

# Penn State New Kensington



Campus Exterior Architectural Plan  
September 2008

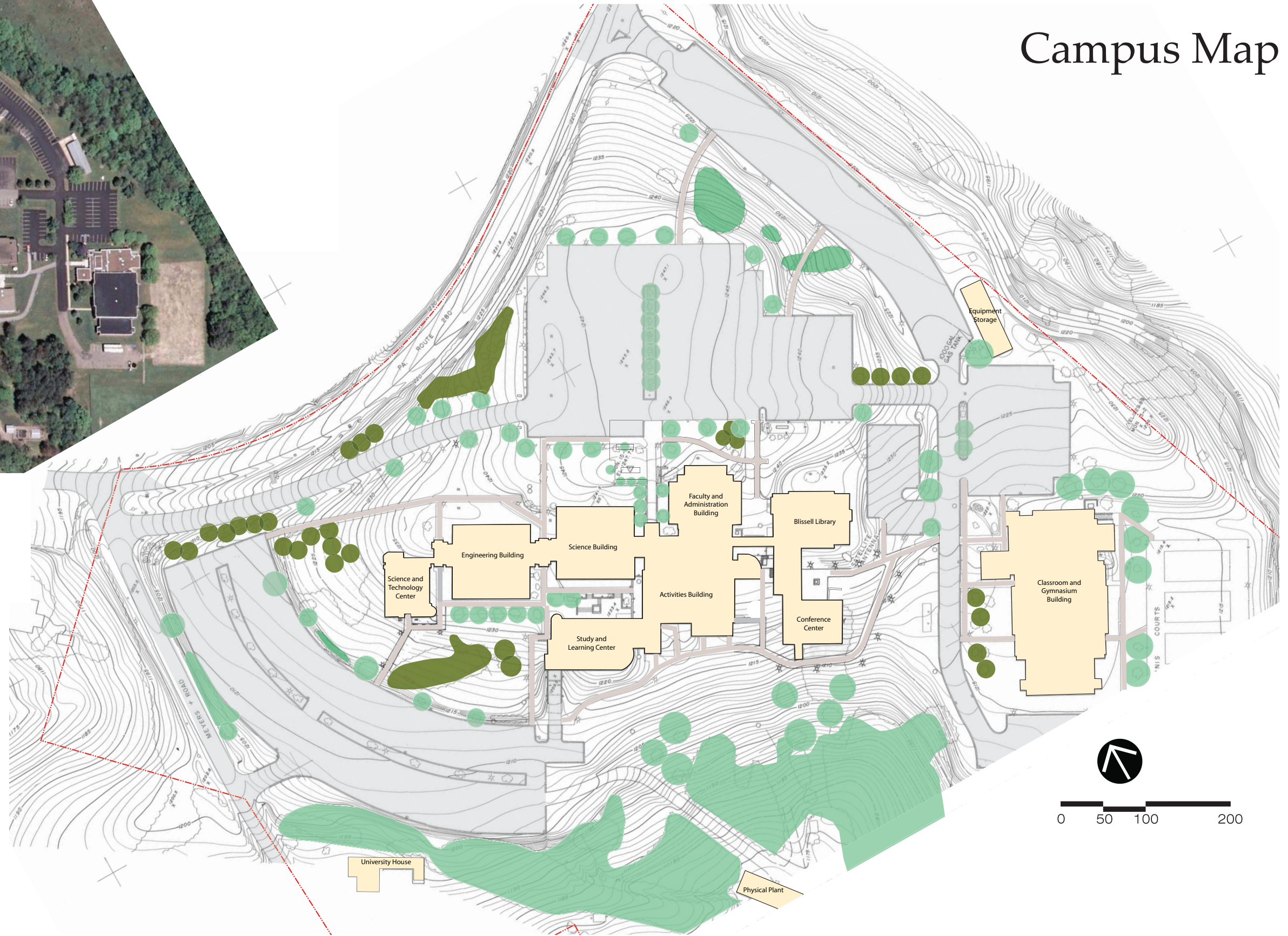
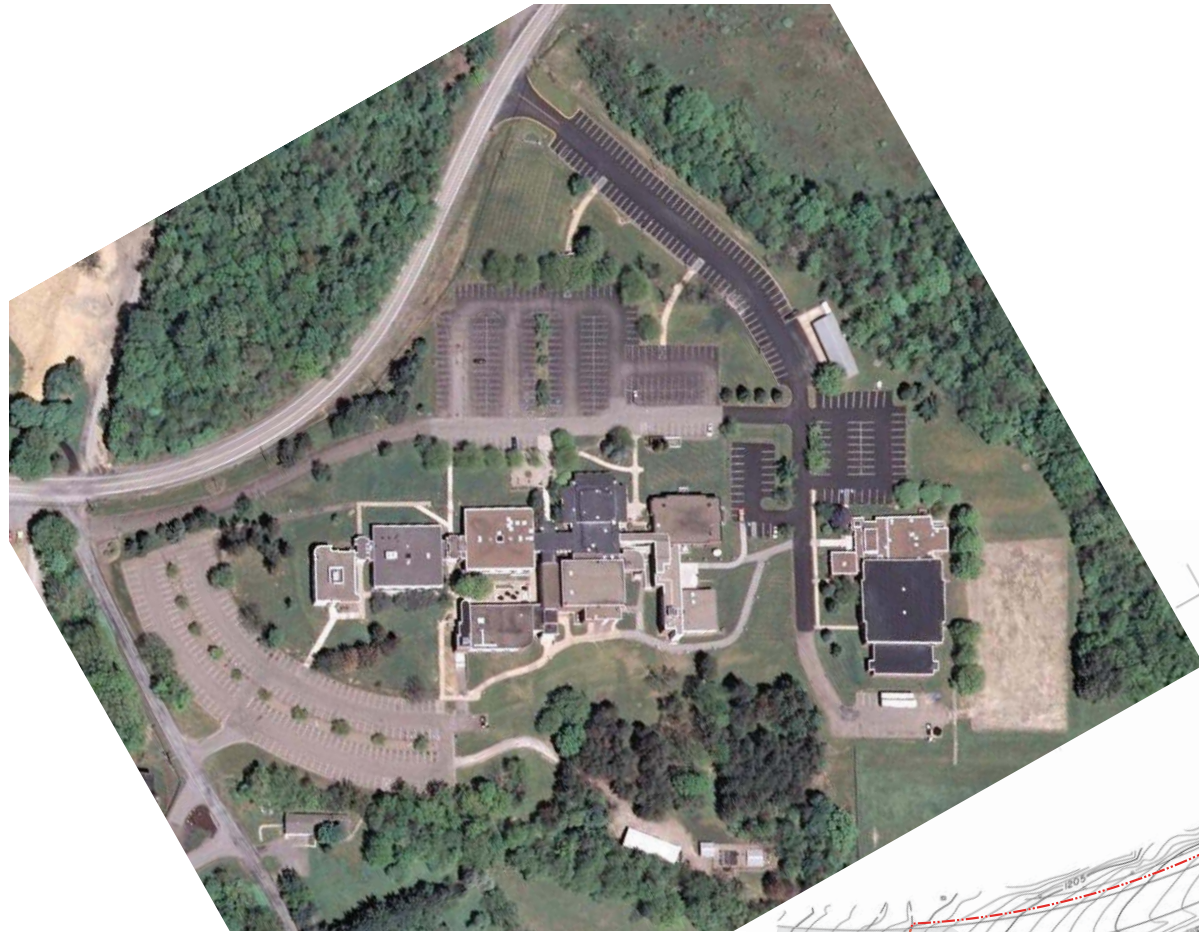
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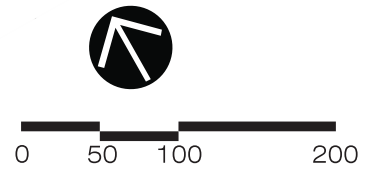
Existing Conditions Inventory

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# Campus Map



- Existing Sidewalk
- Existing Road / Parking
- Existing Deciduous Tree
- Existing Evergreen Tree
- Property Line



# 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.

To assist in achieving this mission, a Campus Exterior Architecture Plan, known as a CEAP, has been 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. The CEAP is a planning tool that is an outgrowth of the campus master planning process.

