

Major Campus Renovation Eyed For Next Decade

By GREG BASSETT

Chowan's 235-acre campus will be undergoing some major modifications and improvements over the next decade or so, thanks to the ideas suggested by a land architectural agency's comprehensive landscape master plan.

The plan, which was completed in June, can now be implemented since the college has completed all the buildings on its master plan, according to college officials. The new Jesse Helms Center was the last building in the long-range plan.

Landscape improvements which will be made this year include the building of a parking lot between West and Mixon Halls. According to Jack Hassell, the college's superintendent of buildings and grounds, work on the lot will begin later in the spring semester.

A new service road will also be constructed behind Green Hall, Mixon Hall and West Hall in order to better serve the halls. Currently, all the maintenance trucks must use Pine Walk to service buildings, which creates a hazard to pedestrians.

"Our idea is to tie the whole campus together," said Hassell. "We hope to be able to stabilize one area at a time through proper planning."

Hassell said the campus' landscape improvements will be made "one stage at a time" and take place slowly over a period of years as money for the work becomes available.

In the upcoming years, Chowan plans to build just three new buildings. Plans have already been chalked out for a new graphic communications building to be located on the tennis courts between the old gymnasium and the housing-maintenance building. A new administration building, which would aid the crowded Columns Building, is planned for the area between Green Hall and the current Askew Student Center.

A major building project, which many see as being 15-20 years in the future, is the construction of a Center for Adult Continuing Education. It would be located northeast of the President's Home, should the center ever be built.

In order to construct the adult education facility, a re-alignment of the College Street entrance would be necessary, according to the architectural plan.

The parking lot to be constructed between West Hall and East Hall will allow easy access to both buildings by car. In the past students have had difficulty moving belongings in and out of East and West because of the distance from the parking lot.

The landscape plan calls for the construction of a plaza that would link West, Mixon and East Halls, as well as the construction of a basketball court between Mixon and West.

Improvements for the area around Jenkins and Belk Hall include a northern extension of the parking lot and the construction of patios in front of the girls' dorms. A rear garbage pick up area would also be constructed on the northeast side of Belk.

The area behind Thomas Cafeteria would be turned into a plaza with benches and serve as a congregating location for students. A similar plaza, rich with trees would also be built in the area west of the Columns Building.

Stone Hall will be removed to make room for the park-like area that will contain two tennis courts and front the Askew building, which will become the college chapel soon after the opening of the new student center in the old gymnasium.

The basketball courts to the south of the stadium near Lake Vann would be redesigned to accommodate three full and improved courts.

Around Parker Hall there would be a major change in the design of the entrance to Parker's back parking lot. The front lot would be extended south while the entrance to the back lot will be moved closer to the building. In the very distant future the land south of Parker, near the football practice field, would be used as a dorm site.

The densely wooded area bordering Lake Vann to the west of Parker could, according to the report, be turned into a picnic area once the undergrowth is removed. An effort to remove the underbrush was begun by the SGA last year, but has not been continued this year.

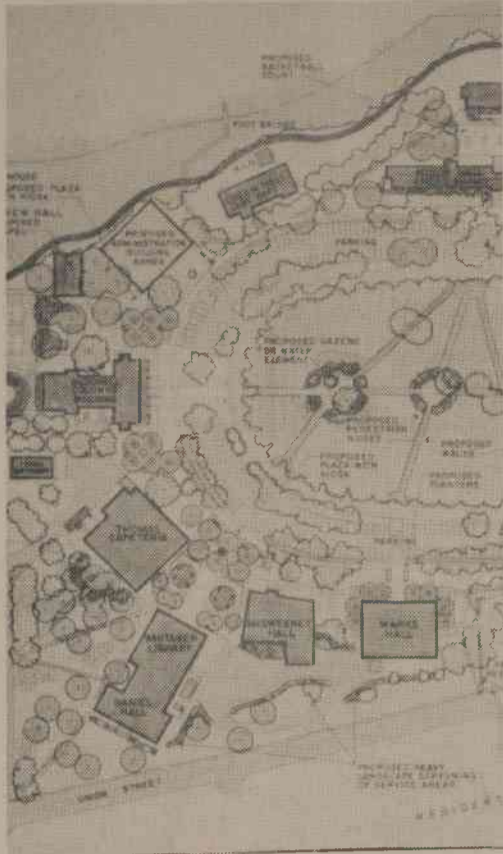
Probably the most interesting proposals in the plan involve the massive construction of walks campus wide. Extensive paths throughout the wooded area north of Parker Hall have been proposed. The paths will allow Parker residents to travel much quicker to classes because of a shorter, more direct walk.

Three major sidewalks would criss-cross Squirrel Park. Other improvements in the park would be the construction of a small plaza complete with a gazebo, and benches throughout the park.

