

**University of Victoria
Campus Design Guidelines
Prepared for the Campus Planning Committee
Prepared by Campus Planning
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CAMPUS DESIGN GUIDELINES

I INTRODUCTION

The Campus Plan provides an overall vision and framework that guides future campus development in a coherent way, ensuring that each future project fits appropriately within the larger intended character and limits of the campus.

These guidelines are intended to assist campus planning committees, campus staff, user and building committees and building design teams in making decisions about campus development including new construction, renovation, infrastructure improvements, and campus planning.

The guidelines are informed by a number of sources including historical campus planning documents, the Campus Plan (2003), input from

The purpose of a campus is to bring together diverse people and their ideas in an environment that creates potential for academic excellence, continual learning, and social interaction. All developments should support these objectives

The overall intent of the campus planning and the project design processes is to:

- § Accommodate new projects in a manner that is respectful of existing buildings and development, yet an appropriate response to the campus plan policies for compact, efficient development patterns
- § Accommodate projected growth and development in a manner that strengthens the overall appearance, spatial organization, and functionality of the campus
- § Improve campus legibility, wayfinding, and visual cohesion by defining a uniform treatment of circulation corridors, outdoor spaces, entranceways and gateways and campus perimeters
- § Enhance the aesthetic and functional character of the central quadrangle, utilizing plantings, pedestrian pathways, landscape elements, and appropriate buildings to reinforce its edges
- § Reinforce the concept of the campus as a primarily pedestrian and cycling environment, by clarifying the pathway/corridor network, reducing potential for vehicle-pedestrian conflicts, and enhancing the aesthetic elements of these corridors
- § Enhance the visual quality and user enjoyment of key open spaces, including the quadrangle, major courtyards and plazas
- § Incorporate the principle of sustainable design that conserves resources, improves energy efficiency, and promotes building durability.
- § Recognize that the campus is constrained by the surrounding community settlement pattern, calling for development at the edges to be compatible with, and welcoming to the community.

The design guidelines will provide the basis for reviewing and evaluating all proposals for physical development, including buildings, facilities, structures and the like on the Gordon Head campus.

III GUIDING PRINCIPLES

District sense of place: make the campus a distinctive and memorable place for all members of the campus community and the surrounding region.

Reinforce the strategic vision: organize buildings, facilities and places so as to reinforce the university's academic mission and commitment to research excellence.

Retention & recruitment function: reinforce the environmental and aesthetic qualities of the campus that help attract and hold students, faculty and staff.

Visual coherence through landscaping: visual unity is to be achieved through the design and application of landscaping.

The main library is to serve as the primary visual architectural statement for the campus and anchor at the east end of the Quadrangle

The design of new buildings should fulfill three objectives:

- § meet the needs of its intended users;
- § address its physical context, and
- § contribute to an improved campus environment.

1.2 Building Site Considerations

As each new project is planned, the University must take care in its siting by considering the project's relationship to the physical and programmatic goals for the campus. New buildings should not be considered in isolation from one another, but as important elements that have the potential to create and reinforce the exterior spaces, courtyards, and corridors of the campus.

Where the requirements of the academic programs require larger buildings, consideration will be given to higher structures.

Program requirements should be balanced with the desire to maintain the mid-size campus feel, so that buildings should generally respond to the heights of buildings around them. Heights of buildings organized around defined open-spaces or corridors should be in the same range to ensure consistency and legibility of the building edge.

Structures over 4 storeys shall be designed to minimize their visual bulk and relate to the human scale of pedestrians

Buildings directly adjacent to the municipal resident

1.7 The Campus-Community Interface

2.2 Courtyards

A series of courtyards are incorporated around the main academic buildings within the central core. These courtyards are defined by the adjacent academic buildings, serve as convenient meeting and socializing places, provide settings for special landscaping, and provide access to natural light for the adjacent offices and classrooms.

Open spaces and building courtyards are to be designed as intentional places between campus buildings, not “land left over”. Courtyards are encouraged where they can provide usable, inviting spaces for the campus population. They shall be sized relative to the surrounding building(s) such that the majority of the space receives adequate sunlight for at least three hours of the day (measured in October or March).

The courtyards should be designed to make people feel comfortable in terms of weather and their immediate environment. Microclimatic design considerations include: rain, sun, shade, and wind.

2.3 Campus Entries

All design and development near the periphery of

3.2 Pedestrian Circulation

The pedestrian circulation network was developed as a hierarchy of walkways and paths of varying widths and treatments. The primary routes are defined by the north and south edges of the quadrangle, and connect the academic core to specialized academic uses, housing, and parking areas outside of the Ring Road.

New public spaces on campus should be created and connected by clearly articulated pedestrian circulation paths.

Pedestrian needs are the priority travel mode on campus and take precedence over the demands of drivers. All planning, design, and development should support this orientation, while meeting the needs of emergency services, those with mobility challenges, and transit providers.

