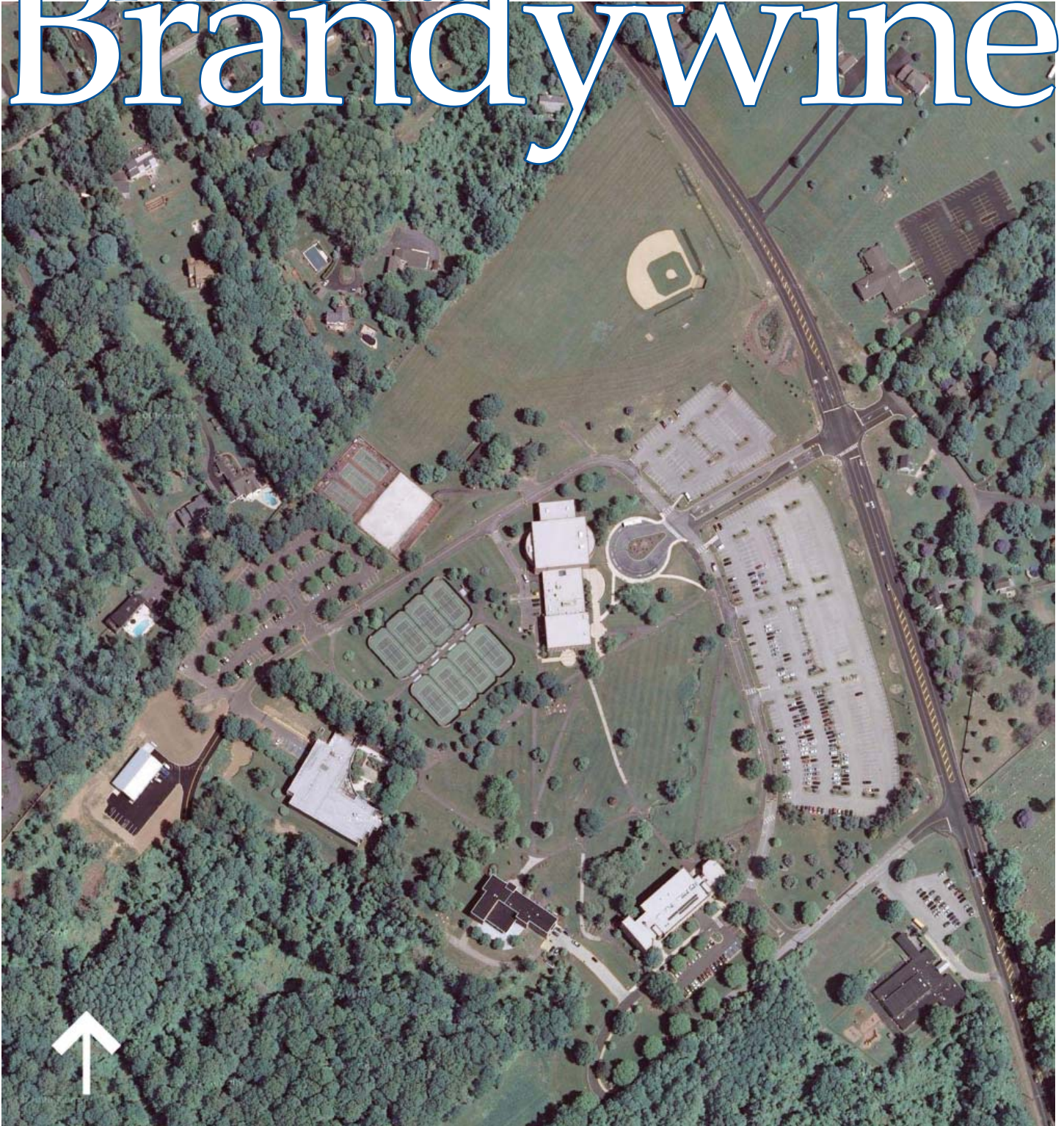


# Penn State Brandywine



Campus Exterior Architectural Plan

Fall 2009

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- A Screen Dumpsters
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- C Remove Timbers
- D Camouflage Transformers
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# CAMPUS BUILDINGS

- 1 Commons and Athletic Center  
Athletics  
Food Service  
Fitness Center  
Gymnasiums  
Lion's Den  
Security  
Student Affairs
- 2 Main Building  
Academic affairs  
Administration  
Admissions  
Advising & Career Services  
Bookstore  
Bursar/Finance  
Continuing Education  
Financial Aid  
Learning Center  
Registration  
Writing Center
- 3 Tomesko Classroom Building
- 4 Vairo Library  
Computer Labs  
Information Technology Services
- 5 Maintenance Building
- 6 Storage Building
- 7 Athletic Fields

- P** PARKING  
All parking by permit only
- VP** VISITOR  
PARKING



- Bus Stop
- Barrier-free Entrance
- Barrier-free Entrance w/ Power Assist
- Barrier-free Circulation

# 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, 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. 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.

# Existing Conditions Inventory

## Background:

A detailed site analysis, campus vision and future development strategy are fully documented in the campus master plan process. In addition to the analysis performed during the master planning process, a focused visual assessment of the campus exterior is conducted which establishes the foundation for the recommendations and concepts contained in this CEAP document.

## General Observations:

This forty-three year old campus has occupied its present site since 1970 with the construction of what is now called the Main Building. This 90 acre commuter campus lies 20 miles west of Philadelphia in Delaware County with easy public transportation access.

The four student-focused brick buildings on campus are modern and surround rolling lawns punctuated by mature tree groupings. The Commons and Athletic Center and public transportation turnaround sit at the terminus of a prominent vista into campus on the new entrance drive. A prominent drainageway through the center green provides a unique landscape feature that can be enhanced. Modern academic facilities include the Vairo Library and Tomeszko Building. The campus is surrounded by rural residences and forest canopy. Nearby Longwood Gardens, many nearby plant nurseries, and the rolling topography of the campus combine to create the verdant rural quality that is Penn State Brandywine.

Parking is suitably relegated to the campus perimeter. Pedestrian circulation in the campus core is functional however the opportunity exists to modify alignments and materials to unify buildings and better organize exterior space. Existing exterior gathering spaces can be enhanced to be more inviting. Signage and wayfinding at the campus need to be enhanced and standardized. A Sign Program has been developed and is being implemented.

# 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. Brick masonry is the predominant building material used to construct most buildings on campus.



# Site Furnishings

## Existing Conditions Inventory



Benches, trash receptacles, tables and bike racks 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 longevity and maintenance of site furnishings should be considered when specifying.

