

Conceptual Landscape Master Plans

One College Campus Landscape Master Plan

Last Revised: 6.7.2017

CAMPUS LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN For Montgomery College's Conceptual Landscape Master Plans (CLMP)

A. Definitions:

Landscaping refers to any activity that modifies the visible features of an area of land. Including, but not limited to: living elements, natural elements, and abstract elements. Landscaping combines artistic design and horticultural expertise.¹

Master Plan a general plan for achieving an objective.²

Sustainability “as applied to the campus landscape means incorporating the efficiency and complexity of nature into the landscape, restoring damaged ecologies, increasing biodiversity, promoting human health, and providing secure livelihoods (while also managing expectations of the “campus aesthetic”). Importantly, this means that a campus landscape must be sustainable not only ecologically, but socially and economically as well if it is to contribute to an institution’s resiliency and health in both the short and long term.”³

B. Goals:

A campus landscape is a vital part of the physical embodiment of a college’s values, much like the college buildings are representative of the college’s values. The Campus Landscape Master Plan outlined here is the framework for the Conceptual Landscape Master Plan (CLMP) for each individual campus location of Montgomery College (MC). Within this framework of the Campus Master Plan are ideas/concepts to achieve the stated objectives for each specific landscape concept listed below. Individual landscape projects will incorporate the landscape concepts established in this Campus Landscape Master Plan into site specific designs.

Additionally, landscape projects shall adhere to the *College Design Standards*, the *Facilities Master Plan concepts*, and local governing agencies in each jurisdiction for the three campus locations of Montgomery College.

Campus Landscape Master Plan: Objective

Campus landscape will add vitality to each campus by creating:

- outdoor spaces: the landscape will define spaces for gathering, study, play, events, and/or ‘living labs’ for sustainable practices
- an identity that will be a positive factor in student recruitment and business attraction for hands on teaching and internship opportunities
- a front door, gateway, to each campus

¹ Wikipedia

² The Free Dictionary – by Farlex

³ The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (aashe) “How-To Guide”

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C. Required Functions of Landscaping:

1. Aesthetics: The design should be bold and simple, creating site specific value as defined by these landscape concepts. Scale, form, and color shall be appropriate to the site and adjacent buildings. Seasonal colors of plant materials and year-round interest will be part of the design.
2. Vitality: The landscape of the campus adds life, providing a real connection to the natural world of plants and the health benefits of being connected to nature. ‘Feeling calm/ relaxed’ was the most frequently mentioned effect associated with parks and green spaces”.⁴
3. Connection: Clear identity and a coherent landscape will enhance connection to place and create areas where connectivity can be achieved. The landscaped pedestrian pathways and ‘outdoor living spaces’ will add scale, use and beauty to each campus.
4. Improves ecosystem: The functional ability of the landscape should improve the ecosystem services, which include: climate regulation, soil and erosion control, water management (use and cleaning), and habitat diversity.
5. Sustainability and Maintenance: Sustainability requires utilizing plants that are native to this region. In addition to utilizing native plants, restricted use of invasive plant species for landscape designs is also required. Specification of non-invasive plants is required unless the planting area is defined by hard surfaces and can benefit from an invasive plant species. Included in each landscaping project will be a Maintenance Manual that will provide care and maintenance instructions for each species planted.

INTENT AND PROCESS OF APPROVAL:

This Campus Landscape Master Plan’s Bases of Design is the framework for each campus locations’ Conceptual Landscape Master Plan (CLMP). Each CLMP have unique campus specific regional factors that will influence each CLMP. *These CLMPs will be utilized by design consultants and Central Facilities for each campus landscape project associated with that campus.*

BASES OF DESIGN:

D. Landscape Concepts:

Montgomery College’s three campuses; Takoma Park/Silver Spring (TP/SS), Rockville (RV), and Germantown (GT); are distinct in site characteristics but they are One College in mission and goals. Similarly, though each campus has different physical characteristics and attributes, these landscape concepts are One Campus based for the three campus locations.

While each campus may not incorporate each landscape concepts listed below, if a landscape concept is utilized then that landscape will be designed to develop the qualities identified within each landscape concept. The campus landscape concepts listed below shall be developed utilizing the landscape elements identified in this document.

