“From an acreage generous in scale and wonderfully endowed by nature with water and mountain vistas, and by city views that followed, it has been nurtured into the splendor of a built environment unmatched in the league of university campuses.”

“Ours is the responsibility that in the next one hundred years and those to follow, its campus and towers will still stand, its battlements still shine in the dawning light, and glow again in sunset rays.”

Norman Johnston
The Fountain and the Mountain
“The campus landscape framework offers a foundation for our stewardship of the landscape for its contributions to the pedagogical, ecological, and social characters and qualities of the UW campus. We know that the landscape is the campus. The landscape is what students, staff, and faculty identify as the University. And the campus landscape is a significant open-space resource for the regional community. The framework grounds decisions impacting the campus landscape in the knowledge of the history of how the campus has come to be the loved and treasured resource, what is important to maintain, and where we need to invest our attention and resources to more fully nurture a socially and environmentally healthy campus. With the broad knowledge collated in this framework, the UW community and its leaders have an essential tool to make the most informed decisions for the future of the campus and the University.”

the University Landscape Advisory Committee

June 25, 2015
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CAMPUS LANDSCAPE FRAMEWORK AREA = 650 ACRES
**THE CAMPUS LANDSCAPE IS CENTRAL TO THE MISSION**

The landscape of the University of Washington’s Seattle campus supports and strengthens the University's mission of preservation, advancement, and dissemination of knowledge. Through its rich variety of experiences, the campus landscape embodies the continuity of the past, present, and future of the UW, and is a major contributor to the academic, social, and civic life of the University.

The UW landscape is an undeniable source of pride based on the uniqueness and drama of its physical beauty, and the quiet power of the landscape in the daily life of the UW community embeds aesthetic and social experiences that will last a lifetime in the memories of those lucky enough to experience it.

**THE CAMPUS LANDSCAPE IS ESSENTIAL TO THE IDENTITY**

Who can imagine what life would be like on the UW campus without the Rainier Vista, Red Square, the Fine Arts Quad, the Sylvan Grove, Memorial Way, the Grieg Garden, the Montlake Cut, or the Union Bay Natural Area? While it rarely gets the same degree of attention or resources as the architectural structures of the University, the campus landscape is equally a contributor to the quality of daily life on campus and the image of the University at home and from afar. A goal of the Campus Landscape Framework (CLF) is to initiate parity in planning for and investing in the campus landscape.

This beautiful setting is a work of art and science, and an historic artifact of national significance; it represents a magnificent investment of cultural values, dollars and expert labor. The campus landscape is an important part of the “Husky promise”; our charge is to be excellent stewards of this important place, conserving the legacy and encouraging growth so that it may continue to serve future generations of students, faculty, staff and visitors.

**THE CAMPUS LANDSCAPE IS A LIVING/LEARNING MEDIUM**

Originally carved out of the great western forest, this landscape is still experienced as a series of cleared and wooded spaces, vastly varied in scale and detail, where the hand of man is in constant dialogue with natural form. The composition of paths and buildings, open spaces and planting, views and refuges creates a dense mosaic of places, from the highly intimate to the sublimely expansive, and exists as a virtual essay on the relationship between culture and the natural world.

The campus landscape is a living medium, growing and changing over time, but its materials and underlying meaning provide a continuity to the UW identity that is powerfully felt. The campus landscape is also the most accessible place for putting the values and lessons of the classroom into action: it is a working landscape where people learn, teach, observe, farm, garden, and conduct research, as well as a social landscape for meeting, gathering, play, and relaxation.
A LANDSCAPE IN MOTION - CURRENT CAMPUS PROJECTS (2014)
EMBRACING CHANGE WHILE PROTECTING CONTINUITY
While the campus landscape grows and changes over time, with no state of perfection, the use function of the landscape also changes with the evolving priorities of the university. As demonstrated by a map of current design, planning, and construction projects, the campus continues to evolve, with a broad array of internal and external changes going on at any given moment.

While each of these projects must meet certain architectural and programmatic criteria specific to their sponsors, they must also be reviewed for their potential to benefit or harm the broader functioning of the campus landscape and the continuity in values it represents.

