


7.8 Placemaking and Storytelling

Placemaking and recognition in the Districts will foster a spirit of the land and campus – expressing the unique identity of Trent’s campus and community. The Symons Campus presents an opportunity for spontaneous teaching and learning. Interpretive and education signage may be integrated in various settings to tell the story of the land.

General Guidelines

- Locate public art features in areas that are highly visible, particularly in proximity to entrances and trails.
 - Incorporate storytelling elements to highlight the rich heritage of the Symons Campus, including recognition of the University, Michi Saagiig, and settler and farming heritage.
 - Provide opportunities to involve Trent’s and Peterborough’s artistic communities in the design of public art installations.
 - Consult the **Trent University Art Collection Policy**:
 trentu.ca/governance/sites/trentu.ca.governance/files/documents/Trent%20Art%20CollectionPolicy.pdf
 - Incorporate educational signage in natural areas to describe the significance and sensitivity of the area, species that inhabit the zone, wildlife habitat, Indigenous names and uses, etc.
 - In designing the public realm, incorporate custom design elements such as special surface treatments, moveable planters, accent lighting, iconic furnishing palette, and/or art installations between buildings or near University entrances.
 - Provide interactive elements across the campus to encourage student and visitor participation, engagement, and community building (i.e. mural walls, community gardens, interactive public art).
 - Provide clear directions for special permitted or prohibited uses of green spaces on Campus. Where specific uses are prohibited, direct users to the appropriate location where such uses are permitted.
 - Locate communication and other servicing infrastructure away from entrances to enhance the quality of and activate the building interface.
- The Presidential Advisory Committee leads the Public Sculpture Initiative. The initiative helps identify Canadian artists to attract donations of works and produce artistic concepts for new site-specific work serving as a flagship celebration of Trent University's commitment to the national arts community.



Sculpture 'This Column Ends' outside of Blackburn Hall, Trent University, Peterborough



Integrated public art at Ethennonhawahstihnen Park, Toronto
Source: Jason Thorne, Twitter



Indigenous Placemaking

The Trent lands are located on the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and the treaty lands of the Rice Lake Treaty No. 20 (1818) and the Williams Treaty (1923). The University Districts provide opportunities to create, support, and sustain a respectful and representational environment for the local Michi Saagiig First Nations and Indigenous students.

General Guidelines

- Acknowledge the campus lands as traditional territory through place names, public art, and placemaking elements featured in a number of visible locations to make Indigenous culture a key part of campus life.
- On-campus naming opportunities should consider the opportunity to commemorate local First Nations, Michi Saagiig leaders, clans, and history, utilizing Michi Saagiig Anishinaabemowin (Mississauga dialect of the Anishinaabe language).
- Utilize Indigenous concepts of welcoming and gathering within campus spaces to create additional community-oriented spaces for a variety of programming including Indigenous ceremonies of welcoming and cultural purposes.
- In accordance with local tradition, landscapes should feature an educational component where possible, including interpretation of Indigenous and ethnobotanical plants and biodiversity.
- Foster the creation of areas where traditional medicines and traditional teachings can flourish and shape new understanding for Indigenous Traditional Knowledge and beliefs.
- The Mnidoowag A'Kiing Traditional Area continues to be an important and accessible place for ceremonies, spiritual respite and for the sacred fire. This area will continue to be used for these purposes.
- Commemoration should not only be focused on the past, but on the contemporary presence of Michi Saagiig, Anishinaabeg, and Indigenous cultures.
- Trent lands and Nature Areas commemoration should focus on learning opportunities for the Williams Treaty and Rice Lake Treaty No. 20.
- Cultural heritage interpretation on the campus will include Michi Saagiig culture, history, and storytelling that highlights the worldview of Michi Saagiig people and their connections to the land and water.



Indigenous Cultural Markers at Humber College, Toronto
Source: Canadian Architect



Gathering Circle at the Spirit Garden, Prince Arthur's Landing,
Thunder Bay. Source: Tom Arban, Canadian Architect

Interface with Cultural Heritage Assets

The Symons Campus is rich in cultural heritage features, which form unique opportunities for sensitive interaction in a manner that showcases, preserves, and enhances the integrity of these assets.

