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**BENNINGTON COLLEGE**

**Bennington, Vermont**



**Landscape and Grounds  
Strategic Maintenance Plan**

**August 2012**

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Landscape Architecture

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**INTRODUCTION**

Purpose

**CAMPUS LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE ZONES**

College Drive  
Faculty Row and Facilities  
East Academic Campus  
Commons Green and Houses  
Academic Hill  
Athletic Fields  
New Houses & West Campus  
Jennings Meadow  
Orchard  
Jennings Grounds

**CAMPUS STANDARDS**

Standard Light Pole  
Standard Light Pole Footing  
Low Voltage Landscape Light  
Trash Receptacle  
Campus Bench  
Cafe Bench  
Library Bench  
Timber Bollard  
Planters  
Railing

**CAMPUS WIDE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT DIAGRAMS**

Weekly Mowing Diagram  
Biannual  
Understory Clearing Diagram

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This document builds upon the 2004 Campus Landscape Master Plan. It is intended to be used as a reference guide for the campus landscape's maintenance goals and design standards. The booklet is comprised of 3 sections; the first outlines maintenance goals and improvements for specific areas of the campus; the second section catalogs campus standard site furnishings and materials, and the final sections included campus wide landscape management diagrams.

This document will be periodically updated and expanded to meet evolving standards and campus design objectives.

Excerpts from the 2004 Master Plan:

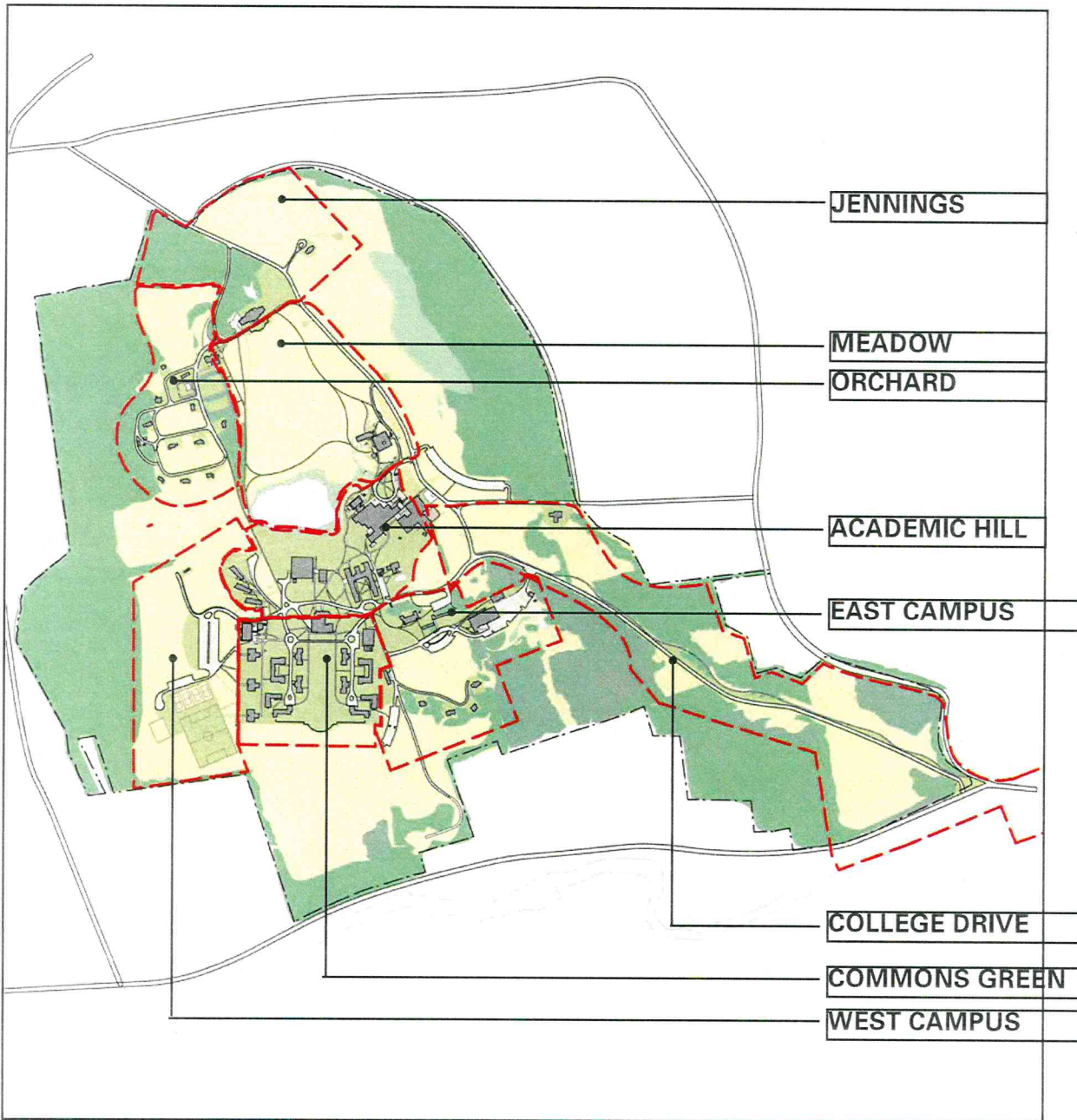
*The proposed recommendations and design standards emphasize specific components of the site's heritage that coalesce to define landscape character — the rolling landform, fields, pond, hedgerows, sinuous drives, groves of canopy trees and vistas.*