⁴ Global Garden Report 2012

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1. Campus landscape zones

Each campus will have natural landscape zones that are pre-established by existing conditions, such as: building orientations, pedestrian and vehicular circulations, views and vistas, climate conditions, utility infrastructure, and natural and sustainable zones as identified in a current Facility Master Plan (FMP) vision. These natural landscape zones form the 'left over spaces', non-building and/or hardscape areas, which are then incorporated into the campus landscape. While some of the larger campus landscape areas may become developed areas in the future, it is essential to retain open green space to create the landscape zones identified below. These campus landscape zones are critical in establishing a welcoming and inviting campus.

The campus landscape zones are:

- a. The quad: A campus quadrangle (or quad) is essential to the college campus experience. It is often considered the face of the campus, the part of campus that defines the institution's aesthetic and charm. The quad is commonly utilized as a gathering area; it is a focal point and is instrumental in establishing the identity of the campus.
Site specific value:
 - Establishes a campus identity
 - Provides a gathering point
 - Serves as a way finding organizational element
- b. Promenades and pedestrian crossroads: Circulation paths should be identifiable, safe, aesthetically pleasing, ADA compliant and well maintained. The promenades should make a visual impression that makes way finding easy by utilizing landscape elements (see E. Landscape Elements). Pedestrian crossroads are opportunities to make connections that give clear identity to special outdoor spaces, campus identity and way finding across the campus.
Site specific value:
 - Organizational tools for way finding
 - Establishes circulation and connections
 - Provides visual impressions
 - Frames views and vistas on campus
- c. Courtyards: Courtyards create functional spaces defined by landscape elements. The landscape elements utilized to define a courtyard could be plant material, building elements, site furnishings, lighting and other site elements that would define the space. The function of each courtyard can be as diverse as the landscape elements that form courtyards but the underlining requirement is to define an outdoor space.
Site specific value:
 - Defined functional outdoor spaces
 - Physically adjacent to a building entrance
 - Can be an interior courtyard; surrounded by the building
- d. Entry plazas: These landscaped outdoor spaces are aesthetically tied to the architecture and denote entry points of buildings. There should be a hierarchy of the landscape that

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relates to the use of the entry. The main entry plaza scale of the landscape and the landscaping elements utilized should create a focal point and signify that you have arrived.

Site specific value:

- Identifies the entry points to buildings
- Provides a visual hierarchy to entrance points
- Opportunity for outdoor gathering areas associated with a building's entry

- e. Streets and campus perimeters: The campus entrance streets and property boundary edges, or campus perimeters, create an image which is the first impression of a campus. The importance of these campus landscape zones requires that the landscaping details of entrance streets and campus perimeters, or property boundary edges, be intentional in design and well maintained.

Site specific value:

- Creates the first impression of a campus
- Welcoming and beautifying in nature

- f. Campus gateways: These designated gateway locations identify physical and visual access points to the campus. There is a standard for the *Landmark Gateway Signage (LGS)*, a physical site at an entrance or gateway to the campus. The LGS has four key landscape elements that are being designed at each site specific location. These four key elements of the LGS are: the MONTGOMERY COLLEGE stainless steel (s.s.) name wall; the s.s. campus name sign; the banner sign; and a LED display sign unit. Most gateways are site locations but a gateway can also be identified as signage upon a building; i.e. the LED facade sign at the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center.

Site specific value:

- Signifies that you have arrived at campus
- Utilizes identifying elements for MC for branding
- Informational
- Beautifying

E. Landscape Elements:

The elements identified here represent a selection of items that can be utilized to define the landscape. The *College Design Standards* define more specifics for the Outdoor Furniture, the Light Fixtures and issues to analyze for the Planting. This CLSMP defines the Landscape Concepts (as identified in D.1.) and allows each site design to incorporate the Landscape Elements appropriate for each campus landscape zone.

1. Planting: All planting shall be site specific to the physical conditions of a site; with minimum maintenance; visually open at circulation routes; scale appropriate for the landscape concept it addresses, and satisfy the functional requirements of each landscape area. The *Prohibited Landscape Plant* list from MC shall be followed when specifying the plantings.
2. Outdoor furniture: These elements include: planters, tables and chairs, seating, trash containers, umbrellas, shade sails, bicycle racks and bollards. Verify and follow the current *College Design Standards*.
3. Light fixtures: Light fixtures for the pedestrian, parking lots and roads are defined in the *College Design Standards*.