Paving materials may include: exposed aggregate, concrete pavers, blacktop or gravel. Pervious paving materials should be incorporated to the extent possible to reduce stormwater runoff from sites and parking surfaces.

3.3 Barrier Free Design

Pedestrian routes and usable open spaces should be designed and landscaped to permit access and use by physically handicapped persons. Buildings, parking facilities, and any grade-separated crossings must be accessible to the physically disabled.

All building designs shall be reviewed by the Accessibility Coordinator prior to receiving schematic design approval.

3.4 Parking Areas

Except for visitor and handicapped parking, the reserved parking lots located within the inner-Ring Road are considered temporary uses and will be phased out over time to accommodate future academic facilities.

Surface parking area should not extend beyond the existing area, unless to replace parking displaced through redevelopment activity. Any additional surface parking shall be designed to minimize environmental impact, particularly stormwater runoff. Future supply demands should be met through more land-intensive forms such as parking structures in order to facilitate redevelopment on surface lots for university buildings and facilities.

Over time, all major parking facilities are to be accessed as directly as possible from the campus perimeter to minimize traffic volumes on the Ring Road.

3.4.1 Surface Parking

Landscaping should be incorporated into larger lots to break up visual expanse of parking lot and to decrease the amount of impervious surface on the lot.

Landscape buffers, berms and/or low walls and landscaping should be incorporated at parking lot edges adjacent to public roads

The visual impact of parking lot lighting should be reduced by using energy-efficient luminaries with shielding to direct light downward and avoid glare

Stormwater runoff from parking lots shall be managed through the use of landscaping, curb cuts, bio-swales, and the application of pervious paving.

equipment should be clustered and placed as far as possible from building edges. The visible equipment should be painted a colour that will blend the equipment visually with the building.

Parking payment machines shall utilize UVic colours (yellow, blue & white)

The following new facilities should be screened from view:

- Central garbage and recycling collection areas
- Delivery & loading areas
- Outdoor storage areas
- Major above-grade utility installations
- Most surface parking lots (see section on landscaping)

Utility Elements (e.g. transformers, valves, emergency generators) should be located where they will be least visible from major roads and pedestrian corridors. If possible, they should be located underground. At minimum, utility elements shall be screened from view with walls and landscaping that relate to the remainder of the project.

Exterior vending machines are to be phased out and not replaced on campus property.

4.3 Campus Signage

In the design and location of signage, the intent is to minimize its aesthetic impact while effectively serving the purpose of conveying information and assisting with way-finding. The landscaping, open space, and academic buildings should dominate the campus experience, and signs should not compete for attention

Signage shall reflect the approved visual standards for the campus. To improve readability, no more than two font types per sign should be used. Signage should generally reflect the industry standard: 1" of letter height for every 40-50' of viewing distance.

Commercial signage and advertising is to be temporary and event-related and not a permanent feature. Care is to be taken to avoid the insert

- non-allergenic
- ease of maintenances, with a preference of non-deciduous species, and clean species requiring little pruning
- non-invasive root systems
- pest and disease-resistant

There are certain exceptions to all of the above, depending on location, use, and historical value

5.0 Campus Art

The University has a large and diverse collection of artworks, including the Maltwood Gallery collections and public art. The University encourages building projects to include a budget and/or space for works of art. These may be integral to the building, exterior pieces of art or works commissioned for the building.

Whenever possible, projects should strive to incorporate art that informs students and visitors about the goals and aspirations pertaining to the building's academic users.

6.0 THE CAMPUS DESIGN REVIEW PROCESS

The capital project development process will ensure compliance at all stages with established policy, standards and guidelines, and with the campus plan. The process will invite stakeholder input at the planning/programming stage and whenever variations to the Campus Plan are proposed.

The Board of Governors of the University of Victoria has the final responsibility for reviewing and approving building projects on campus.

The Facilities Development and Sustainability Sub-committee (FDSS) reviews specific projects, advises on the application of design guidelines, offers advice, and provides recommendations to the President and where appropriate, to the Campus Planning Committee (CPC).

The Campus Planning Committee (CPC) advises on campus planning policy, reviews campus plans and design guidelines, and ultimately recommends to the Board that plans be approved. The Board is also advised in these decisions by the president, vice president finance and operations and the FDSS.

5.1 Project Start-up

An information package will be provided to the design team following its selection including:

- § The Program of Requirements (functional program)
- § The Campus Plan
- § Design guidelines (this document)
- § The UVic Campus Sust

Responsibility for ensuring that the agreed upon design principles are respected during the course of preparing construction documents falls to the staff of facilities management. Where significant departures are necessitated, proposals may be resubmitted to FDSS for review and advice.

Design palettes should be refined at this stage and discussed with facilities management and the campus consulting architect and/or landscape architect.

Construction

The objective of the construction phase is to build the project as represented in the contract document within the parameters approved by the Board of Governors. The design team and