EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The pillar of higher education in the state, the University of Wyoming has grown from a two-building campus serving the sparsely populated Wyoming Territory in 1886 to a bustling 785-acre campus with world-class research facilities and over 180 programs of study. As such, the buildings and landscape of the University of Wyoming campus represent more than a century of dynamic growth and change. Since the last campus master plan was developed in 1991, a significant amount of planning has occurred—strategic planning, academic planning and facilities planning. However, none of these plans attempted to reconcile and unify the various efforts into a cohesive vision for the future development of the campus. With growing pressures on both the traditional campus core and the eastern portions of campus, a long-term, big picture approach is needed.

Building on the aspirations put forth in UW’s mission and vision statements, the University developed a Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) with an eye toward future growth and a desire to improve functionality for all users and all modes. The Plan establishes the framework for development of open space, circulation, buildings and utilities.
Growth of the Campus

OPEN SPACE, WALKABILITY AND CIRCULATION
Open space has been an integral component of UW’s campus design since the first master plan was created in 1924. That plan established the configuration of major buildings around a quadrangle of open space—a classic design employed for university campuses across America. The first open space and original heart of UW, Prexy’s Pasture, still serves as an organizing feature and place of respite amidst the hustle and bustle of campus life. In years following, subsequent plans adhered to the basic configuration of the 1924 master plan as new buildings were erected around the central open space, creating a walkable, accessible campus. Other significant developments, such as the closure of Prexy’s Pasture to parking, have preserved the walkability on campus.

The University has continued to grow since the 1991 Master Plan, making a comprehensive circulation system necessary to address the increasing complexities of traveling across campus. While West Campus has been preserved as a walking campus, the areas developed to the east are less accessible and relatively isolated in comparison.

UW AND LARAMIE
The futures of UW and the City of Laramie are inextricably linked. The expansion of the University was inherently connected to the growth and development of Laramie during the first fifty years of its existence. Though UW initially helped establish the eastern border of the City, Laramie has since enveloped the campus on all sides. The University and the City still enjoy a synergistic relationship and are poised to forge new partnerships that will benefit campus users, residents and local businesses alike.
Future Needs
The LRDP responds to the changing conditions of the campus since the last planning effort in 1991. While projected student enrollment growth is relatively modest for the foreseeable future, the University anticipates a need for new development and improvements to existing facilities. Academic space will be limited, but there is a strong need for research facilities, living-learning environments and academic partnerships (e.g. a future facilities for LCCC on east campus). New development must create a sense of place east of 15th Street and provide connections to well-established areas of campus. A commonly-held desire for a cohesive, sustainable and walkable campus is one of the main drivers of this plan. The plan carefully interweaves those ideals into the following elements: Land and Building Uses, Open Space System, Circulation and Parking, Utility Infrastructure, Student Housing, Signage and Wayfinding, and Sustainability.

The LRDP planning process has been based on a coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach. The planning team conducted detailed site analyses, bolstered by document reviews, public intercepts, stakeholder interviews, focus groups, community events and a series of meetings with a Policy Committee, Advisory Committee, and community members on and off campus.

Future Growth and Opportunity Areas
Based on projected growth rates of between 1% and 3%, the UW campus will need an additional 750,000 to 2.5 million gross square feet of built space to serve students in the next 20 years. The LRDP identifies locations, design and organization of new development and suggests ways to increase efficient use of existing space—critical factors in accommodating anticipated growth, strengthening the overall character of campus, and attracting the best and brightest students, faculty and staff.

The LRDP identifies nearly 232 acres of land as opportunity areas for future development, classified into three categories:

- University property that is undeveloped;
- University property that is underutilized or requiring improvements; and
- Non-University property.
In essence, the planning and design principles convey the overall intent of the Long Range Development Plan. There are nine direction-setting planning and design principles that describe how to achieve the vision for the UW campus:

1. **Emulate UW’s sense of place on the Central and East Campus**

   New development on Central and East Campus should reflect the timeless design of West Campus through consistency and efficient use of space.

