University of Idaho

PREPARED BY CORE 175: EARTH AND OUT PLACE ON IT
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UI MOSCOW CAMPUS
SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

Landscape Management

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Landscape Management

LAND ACCUMULATION AND HISTORY AND POLICIES

How Are We Doing?

The University's land ownership started in 1890 with a 20 acre parcel under and around the Administration Building and grounds. Right now the University owns about 10,500 acres in Latah County, most of that (over 8500 acres) is in the Experimental Forest east of Moscow. The balance includes what you and I think of as "the campus", but also include what is known as the Palouse Research and Extension Center which is farm land on the perimeter of campus and south of Moscow. The University also owns land and buildings throughout the State of Idaho.

Landscape Management

PESTICIDE USE AND IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

How Are We Doing?

Because of the nature & ecosystem of the Palouse (as compared to say the University of Nebraska landscape) not much pesticide usage happens here. Most is for weed and noxious weed control in turf and for plant control along hardscapes edges, gravel areas, and planting beds. We also use some insecticide for the control of Dutch elm disease to protect the few elms we have left on campus and the iconic camperdown elms. Other than that, there are some minor outbreaks on other woody plants occasionally that may require specialty controls of some sort, for example the scale where we would use horticultural soaps or oils.

How Are We Doing?

Through our research we found out that there is no correlation between the steam plant and the campus irrigation. About 2/3rds of our irrigation system on campus uses reclaimed water though from the Wastewater treatment plant, which is a huge savings, millions of gallons, from being used out of the aquifer during the spring/summer growing season.

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LANDSCAPING GOALS AND NATURAL AREA PROTECTION

Impervious Surfaces versus Pervious Surfaces on campus

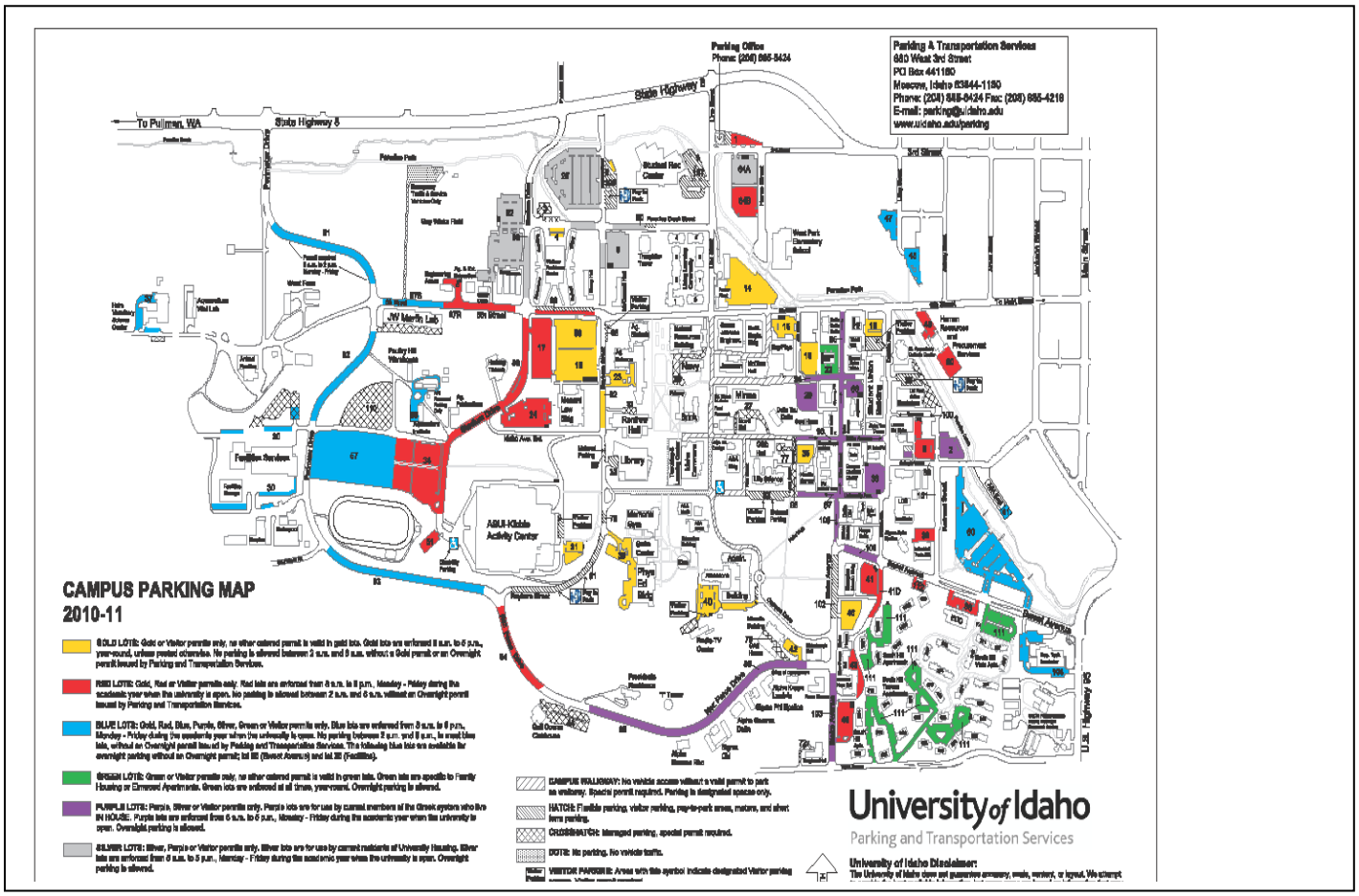
There is a total of 1,933,999.84 square feet of surface parking lots on campus (or 44.40 acres).