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4. Pavers: When pavers are part of the landscape concept, the standard shall follow the *College Design Standards*.
5. Hardscapes: Durable exterior finishes include walkways; site walls or other surfaces that are constructed of manmade elements. Restrictions on hardscapes are defined in the *College Design Standards*.
6. Earth forms: Site grading can be utilized as a design form within the landscape. All grading shall promote a safe site with appropriate slopes on the circulation paths and positive drainage throughout the site.

F. Conclusion:

This Campus Landscape Master Plan is the framework of concepts that will be applied to each campus locations' Conceptual Landscape Master Plan (CLMP). The framework consists of the Bases of Design: Landscape Concepts and Landscape Elements. *The TP/SS-CLMP, the RV-CLMP and the GT-CLMP define the landscape concepts and elements which must be followed when site and building landscape projects are designed for each campus.*

Conceptual Landscape Master Plan (CLMP) For Takoma Park/Silver Spring

G. LANDSCAPE CONCEPTS FOR TAKOMA PARK/SILVER SPRING (TP/SS):

This campus has two established College identities: The Takoma Park (TP) or east campus and the Silver Spring (SP) or west campus. The current *Facilities Master Plan, 2.2 Existing Site Conditions and Analysis*, provides a summary of the following site specific existing conditions at this campus:

- Gateways and Views
- Open Space and Streetscape
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Circulation
- Vehicular Circulation and Parking
- Transit
- Major Utilities
- Information Technology Systems
- Natural Systems and Sustainability

1. **Campus landscape zones – the Quad**:

Currently there is one open green space per campus, east and west, which could be improved to be utilized as a quad gathering point on TP and SS.

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- The open space where pedestrian circulation between the Health Sciences Center (HC) and the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center (CF) cuts through a green open space. Adding landscape features to make this area feel like a gathering quad space could create a stronger visual identity for the west campus.
- The open space on the east campus, TP, which could be improved to serve as the quad open green space is the area defined by Fenton Street and the pedestrian bridge.



Figure 1: Quad by HC & CF

- The other existing open space on TP is the open green space framed by Pavilion Four (P4), Pavilion Two (P2), Pavilion Three (P3) and Chicago and New York Avenues. This open space lacks definition and could be improved by adding landscape elements to define these open spaces into outdoor study spaces or other quiet contemplated activities.

2. Campus landscape zones – Promenades and Pedestrian Crossroads:

For the TP side, “the Campus is compact enough to encourage walking from one end to the other. Most pedestrian circulation occurs on the Campus proper and not along neighborhood streets, with the exception of Fenton Street south of the East Parking Garage.”⁵ Pedestrian pathways on the east side lack definition, way finding elements and design significance.

- These interior pedestrian promenades and crossroads will need to be intentionally designed as new building projects are in designed.

The SS side of campus’ pedestrian circulation consists mostly of parking area sidewalks and the one open green space, between HC and CF, with the most defined pedestrian circulation.

- The future development of the MC Foundation lot, where the large parking lot adjacent to Burlington Ave. exists today, is the opportunity to define a north/south promenade for pedestrian circulation between the Cultural Arts Center (CU) and a new facility.
- “Activate the connection between the east and west campuses. If a College building such as a new Health and Fitness Center were located in the park, this type of

⁵ Facilities Master Plan 2013-2023

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facility could act as a well-lit, active beacon that would facilitate a stronger connection and outreach to the Takoma Park and Silver Spring communities.”⁶



Figure 2: Pedestrian bridge over Fenton St.

3. Campus landscape zones – Courtyards:

“The original Takoma Park Campus (east side) was organized around a series of small and irregular courtyards that stepped down with the topography from the north end of Campus to the south end. Entrances to buildings were typically off these courtyards. This organization allowed for the creation of outdoor spaces for mingling of students, to connect buildings with indirect relationships to each other, and to reduce the impact of student traffic on the adjacent residential neighborhood. The concrete walls and fence of the tennis courts have reduced the visual connection to the southernmost courtyard. The Miller Memorial Garden occupies a small space in the middle of the Campus and is a key part of the historical legacy of the College.”⁷ These interior campus courtyards have lost their identity as plantings have aged out, shade has overcome the space and landscape elements become outdated.

