CAMPUS DISTRICTS

- MAIN CAMPUS
- ST. LANDRY CORRIDOR
- UNIVERSITY COMMON

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE
MASTER PLAN & GUIDING PRINCIPLES
CHARRETTE DATE: 10.17.11     FINAL DATE: 05.28.13
PEDESTRIAN ACTIVITY HAS ALWAYS BEEN VIBRANT ON THE UL CAMPUS. THE NETWORK HAS BEEN PRIMARILY A REACTIVE APPROACH AS OPPOSED TO A PROACTIVE APPROACH. SIDEWALKS ARE GENERALLY TOO NARROW TO ACCOMMODATE PEAK STUDENT TRAFFIC AND OVERWHELMINGLY GO UNPROTECTED FROM THE WEATHER OTHER THAN THE HISTORIC ARCADE, WHICH SURROUNDS THE HISTORIC QUADRANGLE.

THE MASTER PLAN SEEKS TO CREATE A FORMAL NETWORK OF PEDESTRIAN WAYS DELINEATED IN A HIERARCHY OF STRATEGIES INGRAINED INTO THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS AND LANDSCAPE CONCEPTS. THIS DELINEATION GESTURES THE CONCEPT OF PROVIDING A NEW COVERED EAST/WEST PEDESTRIAN THOROUGHFARE LOCATED BETWEEN LEWIS STREET AND ST. MARY BOULEVARD.
The university has the opportunity to reengineer the current St. Landry Corridor frontage along St. Landry Street. With proper intervention, building concepts can be included, tying into the context of the main campus, by utilizing materials, building placement, and landscaping while providing a more sensitive pedestrian-friendly environment, which will serve both the university and community at large.
THE INTERSECTION OF ST. MARY BOULEVARD AND JOHNSTON STREET HAS, FOR SOME TIME, BEEN HANDLING A SIGNIFICANT VOLUME OF TRAFFIC, BOTH PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR. WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED COMMUTER PARKING POSSIBILITIES AT ST. MARY AND ST. LANDRY CORRIDOR, CHANGES TO THE INTERSECTION WILL HAVE TO BE DEVISED. OVER TIME, THE INTERSECTION WILL HANDLE UP TO 1/3 OF THE ENTIRE STUDENT BODY DURING PEAK DEMAND TIMES. WIDENING THE CROSSING WILL BE PARAMOUNT. SIMILAR IMPACT WILL OCCUR AT JOHNSTON STREET AND UNIVERSITY AVENUE, AS WELL AS UNIVERSITY AVENUE AND MCKINLEY STREET, BUT WILL NOT BE FUELED BY A MAJOR PARKING INTERVENTION.

IT CAN BE SAFELY ASSUMED, ALSO, THAT WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF SIGNIFICANT PEDESTRIAN ACTIVITY, CURRENT REAL ESTATE OPTIONS ALONG THE VARIOUS THOROUGHFARES WILL BE ALTERED SIGNIFICANTLY. MIXED USES OF RETAIL, SERVICES AND FOR-RENT AND FOR-SALE HOUSING SURROUNDING THE CAMPUS WILL BECOME A HIGHER AND BETTER USE THAN THE CURRENT TREND OF SURFACE PARKING OR INFERIOR RENT HOUSES. ALL ARE INTENDED TO BE STRUCTURED AROUND THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE PUBLIC REALM.
When queried during the charrette, students were asked, "What, in your opinion, has been your worst experience while attending UofL?" Overwhelming the response was transit from University Common to the main campus.

When solutions were considered, two surfaced as possible answers. One was the construction of a parking deck positioned within a maximum 10-minute walk from all academic functions. Option two was the creation of a state-of-the-art transit system by either buses or rail to the students. State-of-the-art meant to run on time, with frequent routes, and comfortable.

This rendering depicts a solution that addresses the incorporation of both solutions. The parking deck as illustrated is lined with public mixed uses while incorporating the light-rail transit system that connects to University Common.
At the core of the Master Plan’s mission is the fostering of a 24-hour campus life. The New Student Union serves as the nucleus that supports this activity. The Union will serve all on-campus housing as the Town Center would an urban setting, providing cafes, coffee shops, a post office, and administrative services. To the commuter, it will be all of the above plus a respite between daily arrival and departure. To the faculty and staff, it will enhance their daily interaction with a Faculty Club and a whole array of retail services. To the general public, the Union will offer an opportunity to engage with the University in forums, films and meeting space.

The rendering depicts a reengagement of the Union with McKinley Street. It should be noted that all parking at the building frontage has been eliminated and the lawn now provides a more compelling presentation to McKinley as a main street.
The University has imposed a number of significant physical forces upon the community. Most are considered beneficial, but some of the more negative ones have been played down. Perhaps one of the most pronounced, less than constructive impacts has occurred immediate to the campus edge. Economic dynamics often take the least restrictive route as evidenced in current market trends at the adjacent edges of campus. Graveled parking lots have been allowed to dot the major arterial frontages and “shanty”-like housing has been allowed to not only exist but to proliferate over time, resulting in a vulnerable built environment.

This rendering proposes a redefinition of the edge properties to provide a higher level of services made possible by new land use criteria fueled by market-driven demand, coupled with regulatory entitlement.
ATHLETICS ACTIVITY WITHIN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS HAS BEEN ON A SIGNIFICANT RISE. WITH SUCCESSES IN ALL MAJOR SPORTS, THE UNIVERSITY MUST FOCUS ON HOW EXPANSIONS CAN BE HANDLED. CAJUN FIELD CURRENTLY SEATS 30,000, WHICH IS INADEQUATE SHOULD CURRENT SUCCESSES CONTINUE. ATHLETIC FACILITIES MUST BE UPGRADED IF THE PROGRAM IS TO COMPETE WITH OTHER MAJOR UNIVERSITIES AND UL IS READY TO TAKE THAT NEXT STEP.

THIS IMAGE PROJECTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW ENTRY DRIVE FROM BERTRAN DRIVE THAT TERMINATES AT A NEWLY RENOVATED CAJUN FIELD COMPLEX. THE DRAWING GESTURES A NEW LINER BUILDING LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE STADIUM. THE LINER BUILDING IS INTENDED TO FOCUS ON EDUCATIONAL AND MANAGEMENT NEEDS OF THE PROGRAM. THE NOTION IS PROJECTED HERE, WITH A NEW AMPHITHEATER DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE PRE-GAME ACTIVITIES AND TO SERVE AS A FORMAL GREETING PORTAL TO THE COMMUNITY.
THE UNIVERSITY CURRENTLY HAS PLANS TO BUILD, OVER TIME, A RESEARCH PARK AND HAS ALREADY COMMITTED LAND TO THAT CENTER OF ATTENTION, I.E. THE ESTUARINE HABITATS AND COASTAL FISHERIES CENTER AND THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGS. THE CURRENT LAND DEVELOPMENT CONFIGURATION SUGGESTS A SUBURBAN LAND DEVELOPMENT PATTERN OF SINGLE-USE FOCUS. WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, IT IS PROPOSED THAT RATHER THAN A RESEARCH “PARK,” THAT A BROADER STRATEGY BE CONTEMPLATED. THE TERM “VILLAGE” IS USED TO SUGGEST THAT A NETWORK OF LAND USES BE STRUCTURED IN COMPLEMENT TO OTHER USES THAT SUPPORT AND FEED OFF OF EACH OTHER, LIKE RESTAURANTS, HOTELS, AND THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, TO NAME BUT A FEW.

LINKAGES FROM THE RESEARCH FOCUSED “PARK” ARE BEING FORMALIZED BY MEANINGFUL BICYCLE WAYS AND PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS ALL INTERLINKED. THE ARTICULATION OF DRAINAGE PATTERNS HAS BEEN PROPOSED AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL REGIONAL DETENTION OVERLAY. THIS WILL SERVE NOT ONLY TO ADDRESS STORM DRAINAGE BUT TO ALSO ENHANCE THE URBAN AESTHETIC. ARCHITECTURAL COMPATIBILITY WILL FURTHER REINFORCE THE UL SENSE-OF-PLACE.
Market studies have indicated that a state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center (PAC) serving the Lafayette region can be supported. It is proposed that the new venue be capable of seating 2,200 people but must have the ability to break down into smaller venues.

Initial schemes prepared over the years proposed placement of the new PAC as a stand-alone complex located on Johnston and Cajundome Boulevard. The comprehensive planners believe that leveraging the drawing power of such a facility can fuel significant activity within a mixed use center, while adding richness to the quality of a research-focused village.

Furthermore, possible efficiencies, which can be achieved through shared parking and auxiliary adjacent land uses, can be substantial.

Design Vision

Concept Renderings

Performing Arts Center
Since acquisition of the Lourdes property is being proposed as this plan is being developed, obvious freedoms are being taken to orchestrate possible Main Campus reorganization. Should the negotiations not result in the University’s acquisition of the Lourdes property, then there are several alternatives, which have not been portrayed here. At the proper time, those scenarios can and should be explored, but they are not a part of the scope of this study.

The Main Campus space needs analysis indicates that the basic academic requirements of the University’s undergraduate programs can be met within existing renovated space in this sector. There are, however, specific functional needs, which are required now to meet the demand of specific programs such as engineering, architecture, and nursing. It is proposed that nursing be allowed to relocate within the next few years to the St. Landry Corridor site, either temporarily within existing space or built-to-suit space, conditioned on available funds. Relocations of departments, programs, and undergraduate research programs can then be allowed. These shifts would allow better efficiencies and meet the requirements of their respective missions. These adjustments should occur over the next 7 to 10 years based on need and available funding.

The primary focus for obtaining and shifting the Lourdes Medical facility is to create a new nursing facility and a broadened medical concentration. Relocation of the nursing college enables the restructuring of the Main Campus. This, too, will allow the University to begin considering expanding its biomedical research potential, something that will further not only the academic bridge to University Common, but no doubt the physical land connections as well.

In many ways, University Common can begin independently moving forward with the development of real estate within the district as defined. Market studies indicate fairly aggressive potential for significant mixed-use, which will enhance any University mission, including research, athletics and community-supported amenities, such as the performing arts center and an expanded convention center. It is suggested that the University begin immediately developing strategies supported by covenants and restrictions directly related to various development approaches and types of uses.
Main Campus

Built around walkable, mixed-use, and interconnected opportunities, the original Main Campus was defined by Johnston Street, University Avenue, McKinley Street, and St. Mary Boulevard. The plan was disciplined around an orthogonal axis with 2- and 3-story buildings. The architecture was defined by red brick, Collegiate Georgian architecture, which had a very vernacular accent to its assembly. During the preparation of the Master Plan, the planning team decided to call the style “Creole Collegiate Georgian”, in recognition of the many attributes of the region’s Creole influences (see Architecture).

The campus edges were reinforced with a line of live oaks known today as the Century Oaks. As this sector of the campus has matured, it has become endeared in the region and in many ways has become a symbol of the University and even the Acadiana region. Because of this identity, the University has decided that the pattern to be followed for this comprehensive plan should pay specific homage to this historic block.

Although history was well established, time nevertheless tested the resolve of the early planners. Pressure from an auto-dominated culture has nipped away at the beauty of the campus environment by providing privileged real estate to accommodate commuter parking demands. This comprehensive plan seeks to refocus the parking priority, by relocating most parking fields away from building frontages, thereby improving the pedestrian realm and the natural beauty of the campus. Parking has not been eliminated but relegated to a more appropriate domain, positioned in various locations or zones throughout the campus. All parking is situated within a ten-minute walk of the respective users.

The “Path of Knowledge” is a figurative and physical greenway that links University Common through the St. Landry Corridor to the Main Campus, serving to define and connect the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The Path of Knowledge extends through the property along an existing drainage lateral, linking to the St. Mary thoroughfare at Brooks Street, where a new commuter parking facility and/or transit stop will terminate.
OLOL Medical Center decided to rebuild its main hospital at a new location, leaving behind the older edifice and hoping to sell its holdings. The University is, by far, the most appropriate contender for acquiring this real estate, with adjacencies on several frontages. It is assumed that the University could acquire the property. As a result, some related concepts have been made an integral part of this plan.

Many of the buildings being vacated by OLOL have reached the extent of their beneficial life, particularly as any use other than a regional acute care hospital. Retrofitting or re-purposing the main hospital will cost as much or more than building it from scratch. For this reason, the Master Plan anticipates removal of all but the existing parking structures, the Imaging Center, the old orphanage, and the array of medical office buildings that primarily front St. Mary Boulevard.

With the restructuring of the property, the comprehensive plan proposes redefining all of the public domain frontages to accommodate and perpetuate a more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly thoroughfare system. Newly created thoroughfare standards are described elsewhere in these guiding principles.

St. Landry frontages have buildings positioned near the road and are expected to be used for classrooms and possibly offices. Heights are articulated to respond to the newly defined scale of the thoroughfares. The architecture of the St. Landry Corridor is intended to mirror the architecture of the University’s Creole Collegiate Georgian style.

Along St. Julien, in addition to academic functions, it is envisioned that multi-family and single-family detached housing be built, with the latter positioned closer to the residential neighborhoods.

The “Path of Knowledge” is a figurative and physical greenway that links University Common through the St. Landry Corridor to the Main Campus. It serves to define and connect the University.

Natural land features and created amenities from parks, playgrounds, and quadrangles are distributed throughout the St. Landry Corridor.
In many ways, University Common can begin independently moving forward with the development of real estate within the district as defined. Market studies indicate a fairly aggressive potential for significant mixed-use, which will enhance any University mission, including research, athletics, as well as community-supported amenities such as the performing arts center and convention center. It is suggested that the University begin immediately developing strategies supported by covenants and restrictions directly related to various development approaches and types of uses.

The University, in referring to this property, has used the moniker, “University Common”. It is located almost at the city’s epicenter, both geographically and also at its population center. Its geographic position in the community and its immediate access to two major arterial access points, W. Congress and Bertrand, including I-10 to the north, postures this site for many vibrant possibilities. The vigor of this site is echoed in the recent market analysis commissioned as part of this comprehensive plan. While the intent is to continue the site’s already well-establish concentrations as a research, civic, and athletics hub, characterized by the Estuarine Habitats and Coastal Fisheries Center, LITE, Abdalla Hall, NOAA buildings, Cajundome and Cajun Field, it will now be enlivened with its own urban center providing for a balanced work, live, and recreational environment.

The uses prescribed by the comprehensive plan can conceivably add substantial value to the University. The plan for University Common includes:

- **Research**: 650,000 SF
- **Residential**: 250,000 SF/600 units
- **Commercial**: 200-250,000 SF
- **Hotel**: 300 rooms
- **Performing Arts**: 100,000 SF

The concentration of civic, institutional, and commercial activity will be ingrained into the surrounding neighborhoods, purposely not isolating itself from the community and has been structured emphasizing specific uses but following the principles of mixed-use urban design. With W. Congress and Bertrand as regional connectors to the remaining city, the connecting streets internal to the land plan are delineated through multipurpose thoroughfares for all modes of transport. Many activities, where daily living occurs within walking distance, allow independence to students, professors, and residents alike. All interconnected street networks are designed to encourage walking, thereby further reducing the number and length of automobile trips, while conserving energy and the impact on the environment.

The markets identified a range of housing types and price levels. The design reflects specific locations for each type. Because of the varied housing ranges, it is anticipated that students, professors, researchers, investors, and retirees will engage through strong daily interaction and strengthen the personal, academic, and civic bonds essential to the University community and the broader community as well. Higher densities will make viable University and public transit to the Main Campus and the region.

Natural land features and created amenities from parks, playgrounds, and quadrangles are distributed throughout the district, all linked by the “Path of Knowledge”. The “Path of Knowledge” is a figurative and physical greenway that links University Common through the St. Landry Corridor to the Main Campus that serves to define and connect the University of Louisiana.

The architecture is intended to mirror the architecture of the University’s Creole Collegiate Georgian style, while allowing the civic buildings and major public gathering places to project distinctive forms different from that of other buildings while still in someway supporting the fabric of the University’s historic base.
Highlighted in red are the potential water system conflict areas. These areas will need to be studied to ensure proper utility system layout.
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Highlighted in red are the potential sanitary sewer system conflict areas. These areas will need to be studied to ensure proper utility system layout.
Highlighted in red are the potential communication system conflict areas. These areas will need to be studied to ensure proper utility system layout.
Highlighted in red are the potential electrical system conflict areas. These areas will need to be studied to ensure proper utility system layout.
Highlighted in red are the potential natural gas conflict areas. These areas will need to be studied to ensure proper utility system layout.
Highlighted in red are the potential chiller system conflict areas. These areas will need to be studied to ensure proper utility system layout.
Highlighted in red are the potential cable system conflict areas. These areas will need to be studied to ensure proper utility system layout.
Highlighted in red are the potential water system conflict areas. These areas will need to be studied to ensure proper utility system layout. Locations for future water systems infrastructure should be studied to ensure proper utility layout. It is recommended to keep utilities together along a "spine" as to not interfere with future building construction.
St o r m d r a i n a g e S y s t e m O v e r v i e w

Highlighted in red are the potential storm drainage system conflict areas. Locations for future storm drainage system infrastructure should be studied to ensure proper utility layout. It is recommended to keep utilities together along a "spine" as to not interfere with future building construction.
SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Highlighted in red are the potential sanitary sewer system conflict areas. Locations for future sanitary sewer infrastructure should be studied to ensure proper utility layout. It is recommended to keep utilities together along a “spine” as to not interfere with future building construction.
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