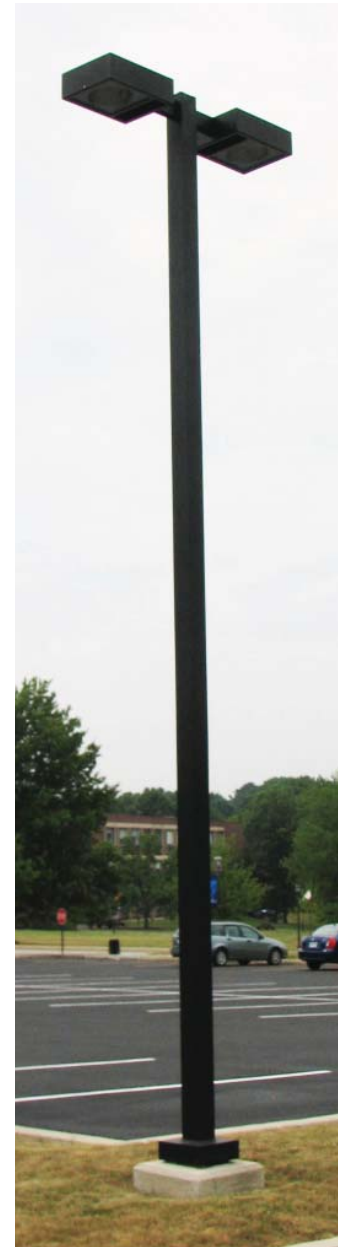




# Lighting

## Existing Conditions Inventory

A variety of exterior light fixture types are present on campus. As with site furnishings, the aesthetically unifying effect of this site amenity is not being employed to the greatest possible extent.





# Signage

## Existing Conditions Inventory

Consistent design and placement of directional and identification signs is key to a unified aesthetic as well as an intuitive and clear means of way finding.

Consistent utilization of Penn State graphic standards throughout the system builds the University's identity.

Signage upgrades prompted by CEAP

recommendations made at other Commonwealth campuses has resulted in a complete renovation program at Brandywine as well. The program is currently being implemented.



# Landscape

## Existing Conditions Inventory



The landscape aesthetic of the campus can be characterized as park-like with groves of large, quality specimen trees and open grassy lawns. Ornamental plantings beds are well-maintained. Mature wooded areas should continue be protected from development. Any and all invasive plant species should be eradicated. Turf areas appear to be weed-free and well maintained.



Both formal and informal outdoor gathering spaces exist on campus though there is opportunity for more.



# Pedestrian Circulation

## Existing Conditions Inventory

With a few minor exceptions, the system of pedestrian walkways through and around campus appear to provide a logical network for pedestrian circulation.

The use of concrete in lieu of asphalt for walkway surfacing is recommended.





# Unique Features

## Existing Conditions Inventory

The character and aesthetic of the campus is defined primarily by the central green and the views across campus from pedestrian walkways. Sculpture could be relocated to a more effective location.

The drainageway through the center of the campus green provides a unique characteristic.



# 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
- ▶ Focus the use of annual and perennial plantings
- ▶ Re-seed lawn areas abutting sidewalks killed by deicing chemicals
- ▶ Seal and re-stripe paved areas
- ▶ Tree pruning and maintenance as recommended by University arborist

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

## Paint Gym Doors

Improvement Recommendation

The color of the exterior doors on the Commons and Athletic Center should match the trim elements on the rest of the building.



Existing



Proposed

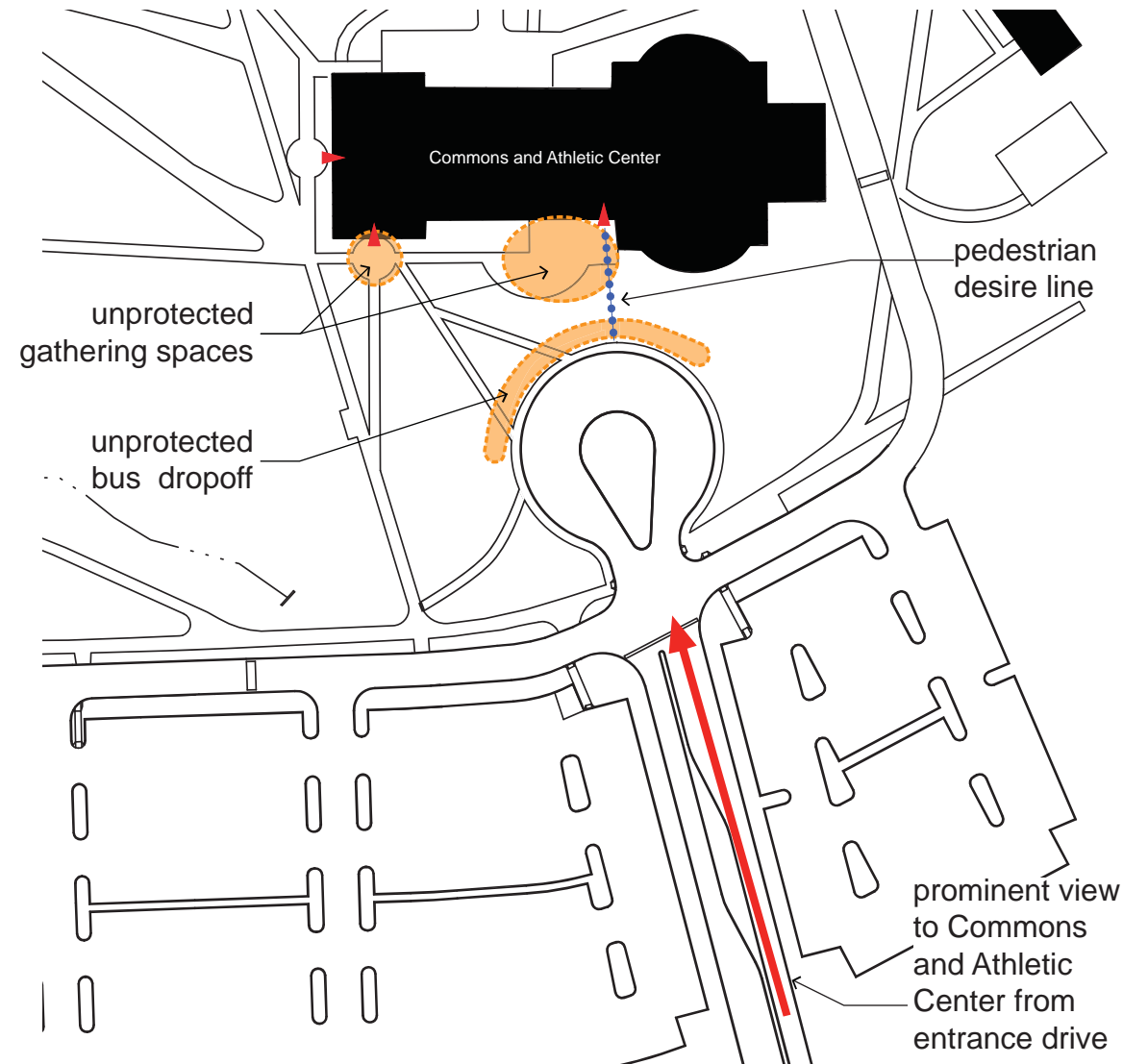


Existing



Proposed

## Entrance Drive Terminus



Addition at main entrance to Olmsted Building - Harrisburg



Entrance to Pattee Paterno Library - University Park



Existing view into Brandywine campus from entrance drive



Rec Hall addition along Atherton Street - University Park



HUB Plaza porte cochere - University Park

### Improvement Recommendation

The prominent view into the campus has been established by the new entrance drive from Middletown Road. The current terminus of that view is the unremarkable center portion of the Commons and Athletic Center and the unprotected patio in front.

Such a grand entrance sequence deserves a more prominent visual terminus. This could be achieved with an architectural addition to the Commons and Athletic Center, such as the addition to the Atherton Street side of Rec Hall at University Park, or the addition to the main entrance of the Olmsted Building at Harrisburg campus. This should be explored further during Brandywine campus' upcoming master planning process.

A new protected gathering space at this location would also provide an opportunity for an iconic architectural expression. University Park's treatment of HUB Plaza and the entrance to Pattee Paterno Library are examples of this type of treatment.

# 1c Transit Shelters

Improvement Recommendation

The current dropoff/pickup area for public transportation provides no protection from the weather for students waiting for buses. Transit shelters that complement the architecture of the Commons and Athletic Center should be constructed to provide this protection. This could be a first phase of an integrated design that includes an addition to the front of the Commons and Athletic Center, as described on the previous page (improvement concept # 1B).



Curtin Road transit shelter - University Park



Existing public transit dropoff/pickup area in front of Commons and Athletic Center at Brandywine campus



New bus shelter at Penn State Altoona



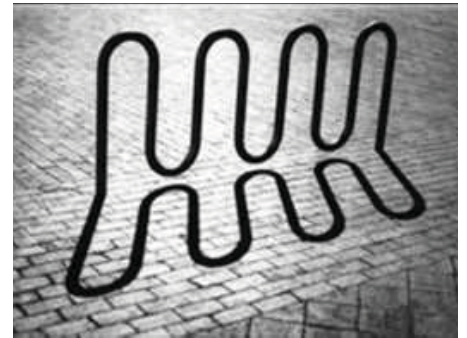
# 2A

## 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.



# 3A 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 lamping 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



Campus Standard

# 3B Complete Lightpost Bases

## Improvement Recommendation

With the addition of the new entrance sign, the bases of the light post on the entrance drive appear unfinished. Brick facing and capping should match entrance sign.



# 4A Remove Secondary Campus Sign

## Improvement Recommendation

Remove the existing secondary entrance sign on the corner of Middletown and Yearsley Mill Roads. A replacement sign should coordinate aesthetically with the new primary entrance sign on Middletown Road. An effort should be made to preserve and enhance the existing mature landscaping.



# 5A

## Replace Asphalt Walks- Create Nodes

### Improvement Recommendation

Asphalt walks should be replaced with concrete.

Primary campus walkways should not exceed 10 feet in width. Minor walkways should be 8 feet in width to facilitate snow removal.

Major nodes in the sidewalk network should receive special treatment, such as the brick paver rounds illustrated here.



Existing



New concrete walks with brick paver nodes

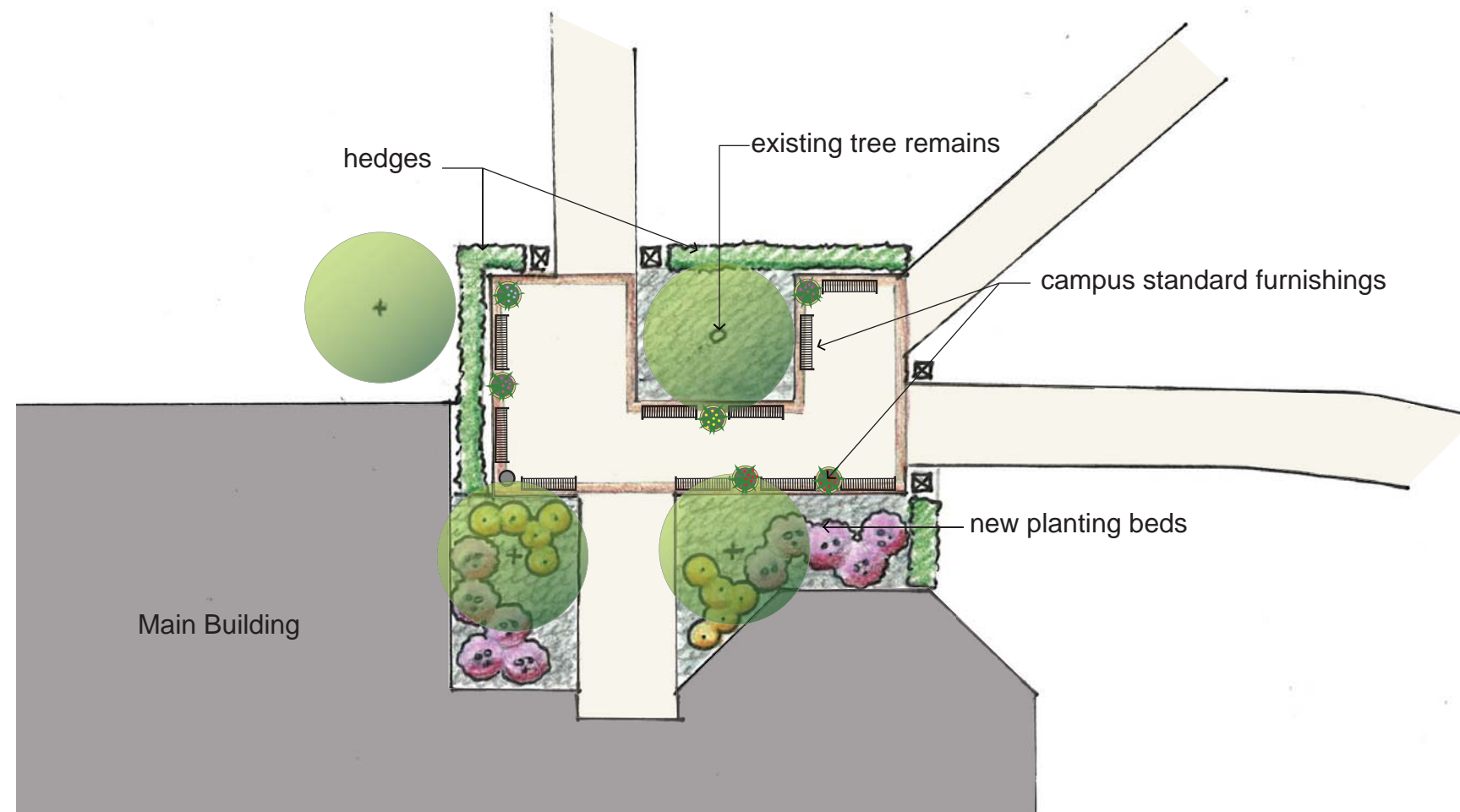
# 5B

## Main Building North Patio Enhancement

### Improvement Recommendation

The paved patio behind the Main Building is excessively large and sparsely furnished.

Propose the reconfiguration of the patio space to allow planting beds next to building and to better resolve the confluence of sidewalks. Replace existing picnic tables, planters, trash receptacles with campus standard.



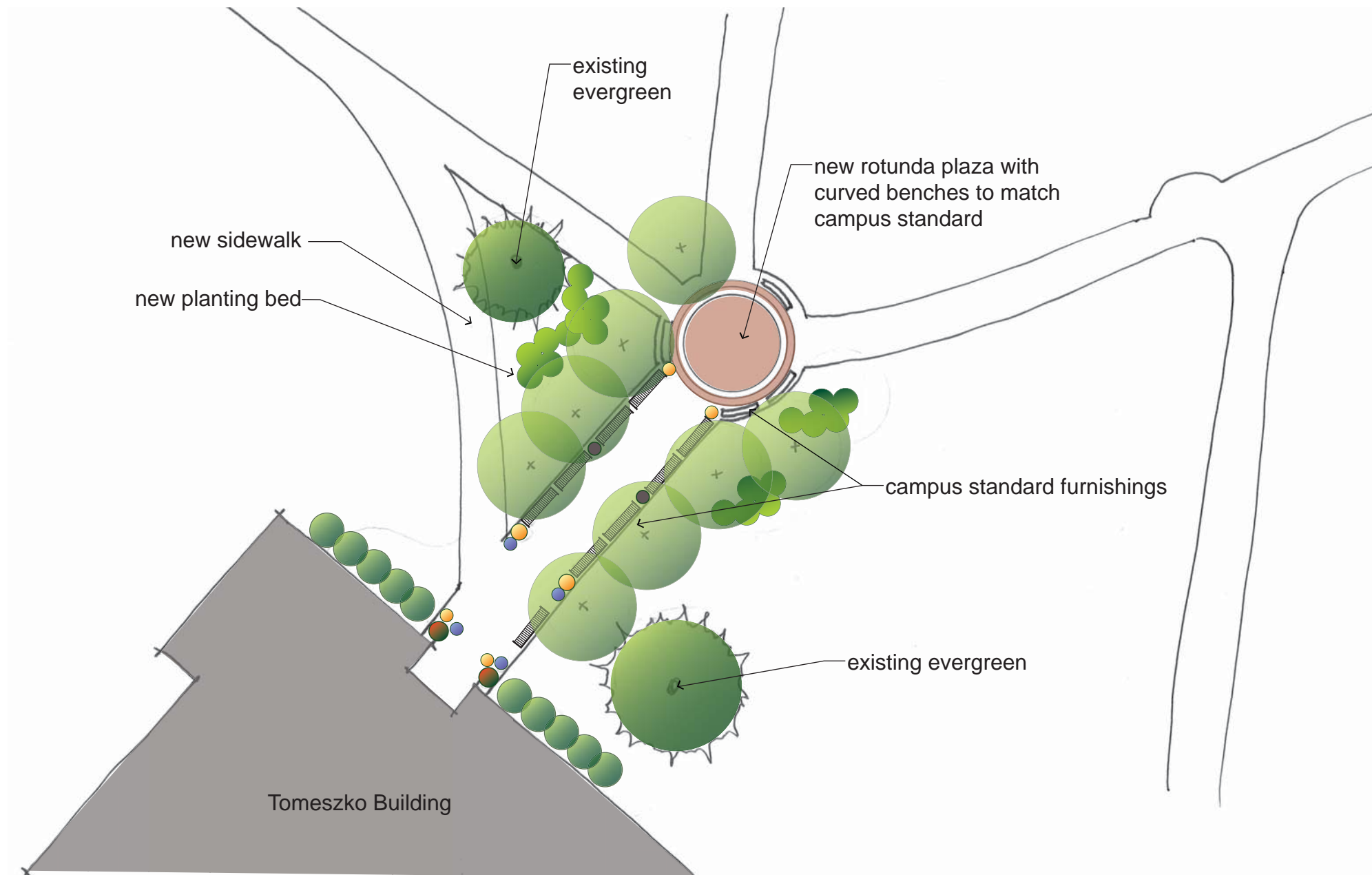
# 5c Tomeszko Plaza Improvements

## Improvement Recommendation

The campus-side face of the Tomeszko Building needs to be visually unified. Multiple colors of brick, random landscaping and an inappropriately sized patio adjacent to the building front add to the visual confusion.

Propose the reconfiguration of the patio space to create a gathering space with benches and renewed landscaping at the convergence of sidewalks away from the front doors. Replace existing benches, planters, trash receptacles with campus standard. Line the walk between the plaza and front doors with campus standard benches and planters.

Low evergreen hedges along the face of the building on either side of the front entrance provide visual balance with the second story glass conference room projection.