2. **Connect East and Central Campus with the West Campus**

   Connectivity can be strengthened by enhancing significant routes, creating new and easily accessible access ways and eliminating real and perceived barriers that prevent convenient and safe connections through campus.

3. **Organize campus development around a hierarchy of natural and landscaped open spaces**

   Natural and landscaped open space should be integrated with new development as an organizing feature to promote social interaction, outdoor learning, recreation, sustainability and overall campus ambiance.

4. **Develop a walkable, bikeable and transit-oriented campus**

   Safe and efficient routes for walking and biking and convenient shuttle transit create a more connected and lively environment, and enhance the ability of campus users to efficiently reach their destinations.
5. Locate campus uses to maximize collaboration, synergies and efficiencies

Collaboration and cooperation among uses stimulates a healthy campus environment, and efficient use of existing campus property reduces the need to acquire new sites surrounding campus.

6. Optimize utilization of existing campus facilities

Adaptive reuse of existing structures where feasible can lead to greater resource efficiency and a stronger visual tie between old and new while preserving the historical character.

7. Optimize the ecological health and sustainability of campus

For the future success and health of the campus, the University should encourage sustainable design, low impact building techniques, energy efficiency and recycling.

8. Establish well-defined and attractive campus edges and gateways

The University should develop formal and informal gateways and edges that create a desirable first impression and provide users with cues signaling when they have entered or exited a unique campus place.

9. Create flexible learning environments throughout campus

Building on the University’s historic living learning pattern of development, new projects and redeveloped spaces should be designed to accommodate a range of academic programs, curricula, teaching approaches and new multi-disciplinary alliances and changes in use over time.
Overall Development Framework

The LRDP for the UW campus provides a physical framework for site improvements and further campus development, as well as directives to achieve a campus that will be functional, flexible and timeless. The development framework builds upon existing assets, respects adjacent land uses and existing plans, responds to the natural environment, and positions UW for future opportunities and success.

The Development Framework for the campus organizes planning and design recommendations that will meet the University’s future academic, social, cultural and physical needs. This overarching structure integrates social and physical components; culture, technology, academics, and professional life are combined with the natural and built environments.

The development framework is broken down into key elements: Campus Uses, the Open Space Network, Circulation, and Utilities. An underlying principle within each element is sustainability—future campus development will build upon past successes and ensure a long and prosperous future through a range of sustainable approaches. Continuing the development of a “green” UW campus will be critical to long-term viability, competitiveness and success.

ORGANIZATION OF CAMPUS USES

The proposed concentrations of campus uses described below build upon existing land use concentrations on the UW campus, and are consistent with the planning and design principles.

- Academic and Support
- Research/Business
- Living Learning
- Athletics and Recreation
- Service and Maintenance
- Greenhouse
- Visitor-Oriented Mixed Use
- Campus Reserve
- Open Space
THE OPEN SPACE NETWORK

Well-designed open space breathes life into the spaces between buildings. As an organizing feature, open space creates linkages throughout the overall circulation framework, enhancing the physical setting of campus and creating inspiring and functional environments. Open space is a vital component of the blueprint of a college campus, knitting together the various and distinct areas of campus into a cohesive whole and establishing the campus as a shared institution. As an organizing element, open space is essential to the long-term development of the UW campus.

The proposed open space and path system provides a hierarchy of open spaces of various sizes—ranging from small intimate landscaped areas between buildings to academic quads and larger signature areas of campus, such as Prexy’s Pasture. New open spaces will optimize space between existing facilities, provide a focal point for new clusters of buildings and enhance and connect existing campus open spaces. The open space system will be connected by a well-defined network of paths and bikeways. New buildings will be integrated into this framework and will help to activate new open spaces, while new pathways will link campus facilities and the network of open space.

