Campus Plan
Executive Summary

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
2022 - 2032
INTRODUCTION

The University of Vermont (UVM) Campus Plan 2022-2032, an update to the 2006 Campus Master Plan (CMP), developed over a duration of 18 months beginning in 2020 and is the product of shared values among campus users. This document grew out of a series of interactive and collaborative meetings with a broad base group of university representatives. The consultant group Sasaki Associates, a Boston-based, award-winning integrated architectural, planning, and design firm, was also hired to provide a high-level analysis, report, and recommendations to include best practices and guidelines for the future.

President Suresh Garimella’s Amplifying Our Impact: Strategic Vision for UVM set the tone for priorities within the Campus Plan, particularly setting the stage for the development of the Key Ideas.

Purpose

The purpose of the Campus Plan 2022-2032 is to articulate a vision and direction for the transformation of the physical components of the campus, and to provide a document that will guide and control that vision to ensure its proper and logical implementation over time. The Campus Plan ensures that projects are planned comprehensively according to the Vision and Principles outlined in Chapter 2: Foundation. The core priorities are outlined in Chapter 3: Key Ideas, which were determined through the planning process. Chapter 4: Functional Planning Frameworks organizes the details and priorities of the plan within four specific frameworks. The architectural and landscape guidelines for each area of campus, including the unique character, goals, and potential development are outlined in Chapter 5: Campus Districts. The Campus Plan does not define all potential building needs, identify funding, or dictate the specific design of individual buildings, but rather provides a framework for changes to the campus so that resources expended on improving the physical campus support UVM’s mission and make the best use of existing lands and facilities while retaining flexibility for the future.

The 2006 CMP marked the outset of a time of planned growth for UVM, both in terms of enrollment and facilities. The concept of land banks was introduced in the 2006 CMP, providing a flexible framework with which to organize physical growth and development by designating infill areas, with a preliminary focus on already developed sites. Utilizing this framework, since 2006 UVM constructed or renovated 1.2 million square feet of space, adding 22 major new buildings/ additions, and renovating another 22 buildings. UVM is not anticipating major growth in the next ten years, focusing more on improvements to our existing buildings and landscape, with the exception of additional student housing.

FOUNDRATION

Vision

To create and uphold a beautiful and vibrant campus that promotes an educational community that is welcoming, inclusive, and respectful of all, while promoting and nurturing the student experience, world-class research, and sustainable solutions.

Principles

Interdisciplinarity and Innovation
Healthy Lives
Efficient Use of Limited Resources
Academic Excellence and Student Success
Diversity and Inclusion
Open Space and Compatibility
Connectivity
Sense of Place

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FUNCTIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

Building and Land Use Framework
A number of the buildings on campus are recommended for renovation due to significant deferred maintenance issues, systems upgrades, or building restoration. Several buildings could benefit from additions to provide opportunity to address egress requirements and improve upon building utilization. Some buildings are also being recommended for assessment to be removed.

This plan has identified a number of infill land bank sites to organize future development because the university’s needs for future academic, housing, administrative, and support space will continue to evolve. Land banks have the potential for:
• Accommodating new buildings or additions, with the programs for these buildings and related site development identified and defined in the future.
• Providing circulation needs for pedestrians, bicycles, emergency access, and service vehicles.
• Providing recreation and flexible outdoor space needs.
• In addition, one category of land bank sites includes open spaces as no-build zones.

Open Space and Landscape Framework
The Landscape Priority Areas include:
• Fleming North Lawn: Improve the north entrance and enhance the pathways through the green.
• Area between University Heights and Interfaith Center/Catholic Center: Opportunity for some lower maintenance landscapes and/or outdoor classroom.
• The Stafford/Benedict Auditorium courtyard area, the area south of the STEM buildings, and the Redstone Green are potential outdoor classroom/amphitheater spaces.
• Trinity Green: Improvements to foster a greater sense of community include a gathering space consisting of an informal amphitheater, patio space for outdoor gatherings, a four-season recreation field, pathways, and other amenities.
• University Green: The proposed landscape is intended to reinforce the intrinsic hierarchy that already exists, while adding space for people to congregate in small groups.

