

Executive Summary of Research into Public Spaces

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What Works in Public Spaces at UniverCity

- Preservation of old forests and natural greenery in close proximity with trails and Richard Bolton Park.
- Wide, spacious sidewalks on University High Street enhanced with seating and flowers in sidewalk planters. There is enough room here for patio and leisure activities.
- The Town Square is a pleasant meeting point between the campus community and UniverCity neighbourhood. It is a programmable space with room for small scale concerts, marketplace, and social activities, as seen during Summer Block Parties.
- Cornerstone Mews seem to function seamlessly as a walkway where pedestrians share space with vehicle traffic. The fact that it did not generate comments or concerns during the walk and in my personal experience shows that it works well for its intended purpose.

Suggestions to Improve Public Spaces, as Taken from Surveys, Interviews, and Personal Analysis

This list is not meant to be exhaustive of all possible improvements in public space at UniverCity. They are summaries of ideas taken from surveys, interviews, and my personal opinions. Attributions are marked in parentheses

- A sign could be posted to inform people that the green courtyard space and pathways of Centreblock are open to the public. This could be in the form of a label announcing “public space” posted by the

concrete staircases leading to the walkway or on the information board in Town Square. At the moment, few residents are aware that this space is open and available for them to use. Therefore, communication is important.

- Richard Bolton Park should be maintained to a higher standard where grass is cut, and garbage cleaned more frequently. Wooden features such as benches need to be kept in good condition (Brad Lund). This rich natural environment has the potential to play a role as an educational ecology park where some trees and greenery are labelled (Drew Jenkins).
- Richard Bolton Park and the grounds by the old Water Tower have the potential to be integrated and used more by the public once developments around it are completed with more paths leading to the park (Brad Lund). The platform by the Water Tower should be kept public and there is an opportunity for it to be used as a fenced park space for dogs. This park is also a viewpoint location and efforts should be made to keep its nice views after the Water Tower is replaced in the future (Drew Jenkins).
- For added pedestrian security at the crosswalk on University High Street connecting residents from Nest (Parcel 28) to the trails by University Highlands Elementary School, speedbumps can be added. There are already pedestrian walk signs and street lights but its visibility is restricted for traffic approaching from the east due to the bend in the road.
- The Eco So Mo bench sculptures can have small bins next to them for litter or cigarettes to discourage people from using the sculptures as a garbage disposal site.