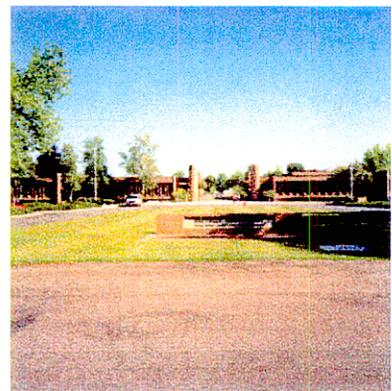


DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

Building Complexes



ZONE 1: MAIN CAMPUS - EDL, PSL, ROB, LSL2, MATH, AND AUDITORIUM

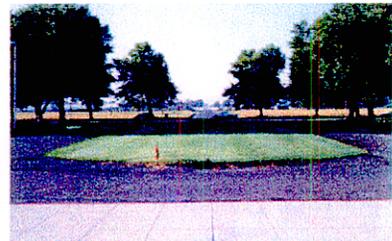
This complex of buildings is in many ways the gateway to the Battelle campus for visitors, the community and employees. The Auditorium, pond area and surrounding open grounds are the focal point of the campus. It is important visually, as well as functionally, that the main campus be representative of all the goals that Battelle is striving for.

A hierarchy of opportunities exists for achieving this goal. These opportunities include enhancement of:

- the entry drive
- development of a unified planting and signage scheme within adjacent parking areas
- changes in planting within the main plaza, auditorium and perimeter of buildings
- establishment of places for lunch and breaks
- creating views from building interiors for employees and further development of existing ones
- expansion of outdoor plaza space next to the auditorium
- creation of a pedestrian gateway by the Life Science Laboratory
- rethinking of the native plant display garden
- incorporate a more direct pedestrian path to the EMSL complex
- a flexible outdoor events space
- coordination of site furnishing within the complex

Entry Drive

The entry drive is the first experience that visitors have at the main campus. Expansive views are experienced entering as well as leaving the drive. The open grassed area needs to convey a statement about the importance of Battelle as an institution. The space should be reflective of elements found within the interior of the complex and include some type of water feature, large expanses of grass and trees.



Entry drive to main campus.

Parking Lots

Vegetation within these lots is past maturity and has a dated visual appearance. The large expanses of juniper require a great deal of maintenance and have grown to a size where they are inhibiting visibility. The existing trees within these areas are not doing well and need to be replaced.

The parking lots need to conform to a similar landscape language. This would be achieved by incorporating plant material that has a unified visual image. Design concepts should provide shade to parked automobiles and pedestrians, promote visibility through the area, require minimal maintenance, and suggest a strong, yet elegant atmosphere that speaks of a corporate environment. Signage within the lots needs to clearly state direction, areas for visitors to park, and be unified in appearance.



Existing plantings block visibility in parking lots.



Main entry plaza.



Crabapple trees at auditorium.



Typical lunch areas.



View of interior courtyards.



Potential for plaza outside of auditorium.

Landscape Material within Main Plaza, Auditorium and Around Perimeter of Buildings

Visitors immediately observe the raised planters as they enter the main plaza. The planters contain dwarfed globed maples and a few widely-spaced, low evergreens. A small deciduous multi-stem tree needs to replace the maples that will convey a stately image with or without its foliage. A sufficient amount of shrubs needs to be added to planters so that a lush and full year-round image is achieved.

Crab Apple trees line the plaza next to the Auditorium. Due to the low height of the branches they are a safety hazard and do not fit the scale of the overall space. In general, the trees are not doing well and need to be replaced with a more upright columnar tree.

Birches are lined along the interior and exterior perimeter of the building. By nature, Birch trees are organic in form yet they have been planted in straight rows. These trees are susceptible to limb breakage, have a relative short life expectancy and are well past their prime. Replacement plantings should incorporate a multi-stemmed tree and should be placed in random clumps rather than a rigid line.

