

# Campus Heritage Landscape Plan

February 14, 2008

## Proposed *Campus Plan* Amendments

The following proposed amendments result from of the Campus Heritage Landscape Plan that consisted of a thorough assessment of the campus's historic landscapes and suggested campus policy approaches and treatment strategies.

### Description of Proposed Amendments

- A. Add the following pattern to the Policy 7: Architectural Style and Historic Preservation pattern summary (p. 43), the list of site arrangement patterns in Policy 11: Patterns (p. 53), and the Campus-wide Patterns list (p. 54):

#### **Historic Landscapes**

*The campus landscape is a record of its time, place, and use and is a repository of significant local and state history. When characteristic features of a historic landscape are lost, the integrity and ability of the landscape to tell this story is destroyed and the campus context is diminished.*

**Therefore: Protect and steward historic landscapes in the context of an evolving university. Select treatment approaches (preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and continuation) based upon historic significance, integrity, and contemporary goals for the space. As the campus expands, consider integrating historic landscape characteristics into new areas to enhance a sense of campus-wide order and cohesiveness. Refer to the Campus Heritage Landscape Plan.**

- B. Add the following policy refinements under a new section titled "Historic Landscapes" in Policy 7: Architectural Style and Historic Preservation (p. 43):

#### **Historic Landscapes**

These policy refinements address processes for identifying and documenting historic landscapes and provide a framework for making decisions about preferred preservation actions and future development. Refer to the Campus Heritage Landscape Plan, section "1.0 Landscape Preservation Guidelines and Description of Historic Resources" for further definition and a description of treatment approaches.

1. Protect and steward the campus's historic landscapes in the context of an evolving university.
2. Identify, evaluate, and consider preservation treatment for all potential historic landscapes—designated open spaces and others.
3. Develop preservation treatment plans for open spaces determined to be historic.
4. Select treatment approaches based upon significance, integrity, and contemporary goals for the space.
5. Manage and maintain historic landscapes.
6. Balance preservation and other contemporary needs of the university and region.
7. Integrate historic landscape characteristics into new elements and areas.
8. Document cultural landscape design interventions to leave a clear record of preservation and new design actions that will assist future preservation planning.
9. Communicate and educate about the historic qualities of the campus landscape so they become part of the values, culture and intellectual resource of the university.
10. Integrate historic preservation goals into other related *Campus Plan* policies and subject-specific campus planning and maintenance documents.

- C. Expand the boundaries of the Pioneer Axis Designated Open Space to encompass the extant portions of the historically significant women's memorial quadrangle, in particular the elliptical circulation pathway. Rename the designated open space to "Women's Memorial Quadrangle."

## Background

The University of Oregon's guiding documents, particularly the *Campus Plan* and the *Campus Tree Plan*, clearly indicate the importance of the campus's historic open spaces. However, the existing policies and patterns in these documents require augmentation to provide adequate guidance for understanding and decision making that will effectively preserve the campus's heritage and ensure a compatible relationship between the old and the new.

### Existing Campus Plan Policies and Patterns

The University of Oregon's *Campus Plan* provides policies and patterns to guide campus development. Existing campus policy directs preservation of its identified open-space framework, its historic landscapes, and particularly the campus core. The primary policy related to historic landscapes is:

#### **Policy 7: Architectural Style and Historic Preservation:**

*The continuity and quality of the university's campus environment are materially affected by the character and architectural style of the buildings. Furthermore, the university's historic buildings and landscapes, which are important defining features of the campus, are artifacts of the cultural heritage of the community, the state, and the nation.*

**To preserve the overall visual continuity and quality of the campus and as a commitment to the preservation and rehabilitation of identified historic resources, all construction projects shall follow the policy refinements in "Policy 7: Architectural Style and Historic Preservation."**

Related policy refinements primarily address building preservation while only peripherally incorporating landscape preservation policy.

The *Campus Plan* includes a number of patterns addressing open spaces. However, only one addresses historic landscapes:

#### **Campus Quadrangles and the Historic Core**

*College campuses are unusual in that their buildings form coherent larger outdoor spaces. Each building is complete in itself, yet the walls form large public open spaces punctuated by the building entrances that open onto them and by cross axes that flow through them, connecting them to other open spaces. These rectilinear, axial open spaces such as malls and quadrangles are the basic framework of the University of Oregon's historic campus core, which is a part of the campus's larger open-space framework. Without a specific effort to preserve them, these components of the open-space framework may be diminished or lost because building projects fail to consider them beyond the bounds of the project.*

**Therefore: When building in the historic campus core, create buildings or additions that support and enhance the existing open-space framework of quadrangles and axes.**

Other open-space-related patterns include Accessible Green, Architectural Style, Building Character and Campus Context, Campus Trees, Open-space Framework, and Quiet Backs.

In addition, the *Campus Tree Plan* recognizes the significance of trees to the historic character of campus open spaces as well as the value of historic trees both as individual specimens and as contributing to landscapes listed in the National Register of Historic Places.