

Cossitt North Side Landscape Improvements

The north side of Cossitt Hall has been a dirt and weed patch for as long as most can remember. For seven years prior to re-landscaping, the area served as a construction staging and parking area for contractors engaged in the phased historic preservation and renovation projects outside and inside Cossitt Hall during the summers.

In the spirit of the Long Range Development Plan, the north side of Cutler presented an opportunity to create a “sacred campus space” that would integrate well with the new Cutler walkway improvements and landscape. Like Cutler Hall, Cossitt Hall is a significant historic building, which due to its proximity to Cutler, also serves as the “front door” to the college for prospective students and their parents and 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 landscape design and function was the result of collaboration with occupants/stakeholders of both Cutler Hall and Cossitt Hall. Cutler Hall admission office needed outdoor spaces due to lack of spaces inside the building where admission staff could meet intimately with prospective students and their parents. This need resulted in the 3 small plazas along a winding path through the landscaped area. The granite steps serve as a unique photo opportunity for small groups with Cutler Hall featured in the background. The granite steps with the lower landing and the adjacent grass area next to the landing can serve as an area where students might gather socially or for informal entertainment.

The college was fortunate in being able to obtain the granite steps and pavers as recycled material from an Air Force Academy project in which the granite steps and landings leading into the historic cadet chapel were being replaced.