



University of Rhode Island North District Campus Plan Charette

In January 2002, the design consultant team of William McDonough + Partners, Ayers/Saint/Gross, Biohabitats, Inc., and BETA Group was commissioned to develop a Sustainable Community Plan for the North Campus of the University of Rhode Island Kingston Campus. The North Campus Plan will build upon the strategies of the recent campus-wide master planning efforts and is the first phase of planning and design toward the implementation of the vision for the URI Sustainable Community.

As a component of the data collection and analysis phase for the North Campus, the consultant team conducted a planning charrette with the academic community on March 27, 2002. The goals of the charrette were:

- o To explore scenarios for the future of North Campus;
- o To inform the participants about the issues and potential consequences in planning the North Campus;
- o To explore with the URI community the elements contributing to a sustainable campus community;
- o To provide the URI community a hands-on, interactive workshop for exploring the range of possible;
- o To gather planning insights from the URI community for the formation of conceptual North Campus alternatives;
- o To explore areas of consensus; and
- o To develop guiding principles and goals.

Prior to the charrette, the team interview a broad array of campus stakeholder groups – including administration, faculty, staff, and students – to inventory the issues and concerns of the campus community and to assess the possible land uses and activities to be considered in planning the North Campus Area.. The charrette was structured to allow participants to engage in a physical planning exercise for the North Campus. The design team prepared graphic “icons” of the numerous land uses and activities that were identified in the interviews as desirable for the North Campus. The intent of the icons was to allow the charrette participants - who might otherwise lack graphic and design capabilities - to use them as tools to explore planning scenarios on a site plan. The participants of the charrette were divided into six teams to develop a planning scenario for the North Campus. Each team elected an individual to report back to the entire group a summary of their planning exercises.

Charrette Team Planning Scenarios

A summary of each team’s work follows: