UNM CAMPUS LANDSCAPE HISTORY TOUR, SW Quadrant of Main Campus

1. Conversation Circle: updated 2010
   In conjunction with the Mitchell Hall renovation, new landscaping was installed around the building including a patio on the north side and updates to the ‘Conversation Circle’. Updates included replacement of the old splintering wood benches, irrigation, and new tree and shrub plantings. Ultimately the plan calls for a sculpture to be selected and installed in the center.

2. Smith Patio: 1972
   The semi-enclosed patio was built concurrently with Smith Plaza. The Baroque style fountain was a gift of former UNM Vice President Sherman Smith. The patio provides a quiet and shady respite in a busy section of campus.

3. Castetter Cactus Garden: 1940
   Biology Professor Edward F. Castetter started the Cactus Garden with specimens of succulents gathered from the southwest region. Species include cholla, agave, yucca, ocotillo and prickly pear. This garden is located at the original main entrance to Zimmerman Library.

4. Duck Pond: 1976
   Once the location of a parking lot and a temporary wooden dormitory building, this site was transformed by Garret Eckbo into one of the most beloved landscapes on campus, as well as, in Albuquerque. The Duck Pond area, with its green rolling mounds, waterfall, wooden bridge, shade trees, and, of course, the ducks, is used by many people every day for relaxation, outdoor study groups, picnics and ceremonies.

5. Ash Mall: 1976
   This area is named for Ash Street that previously ran east/west through campus. Prior to the closure of Terrace Street, there was a strong axial approach to Scholes Hall. Landscape Architects Garret Eckbo and G. Robert Johns changed the pattern and designed a pastoral landscape with rolling hills and curvilinear paths connecting destinations in the surrounding buildings.

6. Maxwell Courtyard: courtyard enclosed 1947
   The courtyard is used for various events sponsored by the Maxwell Museum including monthly bread making in the ‘horno’. The totem pole was acquired by the noted anthropologist Dr. Frank Hibben.

7. Alumni Memorial Chapel: Chapel Garden 2013
   As part of the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Chapel, the Alumni Association donated funds for the landscape. The design was by Morrow Reardon Wilkinson Miller. The courtyard includes seating, rose gardens, a small fountain and a ‘Celebration Wall’. Photo-etchings in tile are displayed on the wall.

8. Hooker Memorial Rose Garden: c. 1976
   The Rose Garden was begun in memory of Van Dorn Hooker III, son of the former University Architect. This garden inspired the linear rose garden that extends south to the Centennial Engineering Library, sometimes referred to as the ‘Rose Ramble’.

9. Terrace Mall, Centennial Engineering Library
   This pedestrian mall was originally Terrace Drive and also known as Quivera Avenue. The north-south axis has been maintained with the exception of the Psychology Building at the south end.

    When the new Centennial Engineering Building was completed, Tapy Hall was demolished. This provided a much needed open space for this area of campus. The design was by William Perkins. Construction was completed in April 2011 and includes a grass area, colorful plantings, walkways and terraces. Several sculptures were installed on the terraces.

11. Tight Grove: 1905
    The most historic landscape at UNM is Tight Grove, named after UNM’s third president William George Tight. Among his many accomplishments President Tight created this grove west of Hodglin Hall. He and his students spent Arbor Day in the mountains and along the Rio Grande relocating trees to this hillside. Tight Grove is included with Hodglin Hall on the State Historic Register.

    This area is located between some of the oldest UNM buildings, Hodglin Hall, Art Annex and Sara Reynolds Hall. Several gifts from early classes are located along the walkway. In the mid 1980’s the landscape was renovated with additional trees, concrete paths and a reconstructed fountain from 1906. In 2015 the Courtyard was named for Dr. Karen Abraham with renovations to take place in 2016. The area adjacent to Hodglin was renovated in 2012 to incorporate the ‘U’ sculpture donated by Alumni.

13. Parsons Grove: 1928
    The grove was named for Josephine Parsons. She served as a Professor of Mathematics, University Secretary and Financial Secretary from 1894 to 1927. Originally there were 250 elm trees planted. Most of those have subsequently been replaced with other species including Deodar Cedars.

    In conjunction with the building renovation, landscaping was designed and installed on the north side. This includes commemorative brick inlays at the front entry, a pergola structure with Wisteria vines, and Magnolias, Hawthorns and Dogwoods planted along a curvilinear sidewalk.

15. Yale Mall: 1991
    When Yale Blvd. was closed to cars, it became Yale Mall. The landscape from Redondo Drive to the ‘Center of the Universe’ sculpture was designed by Campbell, Okuma, Perkins. Notable features include the wooden portal at the south end, the fountain and surrounding paving, and the sidewalk with randomly placed boulders at the north end.

16. ‘Homage to Grandmother Earth’ Fountain: 1994
    Landscape in and around this fountain works with the sculpture and does not overwhelm it. A variety of low ground cover plants are installed each year as needed. Tall volunteer sunflowers and others plants are periodically removed so they do not compete with the art piece. The sculpture is by Youn Ja Johnson, a graduate of UNM.