

Cutler Hall Landscape and Walkway Improvements

The Cutler Hall walkway improvement initiative was the first phase of the Colorado College Walkway Master Plan- April 2008, initiated by the Design Review Board and implemented as one of the key elements in the Long Range Development Plan for the campus.

The asphalt driveway in front of Cutler Hall was in extremely poor condition and very unsightly for visitor's and prospective student's first impression of Colorado College. Repaving the driveway would not have been the best solution; hence the walkway improvement was a high priority for Cutler Hall.

The original design called for the ceremonial walkways and building entry mats to be constructed of real flagstone in a reddish color. The real flagstone would not meet ADA requirements due to rough finishes and would not hold up to vehicular traffic. The walkways and pads were redesigned to be constructed of uniform concrete flagstones in various shapes used for the building entry pads and as a trim accent on the ceremonial concrete walkways. This was a more fiscally sustainable and maintainable solution that meets ADA standards, while minimizing the amount of rough surfaces to transverse, and greatly improves aesthetics.

Landscape Design Intent

As the first building constructed on the grounds of Colorado College, Cutler Hall has a preeminent historic status for the campus as well as the entire community of Colorado Springs. In addition to this significance, the building's function as the "front door" to the college for prospective students and their parents merits a landscape of suitable consequence, one that will honor the building's history as well as create a positive, lasting impression on its visitors.

The revisions to the landscape will help to integrate the new seating wall and decorative paving features with existing green spaces, while facilitating the necessary circulation patterns of the students, college maintenance vehicles, and emergency vehicles.

Landscape plant materials will be selected to incorporate plant materials traditionally used at the turn of the century, with sensitivity to the architecture and history of the structure. Plant materials will be used in such a way as to create a tapestry of color, form, and texture that will provide four-season interest. Native plants and grasses will be used that reflect the history of the local; the habitat and organic ecosystems that are indigenous to our region, i.e. the shortgrass prairie and the prairie/foothills interface. Not only do these plants pay tribute to our region's natural heritage, but by nature, they are lower in maintenance requirements as well.