*The management and augmentation of vegetation clarifies and structures the zones of character, continually framing views to draw a stronger connection between the College and its local and regional context.*

*the master plan proposes both to preserve and to carefully transform the familiar and much-loved character of the property. Altogether the vision of a united campus core that includes Academic Hill and Jennings Meadow... ....and tied to the Vermont landscape through strong vistas, will provide an enduring image of the College*







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### **CAMPUS MAINTENANCE OBJECTIVES BY AREA**

1. College Drive
2. Faculty Row & Facilities
3. East Academic Campus
4. Commons Green & Houses
5. Academic Hill
6. Jennings Meadow and Pond
7. West Campus - Athletic Fields & Gardens
8. The Orchard
9. Jennings Hall Grounds



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Objective

Maintain rural character of winding drive through meadows and woodlands.

Preserve native trees and vegetation, remove ornamental evergreen trees.  
Open southern views to distant mountains.

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Recommendations

*Electricals*

1

Entry landscape lighting - all future replacement fixtures should be changed to LED - this will eliminate need to replace lamp and reduce energy consumption

*Budget*

2

Extend concrete drive curb on south side to keep vehicles off lawn

3

Fields and meadow to be hayed twice a year by local farmer.

*Not Acceptable*

4

Remove evergreen hedgerow to open views.

5

Replenish stonedust path as needed.

*Not Acceptable*

6

Selectively thin evergreen trees encroaching on meadow.

Adhere to mowing limits to maximize meadow area and minimize mowing.





Objective

Maintain r....

Recommendations

✓ 1

Remove unwanted vegetation on greenroof (keep ivy at edges) and replace with sedum plugs.

✓ 2

Clear invasive vegetation under trees and establish meadow, limb trees up to allow for views under canopy.

✓ 3

Faculty Housing to be maintained as a figure of lawn in larger meadow. Remove overgrown foundation plantings and selectively save mature ornamentals. Selectively remove overgrown plantings and limb-up mature trees at lawn edges to open selective views of southern meadow.

Not Acceptable

4

Add 3-4 winterking hawthorn trees between eastern houses to filter views and enhance privacy.

✓ 5

Remove imature locust, limb-up mature locust, remove invasive understory and optn selective views of southern meadow.

Budget

6

Plant white or red oak near corner of meadow.

Budget

7

Plant sugar maple on hillside.





Objective

Maintain r....

## Recommendations

✓  
Cleared - No Budget  
For planting  
Not Acceptable  
Budget

1 Limb-up mature locust trees, biannually mow embankment to control invasives and keep view corridor open.

2 Remove invasives from embankment. Add 3-4 red bud trees and 1-2 serviceberry.

3 Add 2-3 canopy trees (carya ovata, carya glabra, or robinia pseudoacacia, sugar maple) on embankment. (Already Have London Plane tree)

4 Replace dead and missing sugar maples along path.

5

6

7





## Objective

*Commons Lawn and the Houses are residential and have a scale and geometry distinct from any other place on campus. However the great lawn area has seen a loss of canopy trees that once lined it and framed views beyond End-of-the-World. ....*

