

Penn State  
All Greater  
Allegheny



Campus Exterior Architectural Plan  
April 2010

# Contents

Introduction and Purpose

Existing Conditions Inventory

Improvement Recommendations

*1 Architecture*

*2 Site Furnishings*

*3 Lighting*

*4 Landscape*

*5 Other*

# 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 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.

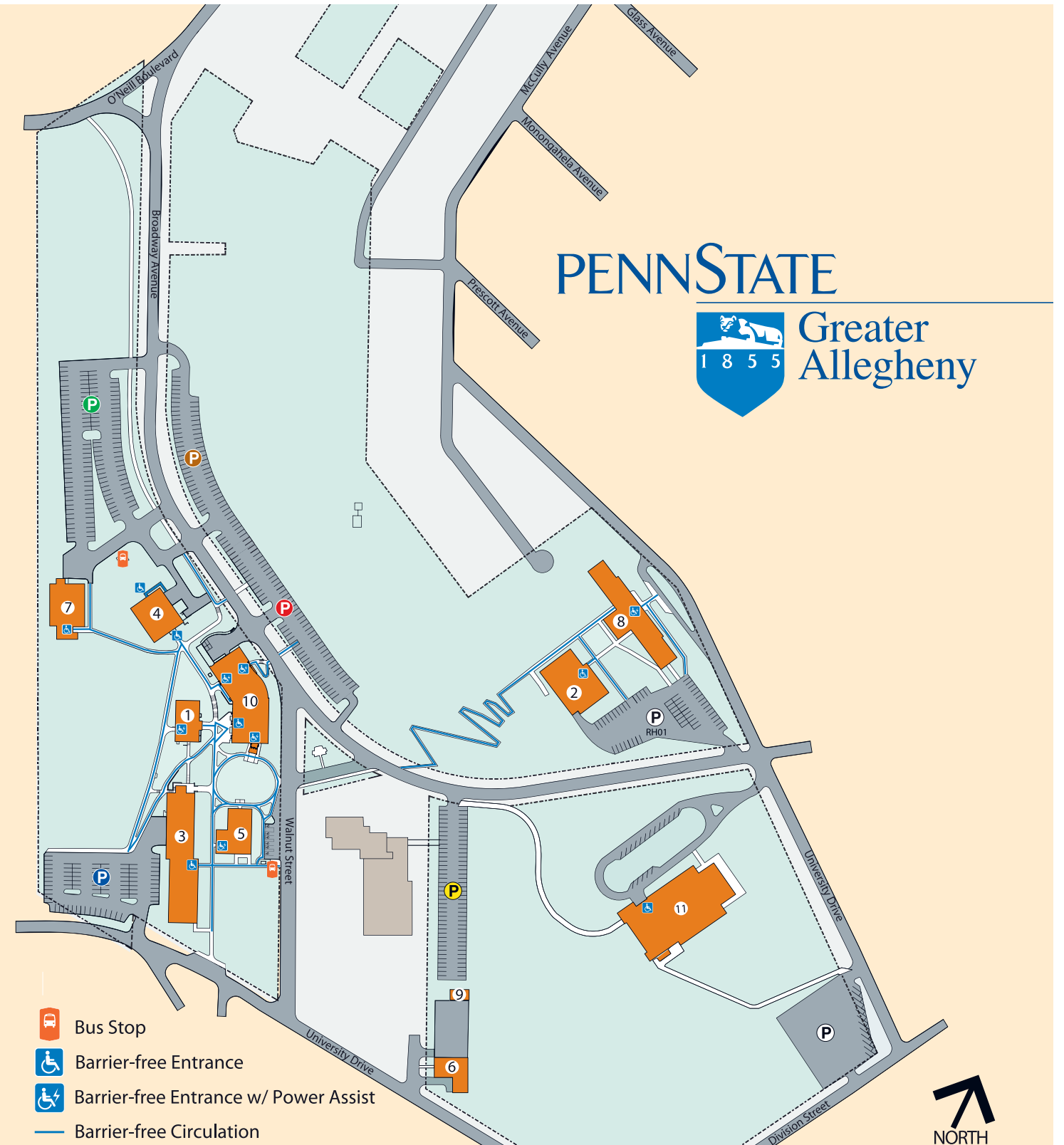
# Campus Map

## CAMPUS BUILDINGS

- 1 Crawford Building**  
Classrooms
- 2 Fitness and Cultural Center**
- 3 Frable Building**  
Administrative Offices  
Admissions  
Conference Center  
University Police
- 4 Kelly Library**
- 5 Main Building**  
Classrooms  
Continuing Education  
PEPP
- 6 Maintenance Building**
- 7 Ostermayer Laboratory**
- 8 Residence Hall**
- 9 Service Building**
- 10 Student Community Center**  
Bookstore  
Health Services  
Housing and Food Services  
Ostermayer Room  
Student Offices  
The Coffee Bar  
The Food Court  
University Development
- 11 Wunderley Multi-Purpose Building**  
Gym

