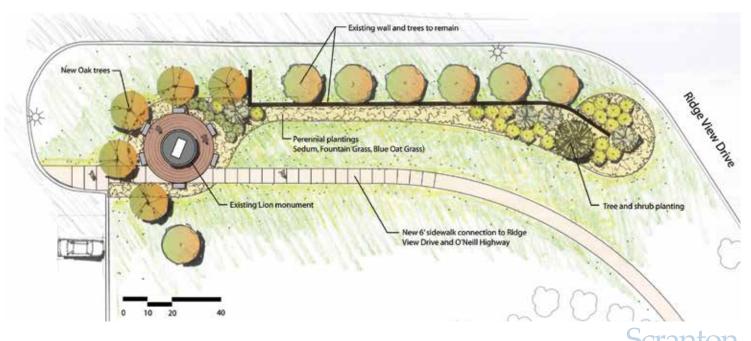
Landscape enhancements surrounding the existing Nittany Lion monument will beautify and give spatial context to this campus landmark space. The opportunity exists to create a pedestrian access from the core of campus to the O'Neill Highway where public transportation exists.





Walkway not accessible; Statue base inconsistent w/ original Main. bldg. is backdrop; Furnishings incongruous w/ campus

Proposed:



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Cost Estimate:

\$25K to \$50K

Nittany Lion Shrine Landscaping Opportunity - New Suggestion

Because of inaccessibility, inappropriate base, inconsistent paving materials and furnishings, and a poor background for photography, consider relocation of the statue to the west end of the Dawson North Courtyard as a focal element with the mountain view as a backdrop. This could be integrated into a project to redesign the entire north Dawson courtyard (Updated Recommendations #3, page 30 - 32)



Existing



Proposed

3

Dawson Building North Entrance

Plaza Enhancements - Previous Suggestion

Current Plaza:



Site furnishings have been upgraded which is a great start



Excessive, patched pavement and tired landscaping



Tree pits unnecessary and stunt tree growth



Raised planter/seat wall dated, unattractive, & blocks views

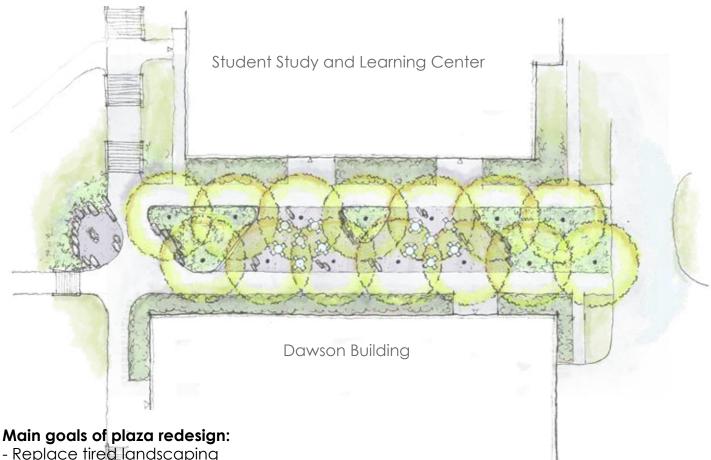
Cost Estimate: > \$100K

Dawson Building North Entrance

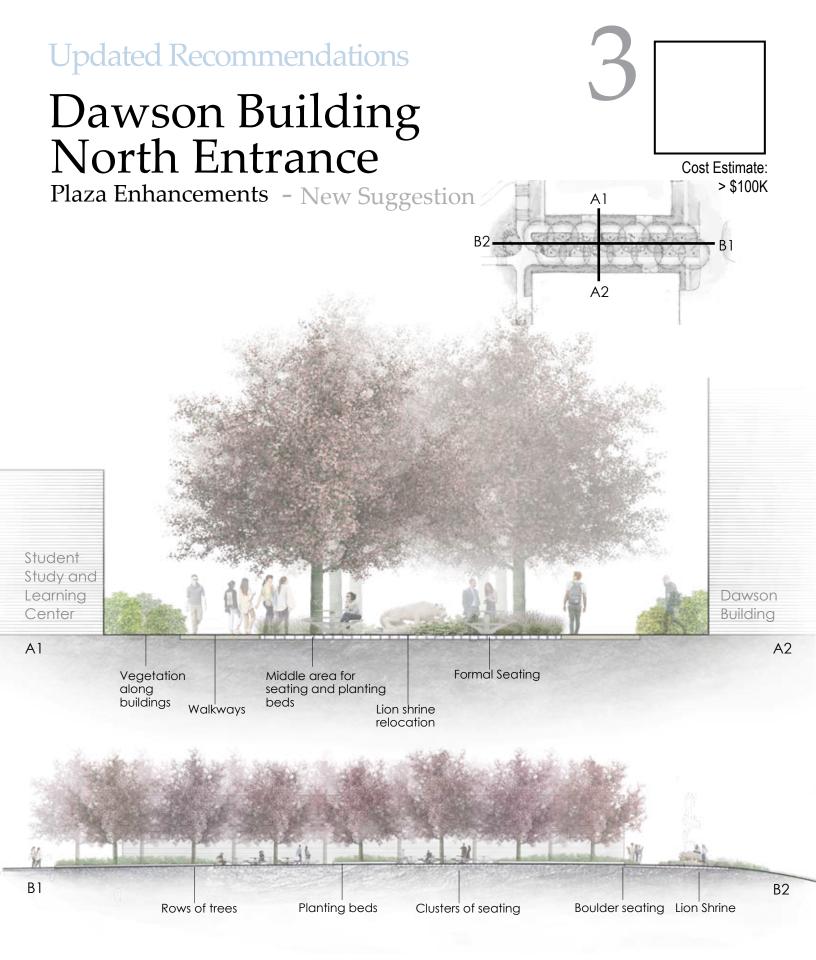
Plaza Enhancements - New Suggestion

Potential Plaza Redesign - Plan View:

The plaza between the Student Study and Learning Center and the Dawson Building currently has outdated landscaping and an excessive amount of deteriorating concrete. Recommend a plaza redesign to address these issues and create a more inviting space. The lion shrine relocation (Updated Recommendations #2, pages 28 - 29) can be incorporated into this project to become the focal point of the plaza.



- Replace tired landscaping
- Create better seating opportunities
- Eliminate unnecessary concrete
- Introduce more vegetation and trees
- Relocate and better integrate the lion shrine
- Create an attractive and cohesive space for students



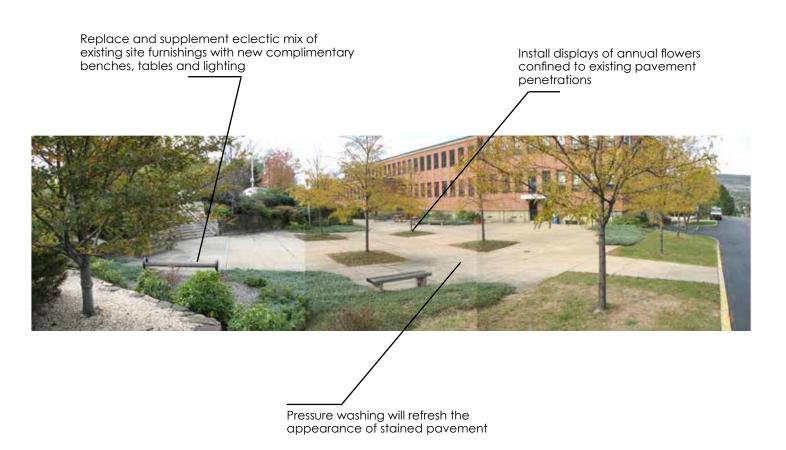
Previous CEAP Status

4

Dawson Building South Entrance

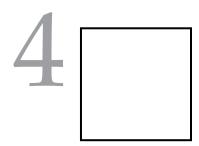
Plaza Enhancements - Previous Suggestion

This gathering space south of Dawson Building requires little to enhance its visual quality and thereby its use. Landscape plantings are well established and contain quality materials. Several of the improvement recommendations cited elsewhere in this document can be implemented here as well as those noted



Dawson Building South Entrance

Plaza Enhancements - New Suggestion



Cost Estimate: > \$100K

Current Plaza:

The previous recommendations were helpful but mostly cosmetic. A more substantial renovation is needed with a scope that potentially includes: replacement and substantial reduction of pavement, removing and replacing retaining walls with vegetated slopes, and improving pedestrian connections to parking lot with possible accessible route.