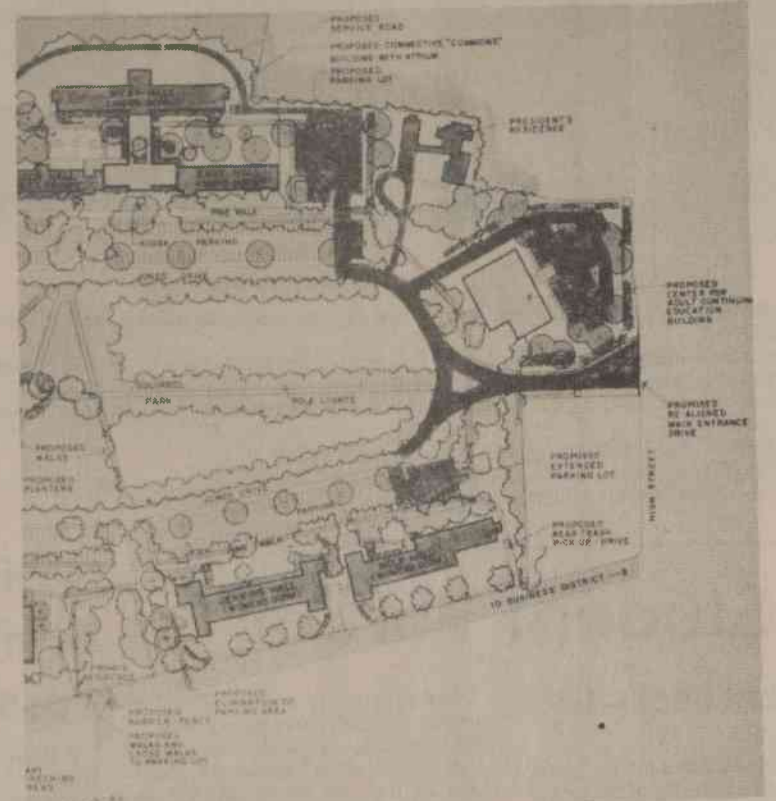
An extensive boardwalk system, complete with a boat landing and small extended fishing pier are planned around Lake Vann.

The report suggests that the current ditch-like portion east of Lake Vann be re-sculptured and, through the use of dams, the water level be raised. Construction of an outdoor amphitheater is proposed for the lake site.

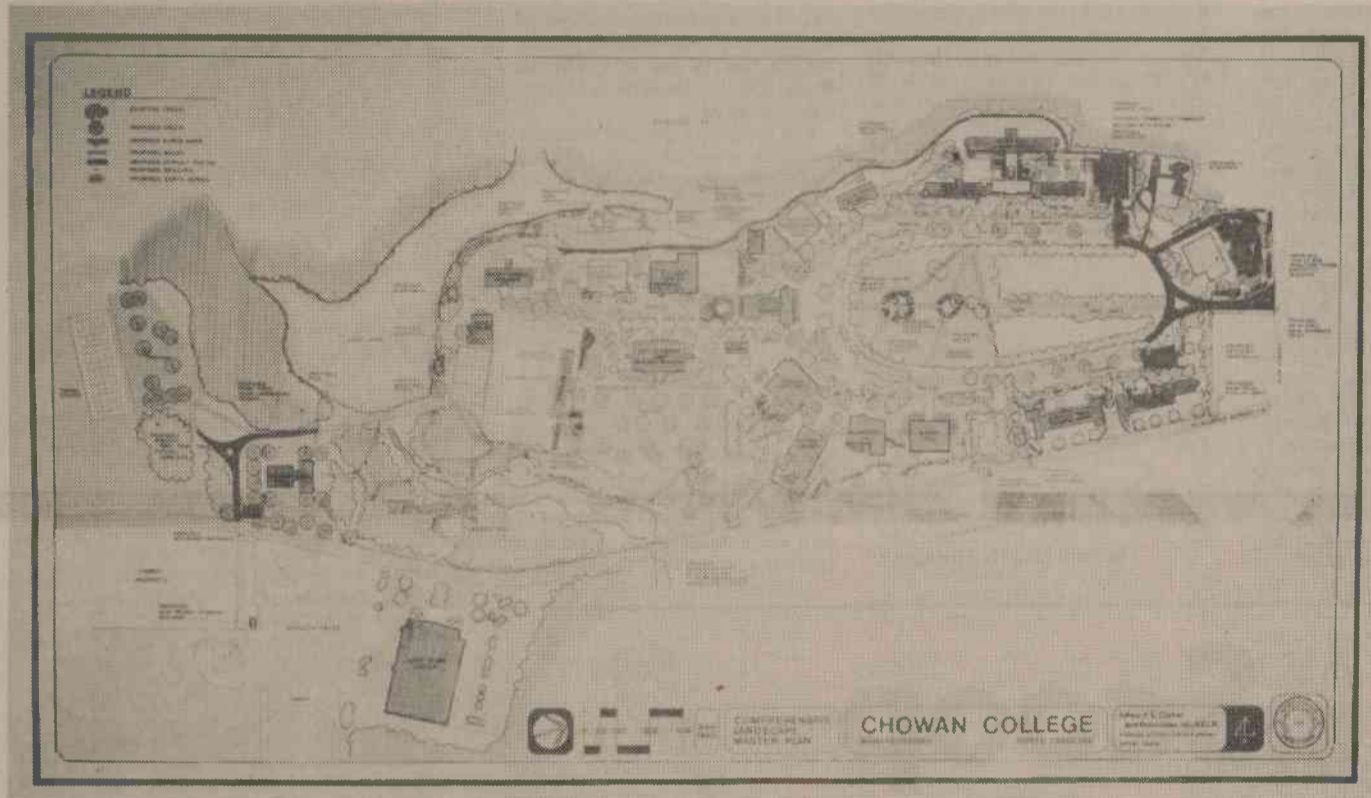
Extensive planting of trees in strategic locations will help to beautify the campus, according to the study and this has been recommended in large proportions campus wide.



