



JULY/AUGUST 2012

The look and feel of campus, a few miles down the road

Motorists driving on US 15-501 about four miles south of campus are likely to notice a stretch of land off the highway with lush green grass, shady wooded areas, blossoming flower beds and large oak trees. This scenic property is part of the University, but when describing it, it sounds more like a park. That's half right – it's actually a Park & Ride.

You might not think a place where you leave your car would have a very interesting history – but the Chatham County Park & Ride Lot is one of the University's unique success stories. In the past, this parking area had looked like any typical parking lot, with nothing too noteworthy about it. Today, it's an attractive, environmentally-friendly property with undeniable curb appeal.

About three years ago, Grounds Supervisor Tom Sudderth and Crew Leader Tim Doss developed a long-range plan to transform it into an attractive area that would share the same qualities of the picturesque landscapes found on the main campus. This outlying University property may be the only exposure to the University for certain motorists, so it is important that it displays the signature look of UNC Chapel Hill. It also sends the message that if the University takes this much pride in maintaining a parking lot, the care and attention to the grounds of the main campus – and everyone and everything on them – must surely be unparalleled.

As a result of this thoughtful planning – and under the regular maintenance and upkeep of Doss' small but skilled crew – this scenic area has become a unique combination of manicured lawns, natural wooded areas, trees that have populated the area since they were acorns and plants and saplings whose locations have been strategically and optimally placed.

Much of the common fescue grass in the more open lawns has been replaced with Bermuda grass, which is easy to maintain, prevents water runoff and requires less fertilizer and chemicals to combat weeds. Importantly, it goes dormant in the winter, which means year-round maintenance is not required. It's no surprise that the grass looks so green when passing by on the highway – Bermuda grass is what's used on football fields and golf courses.

With all the grass, trees and foliage that surround the parking spaces, it's important to note that the actual pavement itself is also 'green.' The parking lot is permeable, with a porous surface that allows water to drain through the pavement, preventing stormwater runoff, replenishing the water table and serving as a natural filter that prevents pollutants from being washed into streams and rivers. Of the several porous parking areas at UNC, this is the largest.



Anthony Plummer (left) and Tim Doss tend to the landscapes and provide overall care for the Chatham County Park & Ride Lot

30 Easy Ways to Save the Planet

WALK BIKE TAKE THE BUS

Unplug electronics and appliances when not in use

RECYCLE bottles, cans, paper and cardboard

buy products made from recycled materials

Bring a cup for your coffee, tea or water

COMPOST your food scraps

buy vintage clothes

eat one meatless meal per day

Print & Write on both sides of the paper

buy used textbooks

give homemade gifts

Join an environmental group on campus

recycle electronics

shop at your Local Farmers' Market

take shorter showers

bring REUSABLE BAGS when you shop

Wash your clothes in Cold Water

don't be a Litter Bug

SHUT DOWN your computer every night

BUY ORGANIC PRODUCE AND COTTON

Don't be a Litter Bug

Carry your own reusable utensils

TURN OFF

buy products that use less packaging on the food chain

The Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling (919) 962-1442 wastereduction.unc.edu Graphic by Maggie Ruf

Grounds crews put the finishing touches on the landscape outside of the new Genome Sciences Building. The facility houses more than 400 faculty, staff and researchers from the departments of Biology, Chemistry, Statistics and Operations Research and Computer Science, and features laboratories, classrooms, auditoriums and a roof top greenhouse for research. Three “pods” of attached buildings frame an open brick plaza that incorporates bike racks, showers, and lockers. Designed to achieve LEED Silver standards, the 222,000 square-foot building uses many innovative technologies to improve energy and water efficiency and enhance occupant comfort. These technologies include a green roof, vertical solar fins, and active chilled beams that decouple ventilation and cooling. Harvested rainwater and reclaimed wastewater stored under the adjacent Central Park next to the football stadium provide water for toilet flushing and irrigation.



park & ride...



...continued from pg. 1



The Chatham County Park & Ride is in fact the perfect example of how the University can incorporate sustainable strategies and design at essentially any University location. Along with the reduction of chemicals and fertilizer that comes with using Bermuda grass is the reduction of the frequency of mowing. In addition, zoysia grass has been installed on the islands at the end of the rows of parking spaces, and this type of grass only has to be mowed three or four times a year. The installation of these types of grass has greatly reduced the use of fuel for mowing and its associated costs. In addition, recycled mulch made from green material that has been recovered from campus is used at the location, and in the fall, leaves don't have to be hauled off – they can be naturally composted in the woods beyond the parking lot.

And there's actually one more huge benefit of this Park & Ride location that hasn't been mentioned yet – it's a convenient location that accommodates a lot of vehicles and helps to lighten the parking load on campus.

You can't ask for too much more from a parking lot...

Three UNC buildings to compete in 2012 national competition

Three campus buildings – NC Area Health Education Center, Neurosciences Research Building and Tarrson Hall – have been selected to participate in the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ENERGY STAR *National Building Competition: Battle of the Buildings* to help improve the energy efficiency of commercial buildings and protect the environment. In the spirit of popular weight-loss competitions, these buildings are battling it out against thousands of other teams from across the country to work off the waste through improvements in energy efficiency with help from EPA's ENERGY STAR program.

"UNC is setting our eyes on winning this competition and repeating the first year performance. We are going to pull out all the stops!" said Chris M. Martin Jr., Director of UNC Energy Management.

The teams in the 2012 competition represent more than 30 different types of commercial buildings – such as retail stores, schools, hotels and museums – and hail from all 50 states, two US territories and the District of Columbia. The competitors range from a Kmart store on the island of St. Thomas to a Federal office building in Nome, Alaska.

Competitors will measure and track their building's monthly energy and water consumption using EPA's ENERGY STAR online tracking tool; make improvements to their building's energy performance; and share their progress. Of the initial pool of nearly 3,300 competitors, the building that demonstrates the greatest percentage-based reduction in energy use intensity will be recognized as the winner in April 2013.

Since the competition officially started, UNC's Energy Management has met with each building manager and is planning kickoff parties with the goal of energizing – or maybe more appropriately "de-energizing" – and educating the buildings' occupants. Lighting and water audits have been conducted in each building by Watson Electric and ABM Building Services, and Exposure Control Technologies, Inc. audited Neurosciences for ventilation effectiveness. These audits could identify energy savings that can be implemented quickly and give the University the push it needs to reclaim its first place title.

In an effort to reduce the amount of energy and water being used in the buildings, the University is taking the following steps: detailed energy audits; airflow reductions; reprogramming the heating, ventilation and air conditioning controls and educating building occupants to encourage participation.

While the "Biggest Loser" style contest only recently officially kicked off, savings are calculated back to the beginning of the year, meaning the competition is quickly approaching the midpoint 'weigh in.'

According to EPA, energy use in commercial buildings accounts for nearly 20% of total US greenhouse gas emissions and energy use at a cost of more than \$100 billion per year. On average, 30% of the energy used in commercial buildings is wasted.

To watch the battle unfold, visit www.energystar.gov/BattleOfTheBuildings, and to learn more about UNC Energy Management, visit www.save-energy.unc.edu.



Energy Management's Chris Martin celebrates the University's first place finish in the inaugural competition in 2010.



September 9 – 15 is International Housekeepers Week!

Be sure to thank a Housekeeper for all he or she does each and every day to make our campus a clean, safe and healthier place to work, learn and live!

Visit UNC Housekeeping's site at www.facilities.unc.edu for more on the quality services delivered to the University community by the outstanding team from Housekeeping Services!