

# THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

## Campus Master Plan 2017





THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**ALABAMA**

**Campus Master Plan 2017**









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Dear Friends:

A little over a year ago, we unveiled the University's strategic plan, Advancing the Flagship, the culmination of valuable input from our faculty, staff, students, alumni, parents, community partners and other stakeholders. It reflects our collaborative vision of who we want The University of Alabama to be and where we want to go.

When we began this great excursion, we knew it would serve as a roadmap for how we will achieve our dreams and aspirations. We plan to act boldly to ensure we have an enduring impact on the lives of those we serve. As our state's flagship, we are committed to improving the quality of life for all our citizens. To that end, we identified four essential goals for the Capstone.

Our first goal is to provide a premier educational experience that offers a global perspective with outstanding teaching, high-quality scholarship and distinctive curricular and co-curricular programs. Secondly, we will drive socioeconomic development by increasing productivity with our research, innovation and creativity. Third, we will enrich our learning and work environment by providing an accepting, inclusive community that supports a diverse faculty, staff and student body. And, finally, we will seek out opportunities and resources to promote work-life balance to enhance the recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty and staff.

As we endeavor to accomplish these goals, we recognize the need to create exceptional spaces and facilities that enhance our infrastructure and allow us to support this increased productivity.

Our 2017 Campus Master Plan provides us with a tactical blueprint to meet these needs. It is a carefully designed plan to meet the University's growth in the coming years and transform our vision into reality. This Campus Master Plan ensures we will have the infrastructure in place to enhance graduate education; support equity, inclusion and diversity; inspire innovation; and advance our research and creative achievements. It will allow us to continue to provide an extraordinary learning experience on a campus that is welcoming and engaging, one where academics, residential life, outdoor gathering spaces, walkways and recreational areas are weaved seamlessly together.

I am pleased to share this 2017 Campus Master Plan with you, and I look forward to embarking on this new adventure.

Sincerely,

Stuart R. Bell  
President







The image shows the Ferguson Student Center, a large, modern building with a prominent portico supported by several tall, square columns. The building has large glass windows and a brick upper section. In the foreground, there is a grassy area with a few trees and a black lamppost. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. A large, white, stylized number '1' is positioned on the right side of the image, partially overlapping the building and the foreground.

FERGUSON STUDENT CENTER

1

Introduction



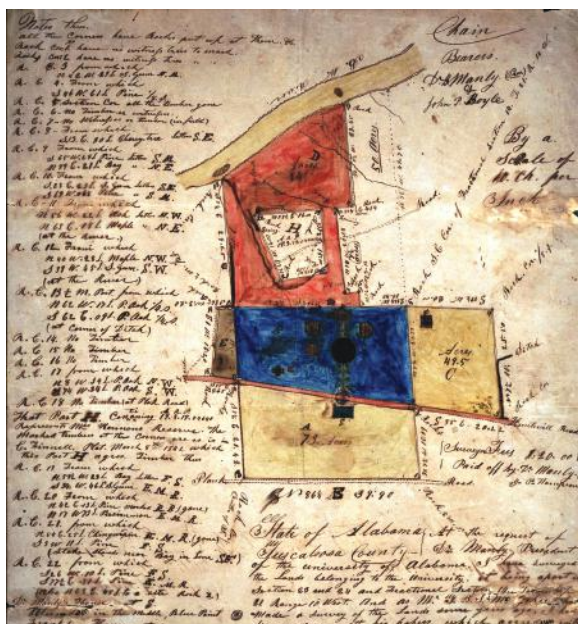
Aerial View of the Campus, 2017





The University has embarked on a periodic update of its Campus Master Plan, to reconfirm and extend our long-term, campus-wide vision, to set clear directions for coordinated action and to assign responsibility and authority for plan implementation.

Since its inception, The University of Alabama has been both a participant in and a reflection of the history and progress of the state and the nation. Like a formal garden, this university campus is never finished, but is in a continual process of recreating itself, in accord with an overall vision, as needed or desired to direct or respond to times and conditions.



The vision for The University of Alabama campus dates from 1829. The original campus was designed by State Architect William Nichols, using traditional American campus planning and design principles.

Virtually all campus buildings were destroyed during the Civil War. But the University rebuilt in accordance with its original planning and design principles, which also guided three successive building periods over the next century. Each building program established and reinforced major and minor axes in the campus. That design pattern lent to the University campus dramatic and captivating open spaces bounded by multi-storied buildings.

Each building period took advantage of climate, topography and natural drainage patterns even while establishing formal, man-made geometries on the landscape. Within each of those building periods, addition of landscaping, site furnishings and circulation infrastructure reinforced a cohesive system of beautiful open spaces framed by equally beautiful, dignified buildings.

Placement of key buildings on major and minor axes added nuance to the campus design, creating breathtaking vistas terminated by significant architectural elements. Each project ensured that building sites and adjacent open spaces were woven together.

## ADVANCING THE FLAGSHIP

Key physical implications of the University's 2016 Strategic Plan:

- Infrastructure that promotes a thriving research and economic development enterprise
- Campus life that embodies collaboration, collegiality, respect and a culture of inclusivity
- Facilities that enable and support equity, inclusion and diversity for our campus.
- Places for co-curricular activities that encourage collaboration among students, faculty, staff and the community

Following patterns of development that swept across America from the 1950s, significant growth and change on the campus produced buildings and areas of the campus of a suburban, automobile-oriented character, diverging significantly from the traditional core campus. For over three decades, much of that investment expanded the footprint of the campus, leaving students, faculty and staff more dependent on personal automobiles for access and circulation across larger areas of lesser density and character. Following campus master plans of 1985, 1993 and 1999, the campus continued to expand eastward, with new buildings set away from the campus center and at greater distances from one another.



Campus Master Plans are now mandated by the trustees every five years, and the vision for each is meant to be long-term. As conditions evolve and priorities change over time, the vision presented in this document is intended to provide locations for the facilities that may be needed and desired, confident in the knowledge that capital investments in those locations will contribute to the planned, overall vision for the campus.

This update is third in a series that began in 2007, following on the heels of planning in preparation off-campus in 2004 for significant University growth and development. The University's trustees, and its then new president, Robert Witt, agreed in 2002 to an overall strategy for growth and enhancement of the student body, faculty and staff, supported by growth and enhancement of the campus environment.

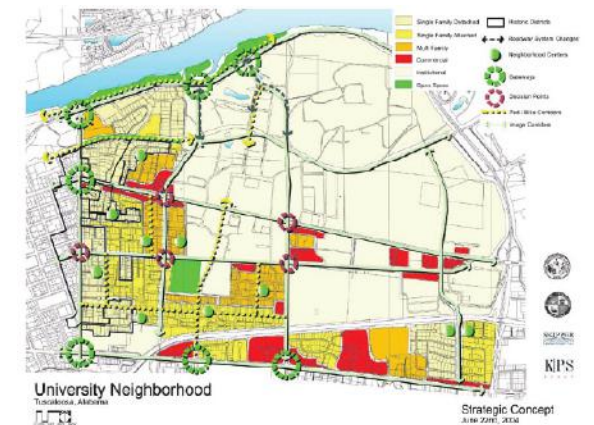
To set the stage for what has become a phenomenal rate of growth of student body and campus facilities over the past ten years, the University focused first on planning for and supporting a significant boost in the quality of daily life in the surrounding University area neighborhoods, home—then and now—to a large portion of the student body.

Guided by a 2003-2004 planning process undertaken jointly by the University and the City of Tuscaloosa, the residential and commercial areas to the south and west of the campus were systematically improved and redeveloped, and their image and desirability for investment were enhanced significantly. Plans and implementation of projects and programs were prepared and undertaken by joint action groups that included landlords, property owners, developers, business people, city officials, historic district representatives, students and University administrators.

Plans were adopted by the Planning Commission, the City Council amended the Zoning Ordinance and added key supporting ordinances, and the University Area Committee was formed to support continuing vigilance and success. Developers and landlords reinvested in housing for students, thereby enticing students to move out of historic districts. Surrounding neighborhoods were transformed into a more supporting environment for University students, faculty and staff.

With revitalization of the neighborhoods well underway by 2006, work began on the 2007 Campus Master Plan, the first in a series of three planning processes, to maintain the best of its physical character and identity while making way for unparalleled growth, innovation and expansion.

The 2007 Campus Master Plan proposed transformational change to the patterns used in planning, design and development of the campus, marking a significant departure from those of the previous half-century. That plan presented a clear and compelling vision: a return to the fundamental principles on which The University of Alabama





campus was originally planned and designed, even as the University would shape and respond to new demands. This approach would reclaim and reinforce the campus as a prime example of the American campus planning tradition and redirect patterns of investment across the entire campus.

In 2010, the University announced a plan through which enrollment would again increase significantly over a several-year period—the second growth initiative in less than a decade.

The University continued the commitment to maintain the best of its physical character and identity while significantly expanding the campus for innovation and for excellence of its students, faculty and facilities.

The 2012 Campus Master Plan extended the philosophy and value system of the transformational 2007 plan to capitalize upon the many opportunities presented by purchase of the adjacent 168-acre Bryce Hospital property in 2010. The result respects the parallel and intertwined histories of both institutions, founded adjacent to one another in the 19th century, by joining the essential spaces and places of both into one unified campus.

In that plan, the University embraced its new property and proposed to unify the campus, maintain and enhance key structures, and extend and replace infrastructure, thereby providing opportunities for infill of new buildings in a manner compatible with a unified open space system.



In accord with the vision expressed in the 2007 and 2012 plans, the University has continued to enhance quality, build on a rich past and enhance the quality and character of the unified campus in support of teaching, research, creative activity and service to the greater community. Those essential functions have been linked closely together in a manner that has encouraged students, faculty, staff and guests to meet and to learn from one another in diverse settings, both indoors and out, and to pass safely and conveniently from one place to another by walking, cycling or using campus transit.



Over the last decade, The University of Alabama has experienced tremendous growth: total enrollment expanded from 25,000 in 2007 to almost 38,000 by Fall 2016, during which time Alabama has become a national university, enrolling students from 70 countries and all 50 states.

Through planned and coordinated investments exceeding \$2.5 billion, the quality of the campus has been improved rather than diminished through growth, and students, faculty, staff and guests enjoy the benefits of a highly functional, well-maintained and beautiful campus environment.

The vision for an expanded, unified and legible campus was defined in the 2007 Campus Master Plan's First Principles for campus organization, planning and design, adopted by the Board of Trustees as part of the 2007 Campus Master Plan. Continuing implementation of these principles has led to a more walkable campus, with usable open space that embraces a traditional density of buildings and activities in an academic core, gently embraced by residential life and support services. The locus of parking has been shifted from the center of campus to the perimeter, and overall accessibility has been increased dramatically through investments in the street system, bicycle facilities, strong pedestrian infrastructure and a very popular campus transit system.



By continuing to invest in the vision for the campus as set out in 2007, reinforced in 2012 and restated in this current update, the University will continue to offer a complete learning environment—a hospitable, yet engaging academic setting, steeped in the beauty, climate and culture of the South, where residential life, academics, outdoor gathering places, walkways and recreation areas are interwoven into a gracious and welcoming setting that nurtures the soul and inspires the mind.

The achievements of the past decade have required constant vigilance during a complex process of integrating new property, engaging in thoughtful, adaptive use of selected facilities while carefully removing others, and reinforcing what is arguably the premier example of the American campus planning tradition in the Deep South, beautifully executed, maintained, reinforced and enhanced for over 188 years.

The 2007 and 2012 Campus Master Plans redirected campus development to prepare for and respond to the first and second wave of planned student growth. This current update looks ahead to prepare for and accommodate the additional students, especially graduate students, and the research and support facilities described in the University's 2016 Strategic Plan: Advancing the Flagship.



## RESEARCH INITIATIVES

In implementing the research targets of the 2016 Strategic Plan, the University will focus efforts to grow research in four areas:

- water
- life research
- transportation
- cybersecurity

Implemented in a systematic way, this plan update assures the campus will continue to be maintained, extended and enhanced through investment in a balance of new and renovated facilities to meet the needs of a growing student body, the many daily and occasional visitors to the campus, along with the faculty and staff necessary to meet their needs.







# 2

Campus Vision





The Campus Master Plan describes the direction of campus growth and provides locations for development as opportunity may arise for the physical campus to play its intended role in serving the mission of the University.

The 2017 Campus Master Plan supports the University's developmental goals captured in the 2016 UA Strategic Plan, Advancing the Flagship. It carries forward the fundamental campus principles adopted by the Board of Trustees to enable desired growth of undergraduate and graduate programs and create an increasingly more beautiful, inclusive and user-friendly campus.

## **PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS**

Essential to the planning process was broad participation by members of the greater University community. Multiple interviews and brainstorming sessions were conducted with University administration, faculty, staff, students and alumni. There were work sessions with the University's space planning consultant, facilities and housing staffs, the Campus Master Planning Committee, the SGA and other stakeholder groups. Open review meetings were held with faculty, staff and students—people who know the campus and its opportunities for creative improvement.

