

# Penn State Wilkes Barre



Campus Exterior Architectural Plan  
Spring 2022

# 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 relatively low-cost and easy-to-implement concepts that can have meaningful impacts. This CEAP is an update from the previous plan and recommendations prepared for Penn State Wilkes-Barre in spring 2010.

The previous CEAP defined the existing conditions of the campus and areas that needed improvement. This update addresses the achievements on campus thus far, further specifies the areas that still need to be completed from the last CEAP, and illustrates several new recommendations that would greatly improve the campus exterior.

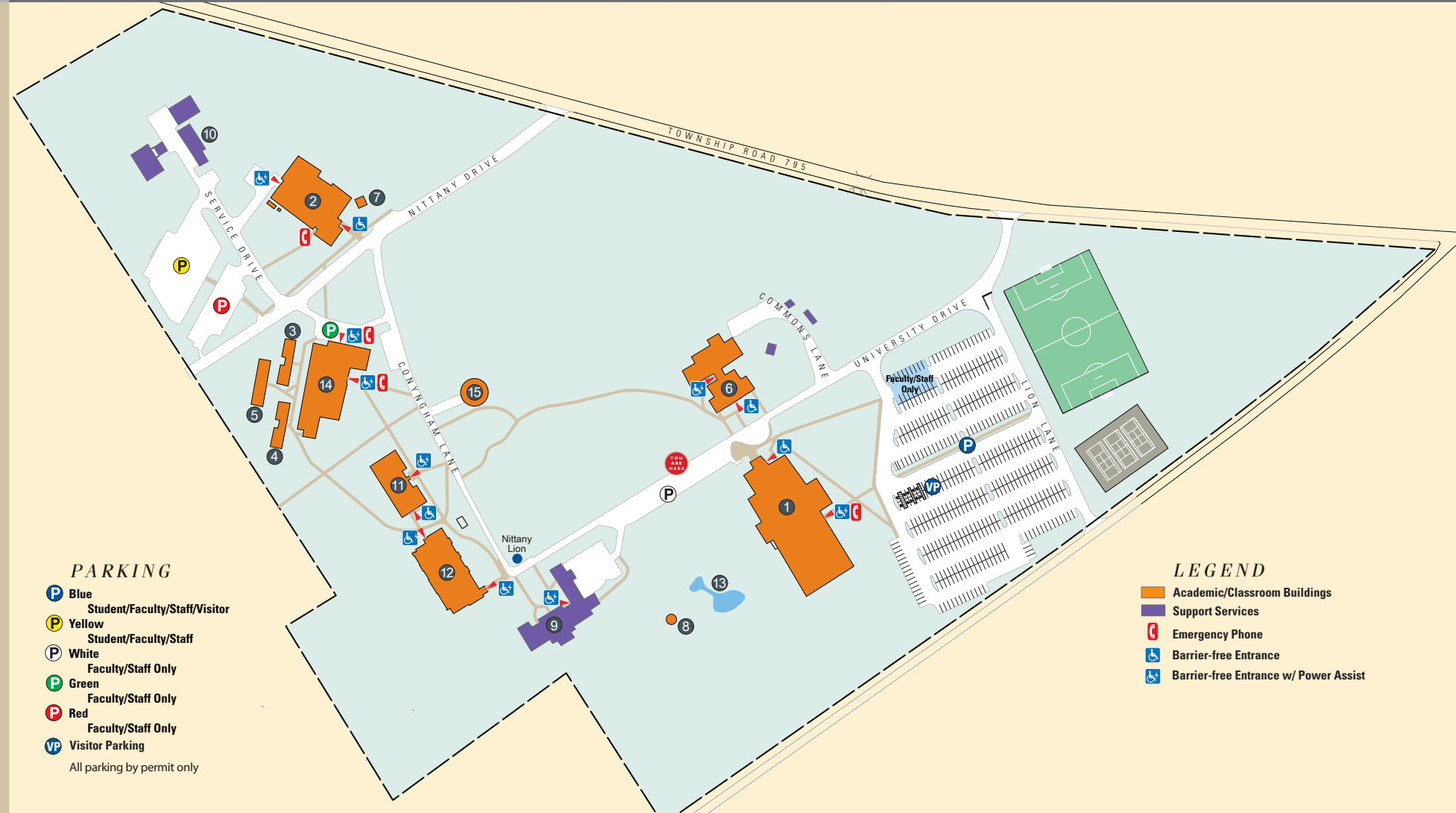
The overall quality of the architecture, site furnishings, and landscape at commonwealth campuses should be equal to that at University Park to reinforce the Penn State brand to students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

The concepts are not final designs. Further study and design are required prior to implementation.



