A Dynamic Legacy:
The University of Washington Campus Landscape Framework Plan
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The University of Washington Campus Landscape Framework (CLF) takes a bold approach in positioning the landscape at the forefront of campus planning strategy. A combination of campus-wide initiatives and site-specific case studies, shaped by the innovative idea of “landscape imagination” give the UW an actionable framework to further enrich its historic 760-acre urban campus. The CLF reveals and celebrates the Seattle Campus landscape as a complex living landscape mosaic, constantly changing through time, and gives the university tools, both practical and visionary, for guiding that change.

Learning Objectives:
- Explore the difference between a Campus Landscape Framework and Campus Master Plan
- Illustrate the ongoing dialogue between design and planning that helps keep principles fresh in the ongoing evolution of a place
- Address the challenge of giving university clients a tool to advance landscape initiatives in face of tight budgets and a tendency to take the landscape for granted
- Hear the multiple perspectives that informed planning efforts – client, framework designer, and implementing designer.
Session Overview

Section 1 -- Why does the UW need a Campus Landscape Framework?
- Understand the campus landscape in greater depth
- Pre-planning for campus master plan
- Guide for design teams
- Communicate the value of the campus landscape to others
- Tool to help secure funding for projects

Section 2 - What’s in the CLF? How is it Organized?
- Different ways of reading the campus
- Understanding the strengths of a framework: planning through landscape invention
- Creating a richly detailed document that is easy to use

Section 3 -- How do design teams use the CLF?
- Understand the campus generally
- Individual projects that support the whole

Section 4 -- What is the future of the CLF?
- Funding mechanisms
- Campus mobility framework
- Level of care – prioritization of landscapes
- Policy development

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Site-specific Design Informs Planning Scale Solutions
The CLF adopts an unorthodox methodology, moving from analysis immediately into design case studies for problem areas. Case studies are tested for feasibility but intentionally avoid looking like finished designs. Assembled together, they inform the identification of general framework strategies. The axonometric case study for North Campus Housing is circled in red below.

The Framework Plan in Action - North Campus Housing
As the Campus Landscape Framework was being developed, the North Campus Housing Project was in preliminary design. Initial CLF ideas about campus landscape typologies and the specific opportunities of this site described in the CLF helped lay the groundwork for a new approach to Denny Field, one of the UW campus’ most important landscape spaces historically, but underutilized for many years.