The planning process was likewise informed by the many working meetings and listening sessions held in early 2016 as part of the University's strategic planning process, and by the Strategic Plan itself.



The continual quest for a quality physical environment parallels that of academic excellence. The online surveys of the University community conducted throughout this series of campus plan updates and the strategic planning process revealed a depth of love and devotion members of the University community feel for the campus—one that fully supports its role as a place of teaching, knowledge creation, social growth and development. The respondents wrote fondly of places and spaces that touched them then and through intervening years—of buildings and the memorable spaces in-between.

### STRATEGIC CONCEPT / BIG IDEA

This Campus Master Plan supports the University's educational mission and the goals outlined in the 2016 Strategic Plan by providing a campus setting that stimulates learning and innovation. It is built around five concepts for physical development.

The strategic concept for this plan update responds to the values and visions expressed by the greater University community. It is proposed to extend the progress directed by the previous two plan updates across the campus. This will include issues of access, wayfinding and circulation, architecture, landscape, utilities and service, safety and security, and open space and the health of the natural environment, balanced in a way that will continue to support realization of the mission of the University as expressed through the Strategic Plan.

Key University functions will be reinforced and extended. Academic activities (teaching, research, creative activity and service) will continue to be located mostly in a defined academic core of campus. University housing will continue to surround much of that core, with most recreation and athletic functions and auxiliary services situated toward the campus perimeter or off-campus.

### THE BIG IDEA: 2017

Provide an inspiring campus environment to support the goals of the 2016 Strategic Plan: Advancing the Flagship.

- Provide academic space that stimulates teaching, research, creative activity and service
- Enhance campus open space as a unifying environment for all facilities
- Invest in campus safety, security and sense of well-being
- Optimize multimodal campus accessibility
- Create safe and inviting interactive gathering and study spaces

### COLLABORATION: MEETINGS, INTERVIEWS AND FEEDBACK

- |              |                               |                            |   |
|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| • President  | • Student Life                | • Community Affairs        | • Office, Technical and Clerical Staff Assembly |
| • Provost    | • Professional Staff Assembly | • Recreation Services      | • Emergency Preparedness                        |
| • Facilities | • Deans Council               | • Student Government       | • Transportation and Parking                    |
| • Finance    | • Faculty Senate              | • Advancement              | • Neighborhood Partnership                      |
| • Athletics  | • Vice Presidents             | • Public Safety            | • Campus Master Plan Committee                  |
| • Research   | • Food Services               | • Campus Police            | • University online survey                      |
| • Housing    | • Residential Life            | • Alumni Affairs           |   |
| • Chancellor | • Auxiliary Services          | • Strategic Communications |   |



## GOALS

Aspirations for campus investment in support of the 2016 Strategic Plan:

**Unify** and conserve the campus with engaging open spaces and pathways, landmarks and overall sense of place.

**Adapt** buildings and facilities to stimulate creation, innovation and expansion of knowledge, mindful of context, accessibility and relationships.

**Enliven** the campus with robust opportunities for academic and social engagement—indoors and in outdoor spaces—as well as passive and active recreation.

**Organize** buildings in traditional patterns around shared, usable open spaces and featuring endearing architecture.

**Integrate** new construction with incremental infill through design that embraces the campus-wide open space system and that is appropriate to the specific site and its immediate surroundings.

**Invest** in quality campus experiences through execution of an overall development strategy and coordinated implementation system.



The intent is to provide strong, coherent organizing systems of streets, paths, buildings and open spaces that are simple, direct and compelling. The synthesis of historic campus development patterns with the influences of surrounding natural systems provides an overall structure that is simple enough that most any appropriate building project will have opportunities for a logical location and site, where buildings will continue to frame streets as a primary element in a system of legible patterns of campus organization.

The University commits the campus core to the primary functions of teaching, research and service, and to link these critical functions more closely together in a pattern that will allow students, faculty, staff and guests to safely and conveniently get from one place to another by walking, cycling or by using the campus transit system.



## GROW RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC SPACE

The University campus is woven into the physical context of our host city, state and nation. Though primarily an academic environment, the campus will strive to be complete in and of itself, containing a diversity of facilities, services and experiences essential to development of our students.

Additional space for research and teaching will be needed to accommodate planned growth in undergraduate, graduate and research programs. Capital investment should be accomplished in a manner that assures academic programs remain concentrated in the heart of the campus, relatively close to one another, so that students may walk or bike from class to class insofar as possible.

Administrative and support functions for which a central location is essential will be retained in the

core. Storage and some administrative and support functions will be moved to the campus perimeter, the Partlow Campus and off-campus locations. This will allow greater use of existing core buildings for teaching and research. To effectively accommodate changes in function, reinvestment in some existing buildings will be required.

Redevelopment and repurposing may be desirable to increase density in the core for teaching and research activities, replacing smaller or less efficient buildings as needed to meet growing academic and research space needs. Redevelopment must be balanced with preserving the University's historic resources.

Specialized academic and research programs that have limited interactions with core undergraduate programs may be located away from the heart of the academic center.



## RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC SPACE

- Support planned growth in undergraduate, graduate and research programs with academic and research space
- Retain key academic programs in the core of campus, relatively close to one another
- Reorganize and defragment the core and retain essential support functions
- Remove non-essential functions
- Increase overall academic density
- Relocate programs having lesser student interaction outside the core
- Add interdisciplinary, interactive, collaborative spaces

As academic and research functions continue to expand, space must also be provided to support interdisciplinary, interactive and collaborative study. An essential part of this effort will be modifications and enhancements to the University library system, in accord with its master plan. This will be one method for responding effectively to the changing ways in which students study and perform research while balancing appropriate locations for the University's print, digital and special collections.



## ENHANCE OPEN SPACE

Online survey respondents stressed the high quality environmental experience of the campus, the positive role of its significant tree cover and the character it lends to the open space system. The message has been clear and consistent: members of every segment of the University community love the high quality, overall environmental experience of the campus and they express a strong desire that it be maintained and continually improved.



## OPEN SPACE

- Nurture and enhance the overall open space system as the primary organizing feature of the campus
- Use formal spaces to provide direct relationships among adjoining buildings, using strong geometries and providing opportunities for gathering, recreation and circulation
- Enhance streets, pedestrian and multi-use paths and trails as linear open spaces to interconnect campus buildings and open spaces
- Conserve natural open spaces and environmental features and functions to provide opportunities to interact with nature



In accordance with principles adopted by the Board of Trustees in the 2007 plan, a primary open space system will continue to provide a “field” or “campus” within which buildings and functions are organized, with traditional relationships maintained between and among them.

The University will continue to take advantage of climate, topography and natural drainage patterns when placing man-made geometries in the campus landscape. Thus, the campus will continue to be a place that is greater than the sum of its individual parts. Each building and open space will be designed in context—respecting the overall organization and image of the campus, visually and physically connecting to its neighbors.

An organized open space system will extend the learning experience beyond the classroom and engage students in their environs, both man-made and natural. Within the core of campus, existing open spaces will be enhanced and new ones created by extending formal arrangements of buildings and spaces. In the outer campus, especially in athletic, recreational and support areas, less formal, picturesque open spaces will prevail. All open spaces will be planned, designed and maintained to contribute to the overall network of open spaces tying together disparate elements of the campus.





## OPTIMIZE ACCESS

The University will reinforce its entrances and primary vehicular corridors, which provide a major part of the University's first impression and support campus-wide accessibility.

Vehicular traffic on campus will be managed to assure the safety of those walking and bicycling as well as to maintain the image and enjoyment of the campus. This means diverting most vehicular trips away from the academic core and to perimeter streets. This will be done by providing commuter parking around the campus perimeter, limiting vehicular access to select streets at certain times of the day, placing those functions that draw external traffic away from the core, and by planning and designing interior and perimeter roadways to support their intended travel speed and mix of vehicles, transit, bikes and pedestrians.

Availability of parking at convenient times and places will be increased through parking facility additions, located mostly toward the perimeter, and supported by expansions and extension of the campus transit system, bicycle lanes and paths, and the major walkway system.

The campus pedestrian system will be improved and expanded to assure safe, convenient access between the academic core, parking and transit facilities, housing, recreation and off-campus neighborhoods and destinations. Pedestrian access is provided through sidewalks along streets, pedestrian and multi-use paths, and other corridors designed and designated for pedestrian use. Conflicts between pedestrians and vehicular traffic will continue to be reduced through design and location of pedestrian crossings and by active management of internal and through vehicular traffic.

## ACCESSIBILITY

- Use multiple modes of travel to provide access to and around the campus
- Provide a safe, convenient and attractive environment to support walking, cycling and transit
- Continuously update Crimson Ride to help lessen auto traffic and parking demand
- Assure safe, convenient pedestrian access between the academic core, parking and transit, housing, recreation and off-campus
- Provide safe bicycle access on campus and to and from off-campus destinations
- Manage traffic to assure the safety of those walking and bicycling and to maintain the image and enjoyment of the campus

The campus bicycle system will be improved and expanded to provide safe, bicycle access throughout campus and, in cooperation with the city, to and from off-campus neighborhoods and destinations. Bicycle access is provided through on-street bike lanes, multi-use paths and other corridors designed and designated for use by bicycles. Bicycle storage, repair facilities and safety education promote the use of bicycles on campus.

## CREATE INTERACTIVE SPACES

Providing opportunities for students to interact socially and intellectually—formally and informally—plays a role in the holistic development of a student. This is an essential reason for the way in which American university campuses have been designed traditionally, with buildings arranged to form usable open spaces and interconnected corridors of pedestrian movement. Thus, the overall design of the campus facilitates interaction and collaboration.

### INTERACTIVE SPACE

- Provide opportunities for students to interact—socially and intellectually, formally and informally—to support holistic student development
- Expand the number and type of indoor facilities to support student development through interaction
- Support academic and social development through exposure to new and different ideas, experiences and cultures
- Plan, design and build campus facilities and open spaces to support interaction and engagement among students of different fields of study, class levels, backgrounds, cultures and religions



The University will also expand the types of indoor facilities for academic work and study for both individuals and groups to support overall student development and to better reflect the changing way in which students learn and interact in the context of modern technology. The evolution of the University library system, in particular, will bring people together to facilitate learning through group work, study and interaction.

An important aspect of the academic and social development of students is exposure to new and different ideas, experiences and cultures. So that students gain the most from their time on campus, housing, academic, research and student life programs, campus buildings and open spaces will

continue to be planned, designed and programmed to promote and enable interaction and engagement between students of different fields of study, class levels, backgrounds, cultures and faiths.

Outdoor spaces provide each person on campus the opportunity to interact with one another and to contemplate and directly engage the surrounding environment. All will be organized and arranged to create lawns, walkways and gathering areas to provide outdoor extensions of the learning environment. Internal and external sidewalks and paths will integrate the new and the revitalized, successfully, into the overall campus.



## CAMPUS SAFETY

- Manage on-campus vehicular traffic to assure the safety of those walking and bicycling
- Manage pedestrian crossing of selected streets and heavy traffic intersections
- Enhance pedestrian security along University Boulevard at the Quad and Stadium
- Build out the storm shelter master plan
- Improve safety of railroad crossings

## ENHANCE SAFETY

Safety and security are considered at every scale, from site planning to building and landscape design to long term and daily maintenance activities—and from the sense of security felt by students, employees and guests.

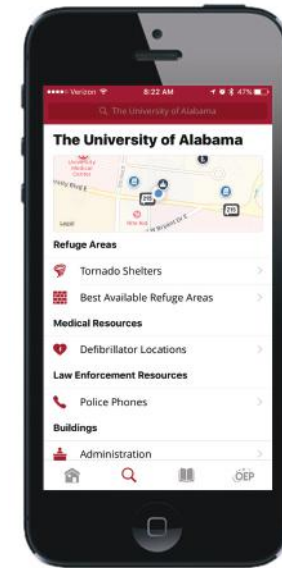


The University takes a multi-disciplinary approach to safety and security. Campus spaces, indoors and out, are designed and maintained to support visibility and discourage inappropriate behavior. Exterior spaces are outfitted with lighting, security cameras and emergency phones. Access to non-public areas is managed by limiting entry points and monitoring them. Exterior and interior spaces are designed, programmed and maintained to reinforce territoriality, support legitimate use and activity and convey that campus spaces are regularly tended to. These passive security measures increase the risk for would-be perpetrators of being seen, one of the greatest deterrents to crime and other inappropriate activities. Together with building access controls and other active security measures, the University maintains an environment that is and feels safe for its faculty, staff and students.

Strong campus legibility, or the ability to know and understand the campus and its organization, helps students, faculty, staff and visitors understand the campus and how to move about safely and efficiently. Continued improvements to streets, intersections and sidewalks will help prevent vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle accidents and reduce their severity. This includes restricting pedestrians to safe crossing locations through walkway layouts, landscaping and barriers and diverting through traffic away from areas of the campus that experience heavy pedestrian flows during the day.

Since the tragic events of April 2011, the University increased its commitment to maintaining a “storm ready” campus. A storm shelter master plan has been prepared identifying existing shelter locations and targets for adding storm shelters so that persons on campus may quickly reach shelter from most anywhere on campus during tornadoes and similar severe weather events.

