

Landscape Advisory Committee
Annual Report 1 July 2004 to 30 June 30, 2005
www.hawaii.edu/bgm/landscaping/

Committee Members: Janet Gillmar (Committee Chair, Landscape Architect, School of Architecture), Gerald Carr (Botany), Richard Criley and Andrew Kaufman (TPSS), Roxanne Adams (Buildings & Grounds Management), Laura Ruby (Art Dept), John Stimson (Zoology), Wally Gretz (Architect, Facilities Planning & Management), Bruce Miller (Campus Sustainability Comm.), Matt Wolf (Student Representative).

Administrative liaison: Farouk Wang (Director, Buildings & Grounds Management)

Authority statement (From Strategic Planning Meeting 2/17/05): The LAC shall review and provide recommendations on landscape decisions being considered by the administration. Each recommendation should include the rationale or process used to develop it. The committee will be asked to review proposed work involving exterior landscape, including, but not limited to: general landscape maintenance, new and existing landscapes, exterior of new and existing temporary and/or permanent structures, siting of new and existing temporary and/or permanent structures, landscape improvements, tree protection, removal and replacement, all exterior hardscapes including outdoor furnishings, sidewalks, signage and lighting.

Mission Statement: The Landscape Advisory Committee will be an advocate for the University of Hawaii Manoa campus and will promote an attractive and appropriate campus environment that encourages and fosters positive academic and social interactions. The impression of a university campus can have a powerful effect on students, faculty, staff and visitors. The campus is much more than just the buildings and their rooms: it is also the functional and aesthetic organization of outdoor spaces and all they include. Specifically, the campus landscape and its associated amenities are the fabric that holds the buildings together. Without an advocate for the landscape, the campus ends up lacking a sense of place. These positive interactions include assuring the long-term health of plants on campus along with the maintenance of all landscape features. Adopting landscape practices that are water and energy efficient, while perpetuating and expanding the landscape environment through tree canopy, shrubs and ground cover plantings, will help foster positive academic and social interactions on the University of Hawaii Manoa campus.

Preface:

The Manoa Landscape Advisory Committee (established Fall 1996) **develops and supports initiatives that sustain the tree canopy and preserves green spaces for 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.**

A. Accomplishments

1. Dr. Gerry Carr (Botany) completed mapping locations of campus trees for a campus tree inventory, including Memorial Trees. This inventory is very important as it provides the basis for sustaining both the tree canopy and species diversity of campus and in identifying trees in our tree risk assessment process. Dr. Carr has retired from the UH faculty, but this important legacy will be continued.
2. Sustainability Courtyard: LAC interacted to approve a Master Plan including a stage location, food facility relocation, and provisions for bicycle parking. A design for the stage was contributed by LAC members. The Grounds staff and volunteers from the UH

community installed plant materials to landscape the area and an entrance gate was constructed based on an Art project. A bamboo collection was contributed to the landscape. Discussions continue on the food service facilities for this area.

3. Instructional steel connection sculpture at Holmes Hall. The LAC assisted Facilities, Landscaping and Civil and Environmental Engineering Department with plans for the concrete base and planting renovations associated with construction of an educational sculpture piece illustrating structural steel connections erected in the ewa courtyard of Holmes Hall. The American Institute of Steel Construction provided the design. Fabrication was provided by Mutual Welding Company and engineering students under the direction of Instructor Ian Robertson

4. BioMed Courtyard C. Removal of a tree that was uplifting the pavement offered the opportunity to design a new landscape and Janet Gillmar, with the help of Rich Criley, offered a design. Unfortunately the October 2004 flood has put some of the installation on hold, although some paving and plants have been installed.

5. Sherman Hall courtyard. LAC approved a design for re-landscaping the Sherman Hall courtyard with native plants. Installation of plant material, some donated, some purchased, was by the UH Grounds crew and volunteers from the occupants of Sherman and St. John Halls. This planting, known as the Native Plant and Ecosystem Educational Garden, is filling in nicely and received a 2005 Betty Crocker Landscape Award from Scenic Hawai'i in the Community Garden category.

