NORTHWEST DISTRICT

ÆSTHETIC GUIDELINES FOR CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

March, 2004
Draft
INTRODUCTION

This district section is one of ten portions of the Aesthetic 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.

Aesthetic Guidelines for Campus Development

In 10 volumes:
Campus
East District
Golf Course District
Historic Core District
North District
Northeast District
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Outlying Properties
Southwest District
West District

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**PROLOGUE**

Perhaps the most diverse district in terms of types of functions occurring here, the Northwestern District is stratified by its topography: buildings ride ridges overlooking deep valleys. Housing, academic, recreation, sport, public, and farm facilities nearly fill the district.

**DISTRICT DEFINITION**

**DESCRIPTION**

This highly residential District is structured around three community complexes and covers the highest portion of the contiguous Campus south of Campus Creek. The Campus Farm lies at the base of North Campus. The central portion includes the athletic fields and Byrd Stadium, originally built into a natural valley. The stadium, with the bulk and detailing of its upper bleachers, stands in stark contrast with the remnant employee cottages at its base; indeed, it even dwarfs the 10-story housing blocks nearby. Academic buildings occupy the southern and eastern borders along Campus and Regents Drives and surround the Inter-Collegiate Athletic (ICA) practice fields.

**BOUNDARIES** (fig. nw-4e)

- The **North District** (Campus Creek) on the North;
- The **Northeast District** (Regents Drive) at the base of North campus on the East;
- The **Historic Core and West districts** (Campus Drive, Union Lane & Fieldhouse Drive) on the South and Southwest;
- The **Golf Course District** (University Boulevard / Maryland Route 193) to the West.

**SUB-DISTRICTS**

**North Campus**

The highest portion of the District and the Campus, this peninsula between the Campus Creek and Stadium valleys contains residential communities and recreational facilities.

**Stadium Valley**

A natural bowl separates two peninsulas: North Campus and Hornbake, and contains Byrd Stadium, the ICA practice fields, Regents Drive Parking Garage, and academic buildings on the heights overlooking the valley.

**Hornbake**

A broad stepped peninsula, bisected by Campus Drive, contains Hornbake plaza with its academic and public facilities. The peninsula’s northern half overlooks Stadium Valley; the southern portion borders McKeldin Mall.

**Northwest Corner**

The lowlands descending from North campus towards Campus Creek, are currently occupied by surface parking lots.

**Campus Farm**

The lowlands descending from North campus towards the Northwest District and site of agricultural educational facilities since their relocation from the area around Rossborough Inn in the 1930’s.

aesthetic guidelines for campus development
Existing Aerial View
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DISTRICT DEFINITION

DISTRICT BUILDING TYPES

- Structures within the NORTHWEST DISTRICT include high-rise residential structures, gable-roofed cottages, single-story community buildings with pitched or flat roofs, large recreational and academic buildings, the Campus Farm, and Byrd Stadium (361-69) with the attendant sports teamhouses.

ADJACENT CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS & FEATURES

- HJ Patterson Building (073), with cupola and quadrangle
- Animal Sciences / Agricultural Engineering Building (142)
- Cole Student Activities Building (162)
- The Comcast Center (360)
- The Clarice Smith / Maryland Center for the Performing Arts (386)
- West Gate at University Boulevard and Stadium Drive
- Campus Creek Natural Area
- The Golf Course
- The proposed West Mall

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URBAN DESIGN

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The NORTHWEST DISTRICT has the widest variety of Urban Design features on the Campus: Concentrated Cosmic defines the proposed north-south connection across the sports fields. Individual Practical describes the residential communities of community center surrounded by residential towers. Concentrated Practical denotes the blocks of academic structures surrounding the sports fields, and the existing CAMPUS FARM represents Individual Organic. Byrd Stadium asserts its prominence in isolation from the rest of the Campus due to orientation and size: it follows a natural valley and emphasizes the rolling terrain (fig. nw-4e). Large recreational buildings are sited along Valley Drive above Campus Creek, but interact indifferently with it.

