The 2015 Landscape Master Plan (LMP) was created with the goal of providing Northern Arizona University with a comprehensive document to build upon existing landscapes, providing a cohesive palette of plants and materials to be used on future projects, and to celebrate the diversity of campus landscapes while creating a unified overall campus. The Plan was created through an iterative process in collaboration with a University Executive Steering Committee. The LMP contains an Analysis and Assessment section, Conceptual Designs, and a detailed Principles and Design Standards section.

The Landscape Master Plan 2022 Report is intended to inform the work of the Comprehensive Sustainable Smart Campus Master Plan that is currently underway. The Report contains an overview of the 2015 LMP including goals and guiding principles, as well as the three character zones: Historic North, Central Innovation, and Mountain South Campus. LMP projects that have been completed since the adoption of the Plan are included for each character zone. Designs that were developed as part of the Plan, as well as other projects that have been implemented using the principles and design standards are included in the 2022 Report.

Current project priorities, identified following completion of the LMP up to the present time, are included in this Report. These priorities have been identified for their impact considered from various campus user perspectives, including alumni, visitors, and students, faculty, staff and administration. Priorities encompass a variety of spaces and project types, including entryways to campus, circulation, exerior furnishings, landscape plantings, and social spaces.

NAU’s commitment to the sustainable stewardship of resources is reflected in the Landscape Master Plan, and will be carried out in the development and implementation of the Climate Action Plan and the Comprehensive Sustainable Smart Campus Master Plan. The improvement of campus will continue to support student educational opportunities, academic excellence, personal growth and experiential learning for success.
Introduction
A. 2015 Landscape Master Plan Overview
B. Guiding Principles
C. Campus Character Zones

Completed Projects
A. North Campus
   • North-South Pedway
   • J. Norm Grim Arboretum
   • Beaver School
B. Central Campus
   • West Union Lawn
   • North-South Pedway at Honors College
   • ARD (Applied Research and Development Building) Campus Entry
   • Aquatic and Tennis Complex
   • Recital Hall
   • Student Academic Services
C. South Campus
   • Babbitt Administration Center
   • North-South Pedway at Skyview
   • Student Athlete High Performance Center
   • South Dining (South Quad)
   • Gabaldon Hall Landscaping

Current Priorities
A. Campus Entries
B. Circulation
C. Exterior Furnishings
D. Landscape Plantings
E. Social Spaces
F. Future Building Project Opportunities

Next Steps
A. Climate Action Plan and Sustainable Smart Campus Master Plan
Overview

NAU’s campus encompasses 740 acres and is comprised of approximately 38 major academic and administrative buildings, 40 support facilities, and 22 residential buildings. The scale of the campus and rate of enrollment and corresponding new construction during recent years has resulted in an eclectic and diverse mix of architectural styles and scale. This period of development also resulted in an unclear landscape image, with numerous areas of campus containing an assortment of landscape, hardscape and design element typologies.

The landscape is a critical defining element that contributes to the first impression of campus for prospective students and visitors. The regional setting within northern Arizona and the largest ponderosa pine forest in the world presents a unique opportunity to create a beautiful, distinct and memorable experience for students and visitors to enjoy that is unlike any other institution of its kind. A unified and distinguished campus landscape can offer an appeal that will attract students and visitors; however, the importance of landscape design extends beyond aesthetics. Effective, sound design creates a sense of place for students, faculty, visitors, staff and alumni. Students experience the gathering spaces and landscape through social engagement, campus recreation activities, and educational opportunities. This facilitates a sense of belonging and pride in the University, which supports student retention and success. In turn, memories of those experiences on campus serve to strengthen alumni engagement.

The 2015 Landscape Master Plan was developed as a comprehensive document to build on existing landscapes, provide a cohesive palette of materials to be used on future projects, and celebrate the diversity of campus landscapes while also creating a unified overall environment to support student success. The Plan consists of an Analysis and Assessment section as its foundational basis, and a Principles, Standards and Concept Designs section which serves as a cohesive and comprehensive guide for development. Conceptual designs were developed for 40 project areas, with priorities identified based on input from the LMP Executive Steering Committee, to represent each character zone and the different types of campus spaces.