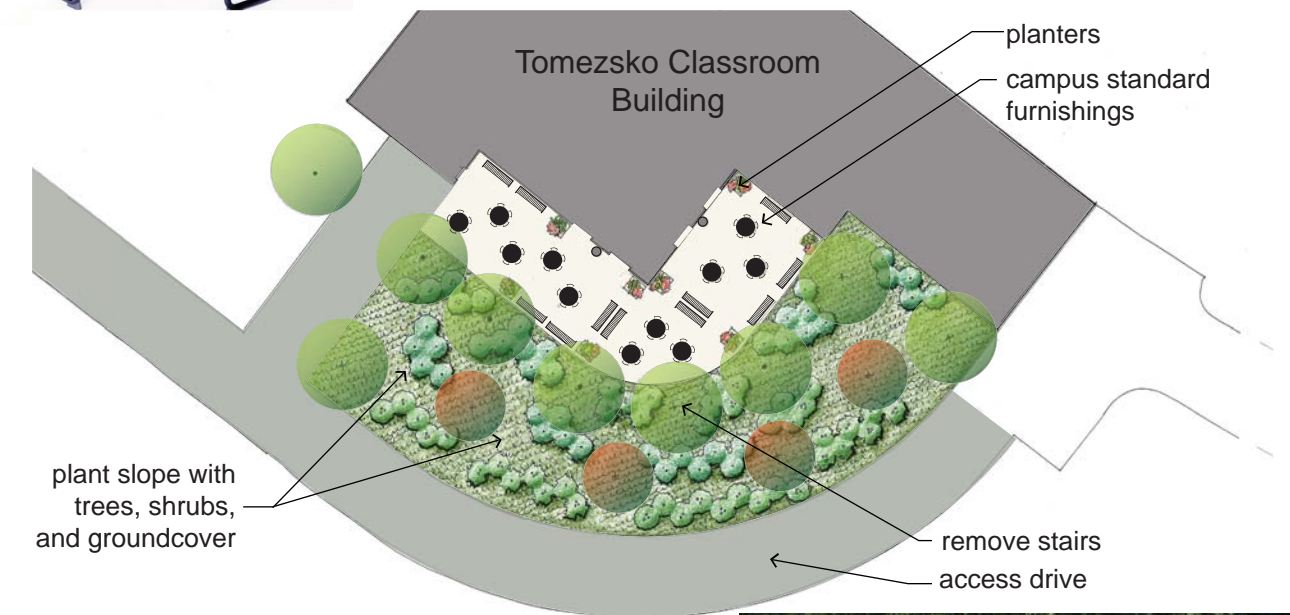
# 5D Tomezsko West Patio

## Improvement Recommendation

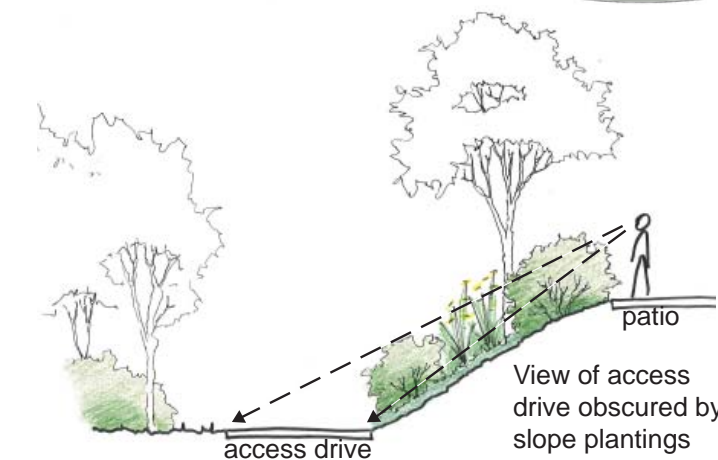
The Tomezsko Building west patio is sparsely furnished and unfinished. The gravel emergency access road below appears weedy and temporary and is visible from the patio due to a lack of landscaping. Remove gravel pile at terminus of gravel access road. Remove "stairs to nowhere" and soften and enhance patio edge with shrub and groundcover plantings that will obscure view of access road. Relocate emergency access to north end of patio. Furnish with campus standard tables, benches, trash receptacles and planters.



Existing Tomezsko Classroom Building back patio



Proposed furnishings, planters, and slope plantings



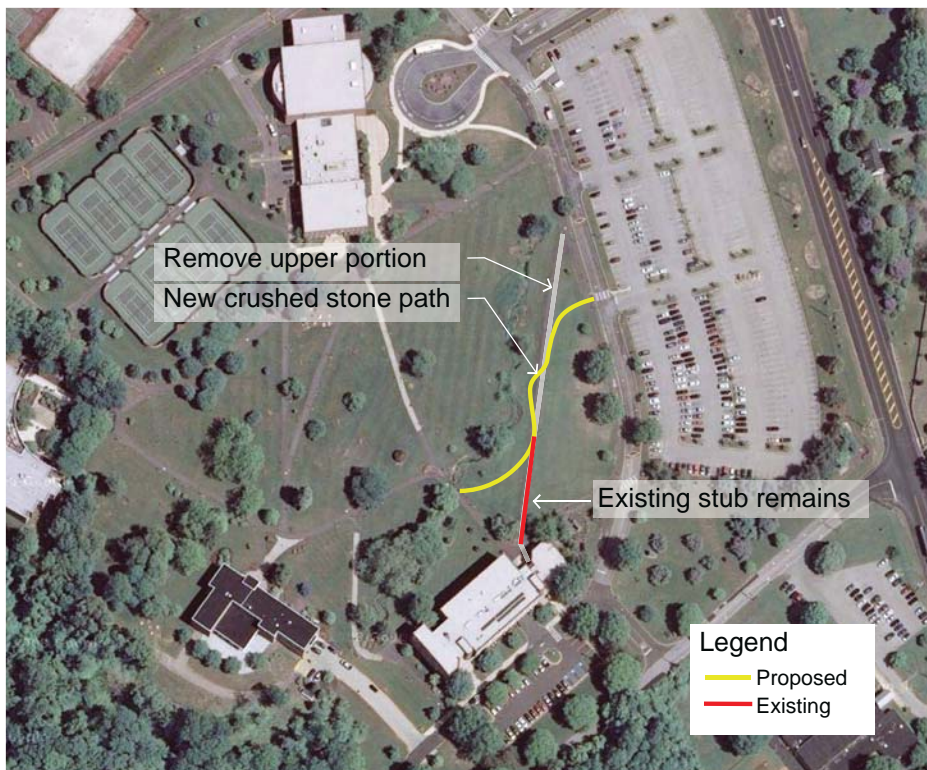


# 5E Realign Walk from Parking

## Improvement Recommendation



Students are currently crossing the lawn where no sidewalk exists to reach the drainageway crossover point. A realignment as illustrated below would encourage the use of the parking lot crosswalk and would respond to the edge of the drainageway. The connection to the Main Building remains.



## Enhance Native Plantings along Campus Drainageway

### Improvement Recommendation

An opportunity exists to enhance the vegetative buffer along the campus drainageway. Attractive and beneficial plantings, such as those listed to the left, planted in an approximately 50' edge on either side could create a campus iconic landscape. Large scale shade trees and shrubs should be planted near the intersection of pathways, as illustrated. The gazebo should be included in the new planting area.

### Suggested Native Riparian Plants - Brandywine drainageway

#### Trees

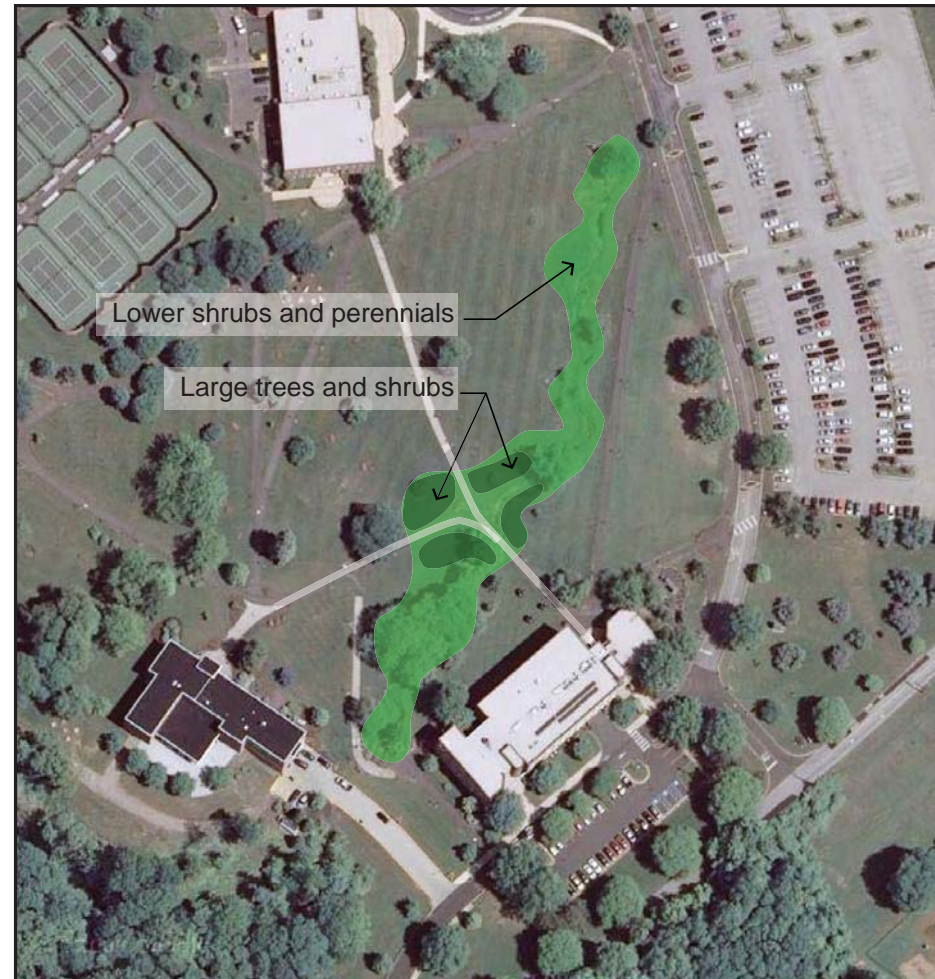
- Amelanchier arborea (Juneberry)
- Magnolia virginiana (Swamp Magnolia)
- Acer rubrum (Red Maple)
- Nyssa sylvatica (Black Gum)
- Oxydendrum arboreum (Sourwood)
- Platanus occidentalis (Sycamore)
- Quercus bicolor (Swamp White Oak)
- Taxodium distichum (Bald Cypress)