The CEAP includes graphic and narrative descriptions of existing conditions on campus and approximately 15-20 improvement concepts. Positive features may also be identified as elements to emulate.

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.

# Architecture

Existing Conditions Inventory

Major architectural modifications, additions, and new construction are beyond the scope of this CEAP. However, the aesthetic character of campus is defined to a great extent by the structures that comprised it.



# Site Furnishings

## Existing Conditions Inventory

Benches and trash receptacles across the campus are varied in design, color and material.

It is recommended that a standard design for furnishings be selected that will aid in unifying the campus aesthetic.

In addition to aesthetic appropriateness, the durability and maintenance of site furnishings should be considered when specifying.



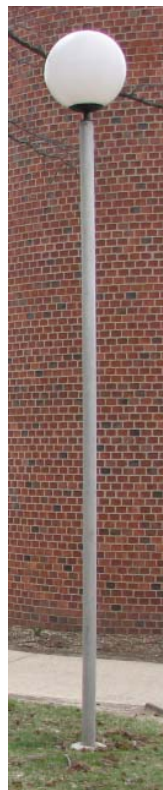


# Lighting

Existing Conditions Inventory

Parking lot light fixtures and poles are antiquated. The campus should plan to replace with "dark sky" fixtures.

Walkway lighting styles are varied. These too should be replaced with fixtures that protect the night sky from light spill and glare. Lamps for walkway fixtures should be metal halide.



# Landscape

Existing Conditions Inventory

The campus landscape is most notably characterized by open lawn areas with a few large lawn trees. The landscape relies heavily on the use of perennial vegetation for accent and foundation type planting.



Winter



Summer



# Pedestrian Circulation

## Existing Conditions Inventory

The site circulation on campus is adequate for most pedestrian movement. There are locations where pedestrian walkways separated from vehicular travel ways should be provided. A few incomplete walk segments are also noted. Turf at walk edges is killed by deicing salts, vehicular traffic and pedestrian traffic.



# Improvement Concepts

The following figures describe and illustrate possible solutions to specific aesthetic and functional shortcomings on campus, most of which are addressable through the CEAP program. In addition to the recommendations that follow, there are routine maintenance tasks that will enhance the aesthetic appeal of campus. Suggestions include:

- ▶ Mulch landscape beds annually
- ▶ Eradicate weeds and other invasive vegetation
- ▶ Fertilize lawn areas
- ▶ Re-seed lawn areas abutting sidewalks killed by winter salt
- ▶ Focus the use of annual and perennial plantings
- ▶ Seal and re-stripe paved areas

An implementation priority matrix has been prepared that lists improvement projects and recommends the order in which the concepts/projects could be executed. The implementation ranking is intended as a guideline for realizing the most significant impacts early in the plan implementation.

Location specific concepts/projects are keyed to the map with numbers corresponding to the listing on the matrix at the end of this report.

1A

# Rooftop Mechanical Screening

## Improvement Recommendation

Mechanical equipment on the roof of buildings can be seen from the ground at many different vantage points.

Recommend that screening sympathetic to the architecture of the building be erected to mitigate unsightly views.



Before



After



Before



After



# 1B AC Equipment Improvement Recommendation

Lines from AC units to outdoor equipment are haphazardly placed and complicate an already visually busy building exterior. In lieu of the preferred option of rerouting the lines inside the building they should at a minimum be concealed by covers that match the color of the building. Placement should be consistent with the architecture and applied consistently around the building as necessary.

Window AC units are also noted. When possible this type of unit should be avoided.



Before



After - Option 1



After - Option 2

## Site Furnishings Improvement Recommendation

Site furnishings designed in a style “family” are aesthetically unifying. The examples shown here will compliment the contemporary architectural style 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.



# 3 Lighting

## Improvement Recommendation

Replacement of any antiquated, inefficient pedestrian walkway and parking lot lighting is recommended.

Metal halide lamps in cut-off luminaires mounted to poles are recommended for pedestrian walkways.

High pressure sodium lamplng is acceptable for parking lot lights. Color/finish for all fixtures should be consistent campus wide. Avoid the use of bollards due to vulnerability to snow removal operations and vandalism.



Parking Lot/Roadway Light



Site Light

## Tree Planting Improvement Recommendation

The campus would benefit from the installation of deciduous and evergreen trees to diminish the inhospitable scale of the building and provide shade, color and general interest to the landscape. The illustration at left illustrates a master concept for tree planting using a variety of plant types.

The following page illustrates examples of various tree species that could be planted on campus.



- Existing Deciduous Tree
- Existing Evergreen Tree
- Proposed Deciduous Shade Tree
- Proposed Evergreen Tree
- Proposed Ornamental Flowering Tree

