# **University of Wyoming** Campus Master Plan

May 2020



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## **Letter from the Acting President**



Dear Members of the University of Wyoming Community,

This campus master plan is the result of over a year of planning. Many constituents across the campus and around the state were invited to provide feedback and input into this master plan process. Together with the team from Sasaki we are proud to present the Campus Master Plan, which is the culmination of this effort. It provides a framework for the campus growth in the future and will help guide us as we move forward with our plans and new building projects.

Over the course of its 134-year history, the University has completed four campus-wide plans. The first was the Greater University Campus Master Plan, which was developed by Laramie architect Wilbur Hitchcock in conjunction with the Denver-based landscape architecture firm of McCrary, Cully and Carthart. Although the campus has grown since then, many of the core campus buildings around Prexy's Pasture still exist. A central element of this new campus master plan is to restore historic buildings around Prexy's Pasture through strategies that preserve the historic qualities and features of the buildings, while sensitively repositioning them to support 21st century teaching, learning, and research.

The vision for this plan is rooted in the historic and cultural context of the university. The plan focuses on five big ideas that connect the university's academic mission, values and strategic priorities to the physical development of the campus, and ensure the qualities of the campus are preserved and enhanced for future generations of faculty, staff and students.

I encourage those whose lives are part of the University Community to indulge in the newest Campus Master Plan and to share the vision of our university's great future.

Sincerely,

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Neil Theobald Acting President, University of Wyoming

# 1.0 Introduction





Photos courtesy of the University of Wyoming



## **1.0 Introduction**

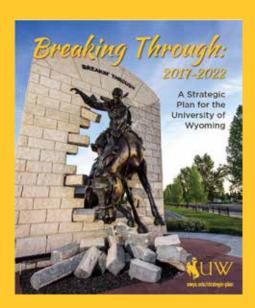
## University of Wyoming at a Glance

The University of Wyoming (UW) was founded in 1886, when Wyoming was still a territory. In September 1887, UW opened its doors to 42 students and 5 faculty members. As befitted the university of the Equality State, both the students and faculty included women from the first day. Built on the outskirts of town in Laramie's city park, Old Main was UW's first building and held classes, the library, and administrative offices during the first years of the university's existence.

The first university president, John Wesley Hoyt, established a curriculum focused on arts and humanities and created a graduate and normal school. Additionally, as Wyoming's landgrant institution, the university taught courses in agriculture, engineering, and military tactics. UW has since grown into a nationally recognized teaching and research university with approximately 13,500 students, 2,800 benefitted staff, and more than 700 faculty members. Throughout its existence, UW has been the only four-year university in the state of Wyoming, though it has maintained a close relationship with the state's community colleges. The university has special commitments to promote liberal and practical education and support the citizens of Wyoming with education, research, and service, and offers 80 undergraduate and more than 90 graduate academic programs focused in six broad areas: science and technology, the arts and humanities, environment and natural resources, life sciences, and professions critical to the state and region. The university's programs are delivered through seven colleges and multiple interdisciplinary institutes and schools:

- College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- College of Arts and Sciences
- College of Business
- College of Education
- College of Engineering and Applied Science
- College of Health Sciences
- College of Law
- · Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources
- School of Energy Resources
- UW at a Distance
- Graduate Education





UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN AND ARCHITECTURAL GUIDELINES

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Reports courtesy of the University of Wyoming

## **Background and Purpose**

#### **Campus Planning History**

While the University of Wyoming was originally established in 1886, the first plan for the campus was not created until 1924, nearly 40 years later. The *University of Wyoming Greater University Development Master Plan* emphasized landscape architecture, and led to the improvement of signature campus spaces, such as Prexy's Pasture and Fraternity Mall. It also encouraged the use of native stone in campus buildings, a defining feature of the campus that endures today. With significant growth in student population following WWII, and the acquisition of land to the east of 15th Street, a second master plan for the campus was completed in 1966 to accommodate expansion. The 1966 plan led to construction of new academic facilities within the historic core, and the development of large athletics and recreation facilities and housing within the East Campus, the first time housing was developed beyond the core.

A third campus master plan, adopted in 1991, served to guide ongoing development within the historic Campus Core, and expansion into the East Campus for over another decade. However, by the mid-2000s, changing conditions and the need to reconcile separate strategic, academic, and facility planning efforts required an update to the 1991 plan. The 2010 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) was created in response.

Since the adoption of the 2010 LRDP the university has continued to engage in significant planning efforts, resulting in the 2015 Historic Preservation Plan (HPP), and *Breaking Through*: 2017-2022, A Strategic Plan for the University of Wyoming. The LRDP and HPP have served to guide the planning and design of numerous capital projects, while *Breaking Through* has helped to identify opportunities for the university to become an even stronger flagship land-grant university. However, in support of these initiatives, university leadership recognized the need for a comprehensive campus master plan focused on specific core strategies and opportunities to better understand marketplace factors, respond to changing funding contexts, align disciplines and functions, and coordinate complex land use and facility development decisions. To that end, in fall 2018 the university issued a request for proposals (RFP) for a team of planning professionals to prepare a comprehensive master plan for the campus.

The purpose of the master plan is "to help establish institutional priorities for core strategies and operations, enable prudent resource allocation choices, and continue to advance strategically." The plan is intended to provide the university with clear direction regarding key components of university operations. In particular, the plan should accomplish the following:

- Implement strategic organizational goals and priorities so that further physical development of the campus can be based on these criteria
- Provide the university with a comprehensive long-range vision on which it can base future physical planning decisions
- Contain an inclusive process of assessment, exploration, and visioning, with a detailed agenda that establishes specific priorities
- Identify action items, implementation strategies, and general guidelines to direct the ongoing development and operations of the university

## **University Vision, Mission, and Values**

The university's vision, mission, and values are outlined in the university's strategic plan *Breaking Through: 2017-2022, A Strategic Plan for the University of Wyoming.* 

#### Vision

As the Equality State's university, we strive to break through barriers and explore new frontiers of teaching and learning. Through the unfettered pursuit of knowledge, we aim to apply innovation, intelligence, and tenacity to meet the economic, social, and environmental challenges of today, and to create a sustainable, diverse, and equitable world without borders for tomorrow.

#### Mission

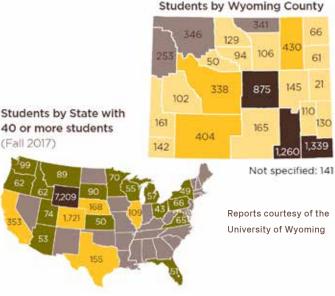
We honor our heritage as the state's flagship and land-grant university by providing accessible and affordable higher education of the highest quality; rigorous scholarship; the communication and application of knowledge; economic and community development; and responsible stewardship of our cultural, historical, and natural resources.

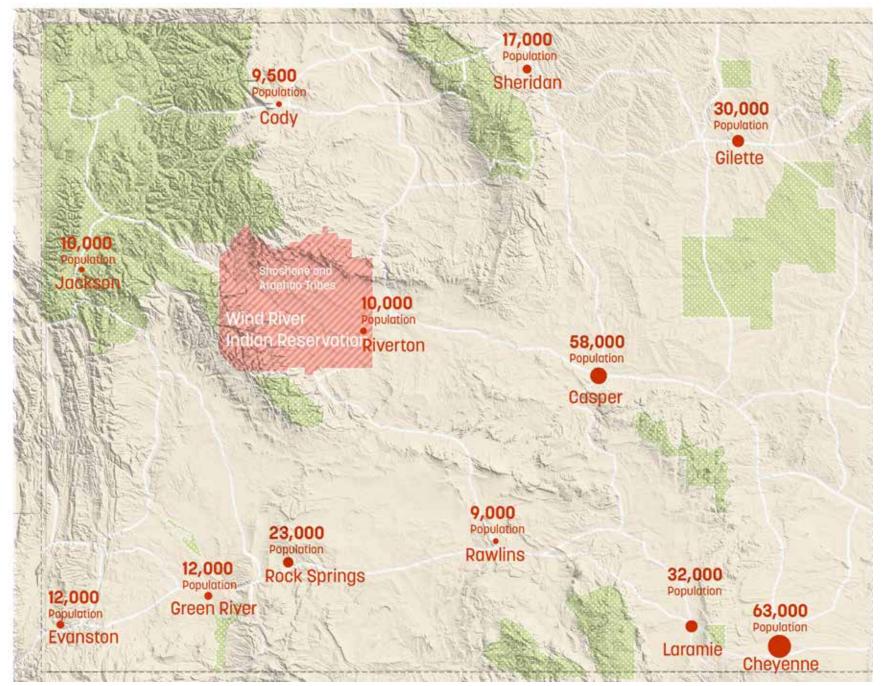
In the exercise of our primary mission to promote learning, we seek to provide academic and co-curricular opportunities that will:

- Graduate students who have experienced the frontiers of scholarship and creative activity and who are prepared for the complexities of an interdependent world;
- Cultivate a community of learning energized by collaborative work among students, faculty, staff, and external partners;

- Nurture an environment that values and manifests diversity, internationalization, free expression, academic freedom, personal integrity, and mutual respect; and
- Promote opportunities for personal health and growth, physical health, athletic competition, and leadership development for all members of the university community.