The University sends emergency notifications to the campus community through the UA Alerts system, which delivers alerts to students, faculty and staff through multiple contact points (e.g., phone, text and email) simultaneously. The UA Safety App also provides severe weather and other emergency alerts and GPS-associated information on shelter, refuge and medical resource locations.







## FIRST PRINCIPLES

- The purpose of the campus is to support the University's mission, which is teaching, research, creative activity and service.
- The core of campus provides space for learning and creation of knowledge.
- The surroundings of the core are for student residences and student life –an environment supportive of learning.
- Other supportive spaces and functions, including access to the core and its immediate surroundings, are directed primarily to the campus perimeter.
- A usable open space system, consisting of a diversity of spaces and outdoor spaces, defines the overall campus.
- Historic resources are respected and supported.
- Campus buildings are placed in a manner that helps to create and form a diverse system of usable, legible open spaces.
- Primary campus streets provide an appropriate setting for major campus precincts, with key buildings organized in a traditional manner.
- Persons on foot take precedence over bicycles and automobiles in the campus core.
- A primary walkway system links usable open spaces and places and interconnects campus residential areas with the academic core.
- All campus streets are designed to provide equal status to the movement of bicycles, automobiles and transit vehicles.
- A campus transit system provides a dependable, reliable and efficient alternative to the automobile.
- Walkways, bicycle paths and lanes, and vehicle access and parking systems are organized to direct internal vehicular trips to the campus transit system.
- Vehicular access to the campus core is restricted during selected times and days.
- Parking is managed as a limited resource, especially toward the campus core.
- New parking facilities are situated outside the core and are accessible to the surrounding road network.
- The ratio of residence hall beds to nearby resident parking spaces is 1:1; parking for residents is permitted nowhere else on campus.
- Commuter parking is situated primarily toward the perimeter and served by the campus transit system.





# 3

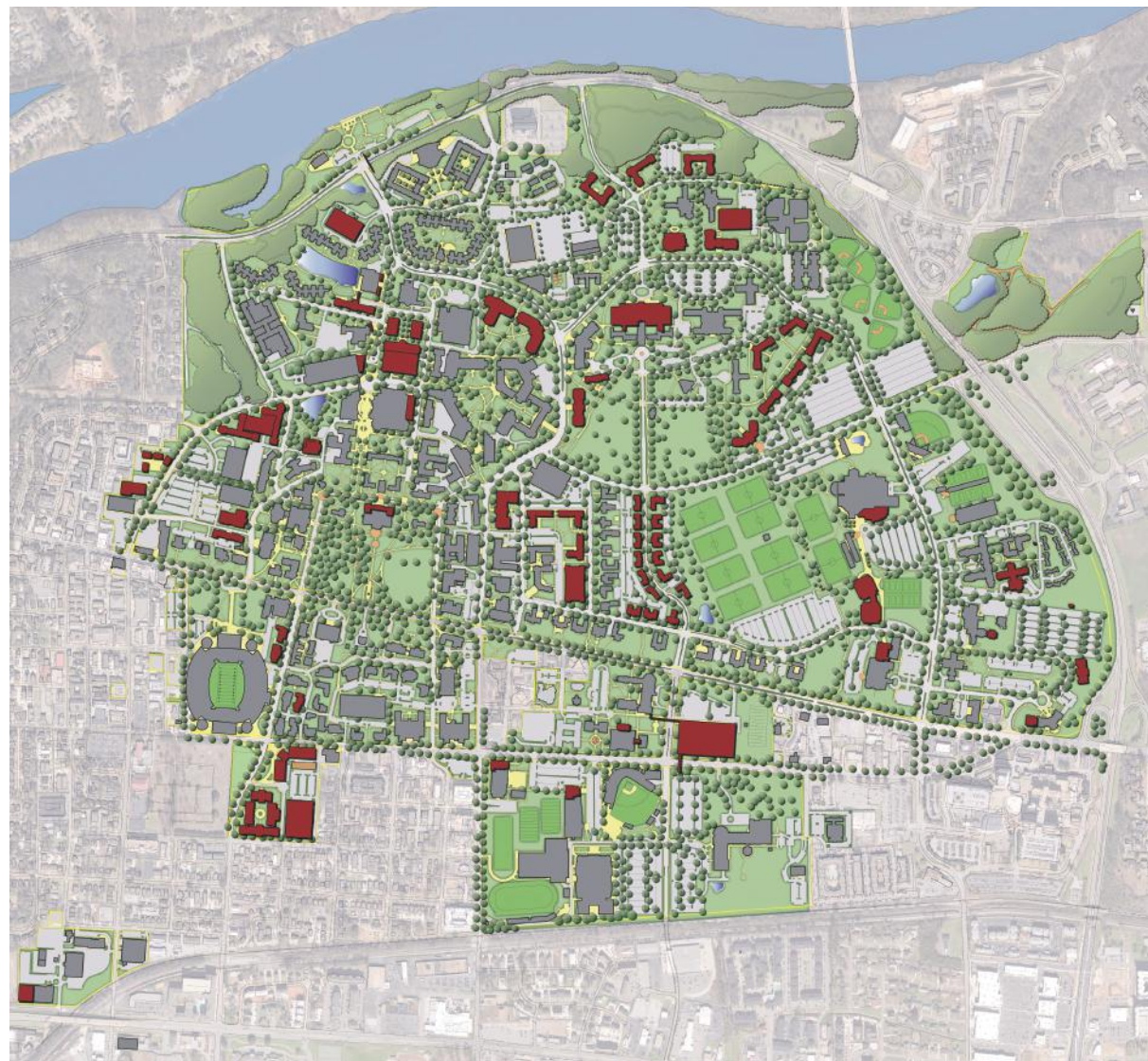
Plan Elements



Figure 1: Illustrative Plan

The Illustrative Plan represents how the campus will develop over the next several years to meet the University's growth goals in accordance with the vision, principles and strategies described in the campus master plan.

- Future buildings
- Existing buildings



The following sections describe the strategies that will guide investment in the campus over the next several years. The intent is to support implementation of the 2016 Strategic Plan goals—to accommodate continued growth in enrollment while assuring a high quality environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors. These strategies are organized according to the various elements, or systems, which constitute the physical campus—its buildings, open spaces and infrastructure.

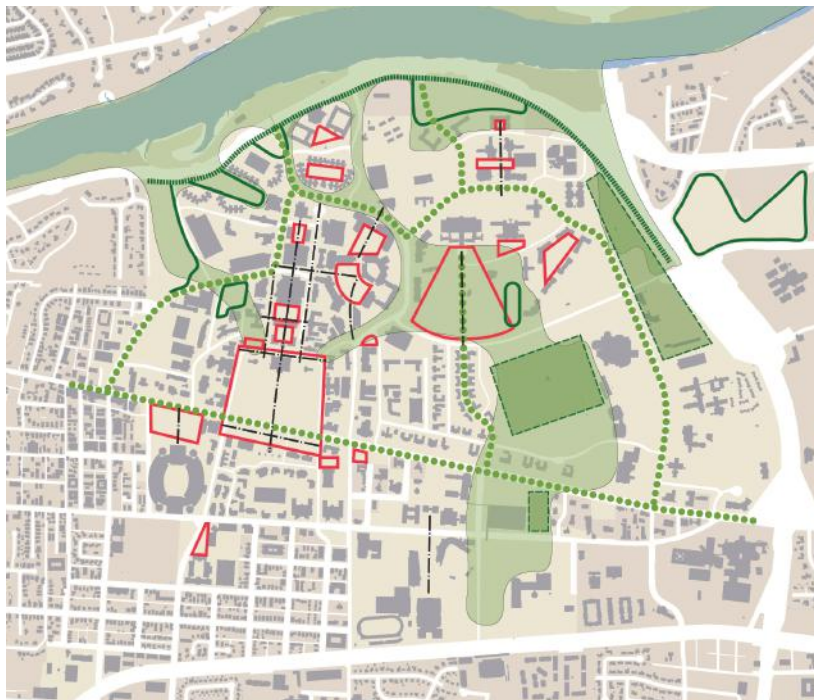
For the campus to function properly, changes within each system must be considered with respect to all other systems. The goal is to achieve equilibrium throughout. Increased enrollment, for example, will tend to require more academic space, housing and parking. These demands must be met with a finite amount of land and buildings. Through this master plan update, the University sets out how it will resolve such issues and achieve a desirable balance as it strives to achieve its strategic goals.



## OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

The campus landscape is a key organizing framework for the development and function of the University campus. This open space system is a welcoming backdrop for visitors and new students and a comfortable setting for each semester's flurry of activity. It provides an ideal counterpoint to the scale and intensity of campus development.

A variety of spaces, ranging from formal quads and plazas to recreation fields and natural landscapes make up the campus open space system, all of which is tied together through a network of streetscapes, paths and trails.



**Formal spaces** have direct relationships with adjoining buildings, feature strong geometries and provide opportunities for gathering, recreation and circulation.

Two of the largest and most recognized open spaces on campus are the Quad and Bryce Lawn. These formal spaces are defining elements in the history and development of the University campus. While the Quad has served as a central gathering space for the University, the way in which the Bryce Lawn serves the campus is evolving as University functions expand northeastward.

Bryce Lawn's tree-lined entry drive offers an exceptional first impression for prospective students, families and other visitors. The area around the Dr. Peter and Ellen Bryce grave site is preserved to honor the history of the former hospital and namesake. The lawn will be modestly and sensitively improved, while

tree cover will be maintained to allow enjoyment of the picturesque space, which lends itself to quiet contemplation, study and relaxation.

The University and Woods Hall Quads and many other campus formal spaces are arranged along a north-south axis that extends from the President's Mansion to the AIME Building. Other formal spaces include Malone-Hood Plaza, the Walk of Champions and the Engineering Quad. The construction of new buildings and building groups will bring new formal



spaces to the campus, such as quads serving new housing on the Bryce Campus and on the site of the current Tutwiler Hall and future academic buildings north of the School of Engineering.








-  Formal open spaces
-  Natural open spaces
-  Recreation fields
-  Historic drainage areas
-  Natural edge
-  Green streets
-  Organizing geometries

Figure 2: Open Space System



## OPEN SPACE TYPES

- Quads
- Lawns
- Plazas
- Courtyards
- Recreational and athletic fields
- Streetscapes
- Pedestrian and multi-use paths
- Greenways and trails
- Preserves



**Natural spaces** are defined primarily by topography, hydrology and other natural elements. They have less direct relationships with the design geometries of buildings. Natural landscapes often perform environmental functions—such as drainage and absorption of stormwater—and provide opportunities to interact with nature.

The campus, sitting atop a plateau overlooking the Black Warrior River, presents a wooded, natural edge along Jack Warner Parkway, interrupted only by four carefully landscaped entrances. Marr's Spring is another notable element in the campus's natural landscape—a drainage basin that carefully blends a foot bridge and other design features into an otherwise pristine setting.

The Capstone Preserve located to the east of McFarland Boulevard is a 26 acre natural area proposed for recreational activities including zip lines and ropes courses.

**Recreation fields** are located on the east side of campus near the Student Recreation Center and between Peter Bryce Boulevard and McFarland Boulevard. More recreation fields will be added north of Campus Drive.

**Open space corridors** include streets, pedestrian and multi-use paths, concourses and trails. They are the connective tissue of the open space system. Shade trees line the edges of University Boulevard, Peter Bryce Boulevard and other 'green' streets,

several of which include landscaped medians. Building lawns reinforce the green character of major streetscapes.

A major north-south route for pedestrians and cyclists, the Crimson Promenade will be extended further north through a "road diet" treatment along McCorvey Drive.



# FUNCTIONAL ORGANIZATION

The proper arrangement of campus functions—academics, housing, athletics, recreation and support—in relation to one another is critical to effective University operations, to how people move about the campus and to the overall quality of campus life. As enrollment continues to grow, more space will be needed for classrooms, labs, student housing and support functions. The organization of functions proposed in this plan refines the strategies in the 2012 Campus Master Plan for

utilizing the land and buildings on the Bryce campus to address the specific targets from the 2016 Strategic Plan.

As shown in Figure 3, the various functions of the University revolve around its academic core. Over time the core of the campus has expanded northward from the early buildings constructed around the Quad and, with the addition of the Bryce Hospital property in 2010, the core has and will continue to extend to the northeast.

Figure 4 illustrates the uses of existing and future campus buildings and other facilities. Within each of the functional zones there will often be support facilities related to the primary function of the area, such as dining facilities or parking structures serving housing communities. To gain the highest concentration of academic activity in the core, administrative and support functions that are not essential to academic programs will be located in peripheral locations, including the Bryce campus and the Partlow campus east of McFarland Boulevard.

