



Campus Outdoor Lighting Plan

Campus Planning Committee and Ad Hoc Committee on Campus Lighting, February 25, 2004
Campus Planning Committee Update May 29, 2020
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“The university recognizes the necessity of campus lighting and exterior building lighting to address adequately the personal safety requirements of students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors without significantly damaging its nighttime aesthetic qualities, as well as to be consistent with its commitment to energy conservation. The campus standard fixture is free standing; building-mounted fixtures are to be avoided.”

(Campus Plan Principle 2: Open-space Framework, Campus Safety principle refinement (b))

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to interpret and enhance the existing *Campus Plan* principle that addresses outdoor lighting. This plan is designed to address the key issues and concerns surrounding the subject of outdoor lighting on campus. Refer to the Background section for further discussion.

This plan defines lighting parameters for entrances, pedestrian walkways, and parking lots on campus. It also describes review requirements.

Issues beyond physical design, such as safety concerns and operations, are not within the purview of the *Campus Plan* and are addressed by the UO Police Department and Facilities Services. Therefore, the Office of Campus Planning and the Campus Planning Committee (CPC) have worked with staff from UO Police Department and Facilities Services to develop this plan.

All proposed principles are consistent with federal standards established by the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) and City regulations.

Review Requirements

The following departments/committees are responsible for the design, review, and installation of outdoor lighting fixtures on campus:

Facilities Services: Coordinates all installations and maintains all fixtures.

UO Police Department: Ensures that proposed lighting designs and installations properly considers safety needs.

Campus Planning Committee (CPC): Reviews all proposed lighting installations that do not use campus-standard fixtures and/or proposals that are not within approved outdoor lighting walkways to ensure they meet the general lighting guidelines described below and *Campus Plan* principles and patterns. Examples of installations requiring review include use of a standard fixture in an area outside of the approved outdoor lighting walkways, or use of a non-standard light fixture anywhere on campus. Often CPC review of lighting fixtures occurs as part of a project's schematic design review.

All proposed campus standard fixtures within approved outdoor lighting walkways or in parking lots are coordinated by Facilities Services and are not subject to CPC review.

General Lighting Guidelines

The following general guidelines apply to the selection, design, and placement of all campus outdoor lighting:

1. Adequately address the personal safety requirements of students, faculty, staff and campus visitors (*Campus Plan*) as recommended by the UO Police Department.
2. Maximize energy conservation (*Campus Plan*).
3. Preserve the campus nighttime aesthetic qualities (*Campus Plan*).
4. Restrict light trespass. In particular, unusual applications, such as illuminating outdoor recreation fields or facilities, need to be designed with the specific activity in mind while protecting adjacent spaces and uses from spillover light to the maximum extent possible (*Campus Plan*).
5. Ensure that main entrances, major walkways and adjacent spaces are well lit.
6. Minimize the difference between lighting levels in adjacent areas to prevent strong contrasts and shadows.
7. Eliminate glare to the greatest extent possible.
8. Recognize the relationship between lighting and other landscape features such as vegetation. The placement and design of outdoor lighting need to be carefully coordinated with sensitive management of campus vegetation. When possible, lighting engineers and landscape architects should work collaboratively in designing nighttime illumination improvements. Minimize the need to substantially trim landscaping while recognizing the need to minimize shadows and provide surveyable surroundings.
9. Recognize that uniform lighting is often more important than the amount of lighting when establishing the sense of a safe, well-lit area.
10. Recognize that lighting serves as an architectural design element in the landscape setting in addition to its functional qualities.

Light Fixture Designs

Consistent landscape design features, such as light fixtures, benches, and trash receptacles, are important components in defining the overall campus character. These design features create a visual connection throughout campus, helping to integrate the variously styled buildings and landscapes.

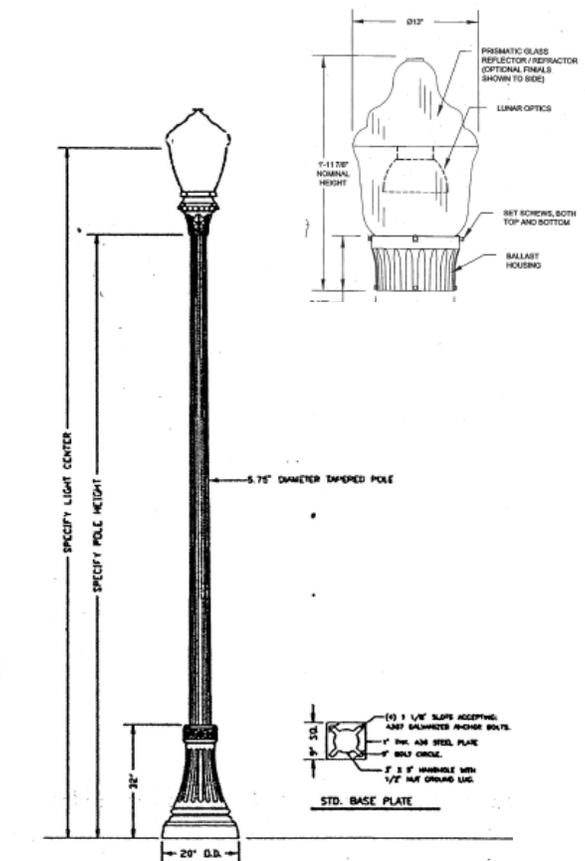
Criteria for selecting light fixtures include:

