This brochure provides highlights of the Princeton Campus Plan. For a complete list of projects recommended in the Campus Plan, please see pages 18-19.

This brochure has been prepared by Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners LLP. Designed by Two Twelve Associates.
COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Campus Plan addresses issues that are of interest to two interdependent communities. Princeton University’s community consists of over 12,000 students, faculty, and staff. They interact with 30,000 people in the civic community of Princeton Borough and Princeton Township, the two municipalities where Princeton’s main campus is located.

Defined by its appealing and historic downtown, Princeton is one of the most compact and walkable towns in New Jersey. The availability of retail, services, and even a railroad link to the Northeast Corridor within walking distance of residential neighborhoods makes Princeton a unique community. Joined by a common history dating to the pre-revolutionary colonial period, as well as numerous contemporary economic and social interrelationships, Princeton University and the Princeton community are indelibly linked.

The University is one of the region’s top employers, and it was estimated in 2005 to have generated $1.38 billion in economic activity in Mercer County alone. It is the largest taxpayer in both the borough and the township, and it contributes significantly to local organizations as well as to open space and affordable housing. Members of the neighboring communities enjoy the beauty of the campus and take part in the intellectual, artistic, and athletic opportunities that the University offers to them.

With community relations established early as a priority for the planning process, the University and its consultants engaged in numerous public discussions and workshops over the past two years, including a public open house called “Plans in Progress” that was attended by nearly 500 people from on and off campus who provided significant input at the midpoint of the process. This input helped to shape the plan’s approach to major issues. Discussions particularly focused on the proposed relocation of the Dinky railroad station as part of the Arts and Transit Neighborhood; pedestrian safety on area roads; the potential impact of campus growth along the northern, eastern, and western campus edges; the need for better overall traffic management and improved pedestrian and support for environmental sustainability initiatives.

THE EVOLUTION OF A CAMPUS

In 1756, the Borough of Princeton persuaded the College of New Jersey to move from Newark to a 40-acre lot donated by the FitzRandolph family. The then-remote site was chosen because it was, as described by Princeton University President Aaron Burr Sr., “more sequestered from the various temptations attending a promiscuous conversative with the world, that theater of folly and dissipation.” The move was completed in 1756.

The front green of Nassau Hall was the inspiration for the first use of the word “campus” to refer to the grounds of an American college or university. In the late 1800s, President James McCosh established the overall park-like setting of the campus and commissioned new buildings in a variety of architectural styles.

Over its history, despite the sense of timelessness and permanence imparted by stone walls and majestic trees in the historic center, Princeton’s campus has always been a “work in progress.” Although it is a historic site, Princeton’s campus houses a vibrant, forward-looking institution undergoing constant improvement and growing to pursue teaching and research in ever-changing and emerging fields of knowledge.

THE FIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Following the University’s decision to grow within its main campus, President Tighean articulated five Guiding Principles to steer the planning process.

• Maintain a pedestrian-oriented campus
• Preserve the park-like character of the campus
• Maintain campus neighborhoods while promoting a sense of community
• Build in an environmentally responsible manner
• Sustain strong community relations

THE CAMPUS AS A WORK IN PROGRESS

The Princeton Campus Plan offers a sweeping view of the campus as a web of interconnected systems and makes recommendations regarding policy, architecture, infrastructure, landscape, and the environment. It is one of the most comprehensive plans ever developed by Princeton University, at a moment when taking such an integrated view has never been more important.

The University’s major planning challenge is to accommodate growth on the diminishing available land on campus in an integrated and holistic way that respects and reinforces Princeton’s defining characteristics as a university and a community. Today, even a small intervention has long-range consequences. Significant expansion in the historic core, a place of sublime beauty, is no longer possible, while developments closer to the campus edges can feel disconnected. Crossing Lake Carnegie to create a satellite campus on Princeton’s West Windsor lands has been considered in recent years, but such a significant move was determined to be premature, based on President Shirley M. Tilghman’s assessment that it would dilute the intimate character and collaborative spirit fostered by Princeton’s historically compact, walkable campus.

Princeton’s setting may be unique, but campuses across the country face similar pressures. Most significant, the rapidly changing nature of the sciences renders older buildings obsolete for their current uses and creates new fields of study at a faster pace than ever. Intense competition for students requires better facilities to support academic, residential, and recreational life. With growth comes a need to address issues related to traffic, parking, and other forms of infrastructure, as well as a heightened commitment to environmental sustainability.

Facing these complex challenges while embarking on an ambitious building program, the University retained Beyer Blinder Belle to develop a comprehensive campus master plan. To guide the work, President Tighean articulated five Guiding Principles which define the basic framework for the plan.

Princeton today is a dynamic university of great diversity and scholarly distinction, with a strong sense of history. The Campus Plan envisions a campus of 2016 that will have greater definition at its edges; more opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration; improved facilities for students, faculty, staff, and visitors; more sustainable uses of infrastructure; fresh, innovative architecture; and enhanced landscape—all well integrated to create a setting that is timeless in its beauty and capable of meeting the ever-evolving needs of a modern university.

