

Colorado College Geodesign Workshop -- ‘prep’ talk

This six-slide ‘prep talk’ serves as a self-paced “pre-session” that will acquaint you with Workshop goals, and stimulate your thinking about the CC campus and its urban perimeter. Here we introduce “the problem” to be explored in the Workshop, and offer information about opportunities for change that may exist in the near future.

Can you imagine *changing* the campus landscape for the better ?

Where ? Why ? How ? For whom ?

Content of the 8 slides that follow:

- I. The ‘prompt’ for our workshop problem
- II. The [Geoforage](#) app
- III. Sites with possibilities for immediate action:
 - a. New construction on campus
 - b. Urban ecology via Gardens and plantings; Campus as Arboretum
 - c. Monument Creek – environmental restoration and multi-use
 - d. Transportation

Supporting information: Geodesign background and Campus project location map

I. Colorado College Geodesign Workshop -- Purpose

Introduce Geodesign methods, and use them to plan and create a CC campus landscape that is suited to its regional climate, hydrology, and urban setting, today and in the coming decades.

Working together as members of the campus and community, identify sites and design interventions that allow the campus landscape to:

- 1) function in harmony with earth surface processes
- 2) provide outdoor environments for learning, reflection, and relaxation
- 3) stimulate the tendencies of residents of campus and city center for environmental stewardship.

Geodesign is an iterative process. Once viable designs are achieved, with a suitable degree of support from workshop participants and stakeholders, the designs will be presented to College administration and City decision-makers, with the aim that the designs be implemented.

II. The Geoforage app

Colorado Springs Survey

We are running a survey to get your opinion on how the area near Colorado College can be improved so that it is a better experience for you as you visit or live here.

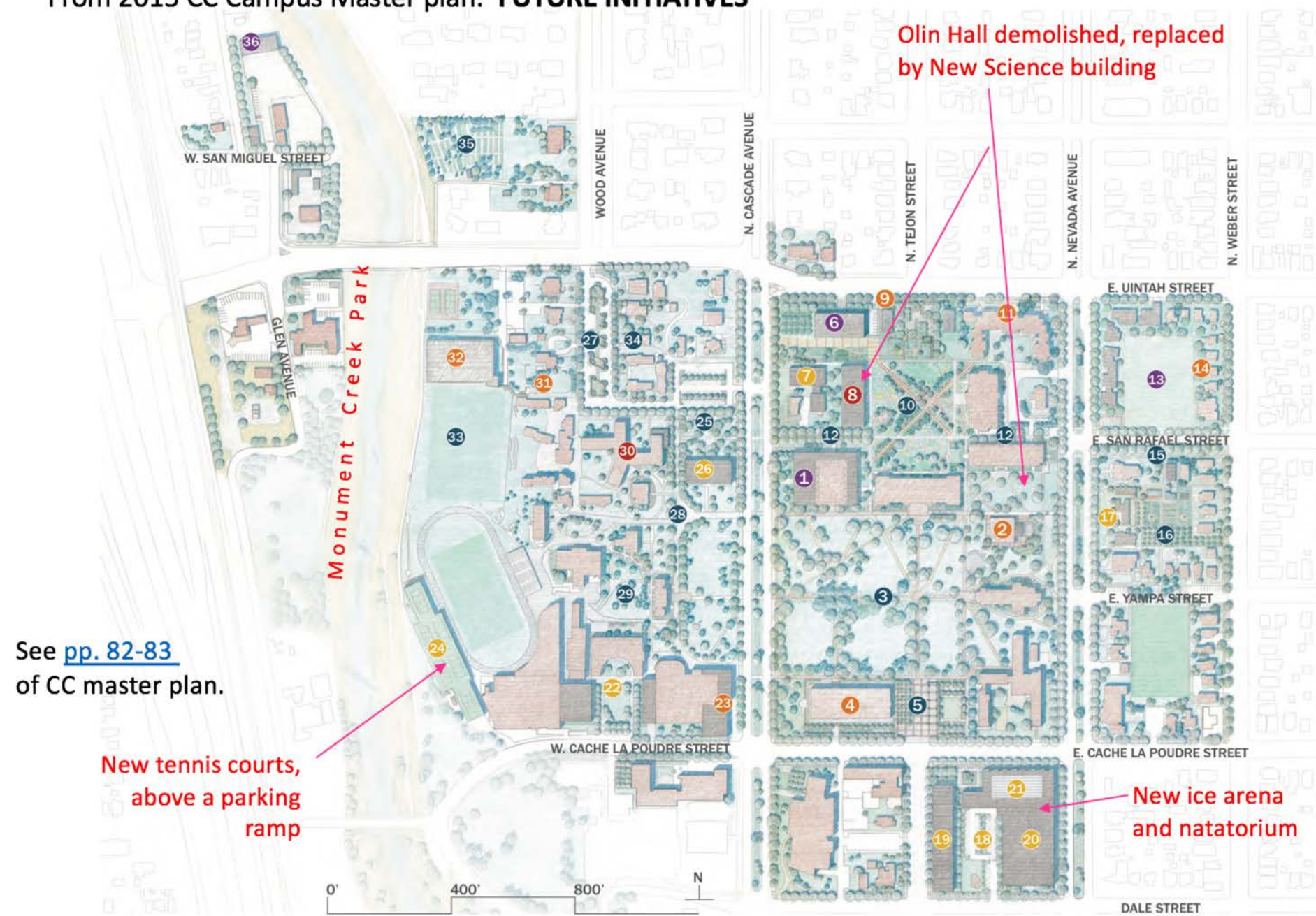
The position of the blue polygon can be moved, positioned, and re-sized, on the map. Click on the image to open the app. Pan and zoom the map; drag polygon or the handles to place and size it.