Deciduous Shade Trees



Tuliptree



American Sycamore



European Hornbeam



Ginkgo



Oak varieties

Ornamental Flowering Trees



Eastern Redbud



Star Magnolia



Shadblow Serviceberry



Kousa Dogwood



Okame Cherry



Japanese Stewartia

Evergreen Trees



Nootka Falsecypress



Serbian Spruce



## Landscape Planting Projects

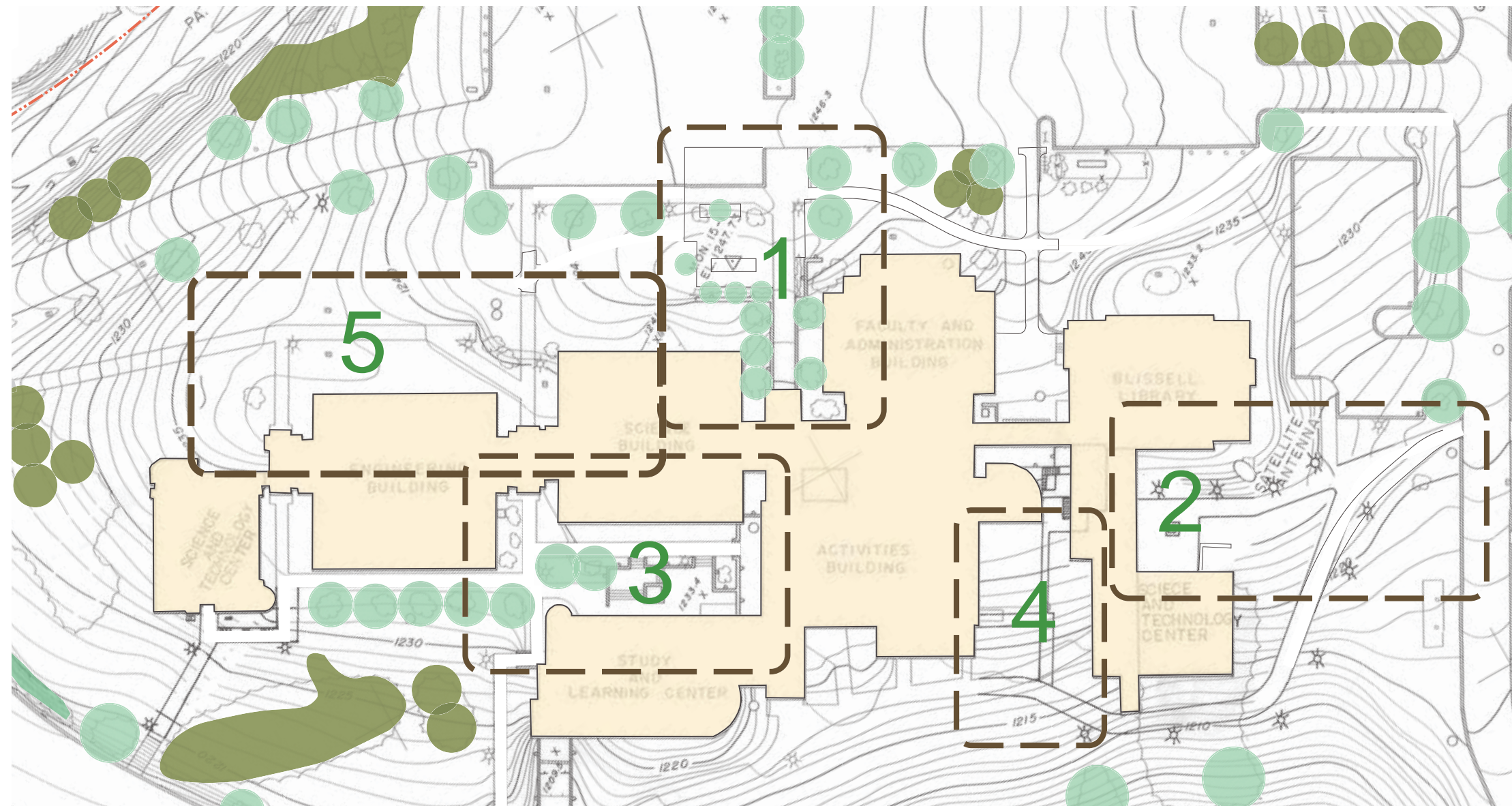
Improvement Recommendation

Tree, shrub and focused perennial/annual flower landscape plantings enhance the aesthetics of campus, provide shade and encourage social interaction. In addition to campus wide tree planting, there's also opportunity to enhance several key exterior areas using landscaping.

Key factors to be considered in design of new landscapes include:

- Preservation of important existing specimens
- Form, texture and mature size of vegetation
- Seasonal interest (fall color, flowers, fruit)
- Utilization of native species where appropriate
- Cultural requirements (sun exposure, climate zone, soil type, hardiness, etc)
- Maintenance requirements
- Mix of deciduous and evergreen plant materials
- Conservative use of perennial/annual flowers
- Conservative use of ornamental grasses

The areas loosely identified on the map at left have been identified as needing focused landscape enhancement in the form of detailed landscape planting.



### Project Key Map

- 1 Main Entrance at Patio
- 2 Conference Center Entrance Patio
- 3 Cafeteria Patio
- 4 Conference Center / Activities Building Courtyard
- 5 Science and Technology Center / Engineering / Science Entrances

# Area 1

## Main Entrance at Patio

The existing pedestrian bridge at the entrance to the building provides a unique perspective on the ground plane below. Existing birch trees flanking the bridge have outlived their aesthetic value. The space is currently a maintenance problem.

Propose the complete renovation of the landscape including removal of overgrown plants, soil amendment and installation of new plant materials. The design should accentuate the vantage point provided by the bridge.