Unprogrammed paved areas & not needed for circulation



Trees in pits are stunted and annuals can't compete w/ roots



Steep steps with no landings & mismatched retaining walls



Large, featureless paved area disproportionate w/ doorway

Dawson Building South Entrance

Plaza Enhancements - New Suggestion



Cost Estimate: > \$100K

Current Plaza:

The remainder of the area between Dawson and the elevated parking is unattractive and a maintenance problem. Steps are steep and precarious, retaining walls are a short-term solution, transformer is an eyesore, landscaping is tired, and pedestrian routes are inaccessible.



Exposed transformers are unattractive and distracting



Unattractive walls and unnecessary pavement



Steep steps with no landings & mismatched retaining walls



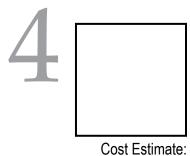
Tired landscaping but with potential for ADA ramp

Dawson Building South Entrance

Plaza Enhancements - New Suggestion

Conceptual Plaza Redesign - Plan View:

Conceptual Plan Drawing showing how retaining walls can be replaced with vegetated slopes, pavement can be reduced, and use can be increased through the use of vegetation and the creation of interesting spaces.



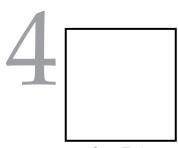
Cost Estimate: > \$100K



Updated Recommendations

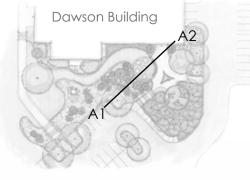
Dawson Building South Entrance

Plaza Enhancements - New Suggestion



Cost Estimate: > \$100K

Conceptual Plaza Redesign - Section View:





Major Goals of Design:

- Minimize pavement
- Regrade slope to be more gentle
- Increase the amount of trees and vegetation
- Create a safer and more welcoming parking lot
- Improve seating and gathering opportunities

Informal seating area with minimized pavement



New Recommendations

The following projects are new recommendations for the improvement of the Scranton Campus, including insights into the architecture, site amenities, and landscape. The focus of the recommendations is to unclutter and clean up the campus aesthetic.

Architectural suggestions include removing or renovating structures whose usefulness is in question.

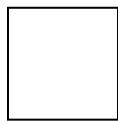
Site amenities include general repairs and appropriate use of site furnishings.

The landscaping category includes the most suggestions and examples, but many are simple solutions to small problems that will altogether have a large impact on the aesthetics of the campus. Recommendations include vegetative screening, simplification of landscaping, and using trees effectively to create spaces.

New Recommendations

University Drive Corridor To Campus on University Drive

Pedestrian Access



Cost Estimate: \$50K to \$100K

In Updated Recommendations - O'Neill Highway Pedestrian Access (Updated Recommendations #1, pages 26 - 27), it is recommended that the campus provide a sidewalk connection between the campus and the highway. Similarly, the University Drive corridor also lacks sidewalks, as well as crosswalks and code compliant steps from parking across the road from campus. As not all of the adjacent properties belong to the campus, it is suggested that the campus work with the municipality on this project.









Cost Estimate: \$50K to \$100K

Grainger Property Landscaping Opportunity

Recently, the campus purchased the Grainger property off of Ridge-view Drive. This building and surrounding landscape call for modification in order to be integrated as part of the campus. A walkway connection to the campus will need to be made, as it is currently inaccessible. This could be included in a project to create a walkway connection to the O'Neill Highway (Updated Recommendations #1, pages 26 - 27). There is also an opportunity to include a monument sign on this property marking the entrance to the campus (New Improvement Recommendation #3, pages 26 - 27).

