

P9 Greenspace Design Competition
Reimagine Your Campus. Shape the Student Experience

Planning, Design and Construction (PDC) within the Facilities Management and Planning (FMP) team invites students to help reimagine an underutilized area of campus as a vibrant hub for community life. This design competition challenges our campus community to envision a flexible, welcoming, and culturally respectful outdoor space that fosters student well-being, curiosity, and connection.

Participants are encouraged to explore how thoughtful design can enhance the daily experience of the Carleton community, creating a place to gather, reflect, engage, and celebrate our shared campus culture.

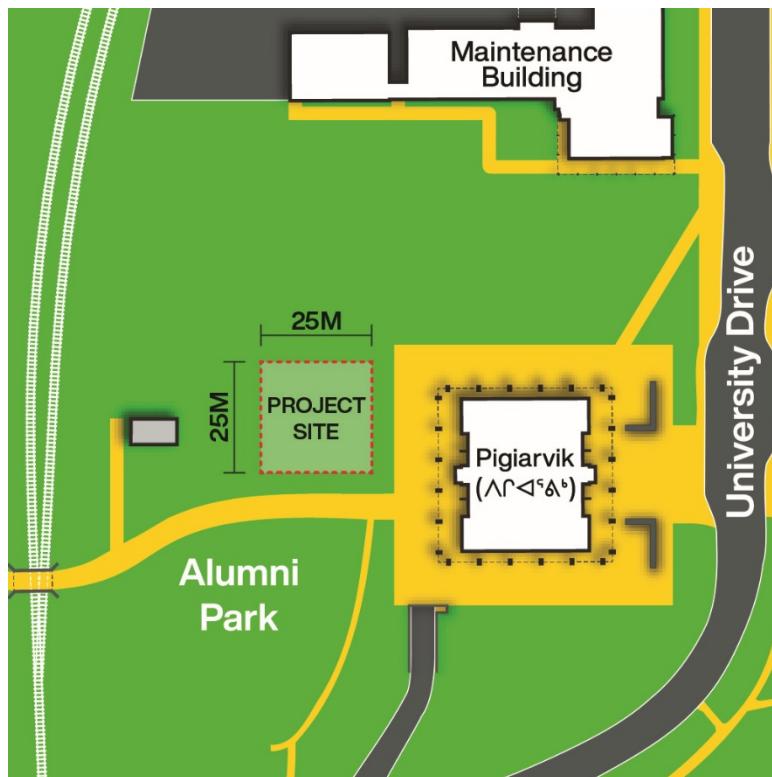


Design Goal

Create an inspiring, flexible outdoor space that enriches the student experience and reflects Carleton's core values of [accessibility](#), [sustainability](#), [inclusion](#), and [community engagement](#), while strengthening the connection and encouraging active use of both Alumni Park and the broader P9 greenspace.

Site Focus

The proposed design must be located within the designated south portion of the P9 site, focused on transforming the former fountain area into a renewed landscape for interaction and belonging. Designs must remain fully within the defined site boundaries, including existing pathways and circulation routes, and must not obstruct or encroach upon pedestrian movement.



What to Keep in Mind When Designing

When developing your concept, consider how your design can:

- **Stay within the \$100,000 budget:** Focus on creative, cost-effective solutions that maximize student impact.
- **Embrace interdisciplinary collaboration:** Teams that bring together different academic backgrounds, skills, and perspectives are encouraged. Creativity is stronger when inspired by diverse ideas.
- **Encourage student engagement:** Imagine how students will gather, relax, study, celebrate, and build community here.
- **Be accessible for everyone:** Ensure both physical and social accessibility, meeting AODA requirements and removing barriers to participation.

- **Celebrate culture, identity, and belonging:** Reflect Carleton's diverse student voices and foster a sense of inclusivity for all.
- **Public Engagement:** Shortlisted proposals will be presented for community feedback and/or voting.
- **Fit within the defined site boundaries:** Respect existing pathways, utilities, and protected trees as shown on the provided site plan above.
- **Embrace sustainability:** Prioritize durable, low-maintenance, and environmentally responsible materials and solutions.
- **Be safe and welcoming**
Consider lighting, visibility, accessibility routes, and year-round comfort (summer shade, winter conditions).
- **Be flexible and future-ready:** Support a variety of student activities, from quiet reflection to active engagement, with elements that can adapt or be relocated as campus needs evolve.
- **Be buildable:** Ensure ideas are feasible to construct within the approved budget and typical campus construction practices.

Submission Requirements

1. All submissions must be compiled into **one (1) PDF** (max 15 MB), formatted for digital viewing.
2. Name of the File should follow this convention: Team Name –P9 Design Competition
3. Required:
 - a. **Concept Statement**
Up to 500 words describing the vision, purpose, and intended use of the space — including how it aligns with the Design Goal and Design Considerations.
 - b. **Design Alignment Notes**
Up to 500 words of how the proposal supports one or more of Carleton's values, including:
 - i. Accessibility and inclusion
 - ii. Community well-being and safety
 - iii. Sustainability and environmental responsibility
 - iv. Student culture, belonging, and engagement
 - v. Year-round usability
4. **Team Information**
Names of all contributors, program/department, year of study, and a primary contact email.
5. **Optional (Encouraged) Additions:**
 - a. **Preliminary Visuals**
Sketches, diagrams, or renderings that help communicate your idea.
 - b. **Future Adaptation Notes**
Ways the concept could evolve over time as campus needs change.