# PENN STATE WILKES • BARRE

## INDEX



### PARKING

- Blue  
Student/Faculty/Staff/Visitor
  - Yellow  
Student/Faculty/Staff
  - White  
Faculty/Staff Only
  - Green  
Faculty/Staff Only
  - Red  
Faculty/Staff Only
  - Visitor Parking
- All parking by permit only

### LEGEND

- Academic/Classroom Buildings
- Support Services
- Emergency Phone
- Barrier-free Entrance
- Barrier-free Entrance w/ Power Assist

### CAMPUS BUILDINGS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Athletic & Recreation Building<br>Gym<br>Nurse  | 13. Rave Family Pond                      |
| 2. Bell Atlantic/Bell of PA Building<br>Computer Lab<br>Fortinsky Auditorium   | 14. Science Building<br>Bierly Auditorium |
| 3. Classroom/Laboratory Unit A   | 15. Water Storage Tower                   |
| 4. Classroom/Office Unit B   |   |
| 5. Classroom/Office Unit C   |   |
| 6. Commons Building<br>Bookstore<br>Cafeteria<br>Nittany Room<br>The Carriage Room<br>The Lion's Den   |   |
| 7. Friedman Observatory  |   |
| 8. Gazebo  |   |
| 9. Hayfield House<br>Academic Affairs<br>Business Services<br>Chancellor's Office<br>Continuing Education<br>Development<br>Financial Aid<br>Police Services |   |
| 10. Maintenance Building   |   |
| 11. Murphy Student Services Center<br>Academic Advising<br>Admissions<br>Career Services<br>Financial Aid<br>Learning Center<br>Registrar<br>SSS             |   |
| 12. Nesbitt Academic Commons<br>Barry Auditorium<br>Friedman Art Gallery<br>Nesbitt Library  |   |

## Welcome to Penn State



# Completed Recommendations from Previous CEAP



Student Commons Building Entrance Plaza



Volleyball Courts Removed



Demolish Inspector's House



Gazebo Landscaping



Renewed Sidewalks



Improve Hayfield Balcony

These recommendations have been completed and should stand as examples of how these improvements can make a great change in the beauty of the campus



# 1

## Student Commons Building Cleaning



Condition in 2010



Existing

Pressure wash Student Commons Building siding to remove dirt and stains.



# 2

# Student Commons Building Deck



The wood deck feels too residential for the program of the building. Remove the deck and create a patio similar to the front entrance.

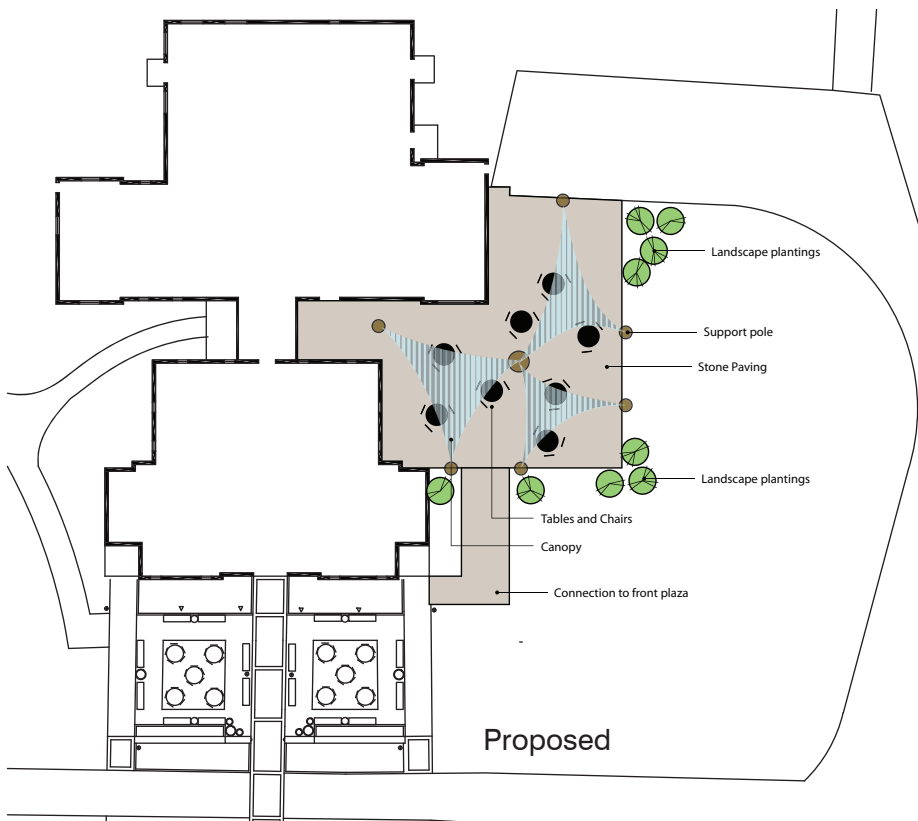
Existing



Possible shade structure implemented on site



Example of canopy structure in University Park at The Child Care Center at Hort Woods



Wall mount



Canopy corner mounted to pole structure

# 3

## Hayfield House Rear Patio



Existing

Reset pavers so they are flush and create a smoother, safer surface. Replace the picnic tables with appropriate tables and chairs. Plant shade trees around the southeastern corner to filter direct sun.



Proposed



# 4

## Forest Trail

The path going through the forest remnant nicely transects the campus and provides an appealing, natural walk.



Existing



Example of exposed aggregate path at the Penn State Arboretum

Replace asphalt path with another, more attractive material. Replace seating and garbage can with campus standards.