It is recommended that the main parking be moved to the lot between the Grainger and the maintenance building, and the parking lot in front of Grainger's entrance be reduced. Adding street trees and vegetation surrounding the building and parking lots will make this new part of campus more appealing.

Concept Plan:



New Improvement Recommendations

Grainger Property Landscaping Opportunity

Cost Estimate: \$50K to \$100K

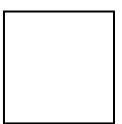
Existing Grainger property:



Proposed changes:



3



Cost Estimate: \$25K to \$50K

Monument Sign Grainger Property

Signage

With the integration of the new Grainger Property into the campus, there is an opportunity to place a new monument sign to welcome visitors into the campus. The sign should be located at the intersection of Dunmore Street and Ridge-view Drive, at the corner of the Grainger property. The sign could be included in a project to update the exterior and landscaping of the newly acquired Grainger building (New Improvement Recommendations #2, pages 40 - 41) and could either be freestanding or connect to the building in an appealing way. This decision will be influenced by the function of the new building.



Proposed - Sign connects to building





Proposed - Free-standing sign Example at Bradywine campus

Cost Estimate: \$25K to \$50K

Business Building Landscaping Opportunity

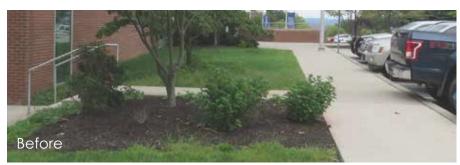
Overall, landscaping is missing around the building. Planting of steep slopes would reduce maintenance problems. Even several strategic trees and simple shrub massing would enhance the aesthetic and better integrate the building into the site. Gravel maintenance strips would reduce mud splash and provide a neat edge against turf areas.



Landscaping is missing and standpipe is unsightly - recommend adding vegetation around building.

Steep slope is maintenance problem and eyesore - soften with vegetation





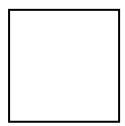
Enhance existing plantings to replace missing plants





Stark contrast between woodlot and blank building walls - recommend extending forest line closer to building





Cost Estimate: > \$100K

Study Learning Center "The Stairway to Heaven"

Pedestrian Access and Safety

These steps are very steep and are unsightly from numerous repairs, as well as pose a serious maintenance and safety issue in winter. Timber retaining walls are residential in character and plantings are unruly and weedy. Replacement of steps seems imminent, which may provide an opportunity to consider options for a new alignment that is safer and easier to maintain. Consider these safer and lower maintenance design options looking forward.



Looking north toward mid-level entrance to building



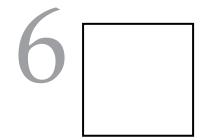
Close up view of patchwork repairs and ongoing decay



Looking south at formidable climb with undesirable plantings Close up of mid-level entrance from below



Gymnasium Site Improvements Landscaping Opportunity



Cost Estimate: \$50K to \$100K

While a recent pavement reduction project has improved the south side of the Gymnasium, other landscape issues are present along the other three facades. Timber retaining walls throughout the campus are dated and residential in appearance and not long-term solutions. Consider other wall systems or regrading areas to create landscaped embankments. Ongoing pavement upgrades and "hiding the uglies" approaches are needed.



Plantings within walls are unruly and unkempt



Parking, access drive, & building entrance are in disrepair



Timber walls are unattractive and not long-term solution



Utility pipes and meters are unsightly

Central Campus Woodland Rehabilitation

Cost Estimate: \$25K to \$50K

Landscaping Opportunity

This woodlot in core campus is both an educational opportunity and campus amenity similar to Hort Woods at the University Park Campus. However, rehabilitation efforts are needed, including the removal of invasive plants and dropping hazardous trees (dead ash), as well as planting desirable native plants in canopy gaps and along edges and protecting the woodlot from further encroachment of development. Consider the potential expansion of forestland into turf areas that are not programmed spaces.