## Recommendations

- 1 Where original trees no longer exist on either side of the path, plant upright high canopy trees including disease tolerant American Elms and Sugar Maples.
- 2 Re-establish stonedust paths.
- ✓ 3 Develop a lawn program to improve health of lawn area regularly used for events.
- ✓ 4 Remove overgrown shrubs and damaged trees at building foundations. Reinforce domestic character with ornamental plantings like hydrangea, lilacs, quince, and deutzia, hibiscus, spirea, viburnum, and weigelia
- 5 Remove cedars keep catalpa.
- ✓ 6 Remove cedar(s) to open views.
- ✓ 7 Remove evergreen tree.
- ✓ 8 Add groves of canopy trees including white oak and red maple in moist soil conditions and red oak and sugar maple in drying conditions. Keep center of lawn open for informal/light recreation.
- ✓ 9 Water courtyard plantings regularly during period of drought.
- 10
- 11

*Alumni is  
Relations is  
supposed to fund  
raise this money*

*Not Acceptable  
Some Removed  
Not Acceptable*





## Objective

*The heart of education and creative life on campus, Academic Hill ....*

## Recommendations

- ✓ 1 Selectively limb-up mature trees to allow views under canopy.
- ✓ 2 Annually or biennially remove invasive woody vegetation such as buckthorn, honeysuckle, and fragmites adjacent to wetland buffer zone.
- ✓ 3 Remove diseased and damaged canopy trees and pines and begin an aggressive campaign to plant native canopy trees such as Sugar Maple, American Beech, Hickory, Red Oak, and American Elm to create a continuous grove throughout area.
- ✓ 4 Reset uneven pavers at terraces.
- ✓ 5 Replace cherry trees in decline with rust resistant apples and/or crab apples.
- 6 Annually mow embankment to control invasive herbaceous material.
- ✓ 7 Plant canopy trees to replace declining Silver Maples. Use trees associated with wetland areas such as Red Maples, Silver Maples, and Swamp Oak.
- ✓ 8 Low maintenance ????? Flower Gardens
- 9 ?????.

Area very wet + swampy  
As they die we remove them  
Budget

Budget For Replanting

Very messy for this location





Objective

....  
...

Recommendations

- ✓ 1 Follow lawn care program for athletic field area???????
- ✓ 2 ~~Community~~ <sup>student</sup> Garden area - mow path to garden and around perimeter.
- 3 Add groves of canopy trees including white oak and red maple in moist soil conditions and red oak and sugar maple in drying conditions. Keep center of lawn open for informal/light recreation.
- 4 Remove invasive understory vegetation, annually mow area to control invasive woody vegetation from reestablishing
- ✓ 5 Mow overflow parking area for events only. Only graduation?
- 6 Remove invasive understory vegetation to allow views through hedgrows.
- 7
- 8

Area Cleanup  
cleared Edges +  
power lines  
Future Project  
time permitting



**Objective**

Jennings Meadow and the pond combine to make a powerful and memorable landscape. Both are tied to Jennings Hall, which is perched at the northern high point of the campus, affording panoramic views. By selectively removing invasive plants and evergreen trees at the edges of the meadow and pond, views can be opened — thereby connecting Jennings Hall and Academic Hill — and providing a new center of campus.

**Recommendations**

Budget

- 1 Develop a plan for restoring the pond (dredging may be necessary to maintain long term water levels). Establish a new habitat and plant community at some edges. Bird Houses Installed
- 2 Annually mow pond edge to control invasive woody vegetation.
- 3 Annually mow below tree canopy to control invasive woody vegetation and open view corridors.
- 4 Clear woody vegetation to open view to and from meadow.
- 5 Mow paths through meadow. Consider adding a stonedust path. Not wanted
- 6 Plant row of American Elm along eastern side of drive.
- 7 Create path from meadow to Hemlock rooms.

Some planted  
but Not Disease  
Resistant + have died





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**Objective**

*This scale of planting — appropriate to this rural area — can be maintained with the strategic addition of ornamental trees and shrubs.....*

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**Recommendations**

Not Acceptable —

Budget —

**1**

Remove damaged and diseased plants. Replant fruit trees such as apple and cherry.

**2**

Provide additional canopy trees planted in a rural manner such as shade trees for the houses, or specimen trees in open areas.

**3**

Remove overgrown plantings near houses and save ornamental shrubs such as viburnum and hydrangea.

**4**

Repair brick garden walls.

**5**

Remove overgrown vegetation and open views of meadow

**6****7****8**



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Objective

The...

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Recommendations

Not Acceptable

- ✓ 1 Cut back invasive understory to reveal mature Sugar Maples. Replace dead and dieing Sugar Maples.
- 2 Remove hemlock interfering with maple.
- ✓ 3 Selectively remove locust trees interfering with maple, clear overgrown vegetation below canopy.
- ✓ 4 Rehabilitate garden.
- 5
- 6





## DESIGN STANDARDS

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