In general, the capacity for a landscape to gracefully absorb change diminishes as the density of architecture increases. This puts greater responsibility on the community to carefully consider the larger landscape impacts of each individual project.

While the impact the following major projects have on their surrounding landscape is clear, smaller maintenance and repair projects can be just as damaging and require a similar level of scrutiny to assess their full impact.

PROJECTS IN PLANNING
1. West Campus Utility Plant
2. West Campus Development Framework
3. Portage Bay Park
4. South Campus Study Phase 2
5. Walla Walla Road NE - South End Study
6. North Campus Housing
7. Union Bay Natural Area Mitigation
8. Montlake Cut Connection

PROJECTS IN DESIGN
9. New Burke Museum
10. UW Police Station
11. Terry Hall and Maple Hall
12. Animal Research and Care Facility
13. Life Sciences Building
14. Burke-Gilman Trail Corridor Design
15. Rainier Vista
16. Parking Lot E12
17. Hec Ed Bridge and Computer Science
18. UW Track, Soccer and Baseball Master Plan
19. Intellectual House
20. Pend Oreille Entrance Study
21. UW Botanic Gardens Master Plan

PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION
22. Lander Hall

RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS
23. Alder Hall
24. Paccar Hall and Dempsey Hall
25. Cunningham Hall
26. Cedar Apartments
27. Mercer Court
28. HUB
29. UWMC Addition
30. Husky Stadium
31. Husky Outdoor Track

ONGOING SOUND TRANSIT PROJECTS
32. U District Station
33. University of Washington Station
THE CAMPUS LANDSCAPE TODAY
UNQUESTIONABLE BEAUTY
There is no question the UW has an exquisite landscape that helps draw talented people. Multiple national publications have listed the UW as one of the most beautiful campuses in the U.S. A representative from the Ellen DeGeneres Show recently gushed that the campus was “so beautiful...it’s ridiculous,” to which the host of the show responded: “I would have gone to college, had I seen that place, that’s beautiful!”

Beyond first impressions, the MyPlaces campus survey, conducted in fall of 2013 and described in greater detail in a subsequent chapter, confirms the campus community is just as smitten with the UW after years of familiarity, perhaps even more so.

UNDERSTANDING THE VALUE OF THE CAMPUS LANDSCAPE
One might reasonably wonder why it is necessary to devote limited resources to an asset that already satisfies so well. The answer to that question is multifold, starting with the fact that the value of the campus landscape is not well understood in relation to other institutional priorities, such as transportation and development.

The beauty and importance of the central campus is widely recognized, but this has not uniformly been the case for the periphery of core campus, or for the East, West, and South Campus neighborhoods. Given the central campus landscape is close to capacity and the University is under pressure to continue expansion, the future will certainly involve efforts to rebalance development between all campus neighborhoods, with the greatest opportunity for positive change to be found in the parts of campus that are either underutilized or poorly connected.

OPERATIONS & MAINTAINING EXCELLENCE
Landscape depreciation and decline are also serious concerns. In times of minimal resources, the care and upkeep of the campus is sometimes deferred for several years. This happened most recently in 2008, with a significant reduction in core grounds staff positions and the elimination of seasonal hiring practices that have yet to be brought back up to acceptable levels.

The effects of deferred maintenance, such as the increase of invasive species and failure of desirable plants, might not be easy to identify at first, but with time can result in long-lasting damage to the landscape. This is increasingly important with the establishment and maintenance of new landscapes, which often require three years of heightened maintenance to eradicate weed seeds present in import materials and ensure the plants thrive, becoming well rooted in their new environment, thereby affording them better access to nutrients and water.

MANAGING UNPRECEDEDENTED CHANGE
Although the UW campus has always been large, it has never been as complex a system to manage and maintain as it is today, given the pressures and demands from many. The future evolution of the campus landscape needs to be guided by practices, policies, and protocols for ongoing stewardship that are strategic and resourceful. This will ensure the campus can continue to fulfill its necessary role and enhance its visual, functional, pedagogical, and biological character during periods of intense architectural, infrastructural, or programmatic change.

