

George School Arboretum Master Plan

Location: Newtown, Pennsylvania
Client: George School
Contact: Nancy Starmer, Head of School

Cost: \$550 K
Status: Phase one construction complete 2009

“We seek to preserve and enhance the trees of the George School campus in an aesthetically pleasing, environmentally responsible and educationally sound way. This is an expression of our respect for the history of the campus and our desire to protect the natural world.” – Arboretum Committee Mission Statement

Viridian Landscape Studio developed an Arboretum Master Plan for the 213-acre George School campus in Newtown PA. At Viridian’s urging, stakeholders refined the arboretum vision plan in the context of a sustainable campus. This key change to arboretum creation allowed long-term restoration of woodlands, lowlands & formal landscapes. Operational governance and maintenance goals provide real objectives and strategies for successful site management.

Viridian recommended phasing for the plan components and was retained to develop a phase one pilot project: the waterway restoration and site work for the Molly Dodd Anderson Library which was completed in 2009.



Arboretum committee and the design team



A student presents his team's ideas



Site Review



Arboretum Mind Map

Phased Projects to make the Master Plan a reality

- A. Redesign the Campus Entry Sequence
- B. Redesign the Forested Campus and begin Invasives Management
- C. Riparian Restoration of detention basin and associated waterway concentrating on volume reduction
- D. Retford Rain Garden
- E. Riparian Restoration south of future library building
- F. Riparian Restoration Downstream of Graduation Area
- G. Preserve Mature Allees
- H. Small lawn to meadow conversion on west side of site
- I. Formal Campus Canopy Replacement
- J. Secure Sufficient Resources to Maintain Formal Area
- K. Manage campus stormwater to repair woodland slope erosion
- M. Natural Areas - Begin Management of Invasive Plants



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