

= The Green ( Dartmouth College ) =

The Green ( formally the College Green ) is a grass @-@ covered field and common space at the center of Dartmouth College , an Ivy League university located in Hanover , New Hampshire , United States . It was among the first parcels of land obtained by the College upon its founding in 1769 , and is the only creation of the 18th century remaining at the center of the campus . After being cleared of pine trees , it initially served as a pasture and later as an athletic field for College sporting events . Today , it is a central location for rallies , celebrations , and demonstrations , and serves as a general , all @-@ purpose recreation area . The College describes the Green as " historic " and as the " emotional center " of the institution .

= = Geography = =

The Green is a five @-@ acre ( two @-@ hectare ) plot located in the center of downtown Hanover , New Hampshire . It is crossed by seven gravel walking paths , the locations of which varied until about 1931 , when the configuration was last altered . Three of them bisect the Green , running southwest to northeast , northwest to southeast , and east to west . The northernmost of its two east @-@ west paths was added after Massachusetts Hall was constructed in 1907 , and links the central entrance to that dormitory west of the Green to the northern entrance to Dartmouth Hall , east of it . Two paths run from the northwest and southwest corners respectively to the middle of the Green 's eastern edge . A final path runs north @-@ south along the eastern side . The Green also has paved sidewalks along its southern and western edges .

The Green is not perfectly rectangular , as its southern border along Wheelock Street runs slightly to the northeast rather than due east @-@ west . This irregularity is due to the Town of Hanover 's 1873 seizure of part of the southeast corner of the Green , which it used to straighten Wheelock Street . The Green had previously extended 30 feet ( nine meters ) farther south on that corner .

The outside edges of the Green are bordered by benches and trees ; two flagpoles stand at the center of the western side . The plot is bounded by four streets : Wheelock Street to the south , College Street to the east , Wentworth Street to the north , and Main Street to the west . All but Wheelock Street are one @-@ way roads , with traffic circulating counter @-@ clockwise around the Green .

Many of Dartmouth 's important campus buildings are located around the Green . To the north lies Baker Memorial Library , Dartmouth 's principal library , Webster Hall , containing Rauner Special Collections Library , and Sanborn Hall , home to the English department . On the west side sits the administration building , Parkhurst Hall , the admissions building , McNutt Hall , and two student buildings , Robinson Hall and the Collis Center . To the south sits the Hanover Inn , a College @-@ owned hotel , and the Hopkins Center for the Arts . To the east lies the historic Dartmouth Row buildings , composed Wentworth Hall , Dartmouth Hall , Thornton Hall , and Reed Hall , as well as Rollins Chapel .

= = History = =

The land on which the Green sits was originally a pine forest , with some trees reaching the height of 270 feet ( 82 m ) , high enough to block out the sun . The process of clearing the pines was begun in 1770 by the newly founded Dartmouth College . The village plan of Hanover was laid out the following year and included as its central feature an open square of 7 @.@ 5 acres ( 3 ha ) ( three hectares ) . Even though the land had been cleared , many tree stumps remained until 1831 ; for a long period , it was a Dartmouth tradition for the graduating class to remove one stump .

The Green was not maintained at first ; after being cleared , it was unkempt and ragged , sloping sharply towards a swamp in the southwest corner . As early as 1807 , the College was debating as to the future of the plot , considering using it for a variety of purposes . In 1828 , the Board of Trustees finally voted to plow , seed , level , and fence the area . Lack of funding would delay this plan from being carried out immediately ; the Green was leveled in 1831 and finally fenced in 1836 .

The main road from Hanover to the northward Lyme , New Hampshire had previously led diagonally across the Green , and due to the new fences , had to be diverted around it .

One of the Green 's earliest uses was as a pasture for cattle belonging to the residents of the town . Dartmouth students resented this use , and in the early 19th century herded all the cattle into the basement of Dartmouth Hall as a protest . The fence constructed during the 1836 renovations was in part a response to this action , and was meant to keep animals out .