- As new buildings replace older non-functional facilities, which are also ADA restricted, new interior campus courtyards should continue to connect the northern and southern ends of campus.
- The new Math and Science Center (MSC) project will remove the existing interior tennis courts at the south end of campus. “The goal of the College is to provide the new Math and Science Center to support the growth of STEM disciplines at Takoma Park / Silver Spring and to integrate the building into the overall campus with strong programmatic relationships to the other buildings and open spaces of the campus toward the northeast and to provide a welcoming public face to the community to the south.”⁸

⁶ Facilities Master Plan 2013-2023

⁷ Facilities Master Plan 2013-2023

⁸ Part II: New Math and Science Center Facility Program

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Figure 3: Courtyard between SN, NP & MP with the Miller Memorial Garden

4. **Campus landscape zones – Entry plazas:**

There are multiple entry points to every building on both the east and west campus. These entry points to each facility address Life Safety Codes and they relate to the function and site of each building.

On the TP campus a large inventory of existing buildings are in poor condition due to their age. The newer buildings; Catherine F. Scott Commons (CM), Charlene R. Nunley Student Services Center (ST) and the Pavilion Three (P3); are in good or excellent condition. These newer buildings have entry plazas that give visual identity, create a sense of arrival and in some cases include gathering areas within a plaza setting; like at ST at Fenton Street and New York Avenue.

- New buildings shall create a focal point at the entry points that give a hierarchy cue to the building entrances.
- Where appropriate to the entry point and site, entry plazas shall be designed to create outdoor gathering areas

The SS campus buildings also have multiple entry points for Life Safety requirements and how these buildings function. This west campus lacks an entry plaza gathering area.

- New buildings shall create a focal point at the entry points that give a hierarchy cue to the building entrances.
- Where appropriate to the entry point and site, entry plazas shall be designed to create outdoor gathering areas.

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Figure 4: Entry plaza at ST

5. Campus landscape zones – Streets and Campus Perimeters:

The regional urban, historic residential district and WMATA train right-of-way (row) is the vernacular of the streets and campus perimeters of the TP and SS campuses. The east campus perimeters consist of residential, historic residential and transit row. West campus, SS, is bordered by Silver Spring, the train row and Jesup Blair Park. The streetscapes have been intentionally designed to reflect the different land uses around the campus perimeter.

- Continue new and updated streetscapes that are sensitive to the adjacent land uses
- Create a welcoming first impression of the campus along campus perimeters
- Intentionally design key views into the campus from the campus perimeter



Figure 5: New York Ave. campus perimeter by ST

6. Campus landscape zones – Campus Gateways:

New Landmark Gateway Signage (LGS) components have been designed that will be site specifically designed for the TP/SS campus in the near future. “With the “split personality”

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of this Campus, gateways are especially important to help define the Campus boundaries and establish the College identity and presence within the community setting. The original cluster of buildings on the Takoma Park side has traditionally had little visibility from the surrounding neighborhood – the buildings are small and are oriented away from the street. Campus gateway signage is small and sized in keeping with the neighborhood scale.”⁹ Campus gateways may consist of these LGS elements and/or building signage. “The Cultural Arts Center on the Silver Spring side of Campus has a prominent location at the corner on George Avenue. It not only functions as a gateway building seen from both directions of Georgia Avenue, but College signage is prominently displayed on its façade and in electronic signage at the corner, giving the Campus additional presence within its setting.”¹⁰ New buildings and new site projects will provide opportunities to incorporate campus gateway elements that will unify this ‘split’ campus. Campus gateways shall provide:

- Campus identity
- Montgomery College branding
- Information
- A welcoming, well-designed entry or sign

H. Landscape Elements

The elements identified here represent a selection of items that can be utilized to define the landscape. The CLSMP defines the Landscape Concepts (as identified in D.1.) and allows each site design to incorporate the Landscape Elements appropriate for each campus landscape zone. These landscape elements are more defined in the *College Design Standards*. Identified *Prohibited Landscape Plants* is also available for each campus in the *Standard Manual for Landscape Plans*. Local codes and jurisdictional regulations shall also apply where appropriate in the design of these landscape elements into each Landscape Concepts. The CLSMP defines the following landscape element.