#### Shrubs

- Aronia arbutifolia (Red Chokeberry)
- Cephalanthus occidentalis (Buttonbush)
- Clethra alnifolia (Summersweet)
- Cornus amomum (Silky Dogwood)
- Hydrangea arborescens (Wild Hydrangea)
- Ilex verticillata (Winterberry)
- Itea virginia (Sweetspire)
- Lindera benzoin (Spicebush)
- Rhododendron viscosum (Swamp Azalea)
- Sambucus canadensis (Common Elderberry)
- Viburnum prunifolium (Blackhaw Viburnum)

#### Herbaceous

- Asclepias incarnata (Swamp Milkweed)
- Aster novae-angliae (New England Aster)
- Aster novi-belgii (New York Aster)
- Boltonia asteroides (Aster-like Boltonia)
- Caltha palustris (Marsh Marigold)
- Chelone glabra (White Turtlehead)
- Coreopsis tripteris (Tall Coreopsis)
- Equisetum hyemale (Horsetail)
- Eupatorium fistulosum (Joe Pye Weed)
- Helianthus decapetalus (Ten-petaled Sunflower)
- Hibiscus moscheutos (Eastern Rosemallow)
- Lobelia cardinalis (Cardinal Flower)
- Mertensia virginica (Virginia Bluebells)
- Peltandra virginia (Arrow Arum)
- Phlox divaricata (Woodland Phlox)
- Podophyllum peltatum (Mayapple)
- Rudbeckia laciniata (Cut-leaved Coneflower)
- Solidago rugosa (Rough-stemmed goldenrod)



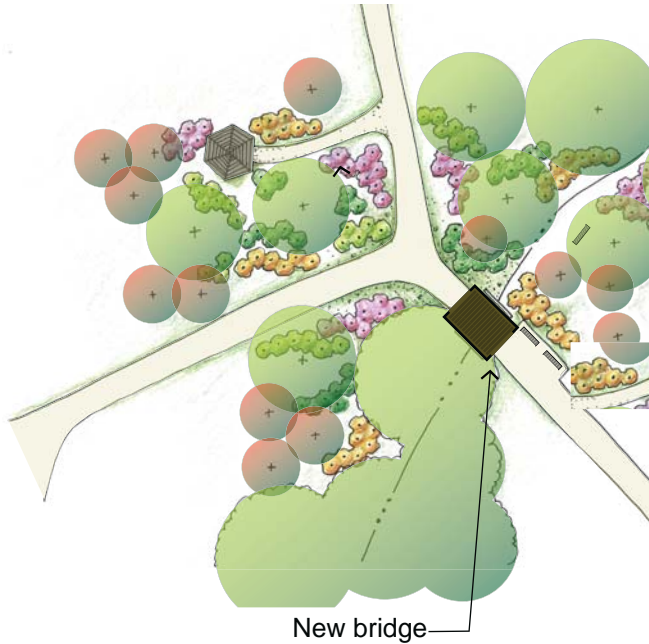
Example of a landscape design with water-loving plants at University Park



# 5G Daylight and Bridge Drainageway

## Improvement Recommendation

Replace the culvert that carries the drainageway under the sidewalk with an ornamental pedestrian truss bridge such as the one illustrated below.



Existing



Proposed

# 5H Accessibility and Landscape at the Gazebo

## Improvement Recommendation



Existing

Landscape plantings are sparse surrounding the gazebo and the lawn approach is not universally accessible. A compacted crushed stone path to the east side would provide a stable surface for handicapped users. Enclose the opening on west side with railing to match existing.

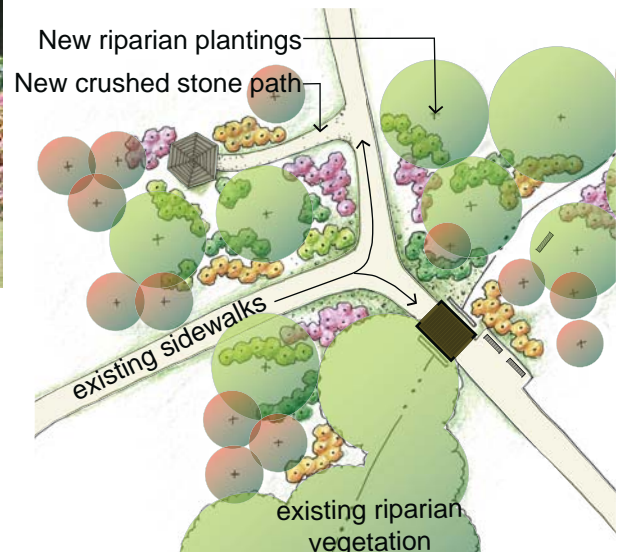
The Penn State Dirt and Gravel Roads Studies "Trail Mix Specifications" should be used when specifying materials to assure a compact surface:

[http://www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu/resources/dsa/trailmix\\_spec.pdf](http://www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu/resources/dsa/trailmix_spec.pdf)

Plantings recommended for riparian area should tie the gazebo into the drainageway plantings.