## PARKING

-  **Red**  
Student/Faculty/Staff  
Visitor
  -  **Brown**  
Student/Faculty/Staff
  -  **Green**  
Student/Faculty/Staff
  -  **Yellow**  
Student/Faculty/Staff
  -  **Blue**  
Student/Faculty/Staff
  -  **White**  
Student/Faculty/Staff
  -  **RH01**  
Student/Faculty/Staff
- All parking by permit only



# 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:

The campus is located in a suburban area surrounded by churches, public schools, neighborhoods and a park. Open space, be it undeveloped wooded hillsides or improved recreational areas is abundant. The main entrance to campus from the north on Broadway avenue is marked by a new monument entrance sign that clearly identifies the campus. The wide tree lined avenue is flanked by appropriately screened parking lots. The continuity of the campus is interrupted by the 1st Evangelical Free Church property. As you move east along Broadway Avenue up the hill, the housing area, fitness center and gymnasium flank the road. There is a perceptible separation of the campus due to the horizontal and vertical change from campus core. It is noted that the degree of landscape maintenance reflects this separation as well. It appears that the east area of campus at the housing is less cared for than the core area.

Academic buildings are oriented parallel to the west side of Broadway Avenue. The architectural style of the buildings can be characterized as contemporary. Brick is the predominant building material. The linear arrangement of the buildings and sloping topography have prevented the creation of a central open space or quad indicative of a college campus. A central spine pedestrian walkway connects the academic buildings though topography has necessitated the placement of several sets of stairs.

Outdoor seating opportunities so important to collegial interaction are minimal. Site furnishings in some locations are in need of replacement. This is true of site lighting as well.

# Architecture

Existing Conditions Inventory

The campus aesthetic is defined to a great extent by the buildings that comprise it.

At Greater Allegheny, the architecture of the campus is unified through the use of brick masonry. The structures are appropriately scaled.

The unadorned mid 20th century design style is prevalent in all campus buildings.



# Site Furnishings

Existing Conditions Inventory

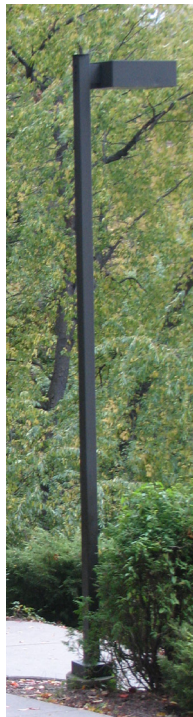
Benches, trash receptacles and tables are varied with respect to design style, material, color and quality.



# Lighting

## Existing Conditions Inventory

The style of walkway light fixtures varies across campus. As replacements are installed over time the style should be standardized. “Cobra head” parking lot lights should be replaced with the “shoebox” style fixture to minimize light trespass and improve efficiency.





# Landscape

Existing Conditions Inventory



The landscape of Greater Allegheny campus is characterized by mature shade trees, and modestly sized lawn areas. Concrete walkways are appropriately located and sized creating a comfortable pedestrian friendly feel.



Mature trees dot the academic core. Understory plantings including shrubs and groundcover are appropriate.

Routine maintenance of trees and shrubs should include removal of dead wood and total replacement of poor quality or dead specimens.

Invasive underbrush and vines have infiltrated some perimeter areas.



# 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 deicing chemicals
- ▶ Seal and re-stripe paved areas
- ▶ Tree pruning and maintenance as recommended by University arborist
- ▶ Power wash soiled and/or stained surfaces

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.

# Power Wash

## Improvement Recommendation

Over time, masonry becomes dirty and stained. Routine maintenance should include power washing to remove dirt and brighten masonry.



Wunderly Multi-Purpose Building



Frable Building

# Site Furnishings

## 2A

Improvement Recommendation



Site furnishings designed in a style “family” are aesthetically unifying.

Overly stylized and colorful designs should be avoided because their appeal wanes before their useful life.

Freestanding landscape planters should be appropriately designed and sized for the space they occupy and be constructed of durable, quality material.



Wooden furnishings should be eliminated and/or replaced.



# Trash Receptacles

## 2B

Improvement Recommendation

Wall mounted plastic trash receptacles should be replaced with a new campus standard fixture that compliments the style of other site furnishings. See 2A



Existing



Existing



Existing

# Planters 2c

## Improvement Recommendation



The use of perennial and annual flowering plants should be limited to high impact areas. The aesthetic value of flowering plant displays peaks when the campus is least populated. Perennials and annuals also require the most intensive maintenance effort.



A more dramatic visual effect can be achieved by confining annuals and perennials to appropriately scaled containers placed strategically near building entrances and outdoor gathering spaces.