6. Tennis court plantings. LAC assisted Facilities in developing a design which included sufficient planting space to soften the view of the 5 story parking structure as well as to ameliorate plant loss in the renovation of the lower campus tennis complex. Species of replacement trees and shrubbery were recommended,

7. Athletics Complex and Lower Campus. LAC provided Women's track coach Carmyn James and the Athletic Department with a design for planting improvements which were installed in the Cooke Field track and field complex. A televised national competition will be held there in the summer of 2006. Most of the plants have been installed and the rest are pending. Grounds completed a clean-up of the quarry pond. Some concerns about pedestrian safety in the area were eased by some tree pruning. Discussions were held with Terri Chang, the Athletics Department's facilities coordinator, about the grounds maintenance situation there and improved landscaping around the buildings.

Site visits were made to inspect the Varsity Gate entrance to campus and recommend landscape beautification. Relocation of parking on the Diamond Head end of the Speech Clinic, possibly to the current motorcycle parking at the ewa end of the building, is needed to make needed planting at that visually important part of the Varsity Gate entrance possible. Grounds has cleaned up the area. Plantings are pending. Tree trimming was necessary for a large banyan near a storage facility next to FMPO.

8. The Joyce Watson Memorial tree, a Gold Tree, was planted in a site near Hamilton Library. A plaque was installed. The memorial site was dedicated July 29, 2004. In October 2004, a flood washed out most of the plantings. Pending flood repair and related construction has put replacement of the plantings on hold.

9. Hawaiian Studies and associated parking structure on Dole St Negotiations with the administration of Hawaiian Studies produced a compromise on plantings to surround the new parking structure, providing for monkeypod trees along Dole Street to be consistent with the Long Range Development Plan and native plants in the remaining area. Most of the plantings are in place, and more native plants that are used in traditional Hawaiian

culture, as well as the endemic native plants already in the landscape plan, were planted at the request of the Hawaiian Studies faculty. Some re-landscaping has been done around Kamakakuokalani by Grounds and the Hawaiian Studies program..

10. The Campus Art brochure has been revised by Laura Ruby and reprinted.

11. The issue of a food facility trailer placed on McCarthy Mall on a trial basis was addressed by the LAC. The trailer has been removed. LAC recommends a campus policy be developed on the locations of food facilities to minimize visual pollution while permitting convenient service to the campus community. Members of the LAC have provided Facilities and food service oversight staff with suggested guidelines.

12. Site visits by Wally Gretz and Rich Criley resulted in recommendations for alternative routing of a new electrical services distribution loop to minimize disruption to campus trees. Many of their suggestions were adopted.

B. Pending and Continuing Items

1. As a result of flood damage to Hamilton Library, electrical and mechanical capabilities will be restored via a new building between Edmondson Hall and Hamilton Library. The LAC reviewed the proposed site and determined what trees might have to be taken out. There is an understanding that at least an equivalent amount of tree canopy will be provided in the landscape plan which will be prepared as part of this relocation of electrical and mechanical services for Hamilton.

2. A Bicycle Committee is determining possible routings for bike pathways, bicycle parking, and other facilities for bicyclists. LAC will interact with them as more definite plans are laid out.

3. Orvis & Music buildings complex: The entire complex requires an evaluation and a list of changes and upgrades need to be developed. There are safety issues pending although removal of several large trees that were lifting the sidewalks and endangering a practice room structure have been removed. No action has been taken so far to develop a Master Plan for restoring the site.

4. Quarry Wall. The University is moving to identify a consultant to help develop a comprehensive plan to address ground surface and rock face stability concerns here. Janet Gillmar and Wally Gretz of LAC toured the site with Ron Lau, Facilities Design Section Head and recommended resolving ground water run-off and developing a landscape solution along the cliff edge to stabilize the eroding conditions. Low visual impact and unobtrusive stabilization solutions were also recommended. A report on the geology of the rock face was made by Mike Garcia of the Geology Dept. more than 2 years ago. It is LAC's understanding that one possibility is that a chain-link barrier may be placed on the quarry wall face to minimize the danger of falling rocks.

5. Hamilton Library entrance. LAC has been involved in discussing a landscape design offered by Mike Miyabara for renovating the mall-side entrance and Maile Way entry walkway to the main entrance of Hamilton Library. Plant material suggestions and their locations have been made, together with suggestions for alternate location of bicycle parking away from McCarthy mall and the walkways to Maile Way. The October 2004 flood has put some of these plans on hold.

6. Placement of a skateboard park on campus to attract skateboarders away from campus hardscapes has been proposed. LAC has not had to react to any firm plans, but has voiced its concerns about safety, signage, and the general priority of such a facility.