Drop any dead/dying trees and allow to decay on forest floor



Forest expansion can eliminate higher maintenance turf



Invasive shrubs choke out desirable species & block views



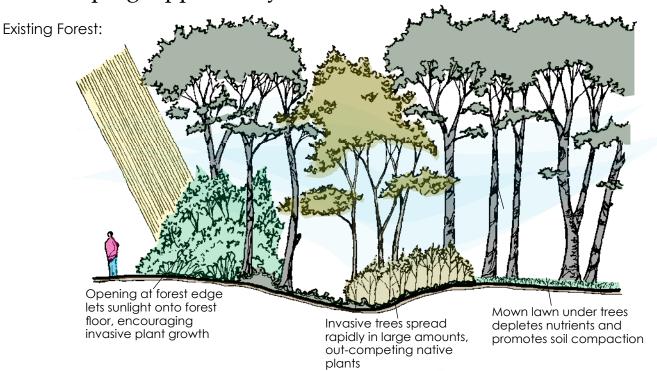
A sickly woodlot can be transformed to be an amenity

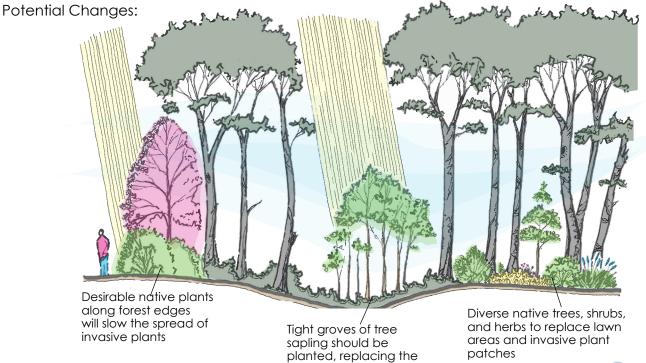
New Improvement Recommendations

Central Campus Woodland Rehabilitation

Cost Estimate: \$25K to \$50K

Landscaping Opportunity





gaps of invasive tree

removal

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Gallagher Conference Center Plantings Landscaping Opportunity

8

Cost Estimate: \$25K to \$50K

The pavement, site furnishings, and plantings were recently updated surrounding this building. However, a combination of design, construction, environmental, and/or maintenance factors have resulted in missing plants, poorly placed plantings, and unrealistic expectations for landscape maintenance.



Missing plants on left side & overgrown plants on right side



Gaps in screen plantings in a couple locations reveal utilities



Plantings are conspicuously absent at a campus entry-point



Maintenance and/or plant selection & health issues detract

Cost Estimate: > \$100K

Removing or Replacing Retaining Wall Landscaping Opportunity

Many retaining walls throughout campus (e.g. timber & dry-laid stone) are residential in character, are not long-lasting, and tend to encourage poorly maintained plantings. Consider eliminating walls and regrading where possible (e.g. Dawson, Gymnasium). Also consider ultimately replacing these walls with higher quality materials and construction and simplified, lower maintenance plantings.



Potential for removal & replacement with stabilized slope



Consider new type of wall system with simplified plantings



Dry-laid stone out of character and deteriorating



Potential redesign could reduce or eliminate walls



York Ruhl Center retaining wall system example of potential wall redesign

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Tree Planting Strategy Landscaping Opportunity

Cost Estimate: < \$10 K - Annual



Trees in naturalistic groves or in formal allees are an essential component of a campus landscape. With continued strain on tree populations from disease and development, an ongoing focus is needed to implement a phased strategy for tree planting to increase total canopy, diversify species, and multigenerational plantings.



Consider informal groupings in open areas & along edges





Introduce buffer plantings around parking lots



Frame campus entrances and gateways with street trees





Improve other streetscapes with unified but diverse trees



Scranton

Cost Estimate:

Reduce Turf Grass

Landscaping Opportunity

Turf-grass throughout campus is generally in excellent condition but lawn is energy intensive, contributes to runoff, and lacks biodiversity. While lawn is necessary for recreation and outdoor event spaces, there are many sloped areas or perimeter zones where other land management strategies may be considered.