The Plan is used internally as well as by outside design professionals working on campus, including planners, architects, landscape architects and civil engineers. This ensures the desired aesthetic and primary goal of the Landscape Master Plan is achieved: a unified Campus with regionally appropriate, distinct character zones. Moving forward, the LMP is intended to accompany the Comprehensive Sustainable Smart Campus Master Plan and Climate Action Plan.
Guiding Principles

Key principles of the Landscape Master Plan:

**Landscape Architectural Design**
- Incorporate the project site within the campus context, connect to campus circulation, and design social spaces to be integrated with academics and student life.
- Fully express the inherent beauty, diversity, and distinction of the regional landscape by using native and adapted species in appropriate densities.
- Naturalize planting beds with curvilinear plant masses and sweeping lines with year-round interest and winter structure at the forefront.
- Discreet grading and drainage solutions.

**Sustainability**
- Be conscious of water use by utilizing native and adapted plants, zoning low-water use species together in irrigation design to facilitate weaning off of irrigation, limiting the amount of stark gravel areas to decrease heat island effects, and limiting or decreasing the amount of manicured turf areas.
- Avoid the use of pesticides/herbicides.
- Materials selection includes considerations such as longevity of the material/product and local availability in order to minimize impacts associated with extraction, processing, transport, and maintenance.
- As discussed in the ‘Northern Arizona University Design Guidelines,’ the University considers stormwater as a resource and encourages designs to collect and infiltrate stormwater.

**Winter Considerations**
- Incorporate species selections to create contrast, distinction, and year-round interest, with particular attention to visual attractiveness during fall orientation and winter/spring graduations.
- Integrate evergreens and semi-evergreens in all designs for year-round structure, interest, and ground plane coverage.
- Incorporate visually discreet snow storage areas, preferably in stormwater basins or turf areas into landscape designs. Avoid snow storage in social gathering areas and planting beds.

**Accessibility**
- Conceptual plans have been designed with ADA requirements and maximum accessibility in mind.
- Refer to the ‘Northern Arizona University Design Guidelines’ for further requirements regarding campus accessibility and design.
INTRODUCTION

Campus Character Zones

The extent and diversity of NAU’s campus lends itself to a hierarchy of landscapes and offers the possibility to create an environment that enhances and weaves the traditional campus character and mountain aesthetic in a way that is unique to the university and distinct from similar institutions. The 2015 Landscape Master Plan identified three distinct character zones, delineated based on the historical context of building construction, predominant landscapes and topography. The 2018 Placemaking Workshop reaffirmed these three zones and the need to distinguish them while also ensuring coherence and connectivity. Projects completed since 2015 have and will continue to adhere to the LMP character zones, recognizing the importance of landscape as setting and as unifying element.

**Historic North Campus.** The classic and timeless quality of this zone offers a feeling of nostalgia. It is the portion of campus where a sense of NAU’s traditions are shared among alumni, students, faculty and visitors. The character is defined by densely spaced brick and sandstone buildings, traditional landscape spaces with expansive lawns, broad-canopied deciduous trees, and mature evergreen trees. These qualities are amplified through simple, formal landscaping such as hedges and full planting beds.

**Central Innovation Campus.** Central campus is the hub of social life and the link between the north and south zones. As the most eclectic and least defined zone, it has potential to be the most expressive, artful and interesting, fostering collegiality, creativity, innovation and leadership. There is opportunity to re-invent this portion of campus as a highly social environment that maximizes the available space for a wide variety of activities, recreation and learning. The second opportunity is to weave the native forest landscape of south campus with the manicured landscapes of north campus. The interplay of these landscape typologies should rely on simple material choices, spaces defined by this interplay, and edges that distinguish native ponderosa pine and meadow areas from manicured planting beds.

**Mountain South Campus.** This is the boldest landscape zone and also one of the main reasons students are attracted to NAU’s campus. The rustic mountain character is appealing and evokes a sense of adventure. The beauty of this landscape lies in its complexity and grand scale while at the same time having a simple read with pine trees, native meadow grasses, and big views. This is what people love about mountain environments. Every effort should be made to restore and preserve the native landscape, intensifying the forest understory with shrub massings, meadow grasses and wildflowers. Spaces carved out of the landscape are also important and must be carefully integrated.
Historic North Campus

The primary function of North Campus is two-fold: academic and administrative. Although best represented by a historic aesthetic, new construction is also evident. The recently renovated North Quad best exemplifies the atmosphere of North Campus with a historic, classic quadrangle, utilized for campus events, tours and orientations.