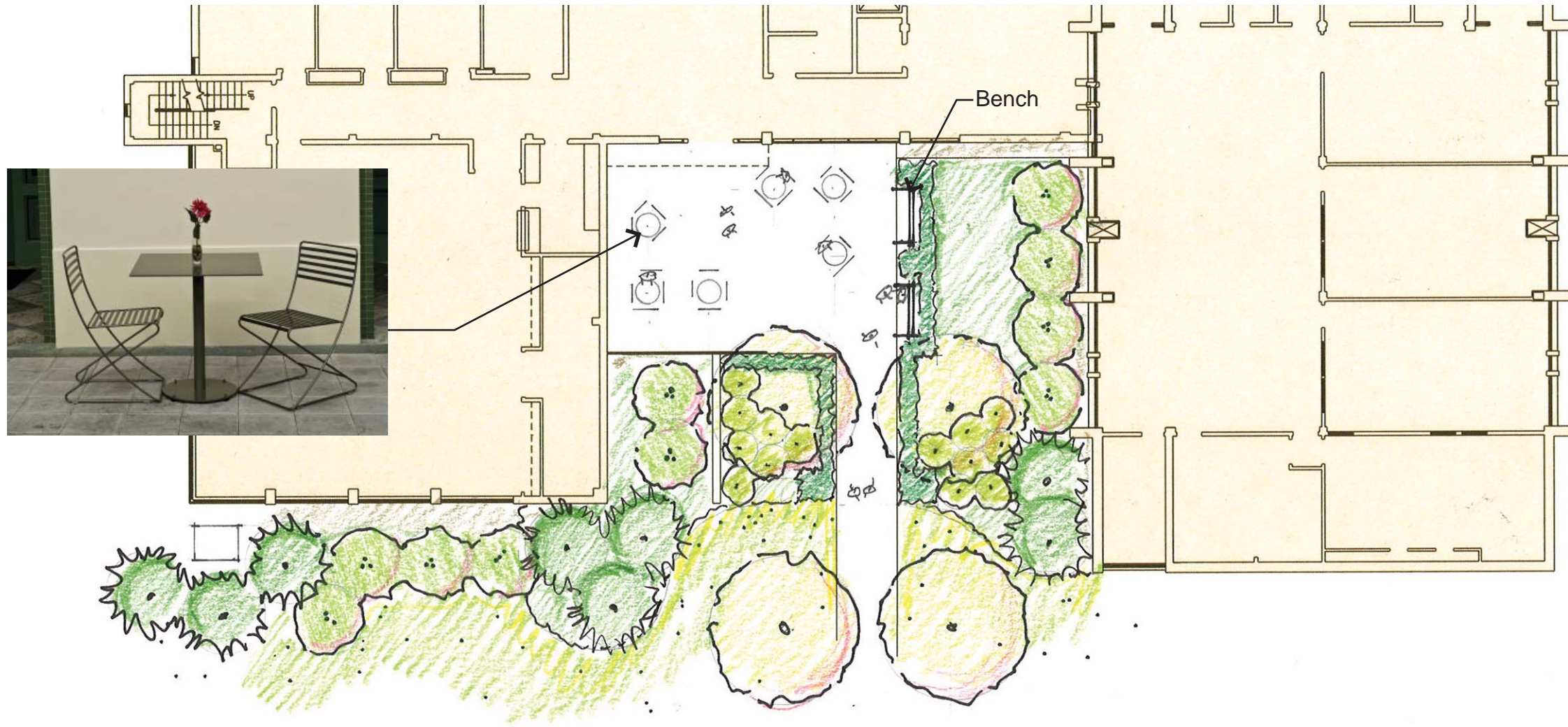


Area 2

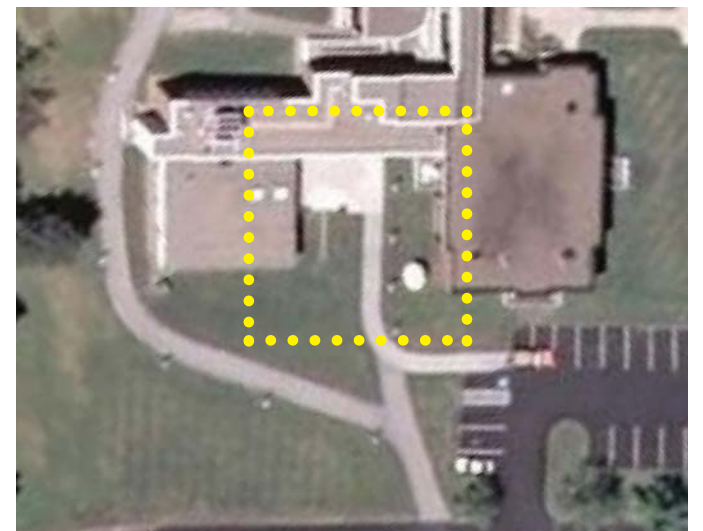
# Conference Center Entrance Patio

The patio area at the primary entrance to the Conference Center is insufficiently furnished and landscaped.

Propose the installation of trees, shrubs, groundcover and focused perennial/annual flower plantings to enhance the space. Provide additional seating and tables.



Existing



## Area 3 Cafe' Patio

The landscape of the courtyard and patio space outside the cafe is sparsely planted. The opportunity exists to enhance the space through the placement of shrubs and groundcovers that achieve necessary screening while beautifying the space at the same time.

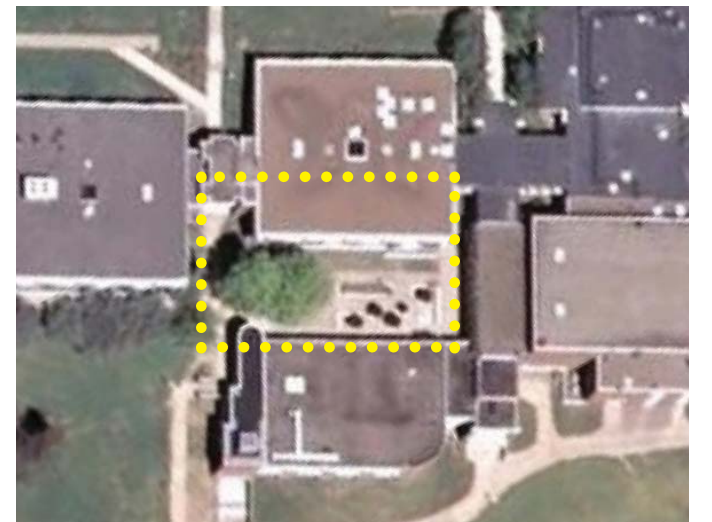
Renovation of this landscape should be coordinated with other beautification recommendations outlined on project 5B.



Before



After



Area 4

# Conference Center / Activities Building Courtyard

This interstitial space created by the building is devoid of the softening and scale ameliorating benefits of landscape plants.

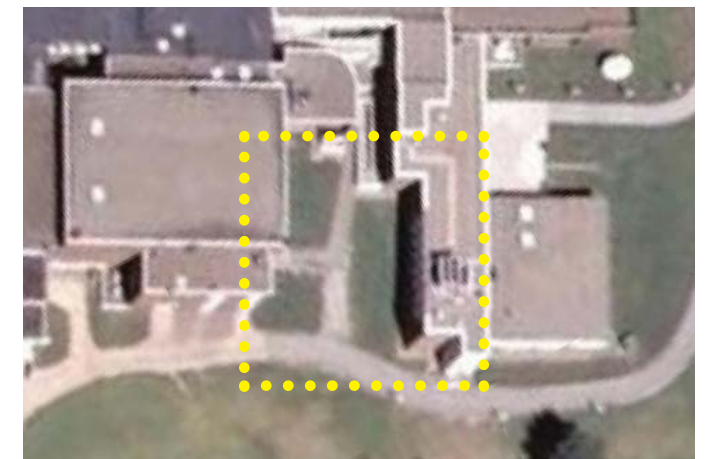
Recommend the installation of a variety of deciduous and evergreen trees in the space to make it more hospitable for use as well as improving the aesthetic.