In 1824 , a Hanover ordinance permitted " the playing at ball or any game in which ball is used on the public common in front of Dartmouth College , " confirming the Green 's ongoing use as an athletic field . Cricket was among the games regularly played on the Green in the 18th century , and old division football was played by the 1820s . Dartmouth 's first intercollegiate matches in baseball ( 1866 ) , track and field ( 1875 ) , football ( 1881 ) , and tennis ( 1884 ) took place there . The College built its first gymnasium ( Bissell Gymnasium ) on the southeast corner of the Green in 1866 @-@ 67 .

In April 1873 , the Town of Hanover seized part of the southeast corner of the green to align East and West Wheelock Streets ; the town moved the fence thirty feet to the north of its original position . Dartmouth students protested by tearing down and burning the rebuilt fence ; the town responded by threatening to reopen Main Street on its previous route from the Green 's southwest corner across to the northeast . In an effort to quickly replace the fence and prevent the road from being reopened , College President Asa Dodge Smith convinced students to pay for the new fence . In 1893 , when the fence 's original purpose of keeping out livestock was no longer needed , the College decided to tear it down , to much student and alumni outcry . The class of 1893 restored and sponsored part of the fence as a " senior fence , " and today the Senior Fence runs along the parts of the southern and western borders closest to the southwest corner . Only senior students were allowed to sit on it , and underclassmen in violation of this policy were soaked in a nearby watering trough .

In 1906 , the Board of Trustees voted to officially name the space " the College Green " , although at the time the space also went by names such as " the College Square " , " the Common " , and " the Campus " . Aside from minor changes in furnishing , vegetation , and crosspaths , the Green has remained largely unchanged since being cleared .

= = Uses = =

The 2007 ? 2008 edition of Dartmouth 's Student Handbook states that the Green is reserved " for informal use , including rallies and other assemblies , by students , faculty , staff , and guests of the College ... and for a limited number of traditional events " . Since other facilities have superseded its use as such , the Green is no longer used for official athletic competitions . Nevertheless , informal sports and games frequently occur on the Green . Like all of the Dartmouth campus , the entirety of the Green is Wi @-@ Fi @-@ enabled .

= = = Rallies and protests = = =

Given the Green 's role as " the physical and emotional center of campus life , " it is often the setting for protests , rallies , and demonstrations . Dartmo , an online directory of Dartmouth College 's buildings , describes the Green as being " used any time when collective joy or frustration is to be expressed " . Dartmouth 's Student Handbook explicitly permits the Green to be used for demonstrations and rallies .

One of the earliest student demonstrations took place in 1814 , when students gathered on the Green to celebrate Napoleon 's defeat in Europe . At the height of the Vietnam War in the late 1960s , the Green regularly saw antiwar demonstrations , some attracting up to a thousand protesters . A 1969 protest over the presence of the campus Reserve Officer Training Corps ( ROTC ) program culminated in the occupation of Parkhurst Hall , the College 's administration building . In 1986 , students constructed shanties on the Green to encourage the College to divest from South African companies supporting Apartheid ; staffers of the conservative newspaper The Dartmouth Review

took sledgehammers to the structures . More recently , the Green was the location of a controversial 2006 May Day rally in favor of immigrant rights .

On September 26 , 2007 , Dartmouth hosted a Democratic Presidential Candidates Debate . The Green was the site of student rallies in favor of various candidates , and also saw the live broadcast of Hardball with Chris Matthews .

= = = Traditions and celebrations = = =

Dartmouth is well known for its variety of long @-@ standing student traditions , many of which are centered on the Green . At Homecoming each fall , a bonfire is constructed on the Green by the freshman class ; students and community members gather to watch the freshmen run around it as it burns . The wintertime celebration of Winter Carnival sees the construction of a snow sculpture on the Green . In the springtime , Green Key Weekend is marked by concerts and performances on the Green , which until 1984 was also the site of fiercely competitive Green Key chariot races .

Other traditions involving the Green include the placement of a Christmas tree at the center each December and an annual Native American Pow @-@ Wow . Students gather on the Green on the night of the winter 's first snowfall for a school @-@ wide snowball fight . The College 's commencement ceremonies are traditionally held on the Green , regardless of weather conditions .