Examples of container plantings designed to incorporate all types of vegetation with dramatic visual effect

# Lighting

## Improvement Recommendation



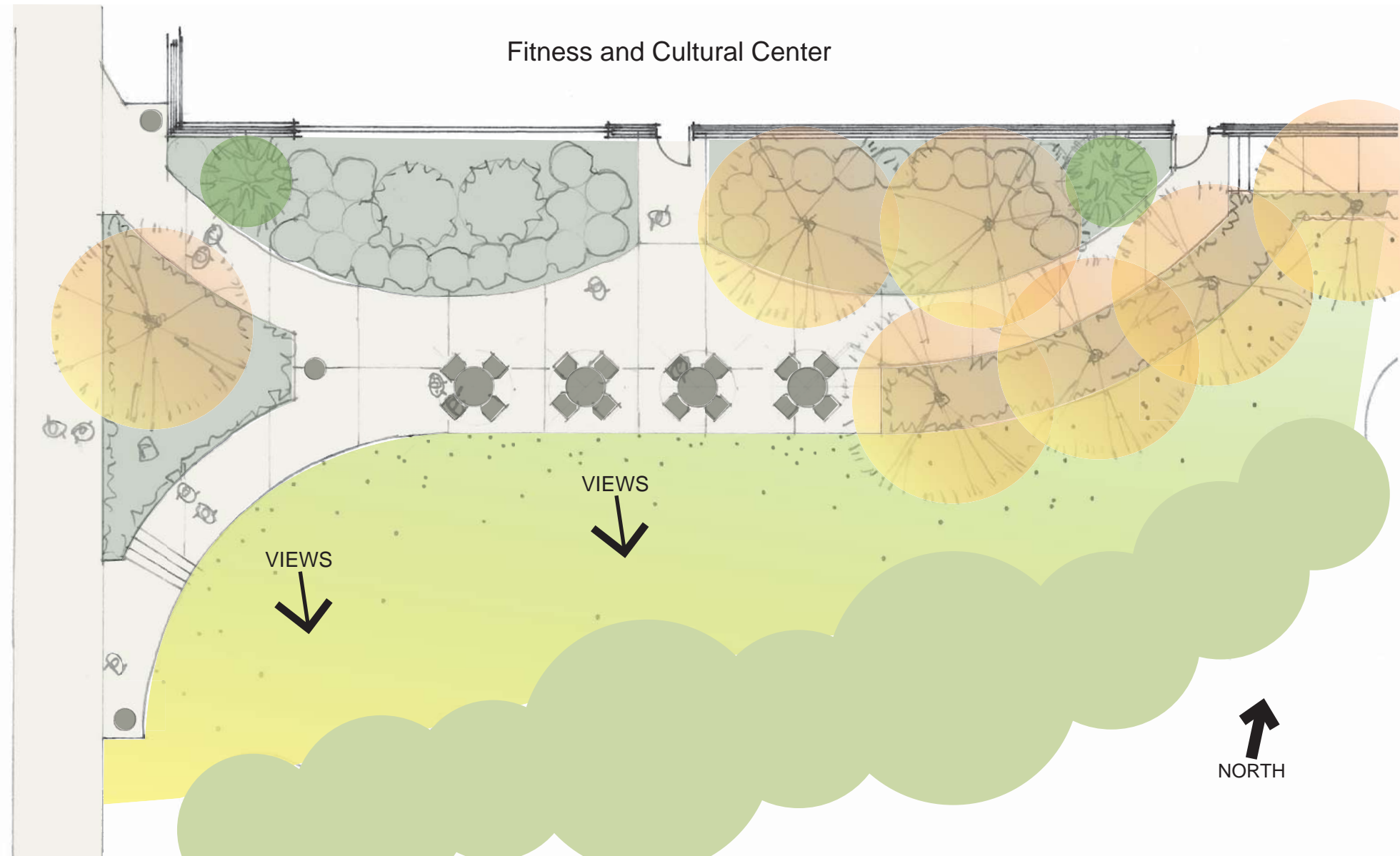
Old



New

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 type lamps are acceptable for parking lot lights. Newly emerging LED technology may also be considered.

Color/finish for all fixtures should be consistent campus wide. Avoid the use of bollards due to vulnerability to snow removal operations and vandalism. It is also recommended that wall mounted “utility style” fixtures be avoided.



# Fitness and Cultural Center Patio 4A

## Improvement Recommendation

The opportunity exists to establish a small outdoor gathering space overlooking campus on the south side of the newly renovated Fitness and Cultural Center.





# Parking Lot Landscape

## Improvement Recommendation

The loading dock and parking lot between Kelly Library and Broadway Avenue is unscreened.

This first impression of campus can be improved through the installation of additional landscape plantings as shown conceptually on the simulation at left. It represents a continuation of the existing shrub hedge lining the lots to the north.



After



Before

# Frable Bldg. Landscape

## Improvement Recommendation

Unightly mechanical units mounted to the walls and at grade along the eastern facade of Frable Building should be screened from view.

The simulation shown here calls for moving some units to finish grade and planting a dense evergreen hedge between the building and the walkway.

This primary pedestrian corridor through campus should be lighted and furnished with the campus standard.



After



After



Before



Before

# Drip Edge 4D

## Improvement Recommendation

In locations where vegetation can't be established along buildings and beneath overhangs, it is recommended that a permanent stone drip edge be installed to improve the transition to lawn or other landscape elements. Soil staining along the building base will also be mitigated by this technique.