Before

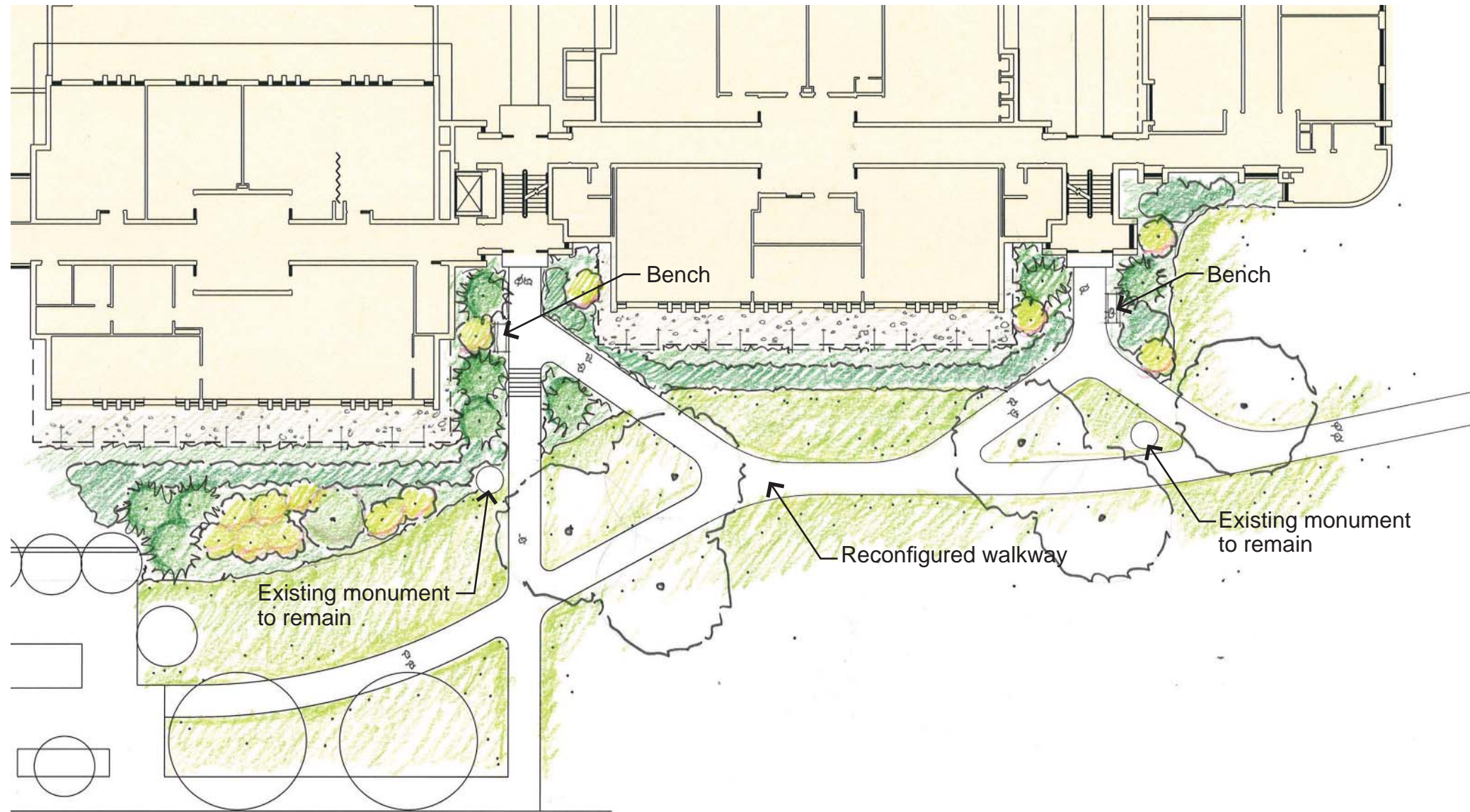


After



## Area 5

### Science and Technology Center / Engineering / Science Entrances



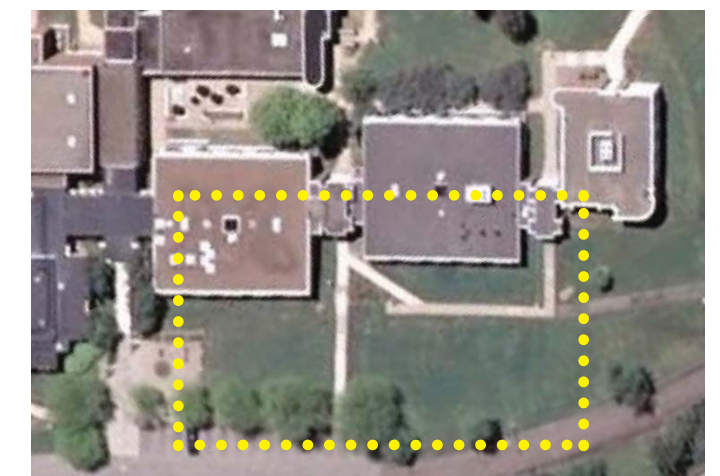
The intersection between the building base and the ground plane is harsh. Entrances are nondescript and unwelcoming. The landscape treatment relies too heavily on perennial flowering vegetation for it to be effective throughout the year.

Recommend a simple foundation style planting with augmented treatment at building entrances. Strategic placement of evergreen plant materials can achieve screening of unsightly exterior mechanical equipment.

New bench seating, trash receptacles and lighting would complete the beautification of the exterior.

