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Planning Commission Staff Report

Project Type: Amended Site Development Section Plan

Meeting Date: September 30, 2013

From: John Boyer

Senior Planner

Location: Monsanto CV Campus

Applicant: Monsanto Company and CDI, Inc.

Description: Monsanto: An Amended Site Development Section Plan, Amended Lighting Plan,

Amended Landscape Plan, Architectural Statement of Design and Architectural Elevations for a 200.51 acre tract of land zoned "C-8" Planned Commercial District on the north side of Chesterfield Pkwy West, approximately 2,000 feet east of City

Center Dr. (17S210094).

PROPOSAL SUMMARY

The request is for an addition of a 564,729 square foot parking garage (4 tiers) to an existing 200 acre+ development. The subject site is zoned "C-8" Planned Commercial District and is governed under the terms and conditions of City of Chesterfield Ordinance #258.

HISTORY OF SUBJECT SITE

In 1979, St. Louis County Ordinance #9002 was approved which rezoned the site from "NU" Non-Urban, and "R-3" Residence District to the "C-8" Planned Commercial District. This original ordinance was amended by St. Louis County numerous times (Ordinances #10,573, 10,688, and 10,986). In March 1989, Ordinance #258 was approved by the City of Chesterfield amending previous County ordinances. Ordinance #258 is the current ordinance authority for this site. There are currently nine buildings located at this site, totaling 1,520,878 square feet.

SURRONDING ZONING

Direction	Land Use	Zoning
North	Vacant Agricultural	"FPNU" Flood Plain Non-Urban District
South	Multi-Family Residences	"R-6A/PEU" Residence/Planned Environmental Unit
East	Residential	"NU" Non-Urban District
West	Commercial/Hotel	"PC" Planned Commercial District



Figure 1: Aerial Photo

STAFF ANALYSIS

Zoning

The subject site is currently zoned "C-8" Planned Commercial District under the terms and conditions of City of Chesterfield Ordinance Number #258. The submittal was reviewed against the requirements of Ordinance Number #258 and all applicable Zoning Ordinance requirements.

Site Relationship

The parking garage is proposed to be placed interior to the 200+ acre site where the existing surface parking area is located (this surface parking will be eliminated with this planned improvement). This 564,729 square foot addition is designed, per the architect's description, in conjunction with existing grade in order to alleviate major ramping to access the four levels of the garage. By incorporating the proposed structure into existing grade, its visible presence can also be limited.

Traffic Access, Circulation and Parking

No changes in access points are proposed for the site due to planned construction; however small internal changes are identified to accommodate the planned parking structure. Vehicular access to the garage is planned on both the east and west sides with pedestrian access provided by sidewalks around the perimeter of the garage connecting to existing sidewalks.

On site, there are 2,039 parking spaces for 1,400 current employees not including the proposed parking garage. The parking garage plans 1,727 parking spaces. Associated with the proposed location of the garage, the existing 1,352 surface parking spaces will be removed. After construction, a total of 2,414 parking spaces will be available for current employees as well as future building additions and employees planned for this location.

City of Chesterfield Ordinance #258 never repealed previous St. Louis County ordinances associated with this development. Per existing St. Louis County ordinances on this site, parking shall be determined by using St. Louis County parking standards. Staff researched St. Louis County standards concerning Monsanto's use and has found them acceptable in providing adequate parking. Per St. Louis County parking requirements, the site meets minimum parking requirements.

Architectural Elevations

The proposed garage is a four level parking garage with multiple accesses utilizing existing topography to limit ramping and grading. Per the applicant, the garage is planned to eventually house a future greenhouse. The garage structure's design also allows for this future addition to the top level. Material planned for this proposal is a textured precast concrete.

Elevations associated with this planned garage were reviewed by the Architectural Review Board on August 8, 2013. During the meeting, discussion occurred around the proposed materials/colors of the planned garage, the overall placement of this garage within the development and landscaping associated with the planned addition. The Architectural Review Board recommended to forward the plan as submitted to the Planning Commission 6-0.