**Design Objective:** Enhance NAU’s historic heritage and classical character by applying traditional and formal campus design principles for quadrangles, gardens, the pedway, and other exterior spaces.

**Guiding Principles:**
1. A campus quadrangle that is spatially defined by classical architecture provides a strong historic campus identity.
2. Mature signature trees enhance the historic campus environment and provide a campus legacy.
3. A simple ground plane consisting of turf and formal hedges compliments the traditional and historic character of the architecture.

**Completed Projects 2015-2021:**
- North-South Pedway, 2017
- Beaver School, 2016
- J. Norm Grim Arboretum, 2021

**Landscape Master Plan Projects:**
- N1. Milton Road Edge and Blome Gardens
- N2. Humphreys Street Entry
- N3. Dupont Avenue Edge
- N4. Beaver Street and Dupont Avenue Entry
- N5. Tormey Avenue Connector
- N6. Science Plaza and Pedway
- N7. Pedway and Arboretum
- N8. Science and Health Building / Pedway
**North-South Pedway**

Completed in 2016, the Pedway was the first project to be implemented from the 2015 Landscape Master Plan. Project objectives included improving the visual characteristics of the campus edge at Humphreys Street and Dupont Avenue and creating a distinct sense of arrival; improving pedestrian experiences and safety while also clarifying modes of transportation; and creating distinct and dynamic spaces for students to gather, socialize and study with seating and plantings.

- Improved connectivity and pedestrian experience, clarified circulation
- Science Plaza and seating areas are gathering destinations for socializing and studying
- Simple, bold landscaping with four-season plants, native and adapted plants replaced swaths of stark gravel
- Sustainable furnishings for seating areas
- Connects open spaces and academic buildings, and facilitates bonds between place and community
- Additional seating and social spaces would improve the Pedway experience

**Prior to the project, various materials, gravel and lack of seating created the impression of a roadway**

**Social spaces with furnishings manufactured using innovative, sustainable materials**

**Plantings with long bloom periods, fall color, and evergreen foliage**

**Pedway design and materials differentiate it from secondary routes and create a recognizable path through campus, strengthening connections**
J. Norm Grim Arboretum

The Arboretum was identified in the LMP as a significant pedestrian destination along the North-South Pedway to be preserved and enhanced, featuring native plant species. The Arboretum was started in the late 1970s by Professor J. Norm Grim and has been used by classes, clubs and others on campus. In 2021, upgrades were completed at the Arboretum, including paths, seating, plantings, native meadow, and interpretive signage.

- Green Fund project, with furnishings sourced from sustainable materials, and regional plant species
- Created space for students to connect and study in nature, and enhance learning opportunities

Beaver School

Formerly a Flagstaff public school, Beaver School is situated near one of NAU’s campus entries. An historic building, it was converted by NAU to house the Program in Intensive English when it was acquired.

- Parking lot at front of building converted into all seasons landscaping
- Native meadow detention basin also serves as a snow storage area

Prior to the project, Beaver School had no landscaping and was fronted by a parking lot
Central Innovation Campus Zone

COMPLETED PROJECTS AND LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN PRIORITIES

Central campus has an eclectic character with the potential to be the most expressive, artful and interesting portion of campus, fostering collegiality, creativity, innovation and leadership. The design quality should mirror these social objectives, and also carefully consider the articulation and expression of the native ponderosa pine forest, dominant on south campus, woven with the manicured landscapes of north campus.

Design Objective: Provide a collection of expressive spaces that satisfy a wide variety of student needs: gather, socialize, study, collaborate, play, reflect, relax.

Guiding Principles:
1. A creative environment that promotes innovation, collegiality, and social interaction.
2. Design elements that are expressive, unique, and artful that will make Central Campus a memorable place.
3. Landscape character that incorporates a successful combination of native and domesticated landscape characteristics.

