

6.3 Infusing Nature in Built-up Areas

The natural elements of the Symons Campus exist both within and outside of the Trent Nature Areas. The UGN presents an opportunity to bolster the natural system by infusing nature into built-up areas during the land use planning and development process, or through retrofits of existing areas. The UGN recognizes that the quality of land use across the campus should support the form and function of the Trent Nature Areas, and seeks to preserve and integrate natural features and functions into the University Districts, as appropriate.

The Symons Campus is envisioned to embed environmental stewardship through nature-inclusive, low-impact and low-carbon development. This may include the application of low impact design solutions such as permeable surfaces, and mitigative design approaches such as dark sky or bird friendly guidelines. It also fosters the integration of new natural open spaces such as learning gardens, arboretums, pollinator gardens, living walls, green roofs and so much more. These indoor and outdoor spaces can be used to demonstrate and test regenerative systems, showcasing Trent as a global leader. This approach reflects principles of regenerative design, and fosters a campus where students, the community and diverse ecosystems can thrive (refer to Section 7.3).

Supportive features and areas that serve to benefit larger network functions in the UGN include:

- **Wildlife corridors (Section 6.2, Feature Type 5)** – these valuable connections should be prioritized and established on the landscape to positively contribute to the larger system (refer to the Implementation Plan in Part IV for direction on corridor design);
- **Nature-inclusive design (Section 7.3)** – integrating diverse green spaces that support the ecological and hydrological functions of the UGN; and
- **Mitigating conflict between vehicles and wildlife (Section 8.2)** – exploring opportunities to improve conditions at wildlife crossing areas to mitigate existing and future conflicts.



Contemplative courtyard with integrated rainwater garden. Massey College. Source: The Cultural Landscape Foundation



Nature-inclusive design with preserved mature trees and integrated green roof. Centre for Global Conservation. Source: Architectural Record



Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, Pittsburgh
Source: Annie O'Neill