

## **University of Alaska Fairbanks Campus Master Plan Five-Year Update**

In 2002, the current UAF Campus Master Plan (CMP) was approved. It has provided the roadmap for the development of the physical environment of campus since that time. A five-year update was specified in the plan in order to document progress and make adjustments to the plan, if needed, to ensure that it reflects the evolving needs and priorities of the university. Conducted in AY07-08 by the Master Planning Committee (MPC), the update includes recommendations for revisions to the goals and actions, progress on actions, and suggested activities for the next five years. A full review of the CMP will be conducted in 2012.

It should be noted that the CMP was specifically designed to guide the development of the Fairbanks Campus. However, UAF is a multi-campus institution. As part of its College of Rural and Community Development (CRCD), there are six community campuses, including Bristol Bay, Chukchi, Interior-Aleutians, Kuskokwim, Northwest, and Tanana Valley. By virtue of their unique missions, core services and locations, the CMP was not a document that could, or should, be exported for a one-size-fits-all application at these campuses. It did serve as the template for the campus master plans that were developed at each location and completed in 2006. Furthermore, certain standards contained in the CMP may, in fact, be applicable in the rural locations. But those standards are applied on a case-by-case basis, recognizing the needs and priorities of the communities that are served by the rural campuses. The community campus master plans are available at <http://www.uaf.edu/fs/ruralcampusplans.html>.

Since the 2002 inception of the CMP, the university has embarked on an ambitious planning agenda. In the intervening years, the Strategic Plan 2010, Academic Development Plan, Enrollment Management Plan, Campus Life Master Plan and, most recently, the Vision 2017 Plan have been developed and are in various stages of implementation. In updating the CMP, it was critical that the goals and objectives of these other plans be considered in order to ensure that the physical environment supports their achievement. The MPC has identified the following critical issues that will influence the development of campus during the next five years and well into the future:

- There are critical facility limitations on growth. How will projected growth, particularly in enrollment and research, be accommodated in all areas of the physical environment?
- Creating a sustainable campus environment is essential to the future development of the university. How will sustainability be defined at UAF, relative to the economic, cultural, and environmental influences at work locally and globally?
- Energy consumption will be a major influence on future campus development. How will UAF address its energy issues?

## Goals

The 2002 Campus Master Plan (CMP) developed five major goals for campus development through 2012, which appear in the left-hand column below. In the right-hand column are the revised versions of the original goals.

<b><i>Original goal:</i></b>	<b><i>Revised goal:</i></b>
<b><i>I. Create an efficient and attractive campus environment conducive to learning</i></b>	Ensure that the campus environment supports the goals of teaching, research, and service, is focused on student success, and is attractive
<b><i>II. Improve community access to the UAF campus</i></b>	Improve access to and circulation within campus for students, faculty, staff, and the community-at-large that is both safe and efficient
<b><i>III. Make vehicle circulation and parking simple and direct</i></b>	
<b><i>IV. Promote safe and efficient travel throughout campus for pedestrians and non-motorized uses</i></b>	
<b><i>V. Highlight natural assets of campus and the unique northern environment</i></b>	Maintain active stewardship and continue to highlight the natural assets of the campus' unique northern environment
<b><i>New goal:</i></b>	
<b><i>IV. Create a sustainable campus community</i></b>	

## Significant Progress

The CMP provides the road map for campus development, and the Master Planning Committee (MPC) is charged with overseeing progress on the plan, discussing campus development issues and advising the Chancellor relative to those issues. The actual implementation of the plan is, for the most part, carried out by Facilities Services.

The following are some of the more significant areas of progress during the past five years. Table 1, pages 4-11, details actions and progress over the past five years.

- Three satellite plans were developed and approved to provide goals and actions specific to the North Campus, Campus Landscape, and Circulation and Parking
- Completion of campus master plans for each of the rural campuses
- Completion of the University of Alaska Museum of the North expansion and renovation, construction of the West Ridge Research Building, and the Biosciences Research and Diagnostics Building
- Completion of a Campus Life Master Plan that details expansion of Wood Center, renovation of Constitution Hall, and new student housing options
- The Cold Climate Housing Research Center was built on university land, representing collaboration between the private and public sector on research that directly benefits the residents of Alaska
- Completion of Thompson Drive, the campus gateway entrance, including the first roundabout in the Fairbanks North Star Borough
- Installation of wayfinding signs throughout campus that are consistent in design, including new entrance signs at the north, east and west entrances to campus

- Engineering study of the designated research and development area adjacent to Geist Road that enabled better decision-making relative to that area
- Significant changes to parking on campus, as well as the campus shuttle system
- A process for overseeing use of the North Campus area and insuring that appropriate teaching, research and recreation activities are all accommodated
- Creation of the West Ridge Plaza and landscape plan incorporating learning habitats for use in teaching and research.