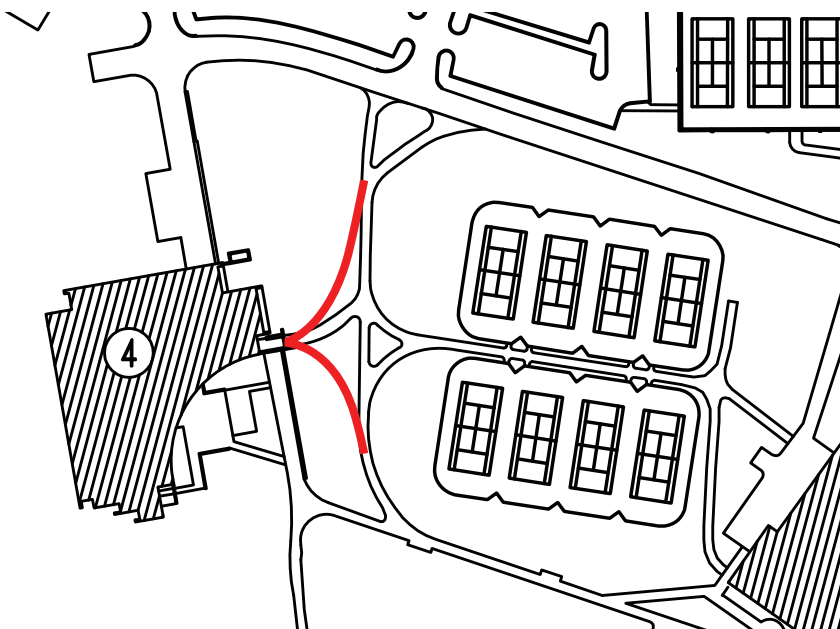
Proposed



# Replace Library asphalt “steps”

Improvement Recommendation

Lengthen and realign the sidewalk connection from Vairo Library to the through-sidewalk from the parking lot. This will eliminate the need for the timber steps embedded in the existing asphalt walk. It is recommended that all proposed sidewalks be concrete. Asphalt walkways should be replaced with concrete as funding allows



Existing looking towards tennis courts



Existing looking towards Vairo Library

# Vairo Library Improvements

## Improvement Recommendation

The landscape character of the main entrance to campus is unembellished and sparse.

Positive impact at this front door to the campus requires supplemental landscape plantings including allee trees and shrubs (evergreen and deciduous) along the entrance drive. The plantings around the main entrance sign require renewal.

Establish a view from the entrance drive to the Administration Building. This is only feasible with the removal of end-of-lifespan trees and limbing-up of viable trees.

An opportunity exists to celebrate the entrance onto the campus promenade by enhancing plantings around the stone piers. Excess pavement can be removed to allow for planting bed space surrounding the piers. A belgian block raised crosswalk and paver apron threshold would be a more pleasing and effective way to signal the transition from parking to the campus core. The opposite side of the drive should also be treated to signal a connection to the residence halls. An opportunity also exists to reduce pavement on the opposite side of University Drive, as illustrated.



Existing



Proposed



# 5K

## Vairo Library Plaza Improvements

### Improvement Recommendation

The paved patio behind the Main Building is excessively large and sparsely furnished.

Propose the reconfiguration of the patio space to allow planting beds next to building and to better resolve the confluence of sidewalks. Replace existing picnic tables, planters, trash receptacles with campus standard.



Proposed



Existing

# 5L

## Screen Parking Lots

### Improvement Recommendation

Views into the campus from Middletown Road should be analyzed. Views that afford a positive view into campus should be maintained, and views that are dominated by cars in the parking lot should be screened with groupings of evergreen and ornamental trees and shrubs. Earthen berms may also be utilized to enhance and frame views.



Existing



Proposed



# 5L Screen Parking Lots

## Improvement Recommendation

As well as screening parking lots for those looking into campus, views from within campus can be enhanced by screening the parking areas. Limb up the edge screening trees to maintain pedestrian level views into campus, while obscuring views to parking from within campus with tree canopies.



Existing



Proposed

# 5M

## Less Mulch - More Plants

### Improvement Recommendation

Replace excessive mulch with site-appropriate groundcovers and shrub plantings.



Proposed

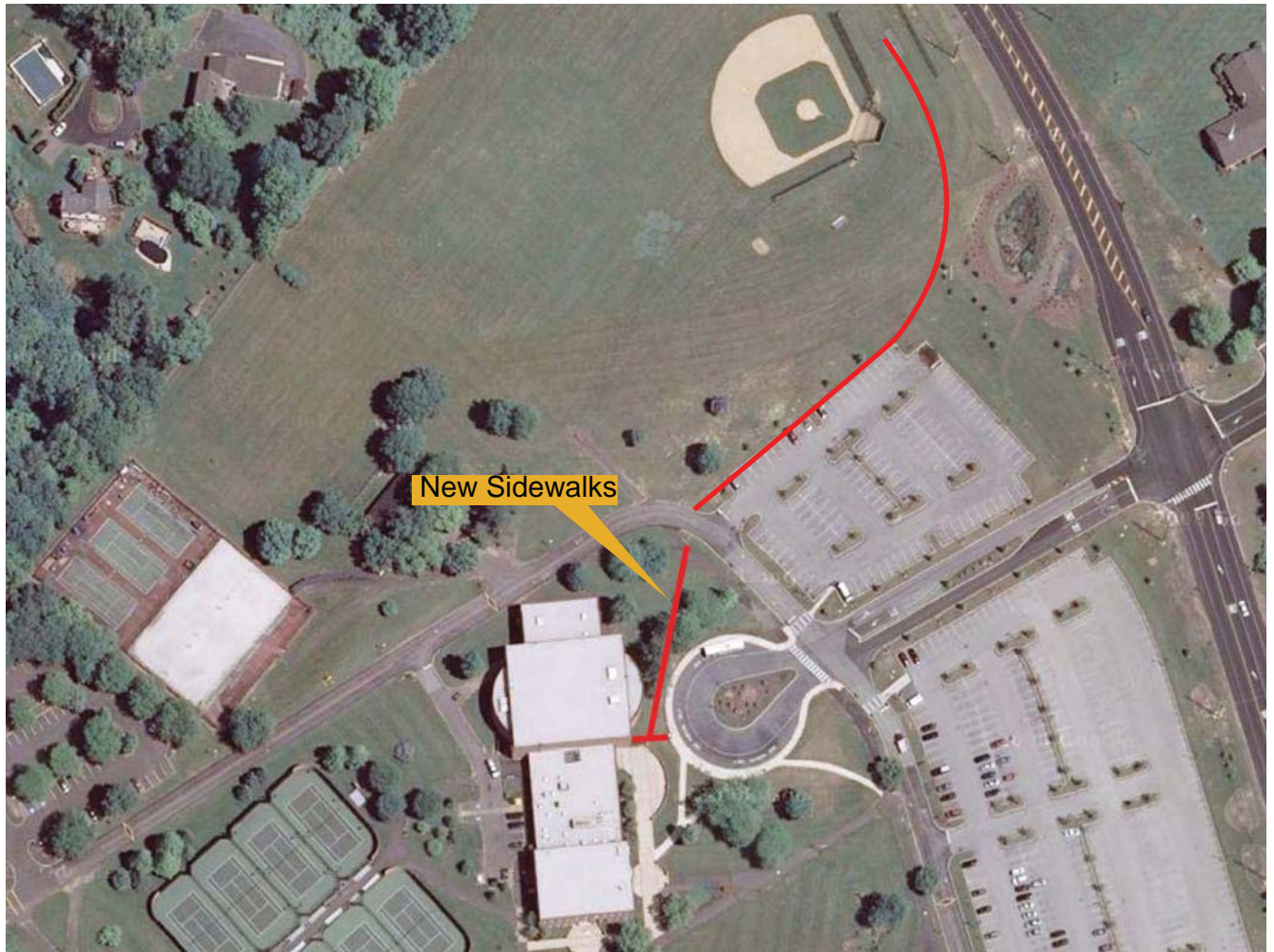
# 5N Connection to Athletic Fields

## Improvement Recommendation

An opportunity exists to improve the pedestrian circulation from the Commons and Athletic Center patio to the athletic fields, as illustrated below. It is recommended that all proposed sidewalks be concrete. Asphalt walkways should be replaced with concrete as funding allows.



