

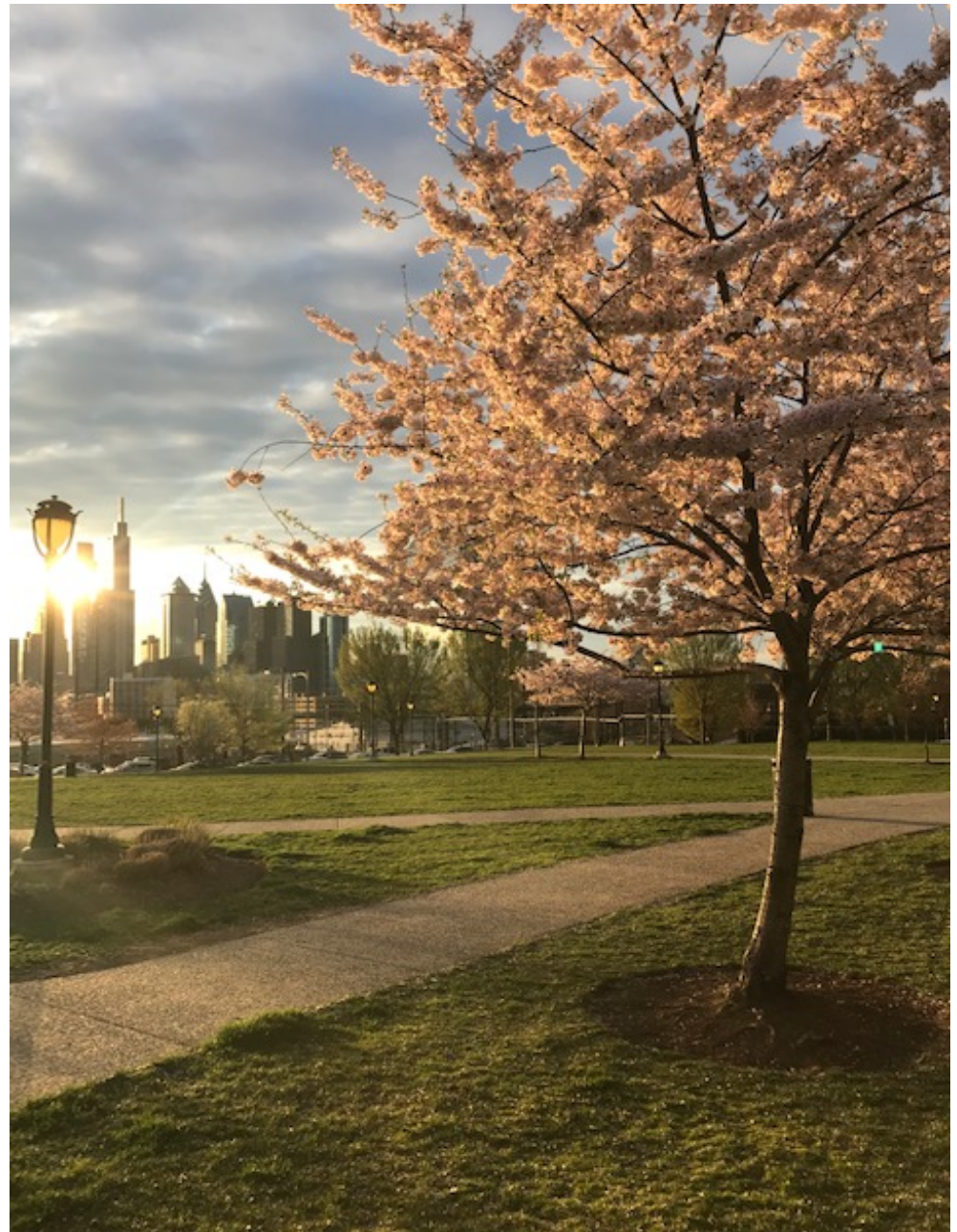


OVERALL BEAUTY #1: The Planning, Design & Construction Office marks the northern border of the University and is where all Master Plan, Public Realm and University Construction projects are managed from. A skip laurel hedge is maintained by hand-pruning and salvia, coral bells and miscanthus grasses offer outstanding color and variety all season long.



