

There are a number of initiatives Brock University could undertake in the immediate future to begin implementing the Campus Plan, as listed below. They have been grouped by initiatives related to the campus landscape/setting; parking and access; future studies; and partnership opportunities.

2.15.1 Initiatives Related to the Campus Landscape and Setting

1. In keeping with the strong emphasis placed on the quality of the University's setting, one of the first steps should be the preparation of a Landscape Restoration and Stewardship Action Plan. This plan would include an inventory of key natural and landscape features, implement the landscape categories and planting lists outlined in Section 2.4, define a number of prioritized landscape design/restoration projects, address key planning and design considerations and establish appropriate maintenance practices and protocols.
2. Create the *Escarpment Meadows* and *Escarpment Forest* described in Sections 2.4 and 2.10 located along the Niagara Escarpment edge to begin to enhance the naturalized character of the Escarpment edge and begin to restore the high quality interface between the campus and its setting.
3. Create an ecological garden in the *Johnston Creek* bed to enhance the character and quality of this already special place, as detailed in Section 2.10. This area will be a key focal point in the future *University Centre*.
4. Plant the Sakura Cherry trees on *Brock Mall North*, as proposed in Section 2.10. This will transform the character of this key space and be a first step in implementing the proposed "hierarchy" of street trees on campus as both an aid to place-making and way-finding.
5. Plant the recommended ring of Beech trees on *Brock Circle*, as detailed in Section 2.10. This will ensure that they get to a relatively mature state before the Willow trees begin to require significant replacement, to enhance and maintain the strong iconic character of this key space.
6. Develop a detailed design plan for *St. David's Gate* (Section 2.10), which is to be strengthened as the primary point of entry to Brock University, and needs an image that both befits the University and facilitates the experience of arriving at the campus. The detailed design plan should outline a series of staged improvements related to landscape, signage, roadway improvements, restoration of the existing *hedgerow* and the proposed visitor lay-by and orientation centre.

7. Develop a detailed design strategy for the *Memorial Wood* area (Section 2.4), to ensure that its ecological functions are preserved and enhanced, and that there is a strong framework for the future planting of memorial trees.
8. Begin to establish *West Park* and *East Plaza* as adjacent building projects, particularly as the proposed Bookstore progresses.

2.15.2 Access and Parking

1. Complete a Travel Demand Management and Parking Needs Study, to address both immediate needs related to the arrival of the *double cohort* in 2003 and longer-term opportunities to increase the proportion of trips made to the campus by transit, bicycle and on foot. This initiative will involve creation of some of the new parking lots shown on *South Campus* to meet the projected demands beginning in September 2003. It should also include discussions with the St. Catharines Transit and Thorold Transit to optimize transit service, and preparation of a Financial Plan to understand how parking fees will be utilized to fund and/or facilitate *travel demand management* strategies over the longer term. See Section 2.6.
2. Relocate the transit stops to the east side of *Brock Mall North*, to reduce congestion in front of Schmon Tower and support the Alumni Student Centre and potential new Bookstore location.
3. Initiate discussions with the Region of Niagara to create *Thorold Gate* and *Tecumseh Gate*, providing enhanced access to campus from Merrittville Highway, south of St. David's Road.

2.15.3 Studies

1. Prepare a Master Servicing Plan, as outlined in Section 2.9.6 so that future campus development will be coordinated with comprehensive future infrastructure needs.
2. Complete a detailed assessment to confirm the amount of and potential constraints to development that could be accommodated on *East Campus*. These relate to its proximity to the Niagara Escarpment, the immediately adjacent former landfill and options to provide access and municipal services.
3. Complete a feasibility study for the *University Centre*, to determine the role and space/programmatic requirements of its potential components. These would include at a minimum, the Bookstore, student services, University administration, the library and community spaces. The purpose would be to match these component requirements onto the space available in Development Parcels 6, 8, 12 and 13. See Section 2.10.

2.15.4 Partnership Opportunities

It is rare for proposals for significant campus projects to come with full funding for implementation. It is for the majority of projects, therefore, that the University should develop a strategy for fostering partnerships with a variety of other institutions, to augment funding, resources and/or expertise to achieve mutual goals. Potential examples include the following:

1. Continue working with the Regional Municipality of Niagara regarding the rehabilitation and conversion of the Glenridge Quarry Landfill to a regional open space amenity, as this will not only improve the natural environment but will also improve the aesthetic quality and the environment of *East Campus*. It may also provide the opportunity for shared facilities on *East Campus*, including parking facilities and/or shared University/community uses with a strong relationship to the park.
2. Explore partnerships with the Regional Municipality of Niagara, the City of St. Catharines and Shaver Hospital to improve the streetscapes and appearance of Merritville Highway and Glenridge Avenue, and their intersection with St. David's Road. These would further the goals of the University and benefit the Region, the City and the Hospital as well.
3. Pursue opportunities to establish partnerships to develop a research park on *South Campus*. These opportunities may exist in both the private and public sectors.
4. Engage in discussions with the Bruce Trail Association to promote the long-term security, improvement and maintenance of the Trail, as suggested in the Campus Plan.
5. Explore partnerships with OPG to improve Hydro Road, which would provide better access to *North Campus* and would provide OPG with a road of higher quality. Additionally, partnerships with OPG could allow the University additional land on which to build, specifically on *South Campus*.
6. Engage Brock University students, faculty and the local artistic community to produce public art for the campus.

In the future, there will continue to be many other partnership opportunities for the University to explore, assisting in the implementation of projects and reinforcing the University's role as a partner in and with its community.