Landscaping

The applicant is planning a variety of landscaping adjacent to the proposed project. Mixtures of ornamental, deciduous and coniferous trees are proposed along the drive aisle and perimeter of the garage. In addition, existing tree canopy on the site is substantial which limits the public view of the proposed garage addition and assists in maintaining Code compliance in Tree Preservation. This planned landscaping is compliant with City Tree Preservation and Landscaping Requirements, as well as enhancing the existing landscaping and numerous mature woodlands on-site.

Lighting

Lighting elements planned include fifteen (15) foot lighting standards on the parking garage. All lighting is compliant with the City's Lighting Ordinance.

DEPARTMENT INPUT

Staff has reviewed the 6th Amended Site Development Section Plan, Amended Lighting Plan, Amended Landscape Plan and Architectural Elevations and has found the proposal to be in compliance with the site specific ordinances and all City Code requirements. Staff recommends approval of the 6th Amended Site Development Section Plan, Amended Lighting Plan, Amended Landscape Plan and Architectural Elevations.

MOTION

The following options are provided to the Planning Commission for consideration relative to this application:

- 1) "I move to approve (or deny) the 6th Amended Site Development Section Plan, Amended Lighting Plan, Amended Landscape Plan, Architectural Statement of Design and Architectural Elevations for Monsanto."
- 2) "I move to approve the 6th Amended Site Development Section Plan, Amended Lighting Plan, Amended Landscape Plan, Architectural Statement of Design and Architectural Elevations, with the following conditions..." (Conditions may be added, eliminated, altered or modified)

CC: Aimee Nassif, Planning and Development Services Director

Attachments: Architect Statement of Design

Architectural Elevations Amended Lighting Plan

6th Amended Site Development Section Plan

Amended Landscape Plan

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Architect's Statement of Design: Monsanto Company - Open Parking Garage July 24, 2013

The proposed parking garage development is located on the Monsanto campus in the area currently occupied by tiered surface parking.

General Requirements for Site Design:

St. Louis Boston

New York Baltimore

Washington DC

Buffalo

Toronto Montreal

Chicago Vancouver

San Francisco

Los Angeles

Phoenix

Shanghai

Mumbai

Site Relationship:

The garage is placed on the site to work in conjunction with the natural grades and the existing tiered parking. The shape of the garage follows the curve of the existing parking on the hillside. The lowest levels coincide with the existing parking tiers, and the elevated slabs work with the natural grade to allow access to each level from grade without major ramping. The south façade is nestled into the hillside, limiting its visible presence from the main campus entry, and retaining focus on the existing research buildings.

The predominant façade and retaining wall material is a textured precast concrete, which evokes the existing gabion retaining walls in color and texture. The material selection and curvilinear shape reinforce the sense of the garage as an outgrowth of the existing terraced site where gabion walls and rock outcroppings are visible, and differentiates this open structure from the enclosed rectilinear research buildings.

Circulation System and Access:

Circulation is planned to allow vehicle entry and exit from both the East and West sides of the building at each parking level. A thorough study of traffic patterns on site is currently being conducted to determine if one-way or two-way flow through the garage will be ultimately be preferable. Sidewalks are provided around the perimeter of the building for pedestrian access, with crosswalks connecting to the rest of the campus at the same locations that currently serve the existing tiered parking. Generous sidewalk area is provided at the main exit tower (closest to current buildings) and main path of travel to the rest of the campus. Monsanto's Environmental Safety and Health group has involved throughout the design to ensure clear and safe traffic patterns where pedestrians and vehicles mix.

Topography:

The existing topography is utilized to allow multi-level access without internal ramping, and to limit the building's visibility from the campus entry. Where adjustments to existing grades are required, they are done gradually, not to exceed a 3:1 slope, and with tiered retaining walls.

CANNONDESIGN

Page 2

Retaining Walls:

Retaining walls are tiered to provide for gradual grade changes and limit fall potential for maintenance workers. Retaining walls have been incorporated at water retention basins as well as vehicle entry ramps. The retaining walls that engage the parking garage spandrel are designed to be the same material and finish as the spandrel. Retaining walls that do not engage the building will be gabion (extension) to blend with the existing gabion walls.