Step 1. Identify location



II. Sites with possibilities for immediate action: a. New construction on campus

From 2015 CC Campus Master plan: **FUTURE INITIATIVES**



II. Sites with possibilities for immediate action: **b. Urban ecology via Gardens, “Campus Arboretum,”** CC Farm, and Plantings (components of 2015 Campus Master Plan)

Projects 10 and 16

Colorado BIOME and ECO-VILLAGE GARDENS

Underutilized parking will be removed from the center of the middle block of east campus. It will be replaced with expanded agricultural landscapes to be maintained by students and faculty.

Project 34

SPECIALTY GARDEN ENHANCEMENTS

Thematic and Specialty Gardens should be invigorated to have stronger pedagogical relationship to the overall campus and student life. Enhancements could include the addition of interpretive signage and greater visibility and access.

Project 35

COLORADO COLLEGE FARM

Improvements to the CC Farm: increase in available farming space; provide for a direct visual and secure pedestrian access to the Monument Creek Park.



See p. 93, and [pp. 166 through 177 in Campus Master Plan](#)

II. Sites with possibilities for immediate action: c. Monument Creek – environmental restoration, education, health and wellness, and multi-use

Directives from Sustainability Knowledge Development Team's Final Report (2013):

- Significantly strengthen our connections to “our communities” and our environment.
- Bring Monument Creek into the campus and into the curriculum.
- Allow rainwater infiltration to reduce damaging runoff
- With new building construction, design surrounding landscape so that stormwater is slowed and managed within the immediate surroundings.

CC master plan [pp. 92-93, 149, 164, and 174-177](#)



II. Sites with possibilities for immediate action: d. Transportation and carbon neutrality

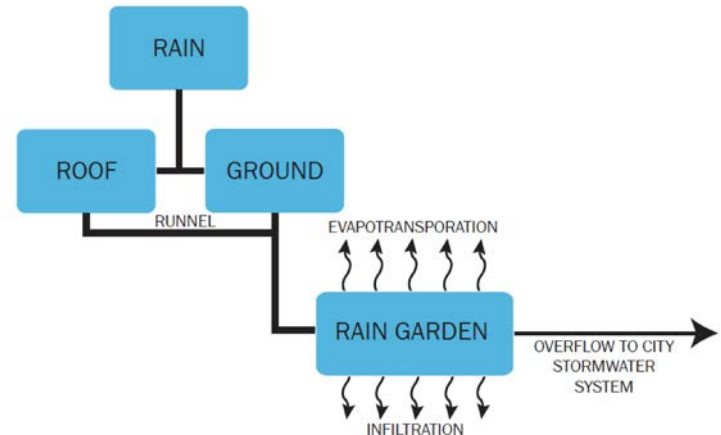
Several “opportunities for change” are interrelated.

- Are there sufficient options for public transportation and/or vehicle-sharing?
- How much of the campus landscape should be devoted to parking? Are individual vehicles consistent with the [College mission statement](#)?
- Can water management goals be met when a large percentage of the campus is covered with impermeable pavement?
- Are campus landscape and transportation frameworks contributing to or helping to address 21st Century climate change in the region and the world?

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The master plan seeks to promote a campus and college community that fosters social, environmental and intellectual sustainability. The college has the responsibility to offset impacts and improve campus sustainability. The master plan works in conjunction with the college's sustainability goals to reduce the environmental footprint of the campus. Stormwater management strategies that encourage groundwater infiltration, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion and contribute to the health of local and regional ecosystem function will be implemented. As new buildings are erected, the surrounding landscape should be designed and constructed at the same time in order to manage stormwater on site.

The first series of projects to be implemented following the master plan guidelines, including the Tutt Library renovation and expansion, Innovation Institute and New Science Building are all projects that encourage sustainable development on campus.



Many CC students desire workable alternatives to individually owned cars, on this walkable campus. An agreement with a car sharing company such as Zipcar might provide a small vehicle fleet for student short-term rental. The program could be housed together with the Bike Co-op (a bicycle advocacy and repair program) in a **Intermodal Transportation Center** (e.g. p. 93 Campus master plan)

Geodesign background:

Geodesign is an approach that addresses spatial challenges that arise in built and natural environments, using relevant scientific, geographic, and demographic data. It uses an open, iterative process that allows integration of priorities, viewpoints, and data resources by groups of specialists, administrators, community members and other stakeholders.