7. A building to house a high power laser facility has been proposed. The Terahertz Fell Laboratory would potentially eliminate some trees for the convenience of locating the building near the researchers. The LAC voiced its concern. No specific plans have been brought to us for our evaluation and advice.

8. The LAC voiced its concerns over a security gate system proposed for the Maile Way entrance to campus, noting that it was ugly and would probably not be effective in preventing theft on campus given the fact that the East West Road entry off Dole Street remains open and the Campus Road entry to University Avenue affords both foot and small motorized vehicle entrance.. Other vehicular access is similarly open.

C. Other pending items:

1. Long term problem of monkeypod tree overhanging neighbor's yard near Golf Academy. Proposed to move the tree when a suitable site is found, but it will require professional services as Grounds does not have the equipment.

2. Still pending: Extension of tree plantings along Dole St. to implement UHM Master Plan. Trees may be available, but a planting plan (design) is needed.

3. A long-range development plan for the Manoa Stream drainage basin is under consideration. The LAC will share its evaluation of the campus portion when preliminary plans are presented.

4. LAC has interacted with the Moiliili Community and the State Dept. of Transportation concerning landscape improvements to the UH off ramp from the H-1 freeway.

5. A brochure on campus plants is still in need of updating.

D. Adopt-a-Landscape program

1. Irrigation for vines on BioMed fencing has been completed. Replacement of vines lost in the October 2004 flood awaits replacement of soil that was washed away.

2. A proposal is pending for an Adopt-a-landscape project in the Environmental Law courtyard at the Law School.

E. Committee Organization

1. The LAC held a strategic planning workshop in February and March, facilitated by Dr. Donna Ching. From this exercise core values and a draft rationale for the Committee were developed and a draft Mission Statement was prepared.

2. LAC has determined that sub-committees, meeting separately on issues, can better present reports at our monthly meetings than conducting the work as a committee of the whole during the meeting. The sub-committees will be: Landscape Policy and Planning, Tree Risk Assessment and Management, Project Review and Coordination, and Landscape Training. Members of the sub-committees are not always full members of the Landscape Advisory Committee, but each sub-committee has LAC members as liaison and working members. Sub-committee descriptions have been posted to the LAC web site. Tree Risk Assessment is needed and is getting underway.

3. A vice-chair has been named to assist the Chair of the LAC. Dr. Andrew Kaufman has undertaken this role.

4. The records of the LAC have been transferred to Roxanne Adams from Eileen Herring, who has resigned from the Committee.

5. Addition of a student representative to the Committee was met by the appointment of Matt Wolf, a graduate student in the UH Environmental Law program.

● **Policy items**

1. Committee has drafted a policy statement on tree removal and replacement, which was presented in May 2004 to both the Manoa Leadership Team and the Long Range Development Plan Advisory Committee. A reiteration of this policy was made during UHM Strategic Action Plan meetings in spring 2005. This policy has already been followed by LAC and the Landscaping Office, but it needs to be written into the revised Long Range Development Plan so implementation will outlive the current Buildings and Grounds management staff and membership of the LAC.

2. Committee has long urged consolidation of all grounds management operations under one supervisor to better coordinate the now very fragmented management of the campus landscape. Vice President Rodney Sakaguchi agreed that is a desirable goal but would be difficult to implement immediately. He suggested that we begin the process by inviting representatives of Campus Center, Parking, Athletics and Student Housing to sit with the LAC on a regular, rotating basis. Periodically the Committee has also voiced support for Buildings & Grounds equipment needs, personnel needs, and an adequate budget. A continuing problem is that planning and budgeting for the maintenance of buildings and grounds still has not been incorporated into the planning and design process for new construction which is typically funded under the CIP process.

3. The LAC strongly supported the addition of a Campus Landscape Architect position to the Buildings and Grounds staffing plan.

4. Proposal for Enhanced Aesthetics component in Facilities Planning & Management still pending. Update of Long Range Development plan for UHM offers opportunities for landscaping improvement & policy development.

5. Flood and drought management plans need to be developed.

6. Committee has been advised on a requirement for a storm water management plan for campus. This is not a Committee responsibility, but we may be asked to advise on appropriate plantings.

● **Miscellaneous**

1. The LAC has sent letters voicing our appreciation of landscape beautification work undertaken by the EWC, and Waikiki Aquarium.

2. Eileen Herring and Gerry Carr have resigned from the Landscape Advisory Committee. We thank them for their services and advice during their terms on the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Gillmar, Chair
Landscape Advisory Committee
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