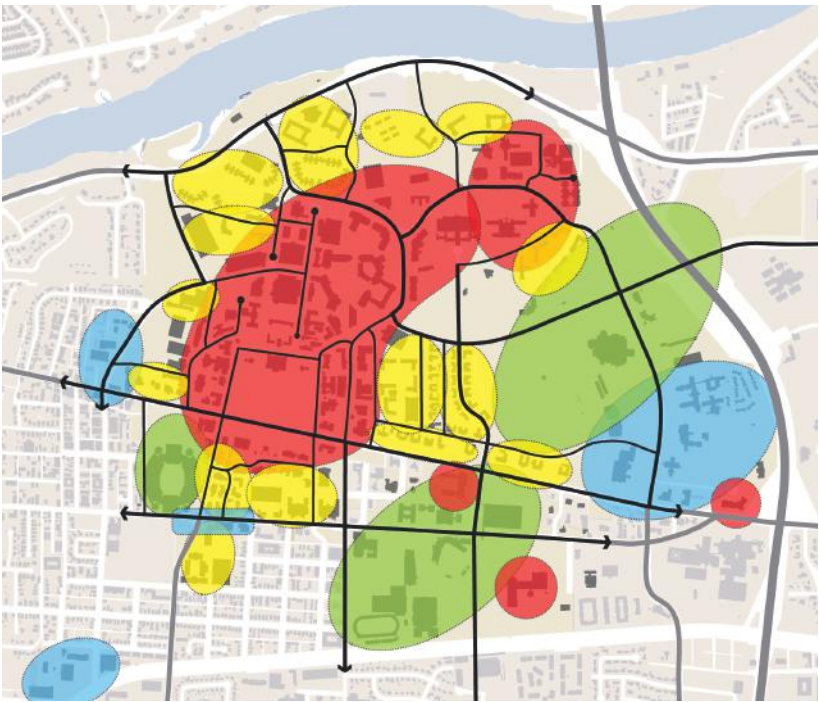


Figure 3: Functional Diagram

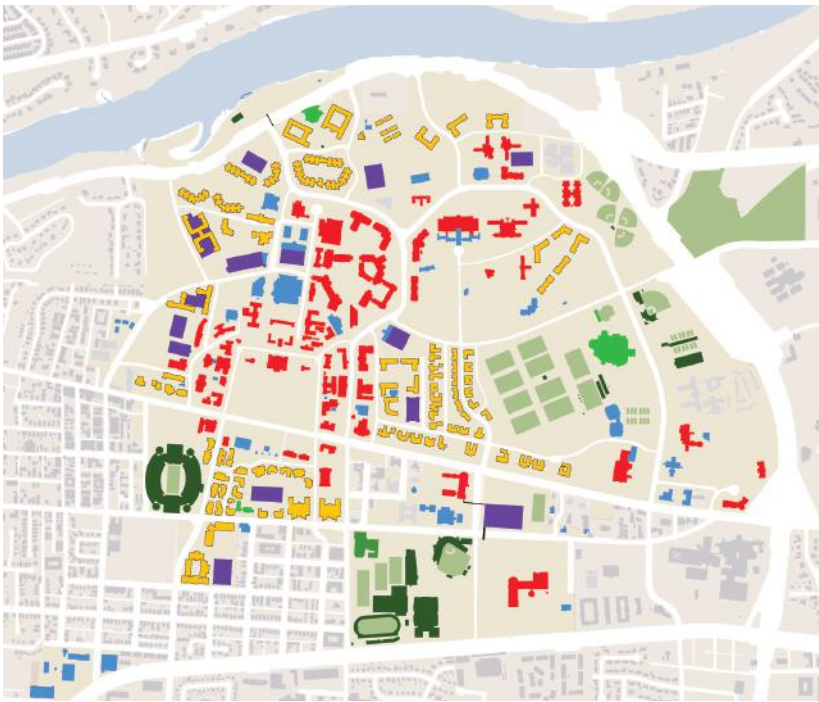


Figure 4: Building Functions





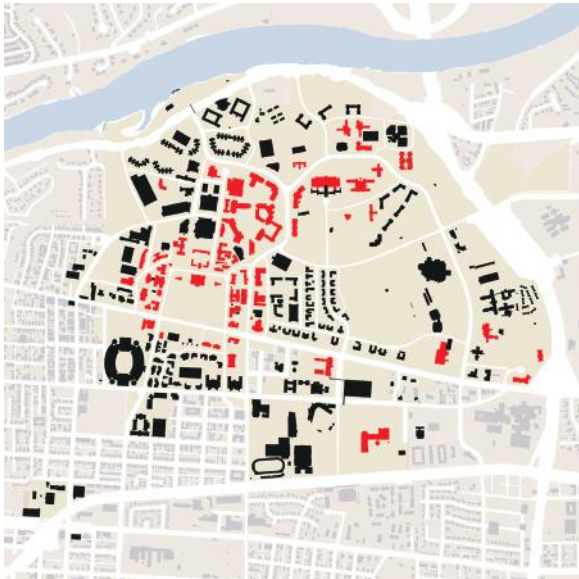


Figure 5: Academic Buildings

## Academics

Academic buildings include those housing classrooms, faculty offices, instructional and research labs, libraries and study spaces. To accommodate space needs, some limited redevelopment within the existing academic core and infill development is proposed. The intent is to continue to concentrate most academic functions within walking distance of the heart of campus. Selective redevelopment will allow more intensive use of available land, including construction of larger, more efficient buildings.

Academic functions will also continue to grow northeastward. Acquisition of the Bryce property created the opportunity to use some buildings for swing space as buildings in the campus core are renovated. Now and in the future, such investments will be of a permanent nature—existing buildings will be used for specialized academic and research programs and new academic space added over time. Among these are an addition to the former Bryce Hospital building to house performing arts and a future classroom building along Hackberry Lane south of the recently constructed North Lawn Hall.



North Lawn Hall is the newest academic building on the University campus and the first new building on the Bryce campus. The construction of the building was a pivotal step in extending academic functions into the Bryce campus.







## Housing

Housing facilities include student residences, student life and residential support functions. On-campus housing is arranged around the academic core to maximize opportunities for students living on-campus to walk or bicycle to classes and to take advantage of library, dining and other facilities nearby.

Additional on-campus housing will be needed as enrollment grows. The University will continue to reinvest in existing residential areas flanking the academic core, including strategic redevelopment to increase density, such as the planned

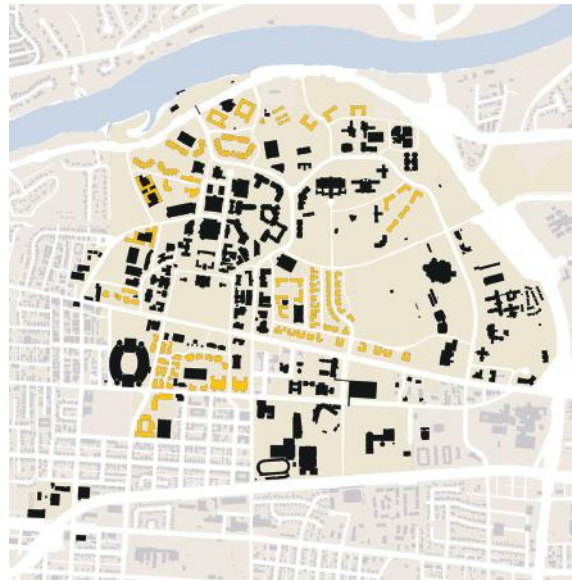


Figure 6: Housing

replacement of Tutwiler Hall that will increase capacity from 1,000 to 1,583 beds. Another close-in housing opportunity is the repurposing of a site previously used for grounds maintenance near the intersection of Campus Drive West and Marr's Spring Road.

As part of an ultimate build-out of the campus, new housing communities are also proposed on the Bryce campus near the intersection of North Campus Way and Kirkbride Lane and between University Hall and the recently completed Peter Bryce Boulevard. Future housing will be oriented around usable open spaces. Parking will be provided on-site or in shared parking facilities nearby to allow students to store their cars during the day as they walk, bike or use campus transit to move about the campus.





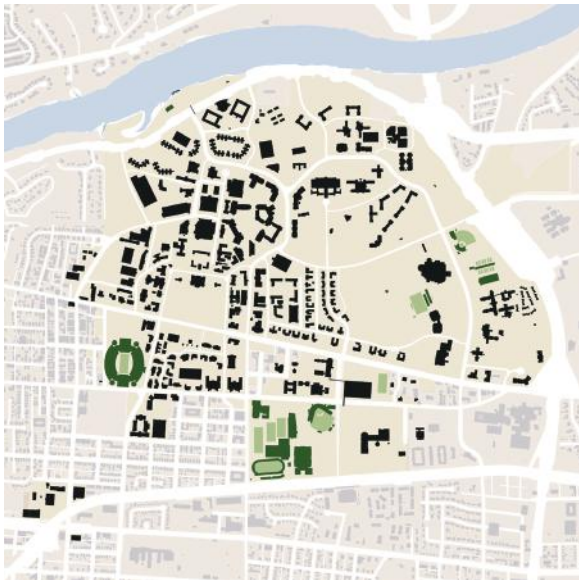


Figure 7: Athletics Facilities

## Athletics

Athletic facilities are devoted mostly to the University's athletic programs. The majority of athletic facilities are located together south of University Boulevard between 2nd Avenue and Hackberry Lane. This complex houses Coleman Coliseum, the recently renovated Sewell-Thomas Stadium, an aquatics center, football practice fields, the track stadium, indoor training facilities and the offices of the athletics program.

Other athletic facilities include Bryant-Denny Stadium and the soccer, softball and tennis facilities adjacent to the Student Recreation Center and intramural fields. The renowned football stadium enjoys a relatively central location within the campus. It is located less than 1,000 feet from the University Quad. The University rowing program uses a boathouse at Manderson Landing on the Black Warrior River.

Student athletes are also supported by academic and student services offered at Bryant Hall and an adjoining dining facility and residence hall.

The Athletics Department maintains an athletics master plan, which is coordinated from time to time with overall campus planning efforts, to guide its capital investments. An addition to the Student Recreation Center is being built to house a state-of-the-art adapted athletics facility. The department will also be building an addition to the Mal Moore Athletic Facility for a new dining hall and renovating the aquatics center.





## Recreation

In addition to the passive open spaces located throughout campus, students, faculty and staff have access to world-class recreational facilities. These include a university-wide Student Recreation Center on 5th Avenue East (Peter Bryce Boulevard), an aquatics center and recreation centers located amidst the housing areas north and south of the core. The Witt Student Activity Center on the north side of campus adjacent to Presidential Village provides a variety of indoor recreational activities. Barnwell Hall will be repurposed to provide recreation activities more convenient to students living in on-campus housing south of University Boulevard.



Most outdoor recreation facilities for intramural sports are clustered together on the east side of campus adjacent to the Student Recreation Center including a recreational tennis complex and fields for soccer, hockey, rugby, lacrosse and flag football. Additional fields are planned between Peter Bryce and McFarland Boulevards to accommodate recreational softball.

Students also have access to the Tuscaloosa Riverwalk and the University's Park at Manderson Landing along the Black Warrior River.

An outdoor recreation and nature conservation area is planned on a 26-acre site immediately east of McFarland Boulevard. The proposed Capstone Preserve will feature ropes courses, zip lines and hiking areas in a natural, wooded setting. The site will be accessible on foot or by bike from the main campus through a path running underneath McFarland Boulevard.

The University recognizes the importance of providing opportunities for exercise and recreation to support the health and well-being of faculty and staff. Campus recreational facilities are planned to support the quality of life of its employees as well as its students.



Figure 8: Recreation Facilities







Figure 9: Support Functions



## Support

Support functions include administrative offices, student services, on-campus dining and retail, medical facilities, hotel and conference facilities, storage, transportation, maintenance and other ancillary functions. Generally, these activities are directed toward the campus perimeter. However, support functions that provide a routine service to students, faculty and staff are located in academic and residential portions of the campus to assure convenience.

To accommodate increasing needs for academic space—and housing—in the most central portions of the campus, support services that do not require such proximity will strategically be located outside of the core. Visitor, museum and alumni functions will be moved to the former Bryce campus while others may be moved to the Partlow campus east of McFarland Boulevard. To support more activity in

this area, a dining facility will be built next to North Lawn Hall.

Relocation of the Grounds Department, which is now located at Marr's Spring Road and Campus Drive West will free up land that can be developed for housing adjacent to the academic core.

The University will increase on-campus retail, dining and entertainment options through new facilities on the western and southern edges of the campus. Building on the success of the Starbucks and the Corner Supe Store, additional retail activity will be developed along Bryant Drive. North of the Publix supermarket on Campus Drive, a dining and entertainment facility is planned to offer students a safe, comfortable place to unwind in the off-hours. Additional retail amenities are also proposed north of the Ferguson Student Union, albeit, over a longer time period.



## Parking

Surface and structured parking is located throughout the campus to serve the needs of resident and commuting students, faculty, staff and visitors. Parking facilities are placed mostly along the campus perimeter easily accessible from external roads. In this way, commuter vehicles are intercepted at the edges of the campus and vehicular traffic is reduced in the heart of the campus. Perimeter parking facilities are served by the campus transit system, increasing convenience for commuters.

