

“TOP TEN” CAMPUS LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION NEEDS

January, 2008

The Cornell Landscape Improvement Program (CLIPers) annually reviews this **"top ten"** campus landscape beautification needs/opportunities list. Obviously, this unprioritized list is "unofficial", changes periodically, and must be cleared through the Campus Planning, Architectural, and Development Offices prior to considering any solicitations. Our Cornell landscape needs currently include:

A) **Relandscaping Uris-Olin Library Plaza** to enhance the function, aesthetics and campus landscape emphasis on this centrally prominent, community people-space. The current shoddy, "asphalt parking lot appearance" here sorely needs conversion into an attractively landscaped pedestrian-oriented plaza with generous use of raised, multi-seasonal flower displays and low seat walls to compliment Ho Plaza, McGraw Tower, and our grand Arts Quad. This project should also be completed prior to Cornell's sesquicentennial celebrations.

B) **Relandscaping Eddy Gate / Schwartz Center Plaza and Walkway** (eastward to the Central Avenue Bridge located NE of the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts). This historic University site is a currently a dilapidated "diamond in the rough" and should be restored. Restoration to the Eddy Gate should include a small pedestrian oriented plaza inside and adjacent to the gateway, more limited parking and vehicle control, upgraded pedestrian circulation and upgraded fencing, removal or replacement of disfigured vehicular guardrails, and the addition of ornamental, spring flowering trees and shrubs along this heavily utilized, potentially beautiful, pedestrian corridor. Restoration of the Schwartz Center Plaza should be thought of in conjunction with this work as it is an integral part of Collegetown. The space is currently under utilized and appears vacant and cold. It has the potential to be a welcoming node for visitors and a refuge from the busy urban atmosphere of Collegetown. Efforts can be made to increase its use, function, and aesthetics, and to include the addition of floral displays; tall ornamental grasses and small tree plantings; seating; variable, artistic night-lighting selections; interchangeable out door art/sculpture displays; greater pedestrian accessibility; and modification of existing space for improved community social interaction.

C) **Upgrading Arts Quad Peripheral Walkway System** (to include widening with the use of pavers along walkway edges, seating, and properly planned (and administratively enforced) service vehicle and fire equipment access with physical controls) **and Renewal of Arts Quad Buildings Foundation Plantings** (with added ornamental plantings of superior, multi-seasonal beauty).

D) **Upgrading the Schoellkopf Stadium Landscape Approaches** (especially on the east side) creating a spacious East Crescent Pedestrian Plaza with trees of multi-seasonal interest and striking fall color; built in benching; raised floral displays, stone pavers, "first class" metal trash receptacles; variable color/pattern Crescent facade and pedestrian lighting, quality wrought Iron fencing/gates in stadium facade portals, bus and

handicapped drop off points, potential use some of tall, flag pole-lined, pedestrian approach corridors, improved signage, granite vehicle security bollards, possible site statuary or artistically-lighted waterfall/display focal point, and screening of area utility and athletic maintenance eyesores.

E) Increasing Campus Outdoor Sculpture and Art Displays -- both permanent and rotating (including student and alumni outdoor artistic work) classic and modern work displays in several potential locations to include (but not limited to): The ILR Courtyard; the Ag Quad; Bio-Tech Courtyard; Mann Lib Addition Courtyard (i.e. the sterile, paved pedestrian way between Mann Lib Addition and Emerson Hall); the Myron - Anabel Taylor Courtyard; Guterman Bio-Climatic Lab Lawn; the Lawn SW of the Vet Hospital at the intersection of Tower Road and Campus Drive; Community Commons West Plaza; Court Hall NW Courtyard; MVR Courtyard; Phillips Hall Lawn at the Intersection of Campus and Hoy Roads; Willard Straight Hall East Courtyard Lawn; approaches to Schoellkopf Stadium (which might include a formal, ornamental water fountain with hillside floral display, or a small "naturalized", recirculating, water cascade [with good winter aesthetics] NE of the Crescent).

F) Relandscaping and Quality Signage for Campus Entrance Ways possibly including: Campus Road at Stewart Avenue; Judd Falls Road (south); Tower Road SE; tree canopy enhancement and landscaping improvements along the Dryden Road East Corridor (both sides) from Game Farm Road to Caldwell & Palm Roads; the Pleasant Grove Road approach north of Parking Lot "A"; the Triphammer Road Approach (NW of Jessup Intramural Fields); SE Corner of Lot "B" at Caldwell and Dryden Roads; and University Avenue at Lake Street or Stewart Avenue.

G) Renovate ILR Lower Courtyard Landscape including new concrete and paver walkway system; possibly a small shallow pool and fountain with aesthetic dry (winter) form or innovatively-lighted, sculpture focal point; a relatively-open, wood-trellis-covered (with Japanese wisteria vine) walkway on inner west facade; limited floral displays with emphasis on ornamental trees and lawn; benching, and distinctive pedestrian night lighting.

H) Founders Greenway the diagonal of green that stretches from Beebe Lake through Bailey Plaza, Wee Stinky Glen to Greek Park. With the ongoing densification of Central Campus, the importance of maintaining / enhancing green open space in the core of the campus needs to be reinforced. Considerations can include landscape, areas of respite along the way, and lighting.

I) Ag Quad Landscape to bring this important historic quadrangle back to it's originally intended use as an area of prominence. The Ag Quad has slowly been denigrated due to continued building construction activity in and around it. It is in need of a full scale master plan which considers new landscape, pathways, circulation, seating, materials vocabulary, areas for celebration, and lighting.

J) Great Streets Initiative: Campus Rd / Tower Rd Landscape including appropriate street tree plantings, adequate sidewalks and pathway systems, vehicle and bicycle lanes, parking, and lighting.