“TOP TEN” CAMPUS LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION NEEDS

February 2017

The Cornell Landscape Improvement Partners (CLIPers) annually review this "top ten" campus landscape beautification needs/opportunities list. Please note, this un-prioritized list is "unofficial", changes periodically, and must be cleared through the Campus Planning, and Development Offices prior to considering any solicitations. Our Cornell landscape needs currently include:

A) **Uris-Olin Library Plaza.** This prominent, centrally-located gathering space is in need of redesign to enhance the function, accessibility, aesthetics and landscape of this historic campus crossroads. The current worn, “asphalt parking lot appearance” would be upgraded into an attractively landscaped pedestrian-oriented plaza with generous use of multi-seasonal plantings and low seat walls to compliment Ho Plaza, McGraw Tower, and our iconic Arts Quad.

B) **Collegetown Entryway: Eddy Gate / Schwartz Center Plaza and Walkway.** This historic University gateway is currently a dilapidated “diamond in the rough”. Restoration of the Eddy Gate should include a pedestrian oriented plaza inside and adjacent to the gateway, delineation of limited vehicle access, enhanced pedestrian circulation and trailhead to the gorge trails, upgraded fencing, and the addition of ornamental, spring flowering trees and shrubs along this heavily utilized, pedestrian corridor. Completion of the Schwartz Center Plaza should include the addition of plantings; seating; effective night-lighting; temporary outdoor art/sculpture displays; and improved community social interaction opportunities.

C) **Arts Quad Walkway System.** Reconstruction of the hierarchy of multi-use walkways including widening primary perimeter walkways with the use consistent materials and adding perimeter lighting will enhance the safety, access and aesthetics for all users of this historic quad. Redesign of several focus areas including the connection between Central Avenue and Library Plaza, the south side of Sibley Hall and the landscape to the south of Goldwin Smith / Klarman Hall could provide additional accessible connections to and around the Quad.

D) **A.D. White and Ezra Cornell Statue Plaza.** The setting for these designated historic landmarks has deteriorated to a point where it is presents safety and accessibility hazards and is not appropriate for the significance of these campus icons. New grading, paving and plantings can restore these statues as vital elements in the Arts Quad.

E) **Campus Gateways.** The Campus Master Plan (CMP) and Signage and Wayfinding Master Plan (SWMP) both identify key entry points to Cornell from the region. Priority gateways include the CMP **Stewart Avenue / Campus Road** gateway and the SWMP **Dryden/Caldwell** and **Pleasant Grove/Credit Farm** gateways. The City is planning a reconstruction of Stewart Avenue, and the gateway design for its intersection with Campus Road should be coordinated with the streetscape plans. Gateway elements may include new signage, banners, lighting and plantings.
F) Replacement of RR Ties staircases

G) Schoellkopf Stadium Landscape Approaches. Creation of a spacious East Crescent Pedestrian Plaza would provide an appropriate setting for the many traditional University events that occur in the stadium. Components include trees of multi-seasonal interest; floral displays, pedestrian pavement, "first class" site furnishings and lighting, accessible drop off points, ceremonial banners or signage, and possible site statuary or other focal point. Site improvements around the perimeter can also contribute to event security, replacing some of the temporary “Jersey Barriers” and fencing currently used during major events.

H) Great Streets Initiative: Campus Rd / East Ave Landscape including appropriate street tree plantings and associated green infrastructure, adequate sidewalks, crosswalks, vehicle and bicycle lanes, bus pullouts, and lighting. Construction would be coordinated with planned utility infrastructure projects in the street corridor.

I) Campus – Cornell Botanic Gardens Connections: Although the Cornell Botanic Gardens adjoins the greater Ag Quad area, the visual and physical connections for pedestrians and bicycles between the two is weak and convoluted. Strengthening and clarifying the entryway and route from the north and east sides of the Ag Quad to the Nevin Welcome Center and from the Peterson Lot will enhance the value of the Botanic Gardens as an academic and recreational resource.

J) Sustainable Landscapes Initiatives: CLIPers will partner with other organizations to pilot selected landscape initiatives (based on the Sustainable Sites Initiative) that support the Climate Action Plan and campus sustainability, including landscape naturalization, and green stormwater management solutions. A Green Infrastructure / Sustainability Self-guiding Tour is being developed featuring green campus installations such as a green roof, bioswale, permeable pavement and rain gardens.

K) Other needs under consideration:

- Welcome Center connections: North Campus parking to WC; Forest Home Garage to WC; Nevin WC to WC
- Sage Hall Delivery / dumpsters / bike parking
- Campus wide Information Visitor Booths
- Replacement of RR Ties staircases