Pervious surface lots (gravel lots) include:

Lot 57 – 176853 square feet
Lot 35 – 11747 square feet
Lot 38 – 11113 square feet
Lot 14 – 50786 square feet
Lot 61 – 13860 square feet
Lot 110 – 50000 square feet

Total – 314359 square feet. The rest of campus parking lots are paved surfaces.

Here is a map showing the University of Idaho parking sections.



Landscape Management

LANDSCAPING GOALS AND NATURAL AREA PROTECTION

How Are We Doing?

With the never-ending and ongoing budget cuts that have happened to Facilities Maintenance & Repair budgets over the past decade, quality standards in landscape care have had to be scaled back. More fringe areas have been naturalized and focus is now only on core areas for maintenance. At the same time, UI continues to expand it landscape acreage… the property along Paradise Creek being the most recent acquisition. This means that landscape staff has to cover more acres with less resources than ever before. Right now each landscape technician has about 25 acres to maintain on campus. With further cutbacks expected, we will have to continue to cut back on amenity services and options and focus strictly on safety and required maintenance objectives.

How Are We Doing?

The Admin lawn is a protected area concerning any future development. The latest Paradise Creek sections created last year are created to be a riparian area, but that doesn't mean there is any active protection for it… just that that is the design intent for the plantings and flood mitigation efforts that happened there.

Landscape Management

SIGNAGE AND CURRENT VEGITATION

How Are We Doing?

A new signage master plan was developed over the past two years and signed off on by President Nellis several months ago. This plan will start being implemented after commencement this year, with an investment of about $200 thousand going into way finding and building signage. $200 thousand sounds like a lot, but that likely doesn't cover even 10% of the signage needing to be replaced across campus. It will be a phased effort happening over many years.

How Are We Doing?

There are construction protection standards for project work when it happens on campus. That can be found at http://www.uidaho.edu/facilities/forms. Open up the Design and Project Document Standards, and you can find the landscape and tree protection standards we use. We are always updating these to give our landscape plants a fighting chance against contractor and event damages that continually occur. Our goal is to be the best stewards we can be with the resources allocated, so that the current campus aesthetic can be used and enjoyed for decades yet to come.

Enter System

Staff interviewed in the assessment of this system (bold indicates primary contributors):

NAME	CAMPUS ROLE	INDICATOR(S) OF RELEVANCE
Gerard Billington		
Carl Root		
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