

Task Force 5
January 12, 2015
WRC 175 8:00AM

Today the task force welcomed Laura, a visiting alumni. The group also welcomed Kathy Scholl, an associate professor of health, physical education & leisure services. Kathy gave the task force a Prezi presentation on “Envisioning UNI Outdoor Spaces as an Emerald Necklace”.

Open space is a learning resource.

- A lot of student engagement outdoors as living labs and learning spaces.

Quality of Campus Experience

- President Ruud’s Adirondack chair additions significantly increased outdoor use.
 - The average person spends 90% of their life indoors
 - People who live in northern climates are vitamin D deficient
- Simple things made students see that the outdoors are usable.

UNI Sustainable Trails

- How can UNI maintain and improve the trails?
- If used for transportation, they might have to be redeveloped since there are a lot of loops.
 - What would the main purpose of the trails be? There were suggestions for the trails to be overlapped or separated.
- Students could access the community better with trails that spread around UNI property, and in the NW corner especially.

Collaboration

- There could be collaboration with everyone to get trails usable.
- Blackhawk Gaming put in a dock on a pond, and may work with UNI with other outdoor projects.

Prairie Plantings

- Prairie plantings are naturalized spaces in campus design
 - Many campuses don’t have prairie plantings or naturalized spaces
- The plantings can be taken out and replanted if needed
 - It saves money in turf costs, and beautifies the campus
- Could possibly use students to help with natural areas.
 - It would help economically with providing free labor
 - It would help academically with teaching students the care of natural areas.

Communication

- The campus could focus on both formal and informal levels of communication that needs to occur.
- The STARS program, as similarly mentioned in the sustainability task force, is important with potential students in choosing a university.

The old golf course is open, and could be used. Cedar Falls Utilities wants to make a solar garden by highway 58 and Greenhill Road.

- Possibly go under highway 58 to get to the open area for people to use.
- The creeks flash flood from time to time, and is an issue if dealing with potential infrastructure like bridges or paths.

There is also a missing link between Algonquin and Panther roads.

- What is the future development for the southern field?
- It is messy and not easy to navigate through – it is not pedestrian friendly.

An elderly woman named Martha owns a field in the northwest corner of the campus area. She has mentioned to the city that it is definitely NOT for sale for them.

- She currently rents it out as farmland.
- Possibly talked to her about UNI purchasing it – She may feel better about the sale if it's to a credible institution.
- The field cuts off a road from one neighborhood to another – a big issue for transportation for the new Cedar Falls High School and potential trails.
- A lot of incompleteness in a good system.

There was discussion about bike facilities on campus.

- Potential danger with bikes v. people in high pedestrian areas by Maucker Union, for example.
- New bike racks, and possibly showering stations needed.
- 13 feet would be needed for multimodal pathways
 - 20 – 22 feet wide, realistically.
- Students like that they can walk easily through campus.

Green spaces on campus help people with stress relief and well-being. There seems to be a spike in mental issues, anxiety, and emotion at UNI. Recreation and open spaces has the potential to aid this.

Invaluable class time utilization of outdoor space. Professors can take their students outdoors easily during class without having to drive far away.

Getting people to see other people outside using the space make it enticing.

- Broomball
- Skiing
- Snowmobiling, possibly
- Outdoor bouldering

Victoria has a course laid out for a Frisbee golf course, which may be presented at the task force's next meeting. There is a disc team at UNI already, and the course could help with growth of the team and usage of the outdoors. Frisbee golf is inexpensive, fun, and easy to do. It could potentially be very beneficial to UNI's students.

Committee members were encouraged to go see UNI's open spaces to get a good feel of what they are like.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45AM. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 26, 2015
at 10:45AM in WRC 175.