General Requirements for Building Design:

Scale:

The garage does not directly abut any other buildings. In plan it matches the scale of the existing tiered surface parking. In section, levels are spaced to provide the required minimum clearances and to coordinate with the existing tiered parking levels. The projecting stair towers step the scale down from vehicle to pedestrian with door openings, elevator/stair lobbies, and glazed areas.

Design:

All facades are treated uniformly, with the main variation designating the entry/exit location at the perimeter stair/elevator tower. Material usage changes as the function changes, indicating a separation between the garage on the lower levels and the future research greenhouses on the partial top level. The palette and form is in keeping with its relative importance on a site predominantly dedicated to research.

Materials and Color:

The predominant façade and retaining wall material is a textured precast concrete, which evokes the existing gabion retaining walls in color and texture. The top level which is dedicated to future greenhouses is clad in a smooth light colored concrete. The use of horizontally banded concrete at the greenhouses is modeled after a similar use on the CC building at the dock and vivarium levels, where these support functions are treated differently than the more refined enclosed labs and offices.

Landscape Design and Screening:

Landscaping is consistent with the City of Chesterfield's requirements, and existing plantings on the Monsanto campus. Landscaping is designed to shade hardscaping and provide color accents along the entry drive and parking garage perimeter. Ornamental, canopy and coniferous trees are located around the garage to provide enhance the streetscape experience across seasons. Canopy trees are used to line the entry drive, with groupings of evergreens and ornamental trees providing variety and selective screening of the garage to reduce its visual mass. There are no trash or service areas in the garage project to require other specific screening.

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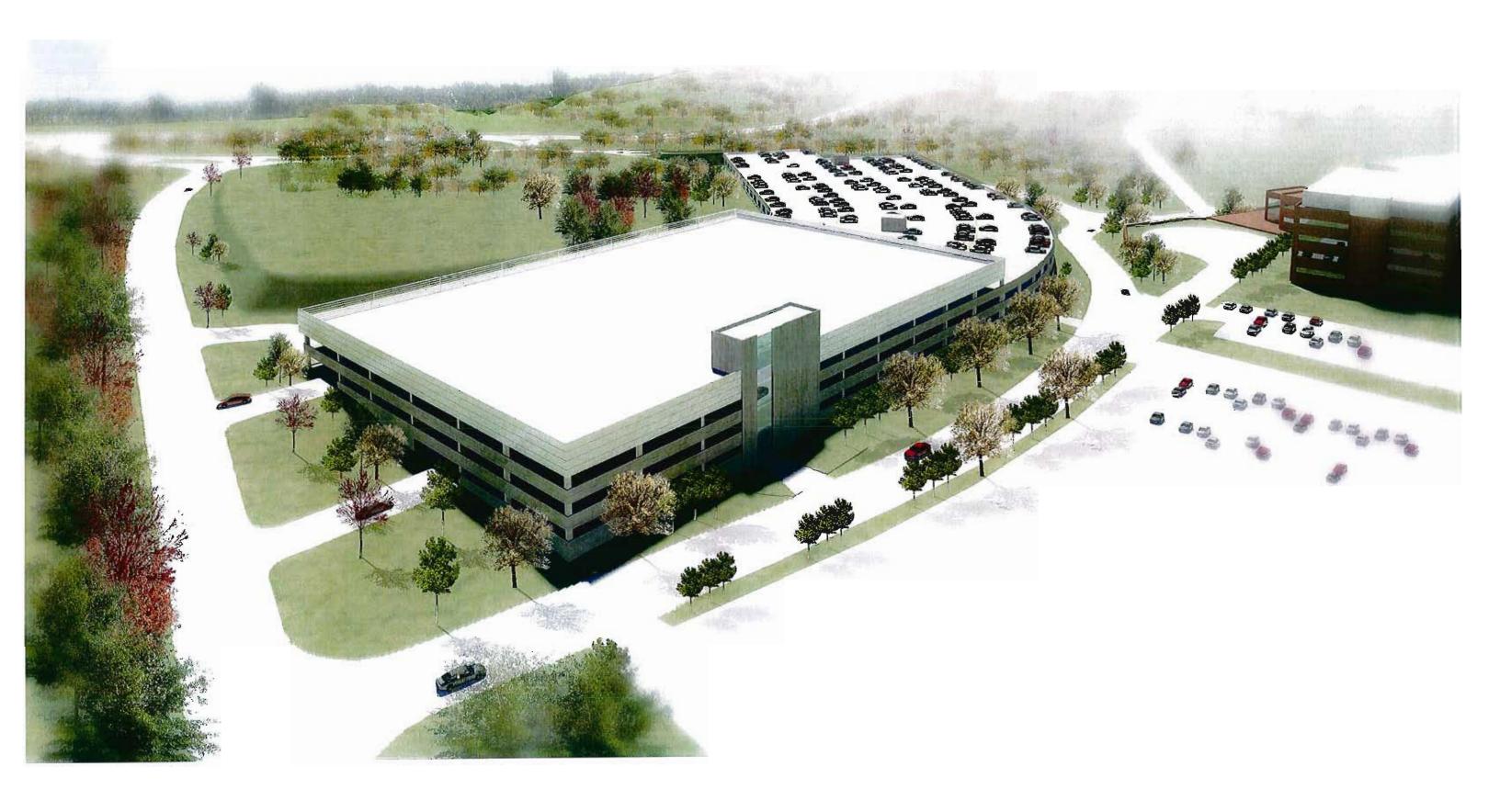
Page 3