As Wyoming's only public university, we are committed to scholarship, outreach, and service that extend our human talent and technological capacity to serve the people in our communities, our state, the nation, and the world.





Wyoming population centers



Community engagement session in Sheridan

#### Values

Our values represent beliefs and principles that drive the culture and priorities of the entire university community and provide the crucial framework within which decisions are made. Regardless of role, student, faculty, staff, trustee, alumni, and other stakeholders alike recognize the importance of embedding these values in their day-to-day activities to assure that the institution and its graduates succeed and are exemplars of the best of Wyoming and the world.

#### **Engagement and Communication**

Engagement with local, state, tribal, national, and global constituencies inspires our daily work. We are committed to active outreach and clear communication with our extensive communities.

#### **Diversity and Internationalization**

A diverse and international community that includes and respects different ethnicities, genders, sexualities, abilities, cultures, and worldviews multiplies our capacity to explore, innovate, and educate.

#### **Exploration and Discovery**

Free, open, and unfettered exploration and discovery supported by rigorous peer review and the communication and application of that scholarship, constitute the core principles and practices of this university.

#### **Innovation and Application**

Creative thinking leads to new knowledge, inspires student achievement, and brings practical innovation to our communities.

#### **Disciplinarity and Interdisciplinarity**

Knowledge advances through intense and focused study and also in the intersection of ideas and disciplines. UW cultivates the energy of individual and collaborative advances.

#### Integrity and Responsibility

Outstanding teaching, learning, and scholarship rely on the principles of integrity, responsibility, and trust throughout our community.



Arena Auditorium



Photo courtesy of the University of Wyoming Archives

## Planning Process, Engagement, and Outreach

### **Planning Process**

The University of Wyoming campus master plan was prepared through a collaborative planning process involving university leadership, students, faculty, staff, and alumni, as well as community stakeholders from Laramie and across the state. The project involved the following three phases of work, which are described in further detail below:

- Phase 1: Discovery and Analysis
- Phase 2: Concept Alternatives
- Phase 3: Implementation and Documentation

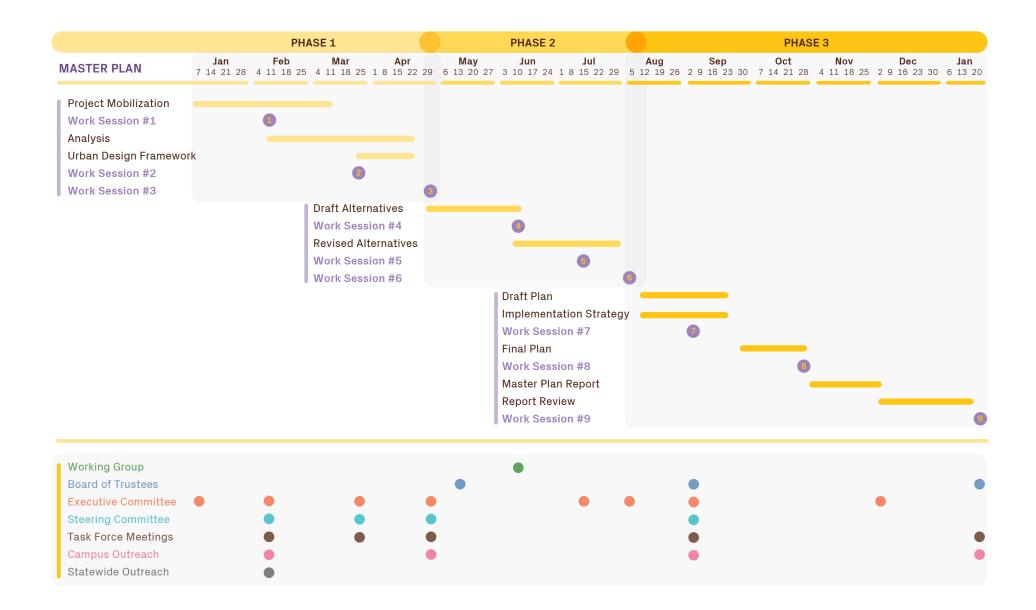
#### Phase 1: Discovery and Analysis

The Discovery and Analysis phase of work formed the foundation for the overall development of the plan, and began with a broad investigation to understand campus history, existing conditions, key issues, and master plan drivers. It also involved the beginning of a dialogue with the University of Wyoming community that helped to identify the key issues to be considered in the plan. Key tasks during this phase of work included the following:

- Assembly and review of baseline information and preparation of base materials
- Initiation of stakeholder engagement strategy, including online engagement tools

- Work Session #1: Project Kick-off Immersion and Stakeholder Engagement
- Preparation of utilization, benchmarking, and space needs assessment
- Preparation of campus analyses, including the following:
  - > Building and land use
  - > Landscape and open space
  - > Transportation and parking
  - > Student life and housing
  - > Athletics and recreation
  - > Sustainability
  - > Utilities and infrastructure
- Preparation of planning and urban design framework
- Work Session #2: Phase 1 Progress Check-in
- Work Session #3: Final Presentation of Phase 1 findings

The team synthesized findings of the Discovery and Analysis phase into goals, key issues, program needs, and an overall planning and urban design framework as the basis for the exploration of campus development opportunities during the Concept Alternatives phase of work.



#### Phase 2: Concept Alternatives

The Concept Alternatives phase of work focused on the preparation of alternative options to accommodate the future growth and development of the campus. The team developed alternatives based on findings of the Discovery and Analysis phase of work, and guidance from the stakeholder engagement process. The alternatives were constructed to address several planning and development systems and elements, including the following:

- Building and land use, and the accommodation of the identified space needs and program priorities
- Landscape and open space, taking into consideration the preservation and enhancement of open space systems and character areas, campus walkability and connectivity, ecology, natural systems, water resources, habitat, and outdoor recreation
- Mobility and parking systems, including pedestrian, bicycle, shuttle, vehicular and service networks, accessibility, and parking
- Student life and housing, and the accommodation of the student housing goals contained in legislation, together with supporting dining and student life facilities
- Athletics and recreation program goals and facility needs
- Utilities and infrastructure, and the impact on campus infrastructure of campus development strategies

Specific tasks in the Concept Alternatives phase of work included the following:

- Preparation of draft alternatives
- Work Session #4: Review of Draft Alternatives (hosted off site at Sasaki's office in Watertown)
- Refinement of alternatives
- Work Session #5: Review of Revised Alternatives
- Preparation of preferred alternative
- Work Session #6: Review of Preferred Alternative

The team presented the preferred alternative to the master plan's Executive Committee in August. Input received on the alternative provided guidance for the development of the draft campus master plan.

#### **Phase 3: Implementation and Documentation**

The Implementation and Documentation phase of the master plan focused on the development of the draft and final plans. The draft plan documents the vision, goals, big ideas, and recommendations of the master plan, which the team presented to the Board of Trustees, President's Cabinet, Master Plan Task Forces, and broader campus community at a work session visit in September 2019. The team developed the final plan based on input received during this visit. The master plan report is intended to be a working document for the university's continued use to guide the implementation of the plan, and to support fundraising efforts. Specific tasks during the Implementation and Documentation phase of work included the following:

- Preparation of the draft plan
- Work Session #7: Presentation of the Draft Plan
- Preparation of draft master plan report and Board of Trustees presentation

### **Engagement and Outreach**

The campus master plan was informed by an inclusive and interactive stakeholder engagement process that brought together diverse members of the university community at every stage of the planning effort. The engagement process included meetings with and presentations to university decision-makers, leaders, and administrators, together with targeted outreach to the broader campus community and community members across the state. The input received through these initiatives was a key driver of the plan goals, strategies, and recommendations, and is highlighted in several areas of this report, including the following:

- The overall goals of the master plan, defined in Section 2.0
- The program priorities and space needs, documented in Section 3.0
- The key issues, summarized within the analysis element of the five big ideas in Section 4.0
- The implementation priorities, identified in Section 5.0

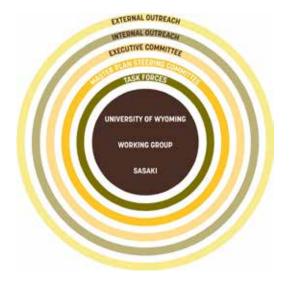
The team employed multiple strategies to engage campus constituents.

#### **Board of Trustees**

The master planning process engaged the university's Board of Trustees from the outset. The consultant team delivered presentations to the board with updates on the plan progress at key milestones.

