



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

# Campus Heritage Landscape Plan

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## OPEN HOUSE

Date: **Thursday, November 15**  
Time: **Noon - 2:00 p.m.**  
Location: **EMU lobby**

The University of Oregon is developing a **Campus Heritage Landscape Plan** with support from a Getty Foundation Campus Heritage Grant. The Plan includes:

- a comprehensive cultural resource survey of forty-nine buildings and twenty-one landscape areas and rank based on their historic significance and integrity
- planning guidelines for preserving open spaces
- preservation plans for primary open spaces and building sites

The university is fortunate to have such a rich cultural heritage represented by its collection of buildings and landscapes spanning its 125-year history. The Campus Heritage Landscape Plan includes all buildings built during three eras of campus development from 1876 to 1974.

*Drop by to learn about this important project and tell us what you think!*



Memorial Quad from top of Knight Library  
(circa 1945)



Deady Hall Walk: Villard Hall (left) and  
Deady Hall (right) (pre 1900)

*Learning from the historic successes and establishing  
compatible relationships between the past and the future to create a  
cohesive campus environment at the University of Oregon.*

## Project Significance

The University of Oregon is fortunate to have such a rich cultural heritage represented by its collection of buildings and landscapes spanning its 125-year history. The university has made great strides in identifying and preserving its historically significant resources. However, until this plan was completed its most significant character-defining campus feature—the open-space framework—had not been given the attention it deserves. This project is designed to ensure that the university’s cultural heritage is not lost as change and development inevitably occur to meet the university’s needs.

Although five of the university’s historic Ellis Lawrence open spaces and portions of an additional three are included in National Register listings and two others are partially included in National Landmark listings, the university had not conducted a comprehensive cultural resources survey or developed a preservation plan for these or any other Ellis Lawrence landscapes that form the open-space framework.

Establishing a link between the eras of campus development is especially important as we begin to consider the historic significance of post-World War II resources, most of which are associated with Lawrence’s open-space framework. The effort to determine the significance of these resources is in line with the National Trust for Historic Preservation president Richard Moe’s statement in a March 6, 2005 interview by *The Oregonian* reporter Randy Gragg: “We’re becoming very focused at the Trust on what we call ‘the recent past’—structures that aren’t necessarily 50 years, not historic but outstanding.” The City of Eugene’s recently completed historic context statement, “Eugene Modernism, 1935-1965,” supports this premise. For these reasons, the building survey component of this project includes all buildings built before 1974.

Furthermore, it is essential to learn from the successes of these historic open spaces and establish a compatible relationship between them and newer buildings and newer parts of campus to create a cohesive campus environment. As stated by Richard Moe in the same interview noted above, “The most vital cities I see are those that save and reuse the best of their old buildings and then build great new buildings. The best of the new and the old.” This applies directly to campuses as well. Too often campuses successfully preserve isolated buildings or groupings only to surround these resources with an incongruous mix of newer buildings, parking lots, and planting areas. This is especially important now that the university has reached a stage in its development when no more bare land exists, making the thoughtful development of land within its historic core an absolute necessity.

The time was right to complete this project. The *Campus Plan*, which was just updated, confirms the university’s policy to preserve and enhance the historic open-space framework. The updated *Campus Plan* further emphasizes the significance of the open-space framework by requiring each construction project to use a percentage of its project funds to complete open-space improvements. It became clear, however, that the essential step of identifying appropriate open-space improvements was well beyond the scope of the plan’s update process. Therefore, engaging in a more detailed analysis of the existing and desired character of open spaces is listed as a future work item. That work is the premise for this project.

If you would like additional information please visit the University Planning Office web page, <http://uplan.uoregon.edu> (“projects” link) or contact the principal investigators:

Chris Ramey, [cramey@uoregon.edu](mailto:cramey@uoregon.edu)  
Christine Thompson, [cthompson@uoregon.edu](mailto:cthompson@uoregon.edu)

University Planning Office  
University Planning, 1276 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403  
(541) 346-5562