- Planting
- Outdoor furniture
- Light fixtures
- Pavers
- Earth forms

⁹ Facilities Master Plan 2013-2023

¹⁰ Facilities Master Plan 2013-2023

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Conceptual Landscape Master Plan (CLMP) For Rockville

I. **LANDSCAPE CONCEPTS FOR ROCKVILLE (RV):**

“The Rockville Campus is the largest and most centrally located of the three Montgomery College campuses. It is located in a suburban setting north of the city center of Rockville, between the Rockville and Shady Grove Metro stations.”¹¹ The current *Facilities Master Plan, 4.2 Existing Site Conditions and Analysis*, provides a summary of the following site specific existing conditions at this campus:

- Gateways and Views
- Open Space
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Circulation
- Vehicular Circulation and Parking
- Transit
- Major Utilities
- Information Technology Systems
- Natural Systems and Sustainability
- Forest Conservation

7. **Campus landscape zones – the Quad:**

There is one existing open green space between buildings that creates a quad on this campus. This common green space was designed with the new Science Center (SC) and new Science East (SE) buildings. These ‘front yards’ are the beginning of a potential quad for this campus. With the next new building, the new Student Services Center (RV-SV), the existing Student Services (SV) will be demolished and a proper quad area will be developed. This new quad area will then create a green mall with these other front yard green spaces of SC, SE and the re-designed green space in front of the Humanities Building (HU); also scheduled with RV-SV. The future development of this quad will:

- Provide a strong visual identity
- Be an organizational element
- Define gathering points and areas to rest within the landscape

A second quad area exists on this campus in the green space adjacent to the detention pond formed by SC. The lake and quad are a focal point to the west façade of the SC building.

8. **Campus landscape zones – Promenades and Pedestrian Crossroads:**

This compact campus is adjacent to residential development, a major road (Rockville Pike) and County facilities. “Most buildings are within a ¼ mile radius walking circle, or about a 10-minute walk, which is considered walkable by most people. Two areas of campus fall outside the ¼ -mile radius - the Homer S. Gudelsky Institute for Technical Education (GU) and the adjacent Interim Technical Training Center (TT), and the Mannakee Building.”¹² An existing narrow promenade (described in item # 7 above) runs north and south. This promenade will be enlarged and better defined when the quad is enlarged and designed

¹¹ Facilities Master Plan 2013-2023

¹² Facilities Master Plan 2013-2023

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with the RV-SV project. The *Facility Master Plan 2013-2023* identifies that the east edge of this promenade, referred to as the pedestrian mall in the *Facilities Master Plan 2013-2023*, is a primary campus pedestrian path. Primary and other existing pedestrian crossroads are identified in this document in *Figure 4.19*. "New buildings will be situated around the major pedestrian pathways on campus, in particular the pedestrian mall and proposed Arts Walk."¹³ These identified promenades and pedestrian crossroads in RV will add the following site specific values:

- Organize the campus and add way finding elements
- Establish circulation and connections
- Provide visual impressions and identity
- Frame views and vistas on campus

9. Campus landscape zones – Courtyards:

This campus has some existing courtyards but they are not visually well defined except for the courtyard space outside of the Theatre Arts Building (TA). This existing courtyard is memorable because of the water feature within the landscape. Other linear green spaces, around TA, are utilized as art display areas. Another existing courtyard that is very effective in providing gathering outdoor space is in front of the SC building. This site furniture is well utilized and is placed within a grid of trees. The last major courtyard on this campus is the sunken amphitheater area at the east façade of HU.

The *Facility Master Plan 2013-2023* identifies four new courtyards to be designed and developed to:

- Define functional outdoor spaces
- Tie building facades to the outdoors – making outdoor living spaces

With the addition of intentional courtyards, this campus will have a strong visual image of landscaped outdoor spaces which it lacks currently. These future courtyards will provide gathering areas.

10. Campus landscape zones – Entry plazas:

Entry points of each building are unique to each building and site. This campus has a large inventory of facilities in poor condition that will be either renovated or replaced over time. "New buildings will be situated around the major pedestrian pathways on campus, in particular the pedestrian mall and proposed Arts Walk."¹⁴ The opportunity to design and provide landscaped entry plazas will add way finding and organization to this campus. Entry plazas will:

- Create a focal point at the entry points
- Provide hierarchy cues to the building entrances
- Where appropriate to the entry point and site, can be designed to create outdoor gathering areas

11. Campus landscape zones – Streets and Campus Perimeters:

¹³ Facilities Master Plan 2013-2023

¹⁴ Facilities Master Plan 2013-2023

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For RV the streets do not form the campus perimeters. The north and west perimeters consisted of trees protected within the Forest Conservation and perimeter parking lots. The south perimeter of the campus consists of two access points, Forest Conservation and parking lots. The campus perimeter on the east has the main campus entry, two campus buildings and a small evergreen tree line, which separates the campus athletic fields from the commercial development on Rockville Pike. The streetscapes on this campus are mostly internal and they add beauty to the internal campus vehicular circulation.