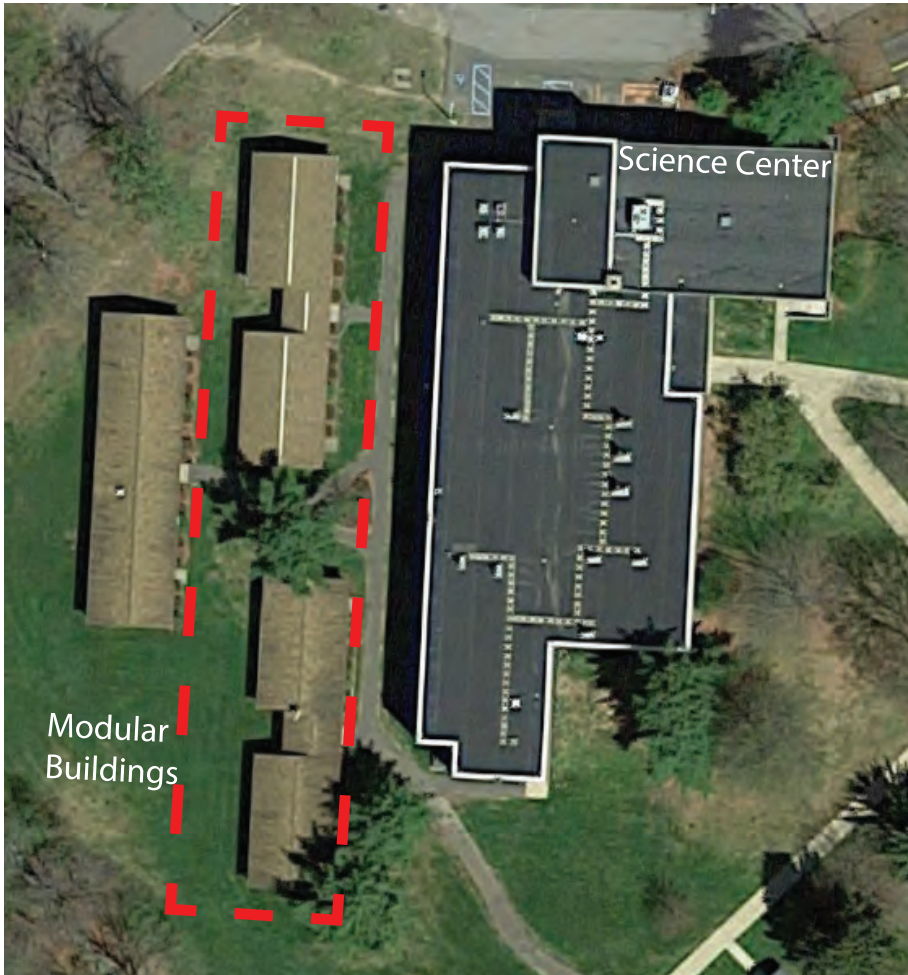




# 5

## Demolish Modular Buildings Behind Science Center

Two of the modular buildings behind the Science Center are no longer needed and should be demolished.



Modular Buildings



# 6

## Repair, Maintain, and Interpret Stacked Stone Walls

Project carryover from CEAP 1.0



The Stacked Stone Walls are historical remnants of the Conyngham estate and add a unique beauty to the Wilkes-Barre campus.

Some sections of the wall are in need of repair and proper, regular maintenance should be established for all of the wall.

The Dry Stone Conservancy is an organization dedicated to preserving existing stone structures and teach about the craft and history of dry-laid stone structures. The Conservancy may be able to not only help repair the wall, but teach students and/or community members the craft and skill of dry stone masonry.



The Dry Stone Conservancy's mission is to preserve historic drystone structures, to advance the drystone masonry craft, and to create a center for training and expertise nationwide.

~[www.drystone.org](http://www.drystone.org)

# 7

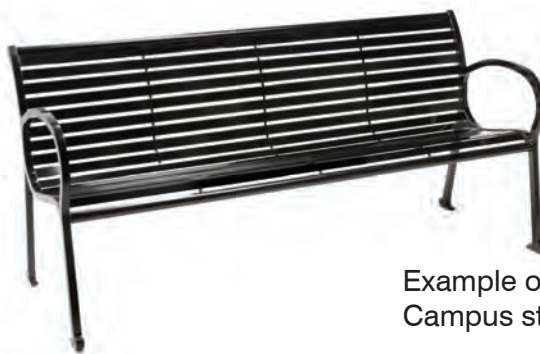
## Site Furniture

Project carryover from CEAP 1.0

There are too many different styles of furniture across the campus. Establish a campus standard for tables and chairs and replace the non-standard furnishings.



Tables, chairs, benches, and other furnishings should be similar and belong to similar styles. Consider using the new tables and chairs at the Student Commons Building front entrance as the new campus standard.



Example of University Park  
Campus standard bench

# 8

## Lighting Fixtures

Project carryover from CEAP 1.0



Several different, outdated light fixtures are scattered throughout campus. Replace non-standard lighting with campus standard fixtures. Cobra lights along the main drive should be first priority for replacement.

If certain light fixtures hold historic significance as part of the original Conyngham estate, consider retrofitting with LEDs.

Existing non-standard lighting fixtures



Campus standard LED Largent light fixtures

Shoobox light fixtures are appropriate for parking lots

Some LED Largent lights have already been placed in some locations on campus. Continue adding/replacing old, non-standard lighting fixtures with LED Largent lights. Existing shoebox lights work well for parking lots. Consider retrofitting shoebox light fixtures with LEDs.

LED Largent light fixtures should be 12' in height for a more pedestrian centered feeling. Shoebox fixtures in parking lots can be set higher at 20'

# 9

## Signage

Project carryover from CEAP 1.0



Remove any non-standard signage which detracts from the campus identity

The campus is meant to be pedestrian oriented, particularly along University Drive. Remove signage that contradicts a pedestrian focused right of way.



