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Holy Cross's location on top of a hill, overlooks the city of Worcester and is a fitting locale as it personifies the fusion between the campus and the natural world. The “natural world” broadly encompasses all that pertains to existence and the essence of life. Despite the threat of many potential deterrents, the college has remained steadfast in ensuring that it does not compromise the condition of the campus for any peripheral factors that stand in its way. Holy Cross has worked unwaveringly to develop a symbiotic relationship with nature, aiming to coexist with the natural world rather than belittle its presence. This intention manifests itself in the physical nature of the campus through the hills, trees, and the arboretum all of which fortify the college's conservational image.

When the buildings were first built, the hills became an extension of the campus, and in turn the school's identity by helping to bridge the gap between Holy Cross and nature. Many of the buildings on campus required the architects to design a scheme that would cut into the omnipresent hills. This decision has influenced the mentality of the school, establishing a fit and predominantly active student body. By electing to keep the hills rather than level the land, Holy Cross paved the way for the outlook of the future.

The persistence Holy Cross exhibited when it faced the possibility of a highway cutting through the campus reflected the importance of keeping its strong relationship with nature in tact. The college exhausted all of its resources and knowledge, to present a fool-proof case against this route through the heart of the campus so as not to disrupt its strong harmony with nature. As part of its argument, the Holy Cross representatives cited the invaluable consequential damages that would be suffered by Holy Cross, for which the government would have to reimburse the college. Logically, the government folded under the immense weight of this profound statement. Through undying persistence, the college was able to persuade the government that the alternate route around campus was a better option for the

highway. This instance, even if isolated from similar moments in Holy Cross history, would single-handedly cement the college's reputation as a natural space; however, it is just one of numerous factors that have contributed to the school's environmentally conscience identity.

The status of Holy Cross as a registered arboretum, or botanical garden represents the notion that the college promotes the natural world, in a way that is conducive to the overall well-being of the campus. Holy Cross could have easily cleared-out the trees in exchange for more space on campus; however, the college consciously decided not to disturb the natural world. Therefore, there are a plethora of different types of trees that are cultivated and carefully groomed, which are subjects for local arborists to study. This serves not only as an aesthetically pleasing sight for the school's inhabitants, but also as a facilitator in the study of the natural world.

On the horizon, Holy Cross aims to continue on the path it has so strictly followed throughout its history, and in turn strengthen its already close relationship with nature. During a time in which “going green” has become a popular trend, Holy Cross will continue to execute its plan not for the sake of keeping up with fellow colleges, but rather to exercise the mindset that it has always valued. A common theme with all of the “natural” decisions that Holy Cross has made, is that they neither benefit solely the natural world nor the campus, but rather exhibit a reciprocal relationship in which both parties reap the benefits. The blueprint for the future contains plans of a carbon neutral campus, the introduction of windmills, and fulfillment of its eco-action plan. While completion of these ideas may seem like a bold undertaking, it would not be a large deviation from the college's past approach on the preservation of the natural world.