

## **Landscape Advisory Committee End of Year Report 2000-2001**

Committee Members: Janet Gillmar (Chair, Landscape Architect, School of Architecture), Eileen Herring (Recorder, Librarian), Gerald Carr (Botany), Richard Criley (TPSS), Bob Hirano (Lyon Arboretum), Ed Koike (Buildings & Grounds Management), Kimo Marion (ASUH), Dale Sato (Pearl City Urban Facility), John Stimson (Zoology), Wally Gretz (Architect, Facilities Planning & Management).

The goal of the Manoa Landscape Committee (established Fall 1996) is **the development of a campus environment that is attractive, safe, acceptable to the UH Manoa community, convenient to use, easy to maintain, and that serves as an outdoor teaching laboratory.**

Among the charges to the Committee have been the following:

1. Advise Buildings & Grounds (B&G) on the development and loss of plantings and on the fate of some individual plants.
2. Advise B&G on how to improve/make more efficient use of landscape space.
3. Help B&G deal with complaints from the campus community that relate to landscape issues.
4. Help B&G get funding for a horticulturist for their staff.
5. Facilitate a closer working relationship between B&G and UHM departments/units/programs, etc.
6. Assist B&G to move beyond "crisis management" to a proactive stance in dealing with landscape development and maintenance.
7. Work with the UH Manoa community on landscape projects and problems.
8. Undertake special projects relating to the UHM landscape environment.

The present Committee composition has been active since fall 1999, when Janet Gillmar took over as Committee Chair from Bob Hirano. Meetings have been held monthly except during the summer months. The business of the meetings has been recorded in sets of minutes that have also been circulated to Farouk Wang and Kalvin Kashimoto, among others. This report summarizes actions undertaken, discussed, or reported upon during the period July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001. Identifiable outcomes include:

Adopt-a-landscape Program: Two programs have been approved and are underway (A-2)  
Funds for signage secured and signs prepared (A-2-b)

Memorial Trees: Listing compiled and in process of verification (A-4)

Hawaii Hall: Five of 7 palms slated for removal have been saved for relocation (A-5)

A native *Gardenia brighamii* was successfully relocated to St. John (E-4)

Bachman/Old Post Office area: Adjacent area has been cleared. Awaiting use decisions (C-7)

Andrews Amphitheater: Handicapped access sidewalk installed with minimal damage to existing trees (C-12)

Hamilton Library Phase 3: Committee was responsible for ensuring native wiliwili were planted (D-1)

Sherman Hall: Approved removal of two *Eucalyptus deglupta* trees (E-8)

Biomed Parking lot: Bumper stops have been delivered for installation in July (A-2-a)

## **A. Items carried over from previous years**

1. Orvis planter. This item is a piece of artwork contributed to the UHM campus by the State Foundation on Culture & the Arts. It has suffered damage from cracks and leakage and requires repair. It is also threatened by skateboarders who bank their skateboards off of it. The Committee has determined that drainage through a large hole in the bottom of the planter is adequate. It is necessary to provide specs to the State Foundation on Culture & the Arts for waterproofing and repair work. The Committee has recommended installation of some railings that might deter skateboarders. The Committee has suggested appropriate plants to install in the planter once it is repaired.

2. Adopt-a-landscape program. Initiated in 1999 as a way for faculty, staff & students to initiate small scale campus landscape improvements with approval by Buildings & Grounds. Successful applicants are responsible for installation and maintenance. Improvement projects to date include a set of vines planted for instructional purposes on a fence along the BioMed parking lot by horticulture professor Richard Criley and ground covers planted in patches of bare ground near the Marine Sciences Building and Watanabe Hall by oceanography professor Edward Laws. The Committee has worked to secure signage for all projects and parking bumpers in the BioMed parking lot.

**(a)** Parking bumpers for Biomed Parking lot. Vines installed in 1999 along the fence between the parking lot and the MidPacific athletic field are being damaged by vehicles that park too close and which also damage the fence (the fence is thought to belong to MidPacific Institute). For years, UHM's Parking Office declined to do anything, pleading lack of funds, but recently funds were found. Mr. Gretz has provided a design and bumper stop count.

**(b)** Signage to identify approved Adopt-a-landscape projects was developed and a grant from the Women's Campus Club secured to pay for its production. The signs have recently been delivered.