Who's Invited to Design

- **Student Eligibility:** Open to all currently enrolled Carleton University students (part-time and full-time) individuals or teams of up to six (6) members.
- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration Encouraged:** Teams are strongly encouraged to combine diverse skills and perspectives — *all fields welcome!*
- **Team Participation Rules:** Each student may participate in only one submission.
- **Advisors Permitted — Not Participants:** Faculty, staff, and external professionals may provide feedback, but cannot be listed as team members or lead the design.
- **Primary Contact Required:** Each submission must designate one team lead for communication with the competition organizers.

How Your Idea will be Evaluated & Selected

1. Initial Panelist Review:

A panel of judges will review submissions and select the **Top Five (5)** concepts based on how well they demonstrate:

- *Student Experience Impact* — Enhances daily student life through gathering, reflection, activity, and community.
- *Innovation & Creativity* — Shows originality and expresses Carleton's student culture.
- *Accessibility & Inclusion* — Welcomes everyone and supports AODA-aligned physical and social participation.
- *Sustainability & Durability* — Uses environmentally responsible solutions suitable for Ottawa's climate.
- *Campus Integration* — Strengthens flow and connection between Alumni Park and the P9 greenspace.
- *Feasibility* — Realistic to implement using typical campus construction approaches and constraints.
- *Seasonal Safety & Comfort* — Supports safe, enjoyable use in all weather and lighting conditions.
- *Future Adaptability* — Can evolve as campus needs change.
- *Ongoing maintenance and operational costs* — Ensure all costs are captured for ongoing costs, such as energy costs, maintenance, etc.

2. Feasibility & Visualization Enhancement

An external professional consultant will review the Top 5 concepts for constructability, safety, and long-term maintenance, and will develop **high-level renderings** to support decision-making. Will also provide design feedback and suggestions to ensure concept remains within the \$100,000 budget.

3. Concept Presentations

The Top 5 concepts will prepare a presentation to be delivered to the competition panel, who will then select the **Top Three (3) concepts** for campus wide voting.

4. Campus Community Vote

The **Top Three (3)** concepts will be showcased for a **campus-wide vote**, giving students and the broader community a voice in selecting the winner.

5. Winner Announcement

Carleton will publicly announce the winning concept and celebrate student contributions through campus channels and a design showcase.

Competition Rules

To ensure a fair and successful competition, all participants must follow these rules:

- **Original Work:** Submissions must be created by the student or student team submitting the work. No copyrighted or unlicensed materials may be included.
- **Student Participation Only:** Only currently enrolled Carleton University students may participate. Faculty, staff, and external professionals may provide informal advice, but they may not produce design content or be listed as team members.
- **One Team per Student:** Each student may participate in only one submission.
- **Stay Within the Designated Site:** All proposed elements must remain within the defined P9 south zone and must not obstruct existing pathways or circulation routes.
- **Safety and Accessibility:** Concepts must consider personal safety and comply with AODA principles for physical and social accessibility.
- **Realistic and Constructable:** Ideas should be feasible to implement within typical campus construction methods and maintenance practices.
- **Respect for Community and Environment:** Designs must be culturally respectful and support environmental responsibility and biodiversity.
- **Submission Compliance:** Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered. All files must follow the guidelines in the Submission Requirements section.
- **Intellectual Property:** Students will retain credit for their original concepts. Carleton University reserves the right to publicly share and display submissions, including renderings and descriptions, with appropriate credit to the creators.
- **Final Decisions:** Panel decisions and voting results are final.
- **Right to Modify:** Carleton University reserves the right to adjust competition details, timelines, or processes, if necessary, with notice provided to participants.

Competition Schedule

- Competition Launch: Thursday, January 8th, 2026
- Q&A/Information Session: Wednesday, January 21st 2026
- Submission Deadline: Friday, February 6th, 2026, 11:59pm
- Top 5 Announcement: Thursday, February 26th, 2026
- Top 5 Nominees Presentation of Concept: Wednesday, March 11th, 2026
- Top 3 Announcement: Monday, March 23rd, 2026
- Voting Window: Monday, March 30th – Friday, April 3rd, 2026
- Winner Announcement: Wednesday, April 8th, 2026

Awards & Recognition

1. Winning Design

- Will be advanced for implementation with a \$100,000 project budget and support from the university's project management team.
- Will be recognized publicly through campus communications and displayed in a design showcase.
- Will be commemorated on-site with a plaque recognizing the student designer(s).
- Invitation to the unveiling or celebration event

2. Honourable Mentions

- Shortlisted concepts that are not selected as the final winner may be featured in Carleton communications, exhibitions, or campus displays.

How to Submit

- A direct submission link will be available on the Competition webpage.
- **Reminder:**
 - One (1) PDF
 - Max 15 MB
 - File format: *Team Name – P9 Design Competition*

Contact Information

For questions or clarifications related to the competition, please contact:

NAME

Carleton University – Planning, Design and Construction

Email: P9.Design.Comp@cunet.carleton.ca

Responses to inquiries will be provided as promptly as possible.