Places for Lunch and Breaks

Small areas exist in various spaces throughout the complex where people have lunch or take breaks. These areas are close to an exit door and are often located beneath the shade of a tree. To help create a sense of unity, standardization needs to be applied to lunch areas throughout the Battelle campus. Standardization can be achieved through use of similar picnic tables and pads, overall layout, placement adjacent to commonly used exterior door, incorporation of wind breaks and adjacent to trees that allow for shade.

Views from Building Interiors

The architecture of the Main Campus buildings allow for views from almost all interior spaces. Views are toward exterior outdoor spaces and interior courtyards. Exterior views are pleasant from almost all viewpoints and are not in need of further development. The five existing interior courtyards primary functions are that of a viewing garden. Enhancement of these gardens with additional plant material, stone and in some cases water features would make a positive statement of the Battelle philosophy and make them more visually attractive for employees and visitors. Themes could expand upon the goals of Battelle and include research, technology, environment and ecology.

Expanded Outdoor Plaza Space Next to the Auditorium

The Auditorium serves the Battelle campus and the Richland community. The facility is currently in need of a distinct outdoor plaza space that would serve small groups and informal functions. A large space exists north of the building that is currently planted with junipers. Plantings could be removed and replaced with a distinctive hardscape and outdoor plaza space. The space would allow viewing of the ponds, open space and cultivated farmland as well as a gathering place for auditorium functions.

Pedestrian Gateway at the Life Science Laboratory

From a pedestrian viewpoint, this is one of the primary gateways to the Main Campus complex. The space currently consists of lawn and little else. It has minimal visual distinction. Extensive plantings of trees would mark this place for the importance that it has to the campus.



Indistinguishable expanses of lawn and pedestrian connections.

Native Plant Display Garden

The idea of an interpretive native garden is complementary to the Battelle philosophy. A native garden is representative of collaboration with the environment, a place of learning and research. This garden is approximately 2 acres and is maintained solely by volunteers. A garden of this magnitude is a very ambitious undertaking by a volunteer staff and thought should be given to reducing its overall size. Rather than one large garden, it could become a series of smaller spaces that are located in more visible locations. Small native gardens, for example, could be located adjacent to the various outdoor lunch spaces found throughout the campus.

Outdoor Events Space

A need exists within the campus for a flexible outdoor space that would serve various company functions. Since the space would be used only occasionally, it is not recommended that a permanent structure be developed. A well thought out tent structure is recommended. Thought should be given to development of utilities such as gas and water lines, electricity and places for disposal of waste.



Potential for events space near pools and auditorium.

Pedestrian Path to the EMSL Complex

For ease of pedestrian circulation, a more direct path could be developed between this complex and the EMSL building.

ZONE 2: EMSL COMPLEX

Individuals from all over the world come to this complex of buildings to participate in the scientific opportunities that Battelle has to offer. Though these groupings of buildings are extremely well designed and offer much to visitors and staff alike, opportunities for improvement do exist. They include:

- addition of plantings to parking lots
- development of pedestrian ways between the complex and leased buildings
- creation of new outdoor lunch areas
- incorporation of specialty gardens
- incorporation of lunch time recreational opportunities
- drainage



East view of the EMSL.



Add shade trees to parking lots.



Pedestrian connections.



Provide paved lunch areas in building pockets.



Open space for programmed recreation areas.



Existing low spots on east side of EMSL.

Parking Lot Landscaping

To provide shade to parked cars and contribute to a unified Battelle treatment of parking areas, deciduous trees should be planted within parking lot landscaped areas that currently consist solely of turf. Trees should be selected from the overall Battelle master plant list.

Improved Pedestrian Circulation

Pedestrian amenities including deciduous trees for shade, benches, lighting, and increased width are improvements that would enhance the pedestrian experience between the EMSL complex and leased buildings to the east of Q Avenue. The existing route between the EMSL complex and main campus serves substantially more users than the route to the east across Q Avenue.