Mobility Framework
The Mobility Priority Areas include:
• University Place: The University of Vermont, in partnership with the city of Burlington, is improving safety on the street for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other active transportation users.
• Enhanced Connection across Main Street: The city of Burlington’s crossing at Main Street and University Heights is the heaviest and most critical crossing location for non-motorized users on campus. Infrastructure improvements and re-timing of lights can better designate spaces for different modes and allow more efficient crossings of the intersection.
• Green Mountain Pathway: The Green Mountain Pathway (GMP) is a campus-wide proposed north-south active mobility corridor intended to improve connectivity and contribute to the cohesiveness of the outdoor experience. This will include merging the Green Mountain Walkway and the Redstone Walkway and continuing the pathway into the Trinity District.
• Covered Bike Parking: Covered bike parking is recommended across campus and shelters should serve both popular origins and destinations.

Utilities and Infrastructure Framework
UVM’s underground utilities form a complex matrix of civil, electrical, and mechanical infrastructure that governs where future development can or cannot occur. Many utility corridors that would challenge or prohibit potential above-ground development have been identified. In addition to the existing stormwater management practices, UVM is continually assessing the landscape to implement ecological design and Low Impact Development (LID) practices. These include both natural and human-made solutions that reduce impervious surfaces, maximize permeability to promote infiltration, and disconnect impervious areas to adjacent storm/sewer systems and/or waterbodies.

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DISTRIBUTORS

CENTRAL DISTRICT

The goals for the University Green Subdistrict are to showcase the highly prized historic resources and to preserve the scale, visibility, and beauty of the existing buildings. Any infill development, building additions, and amenities in the landscape should maintain visibility of the historic architecture. For the University Green, create small landscape improvements that can be used for informal gatherings as well as outdoor classroom space. Add trees and seating along existing paths to reinforce the historic character of the subdistrict. The goals of the Main Street North Subdistrict are to create and maintain state of the art academic facilities, utilize sustainable principles of landscape stewardship with native and curricular plantings, and improve outdoor spaces to foster use for people of all abilities and identities.

TRINITY DISTRICT

The majority of new development or redevelopment at UVM in the next ten years will most likely occur in the Trinity District. There is an opportunity to activate and enliven this district with the addition of housing through redevelopment, potential outdoor classroom/amphitheater spaces. The goals for the Trinity District are to respect the characteristics of the surrounding residential neighborhoods, while maintaining the university’s architectural styles. The Centennial Woods Natural Area is preserved in perpetuity goals, the zoning regulations will need to be updated for this area of campus. This area of campus is ideal for stormwater best management practices because it is one of the few places on campus with sandy soils that have sufficient rates conducive to infiltration and permeation.

REDSTONE DISTRICT

The goals for the Redstone District are to preserve the buildings and landscape features that contribute to the significance of the Redstone Historic District, improve the contiguity of the Green Mountain Pathway leading to the Central District, and upgrade student housing as needed within financial constraints.

ATHLETIC DISTRICT

The goals for the Athletic District are to provide quality living conditions for students and to foster health, fitness, and wellness by improving existing buildings and constructing new facilities that provide spaces that are versatile, accessible, and adaptable to accommodate a variety of social, cultural, recreational, and athletic events and activities. Also, improve connections across Main Street from the Athletic District to the Central District and preserve the viewsheds of the Green Mountains.

CENTENNIAL DISTRICT

The goals for the Centennial District are to respect the characteristics of the surrounding residential neighborhoods, while maintaining the university’s architectural styles. The Centennial Woods Natural Area is preserved in perpetuity development adjacent to the natural area should not impaiy any of the natural processes. Development in the district should also respect views that highlight the baseball field and grandstand.

SOUTH CAMPUS DISTRICT

The lands that UVM owns in South Burlington have historically been considered as land banks for potential future expansion of the campus beyond the 10-year time frame of this update. The university is interested in preserving development potential as much as possible, for a future time, situation, and currently unknown needs. It is expected that the Miller Research and Educational Center, the Bio-Research Complex, and the Horticultural Research and Education Center will continue to be active educational and agricultural complexes. There are plans for these complexes to expand facilities to meet the educational and academic/agricultural research needs of the university.