Existing



Existing

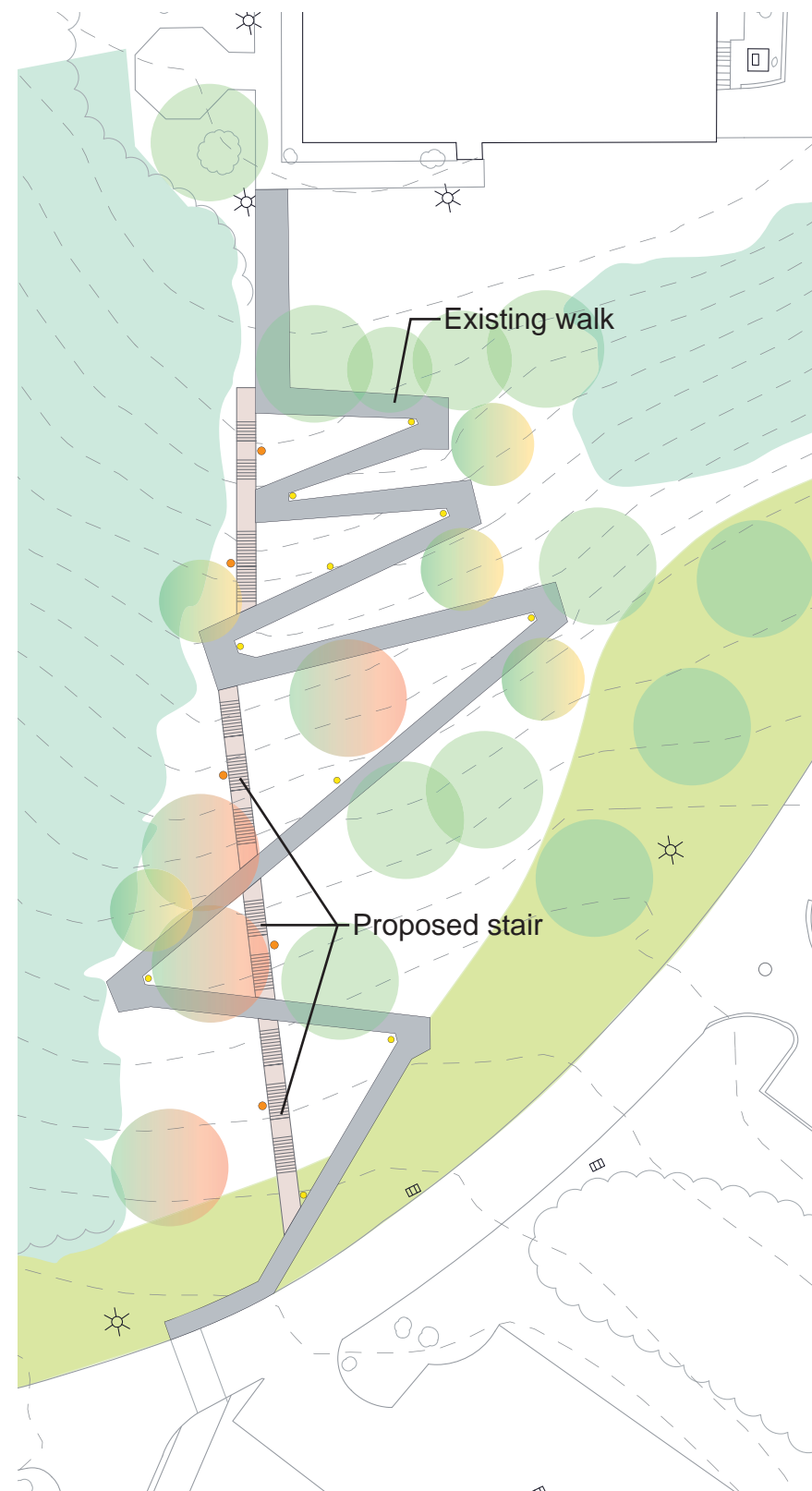
# Ramp/Stair 4E

## Improvement Recommendation

The existing walk and ramp system connecting the residence hall and fitness center with core campus is not functioning for many users as evidenced by the short-cut trails.

The addition of strategically placed stair units along the existing path system is a way to mitigate this problem and provide safe pedestrian access to campus.

This solution can also establish a logical framework for supplemental landscape planting to reduce lawn maintenance.