A warm-season grassland would add beauty with less energy



Mowed edges and paths through grassland show care



Large embankments are stark and imposing



Very steep embankments are dangerous to mow



Example



Example: Marsh Meadow at University Park

Cost Estimate: < \$10 K

Miscellaneous Recommendations

Landscaping Opportunity

A variety of more minor landscape improvements to consider include:

- 1. Eliminate gravel mulch and weed fabric in planting beds.
- 2. Hide the "uglies" particularly utility and mechanical boxes and meters.
- 3. Replace catch basin grates in pedestrian areas to be code compliant.
- 4. Ring catch basins in planting beds with river stone borders or dense ground-covers replacing mulch.
- 5. Remove wood rail fence that borders parking lot



1. Gravel mulch in planting beds near Dawson







4. Mulch washes into inlets and clogs storm-water pipes



5. Wood rail fence along parking lot to be removed

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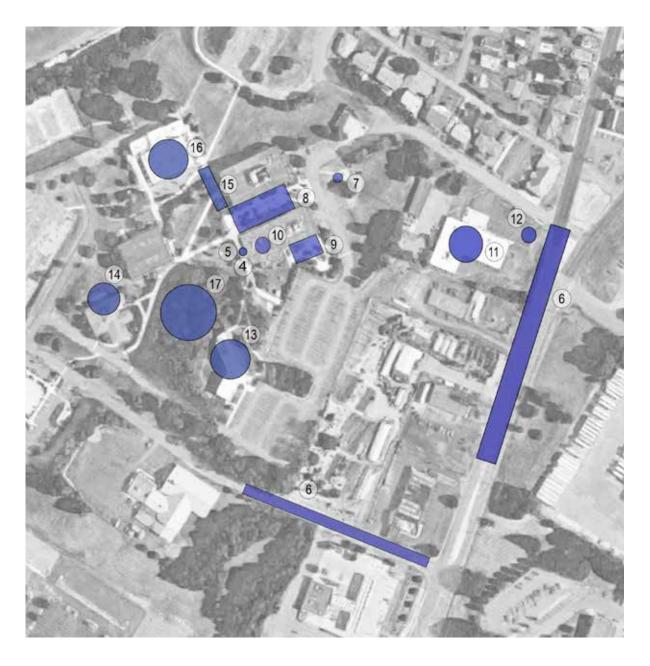
Project List

Below is a list of all the incomplete projects suggested in this CEAP. Estimated project cost ranges are included to help facilitate budget and scheduling decisions.

On the following page is a map showing specific project locations. Projects that are campus wide are not included on the map.

KEY	PROJECT NAME	COST RANGE
1	SignageOngoing Updates	\$10K to \$25K
2	Site Furnishings Removals and/or Upgrades	\$25K to \$50K
3	Site LightingParking Lots & Roads	\$50K to \$100K
4	ADA AccessDawson Building	< \$10K
5	Dawson Building Entry	\$25K to \$50K
6	O'Neill HighwayPedestrian Access	> \$100K
7	Nittany Lion Shrine Relocation	\$25K to \$50K
8	Dawson North Entrance Courtyard	> \$100K
9	Dawson South Entrance Plaza	> \$100K
10	University Drive Corridor	\$50K to \$100K
11	Grainger BuildingModifications & Landscaping	\$50K to \$100K
12	Monument Sign	\$25K to \$50K
13	Business Building Landscaping	\$25K to \$50K
14	Gallagher Conference Center Landscaping	\$25K to \$50K
15	Study Learning CenterStairway to Heaven	> \$100K
16	Gymnasium Site Improvements	\$50K to \$100K
17	Central Campus Woodland Rehabilitation	\$25K to \$50K
18	Retaining Wall Removal & Replacement	> \$100K
19	Tree Planting Strategy (Annual)	\$25K to \$50K
20	Reduce Turfgrass	< \$10K
21	Miscellaneous Recommendations	< \$10K

Campus Project Map



Numbers correspond to Project List (previous page)
Projects that are campus-wide are not shown on above map