New Outdoor Lunch Areas

In order to increase outdoor lunch space for employees, the existing grassed area, closest to the main entry on the east side of the building should be paved and tables added. The second area, to the south of the entrance, needs to be expanded with the addition of tables within the lawn area.

Specialty Gardens

Along the long stretch of pathways between the EMSL complex, main campus, and the leased buildings, particularly where two paths converge, specialty or interpretive gardens could be incorporated for increased visual and educational value.

Recreation

A volleyball or basketball court could be developed adjacent to the complex for lunchtime recreation. Located at the northwest corner of the complex, the proposed activity would not impact the other more passive outdoor spaces.

Drainage

Surface water is currently pooling in low spots between grassed berms around the complex. In some cases the areas are of sufficient size that water tolerant shrubs and trees could be planted in smaller zones, and drainage improvements such as a dry well could be installed.

ZONE 3: SPORTSFIELD COMPLEX

To better accommodate periodic company events and make the area more visually appealing, the following is recommended:

- Develop parking areas along W Avenue
- Provide additional picnic shelters
- Remove asphalt within lawn areas
- Reconfigure layout of tennis courts

Parking Lots

Designated parking areas, with landscaping, should be developed along W Avenue. Due to the infrequency of their use and increased drainage, compacted gravel could be used as a surface material instead of asphalt.

Picnic Shelters

Employees have recommended that two picnic shelters along with increased storage be added. The overall style, scale, and use of material should be similar to the shelter that is in place. Lighting and electrical service should be incorporated within the design.



Picnic shelter.

Asphalt Removal

To create more of park-like setting, asphalt should be removed and replanted in lawn around the picnic shelter. This increased lawn area will serve as an informal multi-use space during company events.

Tennis Courts

Given that the tennis courts receive very little use, it is recommended that two of the four courts be removed. This would provide space for other types of courts, such as volleyball and basketball. By offering a variety of activities, there is a greater chance of increased use of the area.



Parking near tennis courts.

ZONE 4: RTL

The basic design and layout of the RTL complex is an excellent example of 1950's architecture and planning. Through the years it appears that use of the facility and level of maintenance has changed and today the following features are in need of redesign and/or maintenance:

- redefinition and addition of landscaping to the main parking area
- development of entry and directional signage within complex
- modification of maintenance practices on existing landscaping
- establishment of a new walkway on east side of building
- redevelopment of existing landscaping on north and south sides of building
- provision of screening of storage area on north side of building
- creation of a sports court area on north side of building for lunch time activity
- establishment of an outdoor lunch area



Parking in front of RTL complex.

Parking Lots

The main parking lot of the complex currently has 60 degree angled parking and is entirely paved. Circulation lanes need to be reconfigured so that 90-degree spaces and landscaped islands can be developed.

Signage

Entry points to the parking area and directional signage within the complex are needed to promote wayfinding. Signage should be similar in visual appearance and scale to what is developed in other parts of the campus to promote a unified appearance.

Pedestrian Circulation

A new concrete walkway is needed along the east side of the building. The walkway should be of sufficient width to allow two people to pass in opposite directions.

Rejuvenate Landscaping

Although revising maintenance practices for the perimeter landscaping will refine the appearance, other areas of the complex are in need of more substantial improvements. These areas include replacing Cherry trees at the main entrance, replacing trees in tree wells along the north parking lot and development of a landscape area or lawn where gravel currently exists on the north side of the building.

Screening

To minimize views into storage areas from the roadway, groupings of evergreen trees need to be planted along the outside edge of the storage yard. Plant material should not exceed a maximum height of 20 to 25 feet.

Recreation

A basketball court, full or half, or a volley ball court could be developed for employee recreation at lunchtime. The court should be located in the northwest corner of the site. Located here, it would have minimal impact on existing vegetation and would help provide screening from the storage area.



Trees in sidewalk need replacement.

Outdoor Lunch Area

An existing brick terraced courtyard, located on the north side of the building, could serve as a very pleasant outdoor lunch area. With the addition of tables, umbrellas and a few large pots with plant material, the space would meet the needs of the complex.