Modest, on-site parking areas serve academic and support buildings to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities and a limited number of staff and faculty. On-campus housing communities will have parking on-site or immediately nearby.



Proposed new parking facilities include:

- Parking structure to support the redevelopment of Tutwiler Hall for housing and retail
- Parking structure on Bryant Drive that will replace an existing surface lot and intercept commuters arriving from the planned 2nd Avenue overpass
- Parking structure associated with housing proposed at Marr's Spring Road and Campus Drive West
- Parking structure replacing surface parking north of the Ferguson Center that will allow for additional retail development on the site
- Surface lot to serve the proposed Performing Arts Academic Center



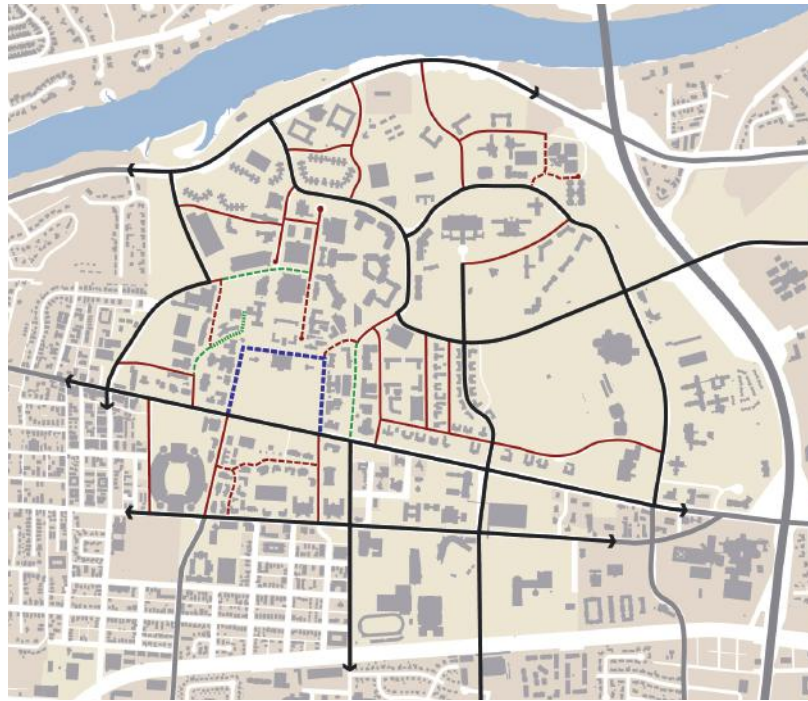
Figure 10: Parking





Figure 11: Transportation Infrastructure

- Major Street
- Secondary Street
- - - Limited Access Street
- - - Transit Street
- - - Easy Street
- Shared Street



## VEHICULAR CIRCULATION

A comprehensive network of streets, walkways, bicycle facilities and a University transit system provides the means for campus-goers to move about the campus safely and conveniently. The University has invested significantly in its transportation infrastructure to provide a safe, accessible campus, including most recently the addition of bike lanes and a median to University Boulevard and the construction of Peter Bryce Boulevard and North Campus Way. The circulation system and the arrangement of functions, buildings and parking facilities are designed to optimize the safety and convenience of walking, bicycling and using

campus transit. To achieve this requires careful consideration of how private automobiles access and move around the campus.

In 2007, the University began implementing campus planning principles to reduce conflicts between vehicles and other modes of travel, including directing a considerable portion of vehicular traffic to the periphery. Major parking facilities have been located at the edges of the campus and away from the academic core. The streets around the Quad were converted to transit-only. Construction of new streets and modifications of existing ones have also contributed to the strategy. However, as pedestrian flows

have increased, conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles became more pronounced in some locations. While this reveals that the University has been successful in promoting walking, more needs to be done to manage traffic and maintain a safe, walkable campus.

In 2015, the University prepared a study of campus streets to identify site-specific strategies to address these issues. The study recommended several design changes to campus streets that varied by location. In general, the study recommended reducing travel lane widths, adding bicycle lanes, incorporating street trees and other methods to calm traffic behavior; improving intersections and crosswalks; and creating “shared spaces” in strategic locations where travel modes are allowed to mix together in a low-speed environment.



Through an agreement with the City of Tuscaloosa and the Alabama Department of Transportation, the University was able to add a landscaped median and dedicated bike lanes to University Boulevard, a primary route to and through the campus. Photo courtesy - Tuscaloosa News

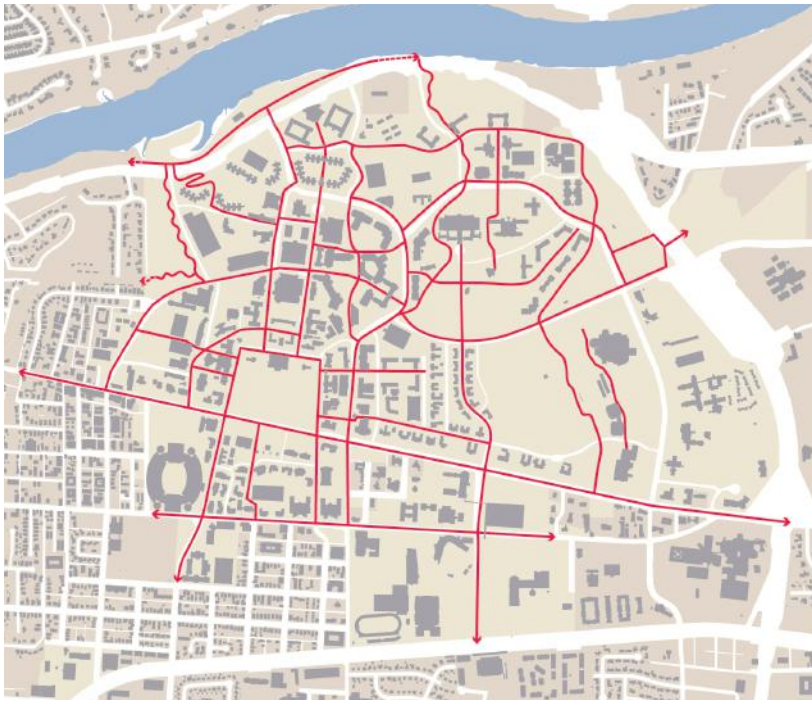


Figure 12: Pedestrian System

for campus-goers to reach their destinations safely and comfortably.

Shown in Figure 12 are the primary pedestrian routes (not all sidewalks and paths are illustrated) that interconnect the various functions of the campus. These routes are served by sidewalks along streets, pathways between buildings and through open spaces, and trails for leisure and exercise that connect to off-campus destinations.

## PEDESTRIAN SYSTEM

A safe, convenient walkway system is the cornerstone of the University's multimodal network. Most all trips, regardless of whether one travels to campus by car or takes transit, begin and end with walking. Over the last ten years the University has transformed the culture and functioning of the campus from one that had become increasingly dominated by personal vehicles to one that is now pedestrian-oriented. Those efforts will continue by focusing academic activity in and around the historic core, reducing traffic on campus streets, operating a successful transit system and providing a fine-grained walkway system of direct routes

Implementation of an “easy streets” concept will afford greater safety for pedestrians crossing streets in the heart of the campus. Functional and design changes to major street intersections will allow increasing volumes of pedestrians to cross safely while accommodating the needs of vehicular traffic. Changes to McCorvey Drive will extend the Crimson Promenade to Hackberry Lane. As activity increases away from the core, a robust walkway system will be developed that connects fully with the campus-wide pedestrian network.

Pedestrian access to off-campus locations will be improved through streetscape and intersection changes, walkway extensions and other



improvements. Bicycle and pedestrian space will be included in the proposed 2nd Avenue overpass. New walkways will connect north-campus housing areas to Jack Warner Parkway—and the river beyond—where an elevated crossing at Hackberry Lane will be added. A trail using an existing McFarland Boulevard overpass will provide access to the Capstone Preserve; and additional off-street trails are envisioned using former rail corridors that crossed through the campus.



Scramble intersections, in which traffic signals stop traffic in each direction while pedestrians cross freely, are proposed at key intersections that experience high pedestrian congestion. Photo courtesy - urbanplacesandspaces.blogspot.com



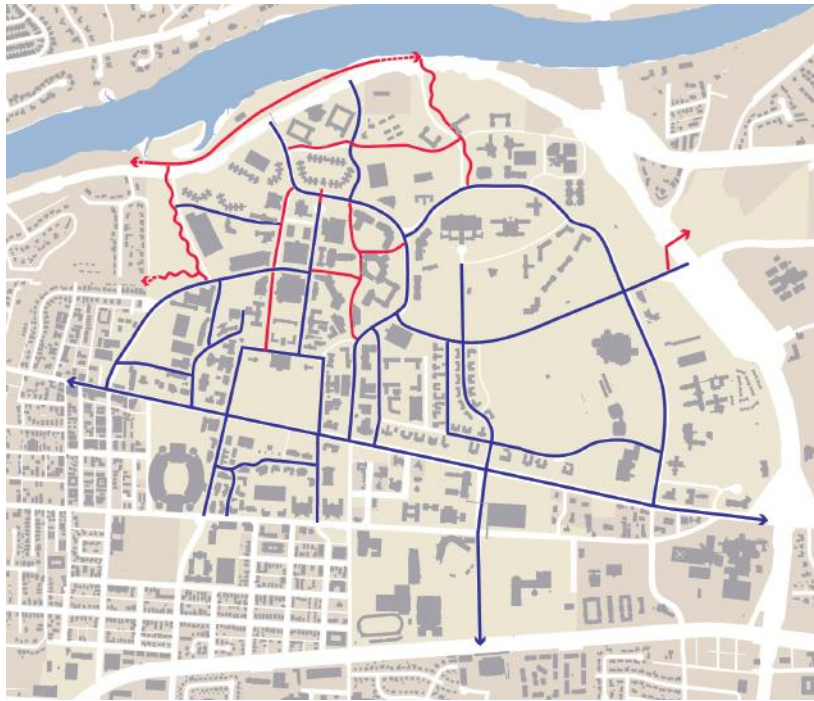


Figure 13: Bicycle System

- On-street bike facilities
- Off-street bike facilities

Like walking, bicycling is a healthy form of exercise and poses no environmental concerns. The University is committed to building a comprehensive bicycle network meeting the comfort levels of seasoned and less-experienced riders. Largely, this means continuing to include separated bike lanes on campus streets and building and extending off-street paths

wide enough to be shared safely with pedestrians. “Shared streets,” where pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists share the same space, will be designated only on a few low speed, low-traffic streets. Figure



13 identifies the primary bike routes. To promote bicycling on campus, University Recreation administers a bike rental program, BamaBikes, that offers a low monthly cost for bicycle use. Bicycles are maintained at the University Bike Shop, reducing bike repair headaches for its patrons. Bicycle storage is provided for all housing communities, at academic buildings and other on-campus destinations.

Extension of the Crimson Promenade from Campus Drive north of Hackberry Lane and addition of multimodal paths within the Bryce campus will enhance campus accommodations for bicycling. Several proposed improvements will make it safer and easier to get to campus from adjacent neighborhoods, including the 2nd Avenue overpass and trails leading to Jack Warner Parkway and the Capstone Preserve and extension of the Riverwalk by the City of Tuscaloosa.

## BICYCLE SYSTEM

Bicycles are an extremely efficient way to cross campus distances quickly. An average bicyclist will reach average speeds of just over ten miles per hour, more than three times faster than walking. Provided a supportive cycling environment, a student could bicycle virtually anywhere on-campus within ten minutes—the typical interval between classes.

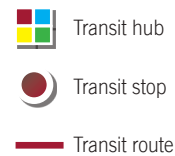
## CAMPUS TRANSIT

Since 2007, the Crimson Ride, the University's campus bus transit service, has performed an important role in providing campus-goers with a convenient alternative to driving. The bus service operates from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. connecting parking, academic, housing, recreation and support functions throughout the campus. The bus system is operated out of a transportation hub at Hackberry Lane and Campus Drive East.

The bus system includes nine routes that operate throughout the day and two express routes during peak periods. The express routes, with a minimum number of stops, provide quick access from commuter lots to the academic core. The University provides additional transportation services off-campus complementing those offered by the City of Tuscaloosa. The transit system provides a contract shuttle service to and from several off-campus housing communities, which helps to reduce traffic and parking demand on-campus. A Sunday shopping shuttle provides access for on-campus



Figure 14: Transit System



residents to retail locations on McFarland Boulevard (city transit routes are not available on weekends), a valuable service for campus residents without private vehicles.

Headways, the time between the departure of one bus and the arrival of the next at the same location, range from 5 minutes in the academic core to 20 minutes for perimeter routes. To keep headways low, the University has installed both full-time and part-time transit-only lanes on key streets throughout campus.

To optimize the effectiveness of the transit system, changes to routes, schedules and stops must be made from time to time. As the campus evolves, so must the transit system. To support more activity as the campus develops, additional stops and modifications to existing routes will be needed. Changes to transit operations will need to take into consideration traffic patterns that will come about as a result of the construction of the 2nd Avenue overpass and the realignment of Bryce Lawn Drive.