- Continue new and updated streetscape that is sensitive to the adjacent land uses
- Create a welcoming first impression of the campus along campus perimeters
- Intentionally design key views into the campus from the campus perimeter

12. Campus landscape zones – Campus Gateways:

Standard components for new Landmark Gateway Signage (LGS) have been approved and each new Campus Gateway site project or new building will design with these components (see the *College Design Standards*). Campus gateways shall provide:

- Campus identity
- Montgomery College branding
- Information
- A welcoming, well-designed entry or sign

“The proposed Technical Training Center, situated along North Campus Drive, presents an opportunity to create a gateway at this primary campus entry from Hungerford Drive, a major thoroughfare. Renovation of the Mannakee Building at the southeast corner of campus also offers an opportunity for a stronger presence for the campus.”¹⁵

New LGS projects are being completed at North Campus Drive and at the entrance of South Campus Drive and Mannakee Street. The LGS at North Campus Drive and Rockville Pike has already made a big visual impact that identifies this main campus gateway. With this and the LGS at South Campus Drive this campus has two very visible and distinct gateways into the campus.

J. Landscape Elements

The elements identified here represent a selection of items that can be utilized to define the landscape. The CLSMP defines the Landscape Concepts (as identified in D.1.) and allows each site design to incorporate the Landscape Elements appropriate for each campus landscape zone. These landscape elements are more defined in the *College Design Standards*. Identified *Prohibited Landscape Plants* is also available for each campus in the *Standard Manual for Landscape Plans*. Local codes and jurisdictional regulations shall also apply where appropriate in the design of these landscape elements into each Landscape Concepts. The CLSMP defines the following landscape element.

- Planting
- Outdoor furniture
- Light fixtures
- Pavers
- Hardscapes

¹⁵ Facilities Master Plan 2013-2023

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- Earth forms

K. Summary of Goals for this Landscape Master Plan for RV:

The *Facilities Master Plan 2013-2023, Section 4.5.3*, identified the following goals for this campus:

- Reinforce the main north-south mall through campus, with minor green axes in the east/west directions and major building entries located along the spine
- Develop the Arts Walk, proposed in previous Facilities Master Plan, as a key secondary axis and improve other cross-axes
- Enhance the design and use of existing amphitheater space
- Create a smaller amphitheater space marking the east end of the Arts Walk
- Reinforce inside/outside spaces in both new and renovated buildings
- Allow and encourage views into and out of the mall from the minor axes
- Include a variety of open/lawn type areas mixed with large shade trees and intimate outdoor spaces
- Create a new plaza and drop-off in front of the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center (PA) to access the new Arts Walk, the center of campus and service and emergency vehicles
- Provide pedestrian and potential vehicular connection to Mannakee building (MK) and the central campus to the west
- Create a park setting along South Mannakee Street in the existing woods as an amenity: increase views into and out of this area
- Utilize landscape elements through parking areas to reinforce pedestrian access and to screen the parking lots from campus. Improving and thickening existing landscape buffers along the north and west edges of campus to screen the campus from adjacent properties
- Simplifying site furniture throughout the campus, utilizing the *College Design Standards*
- Provide a tree lined pedestrian corridor extending north from the green spaces fronting the new North Garage to the parking areas and gate from the adjoining north apartments

Conceptual Landscape Master Plan (CLMP) For Germantown

L. LANDSCAPE CONCEPTS FOR Germantown (GT):

“The Germantown Campus is characterized by the combination of a relatively compact composition of academic buildings organized around a quadrangle, the sloping wooded topography, and sweeping vistas to the southeast. The topography of the campus is generally in

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the range of 10% or greater. The ground drops nearly 200 feet from the highest point of the site (existing academic quadrangle) to the lowest point along Middlebrook Road to the south. This sharp drop helps to define the character and affords views on this campus, but also creates a challenge to maintaining strong connections between buildings as the campus expands.”¹⁶ The current *Facilities Master Plan, 3.2 Existing Site Conditions and Analysis*, provides a summary of the following site specific existing conditions at this campus:

- Gateways and Views
- Open Space
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Circulation
- Vehicular Circulation and Parking
- Transit
- Major Utilities
- Information Technology Systems
- Natural Systems and Sustainability
- Forest Conservation

13. Campus landscape zones – the Quad:

The most identifiable quad on the GT campus is the green that frames the northeast façade of the Bioscience Education Center (BE). This quad spills out from the east courtyard of the BE building as a cascade of bio retention elements into this open green space.