Maintenance

English yews are the predominant plant materials used around the perimeter of the building. Yews are an excellent plant for harsh weather conditions of the region in terms of longevity, drought tolerance and disease resistance. This plant material would present a stronger, more unified appearance if the practice of trimming each individual shrub was abandoned and replaced with the concept of trimming each grouping as an individual mass.

ZONE 5: BUILDINGS 331 AND 337

Though these buildings are only a ten-minute drive from the Main Complex, they do not visually feel part of the Battelle campus. The key visual elements of Main Complex (expansive areas of lawn, tree lined streetscape and landscaped parking lots) are present at either building site. To create a more unified visual image and develop a place that employees will enjoy more, the following opportunities exist:



The perimeter of the complex needs enhancement using vegetation.

Overall Complex

- Increase visual access to the river
- Add street trees along main access road
- Replace existing street trees
- Enhance open space between both buildings

Building 337

- Add landscaping to parking lots
- Improve overall landscaping
- Reconfigure south side of building to accommodate lunch areas and maintenance access
- Improve views from inside the building

Building 331

- Add landscaping to parking lots
- Increase visual access to the river
- Add curbing in portions of parking lot
- Develop lunch area on the south side of building
- Improve overall landscaping

Overall Complex



Existing fencing obscures the view to the Columbia River.

Riverfront

The Columbia River is one of the main visual amenities of the entire campus and this opportunity is missed due to fencing and lack of lawn between parking areas and the river's edge.

Open Space

An east-west pedestrian path is needed that will efficiently link both buildings. Due to the openness of the area, large canopied deciduous trees should be placed in close proximity to provide shade for users. Benches should be incorporated as well for viewing of the river at lunchtime and breaks. The primary visual feature of the area should be lawn to help create a campus-like feeling between the two buildings.

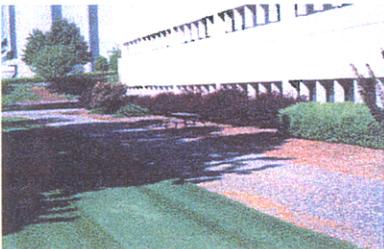
Street Trees

The access road to the complex should create a sense of entry and also visually connect this part of the campus to other developed portions. The existing street trees on the west side of the road are in poor condition and should be removed. The addition of street trees on both sides of the access road with an under planting of lawn would achieve this goal.

Building 337

Parking Lots

Both parking areas are void of landscaping. End islands should be created and planted in a similar fashion to what is recommended for the Main Complex.

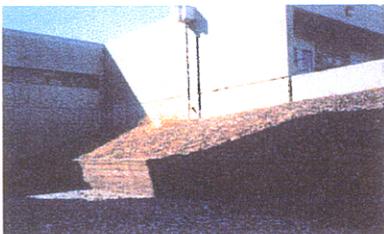


The existing gravel maintenance route adjacent to lunch tables.

Landscaping

The disturbed area between the parking lots should be developed as an open area that promotes views to the river, linkage from the parking lot to the building entrance, and strengthens the campus feeling of the complex.