General Guidelines

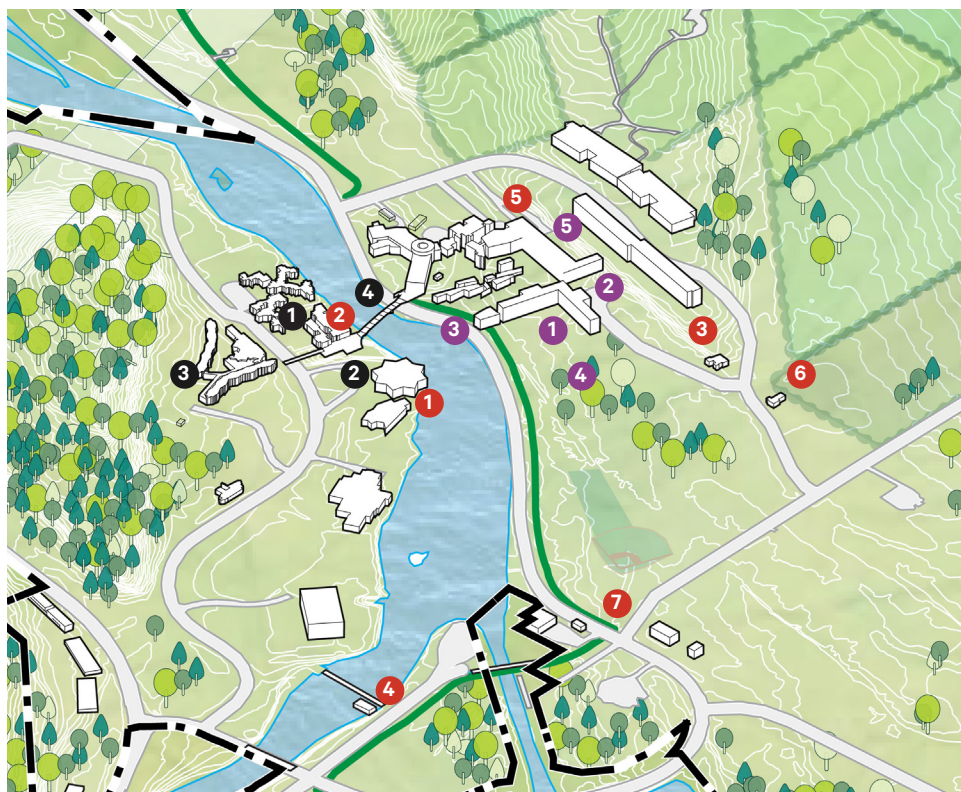
- Consult the Trent University Heritage Stewardship Policy:
 - Showcase the University's architectural heritage and vision by maintaining views to iconic buildings within the Campus Core.
- Consult the Campus Master Archaeological Study, which was undertaken with the participation of Michi Saagiig First Nations monitors.
- Locate heritage buildings and spaces on campus identified in the University's Heritage Stewardship Policy as anchors that define and enhance the identity and culture of the Symons Campus.



trentu.ca/governance/sites/trentu.ca.governance/files/documents/Heritage%20Stewardship%20Policy%20FINAL.pdf



Consult the Campus Master Archaeological Study, which was undertaken with the participation of Michi Saagiig First Nations monitors.



Trent University Stewardship Policy

Culturally Valued Buildings (Level 1)

- 1 Bata Library
- 2 Faryon Bridge
- 3 Archaeology Centre
- 4 Stan Adamson Power House
- 5 Science Complex
- 6 Mackenzie House
- 7 Orange Lodge

Culturally Valued Landscapes (Level 1)

- 1 Champlain College with Alumni House and Memorial Tree Area
- 2 University Court / Bata Podium
- 3 Lady Eaton College with Drumlin
- 4 Otonabee River

Indigenous Spaces

- 1 Ska'nitón:ra, Benedict Gathering Space
- 2 Ernest & Florence Benedict Gathering Space
- 3 Nozhem: First Peoples Performance Space
- 4 Mnidoowag A'Kiing
- 5 Tipi - School of Education

Figure 26: Existing Cultural Assets on the Symons Campus

Views and Sightlines

The University Districts benefit from breathtaking views of the land and will maintain and enhance view corridors across the campus, particularly to important features such as the Otonabee River, the drumlins, landmark buildings, and key green spaces.

General Guidelines

- Maximize views and sightlines, especially to the Otonabee River and the drumlins, from many places on campus in order to provide a strong sense of place within the landscape.
- Preserve major view corridors and manage them over time to maintain views from elements that block or degrade their intrinsic attractiveness.
- Contribute to an interesting skyline and ensure buildings are sufficiently spaced apart to minimize the loss of view corridors towards the river and other natural features.



View Corridors and Pathways Leading to Building Entrances at Champlain College, Trent University