Completed Projects 2015-2021:
- West Union Lawn, 2019
- Campus Entrance at ARD Building, 2019
- Honors College and Pedway, 2018
- Aquatics and Tennis Center, 2022
- Recital Hall, 2019
- Student Academic Services & Transit Spine

Landscape Master Plan Projects:
- C1. Central Campus Sports District
- C2. The Seam
- C3. Amendment Plaza and Quadrangle
- C4. Native American Center and Landscape Expansion
- C5. McCreary Drive Connector
- C6. Fieldhouse Parking Lot
- C7. Riordan Parking Lot Improvements
- C8. Seven Colleges Quad
- C9. Student Union Plaza and Residence Lawn
- C10. Student Union Connector
- C11. Cowden Parking Lot
- C12. The Social Hall and Game Room
- C13. Residence Halls Connector
- C14. Student Success Plaza
- C15. Central Quad
- C16. Knoles Drive Pine Grove
- C17. University Drive Median Planting
- P1A. Pedway
West Union Lawn

The West Union Lawn is central to the heart of campus. Improvements focused on creating adaptable campus space that is comfortable for studying and also provides functional space for events such as Homecoming and Discover NAU. Manicured lawn and planting beds are intentionally contrasted and woven with the native landscape along Knoles Drive.

- Completed 2019, weaves ponderosa pine, aspen and Arizona fescue forest landscape with formal landscape typology of lawn, full planting beds, and formal promenade
- Shade trees, seating manufactured with sustainable materials, and accent paving distinguishes the new promenade

ARD (Applied Research and Development Building) Campus Entry

Phase 1 of the ARD Campus Entry features new monument signage and weaves together formal lawn and planting beds with native meadow grasses, shrubs and trees. Completed in 2019, this project announces the arrival on campus at University Drive.

- Future phases include improvements to the detention basin with riparian meadow, interpretive path and signage
- Deck with furnishings proposed at south side of building to overlook the basin
Honors College and North-South Pedway

Honors Hall was completed in 2018, and along with it, an additional section of the Pedway was constructed, which improved the pedestrian experience, connectivity, and consistency in circulation. The landscape design features four season planting beds and weaves together blue grama native grass stands with manicured landscaping.

- The Pedway is important as a spine for fast movement across campus, with adjacent spaces for socializing and east-west connections
- Campus circulation presents a big opportunity and needs to be looked at in more detail to increase clarity, hierarchy and experience
- Pedestrian experience should be prioritized, followed by bikes and skateboarders, buses and cars
**Aquatic and Tennis Center (ATC)**

Landscape enhancements at the ATC will be complete summer 2022, including the campus entrance at San Francisco Street and Franklin Avenue. Plantings at high visibility areas are being added to increase plant density and visual impact, in line with the Landscape Master Plan planting design principles.

- Contrast, distinction and year-round interest, with attention to visual attractiveness during winter and spring graduations and fall orientations
- Reliance on native and adapted species with a track record of success in Flagstaff

**Performing and Fine Arts / Recital Hall**

The Performing and Fine Arts / Recital Hall landscaping was completed as part of this building renovation project in 2019. True to the Central Campus aesthetic, landscaping intentionally combines and weaves the pine, aspen and meadow aesthetic of South Campus with the North Campus domesticated landscapes of turf and robust, single-species planting beds.

- Exterior furnishings are needed to enhance entrance plaza and create a place for gathering and socializing

**Student Academic Services (SAS) Building and Transit Spine**

The Transit Spine encompasses the parkway landscaping on Beaver Street, from Beaver School to University Drive, and adjacent building frontages. Completed portions include SAS, Beaver School, and ATC.

- Consistent, recognizable pattern of tree canopies and bold plantings with year-round interest to improve pedestrian and bus experience
- Native and adapted species with snow and salt tolerance
This is the boldest landscape zone on campus and one of the main reasons students are attracted to NAU. The rustic character invokes a sense of adventure combined with the ponderosa pine forest and native grass meadows as the prevailing landscape. Natural features such as the topographic ridge along Runke Drive, Sinclair Wash, and exceptional views of the peaks add to the natural aesthetic and appeal. Academics are predominant, however also included are residential housing and the Skydome, which dominates the horizon and provides a strong link to the Flagstaff community.

**Design Objective:** Utilize and enhance the natural beauty of the forest to enrich students’ experience of a mountain campus setting.

**Guiding Principles:**
1. The mountain setting is a key ingredient for attracting students to NAU and should be preserved and enhanced on campus.
2. The ponderosa pine-Arizona fescue habitat provides a strong regional sense of place and is a unique and desirable contrast to a more traditional campus setting.

**Completed Projects 2015-2021:**
- Babbitt Administrative Center, 2016
- Skyview and North-South Pedway, 2018
- Gabaldon Hall, 2017
- South Dining (duBois), 2018
- Student Athlete High Performance, 2022

**Landscape Master Plan Projects:**
- S1. Gabaldon Green
- S2. The Sun Deck
- S3. Babbitt Center and Knoles Drive
- S4. Sinclair Wash
- S5. W.A. Franke College of Business
- S6. Skydome Entry Plaza
- S7. Skydome Parking
- S8. South Quad
- S9. duBois Center and Health Professions
- S10. Pedestrian Connections Dubois Center to Skydome
- S11. Pedestrian Connections at McConnell Dr.
- S12. Campus Entry at McConnell Drive
- S13. McConnell Entry Parking Lot
- S14. Skydome Village
- S15. South Campus Pine Forest
- P1B. Pedway
Babbitt Administration Center Landscaping

Babbitt Administration Center is positioned to look into Sinclair Wash and Mountain South Campus. In 2016, a portion of the Landscape Master Plan concept design was constructed to include curvilinear raised planters, planted forest understory, and wildflower meadows with native aspen trees. These features create a natural and beautiful arrival sequence to the building that respects the native landscape.

- Celebrates the natural beauty of the ponderosa pine forest, and restores and enhances forested building setting context
- Recognizable and memorable sense of arrival to Babbitt Center

Above: raised planter and aspens with native grass meadow and planting bed at entrance

Left: forest understory native species at parking lot

Skyview and North-South Pedway

Skyview is an American Campus Communities project completed in 2018. The project incorporated an important improved Pedway section, which clarified circulation and improved safety, provided seating areas for gathering and socializing, offered landscape beds with dense plantings at key areas, and offered forest restoration with grading and drainage using native limestone and meadow grasses to mitigate erosion from utility construction.

Improved Pedway at Skyview

Newly installed forest restoration and erosion mitigation

Patio at Skyview
Gabaldon Hall Landscaping
Landscaping and erosion control were installed at Gabaldon Hall to complement the new landscaping at nearby Skyview. The ponderosa pine forest context was respected and celebrated, incorporating understory natives and adapted species to create a strong landscape edge at the Pedway.

- Beautiful, densely planted year-round interest hedge and plantings along Pedway including evergreen structure
- Difficult, unsightly slope transformed into native grass landscape with deciduous trees and rock outcroppings

South Dining (duBois)
The South Quad is one of NAU’s most important and dramatic open spaces. The south and east edges of the space offer vistas to the San Francisco Peaks. These edges were designed in the Landscape Master Plan concept plan and as part of the South Dining Renovation to capitalize on the views and to support an environment for events, gatherings, or just simply sitting and enjoying the view.

- New duBois renovation landscaping improves on the aesthetics of the space and is in sync with the LMP concept design for South Quad
- Simple and bold landscaping and curvilinear edges define the space and give it structure
- Ramp circulation for North-South Pedway at east edge of Quad
Student Athlete High Performance Center (SAHPC)

Recently completed, the SAHPC was carefully sited within its forested context so that the inherent beauty and diversity of the natural landscape is expressed. Pine tree stands, meadow grasses and excavated limestone are visually dominant, and the regional aesthetic and layered, varied vegetation creates an ecologically sound landscape.

