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Construction for Central Lawn Project Begins in January

Construction is scheduled to begin in January for the Central Lawn Project, a promenade that symbolizes the connections within the university and its partnership with the community. Lined with native plants and anchored by a circular fountain, the Central Lawn Project will beautify the campus corridor comprised of Second Street South and Seventh Avenue South.

The landscaped area will be tailored to the pedestrian and have shaded sitting areas. Continuing with the environmental stewardship exhibited in the Science and Technology building, the Central Lawn Project plan features benches partially made from recycled materials, solar-powered lighting, dark-sky compliant fixtures and drought-tolerant groundcover. This project is scheduled for completion in conjunction with the Science and Technology building in the summer of 2009.

During two presentations on Thursday, Sept. 18, designers of the project presented renderings and plan details to the campus community.

Jim Grant, director of facilities planning and construction, said, “This has been a part of our master planning process and will be the first element that creates the heart of this campus.”

Curved walkways within the design of the plan form connecting circles, symbolizing the connections USF St. Petersburg fosters within the university and throughout the community. The goal of this project, to create a traditional campus green space within an urban context through the adoption of innovative and sustainable green standards, will be achieved through the design, landscaping and project materials. Some of the trees for the project will be trees that were saved when the Fifth Avenue South Parking Garage Facility was constructed. A timed irrigation system will help monitor weather conditions to limit the use of reclaimed water.

Hunter Booth, senior associate with Phil Graham Studio, said, “We are very excited to have this project come to fruition. This project will truly be a renaissance for USF St. Petersburg.”

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