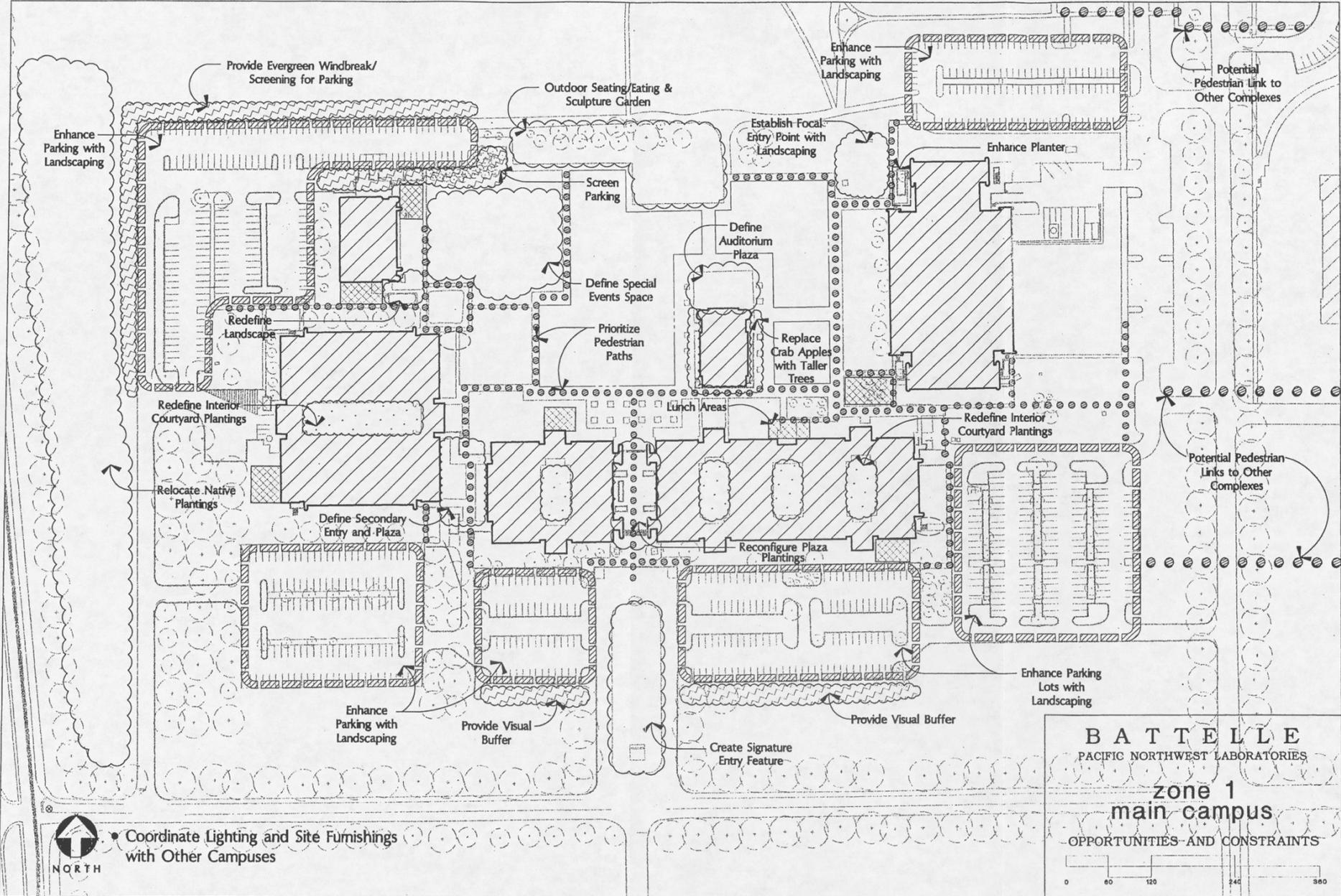
Along the south side of building, lunch tables and a maintenance route co-exist. To create a more pleasant outdoor lunch area, the gravel path could be converted to grasscrete or a similar type of reinforced turf system.