1. All general lighting guidelines.
2. Visual appearance - compatibility with existing fixtures, campus character, and pedestrian scale.
3. Initial cost.
4. Maintenance costs and requirements.
5. Operations and energy efficiency (*Campus Plan*).
6. Cut-off (to meet city standards).
7. Quality and color of light/type of light: Within the limits of technology and reasonable cost, lamps should emit a spectrum as close to natural light as possible. However, in consideration of the university's commitment to energy savings and to economical maintenance, high-pressure sodium lamps are acceptable.
8. Availability of parts over a long period of time.
9. Compatibility with the existing poles (if a proposed standard for pedestrian walkways).
10. Free-standing design - avoid building-mounted fixtures.

Campus-standard Fixture:

The campus-standard light fixture shall be used whenever possible to maintain consistency throughout the campus landscape. It is particularly important to use the campus standard fixture for entrances, pedestrian walkways, small/medium auto-parking areas, bike-parking areas, and transit stops. The standard fixture is a 10- or 12-foot high fluted lamppost (painted dark green) fitted with acorn globes. The pre-approved model is the Visco, Series A, Holophane Granville with a Granville G-V-8N globe or a matching model (refer to Campus Construction Standards for exact model specifications). The type of refractor is not standardized; it depends on the pattern of light distribution needed in individual applications. The standard lamp fixture has an interior shield to meet the city cut-off requirements while providing appropriate light distribution.

The light source is a white-light (exact specifications defined by the Campus Design and Construction Standards). Conversion to a white-light source shall be done in a coordinated manner, area by area, to avoid a mismatched appearance. All new construction and lighting upgrade projects shall specify white light fixtures and adjacent areas shall be converted at the same time whenever possible.



All Other Applications:

Although the campus-standard light fixture should be used whenever possible, a non-standard fixture design may be appropriate to meet special lighting needs, for example in large parking lots and playing fields. Also, a non-standard fixture may be appropriate to ensure design compatibility with the historic or architectural character of a particular building. In some cases, building mounted fixtures are acceptable for building entry lighting but not for general area lighting.

All non-standard lighting fixtures are subject to the lighting guidelines contained in this plan and are subject to Campus Planning Committee review.

Parking Lots: Alternative designs for large parking lot fixtures should only be considered for the interior portions of large parking lots. The standard pedestrian-scale acorn-globe fixture should be used in transition areas, which include the outer edges of the lot, walks adjacent to or bisecting the lot, and campus drives and streets. The standard acorn globe fixture should also be used in locations where a taller, contemporary parking-lot fixture would detract from the character of the adjacent area or adjacent buildings. This is particularly true for areas designated as a significant open space by the *Campus Plan* or one possessing historic significance.

Lighting Levels and Ratios

Adequate consideration is to be given to the perceptions of the relationship between light and safety as well as the actual measured light conditions. In consideration of this, the University does not subscribe to a specific quantitative illuminance standard. Similarly, the University recognizes the need for uniform light distribution, but does not subscribe to a specific ratio standard.

The general guidelines should be followed when determining appropriate light levels and ratios. In particular, uniformity and quality of light are encouraged over quantity. In all cases, IESNA standards and city regulations shall be met.

Prioritized Plan for Outdoor Lighting Walkways

The creation of a prioritized plan for outdoor lighting walkways will help achieve the general lighting goals described above by helping to provide a sense of a safe night environment on campus while conserving energy to the greatest degree possible and preserving the landscaped, park-like character of campus. The premise behind this network of walkways is that it is of primary importance to encourage people to use well-traveled paths as supported by the UO Police Department. Lighting these walkways identifies them and encourages pedestrians to use them.

In general a walkway, plus about 20 feet on either side, should be adequately lit as appropriate. The network of walkways includes corresponding main entrances and parking areas.

Identifying these outdoor lighting walkways does not preclude the possible need to light other areas of campus; rather, it helps determine where to focus lighting efforts as resources become available. It should be noted that many of the outdoor lighting walkways are already adequately lit.

To be designated as outdoor lighting walkways, the routes will:

1. Follow all general lighting guidelines (see above).
2. Link major building entrances to each other and to primary auto/bike parking areas and transit stops (pay particular attention to buildings that have high levels of nighttime use).
3. Add to a sense of a safe night environment.
4. Encourage the use of well-traveled areas.
5. Correspond with ADA access routes.
6. Preserve the landscaped, park-like character of campus.
7. Protect significant landscape features.
8. Conserve energy to the greatest degree possible.
9. Correspond with call box locations.
10. Correspond with designated bike paths.

The prioritized plan for outdoor lighting walkways is represented on the attached map (Map 1).