The western and northern edges (along Campus Creek) are not well-expressed; streetscape improvements would strengthen both the Regents and Campus Drive edges where the building masses provide definition. Strong axial relationships (fig. nw 5e) organize two areas: West Gate through the Stadium to the cupola of the Microbiology Building, and Stadium Circle through the proposed residential complex to the wooded hillock in NORTH DISTRICT. A linear progression occurs through the sports fields, but architectonic elements (ie: entries, towers, plazas) neither align nor form axes in either pair of cardinal directions. The axis through the West Mall, the Stadium Circle and the Denton Community to the Golf Course hills should be preserved and enhanced. [Both the West Gate and West Mall are discussed further in the WEST DISTRICT section.]

The NORTHWEST DISTRICT of Campus displays four fundamental elements in its urban composition:

- Housing, in the form of three clusters of high-rise dormitories surrounding dining halls, academic buildings, and public spaces (fig. nw 5b)
- Athletic fields, located in the natural valley into which Byrd Stadium was situated. The ICA fields create a large open area in the center of the district. Visual connections between the residential and academic complexes that surround it are strong, but physical access is severely limited (fig. nw 5d)

aesthetic guidelines for campus development
**URBAN DESIGN**

- Academic buildings lining Campus and Stadium drives and recreation facilities above Campus Creek, and
- The Campus Farm.

Each of these elements works separately and does not relate coherently or in a harmonic way. The uses are stratified along the hills and valleys characteristic of the District.

**CONTRIBUTING FEATURES**

- The hill-and-valley nature of the district, emphasized by the residential towers atop North Hill and the sports fields in Stadium Valley
- Byrd Stadium (original portion)
- Computing and Space Sciences Building Plaza
- The Cambridge, Denton & Ellicott residential communities

**NEUTRAL**

- The Aquatics Center terrace

**UNSYMPATHETIC**

- Large parking lots
- The residential remnants and family cemetery adjacent to Stadium Garage
- The deterioration of the Campus Creek natural area
- The teamhouses and auxiliary structures at Byrd Stadium
- The high bleachers of Byrd Stadium, especially in combination with the residential towers

**UNDER-DEVELOPED**

- The Campus Recreation Center plaza and “La Plata Beach”
- ICA practice fields, which form a barrier to a north-south campus connection
- Buildings surrounding ICA practice fields
- Regents Drive edge of district
- Campus Drive edge of district
- The Campus Farm
- West Gate at Stadium Drive-Stadium Garage-Byrd Stadium axis to Microbiology Building
• West Gate at Stadium Drive and traffic circle
• Through- or loop-connections of Farm and Valley drives
• Campus Creek natural area edge of district and east-west pedestrian connections

**URBAN DESIGN**

fig. nw-7g: axial relationship between stadium and cupola

fig. nw-7h: denton community forms gateway

fig. nw-7i: cupola from nyumburu amphitheatre

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**fig. nw-7e: landmarks, spaces & visual axes**

**fig. nw-7f: microbiology cupola axis from css plaza**

**fig. nw-7b: axial relation across ice fields (valley)**

**fig. nw-7c: comcast center south facade from valley drive**

**fig. nw-7d: pedestrian path at computer science building**

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aesthetic guidelines for campus development
The variation in the height of this district, from the Stadium valley and the Campus Farm to North campus and back to the Campus Creek Valley, is the most dramatic on Campus. The openness of the ICA playing fields contrasts with the enclosed residential communities immediately adjacent to them. The West Gate entrance to the Campus is designed for the high-volume traffic generated by the sports team events and performances at the Clarice Smith Performing arts Center. Each residential quadrangle affords potential landscapes composed of lawns and plazas surrounding a community building and ringed by high-rise residential towers. Hornbake Plaza forms a gateway into this district, and connects with the Historic Core District. “La Plata Beach” is located between the Cambridge and Ellicott communities: this park serves the recreational needs of the three North Campus communities. The groove along the brow of the hill should be retained. The adjacent beech grove along Stadium Drive should be retained, as should the remnant grove and the Naimo Family cemetery near the intersection of Stadium and Valley drives.

The agricultural zone, comprised of farm buildings surrounded by rolling fields enclosed by wooden fences, is a remnant of the Agrarian nature of the original Campus, and is tucked against North Campus Hill. This valuable resource reflecting the University’s history should be enhanced.

