16. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN GUIDELINES

Information Sources
St. Petersburg Campus EAR

Purpose

The purpose of this element is to establish guidelines to assist the University in establishing and maintaining a high level of quality in the design of landscape treatments on the University campus. The considerations of this element are qualitative.

DATA REQUIREMENTS

Data A. Existing Landscape Treatments

Notable landscape improvements implemented since the 1995 Master Plan include the Peninsula Entry Site Improvements and the Waterfront Park.

Since 1995 all new capital projects have included landscapes that follow the Landscape Architectural Design Guidelines established in the 1995 Master Plan.

Funding for landscape improvements since 1995 has been concentrated in areas where there are existing building or other infrastructure projects and where there is an opportunity to provide amenity to the most people. In addition to the larger projects mentioned above, smaller projects have improved the landscape conditions in areas of pedestrian and vehicular circulation and parking, transit stations, bicycle facilities, lighting, and campus edges. Current plans include completion of the Central Lawn on Second Avenue and Seventh Avenue.

Data B. Natural Landscape Context

See Element 13: Conservation Element for an update to the inventory since the 1995 Master Plan.

Data C. Historic Landscape Features

There were no historic landscape features identified in the 1995 Master Plan

Data D. Significant Landscape Features
The 1995 Master Plan stated that the water edge of the campus is defined by a seawall, approximately 3800 feet in length. Originally constructed in 1939, the wall was reconstructed in 1985. Two sand beach slopes into the bay exist at breaks in the seawall south of the Poynter Library.

**Data E. Existing Outdoor Furnishings and Graphics**

Signage improvements and provision of outdoor furnishings and bike racks is ongoing as per the recommendations of the 1995 plan.

**ANALYSIS REQUIREMENTS**

**Analysis A. Coordination of existing landscape features and degree to which they contribute to or detract from quality of the campus.**

The University has adhered to the 1995 Master Plan Landscape Architectural Design Guidelines for all of the development on campus in the last several years. Each new landscape project is designed for maximum impact on creating and enhancing open spaces, corridors and views. Coordination of landscape features on campus increasingly creates a more hospitable atmosphere and reinforces the hierarchy of open spaces on campus and the uniqueness of the urban working waterfront.

**Analysis B. Existing design treatments impact on campus safety.**

There are no changes to the recommendations in the 1995 Master Plan.

**Analysis C. Maintenance of existing landscape features.**

The existing campus landscape is generally appropriate to the setting and the ability of the University to maintain. Ornamental landscapes are associated with buildings, courtyards or other major circulation paths. Most of the planted areas of the campus fall within this category due to the density of built space and the prevalence of hard surfaces.

Shrub beds are mulched and shrubs are, in many beds, left in a natural form and allowed to form a mass. This is an example of an appropriate use and treatment of plan materials in an effort to manage the level of required maintenance. In contrast, sheared shrubs on the peninsula, while requiring less maintenance in the short term, over time the regular need for shearing will be more labor intensive than naturalized forms.
Analysis D.  **Physical condition of existing landscape features.**

Ornamental planting on the campus appears to be in good health. Most tree plantings exist in large beds of lawn or ground cover and are irrigated. Shrub beds are mulched.

The peninsula landscape is less coherent and less well-maintained. Plantings are isolated and out of scale with the setting.

Existing planting along the waterfront is well maintained.

Analysis E.  **Assessment of accessibility of campus to disabled persons.**

The University is continually improving accessibility to existing landscape features and incorporates handicap accessibility into all new and renovated projects. An initial inventory and assessment of campus accessibility was completed in March 1994 (ADAAG Facilities Survey; BR-053).