The campus map at the main entrance is poorly placed. It is on the wrong side of the road to be viewed by a driver. It is easy to oversee the sign entirely since parking is to the left side; drivers will be looking for a parking space as their top priority. Recommend relocating the sign to a better location, such as on the main pedestrian route from the parking lot.



## Tree Planting / Sport Court Removal Near University Drive General Parking Lot



Existing

Recommend evergreen and deciduous trees between parking lot and athletic fields. Implement a warm season meadow on the turf beyond the active fields to reduce mowing burden.



Recommend removing delapidated and unused sport court and replacing with lawn

Proposed Trees



Proposed warm season meadow

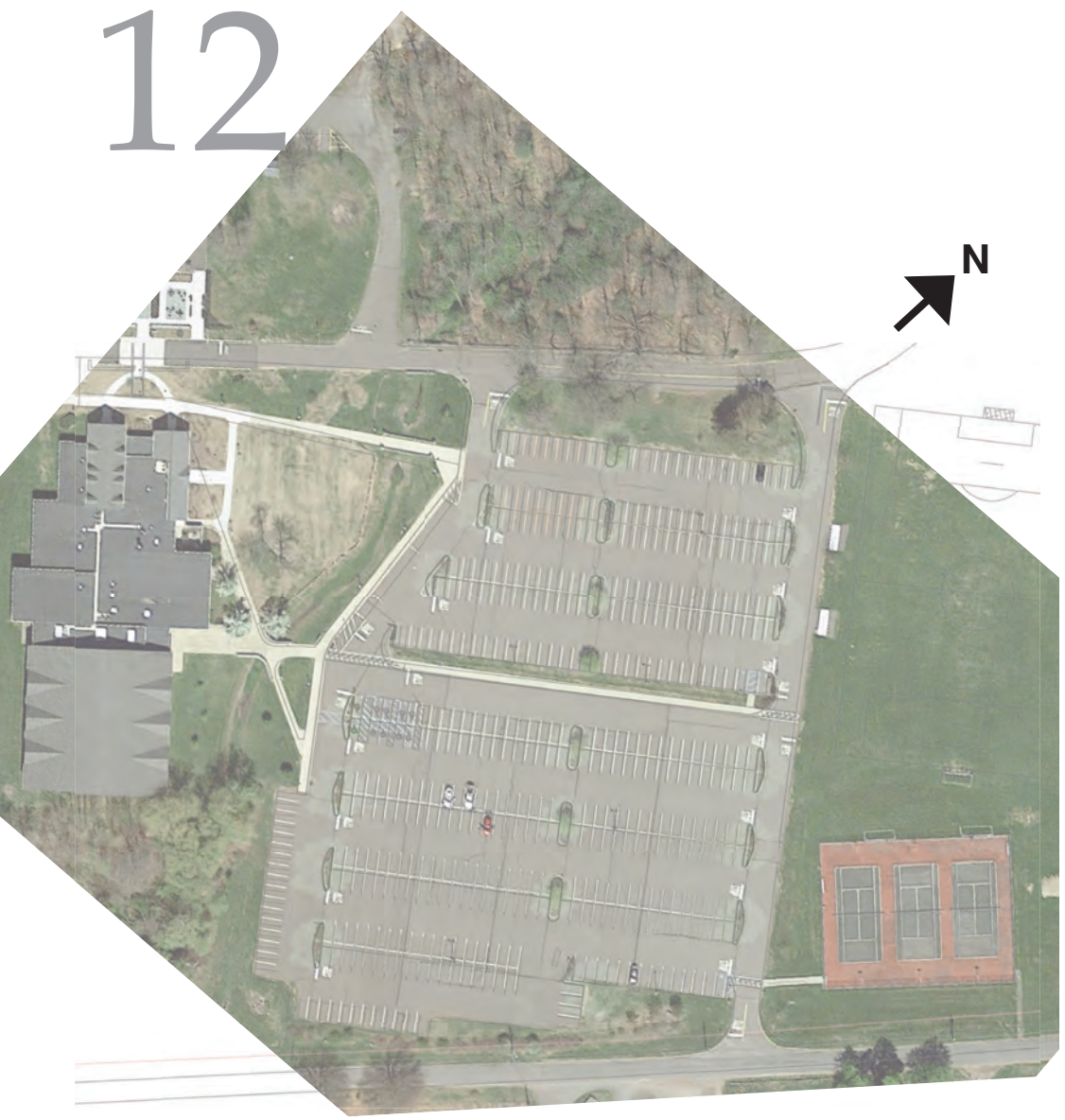
Proposed



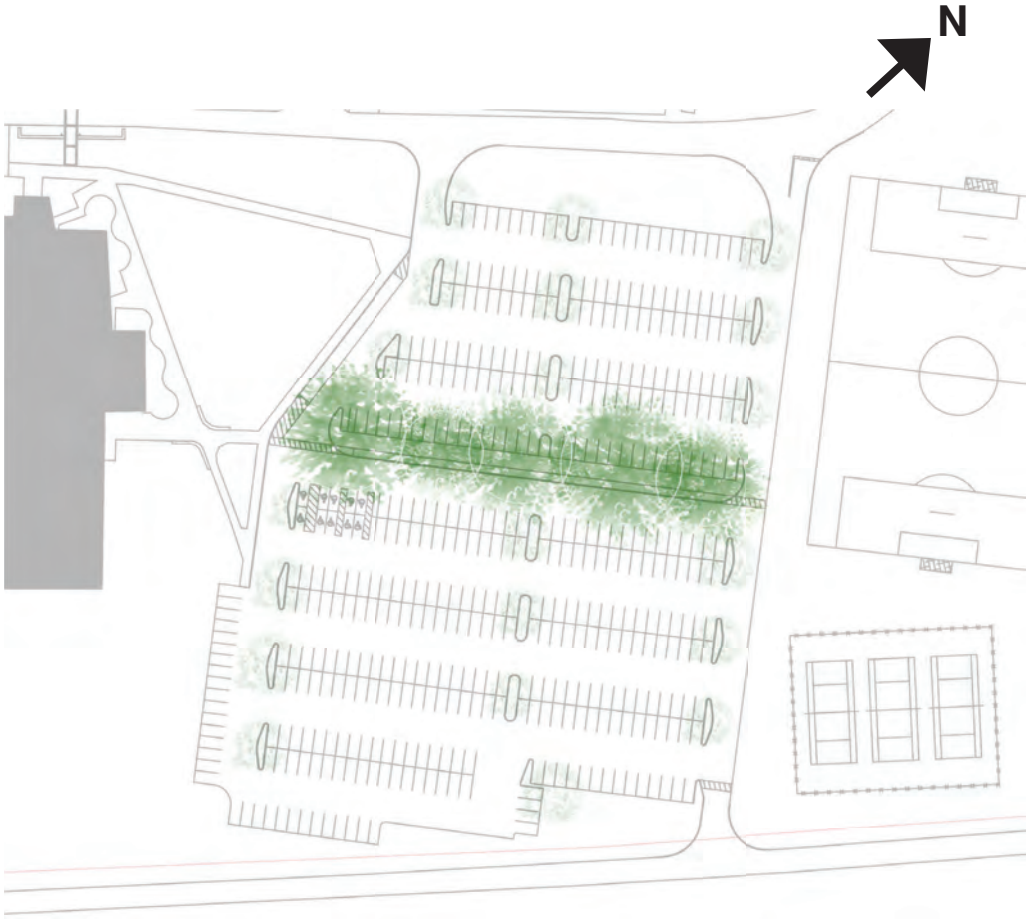
Recommend managed warm-season meadow implementation or “no-mow” meadow implementation in the areas illustrated. This would decrease the mowing maintenance burden as well as support the sustainability goals of the University. A properly maintained mown edge and mown through-paths are critical for community acceptance of the meadow condition.



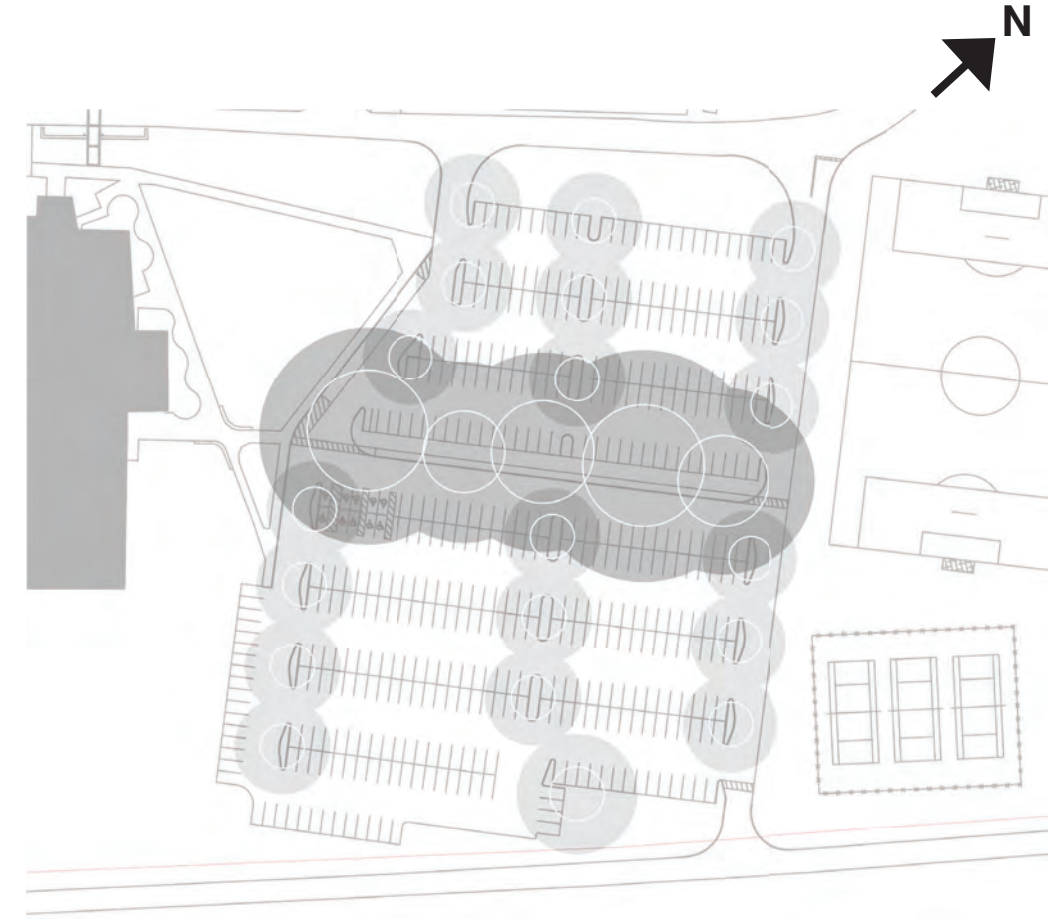
## Tree Planting in Front Parking Lot



Existing



Proposed



Improved Shade



Existing



Proposed

Recommend planting shade trees in median planting strip. Consider removing some parking spaces, replacing them with more islands to plant shade trees.