New housing at the perimeter of the campus, such as the redevelopment of Tutwiler Hall, may also necessitate minor adjustments. The Tutwiler project, in particular, will see a much denser population a block further south from the existing residence hall, as well as two new parking facilities and retail activities along Bryant Drive.

To reduce its contribution to congestion, several bus routes will be modified so that buses no longer travel on University Boulevard in the core of the campus during peak hours.





## CAMPUS IMAGE

### Image Corridors and Gateways

The major vehicular routes that lead visitors to and into campus are considered “image corridors.” Campus gateways occur along these streets. The University invests in these corridors to project a high quality image to students, faculty, staff and visitors.

In 2016, the first phase of a major streetscape project added bike lanes and a landscaped median to University Boulevard in the heart of the campus.

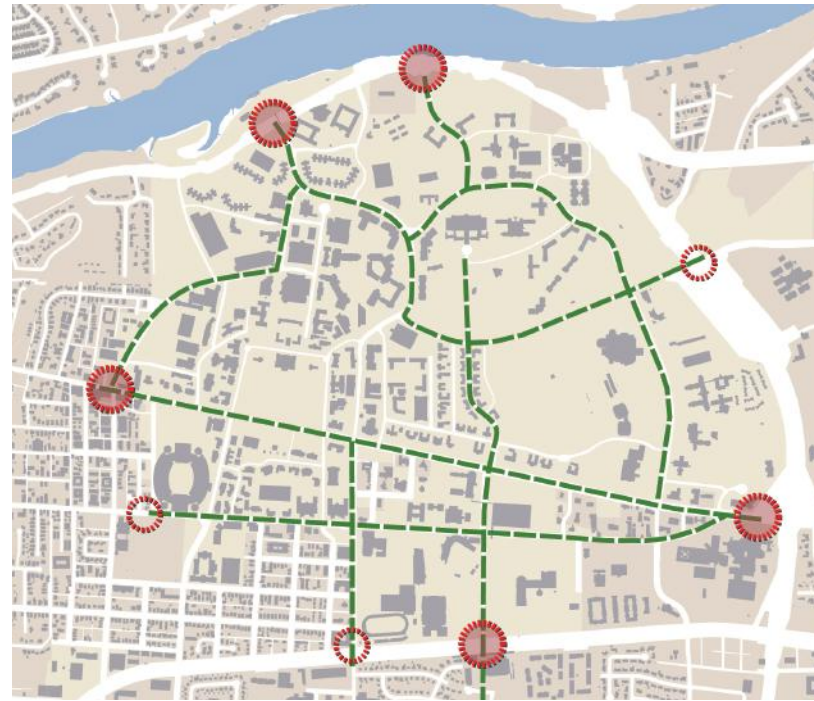





Figure 15: Image Corridors and Gateways

-  Primary gateway
-  Secondary gateway
-  Image corridor

Gateways are points, often major intersections, along image corridors where visitors get their first glimpse of the campus. Gateway features can include special buildings, landscaping, signage and streetscape elements to emphasize this sense of transition and provide visual information to aid in navigating the campus. Natural features

The second phase will extend a similar treatment east to McFarland Boulevard and into Alberta.

Hackberry Lane is one of only a few streets that provide access to the campus from south of the railroad albeit through an at-grade crossing. Nonetheless, it is a vital route that should be upgraded both for safety reasons and to project a positive image of the University. On one side of the street is the campus and on the other the community (from the railroad crossing to Bryant Dr.), which requires the support of the City of Tuscaloosa and landowners to improve the function and character of the street.

can form the backdrop of a gateway as can special man-made features like bridges.

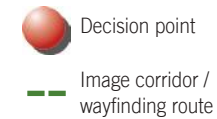
The construction of North Campus Way created a new entrance to the campus from Jack Warner Parkway. Construction of the 2nd Avenue overpass will create a new campus entrance from south of the railroad. The overpass itself will form part of the gateway experience and must be designed accordingly. Realignment of Bryce Lawn Drive will connect it with 2nd Avenue, extending the image corridor up the historic, tree-lined drive to a visitor center that will be located in the former hospital building.

## WAYFINDING

Wayfinding is a system of visual cues within the environment that helps people “find their way” in unfamiliar surroundings. Like other campus-wide systems, as the campus grows and evolves, the University’s wayfinding system must be adjusted. While directional signs are the most noticeable component of the wayfinding system, other planning and design elements contribute to the legibility of the campus—the scale of buildings; their position in relationship to streets, paths and open spaces; clearly-designed entrances; parking access points; and landscaping, lighting and the palette of materials used in open spaces and along streets and major paths.



Figure 16: Wayfinding Decision Points



## Signage

The campus wayfinding signage system directs visitors to parking and transit locations using a limited number of strategically placed signs. Vehicular directional signs are placed in advance of decision points (see Figure 16) to alert motorists of turns they may need to take to find their intended destination.

The wayfinding signage system includes attractive monument signs at campus gateways, primary and secondary vehicular directional signs, street name signs, pole-mounted banners in specific locations, information kiosks, parking facility signage and building identification signs.

With the introduction of new uses—several of which will draw external traffic to the University—additional destinations must be incorporated into the sign system. Major destinations will be added to wayfinding signs as they are completed, including a visitor center, museums, the Performing Arts Academic Center and a roadhouse theater.

Changes to the system will also account for the proposed limiting of vehicular access to portions of Hackberry Lane and Campus Drive West during weekdays.







# 4

University Initiatives





Building section illustrating the programming of floors within the library to incorporate more study and collaborative spaces from the Gorgas Library Master Plan by Shepley-Bulfinch.



The following initiatives highlight the ways in which the University will invest in its physical facilities to achieve growth targets set out in the University Strategic Plan while improving the safety and quality of life of students, faculty and staff and the overall safety of the campus community.

## ACADEMIC SPACE

To provide more space for teaching and research, the University will reinvest in its historic core while also extending academic activity northeastward.

### Libraries

University libraries have long been a hub for learning and, yet, technology has greatly changed the way they function and how students use them for research, study and group work activity. In 2016-17 the University prepared a plan to guide the evolution of the Gorgas Library and lead the

transformation of campus spaces used for similar purposes.

Much of the general collection at Gorgas will be relocated to the University Archival Facility allowing more space for patron use and for consolidating Special Collections (including the Hoole Collection at Mary Harmon Bryant) in the third level. Teaching and research spaces will be reconfigured so they can double as study spaces when classes are not in session. Patron space will be expanded and reconfigured to provide space types and sizes to enable uses ranging from quiet, individual study to lively group collaboration. An interdisciplinary research hub “with space for data visualization and creation, collaboration nodes flanked by project rooms, and informal spaces for collegiate exchange” is envisioned on the top level. A rooftop terrace, with an unparalleled view of the Quad, will meet growing interest for outdoor study space.

The interior spaces of the 60s addition will take on a more informal contemporary flavor, exuding a more dynamic, inclusive and informal environment for students and faculty to meet and interact. Due to the shallow floor to floor heights, the creation of double height openings are proposed in the 24/7 zone to give a more generous sense of space, more open visibility between floors, and a greater sense of community and conviviality.

-Gorgas Library Master Plan, 2017



Figure 17: Academic initiatives

### Infill, Redevelopment and Repurposing

While the campus's academic core is largely built out, there are strategic opportunities to create more space for teaching, learning and research in the heart of the campus.

**Presidential Circle.** A new classroom building is proposed on Presidential Circle between the Stadium Drive Parking Deck and Friedman Hall.

**Biology Building.** Redevelopment will allow the construction of a new academic building with a more efficient and adaptable floorplan than the existing Biology Building it would replace.

**Hackberry Lane.** Of available sites in the northeast of campus, this location, across Hackberry from the Shelby Engineering Complex, is closest to the heart of the campus. Construction of an academic building here would reinforce the University's investment in this area, North Lawn Hall. Hackberry will become a seam between the existing academic core and the former Bryce campus rather than a dividing line.

**McMillan Building.** Redevelopment of the McMillan Building site will also enable a higher concentration of academic space in the academic core. The large site, adjacent to the Shelby Engineering Complex, is occupied by a comparatively small building and has the potential to house two future academic buildings similar in size to the recently built North Lawn Hall, which faces the site across Hackberry Lane.

**Repurposing.** Many buildings from the former Bryce campus have been retained for repurposing. The original Bryce Hospital main building is the



As enrollment grows and as the University pursues a deeper focus in graduate research, new teaching and research space will be needed. Just as the academic core grew previously to incorporate the Shelby Engineering Complex, academic functions will extend northeastward and strengthen the relationship between both sides of Hackberry Lane.



most notable of these. In addition to locating the welcome center, museum and other functions in the historic building, a northerly extension will create a new Performing Arts Academic Center. The center will include faculty offices, rehearsal spaces and three performing arts theaters.

University Hall is another strategic opportunity for adaptive re-use of historic buildings for academic purposes. University Hall and other unoccupied buildings are valuable not only as future homes for classrooms, labs and offices, but also as temporary flex space as other buildings on campus are renovated.

Renovations to HM Comer Hall will create a strong western gateway into the Engineering Complex and tie the building together with the adjacent engineering buildings. Rendering by Ellis Architects



Visualization of the proposed Performing Arts Academic Center that will be constructed on the north side of the Bryce Hospital main building. Rendering by H3 Hardy Collaboration Architecture.

The Searcy Building, near the intersection of Peter Bryce Blvd. and Hackberry Lane is another close-in opportunity for occupying and re-purposing available space. Renovated in 2014 the building is being evaluated for research use.

In the heart of the campus, the relocation of the Hoole Special Collections Library from Mary Harmon Bryant Hall to Gorgas Library, will free up space within this centrally-located building to better serve growing academic needs.

HM Comer Hall will soon be renovated to house the College of Engineering's administration, the Capstone Engineering Society, Information Technology and Engineering Services and offices for seven academic departments.

## OPEN SPACE

The campus open space system will be improved through reinvestment in existing spaces, extension of linear spaces and creation of new open spaces and amenities.



### The Quad

The campus's most prominent space, the Quad, is a critical asset to the University. It is a valued space for outdoor study, recreation and gatherings and a central part of the campus image—anchored by Denny Chimes, it is perhaps the most iconic location for those who have visited the campus. It also presents an opportunity to resolve stormwater drainage issues that persisted in the surrounding area. A coordinated plan to renovate the Quad will support stormwater management, improve the pathway network and create a safety barrier along University Boulevard.

## Crimson Promenade

The Crimson Promenade was originally created by converting portions of McCorvey Drive to a linear open space and pedestrian corridor. Currently, it extends from Campus Drive West to Stadium Drive, just over 700 feet. Once parking is removed from Capstone Drive, the remaining southern portion of McCorvey Drive may be converted so that the Promenade reaches the Quad.

North of Campus Drive, McCorvey will be reduced to a two-lane street allowing the west side of the roadway to be transformed into a bicycle and pedestrian space. The narrowed McCorvey Drive will terminate in a cul-de-sac at the east entrance into the Ferguson Parking Deck. Closure of the Campus Drive intersection will greatly increase safety of the at-grade crossing.

Through these two phases, the Crimson Promenade will provide a safe, convenient and attractive pathway between the Quad and the housing communities north of Hackberry Lane, a distance of over 2,100 feet.

## Capstone Promenade and Honors Plaza

Over the last ten years the function of Capstone Drive has dramatically changed, reflecting the University's commitment to reduce traffic in the heart of campus. While its function has changed, its physical design has not. Limited to transit access only, Capstone Drive will be transformed into the Capstone Promenade and Honors Plaza.

7th Avenue, south of Woods Quad, will be recast as a pedestrian space. On the west side, the Crimson Promenade will be extended. The width of Capstone Drive will be reduced as necessary to accommodate transit vehicles and the remaining space improved as a bicycle and pedestrian corridor.

## Lakeside Amphitheater

An amphitheater adjacent to Palmer Lake and the Lakeside Dining Hall will create a unique outdoor space for the campus. Capable of hosting small performances and other special events, during the day the Lakeside Amphitheater will be a popular spot beside the lake for studying and leisure time.





## Capstone Preserve

A 26-acre natural recreation area is planned on a wooded site immediately east of McFarland Boulevard. The Capstone Preserve will include hiking trails, zip lines and ropes courses. A path will be installed adjacent to the commuter parking lot on the northeast corner of Campus Drive East and Peter Bryce Boulevard and will run under an elevated portion of McFarland Boulevard. This unique amenity will help provide a broad range of recreational activities for students, faculty and staff.



Aerial view of the proposed 26-acre Capstone Preserve site

## Recreational Softball Complex

A softball complex is proposed on the east side of the new Peter Bryce Boulevard and would offer the space needed to support an intramural softball club. The site is large enough to accommodate up to five fields. Parking to support the facility is available in the surface lot at the northeast corner of Peter Bryce Blvd. and Campus Drive East.