The FMP proposes subtle changes that will strengthen the organization of the district. The development of the ICA field complex will afford needed additional north-south pedestrian connections while strengthening the implied axis between the Campus Recreation Center (CRC) and Stamp Student Union. While visually accessible to adjacent buildings, the fields will remain restricted to ICA use. Connections to Campus Creek and recreational activities will be investigated in the development of the surface parking areas west of the CRC. Campus Creek is slated for revitalization, removing tornado and erosion damage.
CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

• The hill-and-valley nature of the district [N/A]
• The brow of North Campus, the grove, and “La Plata Beach” recreation fields [Rural]
• The “grove” at the intersection of Stadium and Valley drives [Rural]
• The McNamara Family cemetery adjacent to the Stadium Parking Garage [Rural]
• The pedestrian connection west of the Regents Drive Parking Garage [Rural]
• Campus Creek natural area [Rural]
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

fig. nw-10a academic buildings parallel to athletic fields

fig. nw-10b north porch & stairs at centerville community

fig. nw-10c nyumburu amphitheatre

fig. nw-10d hornbake plaza landscaping

fig. nw-10e proposed landscape interventions

fig. nw-10f nyumburu amphitheatre

fig. nw-10g cambridge east plaza

fig. nw-10h crc entry plaza

fig. nw-10i west stairs at denton community

fig. nw-10j west stairs at denton community

LANDSCAPE INTERVENTIONS

- Existing: Gray
- Proposed Construction: Light Green
- Proposed: Bright Green
- Existing Trees: Yellow
- Proposed Trees: Red
- Campus Boundary: Black
- District Boundary: Light Blue

university of maryland college park
**Non-contributing Features**

**Neutral**
- The Campus Farm (1930's) 
  [Agrarian]
- The Cambridge, Denton & Ellicott residential communities landscaping (1962-68) [Urban]
- The Aquatics Center terrace (1998) [Contemporary]
- The Campus Recreation Center (CRC) plaza (1998) [Contemporary]
- The exterior recreation area north of the CRC (1998) [Contemporary]

**Unsympathetic**
- Large parking lots adjacent to Campus Creek
- Surface parking lots scattered throughout the District
- Stadium Drive along the practice fields 
- Fieldhouse Drive
- Unscreened service areas along major roadways
- The tornado damage along University Boulevard (24 September, 2001)
- The deterioration of the Campus Creek natural area
The District can be subdivided into two zones: North Campus and the Stadium Valley and surroundings. North Campus is crowned with three residential complexes comprised of ten-story high-rise residential slabs enclosing common areas and community buildings. The high-rises are composed in a red brick flat-roofed sparse Neo-Colonial style (primarily accentuated at the entrances). The community buildings are single-story pitched- or flat-roofed red brick structures centered in a square that could be developed into a park. In contrast, the massive recreation facilities, both in Stadium Valley and abutting North Campus, are of varying styles. The single-story red brick gable-roofed cottages are slated to be removed per the FMP (fig.nw-15e). Academic structures along Campus Drive mimic the Colonial Revival buildings of the Historic Core District. The American-vernacular Campus Farm buildings provide a quaint juxtaposition to the urban nature of this district, but the farm buildings do not represent typical distinct Maryland prototypes.

The FMP proposes augmented ICA Fields: elevated and grade-level practice areas for the various team sports. The stately masonry Shipley baseball stadium will be removed to the North District. The large exterior fields will be enclosed with proposed scientific academic / research facilities. Residential and academic buildings will complete the Computer and Space Sciences Center Building Plaza and form a visual bridge between the CRC and Stamp Student Union. Investigation of uses replacing surface parking lots along Campus Creek will determine the extent of recreational or building activities in the area.
CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

SIGNIFICANT

• None

IMPORTANT

• PLANT SCIENCES BUILDING (036 – 1986) [Neo-Classical Revival]
• The ELLICOTT COMMUNITY: Residences (ELLICOTT HALL 256 – 1967), HAGERSTOWN HALL (258 – 1968), and LL PLATA HALL (259 – 1969) and THE DINER (257 – 1967) [Neo-Colonial]
Architecture