The plan is ambitious yet subtle; while it is likely to have a direct impact on nearly one-third of the 380-acre contiguous main campus, its goal is to weave modern development and a rejuvenated historic campus into an integrated whole. Even as the University adds more people and buildings, it must continue to feel intimate, maintaining its sense of coherence and purpose and preserving its park-like character. By concentrating growth so that no part of campus is more than a ten-minute walk from the First Campus Center, the plan honors Princeton’s academic and residential culture and maintains the campus as a pedestrian-friendly environment.

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THE BEAUTY OF A CAMPUS

While the beauty of our campus inspires and refreshes us, its intimacy advances our goal of integrating academic and extra-curricular life.

Shirley M. Tilghman, President of the University

November 2006 Plans in Progress event

Introduction

Why is a campus plan for Princeton University needed, and what kind of plan should it be?
THE CAMPUS PLAN

Core Campus
No major new development is planned. Extensive restoration of the campus landscape will restore this historic space while meeting modern functional needs. Projects include reconfiguration of campus greens and pathways, and a slow-growing program across the entire area. Holder Court restoration (completed in fall 2007); McCracken Walk restoration.

Arts and Transit Neighborhood
Redevelopment of a large area at the campus edge will create a dramatically new gateway, with public plazas, cultural and retail spaces, and reconfigured roads and transportation systems to improve traffic flow and transit connectivity. The Arts Plaza, framed by the Peter B. Lewis Center for the Arts, a restored and iconic, and located across from the McCarter and Berlind Center for the Arts, a restaurant and café, and Whitman College.

Natural Sciences Neighborhood
Supporting interdisciplinary collaboration and research in existing and new natural sciences programs, this neighborhood will be joined by a pedestrian bridge over Washington Road. New construction will enable the natural features of the area, its woodlands and streams, to be restored and enhanced; and create a major new campus green space: Neuroscience and Psychology buildings; Chemistry building; Strehlen Bridge, Restoration of Washington Road ravine, woodlands and streams; Lewis Library (opening in 2018); Sciences Green.

Campus Housing
The plan accommodates the planned increase in the undergraduate population from 4,700 to 5,210 by 2012, and recognizes and improves housing for faculty, staff and graduate students. Whitman College (completed in fall 2007); New Butler College (opening in 2009); Renovation of Hibben and Magic for graduate students (interior only); Reconstruction of the Butler Tract for faculty and staff; New apartments at Dean Mathey Court for faculty and staff.

Prospect Avenue and William Street Neighborhood
This area will be more integrated with the core campus as existing science buildings are vacated and reused. The J-Quad is expanded, and landscape improvements extend the sense of campus to the area. Renovation of Green, Frick, and Hoyt Halls for humanities and social sciences expansion. Renovation of 185 Nassau Street for expanded programs in the visual arts and creative writing. Operations Research and Financial Engineering building. School of Engineering and Applied Science expansion. Landscape improvements. Carl A. Fields Center for Equality and Cultural Understanding relocation and expansion. Renovation of the former Campus Club as a student life facility.

Ivy Lane and Western Way Neighborhood
East of Princeton Stadium, the existing athletics fields and parking areas will be reconstructed to create an improved and strengthened athletics neighborhood and a major new parking facility, located within convenient walking distance of most major academic buildings. New parking facility. Flexible athletics practice fields. New Clarke Field baseball stadium. New rugby field. Expanded child care facilities.

A Campus of Neighborhoods
The campus is made up of many “neighborhoods” that have loosely defined boundaries and are characterized by a concentration of use, activity, or discipline. The neighborhood concept supports interdisciplinary collaboration, guides growth near the edges, and fosters an integrated, rather than piecemeal, approach to campus development. The Campus Plan focuses on four emerging neighborhoods.
**Arts and Transit Neighborhood**

Creating a cultural and transportation hub that is both a campus and community destination.

Unlike the historic clustered enclosures which separate the University from its neighbors, the new Arts and Transit Neighborhood will create a public space that is a nexus of both campus and community life, complementing Princeton’s existing fabric of public spaces—Palmer Square, Scudder Plaza, and Hinds Plaza at the public library—with a new cultural focal point. New activities will build upon and strengthen two longtime community anchors: the McCarter Theatre Center and the New Jersey Transit Dinky railroad station.

Exposing the new Arts Plaza, patrons share a café in the former Dinky station building. Students and local residents walk along a generous, shaded walkway connecting the historic campus and downtown with the new NJ Transit station just beyond.

These spaces will not be housed in a single, large structure, but in a “village” of smaller buildings compatible in scale with their surroundings and designed by a variety of architects. Buildings will be interspersed with plazas and landscaped open spaces, following in the tradition of Princeton’s historic campus and town planning.

To realize this vision, many layers of transportation infrastructure must be reconfigured into a single, coherent system. The project will not generate new traffic—in fact, it will reduce peak-hour traffic by replacing administrative offices with cultural uses. One of its greatest impacts will be to improve the congested conditions that exist today in the Alexander Street/University Place corridor, which was not designed to handle the volume of modern, regional through-traffic and transit commuters that it now supports.