Existing



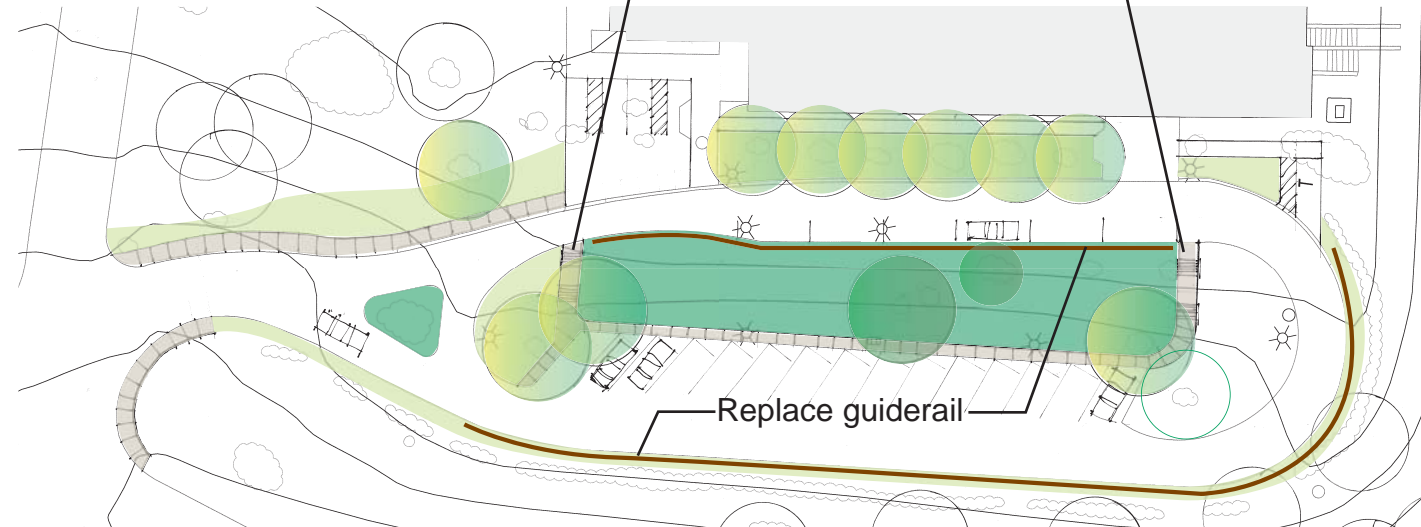
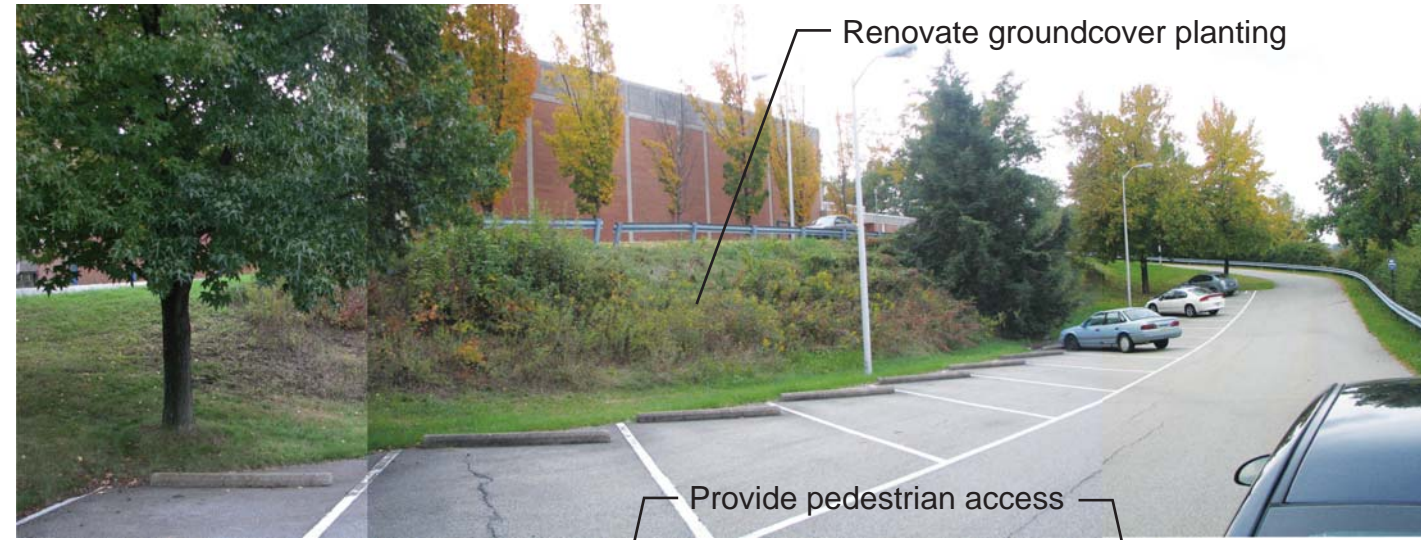
# Wunderley Landscape

## 4F

Improvement Recommendation

The approach to the Wunderley Multi-Purpose Building can be improved using several techniques.

