

Description of the
Plan of Improvement
of
"University Park".

Description of Plan of Improvement of the Campus of the University of Indiana, Bloomington Ind.

Buildings 1. All Buildings now on the Campus are accurately located on the Plan both as to place and size. A careful selection has been made of available building sites and located on the Plan in harmony with the general design. Of course Buildings may not be erected on all the sites designated, even if the growth of the University should make such rapid progress as to require much additional room in the near future, but it is believed that all the sites suggested are available and can be utilized to very good advantage whenever in the future there shall be such a demand upon the State as to round out the Plan to its fullest capacity and usefulness.

Drives & walks 2

The Plan proposed, as will be seen, makes a simple circuit round the Grounds, over the most suitable and natural route to reach present and future buildings by means of Drives and walks of graceful curves, yet sufficiently direct to appear natural and devoid of stiffness. Care being taken not to sacrifice trees of any value. The walks are necessarily

Somewhat more direct in their course than the Drives, to avoid unsightly crook-paths that always are made when walks are too crooked. The crook-paths at present in use over the campus, furnished a true indication of where the walks ought to be, and I found when properly laid out on the Plan and their stiffness slightly broken by curvatures, they would be not only graceful but natural and most delightfully shaded, and, as in regard to the Drives, few, (if any) trees need be sacrificed, - at least none of any value.

Grades of Drives
walks

Both Drives and walks have been planned so as to incur the minimum expense in grading, their location following such gentle natural slopes and undulations, so that the grade will for the most part follow the surface. Most of the grading will be at, and inside of the two.

Main West Entrances, where the Street grades should be continued at their regular gentle ascent - cutting through the hills, and keep on with their regular ascent until the grade comes to the surface.

Grades # Much will depend upon how the Drives
should be And walks, and Side Slopes, are graded.
Natural And only an experienced eye should di-
rect that kind of work. The general
& graceful rule should be to have all grades
Natural and allow them, ~~there~~ to melt
into, or fuse, so to speak, in the surrounding
surface, so that all humps or inequalities
shall disappear, and leave the look
as if made by Nature. Grades, at an
angle of forty-five degrees, such as are
used on Rail roads should always
be avoided.

Lawns & By Lawns or Lawn Views are
+ more than vistas or glimpses of open
Lawn Views field and grass which furnish such
& delight to the eye, especially when bound-
ed by, or confined in one or more
Foliage directions by masses of foliage, or
bodies of water. Fine Lawns will have none
of the latter, but Nature has been bounti-
ful with the former, and the care should
be to shape the Lawns in such a way
as to make the most of, and set off,
to the greatest advantage, these
magnificent groves of 'Native
Groves of Maples and Beeches. This I have
Beeches & Maples tried to do in the Plan. I could scarcely
in several instances, more breadth

of Lawns and Ample vistas,
but at the cost of trees, too valuable,
and whenever I attempt a thing of
this kind I hear ringing in my ears
the familiar words "Oh! woodman,
thou hast tree", which should inspire
a particular awe in the minds of
any improver who should attempt
to improve your Campus, by securing
large Lawns by ruthlessly cutting
down many of those fine trees.

But there are many cases where the
views can be improved & the
finer trees put in relief to
much greater advantage by
taking away the inferior ones, which
are "obstructionists", - not giving any
beauty themselves, will not allow their
more ornate neighbors to "shine at
their best." and show off to good ad-
vantage. The Plan contemplates, ul-
timately to eliminate all such, but that
kind of work must be done with
the greatest care & after the most
careful study of all the surroundings
and after Permanent Buildings
are up and other improvements made
- Drives & walks finished - then, if we

wish to extract the fullest measure
of Syrian Looseness & picturesqueness,
we should remove, without fear or
favor every ugly tree, or deformed
branches that mar the general
effect.

The Type
of
the Locality

Every Locality has its type of Natural
features! In some places it is Mountain
ruggedness. In some a Prairie Scene skirted
with a belt of Wood, or forest. In some places
a valley scene between two mountains. In others,
graceful groves of round headed trees on
gracefully sloping hill sides give a Charm
to and an individuality to the scene. This
latter is the type of Beauty of your
Campus. & it should be the care of
the Landscape Painter to bring out
in bold relief the characteristics of
a place, and enhance its beauties.