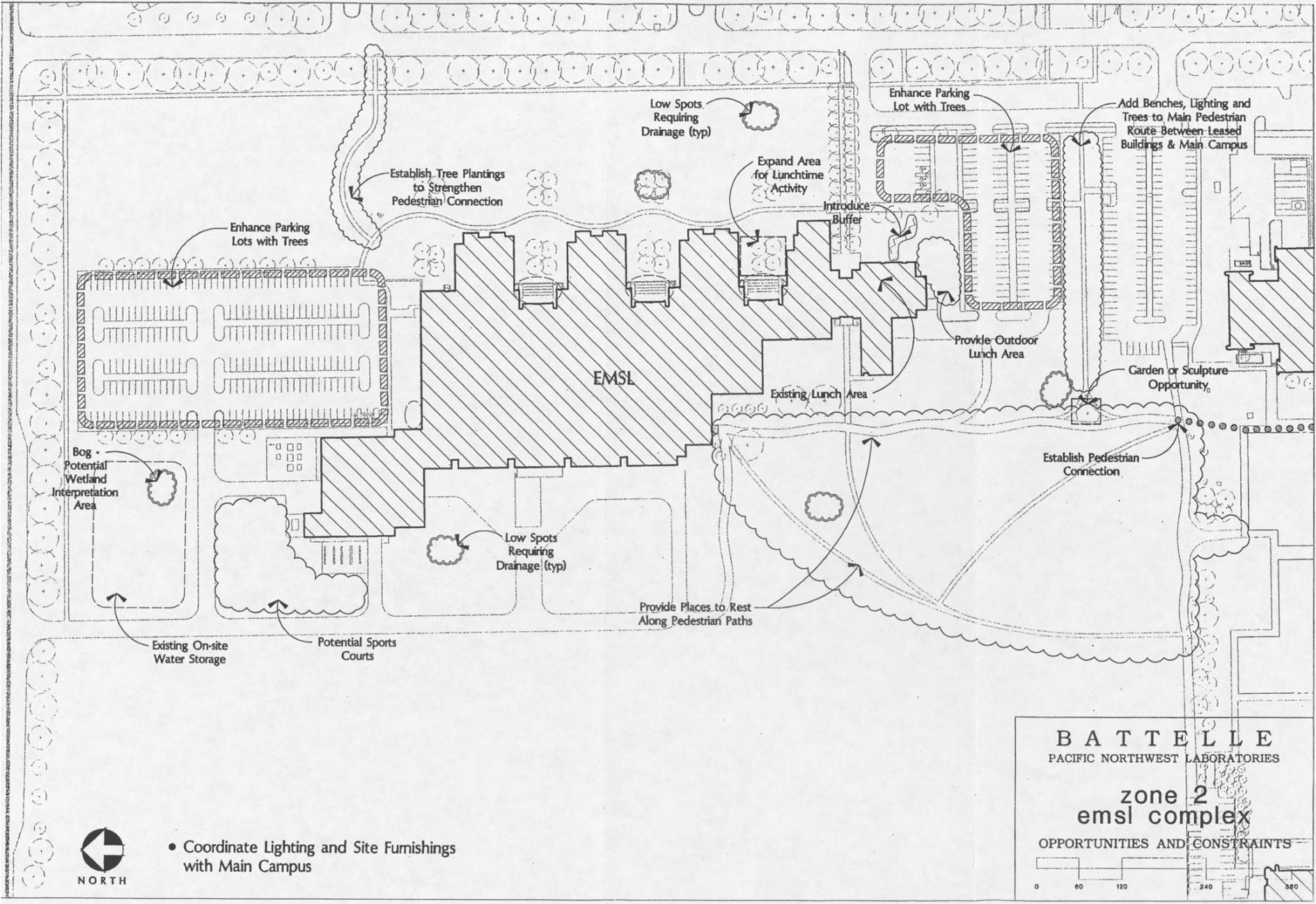


Blank walls of building 337.

Views from many of the interior offices consist of looking at blank walls. To improve the visual work environment for employees, strategically placed trees should be incorporated within these areas. The southwest corner of the building is one area where previously planned landscaping appears to have not been implemented. Additional evergreens, such as pines, could be planted between the east side of the building and the road. These additional evergreens could also be introduced between the north side of the building and the road improving office views from that side of the building.

One primary entrance to this facility, located along the east side, is barren of any type of landscaping. Trees should be planted in existing gravel areas to soften the architecture of the building and create a more inviting and pleasant entrance.





• Coordinate Lighting and Site Furnishings with Main Campus



BATTELLE
 PACIFIC NORTHWEST LABORATORIES

zone 2
emsl complex
 OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