# 13

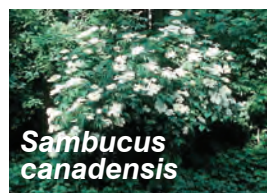
## Wetland/Grassland Implementation

Project carryover from CEAP 1.0



The drainage swale near the front entrance is unattractive and requires regular maintenance. The resulting damp and rutted condition results in unsightly water backup. Recommend hiring a consultant to assess flow and drainage functionality and propose a solution incorporating natural plantings.

Existing



Wetland plantings on a functional swale with stabilized slopes will require less mowing and can provide opportunities for environmental education.

To the right are some suggested plantings.



# 14

## Science Center Front Entrance Project carryover from CEAP 1.0

Focus flowering shrubs near the entrance. Use evergreen shrubs as foundational planting to hide empty facades of the building and service entrances. New beds should be underplanted with weed-suppressing groundcovers to reduce maintenance load on campus.



Existing



Proposed



Existing



Proposed



Proposed

Replace the lighting with campus standard Largent LED lights. Conduct light assessment to determine number of lights necessary. Replace garbage can with campus standard metal trash receptacle. include flower planter for more color and a campus standard bench.



Athletic and Recreation Building



Existing



Proposed

Large expanses of empty facades from buildings are unattractive and out of scale in the landscape. Use evergreen shrubs and trees to form masses that break up the facades. Plant more medium and large trees further from buildings to create depth of landscape.

Murphy Student Service Building



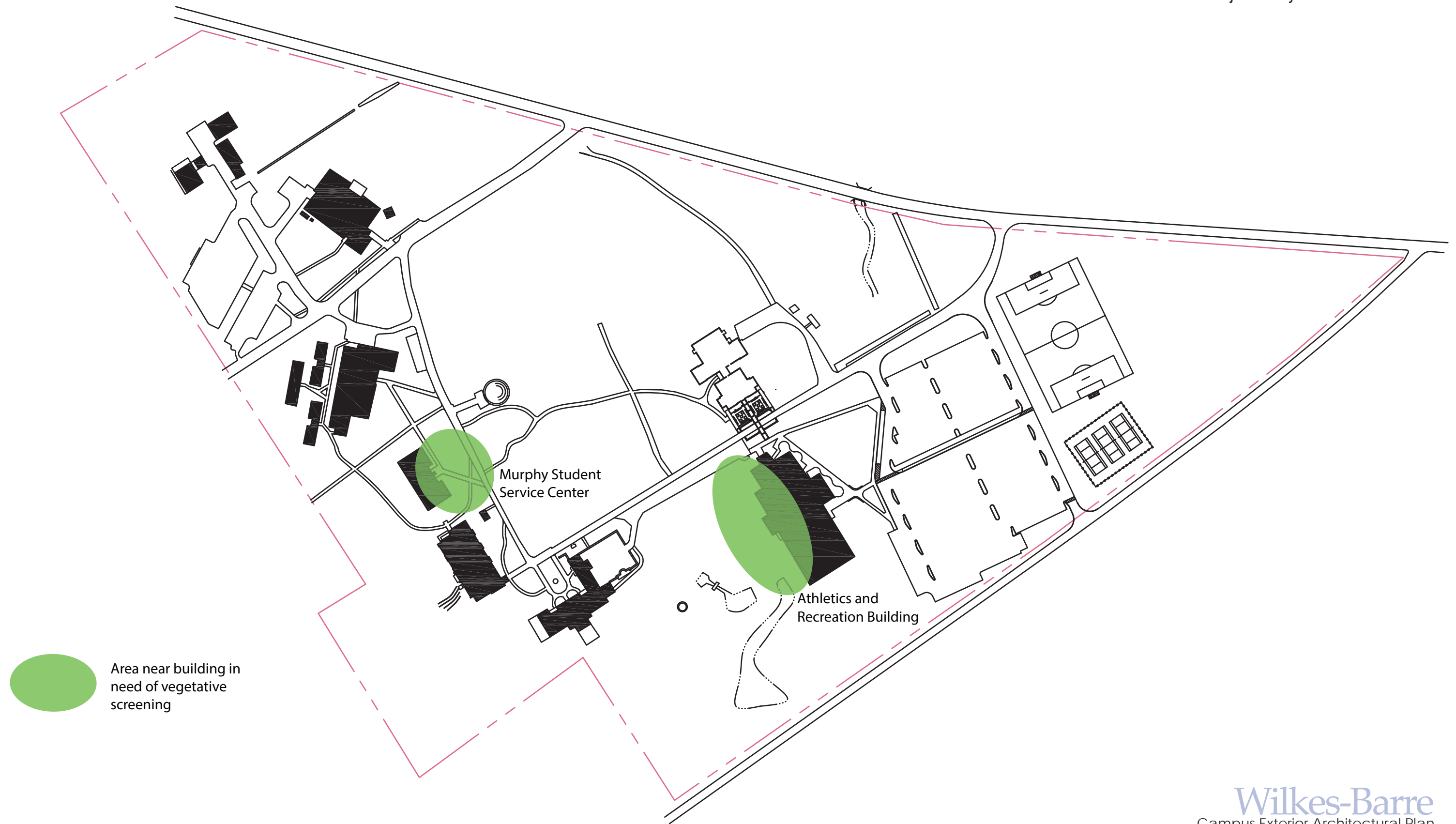
Proposed



Plant more shade trees to establish outdoor spaces. Complement larger trees with smaller understory or ornamental trees and shrubs. Break up large, empty facades with foundational plantings. Include planters of attractive annuals near doors for added visual impact and ease of maintenance.

