University of Georgia

As UGA continues to grow, new development and redevelopment is modeled after the historic North Campus quadrangles. The guiding principles of the Master Plan include creating a connected campus, protecting and enhancing natural resources, and creating the optimal student environment. The Master Plan creates a series of interconnected greenspaces and envisions a “green mile” of pleasant pedestrian spaces from the historic Arch to the Intramural Fields of South Campus. Feel free to tour any of these places at your leisure! For a more ADA accessible route, please contact us at sustain@uga.edu or 706.542.1301.

1. The Arch
Welcome to UGA’s historic North Campus. UGA was chartered in 1785 and is the oldest land-grant institution in the country. The Arch was commissioned in 1856 and fabricated using three lamp posts and salvaged architectural metal from local buildings – UGA has been recycling from the beginning! The iron fence was originally built to keep livestock off the campus, and we’ve recently brought them back to help remove invasive exotic plants.

2. Town Spring
With its “copious spray of excellent water,” Town Spring is heralded as the reason UGA stands where it does today. The spring head itself is now located underneath the Central Duplicating Services building, but it may yet be exposed as part of a later restoration project. The remaining day-light stream segment has been restored as a cultural and ecological amenity for the campus and community, and is home to a rare species of crawfish.

3. Old College
For over two hundred years Old College has been a center of campus life - providing dormitory and boarding house space, classrooms, administrative offices, dining facilities, and community, and is home to a rare species of crawfish.

4. Ce+d Jackson Street Building
The Jackson Street Building is now home to the College of Environment + Design. Graduates of CED are equipped for professional practice toward a sustainable future in an increasingly complex world. Originally home for the visual arts, this controversial building was once described as an “ugly duckling”. Now recognized as a shining example of mid-century modern architecture, the rehabilitated structure achieved LEED-Gold certification with solar panels, skylights, and a 28,000-gallon cistern, making it one of the most energy efficient buildings on campus. Feel free to check out the interactive building dashboard!

5. Herty Field
The site of UGA’s first football game in 1892, Herty Field was not always what you see today. Converted to a parking lot in the 1940s to meet a higher demand for parking, it wasn’t until 1999 that the historic field was restored to a greenspace. Since then, over 1.5 million square feet of asphalt has been removed and over 50 acres of new greenspace created. The iconic Herty Field is filled using harvested rain and condensate water.

6. Founder’s Garden and House
Designed by UGA students and faculty in 1846, this garden serves as a museum of landscape design and as a natural laboratory for botany, forestry, and related disciplines. Formerly the headquarters of the nation’s first Ladies’ Garden Club, the area consists of a formal boxwood garden, an arborium, a perennial garden, a terrace, and over 300 species of plants and trees.

7. Memorial Garden
Built in place of a former parking lot, this garden was constructed to honor University members who have fallen in defense of democracy and their country. Underneath the sloped lawn is the University’s first cistern system designed to catch rain water for reuse as irrigation. Currently, there are over 16 cisterns on campus, with over 530,000 gallons of storage capacity resulting in millions of gallons of water saved annually.

8. Zell B. Miller Learning Center
Built in 2003 in place of a giant surface parking lot, the MLC was designed to maximize daylight and was constructed with primarily local materials including brick, steel, and granite. Thousands of students enter the MLC every hour to study, take classes, or hang out at the local coffee shop. The bridge now extends to the Tate Center and will ultimately extend over a restored Tanyard Creek to south campus, making it easier to walk and bike from north to south.

9. Tate Center and Georgia Quad
Once a large parking lot and heavily traveled service road, this area features a green roof over the parking deck and 75,000 gallon underground cistern that collects rain and condensate water to reuse for irrigation and toilet flushing. Due to student requests, the Tate expansion was the first LEED certified building at UGA, achieving a GOLD rating.