#### Task Force on University of Wyoming Housing

The State of Wyoming passed legislation in February of 2019, to provide for the construction of new student housing on the university campus. A provision of the legislation created the Task Force on University of Wyoming Housing, charged with implementing the housing goals outlined in the act. The consultant team met with this task force at key milestones in the planning process to ensure alignment between the provisions of legislation and master plan strategies.





On-campus outreach session

#### **Executive Committee**

The master plan's Executive Committee was composed of five members of the Board of Trustees, plus the university's acting president. The Executive Committee provided input and direction at every step in the planning process through oncampus or internet presentations delivered by the consultant team. The Executive Committee reviewed all presentations to the Board of Trustees prior to their presentation to the full board.

#### **Working Group**

The master plan's Working Group served as the core project management team for the master planning effort. The Working Group was composed of the Acting University President, the Associate Vice President for Financial Affairs, the Interim Vice President for Administration, the Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, the Campus Architect, and the Senior Advisor to the Vice President. The Working Group held weekly coordination calls with the consultant team, provided guidance on planning and process issues, and reviewed all presentations prior to their delivery to other campus constituents.



Open forum at the Wyoming Union

#### **President's Cabinet**

The consultant team provided progress updates to the President's Cabinet several times during the planning process.

#### Master Planning Task Forces

At the outset of the planning process, the Working Group established several master planning task forces charged with providing guidance on specialized planning and technical aspects of the plan. The consultant team met with each task force at the outset of the planning process to identify key issues for consideration in the plan, and at additional milestones to solicit input on the findings of campus analysis elements, as well as the draft plan. Task force members represented a broad range of university stakeholders, bringing diverse perspectives to the planning process. The task forces included the following:

- Campus Design
- Mobility
- Infrastructure, Facilities, and Land Management
- Intercollegiate Athletics, Health, and Wellness
- Learning Environments
- Scholarship and Research
- Student Life (Housing and Dining)

Input from the task forces provided the consultant team with a comprehensive understanding of current issues, summarized into key themes that helped to frame the overall context for planning.



Sasaki presentation at an open forum

#### **University Stakeholders**

The consultant team held additional interviews with individuals or representatives of stakeholders not directly assigned to one of the task forces, including the following:

- Deans of each of the university's colleges and schools
- Vice President of Research and Economic Development
- University Librarian
- University of Wyoming Foundation
- Greek Life
- University of Wyoming Alumni Association
- Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW)
- City of Laramie

These interviews provided additional insights for consideration in the plan. The conversations with the deans were instrumental in confirming program needs and priorities for the colleges and schools.

#### **Campus and Laramie Community**

The campus engagement strategy also included several campus-wide events and forums with both the broader university and Laramie communities. Events included pop-up tabling exercises in the Wyoming Union and at other campus locations, and town-hall-style meetings at key milestones in the planning process.



Community engagement session at Sheridan High School



Community engagement session at Sheridan High School



Community engagement session at Rock Springs High School



Highway 16 near Ten Sleep



Interstate 90 outside Sheridan

#### Statewide Outreach

At the outset of the planning process, the consultant team participated in a statewide outreach tour that included listening sessions, meetings, and tours in the communities of Sheridan and Rock Springs, as well as a drive across the state from Sheridan to Rock Springs. The tour included meetings with high school students that were accepted to the university or were considering applying, tours of university outreach centers and the Sheridan and Western Wyoming community colleges, and a tour of a local fertilizer plant to understand local employment conditions in Rock Springs. The goal of the outreach tour was to provide the consultant team with an understanding of the economically diverse communities the university supports, as well as exposure to the dramatic landscapes and vast distances that define the character of the state. Key takeaways from the statewide outreach include the following:

- Community colleges and towns are partnership opportunities

   There was a great deal of enthusiasm around working with UW on mutually beneficial projects. UW was seen as a resource for communities across the state.
- Prospective students have many profiles Straight A, academically directed students, students with a diverse interests, as well as first generation students all expressed interest in attending UW.
- Community is strong locally and statewide People expressed gratitude for the closeness of their local community and also felt a sense of belonging to the state as a whole.
- "Small towns with unusually long streets" Governor Micheal Sullivan – this quote was cited during outreach meetings as capturing both the feeling of closeness within communities and as well as the connection between communities even though they can be a long distance apart.
- Wyoming is big and beautiful The natural beauty of the state as well as wide open spaces were a shared source of pride and seen as a statewide resource.



Statewide outreach map



Concepts charrette at Sasaki's office



#### **Online Engagement**

The consultant team also employed several online engagement tools to supplement face-to-face engagement and further reach campus constituents:

#### Master Plan Website

The consultant team established a master plan website to serve as a process and communication tool. The team used the website to share works in progress, and as a forum for collecting feedback and comments through the duration of the planning process.

#### **MyCampus Survey**

The consultant team's MyCampus interactive online survey was used to solicit input from students, faculty, and staff on their experience of the campus. Over 900 students, faculty, and staff responded to the survey. The team compiled responses to reveal patterns of use and highlight key issues for consideration in the plan.

#### **Collaboration Survey**

The consultant team issued its Collaboration online survey to faculty and staff to understand current and preferred departmental and academic and research program adjacencies.

#### **Consultant Team**

Sasaki is an inter-disciplinary planning and urban design firm based in Watertown, MA, and served as the lead consultant on the project. Sasaki provided planning, urban design, architecture, and landscape architecture services. The Sasaki team was supported by several specialized sub-consultants including GHLN and Coffey Engineering and Surveying for utility infrastructure and civil engineering services, Envision Strategies for the evaluation of campus dining space needs, and Heritage Strategies, who developed the university's Historic Preservation Plan for the University of Wyoming in 2015, and provided heritage resource consulting services. Mackey Mitchell Architects worked on a parallel study of the Wyoming Union, which was closely aligned with the overall master plan effort.





Concepts charrette at Sasaki's office

2.0 Master Plan Goals



Energy Innovation Center on campus

Photo courtesy of the University of Wyoming



Highway 16 near Ten Sleep



Statewide outreach session

## 2.0 Master Plan Goals

The team developed the following campus master plan goals based on the priorities identified in the university's strategic plan, conversations with university leadership and campus stakeholders, and the consultant team's analysis of campus conditions. The goals were instrumental in defining the overall vision for the campus, the five big ideas in the plan, and the strategies for implementing the plan over the next 20 years.

- Ensure academic success and realize the university's strategic priorities by creating a campus environment that fosters and rewards excellence in teaching, scholarship, innovation, and creative endeavor. Implement campus design strategies that encourage and support interaction among students, faculty, and researchers; promote inter-disciplinary engagement; support the university's research enterprise; and encourage entrepreneurship.
- Create a vibrant campus life experience to support student success by reinforcing student residential neighborhoods, providing amenities to support community in all areas of the campus, and enhancing access to student support services. Plan for the long-term renewal of the Wyoming Union as the center of student life.
- Celebrate Wyoming culture and identity. Implement campus, landscape, and architectural design strategies that honor the university's history and heritage, embrace the university's land-grant legacy, reflect the dramatic beauty of the regional landscape and open space setting, and respond to local climate conditions.
- Continue to support a competitive intercollegiate athletics

program that will attract top student athletes, foster campus and community pride, and bring recognition to the university across the state and beyond. Improve physical connections to athletic facilities and the East Campus public realm to better integrate intercollegiate athletics programs within the broader campus experience.

- Create a more cohesive campus through improved connections, campus design, and an enhanced public realm. Extend the special qualities of the Campus Core to all areas of the campus to create an environment that is inviting and memorable. Reinforce campus land use, open space, mobility, and infrastructure systems to support campus functionality and efficiency.
- Welcome and reach out to communities from Wyoming and beyond, by reinforcing town-gown relationships and enhancing connections with the Laramie community, downtown, and the surrounding region. Support the needs of a diverse student body with a range of socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. Continue to provide amenities that invite the community onto campus.

3.0 Master Plan Ргодгат

## 3.0 Master Plan Program

During the Discovery and Analysis phase of the planning process, the consultant team assessed instructional space utilization, and documented identified space and facility needs for the university's academic and research, student life, and athletics and recreation programs to generate an overall master plan program. The student housing mandated by legislation was also included in program.

## Instructional Space Utilization Analysis

The purpose of the instructional space utilization analysis was to gain a common understanding of existing instructional space use relative to instructional space needs, course delivery, and pedagogy. For classrooms, the analysis examined utilization, occupancy, and room fit. Room utilization refers to the percentage of time a classroom is scheduled relative to the time it is available over the course of the week, while occupancy or seat fill refers to the percentage of seats that are occupied when a room is scheduled. The room fit analysis examined the demand for classrooms within a particular seat capacity range relative to the supply of rooms within the same range to establish the needed room supply for current and planned course offerings. The findings of the analysis highlighted opportunities to retrofit or repurpose underutilized rooms by right-sizing the classroom space supply.

