Penn Connects 2.0 includes multiple open space projects that advance local engagement and ensure that Penn is more meaningfully connected to the surrounding community and improves the public realm of the campus and surrounding urban context. They will enhance the campus pedestrian experience and open space identity, physically connecting to the City beyond.

New Construction

**Penn Park**

Standing as a shining example of Penn's commitment to engagement with the local community, and a hallmark of sustainable design, Penn Park is the centerpiece of Penn Connects. This project transforms 24 acres of neglected land along the Schuylkill River into an urban oasis. It dramatically opens and connects the Penn campus with University City and the greater Philadelphia region. Welcoming public walkways, casual picnic spaces, athletic fields teeming with life, and spectacular views of Center City—all await visitors to Penn Park.

**Shoemaker Green**

Nestled between Franklin Field, the Palestra, and the David Rittenhouse Labs, Shoemaker Green will become a new public commons, a welcoming open space of lawn, tree-lined walkways, and sitting areas for the entire University community. The Green will also serve as a verdant pedestrian gateway connecting Locust and Smith Walks eastward from the core of campus to Penn Park. Its multi-functional scale will offer an intimate place for a casual weekday lunch, a frisbee toss, or quiet reading and study. On Family Day, Homecoming, or Alumni Weekend, the Green will come alive with another kind of energy: accommodating tented special events and celebrations like Commencement, Quaker football, and the Penn Relays.
**Spruce Street Plaza**

Spruce Street Plaza will create a popular new open space at this important University gateway intersection bounded by 33rd, 34th and Spruce Streets. The site currently accommodates surface parking and food cart vendors. The vendors will be relocated to the adjacent fresh air food plaza at 33rd and Spruce Streets. A new mid-block crossing will be installed to provide improved pedestrian safety between the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Penn Tower and the University City SEPTA Station.

**Renovation**

**Locust Walk Restoration**

Locust Walk defines the pedestrian experience at the heart of Penn’s urban campus. Conceived in the late ’50s as a vehicular-free pedestrian spine, the 3600 block of Locust Walk has been extended over time westward to 40th Street. The core block was completely restored including paving, utility and electric upgrades, street furniture, and landscaping. The concrete paved blocks in Hamilton Village between 38th and 40th Streets were completely renovated to match the historic core.

**Class of ’49 / Generational Bridge**

As Locust Walk rises over the busy 38th Street artery, the campus community is greeted by a gateway celebrating the 125 year history of women at Penn and a mosaic of plaques that commemorate the many multi-generational family experiences at the University. The paving, lighting, donor plaques and landscape amenity that constitute this commemorative display will be repaired and rejuvenated.
Walnut Street Streetscape

Walnut Street links the campus with Center City and serves as a heavily traversed pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular gateway to University City. East of 32nd Street, this route is an elevated bridge structure. The eastern portion, from 23rd Street to 30th Street, will be improved by the City of Philadelphia by removing one travel lane and widening each sidewalk with granite paved bands and new lighting. The University plans to extend this streetscape improvement vocabulary from 30th Street to 33rd Street, adding trees and campus standard amenities west of 32nd Street.

38th Street Streetscape

Street trees planted in a permeable curbside trench, stone fines and granite cobbles, concrete patterned sidewalks, pedestrian-scaled street lighting and durable site furnishings; this palette of streetscape improvements, used throughout campus to unify Penn’s urban character, will be employed along 38th Street from Spruce Street north to Penn Presbyterian Medical Center.

3600 Woodland Walk

Woodland Walk courses through the Penn campus grid as a diagonal link from 39th Street to 33rd Street and continues eastward connecting pedestrians to 30th Street Station. The 3600 block, running along the south side of Steinberg Hall-Dietrich Hall, remains the last stretch of this pathway within the campus needing rehabilitation. The project will remove accessibility barriers, address building service conflicts and create a more direct alignment.

34th Street Streetscape

34th Street is a busy pedestrian and vehicular thoroughfare through campus. Thousands of students cross mid-block daily between Locust and Smith Walks. Academic building entrances front the street encouraging access on both sides. Commuters heading to and from transit portals on Market Street travel north and south each day to reach the Penn Medicine precinct. Vendors, deliveries and Facilities services all jockey for convenient parking lay-by needs. This project will seek to balance these multi-modal circulation needs and implement Penn’s lighting, paving and streetscape furniture standards.
Penn Connects 2.0

Penn Park (Completed September 2011)
Renewing the Vision

Penn Connects enhances local engagement and meaningful connections to the surrounding community, enlivening the civic realm of the campus and the surrounding urban context.