

Revised Vision, Goals, and Principles

How Revisions Were Made

In keeping with the spirit of a “refresh” rather than a “rewrite”, the following vision, goals, and principles are drawn from the existing Campus Plan, and amended based primarily upon outcomes of engagement activities in Phase 1. They were presented to the Campus Planning Committee on March 25th and refined to reflect their input. The revised vision, goals, and principles are outlined on the following three pages.

A Renewed Vision

The University campus is a place for dynamic learning and research devoted to nourishing and enriching the quality of people, community, and resources. Our extraordinary academic environment inspires and nurtures discovery, creativity, and innovation, and fuels our commitment to sustainability, health, and well-being. The campus supports UVic in making a vital impact on people, places, and the planet.

The campus of the future will experience new development while preserving the spirit of place inherited from the past, and respecting First Nations history and the commitments to environmental stewardship and sustainability that are so widely shared in our community and our culture.

Our Gordon Head home will be a compact campus within a verdant setting. Natural areas will be maintained and restored, respecting the widely-shared desire for a campus that creatively blends nature with built environments.

Ours is a campus to be walked, and it should become increasingly so. Open spaces, physical connections, and new buildings and facilities will be designed at a pedestrian-friendly scale, with safe and open access to all, in the spirit of an intimate and welcoming landscape.

Framing the Plan: Four Main Goals

The four main goals of the campus plan are presented in this section, in response to the direction provided by UVic’s strategic plan and through the engagement of the University community and neighbours.

Natural and Landscaped Open Space

To maintain and continue to evolve an open space system which protects and enhances environmentally-significant natural areas, provides safe, pedestrian-friendly links throughout the campus, and encourages social interaction through outdoor meeting places, relaxation spaces, playing fields and other outdoor recreational venues.

Land and Buildings

To evolve a land use and building pattern that supports the University's academic mission, respects the unique physical environment, creates a welcoming campus, encourages social interaction and activity into the evenings and all week long, and promotes compact, pedestrian-friendly and sustainable development.

Movement and Accessibility

To encourage increased walking or wheelchair use, cycling, and use of public transit, making these priority modes convenient, safe, and enjoyable for all users. To provide safe access yet reduced demand for personal vehicles, to help manage pressures on surrounding neighbourhoods.

Engagement

To provide for meaningful engagement of both the campus and broader communities during ongoing implementation of the campus plan, supporting mutual learning and inclusivity in the campus planning process.

Framing the Plan: Nine Foundation Principles

Preparing the campus plan involved extensive engagement with stakeholders on and off campus, as well as the thoughtful consideration of diverse needs and aspirations relating to the University's mission, environmental stewardship responsibilities, social equity interests, and many other factors. Nine foundation principles provide guidance for generating policy directions and implementing actions for this plan.

Principle 1: Academic Priorities

The University is dedicated to teaching, learning, research, artistic creativity, professional practice and service to the community. Its mission and principles are stated in the University's strategic plan.

Principle 1: Development decisions will give priority to the academic, teaching and research needs – including opportunities to use the campus as a living laboratory – of the University.

Principle 2: Campus and Broader Community Engagement

As the University grows and develops, it effects all stakeholders on campus, and it can also have effects on nearby neighbours and the community as a whole. In turn, the policies of local governments and the regional district can have an impact on the University.

Principle 2: The University is committed to using its Campus Planning Consultation Process Report and Community Engagement Framework guides to maintaining active collaboration with those touched by its physical changes. Likewise, to make campus feel like a more inclusive place to be, efforts will be made to make campus more readily navigable and broadly welcoming.

Principle 3: Natural Areas

The natural ecosystems of the campus are unique among Canadian university campuses and define the University as a place of learning within a natural setting. They shelter the University and its growth from nearby neighbourhoods. They are a place of study for students and of leisure for members of the University and the surrounding communities. The natural areas of the campus are a source of inspiration and encourage generosity among benefactors and friends of the University. They are also a magnet and perceived asset for prospective and new students.

Principle 3: The University is committed to protecting and restoring designated natural areas on campus, which are yet to be determined and will be identified through the Campus Plan Update process.

Principle 4: Open Space System

Both natural and built spaces, and the links between them, make up the University's "open space system". These are outdoor places and pathways in which to play, relax, socialize, and study, or to move around campus. They also contribute significantly to the "spirit of place".

Principle 4: The University will develop and maintain a system of natural and planned open spaces throughout the campus that prioritize pedestrians and cyclists, incorporate creative expression, and encourage social interaction.

Principle 5: Compact Growth

The campus was originally developed in an era of suburban growth, a time when land and energy costs were lower and environmental concerns were less valued. During the past 40 years, patterns and priorities have changed. There is widespread acceptance that the University should move away from a suburban development pattern into a more sustainable, cost-effective and compact

development pattern that accommodates growth while preserving valued natural areas, energy, plant and animal habitats, community values, and a strong sense of place.

Principle 5: The University will manage development carefully, seeking to develop a compact campus that encourages synergies and is an efficient use of land.

Principle 6: Sustainable Buildings and Facilities

The University recognizes that its buildings and facilities have an impact on the health and wellbeing of both the environment and the people who use them. Additionally, it is recognized that water usage, site drainage, energy use, building materials, and construction practices have long-term environmental impacts beyond the borders of the campus.

Principle 6: The University commits to incorporate sustainable practices in the planning, construction and operation of buildings and facilities, creating positive relationships to the open spaces surrounding them.

Principle 7: Spirit of Place

The campus has an aesthetic richness and pedestrian-friendly scale; these qualities earn the affection of students, faculty, staff, alumni, visitors, and the surrounding community. A respectful relationship among buildings, landscaped settings and natural areas has been emphasized and there are ample opportunities to meet and interact among on-campus residents, commuting students, faculty, and interested residents of Greater Victoria. The physical campus also increasingly recognizes and elevates the visibility of First Nations history and presence.

Principle 7: The University will continue to plan and design in a way that enhances social interaction on a scale that is friendly to people on foot, further recognizes First Nation history and presence, and preserves the unique Pacific Rim island character of the campus.

Principle 8: Movement and Accessibility

With each year, the University accommodates more students, faculty, staff and adult learners. It also provides venues for exhibits, community concerts and performances, public lectures and athletic events. People arrive by all modes of transportation – and a growing percentage of trips are taken on foot, by bike, and on transit – but the most common mode remains driving or being driven in a personal vehicle. The University recognizes that this practice is not sustainable, healthy, or conducive to vitality, and that a shift to less energy-consuming modes of transportation is essential. Likewise, surface parking is highly land-consumptive, occupying land that might

otherwise be used as open space, active recreation, or building development.

Principle 8: The University is committed to prioritizing pedestrian movement, making walking or wheelchair use convenient, safe, accessible, and enjoyable. The University will also continue to increase support for cycling and transit use, while minimizing surface parking and reducing dependence on single-occupant vehicles.

Principle 9: Vibrant Campus

The University has many destinations and amenities that service the campus community, however there is a need to make it more accessible and dynamic in the evenings, on the weekends, and during holidays.

Principle 9: The University will encourage the establishment of destinations, uses, and services that will help create an active, healthy campus with 24/7 people activity, including into the evenings and over the weekends.