

# Case Histories

[REAL-WORLD SOLUTIONS]

## From Custom to Campus Standard

As a necessity and as with probably all colleges and universities, University of Massachusetts Amherst has installed a network of outdoor site furnishings. Arguably, most important from a practical standpoint, are the trash receptacles. Before UMass Amherst even began a concerted and stated effort to standardize all the outdoor furnishings, they had begun to place a few custom trash receptacle clusters around campus. A few years after these cans were installed, the University decided to implement a Campus Landscape Improvement Plan.

This plan was embarked upon with the services of an outside landscape architecture design firm with the goal being to standardize the site furnishings, so there was a consistent, unified, "standard" look across the entire campus. The school turned to the same manufacturer, *DuMor*,

*Inc.*, who had built the custom trashcans as the source for the all the furnishings that would become the design standard for UMass Amherst.

When the improvement plan was initiated, one manufacturer was chosen along with the only material to be used, steel. Black was also designated as the sole color for the furniture.

Over the next several years, some of the old furnishings were replaced by the black steel ones, and the vision of the facility managers for a cohesive, consistent design was starting to be realized. In addition to the original custom trash receptacles, the standardization plan also included picnic tables, bike racks, and benches.

According to Pam Monn, assistant director for Custodial and Grounds Services, the replacement operation isn't finished. It is an ongoing project that is about 75



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percent complete. She and many others at UMass Amherst are looking forward to the final, beautiful results of this long-term project.

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## Community College Improves Capital Project Delivery

Houston Community College (HCC) recently selected *e-Builder Enterprise* capital project management software. *e-Builder's* integrated cost management and process automation capabilities will help the HCC team standardize project information management and construction processes. The software will also provide visibility into the College's overall capital program health and identify potential snags in time to take corrective action.

*e-Builder* is the leading provider of fully integrated capital program and project management software for top facility owners and companies that act on their behalf. *e-Builder Enterprise* improves capital project execution, resulting in increased productivity and quality, reduced cost, and faster project delivery.

The award-winning *e-Builder Enterprise* will help HCC's Construction Management and Facilities Management team standardize the way project managers execute a broad set of processes. The team has already reduced by two weeks the time it takes to process payment applications. The initial implementation will leverage *e-Builder's* Forms, Processes, Documents, Bidding, Cost, Schedule, and Reports modules. *e-Builder* is eliminating the need to have a resource dedicated to manually compile information from multiple spreadsheets.

The team wanted to take a proactive approach in identifying ways to improve productivity and allow project managers to avoid time constraints created by trying to access documents and project information from multiple places.

"In the past, project managers relied on *Word* documents and *Excel* spreadsheets," says Glenn Jarrett, project manager. "It was difficult to track the status of multiple projects outside of the weekly meetings. Half the meeting time was wasted rehashing items that had occurred in the past."

*e-Builder* has enabled transparency for the owner, architects, and contractors so that they can access the information they need in real time.

One of the reasons the team selected *e-Builder* was the system's ease of use. "Feedback from the architects and contractors has been very positive, since they're telling us it's an easy product to use versus fumbling around with other systems," adds Jarrett.

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