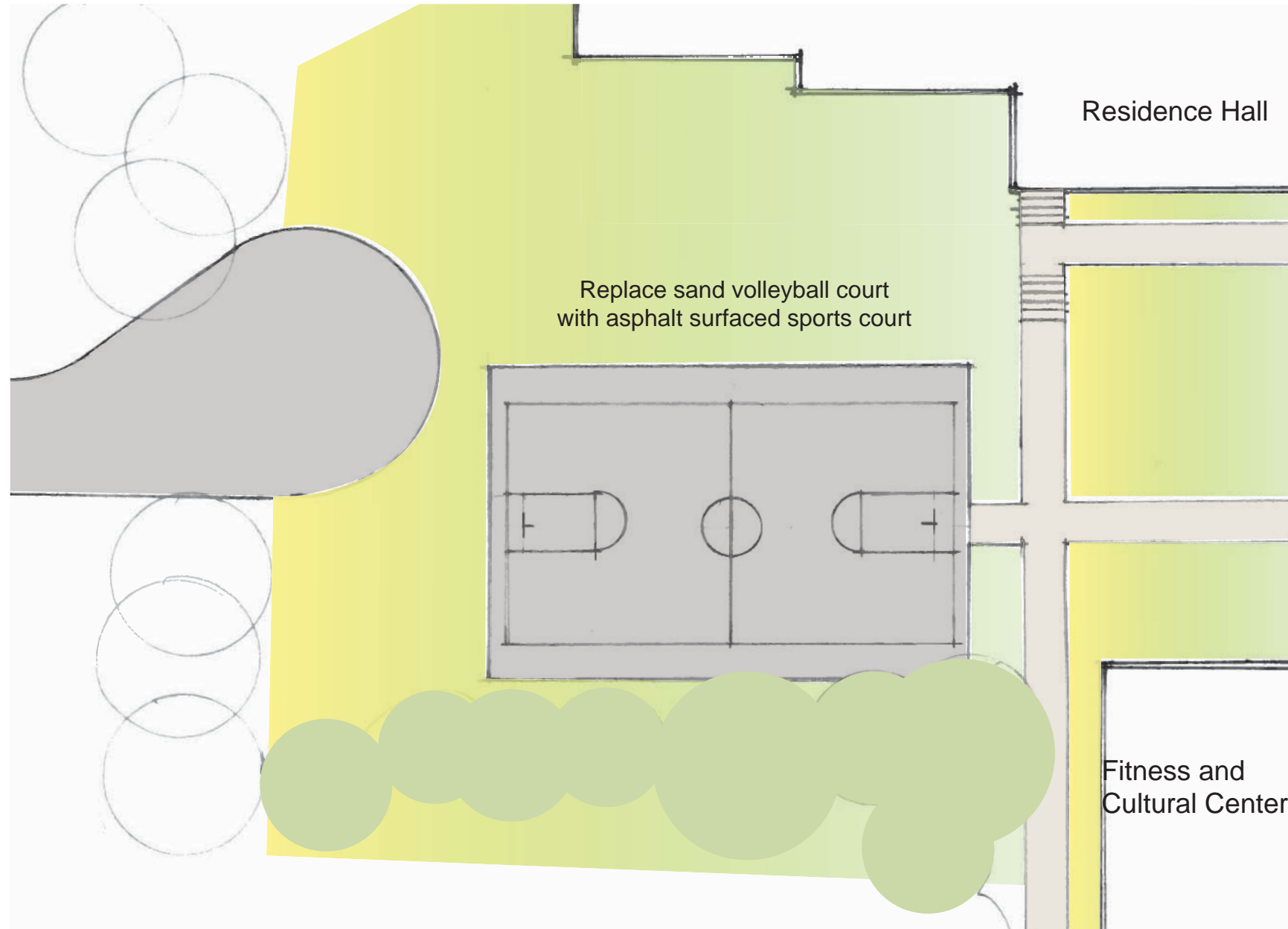
1. Provide pedestrian access to the building from the parking lot.
2. Renovate slope planting to eliminate invasive vegetation and weeds.
3. Prune deadwood from existing trees and shrubs.
4. Replace "highway style" guide rails.
5. Update site lighting.



Gro-Lo Sumac groundcover



Timber guiderail



# Sport Court 5A

Improvement Recommendation

A surfaced sports court capable of supporting a variety of recreational activities is recommended in lieu of the existing sand volleyball court. Installation of a full court for basketball with perimeter fence will appeal to a broader range of student users.



# Invasive Plants

## 5B

### Improvement Recommendation

The presence of invasive plant species has been noted on the northeast portion of campus in particular. To preserve existing trees and enhance the ecological and aesthetic quality of the campus landscape, it is recommended that a program be undertaken to eradicate invasive species.



Existing

# Fire Pit 5c

## Improvement Recommendation

Open fires are prohibited by White Oak Borough Ordinances. The existing pit area should be removed and replaced with turf lawn. The exterior gathering space proposed for the east side of the building will accommodate the displaced seating.



Existing



# Pedestrian Walkway 5D

Improvement Recommendation

Due to the absence of a suitable walking surface, pedestrians have created a “desire line” across the turf between Crawford and Frable Buildings.

Because of the sloping condition, a stair will be necessary to establish a permanent and maintainable pedestrian route.



Existing



# Satellite Dishes

# 5E

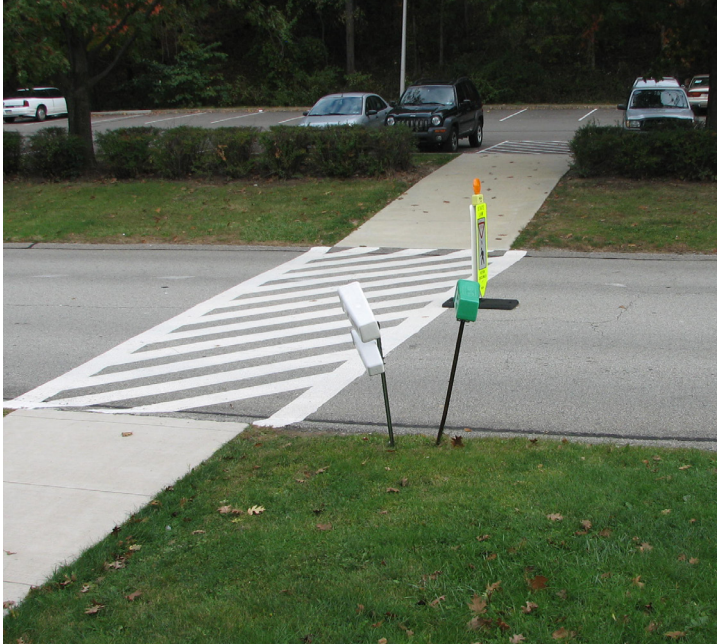
Improvement Recommendation

Existing satellite dishes that are no longer in service should be removed.