- **Campus Recreation Center** (068 – 1998) [Contemporary]
- **Institute for Physical Science & Technology** (093 – 1955) and **Storage Building** (086 – 1955) [minimal + Neo-Classical Revival porch]
- **Biology / Psychology** (144 – 1971) former Zoology Building, **Hornbake Library** (147 – 1972) [Neo-Classical Revival]
- **Farm Buildings: Agriculture Shed** (102 – 1958), **Animal Science Service Building** (103 – 1940), **Horse Barn** (108 – 1938), **Sheep Barn** (109 – 1938), **Cattle Barn** (110 – 1938), **Blacksmith Shop** (119 – 1949) [Folk vernacular]
- **Police Substation** (113 – 1946)
  - former farmhouse [Folk Victorian]
- **Cottages**:
  - 2 Farm Drive (149 – 1945), 3 Farm Drive (150 – 1945), 4 Farm Drive (151 – 1945), 5 Farm Drive (152 – 1945), 6 Farm Drive (153 – 1945), 7 Farm Drive (154 – 1945), 8 Farm Drive (155 – 1945), and Apary (156 – 1952) [Folk Colonial Revival]
- **Shipton Field House** (Baseball – 159 – 1954), **July Hall** (227 – 1954) [Neo-Colonial]
- **Storm Drain Parking Garage X** (218 – 1997) [Contemporary]
- **Health & Human Performance Building** (255 – 1973; addition 1981) [Contemporary]
- **Byrd Stadium** concessions buildings and entry gates (362, 3, 5, 6, & 7) [Vernacular]

Non-Contributing Building

- Neutral
- **Campus Recreation Center** (068 – 1998) [Contemporary]
- **Institute for Physical Science & Technology** (093 – 1955) and **Storage Building** (086 – 1955) [minimal + Neo-Classical Revival porch]
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- **Byrd Stadium** concessions buildings and entry gates (362, 3, 5, 6, & 7) [Vernacular]
- Football Team Building (379 – 1992) (Vernacular)
- Center for Young Children (381 – 1993) (Regional vernacular)
- Satellite Central Utilities Building (SCUB) # III (392 – 1996) (Minimal)
- The original portions of Byrd Stadium (xxx – 193x) (Neo-Classical)

Unsympathetic
- Patient Building (010 – 1980) (Minimal vernacular)
- Poultry Science Garage (114 – 1969), Baseball Team Trailer (xxx-xxxxx) (N/A)
- Computer & Space Sciences Building (224 – 1963; addition 1970) (Minimal Neo-Classic Revival + Contemporary addition)
ARCHITECTURE

Fig. nw-16a  150 cottage 5
Fig. nw-16b  151 cottage 4
Fig. nw-16c  152 cottage 5
Fig. nw-16d  153 cottage 6
Fig. nw-16f  154 cottage 7
Fig. nw-16g  159 shipley field: entry
Fig. nw-16h  159 shipley field: aerial
Fig. nw-16i  proposed facility demolition

Buildings to be demolished

FMP-PROPOSED FACILITY DEMOLITION

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northwest district

Fig. nw-16e  proposed facility demolition
Proposed buildings at the brow of the North Campus hill (figs. nw-17e) should connect the CRC and the Stamp Union across the broad open spaces set aside for athletic and recreational uses; retain the grove.

Few paths, bridges and connections link the Northwest and the North districts through Campus Creek (figs. nw-17h, nw-17i); the tornado damage should be removed and these pathways enhanced. Connect the campus with the creek through the development of appropriate backyards in lieu of ignoring the creek or locating service functions there.

Additional housing should be linked with existing community groupings in order to prevent isolation of students.

Proposals and Solutions: Urban Design and Landscape Architecture

The axis extending from West Gate through Byrd Stadium to the cupola of the Microbiology Building should be preserved and enhanced. (figs. nw-17a, nw-17e)

Stadium Drive (fig. nw-17e) connects the West Gate with Regents Drive; one of the major through-traffic corridors on Campus. Traffic-calming devices should be installed, in addition to sidewalks separated from the street by landscape barriers. The enhancement of currently empty land straddling Stadium Drive at the intersection of Regents Drive should be considered, and gateways linking the NORTHWEST and NORTH districts established.

