Hazleton
Campus Exterior Architectural Plan

Highacres
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Introduction and purpose

The stated mission, vision and strategic goals of Penn State clearly define the University's responsibility to improve the lives of the people of Pennsylvania. Through the instructional and research aspects of the mission, the University is committed to enhancing quality of life and stimulating progress. Penn State's vision includes the quest for excellence, responsiveness to the communities we serve and quality in all endeavors. To these ends this document serves as a tool to further Penn State's mission with respect to aesthetic beauty as well as safety and efficiency of the physical environment.

The specific purpose of this Campus Exterior Architectural Plan (CEAP) is to identify improvement opportunities and suggest measures to correct physical deficiencies on the campus exterior. The objective of the CEAP is to focus on low cost measures that can be implemented quickly. A list of such projects has been developed and given an implementation priority ranking based on input from the campus, greatest visual impact and cost.

Improvement recommendations offered in this CEAP have been developed to a schematic design level. Additional analysis and design may be required to successfully implement some of the recommendations. Projects have been assigned a cost range based on historical data and/or experience with similar projects. Assumptions have been made regarding existing conditions and project scope. Only after final design and detailed estimating can the cost figures be ascertained.
Existing Conditions Inventory

The Hazleton Campus of Penn State consists of 104 acres of property in Sugarloaf Township to the northwest of Hazleton. Situated on the crest of Butler Mountain, the campus landscape is characterized by steep slopes, wooded terrain and dramatic distant vistas. Soils are shallow and gravelly as evidenced by several prominent rock outcroppings across the campus.

The following figures illustrate in graphic form some of the campus shortcomings that are addressable through a CEAP.
Major architectural modifications, additions, and new construction are beyond the scope of this CEAP.

With the exception of a few structures, the predominant building material is brick and the architectural style contemporary. These factors should be considered when developing exterior improvements such as walls, site furnishings, lighting and planting designs.
Site Furnishings
Existing Conditions Inventory

A variety of types and styles of benches, tables, trash receptacles and planters are spread across the campus. The opportunity exists to establish a uniform aesthetic character campus wide through the use of stylistically complimentary furnishings.

In addition to aesthetic appropriateness, the longevity and maintenance of site furnishings should be considered when specifying.
Exterior lighting across the campus varies with respect to style and lamp type. A unifying aesthetic effect can be achieved by implementing a comprehensive and stylistically complimentary scheme.
Campus identification and wayfinding signage is inconsistent stylistically with respect to copy, color size and detailing.
Landscaping
Existing Conditions Inventory

Weed control, slope plantings and shrub maintenance have been noted as areas for improvement. Parking lot and mechanical equipment screening are absent in some cases. Lawn areas requiring high level of maintenance exist where more appropriate and less costly landscape treatments are possible. Severe pruning techniques distort the softening effect of some plantings. It is noted that the climatic condition affecting this campus can be inhospitable to the growth of some varieties of ornamental vegetation.
Unique Features
Existing Conditions Inventory

Scenic overlooks, water features, wooded walkways, and historic structures all contribute to the character of the campus. Enhancements and focused maintenance at these features can showcase the heritage and unique aesthetic character of the campus.
ADA compliant pedestrian circulation is and will always be a challenge on this campus due to the topographic condition. Unnecessarily expansive paved areas exist. Complete absence of paved surfacing and lighting on routes utilized by pedestrians is noted. Use of stamped, painted asphalt is noted on some campus walkways.
Improvement Recommendations

The following list of improvement projects has been evaluated using a series of factors to arrive at a suggested implementation priority ranking. The ranking is intended as a guideline for realizing the most significant impacts early in the plan implementation.

Location specific projects are keyed to the map with numbers corresponding to the listing on the following matrix.

The figures that follow, describe and illustrate potential solutions to aesthetic and functional shortcomings of the current site deemed addressable through the CEAP program.
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](http://www.opp.psu.edu/stnd/signage/index.html).

**KOSTOS BUILDING**

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

![Ice Rink Nittany Apartments](image1)

![Graduate Circle To Route 26 To University Drive](image2)

Directional Signage/Wayfinding

![Campus Map/Wayfinding](image3)

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Campus Exterior Architectural Plan
Site Furnishings
Improvement Recommendation

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.
Site Lighting
Improvement Recommendation

Plan for phased replacement of antiquated, inefficient pedestrian walkway lighting. Propose the use of metal halide lamps in cut-off luminaires mounted to poles. 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.
Ornamental Grasses and other perennial plant material make suitable screening in narrow islands vulnerable to winter damage from snow and salt.
Screening Improvement Recommendation

Utility transformers can be screened with vegetation to minimize visual clutter in the landscape. Care must be taken to avoid conflicts with access to the equipment for service.

Before

After

Hazleton Campus Exterior Architectural Plan
Dumpsters
Improvement Recommendation

Organized and efficient waste and recycling dumpster screening is vital to presenting the best face of a campus.

Success has been realized at University Park Campus through the use of wood or synthetic lumber enclosures.

In addition, visual impact can be minimized by simply painting the dumpsters a neutral color that matches the enclosure.

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Slope Transitions
Improvement Recommendation

Sloped grade transitions in excess of 4:1 should be planted with trees, shrubs and groundcover material in lieu of turf.

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Tennis Court
Improveent Recommendation

Removal of tennis court perimeter fence and installation of appropriate lighting is recommended even if the intention is to re-institute tennis activity on this site.

Conversion of the site back to tennis would require new fencing and surfacing.
The pedestrian corridor between Kostos Building and the bookstore is a principal access to the central mall of campus from perimeter parking. The opportunity exists to eliminate lawn areas and enhance the aesthetic through the installation of trees, shrubs and groundcover plant material. Additional benefit includes screening of the loading dock on the rear of the bookstore.
Improve access to the Bookstore Building by installing stairs from the mall into the recessed porch area. Landscape plantings to frame the new walk and soften the mall side of the porch area is suggested.
Pedestrian movement from the dining and residence halls on the south side of campus must be accommodated. Propose placement of a series of stair units with expanded landings between spans of surface walkway along the existing clearing between the dining hall and Chestnut Cottage.
The existing sign at the entrance to campus is difficult to read and dated with respect to current graphic standards. The landscape plantings are in need of renovation. The stone walls are in excellent condition and should not require significant restoration.

Propose the removal of existing letters and replacement with graphics consistent with University sign standards. Recommend the removal of sidewalk and road crossing actuator on the west side of the entry. Pedestrian access to the intersection from campus is limited to the east side of the entry drive.
Penn State Hazleton
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Project Prioritization Matrix

The following list of exterior improvement projects have been evaluated and a value assigned based on the following criteria:

**Visual Impact**: to what degree does the project improve the visual quality of the center.

**Cost**: what level of capital investment is required to implement the project (assumes no volunteer or monetary gift).

Implementation priorities ranked should be given to the projects with the highest point score.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>VISUAL IMPACT</th>
<th>COST</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.Site Furnishings</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.Site Lighting</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.Screaming</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.Dumping Enclosure</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.Slope Transitions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.Parking Lot</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.Tennis Court</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.Kostol/Bookstore Walkway Landscape</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.Bike/Entry Stair</td>
<td></td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.Dining Hall to Core Campus Walk/Entry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.Campus Entry Signage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: Cost ranges identified in the 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 also be implemented in phases.