The analysis also examined utilization and occupancy for teaching labs, in order to understand how well these rooms are currently used relative to space planning benchmarks.

#### Assumptions

The analysis was based on the fall 2018 course schedule, which was provided by the university registrar, and applied the following:

- Utilization was assessed over a 45-hour academic week, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday
- Both a weekly informal break period held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 12:15 to 1:20 p.m., and the scheduled use of rooms for non-class events were factored into the analysis
- The analysis assumed an optimal average weekly classroom room utilization rate of 65%, and an optimal lab utilization rate of 25 to 50%, which are higher-education industry standards
- The analysis also assumed a target classroom occupancy rate of 65%, and a target lab occupancy of 35%, which are also industry standards



100+ seat tiered classroom

### **Instructional Space Analysis Findings**

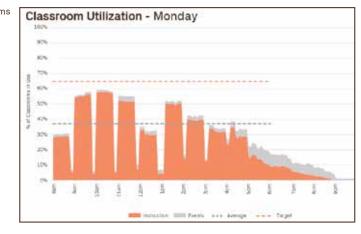
#### Classrooms

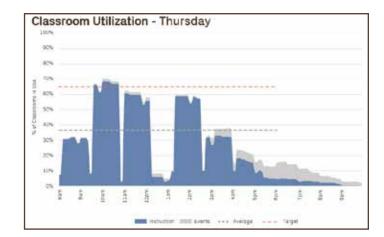
- Overall average weekly classroom utilization was approximately 38%
- Average utilization during the peak 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. period was closer to 60% on Mondays and Wednesdays, and 70% on Tuesdays and Thursdays; average utilization on Fridays was typically below 50%
- Overall classroom occupancy was approximately 60% across all rooms, close to the industry target
- The right-sizing analysis revealed a shortage of smaller rooms with capacities of 1-15 and 16-25 seats, and a surplus of larger rooms with capacities of 26-40 seats and larger, broken down as follows:
  - > 1-15 seats: 18-room deficit
  - > 16-25 seats: 22-room deficit
  - > 26-40 seats: 43-room surplus
  - > 56-70 seats: 2-room surplus
  - > 100+ seat rooms: 7-room surplus

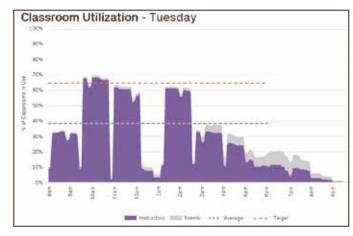
Classroom supply can never be perfectly matched with course demand; however, the right-sizing analysis revealed there should be opportunities for improved efficiency. Potential strategies include retrofitting large classrooms to accommodate active learning, sub-dividing large classrooms to address the need for smaller rooms, or repurposing select rooms to meet the need for other space types, such as student study, social, and collaboration space.

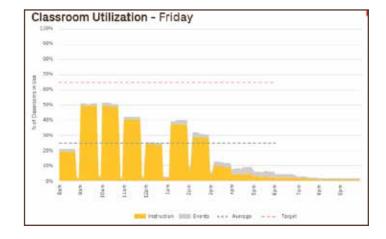
#### Teaching Labs

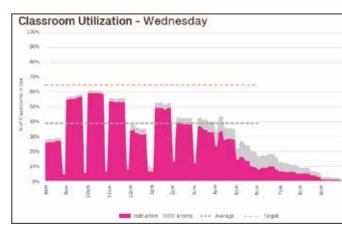
- Overall average teaching-lab utilization ranged from approximately 20% on Mondays and Wednesdays, to nearly 30% on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Average lab utilization typically achieved the 35% target during the afternoon period on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; average utilization on Friday was below 10%

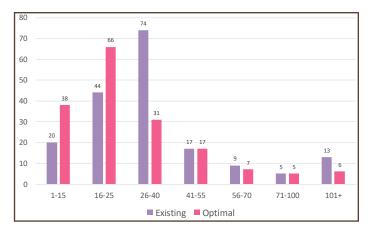












### **Identified Space and Facility Needs**

Conversations with the deans of each college and school and other university stakeholders highlighted the need for renovations and improvements to a number of buildings, and included requests for specialized spaces to support goals for teaching, research, student life, and athletics and recreation. While these needs and requests reflect current priorities and form the basis of the high-level master plan program, they have not been approved by university leadership. Specific proposals for building renovations, improvements, or new construction must be evaluated through the university's formal capital planning process, taking into consideration the university's strategic priorities, competing demands for space, and budget constraints.

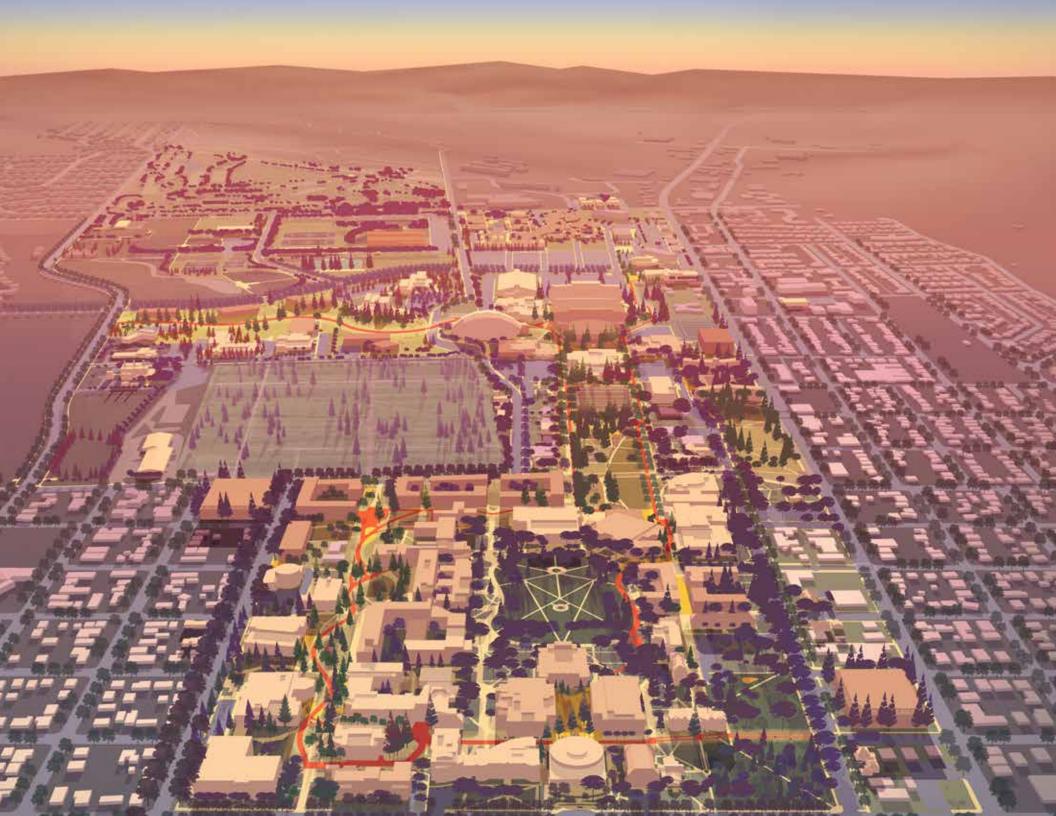
Program Area	Potential Renovation or Improvement	New Space Need
College of Arts and Sciences	• Renovation of Physical Science, Biological Sciences, and Arts and Sciences buildings to create more active learning and contemporary learning space	• N/A
College of Education	Renovation of Education building	• New Lab School (62,000 GSF)
College of Engineering and	Renovation of Engineering building, including removal of central sawtooth	Long-term research expansion space
Applied Science	Creation of collaboration, active learning, and contemporary learning space	
	Accommodation of the new Construction Management program	
	Enhanced connections to Lewis Street	
College of Agriculture and	Renovation of Agriculture building for research	• N/A
Natural Resources	• Creation of collaboration, active learning, and contemporary learning space	
	• Conversion of east side of Animal Science/Molecular Biology (ASMB) building for research expansion	
Hansen Arena Upgrades	• N/A	• Creation of second arena with capacity to board 100 horses
		Associated new community and support spaces
Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory	• Renovation of the USDA building and backfill to accommodate growth	• Demolition of the Roundhouse and replacement with addition for USDA
Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources	Accommodation of program within Campus Core	• N/A
College of Business	• Accommodation of potential Hospitality Business Management program (space need not currently defined)	• N/A
College of Law	• Renovation of existing building to accommodate and consolidate clinical functions, provide more communal and social space, and enhance faculty office spaces	• Addition to accommodate identified program needs
College of Health Sciences	• N/A	• New Health Sciences facility to accommodate expansion for interdisciplinary research, simulation space, and new Physical Therapy program