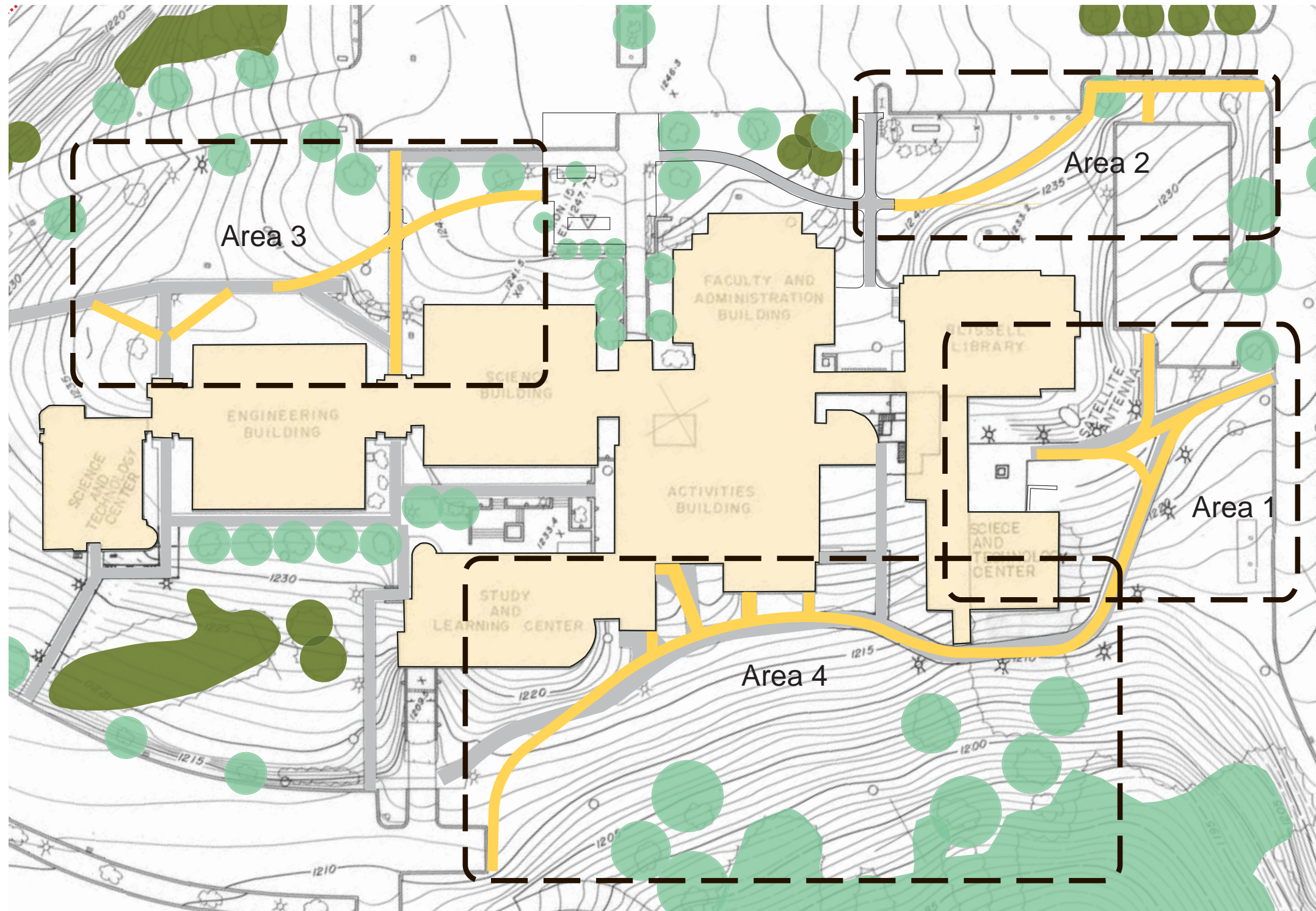


Existing



# Walkway Improvements 5A

Improvement Recommendation



Project Key Map

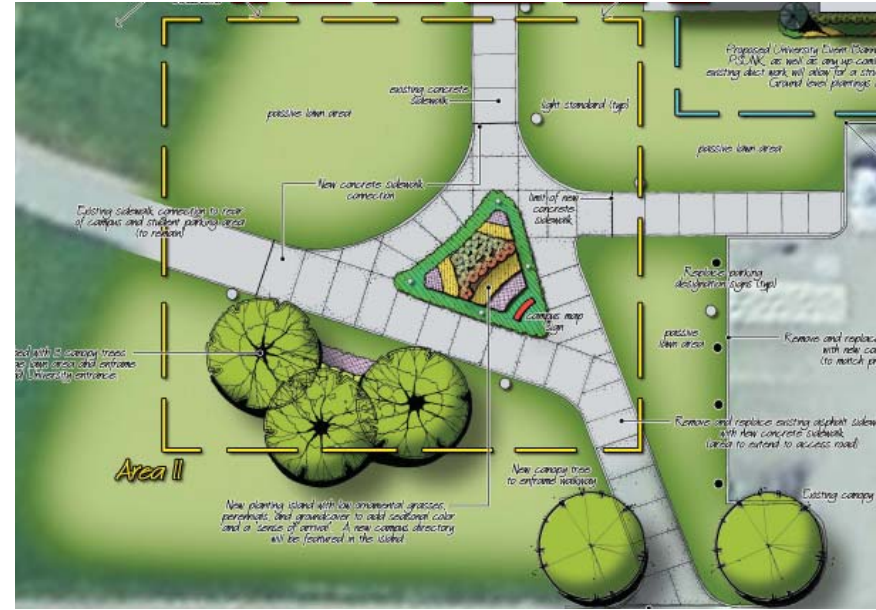
Pedestrian circulation routes are incomplete in some cases and in disrepair in others. Both asphalt and concrete have been used to surface existing walkways. Walkway widths are varied as well.

Propose the phased upgrade of existing and addition of new walkways in the areas highlighted at left. Width of pedestrian walks should be a minimum of 8' to facilitate snow removal and no more than 10' wide to minimize impervious surface coverage.

It is recommended that all walkways be surfaced with concrete for its superior durability as well as its visual distinction from asphalt.



Area 1 New and reconfigured walk entrance to Conference Center



Area 2 New connections between existing walks and parking areas.



Area 3 New connection to existing walk.



Area 4 Realign and reduce existing walks. Pave with concrete for consistency.





# 5B

## Cafe' Courtyard Improvements

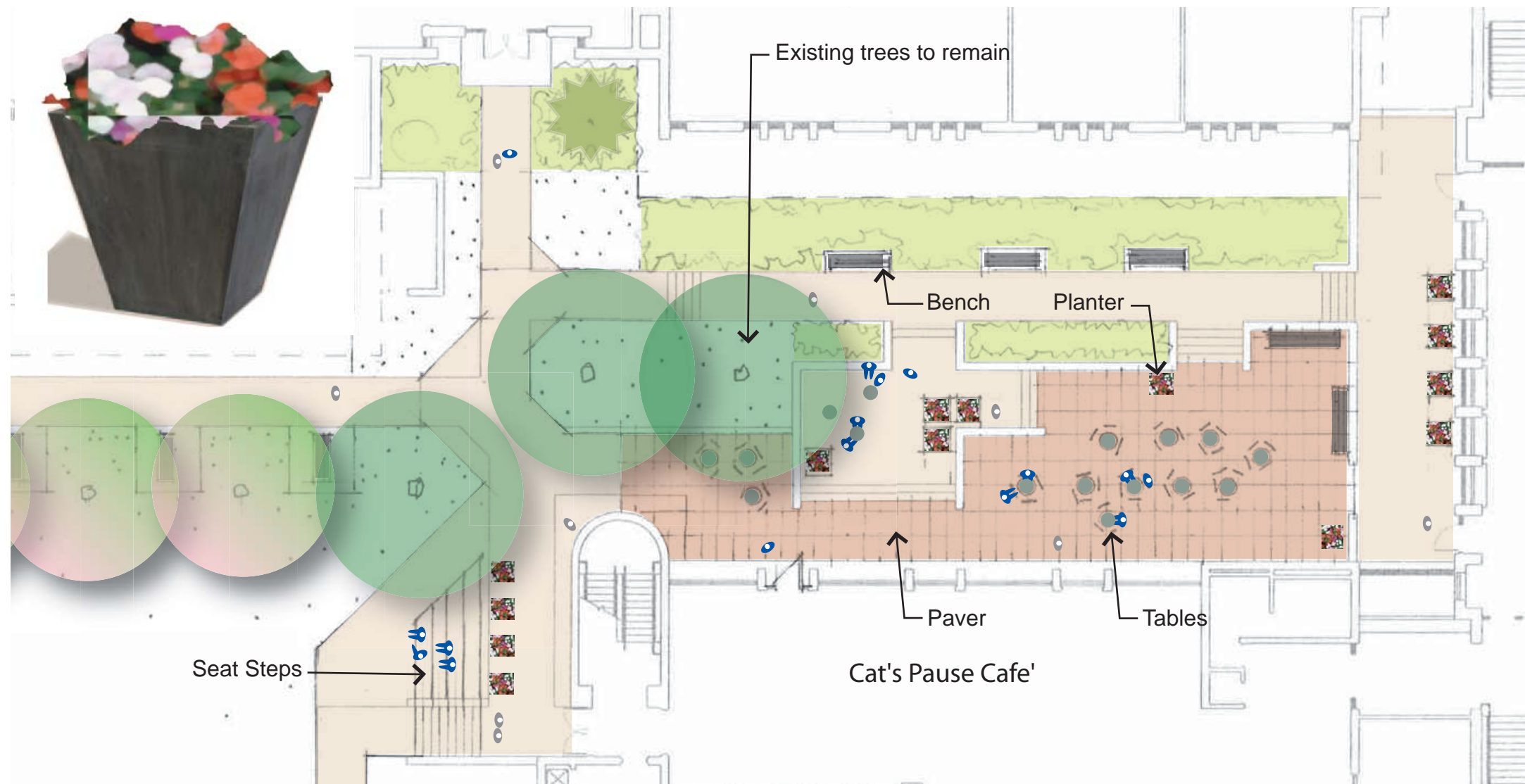
### Improvement Recommendation

The courtyard space outside of the cafe' is a key exterior social space that's in need of renovation. Not only are the furnishings and hardscape in poor condition but there are hazardous grade transitions that pose tripping dangers in addition to violating ADA accessibility guidelines.

Recommend that an elevated paver system be placed on the main patio area to conceal existing concrete surface. This system will also resolve awkward single step conditions without the need for removing the existing surface.

The patio should be furnished with new tables, chairs, benches and trash receptacles.

Landscape plantings should be enhanced with the use of shrubs having four season interest. There is too much reliance on perennial flowering vegetation in the plantings.





Example of roof deck paver on pedestal

Hanover® is pleased to provide an elevated pedestal system for those projects which require paver heights above 3" and up to 24". The new Elevator™ Pedestal System has features included that greatly add to the performance, ease and stability of the installation.

The top plate includes integral pads that quiet and secure the paver to the pedestal. Rigid-to-rigid (pedestal-to-paver) hard surfaces can create noise and paver movement when pedestrians walk across. The pads will help eliminate both conditions.



Resurface and level without removal of existing surface and drainage.



Hazardous tripping conditions should be eliminated

# 5c Vault Planter

## Improvement Recommendation

The existing concrete vaults pose a tripping hazard as well as being unsightly.

Recommend the confirmation that the vaults are not necessary for any specific purpose. Remove lids, backfill with suitable soil material and plant with perennials, annuals and/or ornamental grasses. This contained and moderately sized area represents an optimal opportunity for using seasonal herbaceous flowering plants.



Before



After



# 5D Handrail

## Improvement Recommendation

Handrail design and finish are inconsistent across the campus. Some instances do not comply with accessibility guidelines.

Recommend the adoption of one design standard that meets code requirements for replacement of existing and use on new handrail installations.





Existing entrance sign with outdated campus signature mark.