# Newspaper Delivery Box <sup>5F</sup>

Improvement Recommendation



Existing

If newspaper delivery must take place curbside then a new permanent receptacle should be purchased or fabricated. The new unit should compliment the design of other site furnishings. See 2A

A preferred alternative would be for the campus to take delivery of the paper(s) inside one of the campus buildings allowing for complete removal of this fixture.

# Dumpster Enclosure 5G

## Improvement Recommendation

The existing enclosure around the dumpster at the residence hall should be replaced.

Recommend that the new screen be fabricated or durable material such as metal. It is also recommended that the enclosure have swinging gates to conceal the use.

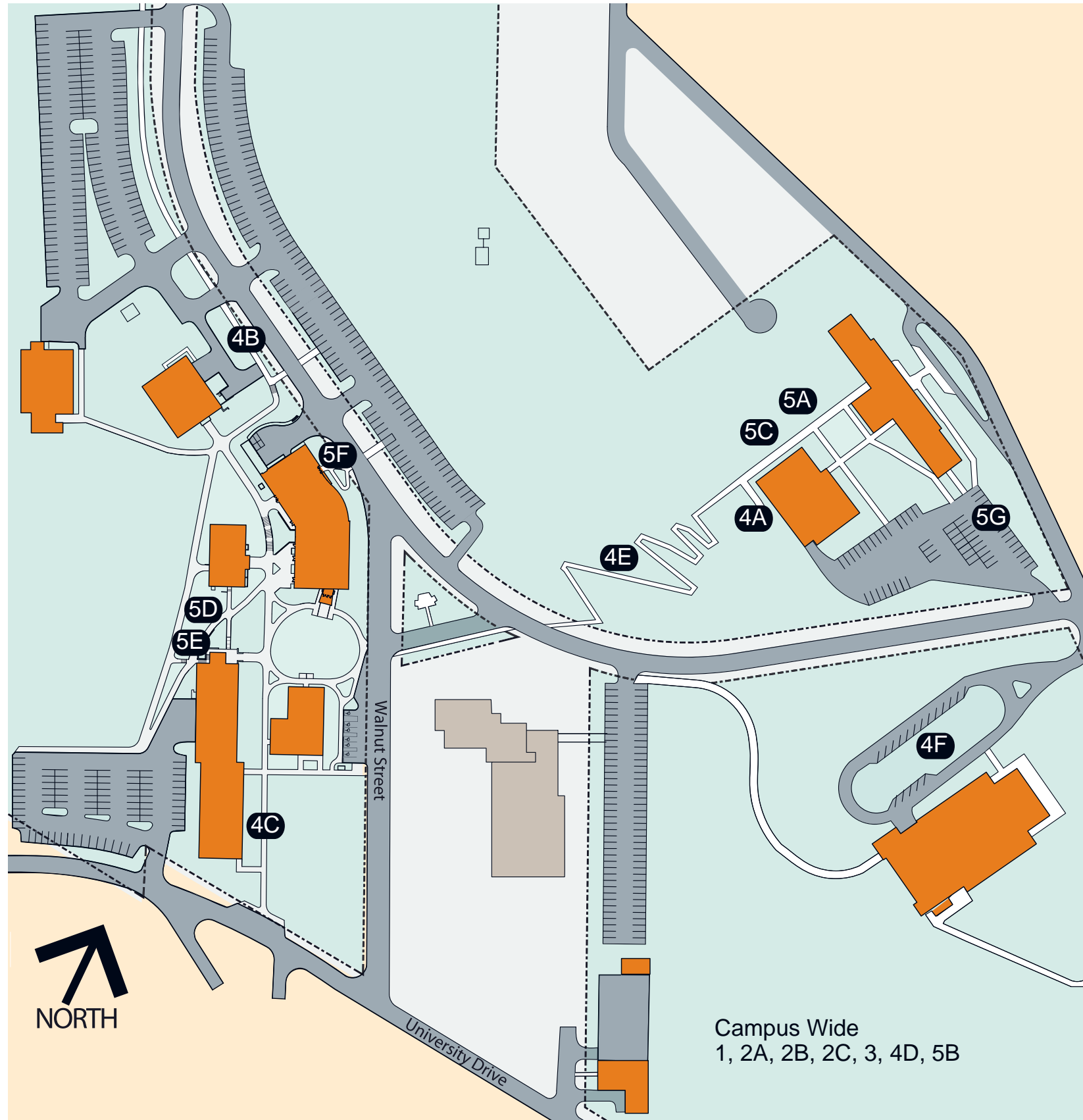


Existing



Recommendation

# Project Key Map



Penn State Greater Allegheny  
 Campus Exterior Architectural Plan  
 Project Prioritization Matrix  
 Summer 2010