Research	• N/A	<ul> <li>New interdisciplinary research hub to support connections across academic programs</li> </ul>
Other Academic Building Renovations	Bureau of Mines building general renovation	• N/A
	• Guthrie House general renovation	
	• Aven Nelson building renovation to create hub containing offices, conference rooms, classrooms, and event space for interdisciplinary programs	
Housing	• Renovation of former residence halls within the Campus Core to meet the overall bed count mandated by legislation	• 2,000 beds of first year housing mandated by legislation
Student Life and Dining	Renovation and expansion of the Wyoming Union	<ul> <li>Potential Wyoming Union addition to accommodate expanded dining and student service consolidation</li> <li>New dining center within new residence halls</li> </ul>
	• Accommodation of new dining options within the Wyoming Union	
	Potential consolidation of student services	
		• Additional dining locations within the Campus Core and East Campus
Athletics and Recreation	• Improvements to the west side of War Memorial Stadium	• UniWyo Sports Complex expansion with 3,000 seats
	Renovation of soccer complex	• New natatorium with 50-meter pool
	Renovation of Corbett building	• New indoor track and field facility
		• New shared synthetic turf field with lights
		• New grass recreation fields
Replacement Program	• N/A	• Replacement services building (displaced for housing)
		<ul> <li>Replacement facility for bus fleet (displaced for housing)</li> </ul>
		• Potential relocation of Wyoming Public Radio
Parking	• N/A	• Two multi-level garages to accommodate displaced parking
		• Additional surface parking proximate to campus
		• Expanded VIP parking for athletics

4.0 Campus Master Plan







# 4.0 Campus Master Plan

# Vision

The master plan for the University of Wyoming campus is the product of a year-long, collaborative planning process that brought together members of the campus community from across the state, resulting in a vision for the future of the campus—**One Wyoming**—that reflects the community's shared ideals, values, and aspirations. The One Wyoming vision is rooted in the university's unique historic and cultural context, and promises a future that is bold, inspiring, and enduring. It is expressed through five big, transformational ideas that connect the university's academic mission, values, and strategic priorities to the physical development of the campus, and ensures the qualities of the campus that are so deeply cherished are preserved and enhanced for generations of students to come.

One Wyoming's five big ideas prescribe specific strategies for the physical organization of the campus and campus improvements. They position programmatic priorities for the university's academic and research enterprise, student experience, and athletics and recreation, within a rational framework of land and building use, public realm, mobility, and infrastructure systems that will transform the campus over time. They also provide guidance for decisions concerning incremental campus improvements, so that each capital investment—including building renovations and new construction, landscape improvements, and utility infrastructure upgrades and extensions—contributes towards the implementation of the vision over time.

## Discovery and Learning:

Create an academic environment that promotes discovery and learning throughout the campus.

# 2. Residential Roots:

Return to our residential roots in support of vibrant living/learning communities.

# 3. Student Life Experience:

Foster an intentional and intuitive student life experience that meets the needs of the contemporary student.

# 4. Pedestrian-friendly:

Extend the pedestrian-friendly qualities of the Campus Core to all areas of the campus.

## 5. Welcoming Campus:

Reinforce connections beyond the campus to welcome the state.

For each big idea (on the following pages), the master plan highlights how the university's mission and strategic plan inform planning strategies, summarizes the key themes that emerged through engagement with campus community stakeholders and through the consultant team's analysis, and describes the master plan strategies that give form to the development of the campus.

# Big Idea # 1—

# Discovery and Learning: Create an academic environment that promotes discovery and learning throughout the campus.

## **Context and Analysis**

#### **Mission and Strategic Plan Relevance**

#### Mission

- Cultivate a community of learning energized by collaborative work among students, faculty, staff, and external partners
- Nurture an environment that values and manifests diversity, internationalization, free expression, academic freedom, personal integrity, and mutual respect

#### Strategic Plan Vision

• Break through barriers and explore new frontiers of teaching and learning

#### Strategic Plan Goal One: Driving Excellence

- Join together as an intellectual community already renowned for its regional, national, and global relevance and impact by fostering and rewarding excellence in teaching, scholarship, innovation, and creative endeavor
- Promote and strengthen the university as a scholarly and creative enterprise
- Foster entrepreneurship and collaboration in research and teaching that bridge disciplines and engage public concerns

#### **Key Themes**

#### Teaching and Learning

- A desire exists to create small-scale community across campus
- More active learning environments are a priority
- Spaces for students to work together and engage with faculty and spaces for faculty interactions are in short supply
- Academic programs are currently siloed and campus organization does not support interdisciplinary work
- The location of some academic programs on the East Campus creates scheduling challenges
- A growing interest in entrepreneurship and innovation creates a need for more maker spaces
- The social aspects of learning are increasingly important and need to be considered in residence hall programming and the delivery of student support services, tutoring, and mental health support

#### Scholarship and Research

- The university strives to compete with the top out-of-state institutions
- Opportunity exists to better showcase research, and to better communicate the value of research for undergraduate education
- A need exists for interdisciplinary research and for graduate students
- Research activity should be visible
- Opportunities exist to bring researchers together around transdisciplinary challenges
- More informal collaboration space is needed



Enzi STEM



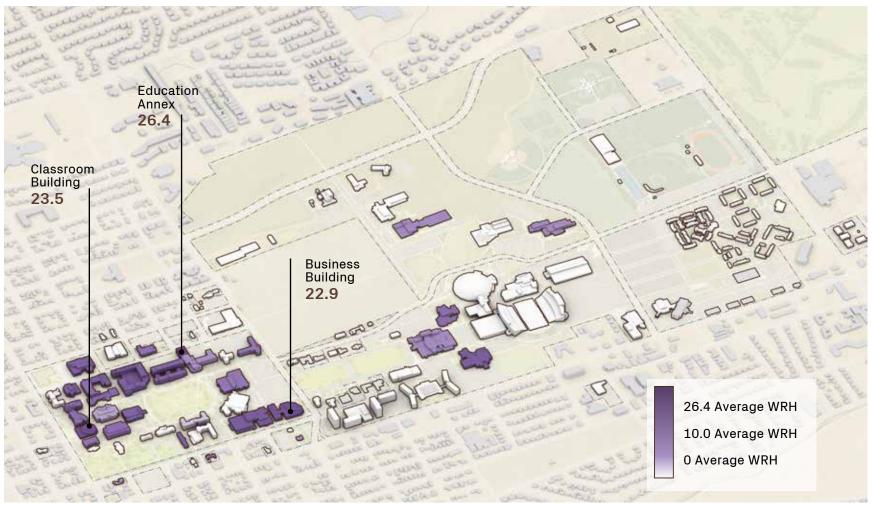
Knight Hall



#### **Analysis Findings**

Academic facilities are largely concentrated west of 15th Street, with some facilities situated further east. While there has been significant new construction over the past few decades, there is an ongoing need to invest in existing academic and research facilities to address deferred maintenance and create more contemporary teaching and learning environments, in particular within the historic building stock surrounding Prexy's Pasture. In addition, while new facilities east of 15th Street are of high quality, their distance from the Campus Core creates scheduling challenges, and limits opportunities for inter-disciplinary exchange.

Buildings by predominant academic program



Utilization/Weekly room hours (WRH) per building

# **Master Plan Strategy**

#### Academic and Research Framework

The master plan establishes an overall framework for the organization of academic and research uses across the campus to support investment in the teaching, learning, and research environment. A central element of the framework is the restoration of historic buildings around Prexy's Pasture, through strategies that preserve the historic qualities and features of the buildings, while sensitively repositioning them to support 21st-century teaching, learning, and research modalities. The master plan also defines several precinct areas to encourage interdisciplinary exchange across academic programs and support student engagement. Each precinct contains a mix of new or renovated instructional space, as well as collaborative student activity hubs located throughout. Within the East Campus, the plan maintains the developing Research Precinct in the area defined by Harney, 19th, and 22nd streets, and Willett Drive to accommodate research growth in support of the university's mission.

.....

Proposed Academic & Research Buildings Renovated Academic & Research Buildings Existing Academic & Research Buildings Other Buildings



#### **Research District**



esearch

Willett Dr.

Law School Addition

Law

2000

G

Grand Ave.

Cultural Precinct

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Armory Rd.

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22nd St.

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Library

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Business

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Harney St.

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Health Sciences

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Academic and research framework diagram

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#### Academic Core

The plan focuses investment in buildings within the Academic Core to address deferred maintenance and create a 21stcentury teaching, learning, and research environment. Priority renovations include the Agriculture, Education, and Engineering buildings, the Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, Arts & Sciences, Aven Nelson, and Bureau of Mines buildings. Renovation strategies preserve the exterior historic integrity while modernizing interiors. Where possible, renovations emphasize interdisciplinary exchange by introducing active learning classrooms and shared social and collaboration space open to students across academic programs. The university's 2015 historic preservation plan provides specific guidance on the treatment of historic buildings, so that planned improvements are sensitive to the historic qualities and character-defining elements that contribute to their historic status.