“I WOULD HAVE GONE TO COLLEGE, HAD I SEEN THAT PLACE, THAT’S BEAUTIFUL!”
Ellen DeGeneres
CASE STUDIES: TESTING A RANGE OF STRATEGIES THROUGH DESIGN

Red Square and Thresholds .1
Stevens Way Reorganization .2
N22 Parking Lot .3
Denny Field and North Campus Housing .4
Olympic Vista .5
Portage Bay Connection .6
Montlake Cut Connection .7
Lake Washington Connection .8
Union Bay Natural Area Connection .9
Burke Museum and 43rd Street Entrance .10
Parrington Lawn .11
Aso tin Place and NE Grant Lane .12
University Bridge Landing .13
West Campus Streetscape .14
Burke Gilman Trail Stormwater .15
RECOGNIZING SYSTEMIC STRENGTHS
The UW campus has tremendous strengths, so much so that many landscape areas, particularly the iconic campus spaces of the central campus, don’t need any substantial intervention. In general there are no campus-wide systemic problems with the landscape beyond those associated with insufficient maintenance resources, so the CLF began to focus on individual trouble spots or areas of opportunity within the campus and think about how they might work better within broader systems.

Not surprisingly, given the campus’ evolution from the center outward, the biggest opportunities had to do with a diminution of landscape quality toward the edges of campus, and poor connectivity between Central Campus and the other neighborhoods.

IDENTIFYING PLACES OF WEAKNESS
One powerful tool for developing and testing recommended framework practices was to identify places representing particular types of weakness, whether in function, identity, or connectivity, and use conceptual designs to demonstrate just one way to correct these challenges. These case studies provide a means of better understanding how the UW might plan for future conditions, or ameliorate existing problems.

Each area was examined with respect to the effect it had on its immediate context, and also with respect to the broader impact that it, and conditions like it, have on the character, identity, and function of campus-wide systems. The case study technique tests a range of strategies, and suggests approaches to improving the campus landscape that can be deployed throughout the campus. The individual studies establish landscape principles for each space, and tests their feasibility, without limiting the range of possible future solutions.

AN APPROACH THAT ADDRESSES BOTH SYSTEMS AND PLACES
The iterative, dual lens methodology used in the CLF, where individual case studies are understood in the context of campus-wide systems, most notably with respect to landscape experience, and the systems are in turn strengthened by site-specific interventions, can also guide the way the UW approaches campus planning, design, and construction projects in the future. Every project the UW undertakes should be understood as part of wider campus systems, and all systems should be understood with respect to their many diverse parts. Moving back and forth between envisioning the general and the particular is the surest means of preserving the integrity of the campus overall and the rich diversity of its individual elements.

Improved Campus Connections
Potential Building sites


**A PRACTICE TOOL KIT**
The Campus Landscape Framework is a resource for everyone with an interest in the campus landscape. The graphic information is organized by existing conditions and as case study recommendations, so that the improvements and strategies suggested by the CLF can be easily understood.

Given the fact the university has never had a landscape plan for the campus, it was necessary to first build a preliminary toolkit of information about the campus itself. With this understanding as a basis, the CLF could describe and communicate the value of the campus landscape in all its diversity.

**IN PRINT AND ON LINE: REFERENCE, RESOURCE, GUIDE**
The entire UW community will have access to the CLF and will be able to use it as a reference and a resource to support different types of landscape stewardship, including research, planning, and design. Print copies will be made available to all departments and consultants dealing directly with landscape issues, whereas the online version will be available to the UW community, visitors, and anybody else who is interested in learning more about the UW and its landscape ethos.
THE CAMPUS SETTING
Describing and analyzing the setting of the campus is an important first step in establishing why and how the campus landscape has been central to the identity and mission of the UW throughout its history and will continue to be so in the years ahead. As an introduction, an analysis of the campus is provided with respect to underlying structures, evolution over time, the emergence of separate neighborhoods, and the reading of the campus as a mosaic of landscape types.