## OVERALL BEAUTY #2:

Once a vacant lot that used to hold a dry cleaners and auto repair shop, Drexel Park is now one of the highlights of the University. The location provides outstanding views of Center City Philadelphia especially at sunrise in the spring when the cherry trees are in bloom and the grass is just starting to turn green.



### OVERALL BEAUTY #3:

Old meets new on the Chestnut Street boundary of Campus. Flanking the border of the University's oldest building, The Main Building, which was built in 1889, are a mix of oakleaf hydrangea and seasonal tropicals. In stark contrast, the newly constructed FMC tower rises over 30 stories in the distance just two blocks away.





#### OVERALL BEAUTY #4:

Spangler Walk runs directly through the middle of 5 residence halls, most notably is the 17-story Millennium Hall. This space is a haven for student activity and groundskeepers are responsible for planting everything in view over the past 5 years including the lirioppe ground cover, locust and maple trees, ornamental grasses and roses.







OVERALL BEAUTY #5: Each fall this group of clump maples are wrapped in purple LED lights to raise awareness for epilepsy, which was championed by a former student who was personally effected by this disease. As a Department we are happy to entertain any request by students, faculty or staff as long as it is within reason and will not negatively impact others using the space.



### OVERALL BEAUTY #6:

The Korman Quad was recently completed after a 2-year construction phase. Overcoming unforeseen challenges such as finding old, unmarked and defunct sewer and utility lines throughout the space, it now boasts nearly 30,000 s/f of permeable pavers, native trees, shrubs and perennials and irrigation programming that runs based on actual soil moisture rather than a set program. Adirondack chairs set in the open turf are a highly-desired seat and what was once a place simply walked past to get to somewhere else is now a destination on the southern end of campus.





### OVERALL BEAUTY #7:

Sunrise over the city wakes up the turf and lobelia in Perelman Plaza. This space acts as a gateway to campus as commuters arrive at nearby 30<sup>th</sup> Street station and walk through campus to their destination. The turf, perennials and large shade trees are all irrigated but the system utilizes moisture sensors to water based on need so we can push plant material to establish much quicker.

The trees are relatively new but are beginning to offer the shade bench-users require to beat the heat in the summer months.







OVERALL BEAUTY #8: Fall in Philadelphia brings out the vibrant colors of locust, oak, sweet gum, plum and maple trees. Late summer aeration and over seeding keeps the turf bright green and healthy late into the season while the long shadows in mid-morning remind us all of the winter to come.



### OVERALL BEAUTY #9:

Tulips in early spring signal the start of warmer days to come behind the Rec Center in the middle of campus. This is an area of recent improvement and what was formerly just turf and a retaining wall is now a beautifully landscaped slope that has a mix of service berry, winterberry holly, ferns, sedges and seasonal tulip displays.





### OVERALL BEAUTY #10:

Benches and perennial displays abound throughout the southern end of the campus offering campus users plenty of options to sit and relax in the shade. Rubekia and echinacea provide pops of color all summer long while the taller clethra offer a wonderful backdrop with some fragrance. Our groundskeepers are all being trained to identify perennials from weeds, especially early in the spring, and that training moves to pruning and perennial maintenance as the seasons progress.





### OVERALL BEAUTY #11:

A constant reminder that we are nestled in the heart of the city, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Street Station entrance to the subway system sits at the center of campus. The roses are hard pruned each winter and the soils are amended with RoseTone each spring and again in June when we hand prune spent blooms. This keeps the roses performing their best and brightens up what would otherwise be a dull bit of infrastructure.







OVERALL BEAUTY #12: Each fall for Veterans Day groundskeepers install flags in Perelman Plaza to honor the current number of enrolled students in the active military. This past fall (2018) there were 872 flags installed with the help of Veteran and ROTC volunteers, in a grid pattern evenly spaced 24" from one another. It has become a staple and highlight of the University's commitment to Veterans groups. The oak trees in the foreground are tagged for micronutrient treatments on a monthly schedule.



### OVERALL BEAUTY #13:

Sand volleyball courts sit right in the heart of campus while high-rise University Housing and city sky scrapers loom in the background. Intramural volleyball runs from May through November each year and the Drexel ROTC uses the sand as a training ground for some of their exercises. Groundskeepers planted the grove of locust trees along the eastern edge which provides shade to picnic tables and Adirondack chairs and we add 25 tons of fresh sand every spring.





