For the past couple of years the PSU community has seen areas of central campus dug up, blocked off, landscape removed, landscape replanted! What is this project that has spanned years and caused sometimes unsightly and inconvenient problems to pedestrians?

The project is the Campus Loop project, completed this past summer, 2011. In brief, this project added to and increased PSU’s underground utility loop to:

a) bring heating and cooling to buildings that did not previously have these amenities;

b) place buildings on an integrated system that ensures a steady supply of heating and cooling;

c) provide capacity for heating and cooling as PSU continues to grow.

The Phase II project was actually part of the Campus Loop Project. Phase I improved heating and cooling in many buildings on campus, and extended cooling via the chilled water loop to the newly renovated Shattuck Hall for the first time in its 100 year history.

The Loop system works by transporting chilled water, (for cooling buildings), and steam, (for heating buildings), to many campus buildings via underground utility tunnels.

The Campus Loop Phase II Project added utility tunnels from Millar Library to Science Building Two and across the Park Blocks from Millar Library to Shattuck Hall. These new utility tunnels now connect the buildings on the central campus in a continuous ‘loop’ of steam and chilled water.

In addition to the tunnels, Phase II added a new cooling plant in Science Building Two, to provide chilled water for the connection of additional or future campus buildings.

The budget for Phase II is $17,500,000 and is funded through the 2009 State of Oregon Economic Stimulus program.

The benefits of this project go beyond those listed above. In the area of Sustainability especially, the Campus Loop is a great project. Here are some additional details of what is being accomplished in Phase II:

- Replaces old equipment that was beyond its useful life;
- Brings cooling to the Millar Library for the first time;
- $19.8M 30 year life cycle cost reduction; 2,235 ton reduction in the Carbon Dioxide emissions footprint per year; and it will take only approximately 14 years to recoup the cost of the project through energy savings for the University;
- Because the system is an integrated loop, the most efficient heaters and chillers, located anywhere on the loop line, can be used to match the demand as needed. This will in particular support the sciences and research on campus in a way we had not previously been able to do;
- The upgrading of systems, and the addition of capacity, positions PSU to meet the need for heating and cooling into the future.

A great team was assembled to manage this complex project. Below is a list of some of the most significant contributors to its success:
PSU Project Manager: Mark Fujii;
PSU Project Support:
  Facilities Project Team - Charles Carlton
  Facilities Operations, Systems Crew
  Facilities Electrical Crew
  Facilities Carpentry Staff
  Facilities Lockshop
Design Engineer: Winzler & Kelly
Construction Company: Fortis Construction
Third Party Estimator: J.J. Henri
Commissioning Agent: Systems Commissioning Consultants (SCC)
Well Consultant: GSI

We hope you agree that the inconveniences are worth the outcome! Please send any feedback to fujiiim@pdx.edu. And Thank You for Engaging!