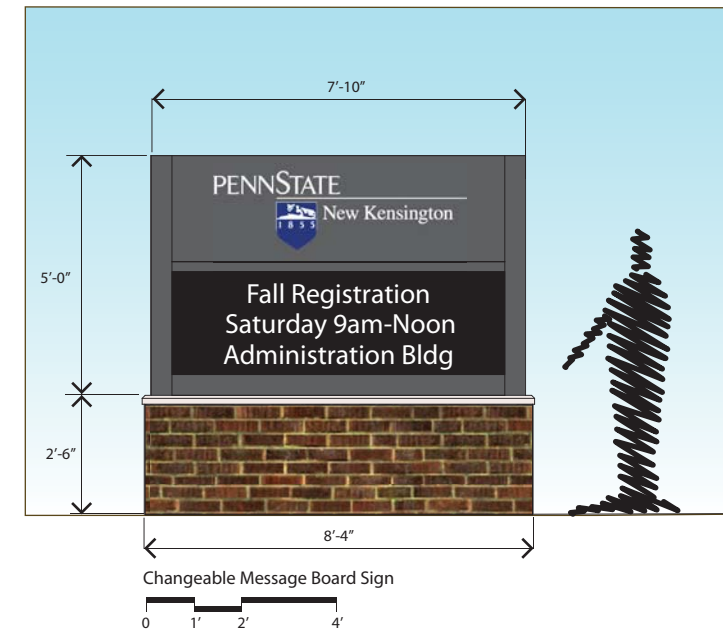
Existing wall structure with updated campus signature mark.



Existing changeable message board sign



New electronic message board sign in same location



Sign constructed of aluminum panels.  
 Paint color for aluminum panels to match Pantone 425  
 Masonry base to be finished with brick veneer to match existing entrance walls and capped with cast stone.

Changeable LED message board basis of design as follows:  
 Manufacturer: Adaptive Micro Systems, LLC  
 Model: AlphaEclipse 2600 Series  
 Case Dimensions: 25" high x 83" wide

LED color: White  
 3 lines of text maximum  
 20 characters per line  
 Upper and lower case letters

# 6A Campus Entrance Signage

## Improvement Recommendation

The existing primary campus entrance sign from PA Route 280 is appropriately sited and scaled. The signature mark for the campus has been updated since the erection of the sign. The existing changeable message board sign does not incorporate current sign technology and the campus signature mark.

Propose the renovation of the existing entrance monument sign to include removal of existing copy and graphics, clean and re-point masonry, and removal of existing ornamental landscape plantings. Mount new aluminum pin letters to the existing wall in compliance with University graphic standards. Re-plant with trees, shrubs and groundcover. Relocate shield from existing sign to an appropriate location elsewhere on campus.

Install new electronic message board sign on new masonry base in the same location as the existing sign.

# 6B

## Campus Directional Signage

### Improvement Recommendation

Vehicular directional and building identification signs are integral to wayfinding as well as building the graphic identity of the University.

Consistent and thorough adherence to the prescribed university graphic standards for sign design, copy, color and graphics should continue at the campus.



### Vehicular Directional Signs (Interior Campus Road Locations)

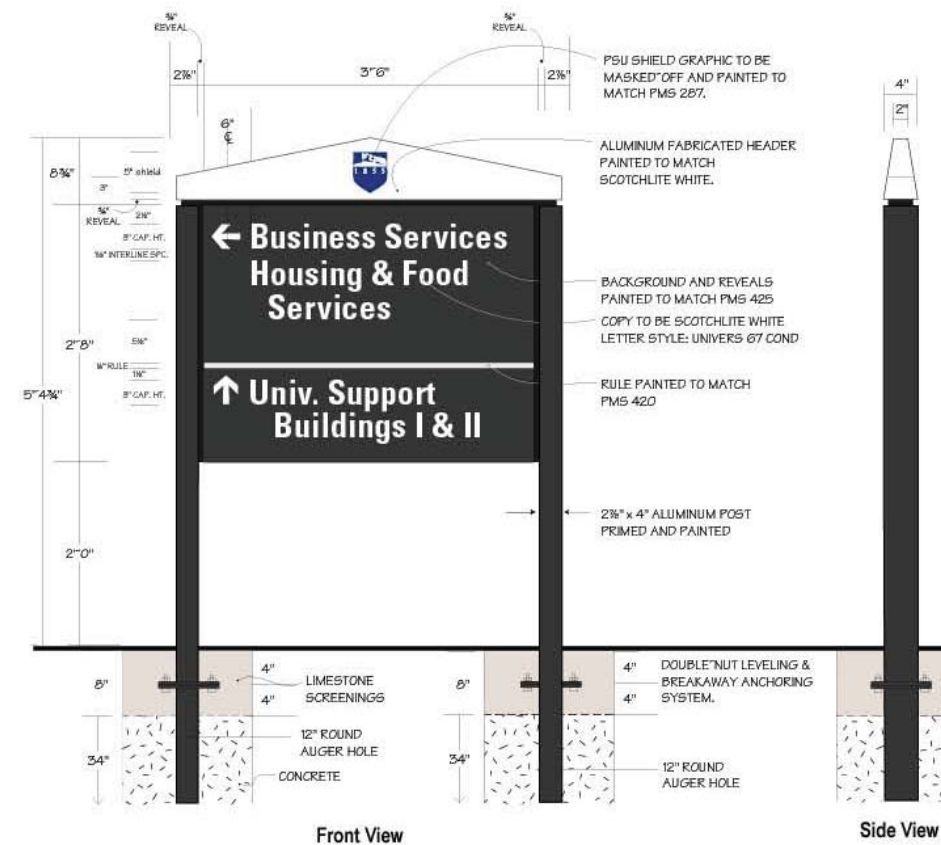
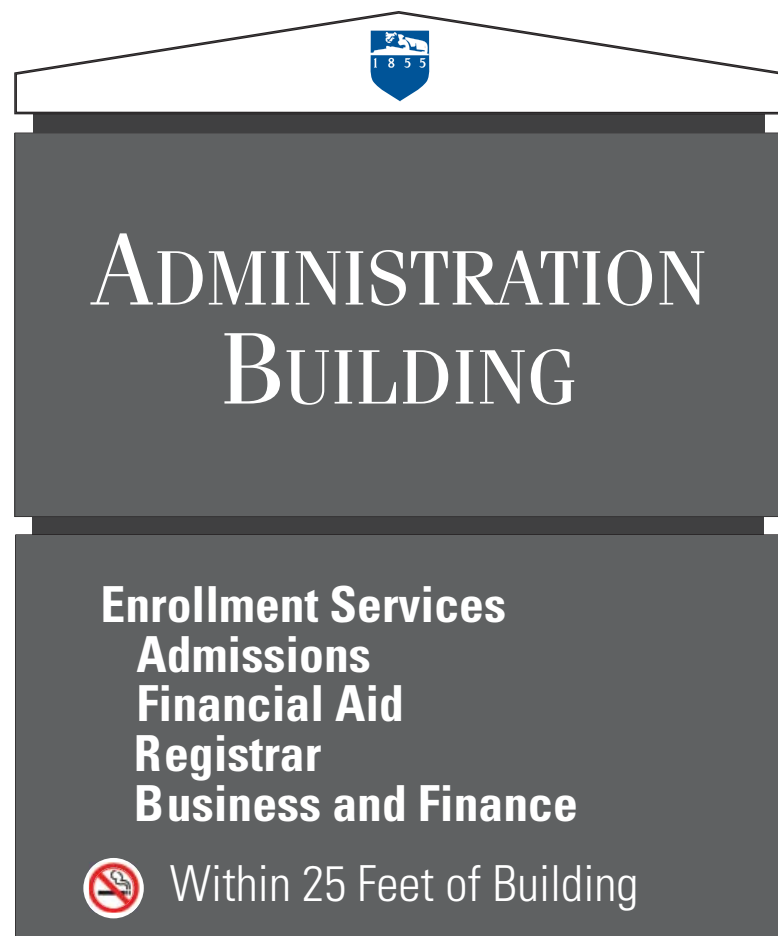
#### Signage Information

These Vehicular Directional Signs, located along interior campus roads, are smaller, leaner in construction, and less expensive than the perimeter masonry base signs.