The renovation of historic residence halls is addressed under the Return to our Residential Roots theme.



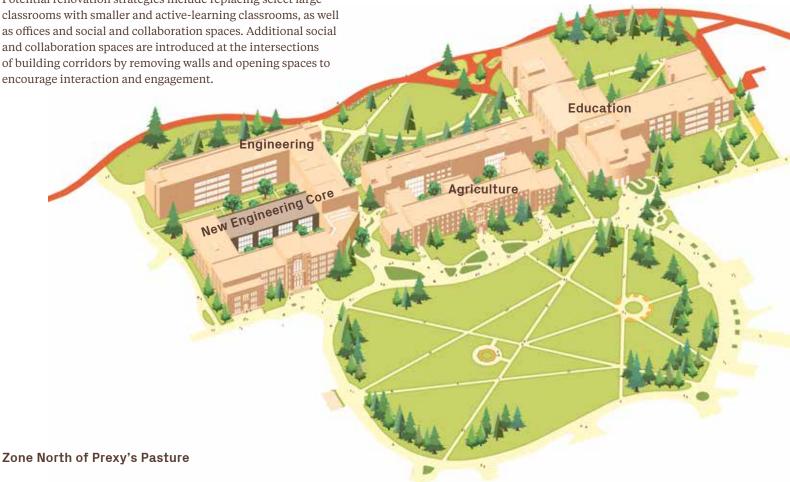
Arts & Sciences plaza

#### **Prexy's North Precinct**

Prexy's North Precinct contains the Agriculture, Education, and Engineering buildings. The master plan proposes several strategies within this precinct. The plan introduces a new potential Lab School for the College of Education on a site fronting Bradley Street, north of the existing school. Following the relocation of the Lab School, the Education building is renovated to better meet the needs of the college.

The Agriculture building is also renovated. The building is highly efficient, with few informal social spaces throughout. Potential renovation strategies include replacing select large classrooms with smaller and active-learning classrooms, as well as offices and social and collaboration spaces. Additional social and collaboration spaces are introduced at the intersections of building corridors by removing walls and opening spaces to encourage interaction and engagement.

A similar renovation strategy is applied to the Engineering building, which is limited in its use due to accessibility challenges. In addition, the existing shop area that occupies the building courtyard is replaced with a multi-story infill addition that connects the east and west wings of the building. The addition could accommodate another hub containing social and collaboration space, or could serve as a home for the university's new Construction Management program. Active outdoor courtyard space is preserved on the ground level.



#### Arts and Sciences Precinct

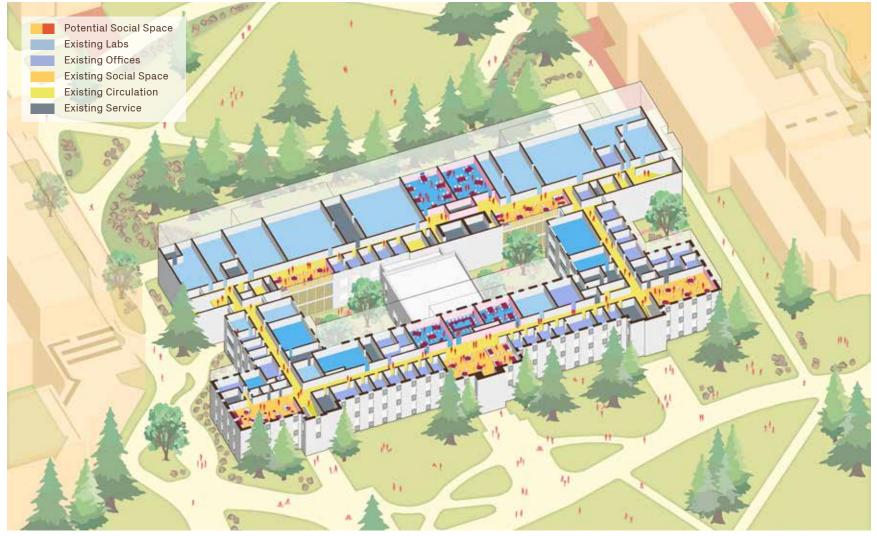
The master plan creates a new Arts and Sciences Precinct anchored by the existing plaza framed by the Classroom, Physical Science, Biological Sciences, and Arts and Sciences buildings. Upon completion of the Science Initiative building and the relocation of physical science programs, the ground floor of the Physical Science building is renovated and repurposed to create a collaboration and social hub at the heart of the precinct. The hub contains the Elements café, which is moved from the Classroom building, and is designed with open, transparent spaces to activate the adjacent plaza. A vertical connection with a public

stair is introduced to bring light to the lower level of the building and connect it with the hub. Landscape improvements to the plaza include new planted areas and outdoor seating to encourage active use of the plaza. The west wall of the Arts and Sciences building could serve as a screening wall to project movies during events in the plaza.

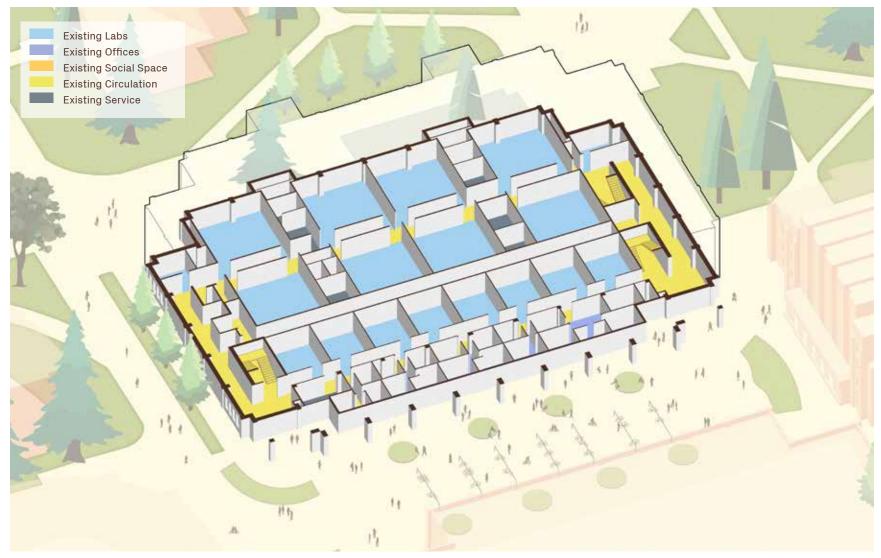




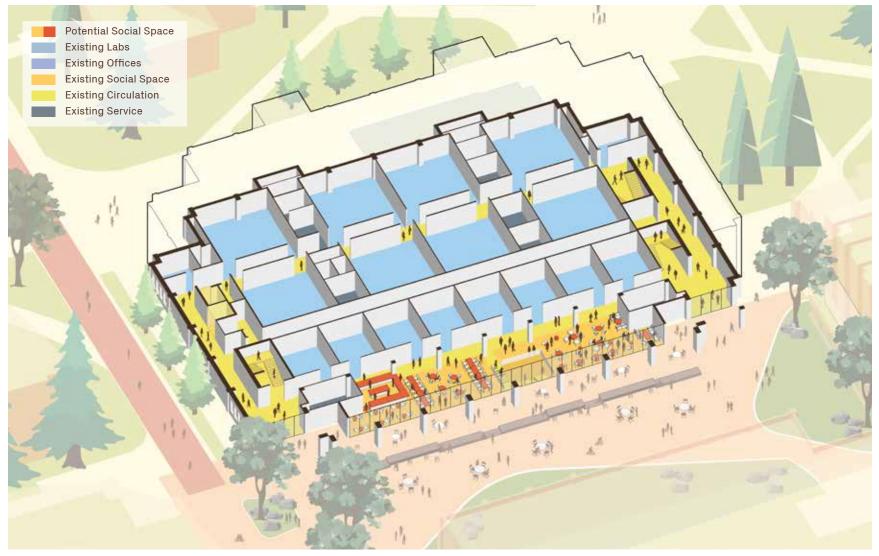
Existing College of Agriculture Building



Potential transformation of the College of Agriculture Building



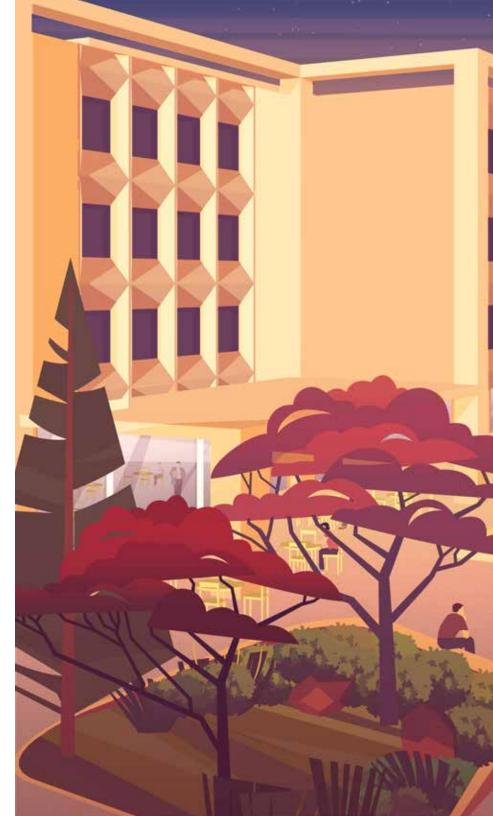
Existing Physical Sciences Building



Potential transformation of the Physical Sciences Building



Existing Arts & Sciences plaza



Proposed Arts & Sciences plaza





Existing Aven Nelson Building

The master plan introduces a new science-focused interdisciplinary hub within the Aven Nelson building, at the west edge of the Arts and Sciences Precinct. The hub contains offices, flexible classrooms, and meeting space, as well as study and social space to support science programs.



