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Planning the campus of the future: University of Illinois invites input for its comprehensive landscape strategy

Campus community invited to contribute through interviews, public forum, and surveys

(Urbana-Champaign) – The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) has initiated an effort to develop a shared vision for the future of its campus landscape. Having begun analysis late last year, the university is now engaging the public as it creates its Campus Landscape Master Plan (CLMP) that will describe how to design and manage landscapes to be more resilient, multifunctional, and beautiful.

“As our landscapes serve as the public face of the university, visitors naturally form opinions on the quality of our programs based on the quality of our environments,” University Landscape Architect Brent Lewis stated. “This plan will allow us to be intentional about how future faculty, students, employees, guests, and other campus users experience the excellence, inclusivity, and innovation of the university in its historical and natural contexts.”

To ensure the success of the CLMP and that it reflects the vision of its stakeholders, UIUC Facilities & Services (F&S) is inviting students, employees, and residents of, Urbana, and Savoy to discuss the plan during an online public forum on Wednesday, April 27, 2022. The forum will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and attendees are asked to register in advance on the F&S [website](#).

The result of the CLMP effort will be site-specific development requirements for each of eleven landscape districts outlined in the 2018 Campus Master Plan, such as the Main Quad, Engineering Quad, Research Park, and athletics corridor. The plan’s engagement process asks stakeholders to consider desired uses, such as outdoor classrooms and wellness and recreation spaces, alongside strategies to meet the functional and long-term needs of the campus, like transitioning low-use areas of campus to low-mow zones and native prairies, which require less maintenance.

“Resilience and sustainability are important to the UIUC community as are emphasized in past related plans. Now we are focused on creating a shared vision as well as defining the details of how this will be implemented,” said Lewis.

The plan complements the objectives of the Campus Master Plan, updated in 2018; Resilient Landscape Strategy, completed in 2019; and the Illinois Climate Action Plan, released in 2020. This past February, the university’s Facilities & Services (F&S) unit conducted interviews with 15 groups, including campus leadership, faculty experts, students, grounds staff, and maintenance professionals.

Through spaces such as the [online forum](#), F&S hopes to get feedback from stakeholders with a wide range of backgrounds and viewpoints to develop and refine the CLMP further. “The more campus users who provide input, whether during our forum or in interviews and surveys, the more thoughtful we can be with how our campus evolves to meet challenges of this generation and future generations,” added Lewis.

To learn more about this initiative, visit the F&S website: <https://www.fs.illinois.edu/services/capital-programs/campus-master-planning>

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Editor’s note: The full registration hyperlink is
<https://fs.illinois.edu/services/capital-programs/campus-master-planning>