GOLF COURSE DISTRICT

ÆSTHETIC GUIDELINES FOR CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

March, 2004

Draft
**INTRODUCTION**

This district section is one of ten portions of the *Esthetic Guidelines for Campus Development* of the University of Maryland and focuses on issues particular to the district. Descriptions of the overall Campus, University-wide issue and solution discussions, and Urban Design, Landscape Architecture and Architecture principles are included in the first section, entitled “CAMPUS.” It is intended to be used in concert with this volume. Where topics are shared by adjacent districts, such as at district edges, those district sections should be referenced for supplemental information.

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PROLOGUE

Preservation and enhancement of a valued existing natural resource for the Campus and region (the source of Campus Creek lies within the Golf Course) are the focus of the guidelines for this District.

DISTRICT DEFINITION

DESCRIPTION

This District is among the most beautiful natural preserves of the Campus. Separated by University Boulevard/Maryland Route 193 from the contiguous Campus, the Golf Course covers roughly 220 acres. Major facilities serving the University System of Maryland and the National Archives II adjoin this District.

BOUNDARIES

- Metzerott Road on the North;
- The NORTH, NORTHWEST, AND WEST DISTRICTS (University Boulevard/Maryland Route 193) on the East;
- Adelphi Road on the South and West.

DISTRICT BUILDING TYPES

- Structures within the GOLF COURSE DISTRICT include four major types: the Golf Course Clubhouse, academic buildings, the National Archives, and service buildings.

Golf Course District

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The steeple of the Memorial Chapel, in the distance.

Vistas from the President’s House traverse the District to high ground near the first and ninth holes.
Urban Design

General Description

Individual structures and small clusters of buildings are scattered throughout this landscape-dominated district, which forms the headwaters of Campus Creek. Most buildings are concealed from nearby roadways by woodlands. Edges are determined by the surrounding roadways, and the natural forest cover continues on adjacent properties. Very little distinguishes the property as belonging to the University: a few signs and one brick gatepost at the intersection of Adelphi and Metzerott roads. The Romantic Landscape of the Golf Course is the District’s major landmark, and contributes to the rural feel of this part of the City of College Park.

The FMP proposes few changes in this district: Grounds Maintenance storage facilities, the Recycling Center, and the ICA practice course are suggested along Metzerott Road; modifications of the Golf Course are discussed later in this article. The Astronomy Observatory and classrooms, the National Archives, the Casey Journalism Center, and the headquarters of the University System of Maryland are slated to remain. The PEPCO power easement slices through the northwestern corner of the District, separating a relatively-uninhabited wedge from the rest.
The President’s Residence forms an axial connection across University Boulevard with the first and ninth holes of the Golf Course (refer to the West District article). Development of course structures at these holes should bear this relationship in mind and contribute to this axiality (fig. nw-6e).
CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

- The Golf Course
- The National Archives II

NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

NEUTRAL
- Natural forest cover, decimated by the 24 September, 2001 tornado

UNSYPATHETIC
- Maintenance Facilities Grounds (19xx)

UNDERDEVELOPED
- None
The headwaters of Campus Creek, and two ponds
- The Golf Course (1940's, renovated 1979)
- The National Archives property (1991)
Landscaping guidelines for campus development

- First hole putting green
- Landscape typologies
- Ninth hole fairway and rough
- Picnic area near clubhouse
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

LANDSCAPE INTERVENTIONS

NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

NEUTRAL
- Astronomy classroom area (1964-present)
- The University System of Maryland property (1980's)

UNSYMPATHETIC
- Maintenance Facilities Grounds (1960's)
The District has few buildings: those related to the functioning of the Golf Course (most notably the Clubhouse) and the National Archives.

**Contributing Buildings**

**Significant:**
- None

**Important:**
- The Golf Course Clubhouse (166 – 1999) [Traditional Vernacular]
- The National Archives II (1991) [Contemporary]
aesthetic guidelines for campus development

architecture

neutral

- golf course driving range cont. building (105 – 1966)
- golf course building (167 – 1968)
- canoe storage building (169 – 1964) [vernacular]

unsympathetic

- golf course storage buildings
  - 1:169 – 1971
  - 3: 315 – 1967
  - 2: 317 – 1969
  - 4: 320 – 1969
- golf course maintenance office (313 – 1967)
- golf course repair shop (314 – 1960)
- golf course toilet facility (318 – 1963) [vernacular]
- plant operations & maintenance storage building 2 (213 – 1968)
- plant operations & maintenance storage building 1 (214 – 1968)
- golf course fertilizer shed (319 – 1966) [industrial]
- astronomy lecture building (219 – 1979)
- astronomical observatory (221 – 1964) [minimal]
- astronomy trailer (220 – 2000) [N/A]
- gravity research laboratory (222 – 1964) [industrial]
- indoor practice facility (309 – 2001) [industrial]
- golf course employee facilities
  - 1: 315 – 1960
  - 2: 316 – 1960 [industrial]
- the adelphi road office
- journalism annex 8701 adelphi road (803 – acquired: 1991) [journalism]

non-contributing buildings

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ARCHITECTURE

- Fig. gc-14a: 309 indoor practice facility
- Fig. gc-14b: 312 storage building
- Fig. gc-14c: 313 maintenance office
- Fig. gc-14d: 314 repair shop
- Fig. gc-14e: 315 employee facility
- Fig. gc-14f: 316 employee facility
- Fig. gc-14g: 317 storage building
- Fig. gc-14h: 318 storage building
- Fig. gc-14i: 320 storage building

FMP-PROPOSED FACILITY DEMOLUTION

- GC-14: Buildings to be demolished
ISSUES

Facilities Master Plan Modifications to the District

- Modifications to this district in the 2001-2020 period include the renovation of the Golf Course (including the relocation of the Maintenance facilities), the addition of an ICA golf practice area, and the relocation of the Recycling Center.