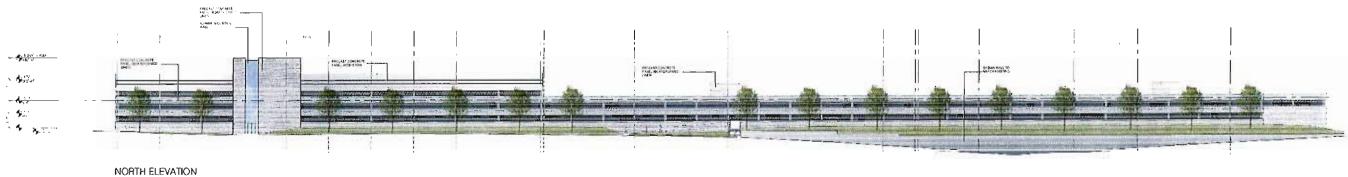
Signage:

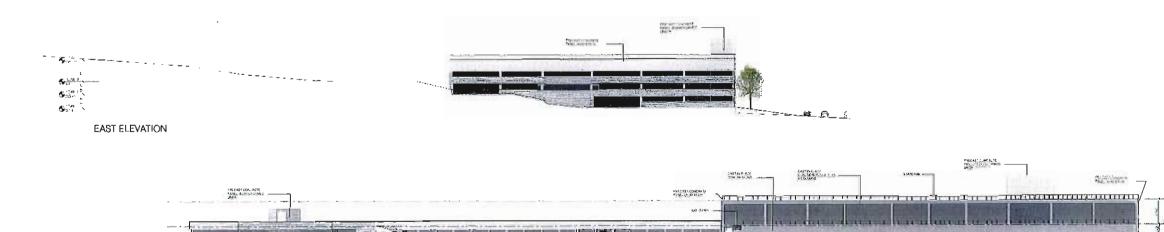
Building identification signage is not being proposed for this project. Typical directional signage at entries/exits and stair/elevator towers will be provided. Minimal signage is proposed on the exterior of the garage, but where required all graphics and way finding will incorporate the campus master plan for graphics and signage.

Lighting:

Lighting will adhere to the City of Chesterfield requirements. Photometrics and fixture cuts for the top deck lighting are included in this submittal.