3. Tree damage during on-campus construction

**(a)** Eucalyptus trees cut down near BioMed building by contractors after they were killed during construction. The Committee recommended follow-up with the Contractor to request some sort of Landscape concessions. The Committee recommended that contracts include a Prior Landscape Condition notation before contracts are awarded so that contractors are made aware of problems their work inflicts.

**(b)** Eucalyptus trees between Hamilton Library and Edmundson Hall. Trees were badly damaged by construction equipment and piling of soil around their trunks during construction of the Hamilton Library addition. Discussions were held with the contractor about planting one or two new trees elsewhere as this area will be in use during the asbestos removal of Hamilton's Phase One.

(c) Narra trees and the Japanese Pittosporum plants in front of the Korean Studies Center were badly stressed during renovation work to the KSC as water was turned off to the plantings, ground was compacted by trucks and construction equipment, and truck-tree interactions damaged some trees. A report was prepared by Richard Criley on the deficiencies of the Center's landscape. The Committee has recommended renovation of the landscape.

4. Memorial trees on campus. An early proposal to develop a listing of Memorial trees that have been planted on campus had lingered until Committee member Eileen Herring undertook to compile a list from an early campus map and accumulated documents in Wally Gretz's possession. Some of the tree sites have been identified and the trees verified, but many remain to be located. We may need to ask former Grounds Superintendent Ray Higashi to assist in locating some of the plants. Work is continuing on this item.

5. Renovation of Hawaii Hall. The Committee had to field questions from the campus community when Hawaii Hall was closed off for massive renovations. Questions concerned the destruction of plantings adjacent to the building that had to be removed to accommodate basement waterproofing as well as relocation of some of the valuable palm collection near the building. Previous review of the plants at the building by Bob Hirano had identified the valuable ones that needed to be saved by transplanting elsewhere. Our advice was sought on moving/replacing 7 palms that the contractor did not want to move.

## **B. Referrals to the Landscape Advisory Committee**

1. Social Science Dean Richard Dubanoski proposed developing a special activity for Fall 2000 to improve the campus environment. The Committee developed a short list of possible improvements. Some actions were initiated (see below under list for Priority areas for landscape improvements).

2. UHM and MidPacific Institute agreed to provide an access road between the 2 institutions connecting a new parking lot on the MidPac grounds to Maile Way at Farrington Road. Supposedly, UH will be allowed to use the parking area upon occasion and MidPac will be allowed to have cars exit their grounds through Maile Way to University Avenue.

## **C. Priority areas for landscape improvements**

The Committee made visits to several sites on the Campus to consider a number of proposals, some of which will require considerable expenditure of funds. The Committee's function was to advise on any problems we foresaw and to recommend improvements in planned activities. No priority is intended in the following list:

1. **Varney Fountain** New plantings were installed. A decision to repair the fountain and its water circulating system is pending. A possible renovation of the plantings to a “less thirsty” xeriscape format was proposed.
2. **Law School** (Dole Street plantings) Ground cover was removed during painting and exterior repairs. Irrigation fixtures needed replacement. Once this was accomplished, Golden Glory ground peanut was installed as a ground cover.
3. **Law School** (Parking lot) Mockorange replacement plants needed to fill in gaps in the hedge.
4. **Maile Way** entrance to campus. Ground covers were removed under the monkeypod tree and adjacent to the marble block identifying the campus. The first plantings did not survive well and new ones have been installed. A proposal to improve the median strip was made. Replacement of missing shower trees was suggested.
5. **East West** entrance to campus. Cement planter units might be installed in the median to incorporate colorful low-growing shrubs and flowers. The marble block with signage representing the campus was damaged by vandals and may need to be replaced.
6. **Bachman/Dole** street sidewalk. Recommended that stanchions & chains be removed and replaced with movable cement planters containing colorful shrubs. Parking has requested that the area be available to be opened for re-routing of traffic if needed.
7. **Bachman/Old Postoffice** area. Behind Bachman parking lot there is a small strip of land behind an oleander hedge that is not attractive or useful. Recommended removing dirt mounds and stunted plants. Plant grass. Install planters & possibly picnic tables and benches. Work has begun on clearing this area.
8. **Backflow preventers** A number of backflow preventers on campus are rusting and appear in at least 3 different colors. Recommend painting a UH subdued-green and adding shrubs where appropriate to minimize visual impact.
9. **Sinclair Library** rear parking area and entrance to campus. Install planter area makai of the parking attendants’ kiosk. Install shrubbery, planters, ground cover.
10. **University High School** field at University and Dole St. Design and install new irrigation system for improved coverage. Install landscaping, create a mall-like area.
11. **Bilger Hall** parking lot (makai side along Correa Road) and adjacent area on the ewa and Diamond Head sides of the Physical Sciences Building. Needs include irrigation, paving, and planting. Irrigation system design work required. The Committee has spent considerable time reviewing campus plants and suggesting how improvements can be made in this highly visible area. Development of a grant proposal to Kaulunani (a federal urban forestry program) to support irrigation installation was suggested.