# Plant Along Large Expanses of Buildings

Project carryover from CEAP 1.0



# 17

## Hayfield House Front Entrance

The engraved pavers at the main entrance to the Hayfield House are a nice gesture to alumni donors. Recommend replacing front entrance path to match the lion shrine pavers. Consolidate already engraved donor pavers into one location, perhaps near the front door of the Hayfield House



Existing



Proposed

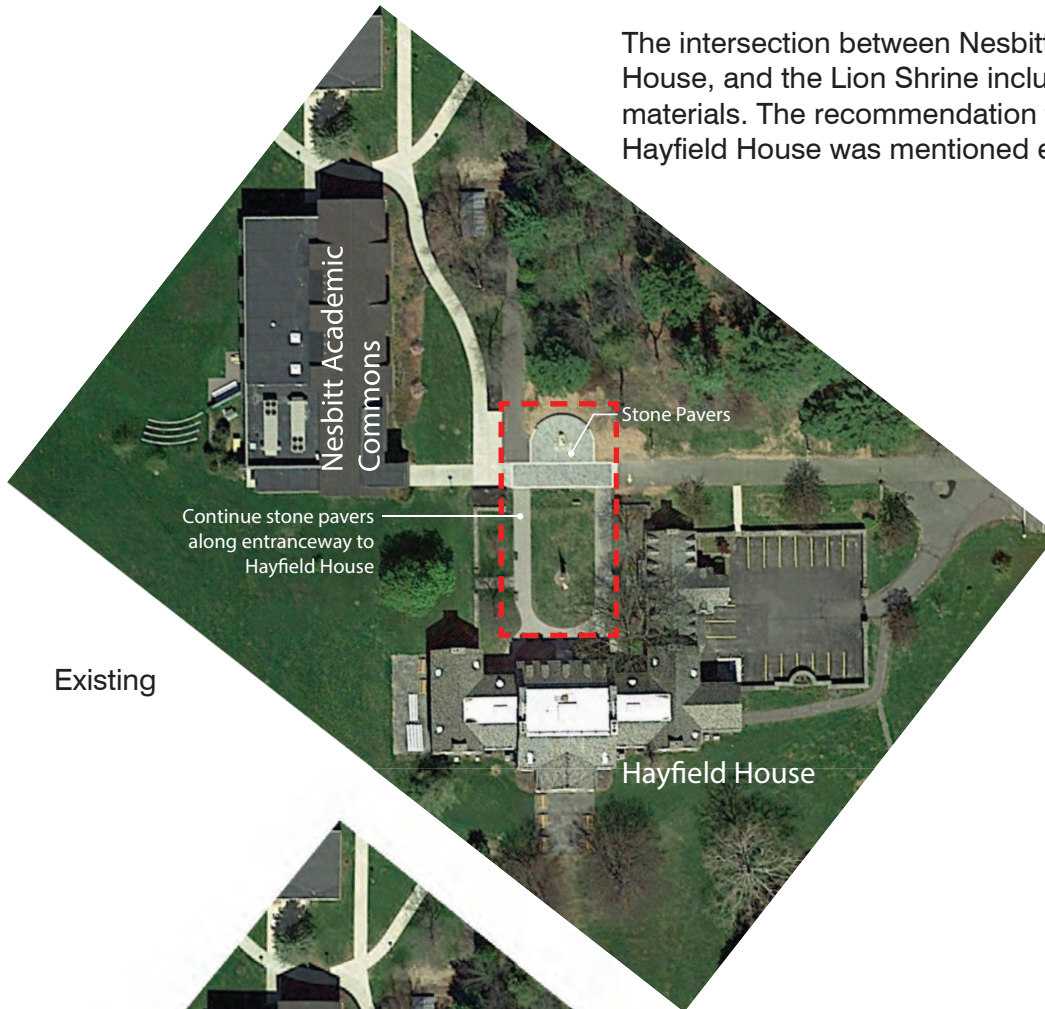
## Align Conyngham Lane with Hayfield House

Project carryover from CEAP 1.0

The intersection between Nesbitt Academic Commons, Hayfield House, and the Lion Shrine include too many different ground materials. The recommendation to replace the pavers in front of Hayfield House was mentioned earlier.

Conyngham is primarily for pedestrian traffic with some service and emergency access.

Asphalt for a pedestrian path is unattractive and looks like it is meant for vehicles over people.