The redevelopment will include reconfigured roadways and a new roundabout to relieve traffic congestion; a multi-modal transportation hub or “Transit Plaza,” to provide convenient access to the Dinky and adequate space for connecting cars, taxis, buses, campus shuttles, bicyclists, and a new community jitney service; a New Dinky station including retail space and other passenger amenities; and a Transit Plaza along with the relocated 24-hour Wawa store. The design also provides access from Alexander Street to the University’s existing 750-car Lot 7 garage for University staff and visitors to the campus and the new arts facilities.

**In addition to “green” building and site design, the primary environmental benefit of the Arts and Transit Neighborhood is the creation of a transit hub to support multiple modes of public transportation, reducing the use of private vehicles. At the heart of this transportation hub is a Transit Plaza which features an NJ Transit Dinky station, stops for the community jitney and university shuttle, bike parking, and dedicated space for the community jitney and university shuttle, bike parking, and dedicated space for a possible future bus rapid transit to Princeton Junction. In addition, direct access to Lot 7 garage will reduce vehicular mileage traveled by University staff and visitors arriving from the north by at least three-quarters of a mile in each direction, thereby reducing associated carbon emissions.**
Natural Sciences Neighborhood
Fostering scientific collaboration in a natural setting

The natural sciences represent one of the most dynamic areas of growth and change at Princeton, requiring buildings of ever-increasing technological sophistication. New interdisciplinary programs have been created, including the Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics and the Princeton Neuroscience Institute, and longstanding scientific disciplines such as chemistry can no longer accommodate modern laboratory-based research in the aging buildings that house them.

A significant expansion and consolidation of departments into a cohesive Natural Sciences Neighborhood at the south end of Washington Road will include new buildings for chemistry, neuroscience, and psychology. The neighborhood already includes facilities for math, physics, biology, and the geosciences, and will soon include the Lewis Library. New pathways will connect to adjacent neighborhoods, especially engineering, humanities, and social sciences.

Streicker Bridge, a footbridge across Washington Road designed by the distinguished Swiss engineer Christian Menn, will reinforce these connections and collaborations by linking multiple buildings previously separated by this major roadway. The bridge also serves athletes and others going from the dorms to athletic facilities.

A particular challenge is the need to integrate the increasing bulk of modern research buildings into the human scale of the campus. The size of these structures is due not only to their high-technology systems and equipment, but also to the fact that teaching continues to be emphasized at Princeton as much as research. As a result, the new Chemistry building will include more fume hoods and lab benches than would normally be required for a pure research space.

The planning strategy locates these buildings at the southern edge of campus, where the natural landscape of robust woodlands and ravines will provide an appropriate buffer to their mass. A modern architectural vocabulary emphasizing lightness and transparency will relate the buildings to their scenic surroundings.

Site planning will improve rather than degrade the natural ecology of the area. New buildings will be located on existing parking lots, resulting in a net increase in green space. Surrounding woodlands will be restored and expanded, improving the area’s ecology by reconnecting fragmented natural areas. Stormwater runoff, currently directed to an overstromed stream along Washington Road, will be recaptured for use within buildings or directed to biofiltration areas.

Landscapes will also be designed to be both aesthetically pleasing and functional. These measures will allow the ecological balance of the stream and valley to be restored. Combined with advanced sustainability measures planned for the Chemistry and Neuroscience and Psychology buildings, these techniques will make the Natural Sciences Neighborhood one of the most environmentally sustainable areas of campus. Scientists and students will be able to experience and appreciate the implementation of environmental principles in their daily surroundings.

In addition to landscape and stormwater strategies that will restore, enhance, and expand the natural areas, the new Chemistry building will incorporate sustainable building technologies. A series of proposed features will reduce energy demand and conserve water:

- Extensive high performance glazing will provide ambient daylighting of interior spaces, linked with sensors for control of dimmable electric lighting and sensors for control of dimmable electric lighting.
- Architectural shading elements will decrease solar heat gain in summer. One such element will be a roof canopy over the atrium interior, with solar heat gain in summer.
- Photovoltaic panels designed to generate electricity.
- Integrated mechanical systems will enable optimal transfer of cooled and heated air through the atrium and incorporate displacement heating and cooling in the auditorium.
- High-efficiency laboratory fume hoods with automatic sash closers will reduce both air supply and exhaust requirements, and heat recovery systems will capture energy from lab exhaust.
- A gray water system will collect and recycle stormwater for non-potable uses.
- Landscaped rain gardens and biofiltration areas will retain and filter additional building and site stormwater.

Students relax in the sun and shade of the Sciences Green outside Jadwin Hall. The new Lewis Library, designed by the distinguished Swiss engineer Christian Menn, will reinforce these connections and collaborations by linking multiple buildings previously separated by this major roadway. A footbridge across Washington Road, the Streicker Bridge, will also provide a pedestrian link to the Chemistry and Neurosciences buildings.

Scientists and students will be able to experience and appreciate the implementation of environmental principles in their daily surroundings.