

## CAMPUS LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

All campus landscapes evolve as a result of a combination of physical environment, the people and history that relate to their creation, and their function and purpose; as such, all campuses are unique. Most college campuses, however, have a set group of landscape elements that can be used to assess the quality of the campus environment. The Campus Landscape Analysis drawing identifies these design elements where possible with the intent of articulating both functional and aesthetic features that combine to create the distinctive place that is this campus.

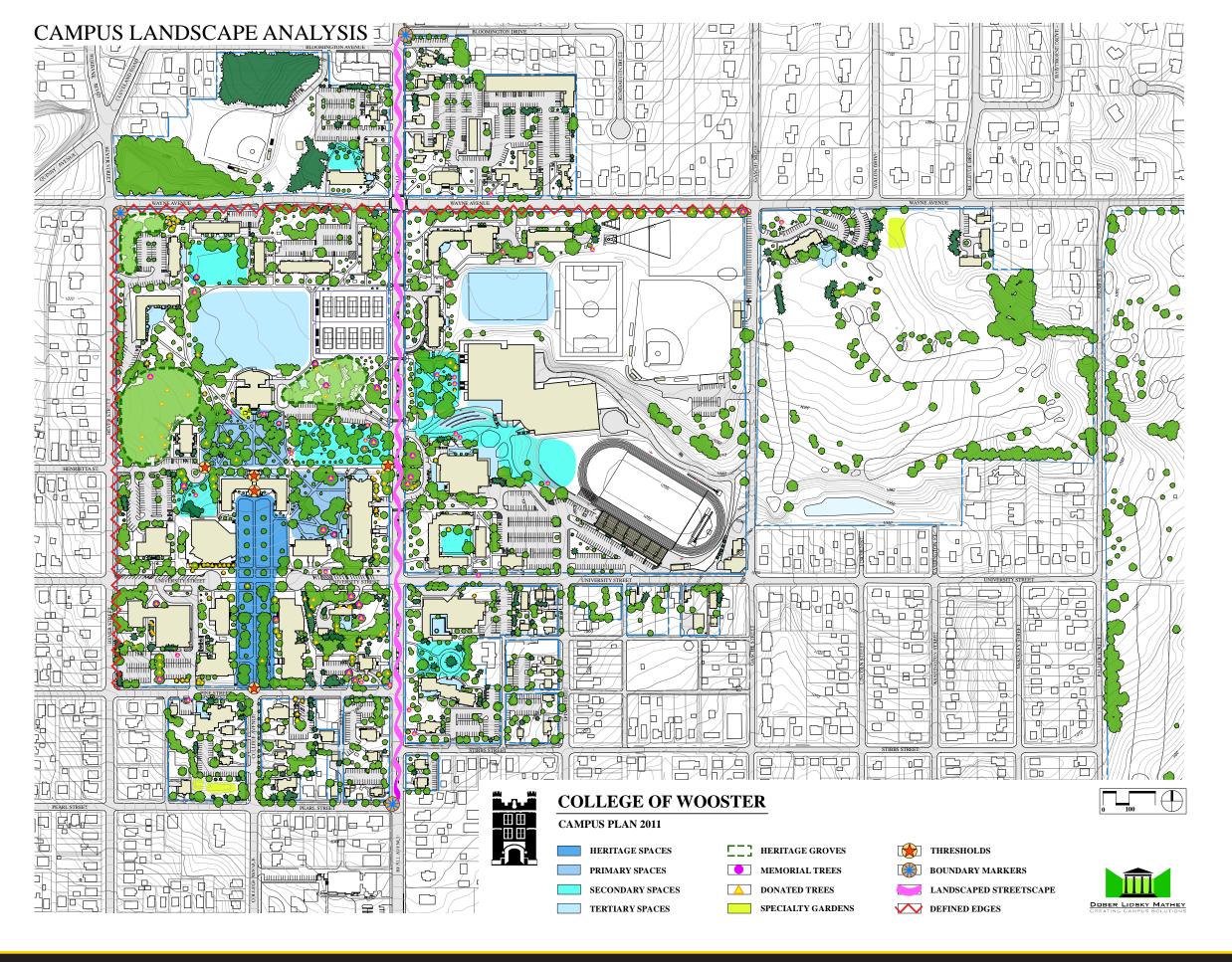
The Campus Landscape Analysis drawing prioritizes the landscape spaces that help organize the campus. Primary spaces provide major settings for campus life; they are important physically as they occupy central locations, and they are designed spaces that provide a memorable landscape experience. The dominant primary space on this campus runs south from Kauke Hall and is colored the darkest blue. It is classified here as a heritage space, due to the significant architecture that frames and forms the space, the formal arrangement of walks and trees, and because it is the icon of institutional presence and purpose on this campus. Other primary spaces, shown in the next lighter shade of blue, are the less formal quads formed to the east and to the north of Kauke Hall. Still meeting the criteria of primary spaces defined above, they are not quite as well-defined or symbolic as heritage spaces. Often there are thresholds where one acknowledges entry into these significant landscape spaces. The strongest of these are the two at the north and south end of the heritage space. Another is where one emerges out of the north end of the Kauke Hall arch into the primary quad to the north. Two other thresholds are at either end of the Grace Smith Memorial Walkway. Secondary campus spaces are of lesser significance, such as minor quads, courtyards or those perceptible landscape zones that surround and extend the architecture; they are shown in a turquoise blue color. These secondary spaces are attractive and convenient; people pass through them daily. Tertiary spaces, shown in a pale blue, are purpose-built. They might be patios and gathering spaces for students, lushly planted alcove gardens with benches, the amphitheater west of the Scot Center or the informal recreation fields flanked by student housing in the north sector of campus. They are spaces that the college community uses for specific purposes.