Many improvements and modifications are proposed for the area around Columns and Thomas Cafeteria. Several bench areas are proposed for Squirrel Park, while a new Administration Building is proposed to the west of Columns.



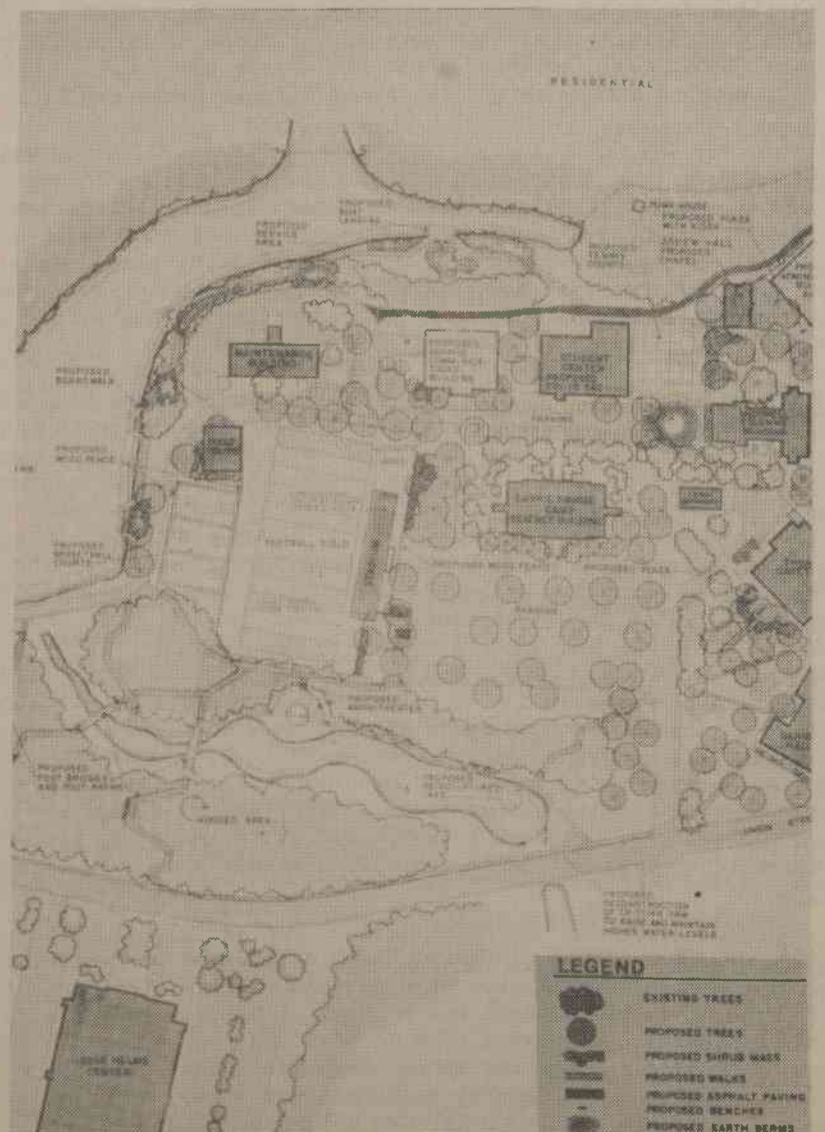
A detail of the northern part of campus featuring West and East Halls, Jenkins and Belk Halls, the President's Home, and the proposed Adult Education Center.



An overall layout of the plan as proposed by a land architectural firm.



The plan calls for the realignment of the road leading to Parker Hall's parking lot, as well as the construction of a fishing pier in Lake Vann. The land south of Parker may be used in the future as a dorm site.



The midsection of campus will undergo some improvements. A system of walks through the wooded area across from Helms Center, and an amphitheater is proposed.