Aesthetic Guidelines for Campus Development
The existing athletic practice fields (figs. nw-18c, nw-18e, nw-18g) are located parallel with the general organization of the Campus forming a void in the plan; this void should be respected and enhanced. Though larger than McKeldin Mall, it is not easily traversed due to grade changes and restrictions of use due to ICA regulations. High mesh-covered fences surround these fields; buildings fronting these fields will face fences and access should be created without developing a canyon effect.

Due to the District’s hill-and-valley landscape features and the restricted use of the valley for ICA sports functions, the creation of more north-south connections (fig. nw-18i) with the rest of campus are required.

The creation of a platform (figs. nw-18c, nw-18e) supporting practice fields and enclosing an indoor practice / office / teamhouse / garage facility bordered by north-south pedestrian connections should be careful not to obliterate the perception of the valley.

The practice field structure is indicated to have continuous upper-level pedestrian connections with stairwells to grade at street junctures (figs. nw-18e, nw-18i). These stairwells are shown as towers; additional towers provide observation platforms for the fields and media boxes atop grandstands at the southern end. The towers do not obstruct the view from the restaurant in the Stamp Union. Building options being considered involve exterior playing / practice fields above indoor practice, ICA office, and training facilities, with a limited-use parking garage and service entrance to Byrd Stadium.

The practice soccer field north of Stadium Drive will be regraded into a new intramural facility (figs. nw-18e, nw-18g, nw-18i) which will visually continue the open space between Stamp Union and the brow of North Hill.

Academic buildings adjacent to the Computer and Space Sciences Building (224) plaza should re-inforce the public space and contribute to the adjacent practice field space. Develop adequate height of buildings to form edges of open spaces as well as streetscapes.

The primary entrance of La Plata Hall is separated from “La Plata Beach” by a row of conifers while the service area of Cumberland Hall is exposed to this public recreational area; this should be transposed (figs. nw-18f, nw-18i).

Create shade for the CRC plaza.
Public spaces along Campus Drive (figs. nw-19a, nw-19c, nw-19e) should be designed to form gateways into the district and integrate with the Historic Core District. The creation of a pedestrian and vehicular corridor of linked spaces and passages will help transform the residual nature of this area.

Fieldhouse Drive (figs. nw-19g, nw-19h) is dedicated to service functions; maintain limited through traffic for emergency access, and provide a continuous sidewalk on this active thoroughfare.

The proposed Physical Sciences Building on the IPST site can connect academic functions along the east and north edges of the ICA fields with the Northeast District. Temper the building bulk to permit the building to mediate adjacent building heights.

Proposed Biosciences Research Building (N27-NS2) with subsequent phased expansion of research and support facilities will face the athletic fields and frame the space on the east and south. Relationships at grade (physical) and across the athletic fields (visual) vary widely and should be considered in the design of the facilities (figs. nw-19a, nw-19b, nw-19c).

The pedestrian passage (figs. nw-19g, nw-19h) from Hornbake Plaza to the Computer Science Building, passing the ICA sports fields, creates a much-used connection between the Historic Core District and the North Hill residences. This walk works well due to its characteristic double-row of trees, which create a shady canopy for pedestrians and a natural backdrop for the games. Exercise care when inserting the additions to the Biological Sciences Building not to eliminate this passage. not required for traffic flow, and The FMP-indicated roadway is can be obviated by providing service connections to proposed buildings from either Fieldhouse or Stadium drives.
Valley Drive (fig. nw-20e) is the northern-most through-street of the Campus; the CRC Plaza bisects this artery. Conflicts between pedestrians and shuttle busses will have to be solved; signage and change of paving patterns will help in distinguishing both functions. Valley and Farm drives should be joined into loop roads serving the eastern and western portions of North Hill. [Refer to STREETS AND WALKS article for further information.]

The residential complexes represent a unique urban condition on campus. These can be enhanced through the development of individualized landscaped areas (figs. nw-20c, nw-20d, nw-20e) pertaining to adjacent building entrances that interact with each other to form a progression of plazas and gardens.