A second quad area exists, the main quad, on this campus. “The Campus is organized around a large, L-shaped quadrangle. The entrances to four of the existing academic buildings on the campus are organized around this quadrangle. This creates strong pedestrian connections between buildings and provides for an organizational cohesiveness.”¹⁷ The four existing academic buildings that form this quad are: Science and Applied Studies (SA), High Technology and Science Center (HT), Physical Education (PG) and the Humanities and Social Sciences (HS). As these academic buildings are renovated or replaced, upgrading of this quad will be key to keeping this valuable green space.

¹⁶ Facilities Master Plan 2013-2023

¹⁷ Facilities Master Plan 2013-2023

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Figure 6: Quad by PG, HS & HT

The third quad area is off the west façade of the Science and applied Studies building (SA). This area consists of pedestrian circulation, seating and landscaping to define this quad that is adjacent to the interior vehicular circulation on Observation Drive.

The future development of the existing quads and connection of the quad areas will:

- Provide a strong visual identity
- Be an organizational element
- Define gathering points and areas to rest within the landscape

14. **Campus landscape zones – Promenades and Pedestrian Crossroads:**

“The main campus pedestrian spine runs east-west between the Humanities and Social Sciences Building and Science and Applied Studies Building. The spine links the parking lots across Observation Drive and the High Technology and Science Center. A north-south path borders the main quadrangle, and connects to the new Bioscience Education Center Quad (BE quad). It is a weak connection that should be enhanced with new landscaping. (Refer to Figure 3.07 Pedestrian and Bike Circulation). Stronger pedestrian connections need to be developed from the main quadrangle south to the outdoor space defined to the west and south by the Bioscience Education Center.”¹⁸ With each campus building and site project these pedestrian spines and crossroads need to be intentionally strengthen and

¹⁸ Facilities Master Plan 2013-2023

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defined. Adding landscape elements to define key promenades would visually identify main



Figure 7: pedestrian pathway north of SA

pedestrian circulation pathways and create gathering areas for students.

The *Facilities Master Plan 2013-2023* identifies primary and secondary campus pedestrian paths that need to be designed with future campus projects. These promenades and pedestrian crossroads in GT will add the following site specific values:

- Organize the campus and add way finding elements
- Establish circulation and connections
- Provide visual impressions and identity
- Frame views and vistas on campus

15. Campus landscape zones – Courtyards:

The GT campus has a few existing courtyards that should be reinforced for visual prominence. Two new courtyards are proposed in the *Facilities Master Plan 2013-2023* associated with the following buildings:

- A new Student Services Center
- A new Arts and Communications Building

The site specific values of courtyards are to:

- Define functional outdoor spaces – creating gathering areas with landscape elements
- Tie building facades to the outdoors – making outdoor living spaces

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Figure 8: courtyard at lower level HS

16. Campus landscape zones – Entry plazas:

There are currently four buildings in ‘poor’ condition, as defined in the *Facilities Master plan 2013-2023*. All of these existing academic buildings border the main quad, as described above. As new and renovated buildings come on-line, the opportunity to design and provide landscaped entry plazas will add way finding and organization to this campus. Entry plazas will:

- Create a focal point at the entry points
- Provide hierarchy cues to the building entrances
- Be designed to create outdoor gathering areas, where appropriate to the entry



Figure 9: east entry plaza of BE

The *Facilities Master Plan 2013-2023* also identifies that the placement of the new Library Learning Commons should include the design of an entry plaza and open space that will tie this site to the existing east lawn quad of BE.

17. Campus landscape zones – Streets and Campus Perimeters:

For the GT campus, as with RV, the streetscapes on this campus are internal. The streets form an internal campus vehicular circulation and a loop road to divert local traffic away from the campus. To achieve this separation a landscaped calming circle was construction at the south connection of these two vehicular circulations and a northern calming circle shall be investigated and promoted with the County.