### **The Next Five Years**

Table 2, pages 12-16, contains the recommended actions and specific implementation steps for the next five years. As in the original plan, the actions and/or implementation steps are not prioritized, nor are funding vehicles identified. This is beyond the purview of the Master Planning Committee. However, it is the expectation that the plan will guide decision-making by senior administration as it relates to campus development.

Some of the more significant implementation steps include:

- Obtain funding and complete construction of the BIOS Building
- Promote the Campus Life Master Plan, including garnering student support for financing some portion of the construction costs
- Define the parameters of, and develop a plan for, a sustainable campus community at UAF
- Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the facility limitations on growth in all sectors of the university
- Review the student housing recommendations of the CLMP in concert with the Enrollment Management Plan to determine how best to meet projected enrollment trends.
- Address classroom space needs on West Ridge and continue upgrading efforts in existing classroom space on Lower Campus
- Obtain funding to complete Tanana Loop in order to simplify vehicular circulation and make the center of campus more pedestrian-friendly
- Establish a privately-funded landscape and campus art endowment program
- Construct the campus gateway entrance sign on Thompson Drive
- Identify a new location for a research and development park

**Table 1 – Actions and Progress**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PROGRESS REPORT</b>
<p><b>A1. Concentrate future building sites within the perimeter of Tanana Loop, increasing the density of existing core areas.</b></p> <p><b>See the following link for the “Future Campus Map”:</b>  <a href="http://www.uaf.edu/mastplan/map.html">http://www.uaf.edu/mastplan/map.html</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site 2 – Currently, three modular buildings are located directly east of the AHRB building and are used for graduate students</li> <li>• Site 4 – North of West Ridge greenhouse, this site has been designated for the BIOS building. The new building will encroach upon part of Site 20; the greenhouse will be relocated south of AHRB</li> <li>• Site 6 – The Museum expansion project was completed utilizing this site.</li> <li>• Site 18 – The Biosciences Research and Diagnostics (BiRD) facility was constructed on this site and completed in 2006. The Department of Health and Social Services is constructing a new facility directly adjacent and connected to BiRD to house the State Virology Office, slated to be complete in 2008. The remainder of Site 18 may be used for surface parking associated with BIOS.</li> <li>• Site 20 – North of Site 4: This site was converted to a parking lot. Three modular buildings were located on the south side of the site to house research activities of the USDA Agriculture and Research Service (ARS).</li> <li>• Site 21 – The West Ridge Research Building (WRRB) was constructed on this site.</li> <li>• Site 9 – Copper Lane area: Since 2002, two of the houses along Copper Lane have been razed; the rest of the buildings are slated for eventual demolition. There are no existing plans to build on this site.</li> <li>• Site 10 – West of Wood Center (location of expansion project): In November 2005, a Campus Life Master Plan for UAF was completed. The plan calls for an addition to Wood Center that would house the bookstore and dining service space to be constructed on Site 10.</li> <li>• Site 14 – South of Patty Ice Rink: new locker facilities were constructed on this site.</li> </ul>

