

ART AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (AARB)

Project Data Sheet

Revised February 6, 2025

(Due by 3:00 p.m. on the Friday two weeks before the meeting to AARB@dgs.virginia.gov)

Date Submitted: March 20th 2026, for the April 10, 2026 meeting

Agency Name: Virginia Tech

Project Name, Number, and Location [** must include the project number*]

Columbarium

Blacksburg, Virginia

Project Number: Associated with 208-L00085

Representatives for the Agency and the Architect/Engineer

Agency Representative:

Sandra P. Graham, AIA

Director of Design

Division of Facilities

Virginia Tech

540-231-4961

spowell@vt.edu

Current Project Status/Phase and Schedule [** must select one of the following*]

- Preliminary Design Submission:
- Final Design Submission:

Construction is anticipated in the Spring of 2025 following required approvals from the Art and Architectural Review Board.

Request for Consent Agenda: Yes: No:

* Please refer to the [AARB Agency Project Submission and Presentation Guidelines](#) – Project Submission Section for additional information and guidance on the Consent Agenda versus Regular Agenda.

PLEASE NOTE: If you did not check the box for Consent Agenda, your project will be posted on the Regular Agenda and the agency will be required to attend the meeting to make a presentation to the board on the day of the meeting. ***Presentations are not to exceed 15 minutes.***

Project Description

This project proposes the establishment of a new columbarium site adjacent to the Huckleberry Trail near the campus entrance at Southgate Drive and Duck Pond Drive. The scope includes construction of two accessible parking spaces accessed from Dairy Drive and a sloped pedestrian walkway connecting the parking area to the columbarium. Associated site improvements include grading and landscape enhancements to support accessibility and long-term site integration. The proposed columbarium continues an existing campus memorial program within a thoughtfully integrated landscape setting. The site is positioned to maintain visual connections to the surrounding athletics district and frame views toward the “VT” landscape feature at the Baseball Stadium, reinforcing continuity within the broader campus environment.

Architectural Aesthetic:

The columbarium will replicate the form, materiality, and detailing of the existing installation, maintaining continuity with the established architectural language. The composition is organized along a central axis and arranged symmetrically within the new site, reinforcing its formal and contemplative character. Materials include Hokie Stone veneer, precast coping and trim, stainless steel niche assemblies, and granite faceplates. These elements reflect Virginia Tech's Collegiate Gothic material palette while supporting durability and long-term performance. The design approach emphasizes consistency and continuity, allowing the columbarium to integrate seamlessly into its new setting while maintaining its identity as a place of reflection within the campus landscape.

Relationship to Approved Master Plan [** this section must contain information for Board review, do not leave blank*]

The project is consistent with the adopted 2018 Master Plan, Beyond Boundaries 2047: The Campus Plan, which identifies the Athletics and Recreation District as an area for continued enhancement and renewal. The proposed columbarium site supports planned redevelopment initiatives in this area while establishing a prominent and accessible setting for this campus memorial program. The project reinforces campus entry sequences and integrates with adjacent recreational and athletic facilities.

Existing Architectural Context

The project site is located within the Athletics and Recreation District along a gently sloping, wooded hillside adjacent to the Huckleberry Trail. The area is characterized by mature trees, open lawn, and an interconnected network of pedestrian paths serving nearby athletic fields and campus amenities. The columbarium is positioned to align with existing landscape features and circulation routes, creating a quiet and contemplative setting within an active district. The use of established campus materials and formal organization reinforces continuity with nearby athletic facilities while maintaining a respectful and reflective character appropriate to the program.

AARB History (for return presentations on the same project): [** this section must contain information for Board review, do not leave blank / if this section does not apply to your project, please indicate with N/A*]