- Disruption to natural topography and pines minimized through design of an elevated entry connected by bridge to an at-grade entrance plaza along San Francisco Street
- Seating areas and paths create the feeling of immersion in the forest
- Accessible design for all users to experience forested spaces
- Transparency in architectural design capitalizes on views of the peaks and forest and creates strong interior-exterior connections

Site Plan

Transparency and interior-exterior connections

Elevated entrance design preserves and celebrates native forested landscape
Project Types

Several projects are currently identified as landscape priority projects, encompassing six categories: Campus Entries, Circulation, Exterior Furnishings, Landscape Plantings, Social Spaces, and Building Opportunities. Projects were identified based on impact to campus, size and associated costs. Scopes are based on ongoing discussions and collaborations with various campus stakeholders and staff, including GIS Reporting; Transportation Action Team; Parking and Shuttle Services Director; Student Union Activities and Programming Director; Campus Services and Activities; Housing and Residence Life Director; Landscaping and Outdoor Services; Campus Moving; Marketing; Director of Facilities, Operations and Maintenance; Green Fund; and Planning, Design and Construction.

Campus Entries: Distinguish entrances and announce arrival on campus

Completed Projects:
- ARD/University Drive, phase 1 2019
Identified Priority:
- Riordan Campus Entrance

Circulation: Complete pedestrian circulation gaps and provide consistency

Completed Projects:
- North-South Pedway: Dupont to Moment Plaza, Honors and Skyview sections
- P16 Median Sidewalk Widening, 2019
Identified Priorities:
- Knoles Drive Sidewalk
- East-West Pedestrian Connector: Student Union Connector

Exterior Furnishings: Improve aesthetics and provide places to study and socialize

Completed Projects:
- Science & Health Building, in progress
- Bike locker wraps

Identified Priorities:
- Performing & Fine Arts/Recital Hall
- University Union
- Miscellaneous bike racks and seating

Landscape Plantings: Beautify campus and provide a cohesive appearance

Completed Projects:
- Babbitt Administration Center, 2016
- Beaver School, 2016
- Gabaldon Hall landscaping
- Aquatic & Tennis Center, in progress
Identified Priorities:
- Transit Spine landscape completion
- Miscellaneous replacement and establishment plantings

Social Spaces: Create memorable, functional spaces for socializing and recreation

Completed Projects:
- J. Norm Grim Arboretum, 2021
- West Union Lawn & Promenade, 2019
- Physical Sciences Atrium, in progress
- SNAIL Garden, in progress
Identified Priorities:
- Peace Pond relocation
- Bookstore Plaza
- Central Quad
- Wilson Hall Entry

Future Building Opportunities: Create memorable exterior spaces

Completed Projects:
- South Dining (duBois)
- Performing & Fine Arts / Recital Hall
- Student Athlete High Performance Center, 2022
Identified Priorities:
- Science Annex
- Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Building (ISTB)
- Milton Road Property
Priority Project Map

1. Science and Health Building
   Exterior Furnishings

2. Riordan Campus Entrance
   Campus Entries

3. Peace Pond Relocation
   Social Spaces

4. Knoles Drive Sidewalk
   Circulation

5. University Union
   Exterior Furnishings

6. Bookstore Plaza
   Social Spaces

7. Performing & Fine Arts/Recital Hall
   Exterior Furnishings

8. East-West Pedestrian Connector: Student Union Connector
   Circulation

9. Transit Spine Landscaping
   Landscape Plantings

10. Central Quad
    Social Spaces

11. Wilson Hall Entry
    Social Spaces

Future Building Opportunities

12. Science Annex

13. ISTB Project
    Formerly STEM

14. Milton Road Property

Campus Wide (Not Shown on Map)

   Miscellaneous Bike Racks and Seating
   Exterior Furnishings

   Miscellaneous Annual Replacement and Establishment Landscaping
   Landscape Plantings
CURRENT PROJECT PRIORITIES
CAMPUS ENTRIES AND CIRCULATION

Campus Entries
Riordan Campus Entrance

- Campus gateways and edges lack definition and identity; entries should be welcoming to Flagstaff community
- Create sense of arrival with new signage and landscaping similar to entrance sign at ARD
- Trees, turf, landscaping and new sidewalk along Riordan Road
- Concept design in Landscape Master Plan

Circulation
Knoles Drive Sidewalk

- Connecting sidewalk or path with pedestrian bridge needed where there is currently circulation gap along Knoles Drive from Gabaldon to Skyview
- Heavily traveled cut-through
- Adjacent landscaping proposed
- Civil and landscape plans completed, funding needed