Existing



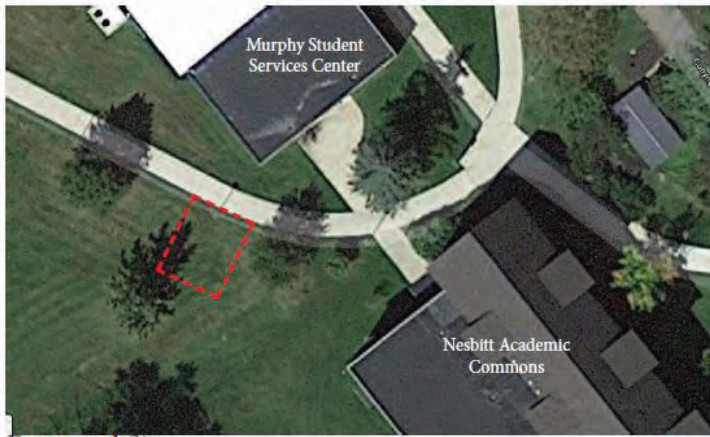
Proposed

Replace asphalt, at least to a certain extent down Conyngham Lane, with stone pavers to match the Lion Shrine.

Realign the edge of Conyngham Lane with the edge of the entrance path to Hayfield House.

# 19

# Create a Veterans Memorial

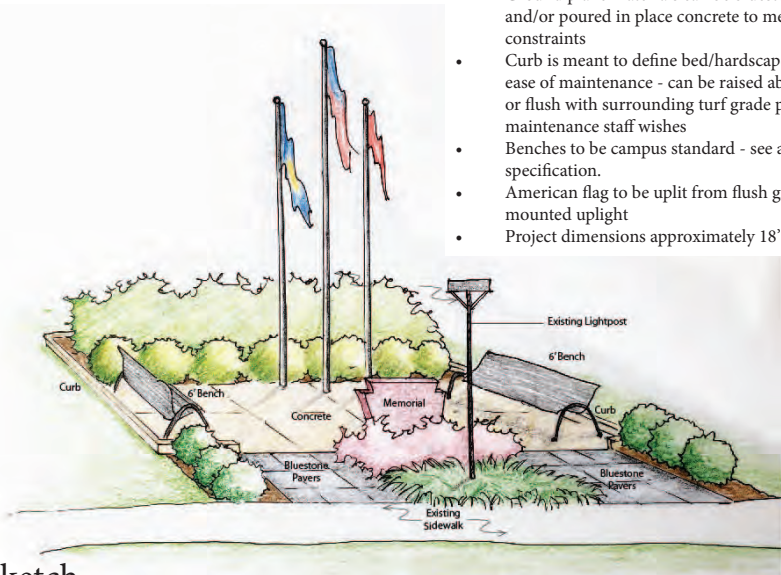


Proposed Site

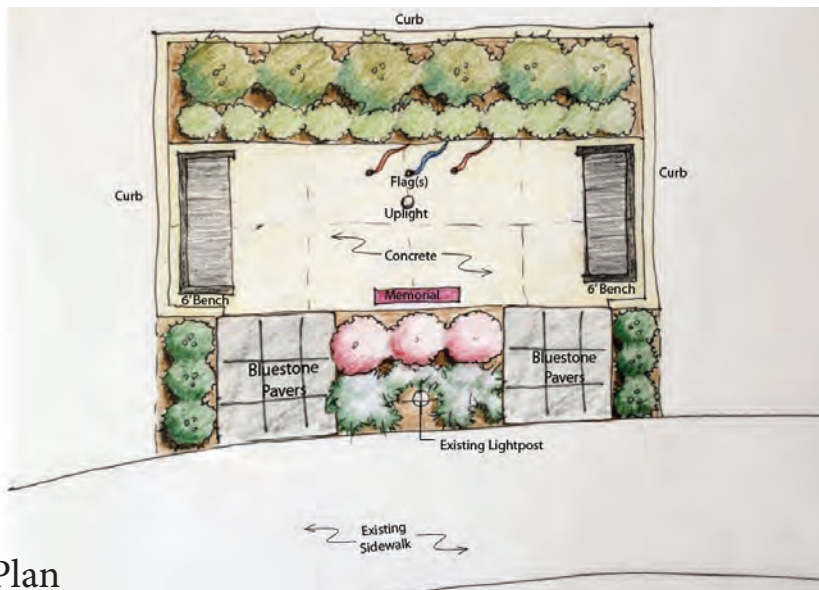
In collaboration with the active veterans student group on campus, and veteran advocates University-wide, create a veterans memorial to commemorate current and future Wilkes-Barre campus student veterans.

### Design Intent:

- Site memorial to tap into existing electric (lightpost)
- Ground plane materials can be bluestone pavers and/or poured in place concrete to meet budget constraints
- Curb is meant to define bed/hardscape edge for ease of maintenance - can be raised above grade or flush with surrounding turf grade per campus maintenance staff wishes
- Benches to be campus standard - see attached specification.
- American flag to be uplit from flush ground mounted uplight
- Project dimensions approximately 18' x 23'



Sketch



Plan







Existing



Proposed

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.



# 21

## Remove Unnecessary Elements in Landscape

Project carryover from CEAP 1.0



This seating area is poorly located and should be removed. Replace with turf.



The putting green requires intensive maintenance and does not fit into the landscape. Remove and replace with turf.



## Establish Campus Tree Program

Project carryover from CEAP 1.0



Establish a database accounting of campus trees to ensure a net gain of significant trees over time. A campus inventory should include a ranking of value to encourage appropriate replacements for lost specimens when opportunities arise for new installations. Diseased and/or dying trees should be pruned or removed and trunks should be ground or removed to avoid the perception that campus trees are in decline.



Spruce in poor condition



Large portion of campus is wooded. This space should be maintained and preserved as a natural campus amenity.