Proposed transformation of the Aven Nelson Building

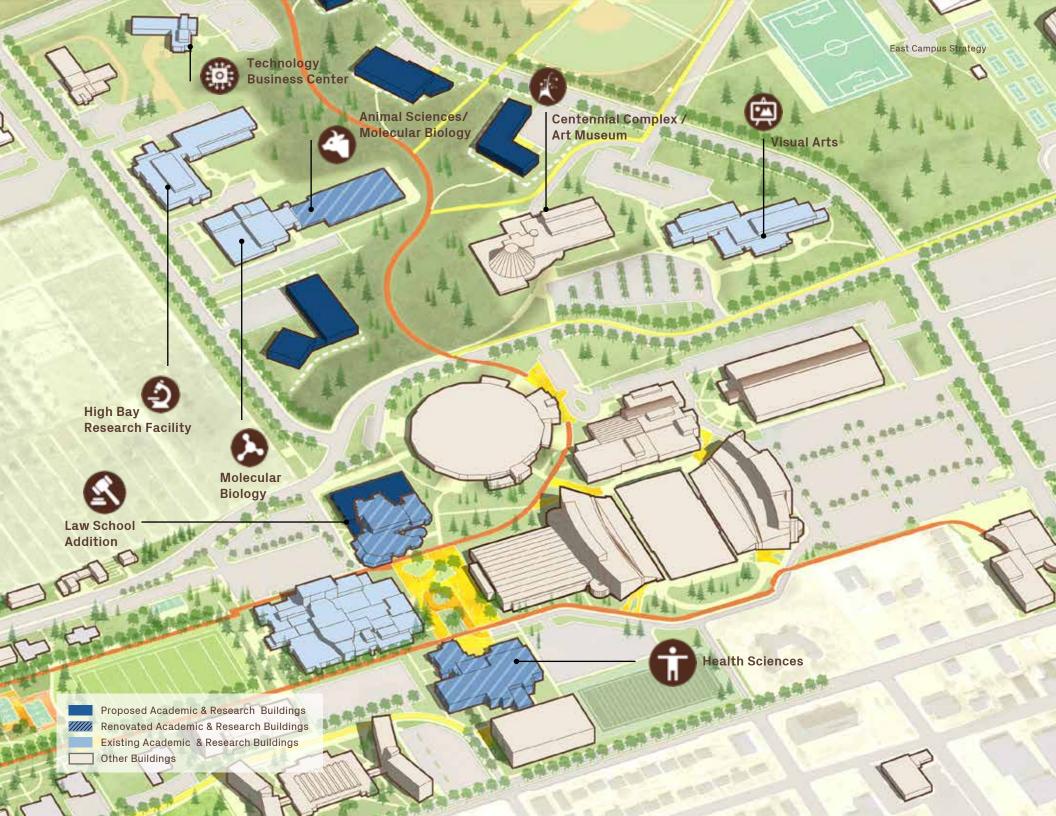


Buchanan Performing Arts Center. Photo courtesy of the University of Wyoming.

#### East Campus

The master plan reinforces existing academic and research uses within the East Campus to address programmatic needs. The Law School is renovated and an addition to the north is created to accommodate program needs and consolidate clinical functions. The existing Corbett building is renovated and a new natatorium is introduced to the south to support the academic, athletics, and recreation programs.

The plan also maintains its existing Research Precinct in the area defined by Harney, 19th, and 22nd Streets, and Willett Drive to accommodate research growth in support of the university's mission. The eastern half of the existing Animal Science/Molecular Biology building is renovated after completion of the Science Initiative building enables the relocation of existing Molecular Biology functions. Future research growth is accommodated on other sites within the Research Precinct where large footprint facilities are needed.





Existing open space at 22nd & Harney



Proposed Research Precinct and Open Space



# Big Idea # 2—

# Residential Roots: Return to our residential roots in support of vibrant living and learning communities.

## **Context and Analysis**

#### **Mission and Strategic Plan Relevance**

#### Mission

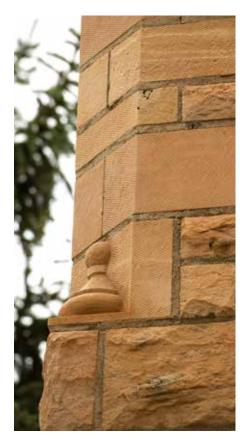
 Nurture an environment that values and manifests diversity, internationalization, free expression, academic freedom, personal integrity, and mutual respect

#### Strategic Plan Goal Two: Inspiring Students

- Inspire students to pursue a productive, engaged, and fulfilling life and prepare them to succeed in a sustainable global economy
- Welcome, support, and graduate students of differing backgrounds, abilities, and needs and from different cultures, communities, and nations
- Build new living and learning communities to enhance retention
- Augment student support services to ensure that students thrive emotionally and physically

#### **Key Themes**

- A need exists to integrate socializing, dining, living, and studying in a more seamless, intentional, and intuitive way and to develop vibrant living and learning communities
- Existing residence halls do not assist with retention or recruitment
- Interest exists in second-year residential experience if desirable housing were provided
- The need to recreate home and need to create an experience that expands horizons requires balance





Knight and Ross Hall architectural details





#### **Analysis Findings**

Most of the university's student housing is located in two residence hall complexes sited outside the Campus Core in the area bounded by 15th Street, King Row, 19th Street, and Grand Avenue. The Washakie complex is located in the west portion of this area, and consists of four multi-story buildings—Orr, McIntyre, Downey, and White Halls—that together contain a total of 1,915 mostly freshmen beds. The Crane-Hill complex is located to the east of the Washakie halls, and largely provided single-occupancy rooms. Hill Hall was just renovated for use as flexible office space, which will likely occur to Crane Hall as well to provide surge space and flexible academic and office space. The Army and Air Force ROTC will be located in the former dining center of the facility.

The existing residence hall complexes are nearly 50 years old, lack spaces to support community, and do not meet contemporary standards for student housing. In addition, they are disconnected from the academic, student life, and student service functions located within the Campus Core, including most classrooms and labs, Coe Library, the Wyoming Union, and Half Acre. Further, 15th Street—one of Laramie's north-south traffic arterials—separates the complexes from the Campus Core, creating safety concerns for students walking between the dorms and the core.

With these factors in mind, the university commissioned a housing master plan in 2017 to assess current conditions and provide recommendations to improve the quality and suitability of housing and community spaces across campus. The master plan concluded with the following strategic recommendations:

#### Recommendation 1

Create a better alignment between housing types and different stages of student development through renovation and new construction.

#### Recommendation 2

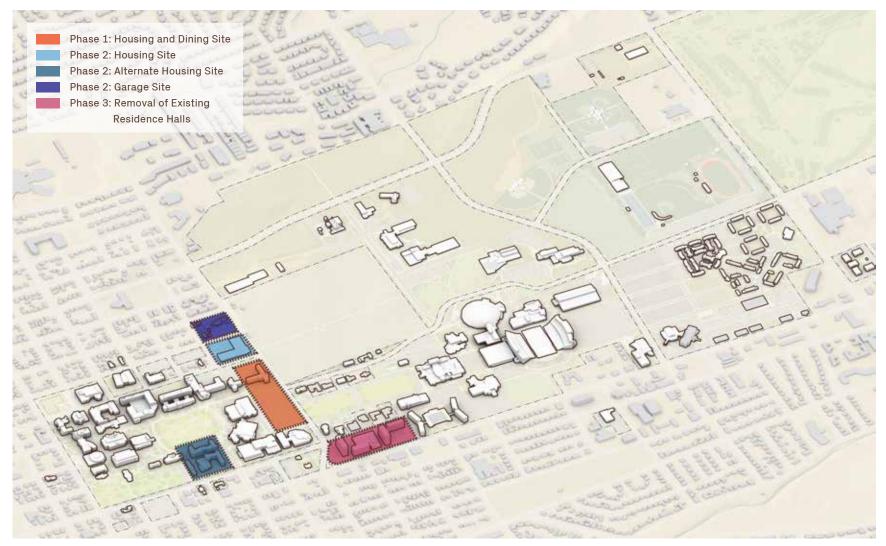
Enhance the housing and residential life program by adding residential space that will accommodate a residential college and/or other programmatic experiences that incorporate academic and/or co-curricular activities into residential living.