ACTION	PROGRESS REPORT
<p><b>A2. Consolidate related programs in designated buildings to improve program identity and access.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brooks Building - Alaska Native and rural development programs, including the Alaska Native Language Center, classrooms and gathering area, occupy this building.</li> <li>• Duckering Building – All engineering programs, including the mining engineering programs (previously housed in the Brooks Building as the School of Mineral Engineering) the Water and Environmental Research Center, and the Institute for Northern Engineering are located in this building.</li> <li>• Gruening Building –This building is used primarily for academic departments and classrooms. The long range plan is to relocate the few remaining student services units to the Eielson Building after the completion of the Biosciences Building.</li> <li>• Eielson Building – Facilitated by the move of several units to off-campus locations, the Graduate School was relocated from Signers' Hall to Eielson, Summer Sessions gained more space, and Career Services was able to relocate from Gruening into more and better configured space in Eielson.</li> </ul>
<p><b>A3. Design new and retrofitted buildings to contribute to the campus environment, using energy conservation techniques suited to the subarctic climate.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both the WRRB and BiRD buildings were constructed with mechanical heating, ventilation and cooling systems that are controlled by energy-saving programmable systems. The BiRD building has heat recovery units on the air handlers to recover waste heat. 68% of total square footage on campus is controlled by direct digital controls.</li> <li>• The Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC), which is located in the designated research and development area off Geist/Fairbanks Street, was built specifically to demonstrate energy conservation techniques suited to the subarctic. Ongoing research is conducted at the center on building techniques for the subarctic</li> <li>• Facilities Services has compiled a report on sustainable practices currently in use on campus</li> <li>• A Utilities Development Plan was completed in 2006 that provides recommendations for maintaining and expanding heat and power</li> </ul>

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PROGRESS REPORT</b>
<b>A3. – cont'd.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• service to the campus for the next 20 years. The plan recommended continuing with a central plant using solid fuels (coal and biomass). The combined heat and power configuration provides the maximum efficiency, although it does require a significant capital investment. Energy efficiency and sustainability are slated as areas for further study to be incorporated into the long term plan.</li> </ul>
<b>A4. Develop a landscape plan and site design standards that will provide year-round plant diversity and enhance the overall appearance of campus.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Campus Landscape Plan was completed in June 2004. <a href="http://www.uaf.edu/nmastplan/landscape/index.html">http://www.uaf.edu/nmastplan/landscape/index.html</a></li> <li>• The Campus Landscape and Outdoor Art Subcommittee (CLOA) was formed in 2004.</li> </ul>
<b>A5. Require landscaping and site enhancements as part of all new construction projects.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscaping and site enhancements are still not a requirement for all new construction projects.</li> </ul>
<b>A6. Enhance existing and create new, outdoor gathering areas and plazas.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new plaza area was created on West Ridge after the utilidor project was completed. All of the parking was removed from the area, a one-way serpentine road was constructed, and open areas created for future landscaping.</li> <li>• Landscape plans for the West Ridge and Cornerstone Plazas were completed. See <a href="http://www.uaf.edu/nmastplan/landscape/index.html">http://www.uaf.edu/nmastplan/landscape/index.html</a> for more details related to the West Ridge and Cornerstone Plaza plans.</li> <li>• The small parking lot across from the MBS complex was eliminated and an outdoor gathering area created.</li> </ul>
<b>A7. Provide lighting throughout campus that maximizes safety, enhances wayfinding and minimizes light pollution.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New and replacement lighting on campus is emphasizing downlighting features in order to minimize the impact on the night sky during the winter months.</li> </ul>

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PROGRESS REPORT</b>
<b>A8. Improve and expand housing opportunities for students and faculty.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the Campus Life Master Plan, which was completed in 2005, a comprehensive analysis of the current housing situation was completed. The plan makes many recommendations for both improvement and expansion to housing opportunities for students and faculty.</li> </ul>
<b>A9. Identify and evaluate sites on campus land outside the Tanana Loop perimeter for special function buildings such as a research and development park, public safety, parking, community service and other support functions.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An engineering study of the parcel identified in the "Future Campus Map" in the CMP was completed in April 2006 by Dowl Engineers of Anchorage. The study provided extensive information on soil conditions and hydrology of the area, both of which are not conducive to intensive development.</li> <li>• The MPC has recommended to the Chancellor that other locations be considered for a research park.</li> <li>• The Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) was built on a site in this area. The site was ideally suited for purposes of CCHRC's research on effective building techniques in the subarctic.</li> </ul>
<b>A10. Build parking garages on campus at designated sites.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been no progress on this action. The primary reason is funding, but it is included in the Capital Plan each year.</li> </ul>
<b>A11. Provide a quick and efficient year-round shuttle bus system throughout campus.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implemented circular routes servicing all of campus in the Fall of 2005.</li> <li>• In January 2006, five new busses were put into service.</li> </ul>
<b>A12. Complete Tanana Loop.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An engineering study was completed that details soil conditions and topography and presents potential alignments for the road. There are challenging soil conditions in the area, as well as issues with incursions into North Campus and research plots.</li> <li>• The project has been submitted to DOT and is on both the STIP and FMATS, and UA capital request lists for funding.</li> </ul>