

Landscape Advisory Committee Annual Report for 2001-2002

Committee Members: Janet Gillmar (Chair, Landscape Architect, School of Architecture), Eileen Herring (Recorder, Librarian), Gerald Carr (Botany), Richard Criley and Jay Deputy (TPSS), Bob Hirano (Lyon Arboretum), Ed Koike and Roxanne Adams (Buildings & Grounds Management), Kimo Marion (ASUH), Laura Ruby (Art Dept), John Stimson (Zoology), Wally Gretz (Architect, Facilities Planning & Management).
Administrative liaison: Farouk Wang (Director, Buildings & Grounds 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 Committee has been active since fall 1999, under the leadership of Janet Gillmar. Meetings have been held monthly including the summer months. The business of the meetings has been recorded in sets of minutes that have also been circulated to Farouk Wang and Calvin Kashimoto, among others. Sub-committees have been established review Adopt-a-Landscape plans and to deal with plant identification at sites targeted for renewal or construction. This report summarizes actions undertaken, discussed, or reported upon during the period July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002.

A. Accomplishments:

- Preparation of *Landscape Development and Enhancement; Guidelines for University Staff and Design Consultants*. The purpose of this document is to assist decision-making with respect to creating and maintaining a first-class landscape appropriate to the Manoa campus in concert with the long-range development plans.
- Through its Chair, Janet Gillmar, the Committee submitted inputs to the UH Strategic Plan process.

- Adopt-a-landscape Program: The program has been publicized by an article in Ku Lama (April 26, 2002) and by creating a web site (<http://www.hawaii.edu/bgm/landscaping/>) that presents the program description and requirements and provides an application form.
- Memorial Trees: Additional trees have been identified as existing or removed from the Memorial Trees list prepared in 2000.
- Completion of restoration of tile planter at Orvis Auditorium and appropriate tree planted. Fountain planting also completed at Orvis.
- Renovation of fountain/art work at Kuykendall Hall: With approval from the artist, the artwork was cleaned and the tiled basin turned into a planter with native Hawaiian plants.
- Quick Fix items were submitted from the Committee following the administration's call for measures that could be taken quickly and easily to improve the campus landscape and surroundings. B&G reported (9/14/01) on a number actions taken.
- Correa Road area adjacent to the visitor's parking and lot _____. Improvements for the makai side of Bilger Addition were designed, survey measurement taken, a grant for plant materials obtained, and installation of an irrigation system approved. Work is expected to get underway during the coming year.

B. 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 suffered damage from cracks and leakage and required repair. The State Foundation on Culture & the Arts paid for waterproofing and repair work. Following repair, medium was placed in the planter and a willow-leaved ficus was planted.
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. Parking bumpers were installed in the BioMed parking lot to protect vines on the fence. Signage to identify approved Adopt-a-landscape projects was secured from a grant from the Women's Campus Club. Proposals were received from persons or groups wishing to install plant materials at Kuykendall Hall, Edmondson Hall, Dean Hall, and the BioMed Building.
3. Tree damage during on-campus construction
 - (a) A number of Blue Latan Palms were successfully relocated from the construction site adjacent to Hawaii Hall.

(b) A monkeypod tree relocated during the site preparation for the air-conditioning facility behind Crawford Hall did not survive behind the student services building. A replacement tree has been proposed and located and is awaiting installation.

(c) A rainbow shower tree on Maile Way was damaged by a contractor working on the new air conditioning facility. It has been replaced.

(d) A rainbow shower tree was planted in the Maile Way median strip as a replacement for eucalyptus damaged during the construction of Hamilton Library addition 3.

4. Memorial trees on campus. Many tree sites have been identified and the trees verified, but a number 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. Of concern is the construction that is projected for Sinclair Library that will impact a number of memorial trees. Replacement suggestions for the 3 Holoholo Memorial trees has been requested.

5. **Correa Road and Bilger Hall** -- The Committee has spent considerable time suggesting how improvements can be made in this highly visible area. A design plan has been executed and approved. A proposal to Kaulunani (a federal urban forestry program) to support irrigation installation was approved. A site survey was performed by civil engineering students.

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.

1. **Law School** – Concern was expressed over the plan to remove plantings on the bridge connecting the Law School pedestrian mall to the parking structure. While visible damage was not observed to the underside of the bridge, engineers expressed their opinion that the weight of the trees and planter could cause future problems. The Committee's roles has become advisory on how to ameliorate the unsightly view of the quarry wall and compost piles behind the parking structure. The Committee was also alerted to the possible removal of all landscaping on the roof of the parking structure, including some unusual and valuable trees.

2. **Legacy Pathway** – The Committee expressed its concern about replacing the green entry to campus adjacent to Krauss Hall with a large brick semi-circle and pathway known as the Legacy Pathway. The proposed area to be covered with memorial bricks was deemed out-of-scale with the surroundings and several alternate versions were proposed by the Committee. The relocation of several large monkeypod trees was questioned and the prominence of unsightly utility boxes and overhead utility lines emphasized.