Possible solution: crusher fines with concrete border

East-West Pedestrian Connector: Student Union Connector

- South entrance of Student Union, area south of Dining Services, and The Wedge gravel area
- Accommodate pedestrians, bicycles, and service vehicles while creating pedestrian mall character
- Elements: treed median to separate pedestrians and vehicles, social space with shade at Wedge, replace pavers and landscaping at south entry
- Concept design in Landscape Master Plan
**Exterior Furnishings**

**Performing & Fine Arts / Recital Hall**

- Enhance entrance plaza to create place for students and visitors to gather and socialize
- New seating, planters, receptacles, umbrellas
- Concept options prepared, funding needed

**University Union**

- Promenade and lawn at West Union Lawn identified as priority for new furnishings, including additional benches, and table and chair ensembles at shaded lawn areas
- Replace outdated furnishings at east and south sides of Union Dining Services and Food Court
- Add tables and chairs for seating near Fieldhouse east entry and lawn area

**Miscellaneous Bike Racks and Seating**

- Reconfigure/relocate existing benches and bike racks at priority locations across campus to improve areas for students to socialize
- Improve efficiency of bike parking and utilize Transportation Action Team usage data
CURRENT PROJECT PRIORITIES
LANDSCAPE PLANTINGS AND SOCIAL SPACES

Landscape Plantings

Transit Spine Landscape Completion

- Complete installation of parkway landscaping on Beaver Street
- Provide consistent, recognizable pattern of bold plantings with year-round interest
- Completed portions include SAS Building, Beaver School and ATC
- Landscape plans complete, funding needed

Miscellaneous Replacement and Establishment Landscaping

- Replace plant material where it has perished and establish new landscaping at small areas via in-house partnership with Landscape and Outdoor Services (LOS) department
- Reseeding and/or installation of native grass plugs often needed at native grass areas as part of a multi-year effort to achieve a weed-free, full meadow stand
- Ensure original design intent for landscaping is maintained

Social Spaces

Peace Pond Relocation

- New water feature options are being explored to replace Peace Pond, which was removed as part of Steam Tunnel Lid Repair project at Student Union
- In addition to new water feature, options include raised or at-grade planters, accent paving, seating areas with tables and chairs, benches, chairs and umbrellas, accent planters, and painted, reconfigured bike racks
- Input sought from campus users regarding location and aesthetic, funding needed
**Bookstore Plaza**

- Enhance identity of the campus bookstore and create a memorable meeting spot
- Provide seating opportunities, year-round interest landscaping, and enhanced pavement for pedestrian environment
- Discover NAU tour route final stop, an important first impression for prospective students and their parents

**Central Quad**

- Create a unique and memorable space with sculptural landforms and interesting landscaping
- Develop spaces for studying, socializing and recreation such as basketball, volleyball, hammocks and firepit
- Concept design in Landscape Master Plan

**Wilson Hall Entry**

- Improve aesthetics and create welcoming entrance that is inviting and updated
- Replace brick walls with railing, install new benches and planters, and new shrub bed with year-round interest plantings
Future Building Opportunities

Science Annex

- Phase 2 exterior improvements on hold pending funding, including sidewalk widening, utility drive improvements, and landscaping along Beaver Street
- Future phases to include east-west pedestrian corridor and connection to N-S Pedway from Beaver Street, including social seating opportunities with enhanced pavement and plantings

ISTB Project

- Project priority to be determined in upcoming Campus Master Plan, currently on hold
- Development of social spaces with connections to adjacent Pedway, Transit Spine, and McCreary Drive
- Emphasis on sustainable materials and native or adapted plantings
Milton Road Property

- Create main campus entrance and gateway along Milton Road at intersection with Route 66, providing definition and identity at west campus edge
- Replace existing building with campus orientation facilities that welcomes visitors, including landscaped plaza, entrance sequence, and parking
- Conceptual site plans prepared in 2020
Climate Action Plan and Comprehensive Sustainable Smart Campus Master Plan

