

Palmer South Side Landscape Improvements

The landscape areas on the south side of Palmer Hall will begin to change after the beginning of the New Year. The Design Review Board has reviewed and recommended moving forward with a plan to improve the landscaped areas to reflect the principles and guidelines proposed in the new Long Range Development Plan. Existing landscape is overgrown and in desperate need of restoration to a condition which will present a dignified image for one of the college's historic icon buildings. In order to provide an appropriate and dignified institutional appearance, a very serious "makeover" is required. The change will appear to be drastic, requiring removal of most of the existing plant materials, including overgrown trees and junipers. However, the resulting aesthetic outcome will be worth the sacrifice and create a long lasting landscape improvement for Palmer Hall. The Facilities Grounds crew will begin thinning out the overgrown trees and shrubbery after winter break. New irrigation system installation, and planting, will begin in March and April.

The LRDP guidelines recommend informal use of Colorado native plant materials for the campus Quadrangles and historic building landscape areas, however, the plant materials will be selected and placed in a manner presenting just enough formality to provide an appropriately dignified institutional appearance next to these important buildings. The desired result will be to honor the unique building architecture of Palmer Hall, and to provide unobstructed views of the Palmer Quadrangle through the classroom and office windows. Some formality will be attained by placing specific plant materials at regular intervals along the 100 foot length of Palmer Hall designed to divide up the planting areas. At the same time, some informality will be maintained by variation in placement of smaller plants, including some Colorado native species in each of the divided planting areas. Four-season interest will be provided by uses of grasses, evergreen foliage, flowering trees, shrubs, perennials, and plants offering good fall colors.