

WEST RIDGE AND CORNERSTONE PLAZA SCHEMATIC DESIGNS

Developed by the UAF Campus Landscape and Outdoor Art Subcommittee (CLOA)* in consultation with Land Design North (LDN), Anchorage, and the UAF Division of Design and Construction

Cornerstone Plaza Features

- Fewer walkways in a simplified design that emphasizes the most heavily traveled routes between buildings;
- Massed plantings of trees that will provide some protection from the elements but, more importantly, will reduce the open, exposed feeling that currently characterizes the plaza;
- A fire pit that can be used at all times of the year, but especially during the winter months when students are on campus;
- Landscaping features, including site-specific permanent sculptures and formal flower beds, that will celebrate the plaza as the formal gateway to campus;
- Individual gathering areas that provide human scale to the plaza and can be used for eating outdoors, informal interactions, celebrations and ceremonies, and teaching;
- Large open areas that can be used for outdoor events such as concerts, theater performances, or all-campus events like picnics

West Ridge Plaza Features

- Three separate outdoor teaching areas that will represent distinct regions of the circumpolar boreal forest: Russia and Siberia, Alaska and Canada, and Scandinavia. Tree plantings and associated plant communities will represent an unprecedented learning opportunity to observe all the major forest tree species specific to the world's boreal forest. The development of these teaching areas will take several years to complete as the prospective species are tested and developed for planting. Intermediate trees species may be planted in each teaching area as the landscaping evolves to the ultimate goal of having an internationally renowned arboretum designed to provide both an appealing landscape and a unique educational experience.
- Site specific, permanent sculptures will be located in each of the teaching areas. Efforts to obtain sculptures from the three regions represented in the teaching habitats will be made. Sites for ice sculptures are also identified.
- Individual gathering areas that provide human scale to the plaza and can be used for eating outdoors, informal interactions, celebrations and ceremonies, and teaching are an integral part of the design.
- A volleyball court and associated barbeque area is provided west of the Arctic Health building.
- The entire area will be maintained as a pedestrian-friendly zone.

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