Conceal service areas (figs. nw-20h, nw-20i) from public view, especially along Stadium Drive and at the community building loading docks in the residential communities along Valley Drive.

Create landscape buffers separating sidewalks from streets; plant trees along streets.

Few buildings in this district have Front Yards adjoining Primary Entrances; Back Yards are non-existent. Provide these occupant-serving spaces for each building.

Lighting fixtures should be unified throughout the district, and be coordinated with lighting in adjacent districts.
**aesthetic guidelines for campus development**
**Issues: Architecture**

- **Active attempts should be taken to mediate the height and bulk of the stadium bleachers** with its surroundings (figs. nw-22b, nw-22c, nw-22e, nw-22i).
- **Additional bleachers are proposed** for the stadium, continuing the northern mid-level stands around the end zone to the southern side, encasing Tyser Tower. This structure should be enclosed, to preclude creating the inappropriate image presented by the underside of the North Bleachers (fig. nw-22i).
- **Materials and elements should be designed with the context in mind**: if one is adding to one of the Colonial Revival structures, a different approach should be applied than for additions to Contemporary structures. Continuity in materials and details, colors and shapes will help tie the disparate styles together (fig. nw-22g).
- **Pitched roofs exist on many academic and stadium buildings while most of the North campus buildings have flat roofs**. Mansards can be used as screening devices for rooftop equipment, where visible to surrounding public areas. The blue color of the roofs of Byrd Stadium’s auxiliary buildings should be eliminated, and this color should not be replicated (fig. nw-22h).
- **The expansion of Gossett Teamhouse and SCUB # III should be considered as part of the practice field improvements, encourage north-south campus connections, and build upon stadium precedents.**
Northwest region expansion (figs. nw-23e, nw-23f): the installation of a Child Care Center, parking garage, dormitories and SCUB will have a major impact on Campus Creek, due to the topographical conditions. Consider relocation of some functions elsewhere on campus to permit expansion of the creek’s natural environs.

Recent investigations (figs. nw-23e, nw-23f), prompted by the siting of a Child Care Center in this area, re-organize the region around a wedge preserving the grove and extending a connection with the Campus Creek natural area. Recognition that some of the functions appropriated here in the FMP could be located to better effect elsewhere on campus would allow the expansion of much-needed recreational facilities along with the enhancement of the creek.

Proposed dormitories should be related to existing residential communities, not segregated from them. Examine the efficiencies of shared service and parking facilities (in lieu of separate ones) for the Center For Young Children and the projected Child Care Center. Consider the environmental impact of solving traffic congestion at West Gate through the construction of a bridge crossing Campus Creek or the linking of Valley and Farm drives to create a loop road.

Surface parking lots along Campus Creek should be substantially reduced and the Creek should be revitalized as a natural corridor (fig. nw-23c, nw-23g, nw-23h) enjoyable by the University community. Tornado damaged (fig. nw-21d) and felled trees should be removed, along with the invasive undergrowth that has clogged the streambed. Extend green areas from Campus Creek onto North Hill.

ISSUES: ARCHITECTURE

Aesthethic guidelines for campus development

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ISSUES: ARCHITECTURE

Aesthethic guidelines for campus development
ISSUES: ARCHITECTURE / SUMMARY

- Regents Drive will become a processional route from the Comcast Center to the “M” traffic circle, and is discussed in the North and Northeast District sections of these Guidelines.
- Re-organize the Campus Farm along Palladian concepts (fig. 24i), developing a street edge and courtyards highlighting the animal husbandry aspects of the Farm.
- Primary and secondary entrances should have coverings to protect the constituents from weather.

SUMMARY

Two major locations will be modified by the FMP: the valley containing the athletic fields and the valley at the northwest corner of the District adjacent to the Center for Young Children. Co-ordination between major entities, including academics, athletics, food service, parking, residential life, and sports/recreation, will have to be obtained to proceed with any single project, and the consequences of modifications of one element on the others will have to be considered fully. The Campus Farm should be reorganized to foster its educational and physical qualities as part of the UMCP foundations, and to enable members of the Campus community to observe the latest animal husbandry concepts.