

Immediate Impact Projects

One of the principles of the Master Plan is to provide opportunities to begin implementation in the short term (3-5 years) without obtaining major capital appropriations for large building projects. This list is intended to provide smaller scale, lower capital projects that will begin the transformation of the physical look, feel and functionality of the campus that work within the framework of the complete Master Plan. This list of improvements to open spaces, buildings and sustainability will be examined in greater detail and tailored with the development of the Preferred Plan in Phase 3.

IMMEDIATE IMPACT PROJECTS

OPEN SPACE

There are several opportunities throughout both the East and West Sides of campus to improve existing open spaces, as well as to create new ones. The campus can take positive steps toward fulfilling the long term goals of the Master Plan in small, manageable increments by focusing attention on usable outdoor space which is purposeful and suitably scaled to its use and context which shall be all-season and well maintained.

- Remove existing barriers (fences, walls, permanent furniture) to create opportunities for open, inviting spaces and improved pedestrian circulation (Fig 77.1)
- Establish signature landscape areas and diversified outdoor space types (Fig 77.2)
- Add all-season water features by identifying location and type that is best suited to campus and microclimate (Fig 77.3)
- Amend campus plantings to improve landscaping condition and maintenance, and identify plantings suitable for winter season use
- Improve identity through gateways, signs, banners and streetscapes to create a sense of entry and threshold to the campus
- Upgrade site furniture (Fig 77.4)
- Improve pavements throughout campus where required (Fig 77.5)
- Enhance campus lighting for illumination levels, energy efficiency, safety and aesthetic focus (Fig 77.6)



Figure 77.1 Remove portions of existing perimeter, interior fence and wall barriers



Figure 77.2 Signature landscape example



Figure 77.3 All-season water feature example



Figure 77.4 Alternative site furnishings example



Figure 77.5 Signature paved surface example



Figure 77.6 Enhanced outdoor lighting example

IMMEDIATE IMPACT PROJECTS

BUILDINGS

The list of improvements for building enhancements offer suggestions for immediate projects to improve the functionality of existing buildings.

- Relocate building entrances and service zones. With the removal of second level entrances and walkways from the original Netsch campus, several East Side building first level entrances and service zones may be enhanced and/or relocated to improve circulation, functionality and adjacencies (Fig 79.1-4).
- Create new and enhance existing pathways and gateways connecting buildings. Several of the existing and potential open spaces on the West Side of campus connect through building lobbies and entries (Fig 79.5). Several of these lobbies and entries shall be redeveloped to allow for extended hour cross-through and provide a direct pathway connecting the campus.



Figure 79.1 Opportunity to enhance entry in coordination with Preferred Plan pedestrian pathway



Figure 79.2 Existing building entry enhancement opportunity



Figure 79.3 Existing building entry & service area conflict example



Figure 79.4 Existing building pedestrian pathway & service area conflict example



Figure 79.5 Example of opportunity location to create/enhance a pedestrian walkway in concert with existing building connections

IMMEDIATE IMPACT PROJECTS

SUSTAINABILITY: BUILDINGS & OPEN SPACE

This Master Plan is one instrument of UIC's overall commitment to increasing sustainability and achieving climate neutrality. It offers the opportunity to take a comprehensive, holistic look at environmental issues and to formulate a strategy for further action. UIC has already started to take action with the UIC Climate Action Plan.

Areas of mitigation strategies outlined by the Climate Action Plan with Master Plan opportunities are:

- Energy Efficiency & Conservation - Improve energy efficiency of existing and future buildings—envelope, systems, monitoring and controls
- Clean & Renewable Energy Sources – incorporate the use of renewable energy sources including solar, wind, geothermal and biomass technologies
- Improved Transportation Options - Minimize the amount of student, faculty, and staff driving to campus through the use of parking management, incentives, an expanded public transportation network, car sharing programs, improved bicycle facilities and better pedestrian networks
- Improved Ground (or Open Space) Operations - Discourage sprawl thereby minimizing the loss of open space and the amount of fuel wasted in moving people and goods and make changes to the campus' landscape design so as to enhance plant and animal habitat, emphasize local species, minimize the amount of fuel used in maintenance, reduce the use of fertilizer and pesticides, and address water quality and stormwater runoff issues



Figure 81.1 Geothermal heating and cooling



Figure 81.2 Cool roofs and reduce heat retention



Figure 81.3 Renewable energy solar PV panels



Figure 81.4 Bioretention swales/stormwater run-off management



Figure 81.5 Green Roofs

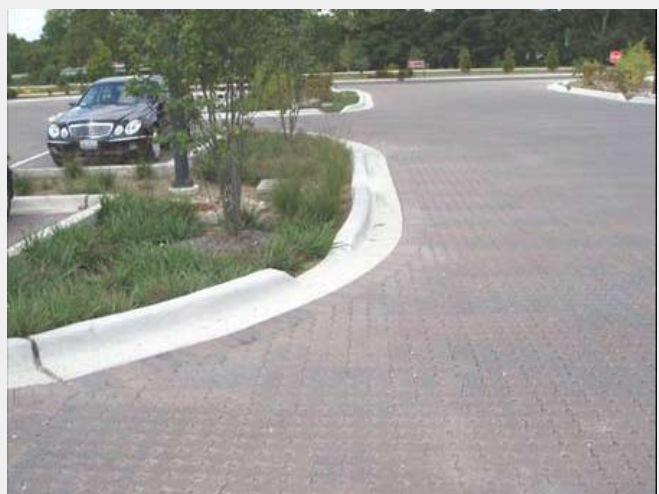


Figure 81.6 Permeable Paving surfaces