# **Protecting the Campus Ecosystem and Watershed** Anna Ceraulo-Jalazo, UNH Sustainability Fellow Mentors: Doug Bencks, Campus Planning; Jennifer Andrews, Sustainability Institute

## **UNH Landscape Master Plan, 2004** Formal, Illustrative and Aesthetic Approach to Campus Planning and Design

### **Statement of Purpose**

The Landscape Master Plan provides a frame of reference for the design and management of the grounds while at the same time ensuring it is developed and maintained in an ecologically sound manner is a complex undertaking. The Landscape Master Plan will aid in this effort by establishing design guidelines and landscape standards that foster sustainable design and management practices.



## **UNH Landscape Master Plan Update, 2018** Codifying Resilient and Sustainable Best Management Practices for Ease of Implementation

### **Statement of Purpose, Revised and Reframed**

The Landscape Master Plan establishes a standard for the design and management of the grounds is an asset to be enriched by sustainability robust design and maintenance practices. This document is meant to facilitate the success of sustainabile project planning, management and maintenance endeavors in order to elevate the campus as a state of the art model for stormwater management, performative novel ecosystems and resilient planning practices.

American Society of Landscape Architects Blue Ribbon Panel on Climate Change and Resilience Recommendations

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- For all trees and vegetation, follow best practices for planting and maintenance.
- Preserve existing open space and parkland in community and regional planning. Recapture part or all of abandoned brownfield and grayfield sites for green/open space.
- Protect, expand, and/or restore natural systems, including wetlands and adjacent upland areas, that provide buffers along coastlines and inland waterways. Maintain setbacks from streams to protect watershed function and quality. *Limit or prohibit building in floodplains.*
- Plan "gray" stormwater infrastructure, i.e., engineered systems, thoughtfully
- and sustainably in concert with natural green infrastructure systems.
- Incorporate water conservation and water reuse technologies in all development and land uses.
- Protect critical water sources, including aquifers, using best available science
- in concert with design and planning strategies.
- Select biohabitat-supporting and pollinator-friendly native or adapted plant species appropriate to the site/region and changing climate conditions. Prioritize vegetation species that are more likely to withstand potential climate changes, including drought. In some cases, this may involve introduction of species not currently present.
- Preserve wildlands, i.e., intact green spaces that have never been developed, to support healthy and diverse plant and animal communities. • Include greenways and wildlife corridors in regional plans to support plant and animal migration and relocation. Assess and plan for both natural and assisted migration of plant and animal species. This may include the introduction of new species in place as well as the relocation of seed stock and breeding animals to more suitable environments.

## **Barriers to Implementation + Opportunities for Change**

Stakeholders at UNH are well poised to contribute their time, effort and expertise to the develoment of a collective implementation strategy for a sustainable and resilient update to landscape planning, design and management practices on campus. Many are currently stuck in their respective silos, which is reinforced by a "business as usual" approach. There is a great opportunity to take stock of successes and failures, identify moments of overlap in desired outcomes, and leverage social capital to advocate for a shift from a "Capital Cost" model of landscape assessment to a "Life Cycle Cost" model, which broadens the scope of planning, design and maintenance considerations to include the evolution of dynamnic living systems at an appropriate spatio-temporal scale.







