As Cornell becomes more sustainable – and cuts costs – Cornellians will see fewer lawns and more meadows on campus, longer grass and more green roofs and functional plantings.

At the same time, Cornell’s landscape planners are working to naturalize the look and feel of central spaces, maintain such familiar historical gardens as those around the A.D. White House and support the long-standing tradition of using the landscape as an extended research and teaching classroom. Landscape designers also are “relying more and more on endowments and gifts” to manage spaces, said David Cutter, landscape architect for Planning, Design and Construction at Cornell’s Facilities Services, in a presentation on campus landscapes and naturalization at a communicators@cornell meeting, Aug. 6 in Warren Hall.

Such open-space initiatives are written into the Comprehensive Master Plan for the Ithaca Campus, which has “a very strong landscape focus,” said Cutter. As Cornell develops and grows, “we need to make sure such development fits into a larger landscape plan.”

Cornell’s campus combines both urban (managed by the Grounds Department) and country settings (managed by Farm Services and the Cornell Plantations), said Cutter, and the landscape varies from gorges, greens and gateways to quads, streets and walkways, and each setting requires an integrated management plan, he added.

Naturalization and sustainability have been central themes that run throughout the landscape plan. For example, the Grounds Department plans to include plantings between curbs and sidewalks to enhance aesthetics, purify water and reduce storm runoff and pollution into Cayuga Lake, as well as supplement tree-root systems, Cutter said.

Similarly, Kroch Library, the Cornell Store, several West Campus buildings, Weil Hall and Mann Library all have green roofs. The Susan A. Henry Garden Terrace on the Mann Library rooftop, for example, is edged with 2-by-2-foot trays with sedum plant varieties growing in lightweight gravel, which reduces weeds and mimics the rocky alpine environment native to sedum. The plantings insulate the building from heat, limit sun and heat damage, extend the roof’s life and reduce water runoff.

Landscape planners have also naturalized the Wee Stinky Glen that runs diagonally across campus from Beebe Lake past the A.D. White House, between Sage and Day Halls, and on to West Campus and Llenroc. Planners used the storm water disposal stream “to replicate the aesthetics of a natural creek,” said Cutter.

The Grounds Department has also cut costs by raising their mower blades to four inches, which extends the grass-root systems and allows grass to reach close to its maximum height, thereby reducing the need to mow as often. And researchers are currently testing sustainable, low-maintenance fescue grasses on the steep slope behind Uris Library. The turf is being developed by Cornell researchers in plots near Game Farm Road.

Campus planners have also identified key little-used spaces, mostly on the edges of campus but also below the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, where the grass has been left to grow into meadow.

Peter Salino, director of the Grounds Department, was a co-presenter at the meeting.

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Expect fewer and longer lawns and more green roofs in effort to cut campus costs

KRISHNA RAMANUJAN
RedRover-Secure: Available for the iPhone

RedRover-Secure can now be used with the iPhone or iPod Touch by following the directions available at <www.cuaes.cornell.edu/cals/cuaes/ag-operations/tech-talk>. The program is easy to use and makes you more secure on the Internet. It’s a good idea to have your computer or device be configured to use the RedRover-Secure network, you can then connect with it without additional steps.

Campus coverage for the RedRover-Wi-Fi network is expanding. To link up RedRover users at Cornell to the interactive map of network coverage, visit the website at <www.cuaes.cornell.edu/redrover>.

Tech Training Spotlight: In PowerPoint 2007, much of the functionality of multiple tabs, slide object, and add objects. Register now for the 4-hour workshop this week: RedRover Mapfall 2007, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m., with 150 seats available. Participants who attend these workshops may have access to a future RedRover-Secure access code. To register for this workshop, visit the RedRover website at <www.cuaes.cornell.edu/redrover>.

Annually Pawprint Photo Contest deadline right around the corner—August 21

Pawprint invites you to share your phone or camera images, from fun and play. At least ten prizes will be awarded, including first of Show. Winning entries will be featured in the August 21 edition of Pawprint.

Guidelines

Submit only color pictures. Category is “Fun”. Submit your entry to the Pawprint, 804 Baker Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853 (please fill out one label for each photograph submitted). All entries must be postmarked by August 21, 2009.

Applications can be found at: <www.cornell.edu/benefits/billkaedlGrants>, e-mail childcare@cornell.edu or call Benefit Services at 607-255-3936.

Reminder: September 4 deadline for submitting applications for child-care grant subsidies

Applications for the 2010 Child Care Grant Subsidy Program will be accepted up through August 21. The grant program awards up to $5,000 annually to help full-time employees for recognized child-care expenses. The grant covers infant and toddler day care, preschool and pre-K programs, and the Care4Kids program. Applications are due by September 4, 2009 for the next fiscal year. For more information, visit the Office of Human Resources website at <www.cornell.edu/hr/>. See also the page “Income Enhancement Programs” in the Cornell Union of Employees (CUE) Handbook for details online.

Applications are available at: <www.cornell.edu/hr/benefits/billkaedlGrants>, e-mail childcare@cornell.edu or call Benefit Services at 607-255-3936.

For more information about the Office of Human Resources, visit <www.cornell.edu/hr/> or see also the page “Income Enhancement Programs” in the Cornell Union of Employees (CUE) Handbook.
Cornellians are known for not sitting on the sidelines when help is needed. Recently, two professors from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences have joined together to help a former colleague and his family, now residing in Kenya.

Sahara Byrne, assistant professor in the Department of Communication, and Christopher B. Barrett, the Stephen B. and Janice C. Ashley Professor of Applied Economics and Management and International Professor of Agriculture in the Department of Applied Economics and Management, have launched a campaign to help Ben Okumu, an agricultural economist who had worked at Cornell University, and his family, who were in an automobile accident in Kenya June 20. Okumu’s wife died in the accident, and his four children were severely injured.

With the leadership of Professors Byrne and Barrett, over $20,000 has been raised to cover the hospital bills and enable Okumu and his family to return to Ithaca; however, substantial uphill challenges face the family.

“We have been enormously successful in covering the bills so far, the plan is that the family will come back here to live in Ithaca. We are working with the Visiting Nurse Service of Ithaca and Tompkins County, who have generously offered to help in any way that they can. The family’s ongoing care is the next largest obstacle, given the severity of the injuries and the need for physical therapy and other rehabilitative services,” said Professor Byrne.

For those in the Cornell community wishing to help, Professors Byrne and Barrett have established a PayPal account at <www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s- xclick&hosted_button_id=7051624> or by visiting Tompkins Trust and making a donation to:

The Okumu Family Fund
C/O Sue Lason
Tompkins Trust Company
P.O. Box 460
Ithaca, NY 14850

Do you have questions or comments, contact Peggy Beach, director of Campus Relations, at 255-7419 or mjb15@cornell.edu.

Tell us what you think continued from page 3

What other topics you would be interested in reading about?
Please list ___________________________________________________________________________

Where do you usually receive your copy of Pawprint?
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Thinking of your role as a Cornell staff member, how important is it to you to have Pawprint or something like it, that’s focused on issues and events that involve staff?
□ Essential
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To order in advance to provide Pawprint to the Cornell community, we are considering changes to how Pawprint and its contents are delivered to our readers. Which of these options would work best for you? (Please choose the method you like best. If your choice would be a combination of these methods, check the ones that you would combine.)

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□ Publish Pawprint online via PDF
□ Publish Pawprint online through searchable website
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□ Wellness weekly email
□ Cornell Chronicle Online
□ Department newsletter
□ Other ____________________________

Demographic Information
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Do you have regular access to a computer during the workday?
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Which of the following best describes your position
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In which area do you work?
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Please specify department _____________________________

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. If you have questions or comments, contact Peggy Beach, director of Campus Relations, at 255-7419 or mjb15@cornell.edu.