



2019 UNC Master Plan & Open Space Plan

General Overview

Celebrating the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Natural Landscape and Historic Core, the UNC-Chapel Hill campus has long been praised as among the most beautiful in America. The essence of this beauty resides not only in its topography, but also in the character of its buildings, open space, and landscape. The older buildings of North Campus, which line McCorkle and Polk Places, epitomize the University's aesthetic. The purpose of these Guidelines is to ensure that future buildings and grounds continue the same thoughtful planning and architectural vocabulary of the historic core of north campus.

"A vision for the present and future Carolina campus landscape."

At Carolina, natural beauty is as basic as the air we breathe. Prospective students and faculty members feel it when they first visit – the natural beauty of Carolina is a potent recruiting tool. Alumni love the campus landscape – even if only in memory – because it remains forever the beautiful setting for an important period in their lives. In the present-day university community, we value the landscape because it gives us pleasure. It offers a setting where all of us – faculty, staff and students – can do our best work. We are inspired and we are blessed by its beauty. Only by understanding the nature of this precious asset can we preserve it and hand it on to future generations of students, staff and faculty.

Thus, our vision is of a landscape that will be as beautiful at the university's tricentennial in 2093 as it was at the bicentennial in 1993. Our vision is of a landscape that will continue to be as unique as it is appealing – as nourishing as it is functional. We believe that the campus landscape has lessons to teach us; it is not only the setting for learning but also part of our course of study. Perhaps most important, we imagine a university community that will continue to value UNC's deep roots in the natural world – a community that consciously will safeguard its irreplaceable legacy of trees, rock walls, and brick paths on a hilltop site carved out of the ancient forest.

The open space network and types of campus landscapes are best described in the [2019 University Master Plan](#) report within pages 50-55. The campus systems, including the street network, the open space network, the bike, transit, and utility networks are described on the page 56-63. Coordination with all these networks is required.

Refer to the following documents for further details:

1. 2019 University Master Plan
2. The Landscape Heritage and Plant Diversity Task Force Report
3. "The Dignity of Restraint," the Historic Landscape Master Plan
4. Site and Site Furnishings