THE EXPERIENTIAL QUALITY OF THE CAMPUS
In any weather, a stroll through the UW campus can create a memorable experience of the power of landscape to refresh, intrigue, soothe and inspire. Understanding the specifics of how campus users currently navigate the various systems of the campus and seek out ways to expand the sense of welcome, orientation, and discovery throughout the campus is imperative to absorb and accommodate new modes of travel. This analysis draws on information gathered in the MyPlaces landscape survey, the Wayfinding Strategy, and multiple stakeholder meetings with university groups during the development of the CLF.

STEWARDSHIP OF THE CAMPUS LANDSCAPE
The stewardship of the campus landscape is a responsibility that is shared among many groups and individuals within the campus community and the CLF can help make every member of the UW community an active and knowledgeable steward of the campus landscape. The sections on stewardship cover the various ways in which the UW might look to change strategic aspects of the campus, using active stewardship to bolster the institutional ethos and set the stage for a more resilient and robust future. Strategic landscape planning will need to be matched with innovative landscape policies, and priorities to achieve the goals of the CLF.
Iconic Landscapes

Pedestrian Circulation

Landscape with Potential for Improvement

Bike Circulation
UNDERSTANDING HOW OTHERS PERCEIVE THE CAMPUS
Starting in spring 2013, the Office of The University Architect (OUA) undertook linked initiatives aimed at better understanding how the campus was being used. In addition to the CLF, this included a Campus Landscape Survey, which identified many ways the UW community values its landscape, and a Campus Wayfinding and Signage Study, which examined the way information systems, and the landscape environment itself, create a sense of welcome and orientation on campus. The CLF incorporates the work of these studies, using their findings as a window into the broader importance of the campus landscape as an indivisible part of the UW’s function and identity.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON MYPLACES SURVEY 2013
The Campus Landscape Survey offered a wealth of current information about how people use, enjoy, and think about the UW landscape. Survey participants were provided with tools to map their routes through campus, identify favorite places as well as missed opportunities, and make expanded comments. In total, 1,943 participants including students, faculty and staff, placed more than 37,150 icons and wrote 7,980 comments about the campus landscape.

Looked at comprehensively, the survey reinforced and revealed the University’s figured landscapes at the heart of the central campus are considered to be iconic, are well-loved, and widely used. There was an appreciation for the diversity and range of spaces on campus in terms of program, capacity, materiality, and degree of wildness or cultivation. Navigation overall was felt to be increasingly difficult as one moved away from the center of campus. Participant responses consistently reinforced a number of areas for improvement, including specific places as well as general policies, such as care and upkeep, smoking, and management of bike traffic. The waterfront to the south and east was regarded as the most significant underutilized opportunity on campus. The intersection of Campus Parkway and 15th Avenue NE was identified as a key area in need of attention from navigation and safety perspectives, while Health Sciences was consistently regarded as disconnected and in need of improvement.

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE COMMUNITY
Building on the success of the 2013 survey, OUA plans to conduct a similar survey every five years going forward, as a means of identifying general perceptions about the campus landscape from thousands of individual experiences.

CAMPUS WAYFINDING STRATEGY
The Campus Wayfinding Strategy was developed as an adjunct to the CLF, providing the opportunity for landscape planning and information to work together to improve the overall legibility of UW. The document considers what locals and visitors require to improve their experience, both enabling efficient journeys and encouraging exploration.

The strategy includes defining a staged sense of arrival towards the center, creating a walkable set of “stepping stones” to help people comprehend a human scale, and consistent references that can be applied across all modes. These fundamentals guide a typology of information elements that orient, direct, inform and confirm journeys.

Wayfinding elements are intended to be used sparingly but to contain rich information in the form of campus maps. This conservative approach requires extra emphasis on the planned location of information. To inform this, the strategy provides a detailed movement plan which explains where information should be placed to support arrival, decisions and destination-seeking intuitively.

The 2013 MyPlaces Survey Final Report and Wayfinding documents can be found on the Office of the University Architect website.