Sidewalk originates at this opening in the patio wall



# 6A Screen Dumpsters

## Improvement Recommendation

Waste and recycling receptacles are necessary for the management of disposable materials.

There is an opportunity to mitigate the negative aesthetic impact of waste collection by placing gated enclosures around the receptacles. Compactor units may be used in lieu of dumpsters.



Before



After

# 6B

## Remove Tennis Courts

Improvement Recommendation

Remove the unused tennis and sand volleyball courts on the north end of campus and replace with lawn.



# 6C Remove timbers

## Improvement Recommendation

The timbers surrounding the wheelchair rest areas along the campus sidewalks appear residential in character and should be removed.



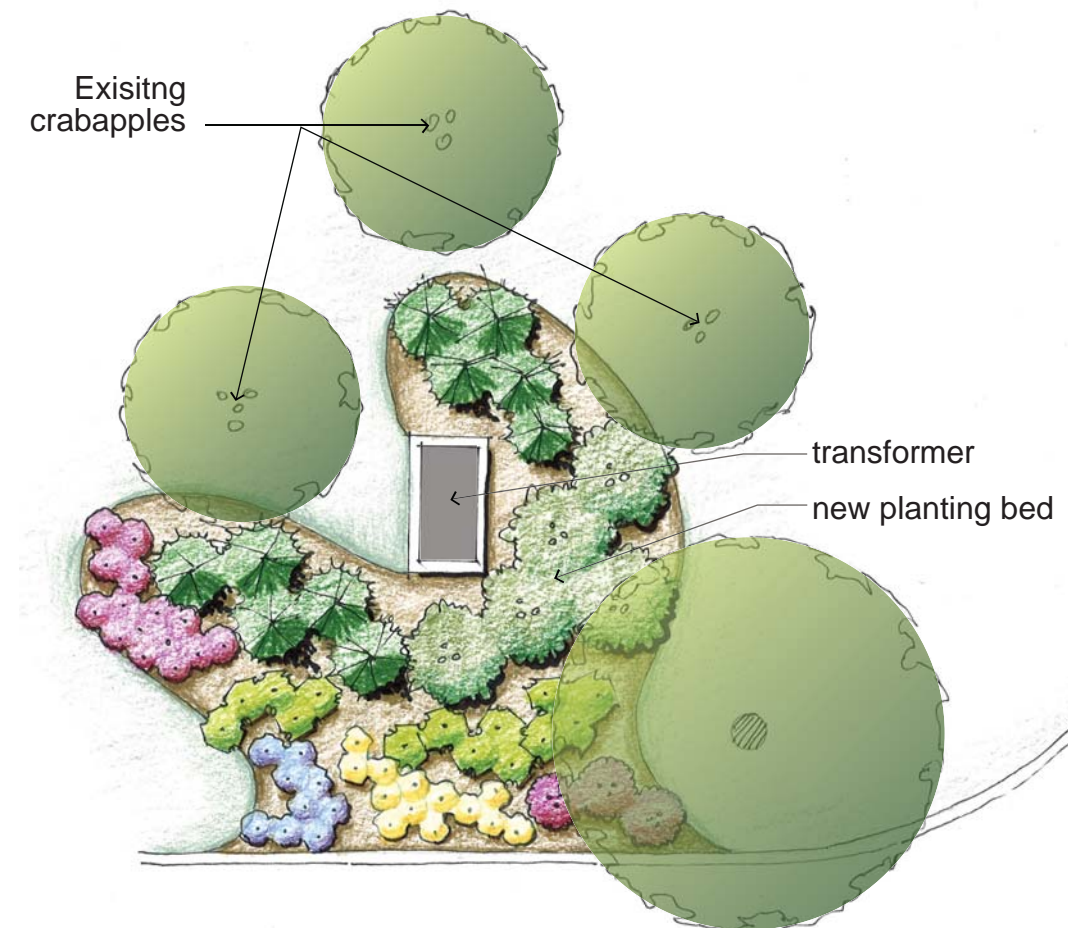


# 6D

## Camouflage Transformers

Improvement Recommendation

Opportunities exist across campus to screen utility boxes from view. Supplemental landscape plantings will not only obscure views but will add interest and beauty to the campus. An effort should be made to avoid "soldiering" screening plants around these fixtures, which can draw even more attention to the problem.



# 6E Remove Postboard

## Improvement Recommendation

The rustic character of lumber and shingle style exterior post boards is not compatible with the image of quality and permanence of a Penn State campus. Management of content is often irregular or inconsistent.

Space for managed posting of relevant notices should be limited to interior locations in common areas of buildings.

It is recommended that the existing exterior wooden post boards be removed from campus.





Penn State Brandywine  
Campus Exterior Architectural Plan  
Project Prioritization Matrix

Friday, August 28, 2009

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	Paint Gym Doors		X					X	5
1B	Entrance Drive Terminus				X		X		5
1C	Transit Shelters			X				X	6
2A	Site Furnishings				X		X		6
3A	Lighting		X				X		5
3B	Complete Lightpost Bases				X		X		6
4A	Remove Secondary Campus Sign		X			X			4
5A	Replace Asphalt Walks - Create Nodes				X	X			5
5B	Main Building North Patio Enhancement				X	X			5
5C	Tomeszko Plaza Improvements			X		X			5
5D	Tomeszko West Patio		X			X			4
5E	Realign Walk from Parking		X				X		5
5F	Enhance Native Plantings Along Campus Drainageway			X		X			5
5G	Daylight and Bridge Drainageway			X			X		6
5H	Accessibility and Landscape at Gazebo			X			X		6
5I	Replace Library Asphalt "Steps"		X				X		5
5J	Vairo Library Improvements			X			X		6
5K	Vairo Library Plaza Improvements			X		X			5
5L	Screen Parking Lots			X		X			5
5M	Less Mulch - More Plants		X				X		5
5N	Connection to Athletic Fields		X			X			4
6A	Screen Dumpsters			X		X			5
6B	Remove Tennis Courts		X			X			4
6C	Remove Timbers		X				X		6
6D	Camouflage Transformers			X			X		6
6E	Remove Postboard			X			X		6

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.