Proposals & Remedies: Urban Design & Landscape Architecture

- The University would do well to devise a method of marking the property edge. A repeated set of gateposts (similar to other Campus locations, such as Founders Gate) at entrances to University and auxiliary functions, corner markers, consistent signage and lighting at gateways, or regularized planting of decorative trees are possible means of accomplishing University branding (fig. gc-15d).

- The gateway to the Golf Course opposite Stadium Drive should be enhanced to announce its presence and connect with the contiguous campus (fig. gc-5c). Similarly, the entries to the Astronomy complex, the Casey Journalism Center, and the Recycling Center should be provided with gates to regulate access. The National Archives and the University System of Maryland headquarters should be provided with gateways that express the facility's individuality while tying into a common property boundary system.
ISSUES: URBAN DESIGN & LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

KEY TO SYMBOLS

GOLF COURSE DISTRICT

GOLF COURSE MASTER PLAN
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

FIG. GC-16A: TYPICAL SAND TRAP HOLE

FIG. GC-16B: PICNIC AREA NEAR FIRST HOLE TEE

FIG. GC-16C: EXISTING DRIVING RANGE

FIG. GC-16D: DRIVING RANGE DISTANCE MARKERS

FIG. GC-16E: GOLF COURSE MASTER PLAN

FIG. GC-16F: AERIAL VIEW OF CLUB HOUSE AND ADJACENT GOLF COURSE HOLES
The modifications to the Golf Course include an expanded practice driving range and putting green (with associated buildings) surrounding the Tennis Bubble, slightly reconfigured greens, restoration of the ponds, and the addition of a practice area for ICA golf team members. Visual connections from adjacent roadways provide invitations for passers-by to play a round or dine at the clubhouse (fig. gc-12b). The new clubhouse is to be retained.

The Operations and Maintenance facility is shared by the Golf Course and the Campus (gc-17e). Current plans indicate relocating it closer to Metzerott Road. Buildings for storage of equipment and materials will be grouped for ease of access. Hazardous materials storage will be constructed per Maryland and federal regulations to prevent contamination of the headwaters of Campus Creek or the surrounding forests. Consideration of views to this site will necessitate careful design of facilities and surrounding landscape barriers.

Even though some Astronomy facilities are scheduled to be included in the proposed Physical Sciences Building on the ISPT site, the Observatory will remain at its current location off of Metzerott Road (fig. gc-18a). Reduced light levels of surrounding facilities are required to permit observation of celestial activities; this is one facility that should be protected from headlights and glare of the adjacent roadway.
The Casey Journalism Center is a converted residence adjacent to the PEPCO easement. Currently access from Adelphi Road is concealed; this should be modified so as to announce this facility and program to the public.

There has been frequent discussion of an I-95 connector between a proposed parking structure at the intersection of I-95 and the Beltway and the Campus area (fig. gc-18k). Five routes are under consideration: one along the PEPCO easement, three through the Beltsville Agricultural Center and the University’s Metzerott Corridor properties, and one along the I-95 Beltway to the Greenbelt Metro Station (fig. gc-18l). Proposals cover a range of options from limited-access shuttles to full automobile access; provisions for on-road bicycle access are included as well. Consideration of proposals should include quantities of traffic on-campus (especially in the Metzerott Corridor and Paint Branch Drive), alternative vehicle destinations and connections (Adelphi Road, University Boulevard, Langley Park, Route 1 Corridor, for example), Route 1 Corridor infrastructure issues and the Sector Plan, and access issues.

Care should be exercised to prevent the sprawl of surface parking lots throughout this district; parking should be contained and screened to preserve the District’s wooded nature.

The botanical garden approach adopted throughout the rest of the Campus has included a diversity of landscape materials: this should be expanded through careful development of border, knee- and waist-height plantings to demark personally-scaled spaces. The tree canopy should be raised to allow better appreciation of the space contained by the structures.
Proposals & Remedies: Architecture

- Proposed buildings have the opportunity to assist in strengthening or creating exterior spaces which contribute to the daily life and personal experience of the Campus community (fig. gc.9a-9c).
- There are few iconic or landmark structures in this District: none of the proposed buildings or additions should draw undue attention to themselves, but rather, contribute to the overall feeling of the District (fig. gc.19b).
- There is no dominant architectural style to buildings in this District: due to the individual or small cluster nature of the facilities, building should relate to other members of the cluster rather than buildings elsewhere on-campus.
- Care should be exercised to prevent the location or expansion of over-scaled facilities in this District. Landscape screening is important to help reduce the apparent size and other objectionable qualities of these types of buildings.
- The Operations and Maintenance Facilities buildings (fig. gc14a through gc14i) are in poor shape, and are scheduled to be replaced.

SUMMARY

The Golf Course is one of the most beautiful features of this District and a major amenity of the Campus: it must be enhanced and preserved. Proposals to diminish the wooded nature of the site should be rejected in favor of those that benefit both the local and regional environments.

The diverse and isolated nature of District facilities contributes to the disconnected feeling of this district: efforts should be undertaken to enhance gateways and boundary edges to help tie this property into the contiguous Campus. These markers will announce the University’s presence far away from McKeldin Mall, where currently little indicates that the University is near.