Every thing should be in keeping with
with the "Stately Groves". Nothing should
be planted on the ground, either build-
ings or trees, that will belittle these
Patriarchs of the Forest.

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Individual &
Trees of Beauty
should be put
in Relief

Take one of these trees and plant
a few smaller trees and shrubs around
it, and you make a clump and your
noble tree is lost in the mass, just
the same as a noble well bred

+ not lost
by Massing
them in
Clumps.

Animal loses its identity in the "Common herd", but if removed from, or standing in front of ^{the} ~~by~~ ^{adorned} it self, will appear to its best advantage, by the contrast between it, and the inferior animals standing in Mass. This principle is constantly made use of in planting for decorative purposes, and nowhere can it be better utilized than to bring out in relief some of those Symmetrical & Most beautiful Bunches. The Plan proposes to put in Bold Relief as many of these fine Trees as possible.

New Planting
of
Trees

All future Planting of trees should be confined 1st to Evergreens planted in masses or Clumps by themselves, Mostly in places by themselves, where they will serve as shadows & place in relief the the tall tree tops (of the groves) rising in the Sun & thus heighten their picturesqueness. 2nd Select varieties of Choice Nursery Stock, such as weeping Beiches & willows Lindens, Catalpas & other broad leaved trees planted as suggested on the Plan, on places now bare and sufficiently remote from the native trees, to not suffer by comparison. Of course it will take years before they will perform their part in the picture.

Nursery, Bone-
Mount
Here Mainly
to be planted
Near Drives
& walks as
Foreground.

Their Office is to give variety, diversity
And Contrast to the fore ground of the
picture, and thus enhance its beauty.

The Foreground of a picture or that part,
nearest to the eye when a view is taken,
should be as varied and attractive as possible
Any kind of foliage will look well at a
distance as a back ground. But close
to the Drives & walks where the observer
can make careful inspection, the Plan
must provide variety, contrast, and pleasing
Combinations of outline And Color.

In short, the landscape Gardener is a creator
of living scenery, and the rules which apply
to perspective scenery painting, apply with rather
greater force to his art.

Floral Decora-
tion

The Floral Decorations are introduced
rather sparingly being placed near the
fronts of the main buildings. They
should be of simple design, but of
Choice flowers of good discreet colors.
One fine choice jewel on a Ladies
breast is worth a dozen gaudy worthless
imitations. So a few Choice Beds of
harmoniously blended colors of rare kinds, is
worth a whole garden full of all kinds
of plants and colors mixed together
incongruously. The flower beds should also
have a certain dignified appearance to Cor.

The Quarry¹³
+
Ravine

respond with the General Surroundings.

The Little Stone Quarry, it is suggested to convert into a kind of rustic grotto, with a surrounding thicket of evergreen shrubs. The Meandering Ravine leading to the Quarry can be made picturesque and pleasing by means of a border or scattered groups of shrubs, in variety, which planted thus in depressions would make fine contrast with the stately trees on the hill sides. As this Ravine will serve as Draining Channel for the South half of the Campus, the shrubbery will be effective to conceal unsightly spots in it.

Drainage¹⁴

On the North sides of the Campus there are several sink holes or depressions, (just south of the wooden sidewalk) that can be used for drainage of the Drive, if need be. They can be filled up with loose rock laid in such way as to leave large cavities for drainage with overflows or openings to the surface. They should then be leveled or filled to such a grade - in fact this whole section of Lawn lying a hundred feet south of the wooden sidewalk & extending from the well all the way down should be graded to a pleasing surface - not necessarily perfectly level, but of graceful un-

undulations so that in no case should there be any part of the ground sloping eastward, thus leaving free a space for the water to disappear naturally. And also give to the lawn a natural appearance.

I have here endeavored to give the general scope of the Plan. As any Plan can be carried out in different ways, it is useless to enter into more detail. Its Execution must depend more or less upon the ideas of beauty passed by those superintending its Execution. I think however I have said sufficient to impress you with my ideas, and shall be pleased to give any further explanation that you may desire.

Very Respectfully
O. P. Mason
Lansdowne.

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Bloomington, Ind.

Campus -