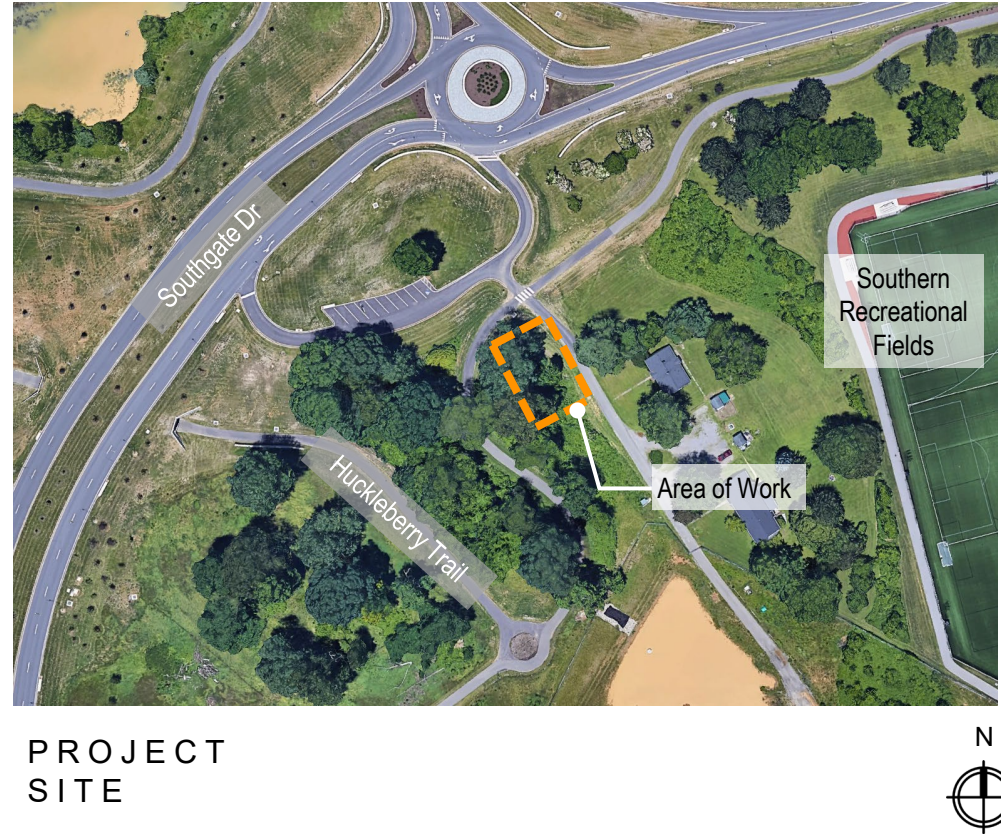
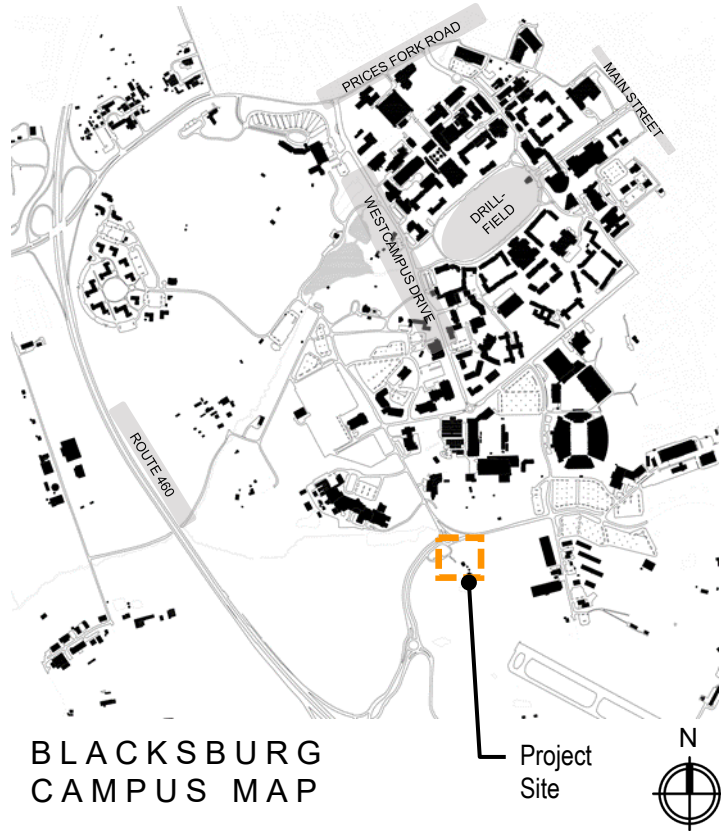
- State when previous presentation(s) were made to the Board on the project. N/A
- Restate previous Board comments. N/A
- Show actions taken to address Board comments; use visuals to compare previous renderings with updates. N/A

DESIGN REVIEW for **COLUMBARIUM**

ART AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

March 6, 2026

PROJECT LOCATION



EXISTING CONDITIONS



EXISTING CONDITIONS



SITE PLAN



LANDSCAPE MATERIALS



WHITE OAK



PIN OAK



RED OAK



DWARF FOTHERGILLA



OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA

RENDERINGS



VIEW TO THE NORTH



VIEW TO THE NORTHWEST

RENDERINGS

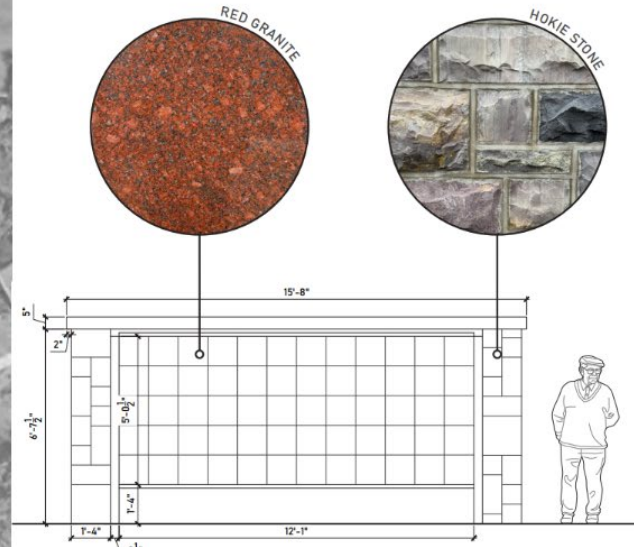


VIEW TO THE SOUTH



VIEW TO THE SOUTHEAST

COLUMBARIUM MATERIALS



*NTS

