Founded in 1893

84 acre campus in upper Northwest Washington DC

13,000 Students comprising 6 colleges

Whole Campus is an accredited Arboretum and Gardens

Strong Commitment to Sustainability
Pledge to be Carbon Neutral by 2020

Introduction to American University
Introduction to American University
• Selected as one of 175 Pilot Projects

• Wide variety of projects/corporate headquarters, botanic gardens, streetscapes, federal buildings and public parks that vary in scope from several thousand dollar budgets on less than one acre to multimillion dollar efforts affecting hundreds of acres.

• The SITES Rating System includes 15 prerequisites and 51 different credits covering areas such as the initial site selection, water, soil, vegetation, materials, human health and well-being, construction and maintenance – adding up to a 250 point scale.

• Pilot Projects are important to test the rating system which is critical to ensure the validity and breadth of these guidelines and performance benchmarks, which have undergone four years of rigorous development

**SITES Pilot Project**
History of SITES Project

1958 Parking Lot
Sites Project Location
History of SITES Project

1969 Expanded Parking Lot Sites Project Location
Before and After View of SITES Project

Before and After Images from Google Earth

Site Boundary

Determine what areas are strengths and weaknesses for your project.

Not a big difference in square footage of asphalt to building footprint.

Before and After View of SITES Project
• Context to the Campus Community
• Solar Orientation – Heating and Cooling of the Building

Connections to LEED
• Community Context
• Pedestrian and Vehicular Traffic Patterns and Connections

Connections to LEED
Connections to LEED
• Opportunities for Energy Collection

Connections to LEED
• How Storm water could be handled within the Building

Connections to LEED
SITES Scorecard

Expanded Information about Community Context
• The building and extended Garage excavation took up most of the site
• Tree preservation was not a significant part of our project

SITES Documentation – Tree Preservation
Existing soils post construction were terribly compacted

Every square inch of the site was disturbed

Topsoil stockpiling was limited

SITES Documentation - Soils Management Plan
Tree preservation was not a significant part of our project.

**SITES Documentation**

- **Stormwater Management**

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**SITES PILOT PROJECT**
American University
School of International Service
Storm Water Analysis

**Stormwater Management on Site**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stormwater Management on Site</th>
<th>Square Feet</th>
<th>% of site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area of site where water is collected</td>
<td>22,170</td>
<td>27.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area of site where water is filtered</td>
<td>52,795</td>
<td>65.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area of site where water is untreated</td>
<td>1,984</td>
<td>2.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Site Area</td>
<td>81,949</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Site Components**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Components</th>
<th>Square Feet</th>
<th>% of site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>22,170</td>
<td>27.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Planting</td>
<td>31,800</td>
<td>38.93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Site Area</td>
<td>81,949</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Native Species
• Korean garden
• Limited due to Green Roof and Soil Depth

SITES Documentation – Landscape Plan
“The educational value of these pilot projects is significant. They demonstrate what a sustainable site looks and feels like and now serve as a model to others aspiring for sustainability in a designed landscape,” Having the first pilot projects certified solidifies years of work into something tangible that we hope will be replicated all around the country.”

Holly H. Shimizu, former executive director of the United States Botanic Garden.
Introduction to American University

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13,000
Pilot Project Recommendations

1) The documentation required is rigorous, time consuming and costly. We recommend simplifying the rating system and better aligning with LEED credits.

2) Concern that rating system will be too overwhelming for many to attempt.

3) Need to reward projects for not using natural resources.
Example Credit 5.6 Use Certified Wood (FSC Certified)

4) For projects with buildings as a central focus, SITES and LEED should be combined.

Final Recommendations