#### OVERALL BEAUTY #14:

One of most recent landscape improvements is green screen along a property line behind the Rec Center. Formerly weak turf and a wrought iron security fence, the view has been softened up to include perennial ferns, coreopsis and lobelia as well as service berry, fothergilla and clump maples. The result is a native landscape sourced from local nurseries and greenhouses with the city skyline as a backdrop.







OVERALL BEAUTY #15: When the University purchased a plot of land that housed a Firestone Automotive Center, the big question was what to do with the parking lot. Located at the eastern border of the University, the new gateway to campus has become a popular location to meet, have a coffee or study before walking to class. The border of the space was planted with ornamental grasses and rubekia while the umbrellas and tables create a unique and very accessible location for all users of the campus to enjoy.





CREW AT WORK #1: Keeping plants alive in the heat of the summer means lots of watering and our crew members are up the challenge. Underground infrastructure requires a number of trees to be planted above ground and we supplement many the planters with annual displays of petunia and potato vine. Working on sometimes narrow sidewalks requires a different type of training involving utility cart and pedestrian safety.





CREW AT WORK #2: At the end of each summer, groundskeepers aerate, top dress and over seed Drexel Park which has become exceedingly popular over the years. Not just a place to take in excellent views of Center City, it is heavily used as a dog park in the morning and a place to hang out and sun bathe in the afternoon.





CREW AT WORK #3: Working in the city usually means working in tight quarters. Our campus Quad is no exception so our 48" mowers are equipped with mulching kits to eliminate the debris from discharge and only the most experienced workers are assigned to these areas. Safety aside, the Quad is a highly visible area and crisp bed edges must be meticulously maintained throughout the season along with our perennial displays. <sup>19</sup>





CREW AT WORK #4: Getting a head start on routine maintenance is important for our Department and groundskeepers are out with the sunrise each morning to begin completing all turf maintenance. We strive to be finished with all loud activities near academic building areas by 9am each day.





CHALLENGES #1: The original challenge posed to Grounds management was how to beautify exterior seating areas and what we learned is that no number of planters could ever beautify a gravel area used for parking. Instead, we removed everything and started over, creating a beautiful turf area with Adirondack chairs, shade trees and shrubbery that is now heavily used all season long.





CHALLENGES #2: When deciding to renovate a rocky patch of lawn near a Residence Hall, we underestimated how much more the space would be used by the students after completion. We decided to install a planting bed above a retaining wall to act as a natural deterrent to anyone chasing after a frisbee or ball. Cherry laurel, winterberry, sedges, ferns and Yoshino cherries were the perfect fit for this space.





CHALLENGES #3: The obvious challenge here was what to do with this cotoneaster bed that was installed years ago to hold back a slope. We decided to remove and replant with sedges as a ground cover, lobelia for color and oakleaf hydrangea and serviceberry for season long interest. What used to be a very depressing walk into the College of Engineering is now a bright and attractive native landscape.





CHALLENGES #4: A slope separating our volleyball courts from neighboring rental units had fallen into disrepair and the challenge was posed to the Grounds Department to come up with a better design. The result was a mix of deciduous (service berry, winterberry holly) and evergreen (inkberry and spruce) shrubs and trees with sedges planted as a groundcover. New irrigation and turf were added as well and now users of the courts have an appealing green screen that will grow in over time rather than a rusted and dangerous chain link fence.



### SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES:

We have begun to retrofit older Rainbird irrigation systems with Baseline moisture sensors and substations that communicate with the main Baseline controller. These moisture sensors provide real-time moisture percentages from the soil that we use to control the irrigation programming. The sensors have proven to be a better gauge on water need than weather stations or pulling data from a local weather station; these are placed strategically in the field and zones with similar microclimates are linked together since their needs are often the same. Over half of the campus turf (4+ acres) is now irrigated with moisture sensor technology.





## SAFETY:

No matter the assignment, we make a point to take the time and go over exactly what is expected and how to be safe when doing it. Even a common practice such as pruning has its share of potential hazards, so we keep all employees up to date with equipment safety features and personal protective equipment. We have a station in the shop for ear, eye and dust protection and everyone is given gloves or heavier duty ear protection if requested. Being confident in the assignment and safe while doing it allows our grounds staff to maintain the campus at its highest level.







Scott Dunham, Director of Grounds



Tony Gale, Asst. Director of Grounds