CIRCULATION

A shortage of connections through campus has decreased walkability across UW. The ability to access all points of campus on foot, by bicycle or by transit cuts down on vehicle traffic and promotes physical activity, social interaction and an increased sense of pride in the surrounding environment. The LRDP pays careful attention to issues of circulation on campus. Concepts such as “park once,” consolidated parking, increased public transit and the addition of several new open space connectors establishes an integrated network of transportation routes that will make UW a more sustainable, inclusive and accessible campus.

Key to Map

- Signature Space
- Quad
- Other Open Space/Front Lawn
- Recreational and Collegiate Fields
- Other Campus Open Space
- Walks and Pathways
- Existing/Planned Campus Building
- Potential Campus Building
- Campus Boundary
- Major Road
- Minor Road
Proposed Open Space and Path System
Components of the circulation system include the following:

- **Public Interface Streets** – Promote a distinctive visual cue for the public entrance of campus.
- **Transit Malls** – Form a looped system through campus.
- **Promenades** – Connect the ends of campus and provide connections to buildings, open spaces and other land uses. Design for pedestrians, cyclists, limited service and maintenance traffic and emergency vehicles.
- **Walks and Pathways** – Provide connections to buildings and open spaces exclusively for pedestrians and those walking bicycles.
- **Parking/Access Routes** – Serve both pedestrians and privately-owned vehicles, while still allowing bicyclists, public transit, and service and emergency vehicles.
- **Service Routes** – Allow bicycle access, while also permitting limited pedestrian, transit and in some cases, privately-owned vehicle access. Routes can also accommodate emergency vehicle access when necessary.

**UTILITIES**

Adequate access to utilities is a necessary component for new development and an opportunity to further infuse sustainability into the campus fabric. Existing utilities can significantly limit the development potential of opportunity sites. By installing new utility corridors that traverse the campus east–west and north–south, adequate utility services will be available near new development regardless of where the new development occurs. Periodic maintenance can be preformed and new connections can be established without significant disturbances to existing buildings and landscaping.
Development Concepts

Establishing the plan framework on campus will require strategic investment and targeted improvements. The LRDP articulates major recommendations for new campus development that build and support the plan framework. Development recommendations target specific areas of campus as well as system-wide improvements. As such, the recommendations are organized around a series of development concepts that will strengthen key sites and systems throughout a unified and well-connected campus. (See map on following page.)

- **Creating a Hierarchy of Open Spaces and Green Linkages**
  
  The expansion of campus should include multiple quads at the center of building clusters, connected to campus by the promenade system. Expanded campus edges should then include a continuous front lawn to signify the entrance of campus. Additionally, a new signature open space should be developed to strengthen the prominence of Central Campus. Fraternity Mall should be enhanced and redesigned to function as a true signature open space, with improvements that include safe pedestrian access with new sidewalks and paths, the redevelopment of Fraternity Row into a transit mall, redevelopment of Sorority Row into a promenade and relocation of existing parking.

- **Connecting East, Central and West Campus**
  
  An east-west pedestrian-oriented promenade, as well as a promenade network extension should be created. Additionally, Fifteenth Street (proposed design concept on page 14) should be redesigned and reconfigured to increase visual interest, discourage cut-through traffic, and improve the safety of pedestrian crossings. Transit malls should also be created in order to improve shuttle service, as well as to provide safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle access to and along these critical corridors.