NAU has committed to effectively utilize its physical resources in support of the University’s mission and vision with a commitment to responsible, sustainable use of resources. To this end, the University has identified development and implementation of a Comprehensive Sustainable Smart Campus Master Plan (CSSCMP) and Climate Action Plan (CAP) as part of the University’s strategic priority of sustainable stewardship of resources. The CSSCMP will seek to reimagine how the University’s physical resources are utilized and improved with an ongoing prioritization of student learning, service and support. In the last 12 years higher education has experienced significant changes, along with opportunities and challenges resulting from the pandemic. The CSSCMP will include development and prioritization of various types of exterior social spaces; campus circulation and connectivity; transformation of buildings and grounds including surrounding context; strengthening sense of place through campus landscapes and open space; and connections with the broader community.

The Climate Action Plan will support achievement of carbon neutral operations by 2030, and provide educational, research and community engagement opportunities for students, faculty and staff. High-level institutional commitment and systemic changes are essential to reaching this ambitious goal. The CAP will advance efforts in sustainability including carbon reduction, regenerative landscapes, and life-cycle planning. Specific focus items that emerged from the CAP Landscape and Water Working Group are:

- Limit chemical use. Identify what current chemical use is and pinpoint challenges.
- Continue to emphasize use of native and adapted plants.
- Promote native species and meadows and where feasible, convert other types of landscapes or install as new.
- Reduce the carbon footprint of campus managed landscapes and reduce manicured landscapes.
- Install plant materials to reduce heat island effect and limit stark gravel areas.
- Improve stormwater management by focusing on it as a resource and on feasible, passive collection.
- Employ restorative and regenerative site design to support biodiverse landscapes, in contrast to traditional design approaches.
- Adapt designs and management practices to limit climate change. Partner and collaborate with Southwest Experimental Garden Array (SEGA) to predict species best adapted to survive changes.
- Minimize turf grass and water use. Identify high priority turf areas and focus on optimal soil and turf health.
- Monitor and reduce water usage. Update systems for water savings and collect data for irrigation use of reclaimed water.
- Focus on health and preservation of forested areas.
- Amplify campus gardens to address food security.
- Use local materials and analyze life-cycle considerations.
- Implement behavioral education for water consumption.
- Identify solutions to overcome cost and time investment challenges.

Since adoption of the Landscape Master Plan in 2015, various projects have been completed throughout campus, developed either directly from the concept designs in the Plan or identified as priorities that were implemented using the Plan as a guide. The work of the LMP remains relevant and will continue to guide campus development and improvement. The 2018 Placemaking Workshop advised next steps for campus development, architecture and the Landscape Master Plan:

- Future campus development should not be dependent on demolition to then build. Plans need to include how to make what we have great.
• A wide array of campus development strategies and opportunities should be presented for consideration.
• An assessment of current architecture on campus should be conducted, including functional and appealing characteristics and qualities, to shape new construction and renovation projects.
• Clear vision of systems that are sector-wide is needed. The LMP should be expanded to include the landscape’s impact on campus.
• Future efforts should highlight the development of a pedestrian environment that is landscape dominated.
• Reinforcement of the distinctive landscapes of the three character zones should continue as should efforts to interweave them within the campus core.
• Consider a Design Review Board, which would function as the gatekeeper of the main ideas guiding campus development while also ensuring flexibility.

Suggested next steps for the Campus Master Plan:
• Develop a simple, illustrative framework that communicates key ideas for development.
• Consider integration and concurrent development of systems for infrastructure, transportation, utilities, etc.
• Explore potential for creating a series of precinct plans rather than one master plan.
• Elevate the importance of the physical landscape in the Campus Master Plan. Develop an open space landscape framework plan that will serve as a guide for campus development.
• Consider incorporating the idea of feeding out circulation from the center of campus, developing routes with connections throughout campus.

Integration of the Landscape Master Plan with the Comprehensive Sustainable Smart Campus Master Plan and Climate Action Plan will be key to the implementation of all three. An additional challenge, as well as opportunity, is the impact and use of technology in improving NAU’s Flagstaff campus. Technology will continue to play a significant role in campuses of the future. Building community is integrally linked to technology, communication and operations. Data should be used to inform and enhance qualitative frameworks, so that balance is maintained between the importance and uniqueness of place and emerging technologies.