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  
 4 - \$0 to \$5,000

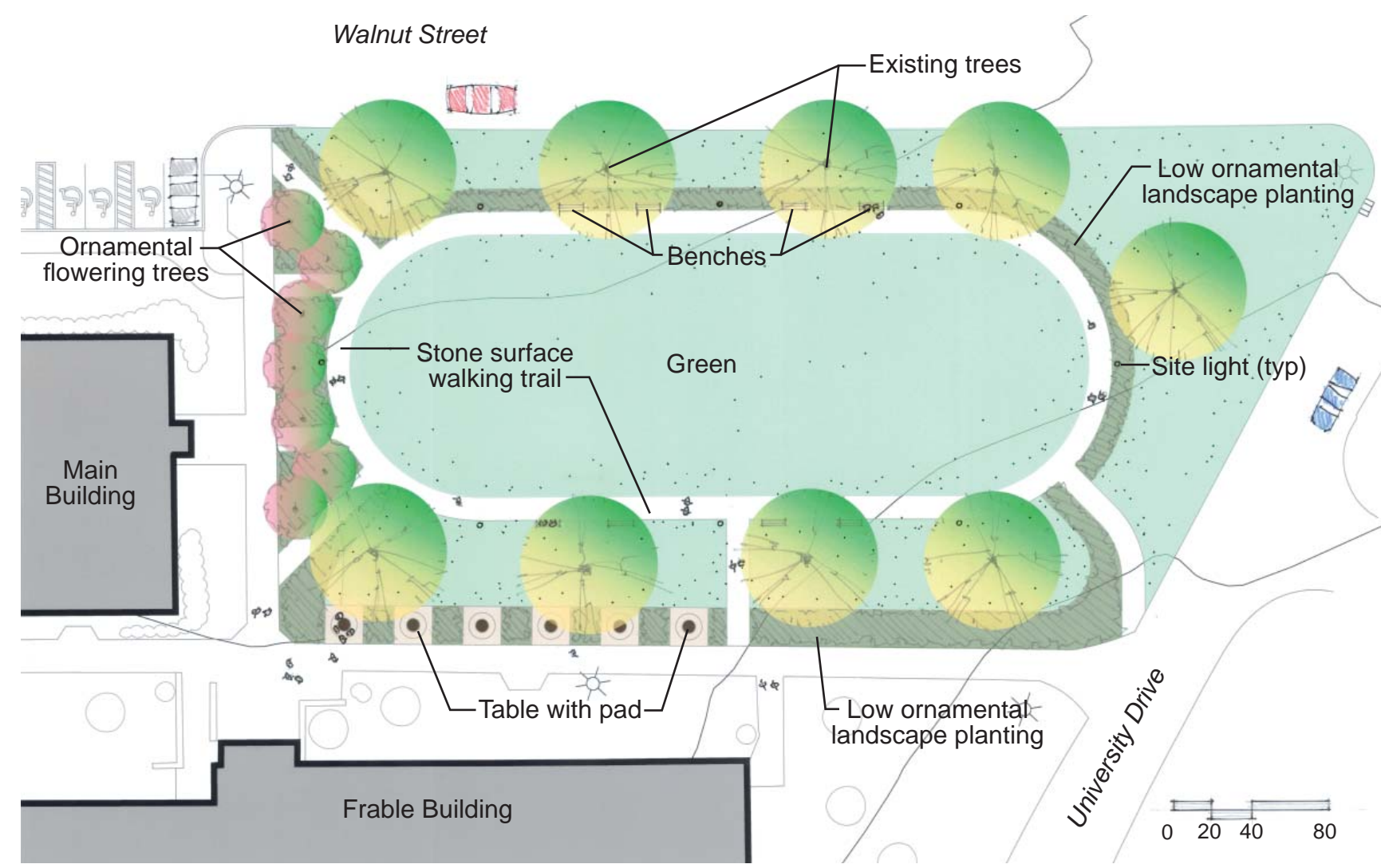
#	PROJECT	IMPACT				COST				SCORE
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
1	Power wash			X			X			5
2A	Site Furnishings				X	X				5
2B	Trach receptacles				X			X		7
2C	Planters				X		X			6
3A	Lighting				X		X			5
4A	Fitness and Cultural Center patio			X		X				4
4B	Parking lot landscape			X			X			5
4C	Frable Building landscape				X	X				5
4D	Drip edge			X				X		6
4E	Ramp/stair			X		X				4
4F	Wunderley landscape				X	X				5
5A	Sport court		X			X				3
5B	Invasive plants		X					X		6
5C	Fire pit		X						X	6
5D	Pedestrian walkway		X				X			4
5E	Satellite dishes			X					X	7
5F	Newspaper delivery box		X						X	6
5G	Dumpster enclosure			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.

## Campus Green

### Improvement Recommendation

The open space at the corner of University Drive and Walnut Street should be improved to provide varied seating opportunities. By establishing a walking path that's reinforced by planting and bench seating, the unused area can be integrated into the open space as a campus green.



Existing





Main Building

WALNUT STREET

Maintain green space as is

UNIVERSITY DRIVE

Frable Building

Tables

Create table groupings along walk.  
Enhance planting along with CEAP  
project 4C - Frable Bldg. Landscape

11-20