- **Creating a Critical Mass of Academic Uses on Central Campus**
  
  In an effort to link new facilities and further development to the existing campus, open space connections should be created between existing buildings, and development clusters should be linked with a network of promenades, pathways and open spaces. New buildings should be sited adjacent to existing buildings and/or around open spaces with an eye toward long-term build out.
Major Campus Development Recommendations

- Creating a Hierarchy of Open Spaces and Green Linkages
- Connecting East, Central and West Campus
- Creating a Critical Mass Academic Uses on Central Campus (Includes future site of LCCC on 22nd St North of new Visual Art Facility)
- Expanding the West Campus Academic Core
- Allowing for Future Expansion of the Research and Business Park
- Enhancing Fraternity Mall
- Redeveloping Summit View Apartments Area
- Enhancing Areas Adjacent to Prexy's Pasture
- Creating a Simplified Clear Pedestrian and Vehicular System
- Enhancing the Visitor Experience
- Creating Well-Defined Campus Edges and Entries
- Establishing Comprehensive Signage and Wayfinding

**Key to Map**

- Campus Building
- Parking Lot
- Promenade
- Campus Transit Route
- Campus Open Space
- Collegiate Fields
- Non-Campus Open Space
- Unused Campus Open Space
• **Expanding the West Campus Academic Core**
  Accommodations should be made for new academic facilities, administration space, living learning opportunities and various institutes and centers. Also, a pleasing campus edge that transitions well and improves connectivity with adjacent neighborhoods along all edges of campus should be created. Additionally, to reduce potential conflict between pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles, a vehicle-restricted transit mall should be created on Ivinson Street and Lewis Street between 10th and 14th Streets, while maintaining parking and vehicular access between 9th and 10th Streets and between 14th and 15th Streets.

• **Allowing for Future Expansion of the Research and Business Park**
  The Wyoming Technology Business Center (WTBC) serves as a successful model for future research facilities. To build on this economic development potential, an expanded research and business park adjacent to the WTBC should be developed. Space should be provided for entrepreneurs and researchers, as well as for companies that want to locate in Laramie and benefit from the UW talent pool.
Enhancing Fraternity Mall
Fraternity Mall is an iconic open space on campus and is home to one of the busiest pedestrian corridors. However, the current parking layout prevents users from fully accessing and enjoying the open space. This site can be reclaimed as functional open space by removing cars completely from Sorority Mall and Fraternity Mall. New and expanded parking facilities will be provided along Willet Drive, King Row and near Half Acre Gym. To accommodate the high level of pedestrian traffic along the newly reclaimed open space Sorority Row will be transformed into the campus’s major east/west promenade. Additionally, Fraternity Row will be repurposed into a pedestrian and bicycle-friendly transit mall.

Redeveloping Summit View Apartments
A major impetus for initiation of the LRDP was the need to redevelop the Summit View Apartments area. In order to attract residents, quality design and site amenities should be expanded, and medium and high density apartments with active ground floor design and visitor-oriented mixed use development should be included. Additionally, due to a lack of connectivity to Central and West Campus open spaces, streets with transit access, promenades and walks should be provided.

Enhancing Areas Adjacent to Prexy’s Pasture
The areas between existing facilities should be improved and new or enhanced open spaces should be designed as focal points for buildings and circulation. A network of paths and bikeways should also be incorporated to enhance and connect to other nearby open spaces. Lastly, steps should be taken to ensure that
redevelopment of any existing buildings adjacent to Prexy’s Pasture is oriented to the signature open space and is designed with an appropriate entry court.

• **Creating a Simplified, Clear Pedestrian and Vehicular System**
  Improved gateways should be provided at Flint and 9th Streets; Harney and 15th Streets; and at the intersections of Grand Avenue and 9th Street, 13th Street and 22nd Street. Portions of existing streets will be redesigned or converted, with restrictions on motor vehicle access to accommodate the transit mall and promenade network. New signage should provide clear directions to campus facilities and destinations.

• **Enhancing the Visitor Experience**
  To promote campus visibility, gateways, entry markers and monuments should be located at key intersections and around the periphery of campus, and off-campus gateways should be located at the major entrances of the Laramie. Additionally, a parking structure should be developed east of War Memorial Stadium with a transit stop for access to the main campus.
• **Creating Well-Defined Campus Edges and Entries**
  Grand Avenue should be redeveloped with generous setbacks from the roadway, ample trees and other landscaping. Additionally, 15th Street between Grand Avenue and Ivinson Street should be improved to eliminate the difficult and confusing intersection at Grand Avenue and Ivinson Street while reducing traffic volume and slowing traffic speeds. Lastly, UW should work with WYDOT to ensure that any future improvements to Grand Avenue enhance the aesthetic appeal and safety along the southern edge of campus.