Examples of priorities that guide our campus geodesign process are sustainability, energy efficiency, economic factors, infrastructure, risk and resilience, water and stormwater management, urban ecology, and aesthetics.

Why now?

Colorado Springs is experiencing a pulse of urban renewal and revitalization of its City center, which coincides with efforts in restoration of the City's waterways, Monument Creek and Fountain Creek. Within the past decade, the City experienced devastating fires and floods at the mountain-urban interface, spurring efforts to stabilize mountain slopes, identify suitable vegetation, and develop floodwater control structures that help to reduce the loss of infrastructure. There is a shift in residential design toward space- and energy- efficient accommodations and a health, "livable" urban environment.

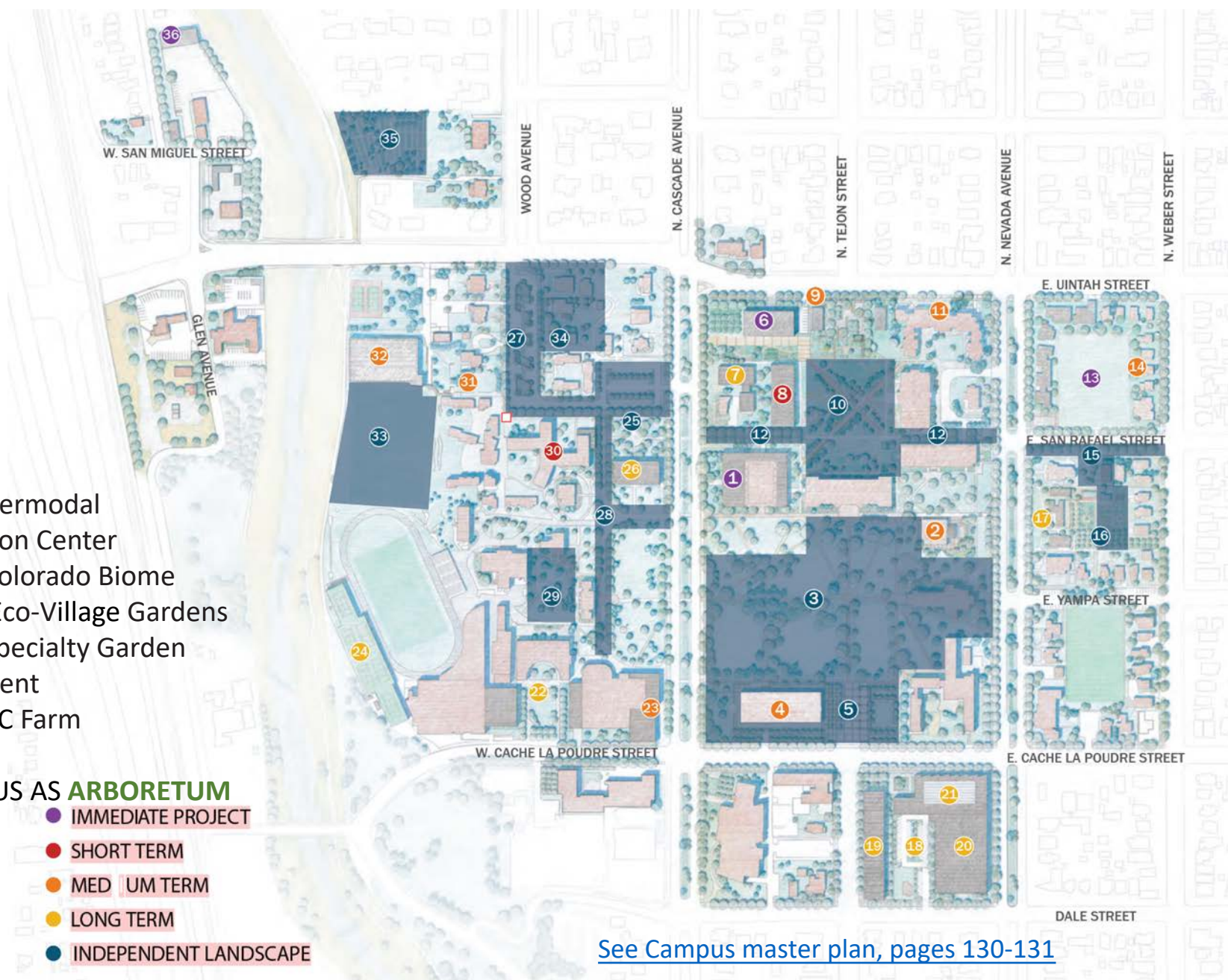
[LINK TO FURTHER RESOURCES](#)



Project 9 Intermodal
 Transportation Center
 Project 10 Colorado Biome
 Project 16 Eco-Village Gardens
 Project 34 Specialty Garden
 Enhancement
 Project 35 CC Farm

Plus: CAMPUS AS **ARBORETUM**
 ● IMMEDIATE PROJECT
 ● SHORT TERM
 ● MED / UM TERM
 ● LONG TERM
 ● INDEPENDENT LANDSCAPE

See [pp. 169-170](#) of campus master plan.



[See Campus master plan, pages 130-131](#)