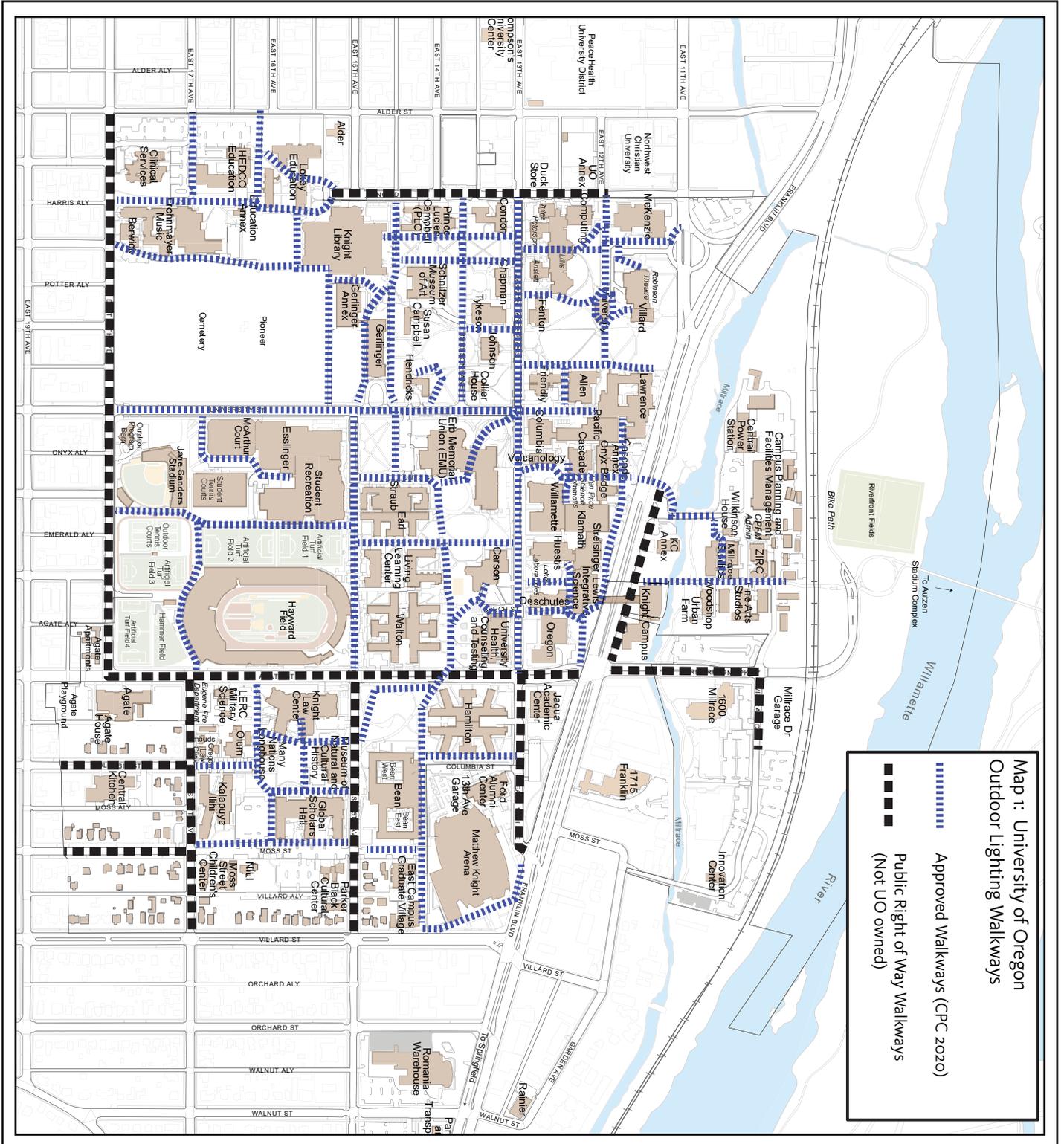
This plan recognizes that City-owned streets are a component of the outdoor lighting walkway network for the campus area. Although the university does not have jurisdiction over these public-right-of-ways, the City should be encouraged to make lighting improvements where necessary.

Background

Students have expressed concern about night safety on campus. Adequate lighting is one part of the solution; it does not imply, however, that a lit area is guaranteed to be safe. The university is committed to developing a program of maintenance, rehabilitation, and repair of campus lighting on a systematic, continuous basis and will continue to seek adequate funding for this activity. Although many new fixtures have been installed over the past few years, limited budgets and lack of an overall plan leave room for improvement.

These issues, combined with the recent funding allocated by the Associated Students of the University of Oregon (ASUO) towards lighting improvements, have triggered a renewed interest in and need to prepare a comprehensive lighting plan.

Establishing a plan (in particular prioritizing outdoor lighting walkways) will also allow the CPC to review outdoor lighting improvements in a comprehensive manner, thus eliminating the need for individual lamp location reviews. In the past, the CPC has reviewed individual proposed locations for lighting fixtures. The CPC approved the first phase of a network of outdoor lighting walkways in August 1996. This plan extends the initial phase to the entire campus.



Map 1: University of Oregon
Outdoor Lighting Walkways

- - - - - Approved Walkways (CPC 2020)
- Public Right of Way Walkways (Not UO owned)
- Public Right of Way Walkways (Not UO owned)