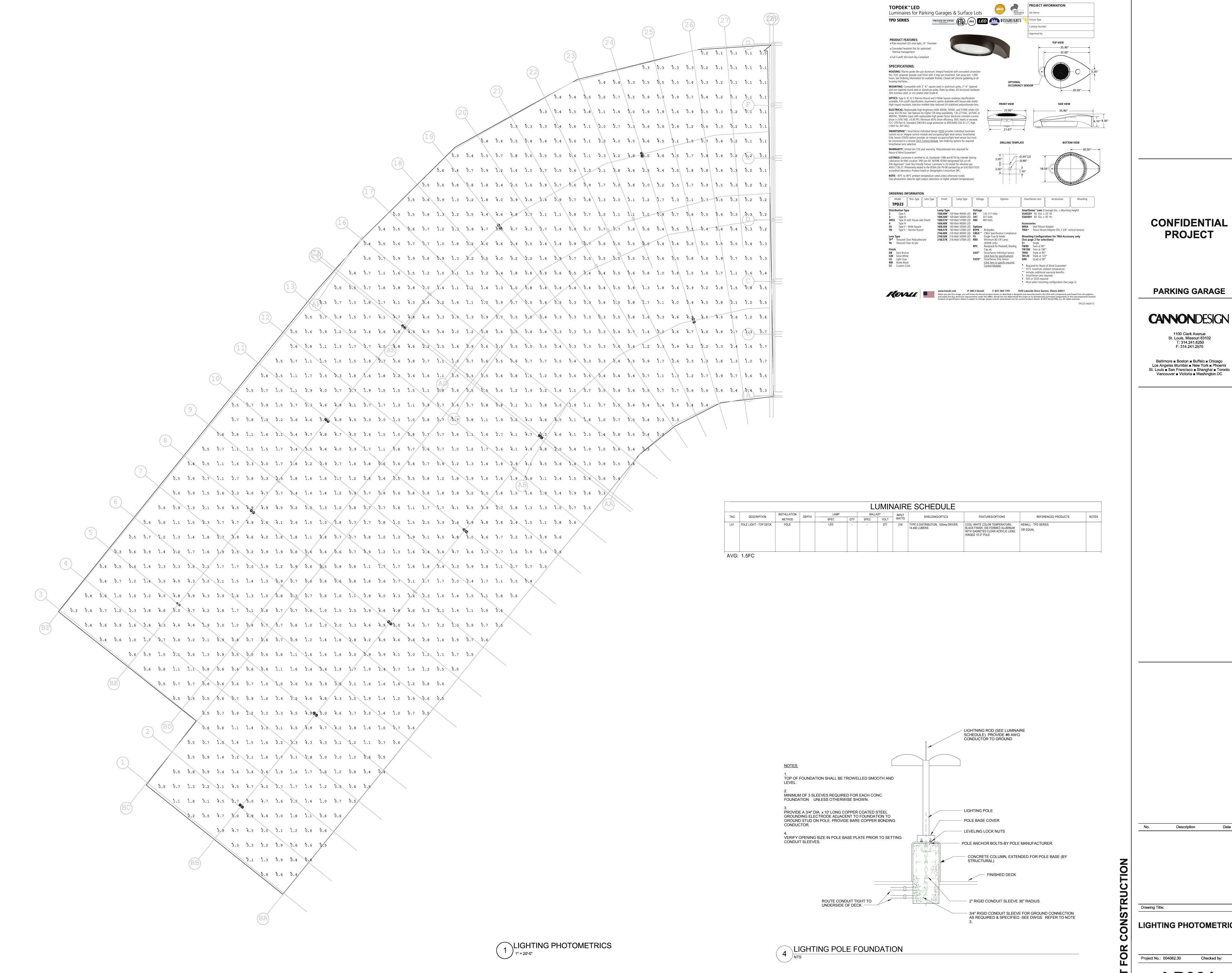


SOUTH ELEVATION



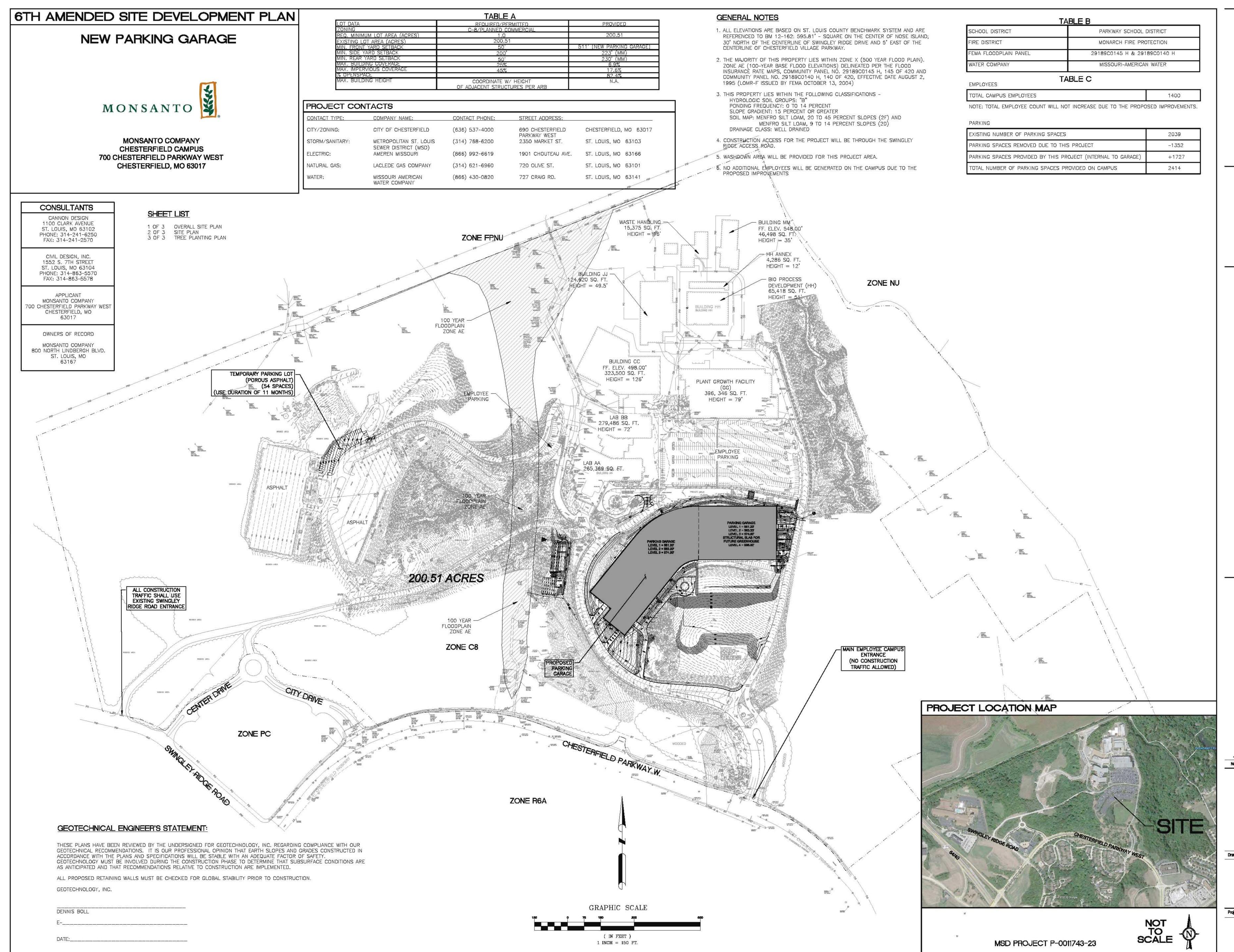
WEST ELEVATION

CANVON



LIGHTING PHOTOMETRICS

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MONSANTO -CHESTERFIELD CAMPUS

BID PACKAGE 1D

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6TH AMENDED SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