### Trails

While there are several opportunities identified in the plan to increase pedestrian and bicycle access to off-campus destinations, two routes in particular would connect the campus open space system with Manderson Landing and the Riverwalk. These include:

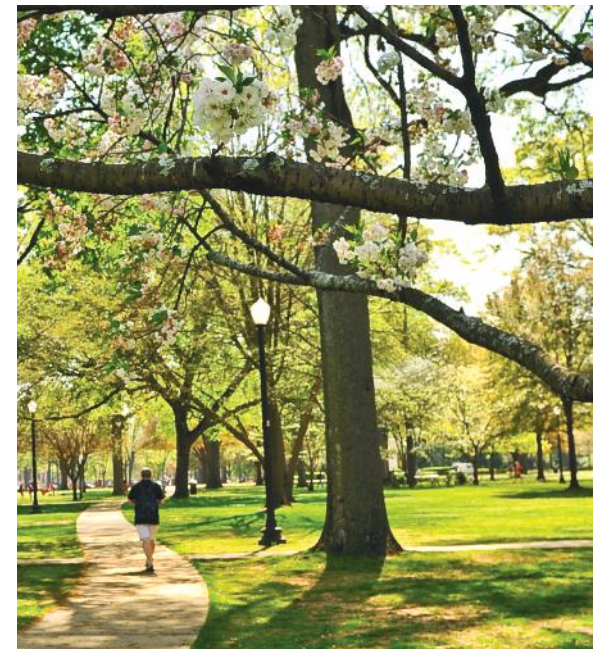
- **Palmer Lake Trail** will offer direct pedestrian access from Palmer Lake and adjacent Ridgecrest and Lakeside West housing to Jack Warner Parkway and to the Tuscaloosa Rivewalk. Because of the change in elevation, the trail will require switchbacks to maintain a comfortable grade, nonetheless, a meandering path will be most appropriate to the natural context.
- **North Campus Way Trail** will provide the easternmost connection from the campus to the river. Running along the east side of the new campus entranceway, the trail would connect to future student housing around the intersection of North Campus Way and Kirkbride Lane. The trail is also envisioned to include a loop traversing

the natural and heavily wooded area between Kirkbride Lane and Jack Warner Parkway.

These trails will function similarly to the recently completed Marrs Spring Trail, which connects housing south of Campus Drive West and the Marrs Spring Preserve to the river.

### Master Tree Plan

Development of a master tree planting plan will be helpful in guiding maintenance of the lush natural cover provided by the University's over ten thousand trees. The tree planting plan would expand on the policies outlined in the 2014 Landscape and Grounds Strategic Plan regarding tree retention, replacement and planting.



A bridge over the railroad will greatly increase access to campus from the south.



## ACCESSIBILITY

As enrollment grows and programs, faculty and staff are added, increased traffic can overwhelm the campus without planning and implementation of a multimodal approach—which the University has committed to through its policies and actions over the last ten years. Several projects will be undertaken in the coming years to assure the campus balances access and safety among pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders and private vehicles.

### 2nd Avenue Bridge and Bryce Lawn Drive

A proposed railroad overpass along 2nd Avenue will provide a much needed grade-separated crossing for those coming to campus from the south. In Fall 2016 the Board of Trustees approved a plan to build a bridge along 2nd Avenue between Bryant Drive and 15th Street. The proposed bridge will include bicycle and pedestrian facilities, greatly increasing safety for all traveling to the campus from the south, regardless of mode. The extended 2nd Avenue will also connect to Bryce Lawn Drive with the realignment of that street as proposed in the 2012 Campus Master Plan. This will reinforce Bryce Lawn Drive as a primary access street, which will be particularly important given plans to move functions to the Bryce campus that draw visitor traffic.

The University will install manned gates and restrict access to portions of Hackberry Lane, Stadium Drive and Campus Drive (indicated with dashed green lines). During daytime class hours Monday through Friday, only drivers with permits for those lots accessed from designated “easy streets” will be permitted.



### Easy Streets

Managing vehicular access to some campus streets is one way the University can increase the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians, direct cars to the perimeter and discourage unnecessary intra-campus car trips. Currently high volumes of pedestrians cross Stadium Drive and Hackberry Lane during class changes. The steady stream of students crossing the streets backs up vehicular traffic. To address this, the University will restrict vehicular access to portions of these streets during weekdays—creating what is referred to as “easy streets.” Manned gates will be installed to limit access to faculty, staff and others with permits



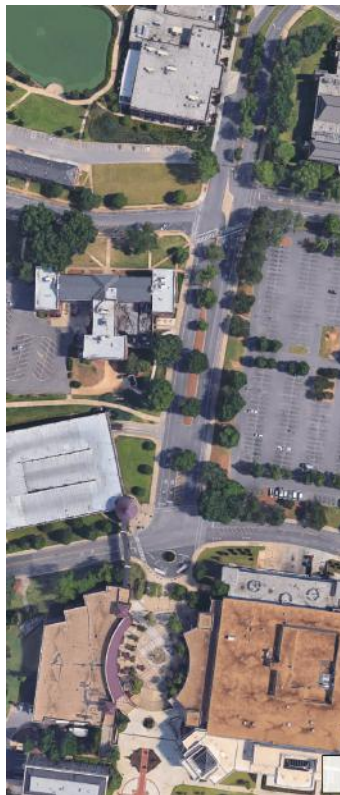
to park in adjoining lots. This will divert through traffic away thus reducing conflicts with major pedestrian routes. In the evenings and weekends when pedestrian flows are greatly reduced, these locations would be re-opened to normal vehicular traffic.

### McCorvey Drive and The Crimson Promenade

To increase safety and reduce non-essential traffic on Campus Drive near the Ferguson Center, the University will close the intersection of McCorvey Drive at Campus Drive. A cul-de-sac will be installed at the McCorvey entrance to the

Ferguson Center Parking Deck. The west half of McCorvey Drive will be transformed into pedestrian space, extending the Crimson Promenade north to Hackberry Lane. The east half of the median-divided street will be converted to two way traffic.

Extending the Crimson Promenade will provide a comfortable, safer route between the housing communities north of Hackberry Lane and the heart of campus. Closing the intersection at Campus Drive will enhance bicycle and pedestrian safety by reducing vehicular turning movements as well as discouraging through traffic on McCorvey.



### Bryant Drive

Because of the large concentration of students living south of Bryant Drive, both at Tutwiler Hall and in off-campus housing, at certain times of the day, there are large volumes of pedestrian traffic crossing the street. Bryant Drive is also a major vehicular route, which creates a conflict between cars moving east-west and pedestrians north-south. For the safety of students, mid-block, unsignalized crossings must be prevented. Improving crossing conditions

The proposed closure of McCorvey Drive at Campus Drive will create a safer pedestrian environment adjacent to the Ferguson Center and reduce traffic in the area. The west side of the median-divided roadway will become an extension of the Crimson Promenade, which now ends at Campus Drive.

at signalized intersections will help reduce crossing at inappropriate locations. Two other design interventions can also be used to prevent unsafe crossing. Physical barriers, such as shrubs, fences or walls, channel pedestrians to safe crossing locations. The University has used chain and bollard barriers between the sidewalk and curblane, however, the low height of the chain has proven not to be a sufficient obstacle. More substantial barriers may be necessary, though there are limitations within public rights-of-way. The other method is to block or reduce the convenience of the shortcut that is being taken. For example, pedestrians crossing at mid-block typically do so because there is an available (if not designated) route through the block. Strategically placed walls, fences or other obstacles between buildings or in other locations away from the street may make the overall shortcut less effective and channel foot traffic to appropriate paths and crossings.

### Intersection Improvements

To handle large volumes of pedestrians crossing major intersections, the University will conduct a study to determine the feasibility of “scramble intersections.” In this approach, the traffic signal stops vehicles in all directions giving pedestrians a phase to move through the intersection in all directions, including diagonally. This approach is recommended for consideration along University Boulevard at Colonial Drive and 6th Avenue and along Bryant Drive at Colonial Drive. Modification of traffic signal phasing along these external roads will require collaboration with the City of Tuscaloosa.

## Parking

To accommodate continued growth additional parking facilities will be needed. While a few surface parking lots will be added or enlarged, parking structures allow higher utilization of space on campus. Strategically locating parking also helps manage traffic by intercepting vehicles around the perimeter of campus. Planned parking facilities include:

The **North Ferguson Parking Deck** will replace the existing surface lot that serves the Ferguson Center and allow room for additional retail and support functions. Because of the proximity and strong visual relationships among buildings in the area—SERC, H.M. Comer Hall, Lakeside Dining, Paty Hall and others—the south end of the structure should be thoughtfully designed to complement its surroundings. This may be done through a “liner facade” that mimics the appearance of traditional buildings through the size, proportion and detailing of openings, as was done with the Campus Drive Parking Deck. They can also be masked with a

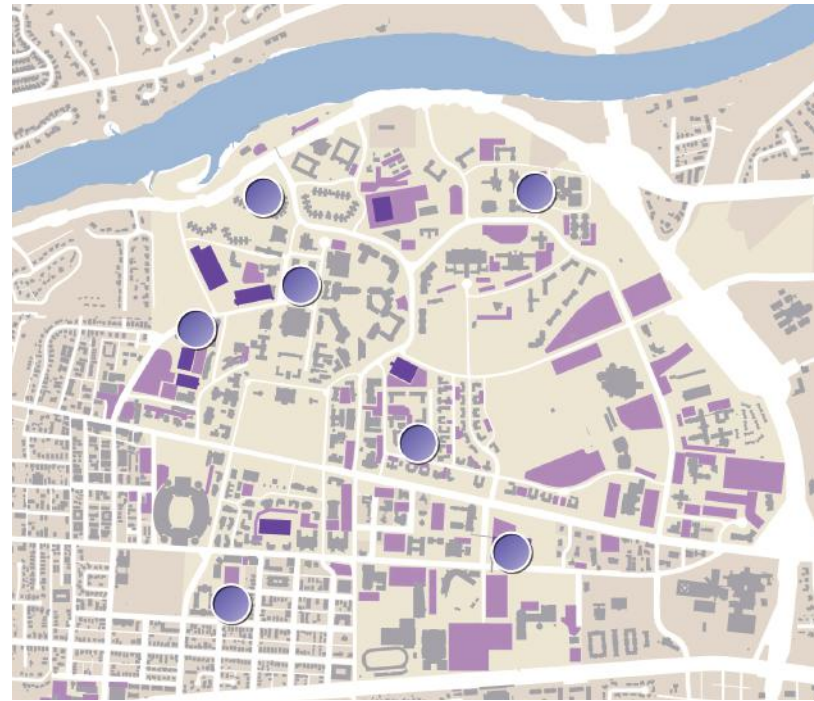


Figure 18: Future Parking Structures

- Future parking structure
- Existing parking structure
- Existing surface parking

“liner building,” a building attached to a parking structure containing programmable space and serving as a facade along a street or public space. Liner buildings may be one or more stories and as narrow as 8-10 feet deep depending on the intended use of the space.

**Tutwiler Hall Parking Deck** will be an important component in the redevelopment of the Tutwiler Hall block. The parking structure will replace the expansive surface lot allowing space for the new residential building to be completed before bringing the existing building off-line and demolished. Parking will also accommodate other University functions in the surrounding area.

**Capstone Parking Deck** is planned at the corner of Bryant Drive and 2nd Avenue and will replace most of an existing surface lot at the location. Additional parking capacity offered by the structure will serve several University needs, including several facilities nearby that draw traffic from off-campus: Moody Music, Paul Bryant Museum, Sewell-Thomas Stadium and Coleman Coliseum.

Parking structures are also proposed to serve housing areas to the north and west sides of the campus and in Smith Woods and academic and support functions north of Peter Bryce Boulevard.



## SAFETY

The safety of its students, faculty, staff and visitors is a paramount concern to the University and several endeavors will be pursued to increase safety and security in many aspects of campus life.

### Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

In addition to the creation of “easy streets” on portions of Campus Drive West, Stadium Drive and Hackberry Lane, the following improvements will be made to improve safety for those walking and bicycling on campus and to reduce conflicts with vehicles.

**Bryant Drive and 10th Avenue.** This intersection should be modified to increase the safety of pedestrian crossing along the west and south quadrants of the intersection. Currently, the intersection includes a channelized right turn lane and a wide curb radius, which together enable turning vehicles to move through the intersection at higher than appropriate speeds given the context. Pedestrians also must cross a greater distance despite the presence of the under-sized island. The island serves as a refuge for pedestrians when vehicles approaching in the channelized turn do not yield properly. Improvements include extending the curb line of the southwest corner using a smaller

curb radius, expanding the pedestrian landing area on the southwest corner, removal of the island, relocation of the crosswalk signal (now located in island) and realignment of crosswalk striping and stop bar. Depending on the design changes, the ramp on the northwest corner may also require modification.

**Hackberry Lane.** As an important entryway from 15th Street, Hackberry is in need of improvement to address safety concerns and to maintain a stronger image for the campus. The at-grade rail crossing presents a hazard for pedestrians and bicyclists, which should be addressed through physical improvements and educational efforts. Installation of an automatic gate along the sidewalk will deter pedestrian crossing when a train is approaching. A fence or similar barrier between the sidewalk and curbline on the approach to the crossing—from the north and south—would also be needed. Addition of a sidewalk and similar barriers on the west side of the street (south of the railroad) may also be needed to prevent pedestrians from walking out into the street to cross the railroad.