These non-illuminated painted aluminum signs use a non-reflective background and reflective vinyl copy and graphics. The sign face measures 3'-6" wide by 2'-8" tall.

The typeface is Univers 67 Condensed Bold.

Colors		Vinyl Matches		Signtype
Paint Matches		Scotchlite	White	<b>DV.c.1</b> 3'-6" x 2'-8" SIGN FACE Vehicular Directional Sign Campus Road Locations Drawing Scale: 3/4" = 1'-0" (If spec sheet is 11x17)
Pantone 287	Pantone 420	Match	Scotchlite White	
Pantone 425				



# Project Key Map

Penn State New Kensington  
 Campus Exterior Architectural Plan  
 Project Prioritization Matrix  
 Fall 2008

Proposed exterior improvement projects have been assessed with respect to the following criteria and assigned an implementation priority value.

Criteria include:

**Visual Impact** - degree to which the project improves the visual quality of the campus

**Cost** - level of capital investment required to implement the project (assumes no volunteer or donor contribution)

The projects with the highest numeric score should be given the highest priority for implementation

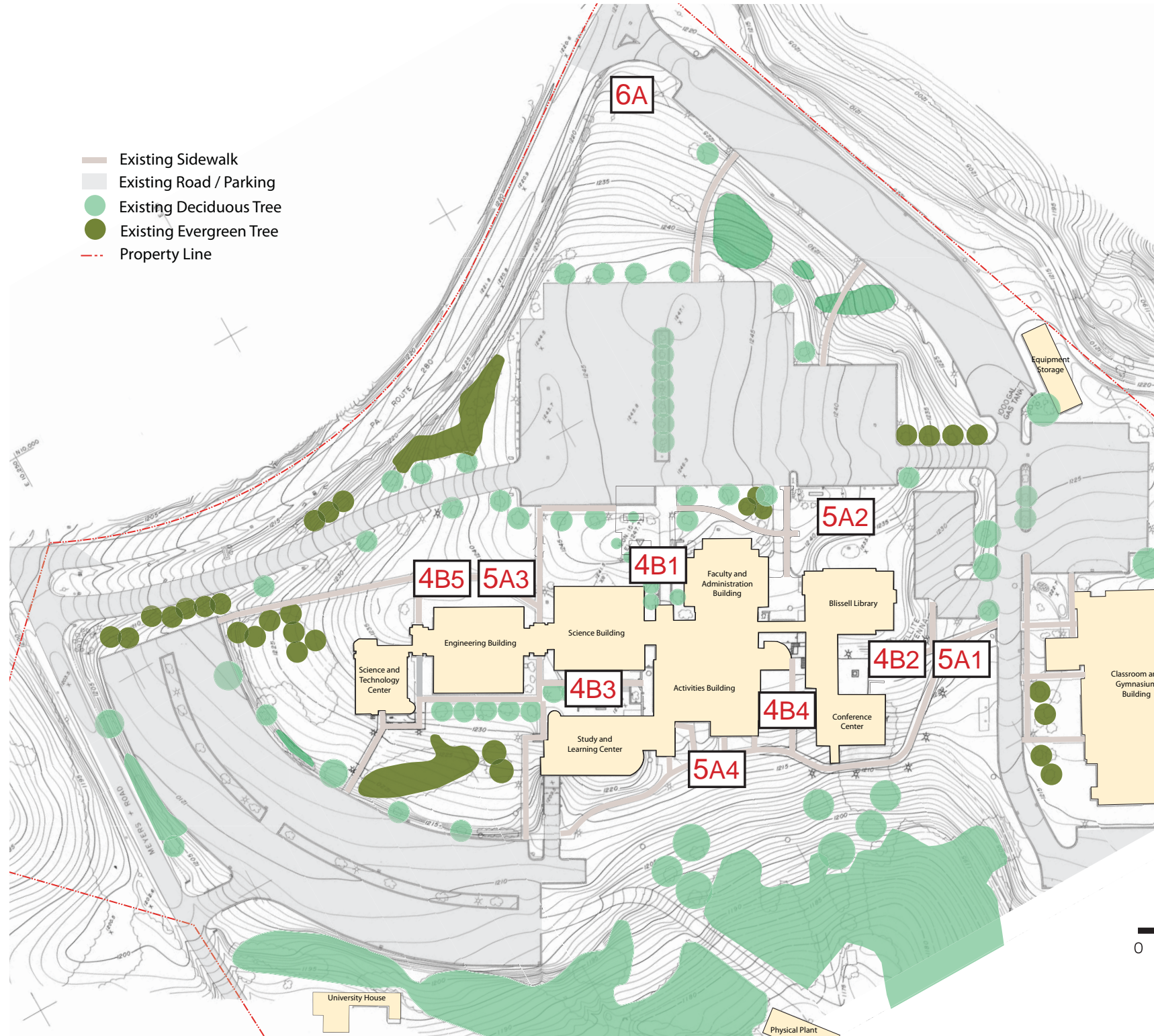
**VISUAL IMPACT**  
 1 - Little or no impact  
 2 - Minor Impact  
 3 - Moderate Impact  
 4 - Major Impact

**COST**  
 1 - Greater than \$25,000  
 2 - \$15,001 to \$25,000  
 3 - \$5,001 to \$15,000

#	PROJECT	IMPACT				COST			SCORE
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	
1A	Rooftop Mechanicals Screening			X		X			4
1B	AC Equipment			X			X		6
2	Site Furnishings				X		X		6
3	Lighting				X	X			5
4A	Tree Planting				X	X			5
4B	Landscape Planting Projects								
	1 - Main Entrance at Patio				X	X			5
	2 - Conference Center Entrance patio				X	X			5
	3 - Cafe Courtyard				X		X		6
	4 - Conference Center / Activities Bldg. Courtyard				X		X		6
	5 - Science & Tech Cntr / Eng / Science Entrances				X	X			5
5A	Walkway Improvements								
	Area 1				X		X		5
	Area 2				X		X		5
	Area 3				X	X			4
	Area 4				X	X			4
5B	Café Courtyard Improvements					X			5
5C	Vault Planter				X		X	X	6
5D	Handrail	X					X		3
6A	Campus Entrance Signage				X	X			5
6B	Campus Directional Signage				X	X			5

Note:

Cost ranges identified in this matrix are for planning purposes only. Actual costs will be dependent upon fully developed plans for the respective project. Some of the projects listed above can be broken down into smaller pieces and implemented in phases.



1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4A, 5D, 6B Campus wide