• **Establishing Comprehensive Signage and Wayfinding**
  Signage and gateways should be created that reflect the University’s unique character and sense of place. A cohesive wayfinding system using materials and a color palette that reflect the UW vernacular should be developed for on and off-campus gateways and the promenade system in order to orient drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians to major campus destinations.
Implementation Strategies

The effectiveness of the LRDP is dependent upon realistic implementation strategies. These strategies help bridge the gap between recommendations and action steps.

**Strategy 1:** Dedicate approximate rights-of-way and footprints for promenades, malls, open spaces and transportation, and utility corridors prior to any additional campus development.

The conceptual location of key promenades and open spaces and circulation routes ensures that these elements remain on equal footing with the design and layout of new buildings.

**Strategy 2:** Develop circulation, utilities and incremental expansion of central services within the Capital Facilities Plan (CFP).

The updated CFP will provide University leaders with a detailed, realistic list of proposed capital improvements that will be critical to improving accessibility, connectivity and safety on the UW campus.

**Strategy 3:** Complete site and incremental central service improvements as an integral part of individual building projects.

Development projects should extend beyond the building footprint to include development of adjacent open space, utilities and services facilities, circulation and parking. The size of a development site should be approximately four times
the footprint of new construction. With some variations, half of the development site should be devoted to landscaping and open space, one-quarter developed as circulation and parking, and the remaining one-quarter occupied by the new facility.

**Strategy 4: Create detailed plans for particular subareas of campus.**

It will be necessary to create more detailed plans for the more complex subareas of campus. Such plans will be particularly useful for subareas targeted for development partnerships. The provision of adjacent site improvements and development-ready sites will be enticing to potential investors.

**Strategy 5: Create a major gift catalog with an expanded listing of small items and large-scale projects.**

Continuing with the success of the UW Foundation’s gift catalog for trees and benches, the University should develop a comprehensive gift catalog providing greater options and ideas for prospective donors. Similar to a gift registry, the catalog can be routinely updated to reflect current needs and funding shortfalls.

**Strategy 6: Pursue opportunities for land acquisition and development.**

The University should continue to purchase parcels north and south of the existing campus (between Grand Avenue and Harney Street) as they become available. Expansion of the campus core south of Ivinson Street will allow UW to control much of the public edge along the north side of Grand Avenue. The additional area can also provide new administrative space and opportunities for living learning, various institutes and centers.

**Strategy 7: Ensure operational and maintenance efficiency.**

Adequate main line and major feeder utilities and services should be appropriately sized for expected future projects, available and installed prior to completion of new development projects. Such projects should be energy and resource efficient and take into account long-term maintenance and operational needs.
Strategy 8: Implement and periodically review the LRDP.

Reviewing new project proposals in relation to the LRDP will be critical to ensure that new projects fit the campus and community vision for future development.

Strategy 9: Continue collaborative project teams for design and construction.

Project architects, engineers and planners should continue to collaborate with University faculty, staff and students where appropriate. In the long run, successful projects incorporate a wide range of perspectives to create vibrant and well-used places.

Strategy 10: Update the University of Wyoming’s Instructions to Architects and Engineers (November 2007) to reflect the University’s Long Range Development Plan.

The Instructions should place a special focus on sustainable building principles and design, as both concepts are central to the University’s LRDP.

Strategy 11: Adopt and implement the LRDP Design Guidelines.

These guidelines ensure the integrity of the campus and the vision articulated by the LRDP, while maintaining adequate flexibility to allow for contemporary design, technologies, sustainability and creativity.
ABOVE:

*Bird's eye view from west*