3. **University Avenue Bus Stop** -- The Committee reviewed plans for a new bus stop on the University Avenue side of campus just below the Sinclair Library. Suggestions were made relative to the trees proposed for planting and related landscape materials and walkways.

4. **Orvis Auditorium & Music Building** – A report on overgrown trees and plantings adjacent to the Music building, its courtyard, and practice rooms is in preparation. Suggestions will be made for replacement plantings and site improvements.

5. A site visit to the **Campus Center** and **Hemenway Hall** identified a number of problem plants (causing sidewalk cracking or uplifting, improper siting of palms under larger trees or roof overhangs, messy fruit drop, ad hoc plantings of cast-off plants, etc.). The management of these areas is not directly under the campus-wide Buildings and Grounds office, so it was unclear what impact the committee's comments would have, but some clean-up was initiated.

C. Referrals to the Landscape Advisory Committee

1. Representatives of the Student Housing office requested our review of housing areas to recommend what could be done in areas where plants used to exist but have since been removed. Also, advice was requested on pruning of trees near the low rise dorms near Manoa Stream. This is another area of campus that is not under the direct oversight of the campus-wide Buildings and Grounds office.

2. Identification of trees in the traffic circle between Gateway and Frear Halls was requested and completed. Frear Hall is targeted for demolition, and new student housing will be constructed on the site.

3. Representatives of the Center for Chinese Studies met with the Committee to discuss plans for a Chinese Herbal Garden to be constructed on campus. The Committee gave tentative approval but suggested consideration of a site near the BioMed Building. Plans are to be submitted to the Committee for review.

4. At the Astronomy complex mauka of campus in the Manoa Valley, clean-up of weedy trees and landscape materials by a crew from Buildings and Grounds proceeded, but an issue arose over a large cut-back banyan that has grown to fill an 8' x 8' planter box. At issue was whether to remove it or leave it and attempt to restore a shade-providing canopy as some occupants of the building feel strongly about the tree. Advice was sought from the Committee, and two site visits were made to review the problem. An analysis was provided for consideration by Buildings and Grounds. In general, the whole complex is in need of restorative landscaping.

5. Informally, the concept of renewing the landscaping at the top of the quarry wall behind the Law School has been referred to the Committee. A first need will be irrigation.

D. Landscape Plan Reviews

1. The Committee received drawings for the new Student Activities building of the East West Center and a review of plant materials slated for removal was conducted. The Committee commented adversely on a proposed parking design fronting East-West Road. One Blue Latan Palm was relocated from the site to the front lawn of Hawaii Hall.
2. Plant materials proposed for a new parking structure planned along Dole St. near the Kamakakuokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies were reviewed separately and together with Lilikala Kame'elehiwa, Director of Hawaiian Studies. While there was some agreement on the plant materials, the siting of the parking structure itself was a separate issue out of the purview of the Committee.
3. Legacy Pathway. The design of the pathway as an entrance to campus from the parking structure was reviewed. Alternative designs were proposed to maintain more of the green entry that presently exists. See C-2 above.

E. Other Activities

1. The Committee met with Interim Chancellor Deane Neubauer in late August 2001 to hear his concerns for campus improvement.
2. Recommended a site for a memorial tree for Librarian Joyce Watson.
3. Accepted donation of Yellow African Tulip Tree and donated services of The Tree People to transplant it from the CTAHR Waimanalo Research Station to a site on the Dole frontage of Holmes Hall.
4. The Committee reviewed the siting of benches and small tables along McCarthy Mall and offered the opinion that the chosen sites were not suitable for the style of seating that was proposed.
5. Representatives of the Committee visited the site between the Art Building and Bilger Hall that has been proposed for an overflow / storage area by the Art Dept. The area was in serious need of clean-up, and the Committee recommended cutting back on the extent of the proposed concrete pad and the construction of a wall between the walkway and the storage area.
6. The committee interacted with B&G over the removal and replacement of an educational collection of rocks at the HIG lawn.
7. The Committee expressed concern over the deep trenches that would be dug adjacent to large old Earpod trees between Campus Center and Hemenway Hall for new sewer lines. The trenches could seriously damage the anchorage of the trees. Another solution was found.

8. Concern over the loss of plantings on campus when new construction projects cause the cut off of irrigation to the sites external to the contractor's zone has led to the proposal that this problem be considered in the design and award of construction contracts (memo to K. Kashimoto Dec. 2001).

The Committee's student representative has graduated and a replacement needs to be appointed. We very much appreciated the inputs to the Committee of Kimo Marion who served both as a representative of ASUH and later as a graduate student. The committee expressed its congratulations to Ed Koike upon his retirement and later welcomed Roxanne Adams as the new Manager for Grounds.

The Committee notes that a number of pending campus improvements listed in the 2000-2001 report have not received attention. New issues keep coming to the fore and the earlier ones "fall through the cracks" when specific responsibility for follow up is not made.

Better interaction with our neighbor, MidPacific School is needed to clean up and maintain our common border. Example is overhanging trees behind Ag. Engineering building.