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The perimeters on the GT campus are layered. The true perimeters of the campus are at Germantown Road and at Middlebrook Road, north and south boundaries. At these locations, where Goldenrod Lane intersects with Middlebrook Road and as Observation Drive intersects Germantown Road, there is just a glimpse of the campus. Observation Drive at Germantown Road has recently been improved by the addition of a Landmark Gateway Signage (see item 18) and the addition of banners on the street lights. Montgomery College identification elements, like banners and/or a Landmark Gateway Signage project at Goldenrod Lane and Middlebrook Road would greatly improve the visibility of this campus at our southern boundary at this major road.

As the loop road, Goldenrod Lane, is diverted from the campus this is where the primary visual campus perimeter truly exists. The campus should focus improving the landscape of the internal campus streets and the primary campus perimeters. The site specific value of these landscapes are to:

- Continue new and updated streetscape that is sensitive to the adjacent land uses
- Create a welcoming first impression of the campus along campus perimeters
- Intentionally design key views into the campus from the campus perimeter

“Roadways should not become a barrier to campus development. They should be designed with pedestrian crossings and circulation in consideration.”¹⁹

18. Campus landscape zones – Campus Gateways:

Standard components for new Landmark Gateway Signage (LGS) have been approved and each new Campus Gateway site project or new gateway building will be designed with these components (see the *College Design Standards*). Campus gateways shall provide:



Figure 10: south Landmark Gateway Signage

- Campus identity
- Montgomery College branding
- Information
- A welcoming, well-designed entry or sign

¹⁹ Facilities Master Plan 2013-2023

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A new LGS project completed in May of 2017 at Observation Drive and Germantown Road utilized the common four sign elements, the LGS elements, designed specifically for this site. This new LGS is located on the north edge of the campus, whereas, the first LGS is located at the south intersection of Observation Drive and Goldenrod Lane. The first LGS should be re-visited to update landscape elements that have not thrived since the construction of this LGS.

A modified LGS should to be planned and constructed for Goldenrod Lane at Middlebrook Road to clearly identify the actual Montgomery College campus perimeter. By modifying the LGS, to have some but not all of the elements of the LGS, this would achieve identifying the true perimeter of the campus. This true perimeter LGS gateway would correctly identify PIC MC, Holy Cross Germantown Hospital, and future business, as being incorporated into the Montgomery College campus.

M. Landscape Elements

The elements identified here represent a selection of items that can be utilized to define the landscape. The CLSMP defines the Landscape Concepts (as identified in D.1.) and allows each site design to incorporate the Landscape Elements appropriate for each campus landscape zone. These landscape elements are more defined in the *College Design Standards*. Identified *Prohibited Landscape Plants* is also available for each campus in the *Standard Manual for Landscape Plans*. Local codes and jurisdictional regulations shall also apply where appropriate in the design of these landscape elements into each Landscape Concepts. The CLSMP defines the following landscape element.

- Planting
- Outdoor furniture
- Light fixtures
- Pavers
- Earth forms

N. Summary list of potential landscape projects for GT:

The *Facilities Master plan 2013-2023, Section 3.5.3*, identifies the following landscape projects as critical components to the function and beauty of GT:

1. “Utilize landscaping, pedestrian paths and view sheds to strengthen the connection between the campus core and future PIC MC developments;
2. Line Observation Drive with street trees, pedestrian scaled lighting and sidewalks. In addition, it will have one lane of parallel parking. Link the drive through extensive landscaping/ rain gardens and walkway from the north gateway to the forest conservation area to the south;
3. Modify the current vehicular drop-off to allow for a more spacious pedestrian entry into the Campus. Landscape the area of the outdoor play yard vacated by the relocation of the Child Care Center;
4. Enhance the campus quadrangles with groupings of trees to help define edges, reinforce pedestrian walking paths and create more shade and amenities;
5. Reinforce the east-west pedestrian axis from the east of the High Technology and Science Center to the Paul Peck Academic and Innovation Building and adjoining development;

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6. Link the existing Campus pond, a natural amenity, to the center of the Campus with a landscaped path;
7. Retain the forested buffers to the east of campus, extending ribbons of green up into the Campus with appropriate landscaping and pedestrian connections;
8. Protect critical views out from the center of Campus, especially to the south and east. Define locations for future buildings to ensure that these view corridors will be respected and protected.”²⁰

End of Report.

²⁰ Facilities Master Plan 2013-2023