12. **Andrews Amphitheater** handicapped access sidewalk. Together with a consultant from the OutDoor Circle, the siting of a macadam sidewalk that would provide access to the Dole Street entrances to Andrew Amphitheater was approved.

13. **Orvis Auditorium & Music Building** Some overgrown trees and plantings adjacent to the Music building, its courtyard, and practice rooms were reviewed and suggestions made for their removal and replacement plantings.

14. **Biomedical Building** Trees in Courtyards C and D were inspected and found to be causing significant uplifting of the pavement. In addition, several courtyards were found to be home to cast-off plants incompatible with the landscape.

#### **D. Landscape Plan Reviews**

1. The Committee was active in the review of the Landscape plans for Hamilton Library Phase 3 and was instrumental in correcting installation of coral trees that were substituted for the specified native wiliwili trees.

2. The Committee saw and reviewed the preliminary plans for the landscaping that was to follow the renovation of Hawaii Hall and the installation of an air conditioning facility adjacent to the Social Science Building. Critical comments were made by some members of the committee concerning the “sameness” of plant materials offered by the landscape architects. Some plant material from the Committee’s “Wish List” (see discussion under Other Activities) was subsequently incorporated by the Landscape Architect for the project.

#### **E. Other Activities**

1. The Committee met with Mr. Stan Oka of the City & County Beautification office. The meeting was productive with an offer by Mr. Oka to assist with some simple items when possible (mulch chips are available when we see a need for them from the City). He also informed the committee of how the City handles some of the problems associated with irrigation management, on employee classifications, and how repair jobs get done.

2. Janet Gillmar has been preparing a package of guidelines for consultants for construction on campus (to be known as *Landscape Development and Enhancement*). These guidelines refer to the campus Master Plan and provide a philosophy for landscape development. Wish lists of plants for installation on campus to expand instructional resources and aesthetic range are included (and have already been consulted as various planning activities get underway). The list of memorial trees discussed above (#4 of Items carried over from previous years) is also included.

3. The Committee met with Calvin Kashimoto to discuss how the campus can initiate improvements of the irrigation system that underly new initiatives for landscape improvement. Mr. Kashimoto indicated that a position for an irrigation maintenance person was undergoing approval and should be available for announcement soon.

4. Relocation of a *Gardenia brighamii* from Hawaii Hall to the Botany Courtyard at St. John was successfully undertaken by several volunteers, including Committee member Eileen Herring.

5. The Committee received notice that the *Ficus religiosa* adjacent to the new Student Services Building had been removed from the City's list of Exceptional Trees. This means that the University can undertake corrective maintenance on the tree. There are no present plans for its removal.

6. The Committee was apprised of plans for a Legacy Pathway from Dole Street. More details were requested on the landscape plan.

7. The Committee met with Calvin Kashimoto and Farouk Wang to clarify lines of communication. Additionally, we voiced our concern about the subdivision of maintenance areas (EWC, Dorm area, Campus Center, Lower Campus, University Lab School, etc) that frustrate coordinated maintenance and planning of the campus landscape. Mr. Kashimoto recommended that the Committee make recommendations to these units any way when issues arise that pertain to our charge.

8. Several members of the Committee met with Alan Suwai of FPMO to review leaf drop problems caused by 3 *Eucalyptus deglupta* trees near Sherman Laboratory. Consensus was reached that 2 trees would be removed and the other would be trimmed regularly in order to minimize maintenance problems for the building's roof.

9. The Committee assisted Ed Koike (Landscaping Office Supervisor and ex-officio Committee member) in communicating concerns about the use of the Bachman Hall lawn for a Halloween Fair in 1999 that damaged the lawn and irrigation system.

10. The Committee received notice that temporary buildings near Hale Manoa (East-West Center) were to be demolished during summer 2001 and a new structure and a maintenance building for EWC will be built in the space. The Committee expressed interest in reviewing the existing landscape and landscape plans for the new structures.