

Last Update: July 1, 2009

A. Campus Design Contexts

1. The design of the historic West Lafayette campus landscape is generally Beaux Arts in character. Student residence and recreation areas to the west are more modern in character and are organized around an urban street grid. The tree canopy across campus is generally organized in a park-like, naturalistic arrangement except in formally organized spaces such as Purdue Mall, Memorial Mall, Academy Park, Founders Plaza, South Campus Plaza, etc. in which plants are arranged more architecturally.
2. Discovery Park breaks from this pattern. Its landscape is uniquely organized around the overlay of a seven and a half degree splayed walk system, a curvilinear walk and plaza system generated from logarithmic spiral geometry, and the Fibonacci series expressed in detail patterning and the arrangement of canopy trees. This part of campus has a unique and distinct vocabulary of site fixtures and furnishings which distinguish it from the traditional campus areas.
3. The design for a project on campus should express a relationship to the design context in which it occurs.

B. Site Design:

1. Green space should be maximized on all campus site developments. Excessive pavement is to be avoided. Large, necessary paved areas should be shaded, broken up, or screened with plantings and green space. Exposed utility equipment and service dock areas should be completely screened from view.

C. Plazas and Building Entrances:

1. Paving at main building entrances and plazas should have a higher level of finish than plain concrete. Stone, brick, concrete unit pavers, and decorative/colored concrete are preferred.

D. Site Fixtures and Furnishings:

1. Standards have been established for site fixtures and furnishings in order to maintain the continuity of the campus landscape. While building and structure fixtures and furnishings may differ, they should not extend beyond the building and its associated landings, terraces, stairs, etc. Once those building features meet the surrounding site, fixtures and furnishings should meet campus landscape standards. For further information, see "Site Furnishings."

E. Plantings:

1. On the academic campus, plantings should be simple in design and reinforce the scale and context of the areas in which they occur. Residential areas of campus can be designed with a greater variety of materials, particularly in courtyards and outdoor use areas. Building foundations should be softened with plantings. Increasing plant variety and interest is desired near building entrances. Minimal or easy maintenance is desirable for all plantings. See "32 9300 EXTERIOR Undesirable Plants" in Volume 2, Guidelines by CSI Division for a list of plants which should not be planted on campus.

F. Plantings and Irrigation:

1. Wherever possible and practical, plants should be selected which do not require long term irrigation. Where irrigation is required, it is important to place plants with different water needs on separate zones. Irrigation controllers should be placed near building corners to maximize visibility for programming. Irrigation laterals should be minimum Schedule 40.

G. Plant Seasonal Interest:

1. Plant selection for campus projects should consider the bulk of the community is on campus between mid-August and mid-May. Campus plantings must be carefully designed to remain attractive during winter months when deciduous plants are leafless. For this reason, it is important to include a substantial number of evergreens in all plantings.
- H. Plantings and Storm Water:
1. Site design should encourage storm water surface infiltration wherever possible. However, concentrated infiltration devices such as dry wells should not be specified because they may threaten campus wellhead protection zones. Paved surfaces should be graded to maintain sheet flow of storm water for the longest possible distance. Shade tree canopies should be arranged to maximize coverage over paved surfaces in order to intercept rainfall and slow storm water runoff.
- I. Plantings and Energy Conservation:
1. Plants should be selected and located to maximize the energy efficiency of campus buildings. East and west facing windows should be shaded from summer sun. Evergreens placed on north and west sides of buildings, particularly when entrances occur on those sides, can temper the chilling effects of winter winds. Paved surfaces should be shaded to help counteract the overall "heat island" effect of the urban campus environment.
- J. Plantings and Security:
1. Campus plantings should be designed to maintain visibility so pedestrians can always be fully aware of others in their surroundings and so law enforcement can have clear views as they patrol campus. Building foundation plantings should not create hidden areas adjacent to ground level windows. Plantings should be coordinated with outdoor lighting so as not to diminish nighttime illumination.
- K. Parking Lots:
1. Campus parking lots should be screened with low, evergreen shrubs and planted with shade trees to maintain the park-like appearance of campus, to limit summer heat gain from paved surfaces, and to slow storm-water runoff from paved areas. Parking lots should be graded to maximize sheet flow of storm water and utilize planting areas as infiltration sites whenever possible. Internal planting islands should be organized to facilitate the efficient removal of snow during winter months.
- L. Streets and Street Trees:
1. Street trees should be included in all projects adjacent to streets. Trees should be planted within a minimum six-foot wide parkway between curbs and pedestrian sidewalks. Care should be taken to identify and anticipate those areas where high volumes of pedestrian traffic are likely to cross parkways. In those areas, pedestrian control fencing may be necessary. Pedestrian street crossings should be designed to occur at intersections, not at mid-block.
- M. Sidewalks:
1. Walk widths must consider the volume of pedestrian traffic anticipated. Most sidewalks on campus should be a minimum of eight feet wide to accommodate tractor-mounted snow brooms during winter months. All campus concrete sidewalks are to be six-inches thick to support service and maintenance vehicles and equipment. Unit pavers should be installed on a concrete base to support equivalent loads. Welded wire fabric should be used in all campus sidewalks.
- N. Waterproofing:

1. Waterproofing materials used to coat tunnel tops and other structures exposed at grade must be of a color to suit the surrounding landscape features as approved by the Senior Landscape Architect.
- O. Pedestrian Routes:
1. Campus pedestrians tend to move in straight lines between origins and destinations. Since these routes may not be in the best interest of the campus landscape, they should be anticipated and controlled via walls, fencing, and plantings.
- P. Bicycles
1. Bicycles are permitted on streets and designated campus bicycle pathways. Bicycle parking racks should be located adjacent to these allowable routes. Bicycle parking demand is measured each spring and fall. This information should be considered when determining the need for, and quantity of, bicycle racks to provide for a particular project on campus. The Purdue bicycle rack standard is described in "Site Furnishings and Fixtures."
- Q. Bus Stops
1. Campus bus stop locations are coordinated with the Greater Lafayette Public Transportation System's (GLPTC) CityBus program. Bus stops are located to facilitate access and minimize route schedule disruption. GLPTC provides shelters at high demand boarding locations. Purdue typically provides a concrete slab foundation and 120V electrical power for each shelter. Bus shelters are gloss black in color. The standard shelter is described in "Site Furnishings and Fixtures."
- R. Seating:
1. In general, seating areas should be developed at building entrances and in locations with significant pedestrian activity. Remote or isolated seating is generally not desirable. Residence halls and dining court facilities should have seating no closer than 30 feet from buildings to facilitate management of the campus smoking policy.
- S. Smoking and Ash Urns:
1. Smoking is prohibited within 30 feet of all campus buildings, therefore ash urns cannot be placed within this perimeter. Ash urns should be placed on the downwind side of nearby seating or gathering areas. This is generally the east side.
- T. Walls and Structures:
1. Free standing, retaining, and other site walls and structures should not be constructed of plain concrete or interlocking concrete systems. Materials should complement the context of the surrounding area and its materials and features.
- U. Fences:
1. Two fence types are used on campus. The historic "smoking fence" generally surrounds the campus perimeter and should be used where indicated on the campus fencing master plan. Post and chain fence is used elsewhere on campus, primarily as a pedestrian control device and frequently in combination with low evergreen hedges. Both fence types are to be painted black. Chain link fencing of any type is, generally, not acceptable on campus. Temporary construction and tree protection fencing must be six-foot high chain link. The use of plastic fencing is prohibited on campus.
- V. Lighting:
1. In general, shoebox cutoff light fixtures are used to light streets and modern campus facilities. Historic "gothic" light fixtures are used in pedestrian areas on the historic academic campus and near other historic campus buildings and structures.

W. Discovery Park:

1. Finishes, fixtures, and furnishings are unique in the Discovery Park area of campus (see Site Furnishings & Fixtures).