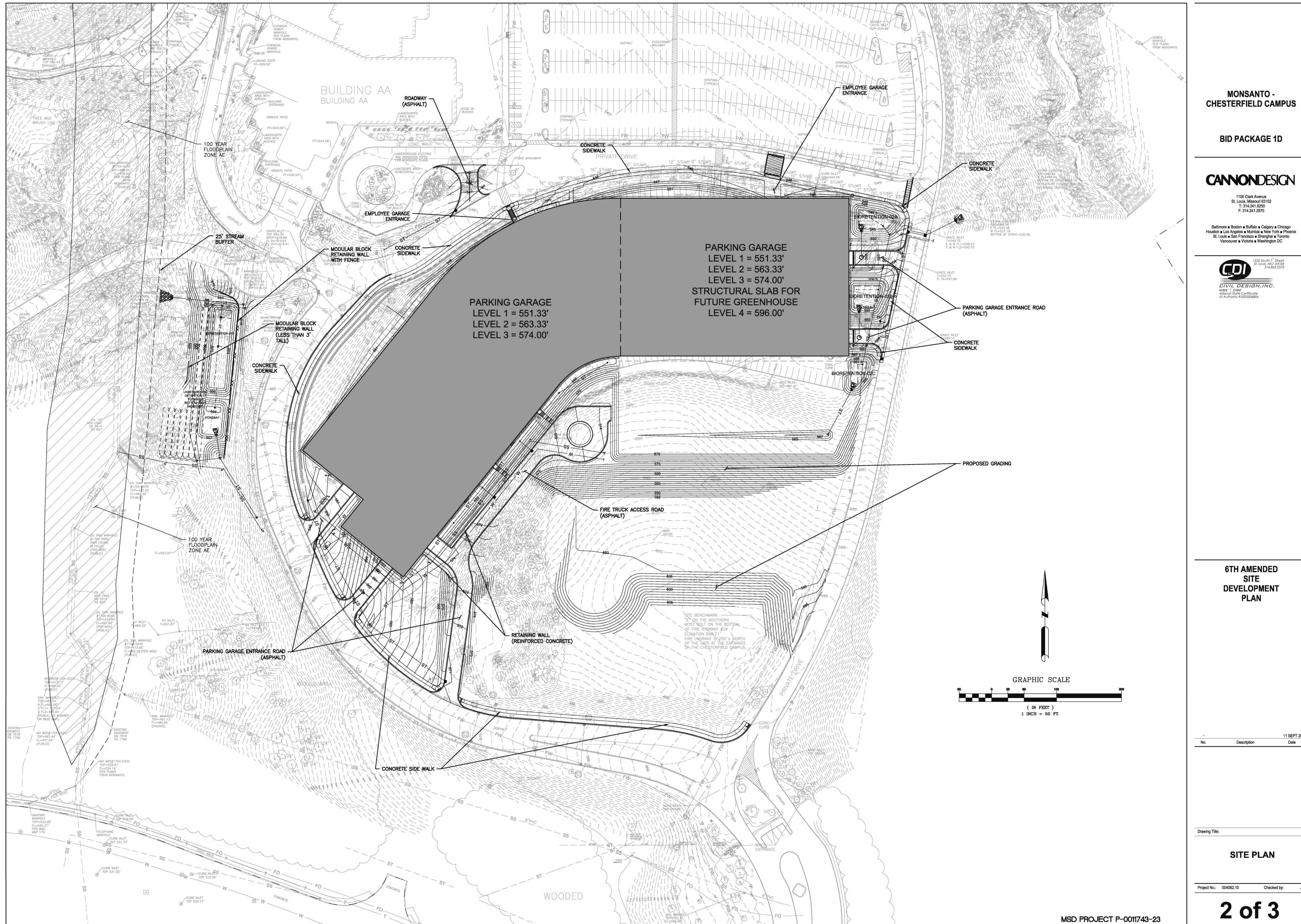
11 SEPT 2013
Description Date

Drawing Titie: OVERALL

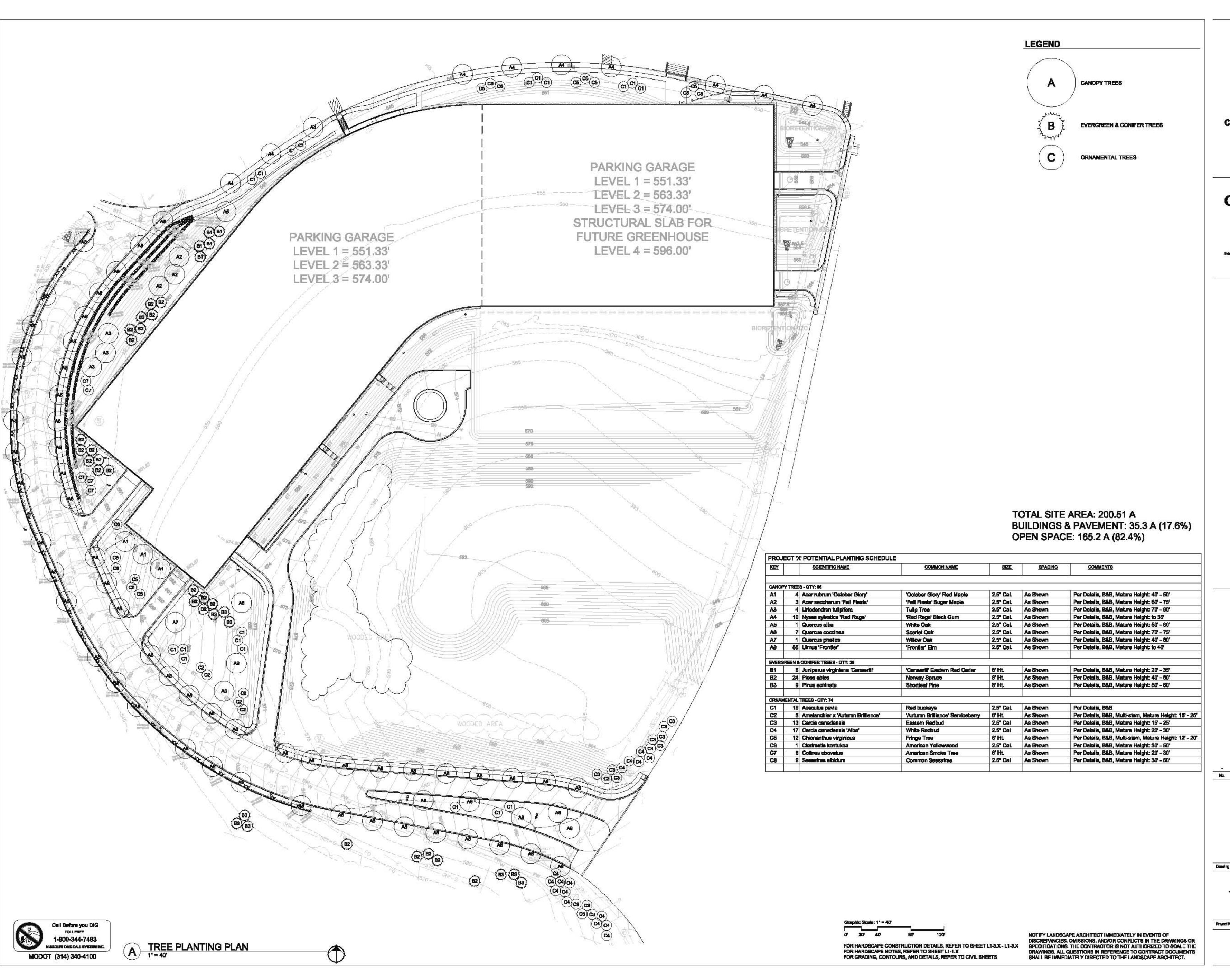
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1 of 3

SITE PLAN







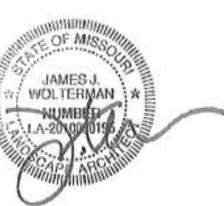
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6TH AMENDED SITE DEVELOPMENT **PLAN**

Desering Title:

TREE PLANTING PLAN