Similar improvements that have been made adjacent to the track facility, including sidewalk, lighting and fencing, will be extended north to the sidewalk that runs along the aquatics facility.

Pedestrian crossing improvements at intersection of Bryant Drive and 10th Avenue



**2nd Avenue Overpass.** The construction of this grade-separated railroad overpass will include facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians, providing a protected route for those travelling between the campus and the residential and business areas along the 15th Street corridor.

**McCorvey Drive.** The intersection of McCorvey Drive at Campus Drive West will be closed as part of the northern extension of the Crimson Promenade. This project will reduce the number of vehicles moving through this area, which experiences heavy foot and bicycle traffic at various times of the day.

### Security Barriers

As a proactive measure the University will make physical improvements to the Quad and stadium to protect crowds during sporting and other events from potential “ramming attacks.” Improvements will include planters, trees and similar barriers capable of stopping a car or truck.



The University was certified by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) in 2016. Achieving EMAP accreditation signifies the high importance the University places on campus safety.

### Storm Safety

Due to severe weather patterns that have impacted the Tuscaloosa area historically—most dramatically in April 2011—the University provides several shelter and refuge areas for students, faculty, staff and visitors during storm events. Tornado storm shelters meeting FEMA standards include:

- a storm shelter located in the Robert E. Witt Student Activity Center serving the north side of campus
- a storm shelter located behind the Child Development Center serving the east side of campus
- a storm shelter located in North Lawn Hall serving the center of campus
- a storm shelter included in a new freshmen dorm being built on the northwest side of campus

The Magnolia Deck serves as a Best Available Refuge Area (BARA) for the south side of campus. The Office of Emergency Preparedness maintains a list locations within each building or locations in adjacent buildings for refuge during severe weather. Additional facilities will be added to campus in the coming years in accordance with a Storm Shelter Master Plan.

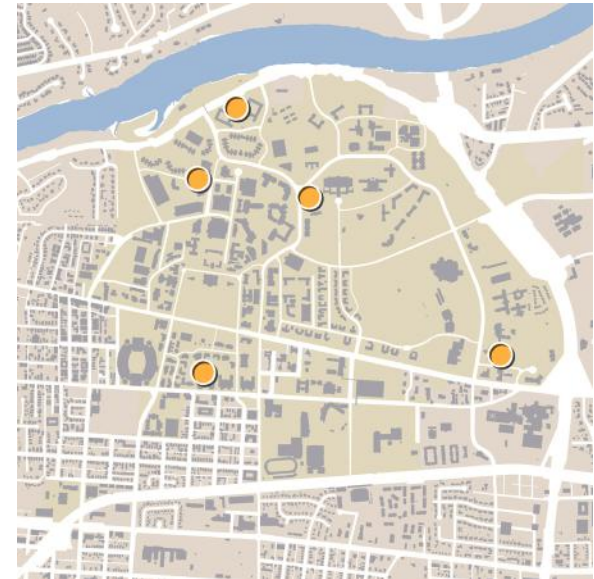


Figure 19: Dedicated storm shelter and BARA locations



FEMA compliant tornado shelter adjacent to the Child Development Center. Photo: Marie Walker, The Crimson White





## INTERACTIVE SPACE

In accordance with the University's Strategic Plan a special focus for the evolving design of the campus is the creation of interactive spaces. The intent is to provide spaces that foster dialogue and interaction amongst faculty, staff, students and visitors. Intentional and impromptu conversations with people of different backgrounds contribute to a fuller understanding of ourselves and the world in which we live. Exposure to different knowledge bases and perspectives can also lead to learning and creativity, collaboration and innovation. The challenge is to create spaces that encourage natural, rather than forced, interaction.

As buildings and open spaces are renovated and new ones added, a variety of interactive spaces will be distributed throughout the academic core and residential communities of the campus.

### Gorgas Library

The beating heart of the academic campus, Gorgas Library, will be modernized to reflect changes in the way students and researchers access, develop and communicate information—increasingly through computers and hand-held devices. Digital media provides a flexible platform well-suited to collaboration. New spaces created within the library, each supported by cutting edge technology, will set the stage for intellectual exchange.

## Dining, Retail and Entertainment

Nothing brings people together like food. The campus's dining facilities are vital common areas where students often gather in small groups for meals. Dining spaces will be constructed on the west side of campus overlooking Marrs Spring and on Bryce Lawn by North Lawn Hall. The Bryce Lawn location will serve a mix of students, faculty, staff and visitors from the diverse facilities being developed on the east side of campus.

**Mobile Vending.** In addition to the campus's brick and mortar dining spaces, small mobile vendors offering light, on-the-go snacks and meals, coffee and other drinks will set up along major pedestrian routes and in campus open spaces. Outdoor vending will create limitless opportunities for impromptu encounters among individuals and groups, encouraging some to linger on nearby benches, steps or in the shade of a historic tree.



#### West Campus Dining and Entertainment Facility.

Located on Campus Drive West the planned dining and entertainment facility is envisioned as a unique, flexible environment capable of hosting food trucks, concerts, parties, meetings and other special events. The facility will offer students a casual social setting many seek off-campus while assuring the safety, convenience and quality of a University operation.

**Retail.** Shopping in a convenient, walkable campus environment is another way the University can foster social interaction amongst its diverse student body. A variety of retail operations will be housed in new spaces developed along Bryant Drive and north of the Ferguson Center as well as along Campus Drive West.



**Roadhouse Theater.** Located on Peter Bryce Boulevard across from the Performing Arts Academic Center, the proposed roadhouse theater will host travelling performances and serve as a multi-purpose event center.

#### Outdoor Amenities

While the campus has several attractive open spaces that draw students for all fresco study sessions, frisbee and relaxation, two specialized outdoor venues are planned that will create new opportunities for faculty, staff and students to enjoy leisure time together.

**Capstone Preserve.** Offering trails, zip lines, ropes courses and other outdoor activities, the Preserve will be a truly unique space for the campus community to relieve stress together in the great outdoors.



Capstone Preserve will feature zip lining amongst the trees similar to the course at West Virginia University seen above. Photo: West Virginia University.

**Lakeside Amphitheater.** With the gorgeous backdrop of Palmer Lake, the Lakeside Amphitheater will be an incomparable entertainment venue bringing together students, faculty and staff for outdoor performances and special events.



Figure 20: Housing Investment Areas



## OTHER INITIATIVES

In addition to the preceding initiatives, all of which are tied directly to the five facets of the campus vision, the University will undertake in the coming years other investments to accommodate growth and improve the quality of campus life.

### Innovation and Research

At the core of a 21st century economy is thriving research, scholarship and creativity. The University will develop relationships and partnerships that consider spaces distinct from our core campus that will allow undergraduates, graduate students and faculty to collaborate with business and research partners to impact the State of Alabama and our community in a positive and lasting way. As the City of Tuscaloosa grows and more opportunities for collaboration present themselves, UA will leverage infrastructure that promotes a thriving and innovative economy.

### Housing

Student housing opportunities will be upgraded and increased through replacement, renovation and development projects as enrollment increases over time. These include replacement of Tutwiler and Somerville Halls.

The Bryce Lawn residential complex will be redeveloped in conjunction with the realignment of 2nd Avenue. The Smith Woods housing area will likewise be redeveloped to optimize housing opportunities in this central location.

Renovation or replacement of Harris Hall in the convenient and popular Colonial Drive location will continue a residential tradition that extends back decades.

Development of housing complexes at the Alice Kidd and West Campus Drive sites will provide housing close to new and renovated academic facilities in the northeast area of the campus.



Above: The replacement of Tutwiler Hall will increase the site's housing capacity by 50% and include a 1,500-space parking structure and additional housing and ground level retail along Bryant Drive.

Below: A former grounds maintenance site along Campus Drive and Marrs Spring Road is envisioned as a close-in, future housing location with structured parking beneath the buildings.





### Athletics and Recreation

To expand recreational opportunities for students, faculty and staff, existing facilities will be improved and expanded. Barnwell Hall will be repurposed as a wellness/fitness center serving the southern part of the campus. The Aquatics Center on Bryant Drive will be renovated and expanded. Intramural softball fields will be developed on the east side of Peter Bryce Boulevard near the Campus Recreation Center and other intramural and athletic fields.

A first-of-its-kind adapted athletics facility will be completed as an addition to the Campus Recreation Center. The facility will serve the UA Adapted Athletics Program, featuring a regulation game venue for wheelchair basketball, training room, strength and conditions room, meeting rooms and study spaces.





The Adapted Athletics addition to the Campus Recreation Center will open in early 2018.

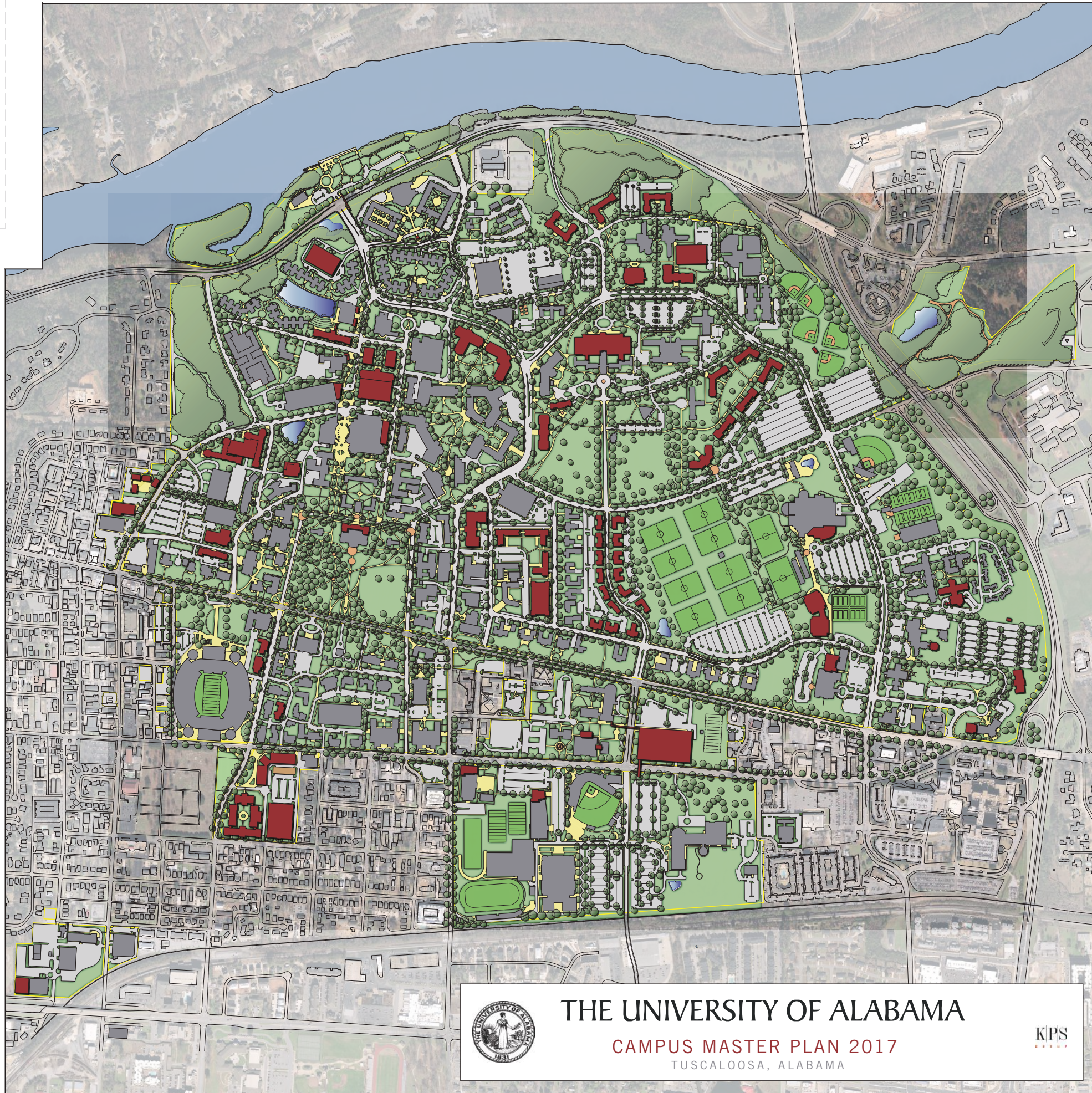


### Illustrative Plan

The Illustrative Plan, at right, represents how the campus will develop over the next several years to meet the University's growth goals in accordance with the vision, principles and strategies described in the campus master plan. Future buildings, open spaces, parking and other facilities shown in the plan are conceptual in nature and are intended as "placeholders" to illustrate how future campus developments would fit into their context to strengthen relationships with and among existing buildings, open spaces, streets and paths.

-  Future buildings
-  Existing buildings





# THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

CAMPUS MASTER PLAN 2017

TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

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TRIM







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