The importance of the many trees on campus has been stated above. The College maintains a detailed inventory of all trees on campus, tracking information such as history, condition and maintenance.

The College has established a strong program for tree donation and endowment; those trees that have been donated are marked by a yellow triangle outlined in orange and those that are also memorial trees are indicated by a magenta circle. The variety of trees is extensive and the age of many trees is impressive. Those areas that have a significant number of mature trees with some exceeding 100 years of age have been designated here as heritage groves; these areas are loosely outlined with a dark green dashed line and filled with a light green tint.

There are many areas on campus where special attention has been paid to garden areas, such as around building entrances, at seating areas, at the golf course club house and even around the bases of groupings of trees. These plantings are a combination of small trees, shrubs, perennials and some annuals that enliven and bring focus to specific areas of campus. For the most part, the plant material is low-maintenance with an emphasis on native species. There are a few gardens on campus that have a special focus; these are colored lime green. The memorial garden on the south side of Severence Ebert Art Center is dedicated to Laura Harper Copeland for her contribution to the College's grounds and buildings enhancement. There are two gardens related to educational research located at the corner of Pearl Street and College Avenue. One is an experimental rain garden and the other is related to research for the Environmental Studies Program. One other specialty garden is located east of the Wooster Inn; it is a vegetable garden that is part of WooCorps, a summer work program run by the Residential Life Office.

Approaches to campus are not consistent and arrival is not always well-defined. If one is arriving at the College of Wooster from the north or the south along Beall Avenue, arrival is apparent due to the prominent college signs that act as boundary markers, indicated by a blue asterisk on an orange circle. Another indicator is landscaped streetscape which includes planted median strips, college banners, consistent paving patterns on walks and crosswalks and attractive streetlamps. Other arrival spots are less apparent; the only other college sign that acts as a kind of boundary marker is at the corner of Wayne Avenue and Bever Street; this sign is very different from the other College of Wooster arrival signs. Another difficulty is that there is no real vehicular entry into campus, as there are no college roads, only entries into parking lots. The college roads are in fact the city streets that traverse the campus.





The campus has both a defined edge in places and blends into the surrounding residential neighborhood in other areas. When one is approaching campus from the east along Wayne Avenue, it is apparent that you have arrived at some kind of institution once you reach Gasche Street because the street is tree-lined and the athletic fields and institutional-scaled buildings are visible. This edge is not as well articulated on the north side of Wayne Avenue; however, the perimeter of the core campus continues on the south side of Wayne all the way to Bever Street and then south along the east side of Bever Street all the way to Pine Street. The mature trees, the institutionally scaled buildings and the bermed edge that elevates the campus above street level combine to create this edge. The bermed areas largely hide most of the parking areas that exist along these edges, but they also act as something of a visual barrier to those on foot. Some of the sidewalks along Bever are in disrepair and there is no street lighting consistent with the rest of campus. More strategically located understory plantings would also make these edges more welcoming to outsiders.

Parking lots are located on the periphery of the core campus for the most part with the exception of the lot to the east of Ebert, which intrudes into the treed open space in the central part of campus. Most parking lots are landscaped to one degree or another; an exception to this is the large, unattractive lot to the southeast of the Lowry Center. Dumpsters exist in many of the parking lots; an effort is being made to fence them in a consistent manner to make them less obtrusive. A similar effort should be made with utilities and utility boxes that should have less prominence in the landscape.

Site features that cannot be shown on this map include such things as walks, site furniture, lighting, signage and site amenities. Excluding signage, there is overall consistency in what one sees on campus. Walks are primarily poured concrete combined with brick pavers depending upon their location and importance. Some could be wider to accommodate student traffic and some need to be repaired, especially on the periphery of campus, but for the most part they are attractive, functional and well-maintained. The lighting along walkways is also attractive and consistent; it could be increased in some places along the perimeters, as mentioned above. Seating is more varied; benches that are part of patio architecture are compatible with that architecture and benches that are in the landscape are all the same high-quality wooden benches. Picnic tables vary in style and quality. Generally, there could be more exterior seating on campus. Bike racks and trash and recycling bins are scattered throughout the campus; the latter are consistent in style.