#### Recommendation 3

Seek to cultivate Greek life on campus through greater university involvement with Greek national organizations (e.g., the house corporations), more involvement in each Greek house's management structure, and steadier/more involved contact with national Greek organizations.

#### Recommendation 4

Add community spaces in a targeted fashion at various points across campus (as well as within residence halls) to provide more opportunities for student interaction and campus co-curricular/ social life.



Student housing precinct

Based on these recommendations, the university is moving forward with the replacement of 2,000 beds of dormitory housing on sites identified in the accompanying graphic. The design for the residential precinct includes student beds, student support services, dining, and parking. The redevelopment of student housing creates the opportunity to transform the student experience by integrating socializing, dining, living, and studying in a more seamless, intentional, and intuitive way.



Proposed Residential Buildings Renovated Residential Buildings Existing Residential Buildings Other Buildings

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# **Master Plan Strategy**

#### Housing Framework

The master plan housing framework responds to the legislative charge for 2,000 beds of housing through a combination of new construction and the potential conversion of former residence halls located within the historic core back to housing. As required by legislation, new first-year housing facilities are introduced on development sites west of 15th Street, on the parking lot east of Half Acre, Wyoming Hall and Wyoming Hall parking lot sites, and the Services building site. The potential restoration of historic residence halls further augments the supply of housing next to the heart of the campus. Housing on both of the sites identified through legislation and within restored residence halls contain shared spaces and amenities to enhance student community and benefit from proximity to academic facilities, student support amenities, a renovated Wyoming Union, and a new dining facility, which together enhance opportunities for an engaged first-year living and learning experience that welcomes students from all backgrounds. The dining facility is integrated in an early phase of development to replace the Washakie Dining Center. New buildings heights are a maximum of six floors to respond in scale and height to adjacent buildings within the Campus Core.

To accommodate new housing, the existing Services building is relocated to either the former armory site at Armory and 30th Streets, or a site next to the Central Energy Plant, south of Harney Street. Associated bus and fleet storage are relocated to the university property on South 15th Street.



McWhinnie Hall architectural details



McWhinnie Hall architectural details

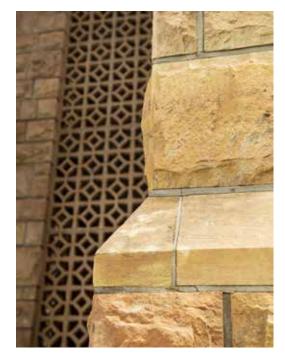
#### Former Residence Hall Conversion

The master plan housing framework accommodates a portion of the 2,000-bed housing program by converting several former residence halls back to student housing. Buildings to be considered include Ross, Knight, and Hoyt Halls, which are located along the south edge of Prexy's Pasture, and McWhinnie Hall, which is located immediately to the west of Wyoming Hall. The master plan recommends that feasibility studies be prepared for individual buildings to assess whether renovating these buildings is financially viable.





Ross Hall architectural details



The master plan generally preserves original building configurations with interventions that create a contemporary student housing experience. These include the introduction of small-scale community spaces in building wings, the provision of community bathrooms with privacy gradients, and the placement of common rooms and study spaces throughout. Specific strategies within these buildings include the following:

- In Knight Hall, the west wing of the building is replaced with a new three-floor addition to accommodate additional housing needs, and a new lounge that looks over the courtyard space to the south
- A new lounge in Ross Hall provides views over Prexy's Pasture to the north
- In McWhinnie Hall, an added faculty apartment has an exterior entry and an interior connection to student residences
- Additional strategies for Hoyt Hall may be explored as the feasibility of converting this building is assessed

If Knight, Ross, and Hoyt Halls are converted for housing, an additional dining venue may be needed in this area of the campus. The west portion of Knight Hall is a potential location.

Ross Hall architectural details





Existing alley between Ross and Knight Halls

#### **Prexy's South Precinct**

Several site improvements support the creation of Prexy's South Precinct. A new pedestrian corridor is introduced within the existing alley between Ross and Knight Halls as an outdoor amenity space for these buildings. The corridor contains landscape elements, outdoor seating, and lighting to promote student use. It also connects with the broader campus pedestrian network extending to the east and west.

#### **Student Apartments**

Apartments complexes including the Landmark Village, River Village, Bison Run, and Spanish Walk will need renovation work and potentially replacement with the 20-year timeframe of the plan, and will continue to be used for family and nontraditional student housing.





# Big Idea # 3—

Student Life Experience: Foster an intentional and intuitive student life experience that meets the needs of the contemporary student.

### **Context and Analysis**

#### **Mission and Strategic Plan Relevance**

#### Mission

- Nurture an environment that values and manifests diversity, internationalization, free expression, academic freedom, personal integrity, and mutual respect
- Promote opportunities for personal health and growth, physical health, athletic competition, and leadership development for all members of the university community

#### Strategic Plan Goal Two: Inspiring Students

- Inspire students to pursue a productive, engaged, and fulfilling life and prepare them to succeed in a sustainable global economy
- Welcome, support, and graduate students of differing backgrounds, abilities, and needs and from different cultures, communities, and nations
- Build new living and learning communities to enhance retention
- Augment student support services to ensure that students thrive emotionally and physically

#### **Key Themes**

#### Student Experience

- The campus should prioritize student success and promote a student-centric experience
- More proactive strategies are needed to engage students, while anticipating the needs of future students
- Opportunities to encourage cultural diversity should be promoted
- Student services should be more visible and accessible
- A need exists to integrate socializing, dining, living, and studying in a more seamless, intentional manner
- The Wyoming Union should be positioned as the center of a comprehensive student experience, and better integrated physically with campus open space, and pedestrian and transit systems

#### Athletics, Recreation and Wellness

- A strong and positive relationship exists between the university's intercollegiate athletics and recreation programs, as do positive partnerships with the City of Laramie
- Half Acre largely meets the needs of the university's recreation programs and benefits from its location at the heart of the campus; offering a wide range of wellness opportunities has been very successful
- Outdoor programs continue to grow due to opportunities and interest in nearby resources
- The university is considering combining student health and counseling services; ideally they would be located near other student services in the Wyoming Union, Half Acre, or nearby facilities

#### **Analysis Findings**

The investigation of space and facility needs for the university's intercollegiate athletics programs confirmed that most facilities are in good condition, but that improvements to the west side of Memorial Stadium, the renovation of Corbett, and expanded seating capacity for the volleyball and wrestling programs were priorities. Similarly, the university's recreation programs are wellserved, but access to indoor turf space, a synthetic multipurpose outdoor field with lights, and a new swimming pool would be desirable. The analysis of land and building use patterns and mobility systems highlighted the potential for more coherent organization within the East Campus athletics and recreation zone, and for stronger connections with the Campus Core to better integrate these programs within the campus experience.

Student support services are currently housed in several locations across the campus, including Knight and Wyoming Halls and Cheney International Center, as well as the Wyoming Union, and could be made more evident and accessible. Programming for the Wyoming Union revealed the need for additional dining, social, study, and collaboration space, as well as interior upgrades to make the building a more inviting campus destination. A parallel campus dining survey informed the master plan recommendation for a new dining venue to replace the Washakie Dining Center, and consideration for additional retail dining venues proximate to the new housing zone and east of 15th Street, although it is recommended that the institution understand the impact on operational costs of having too many dining facilities on campus.



War Memorial Stadium. Photo courtesy of the University of Wyoming



Wyoming Union

## **Master Plan Strategy**

#### Student Life Framework

Building on strategies for the academic environment and student housing, the plan contains additional proposals to foster an intuitive student life experience that meets the needs of contemporary students. The creation of a dynamic student life precinct at the heart of the campus is a particular focus, and contains a revitalized Wyoming Union, new dining facilities, and integrated academic and student support services, including dedicated spaces for campus affinity groups to welcome students from diverse backgrounds. Campus design further promotes engagement and community formation with an enhanced public realm and the thoughtful alignment of indoor and outdoor spaces that together enhance campus vitality. The master plan further augments the student life experience through campus and facility improvements that create a coherent athletics and recreation precinct, fully integrated within the broader campus setting. Proposed Student Life Buildings
 Renovated Student Life Buildings
 Buildings with Existing Student Life Functions
 Other Buildings
 Proposed Recreation Fields
 Proposed Residential Buildings
 Renovated Residential Buildings
 Existing Residential Buildings

Einstein Bros. Bagels

Lewis St

(2)

**Relocated Elements** 

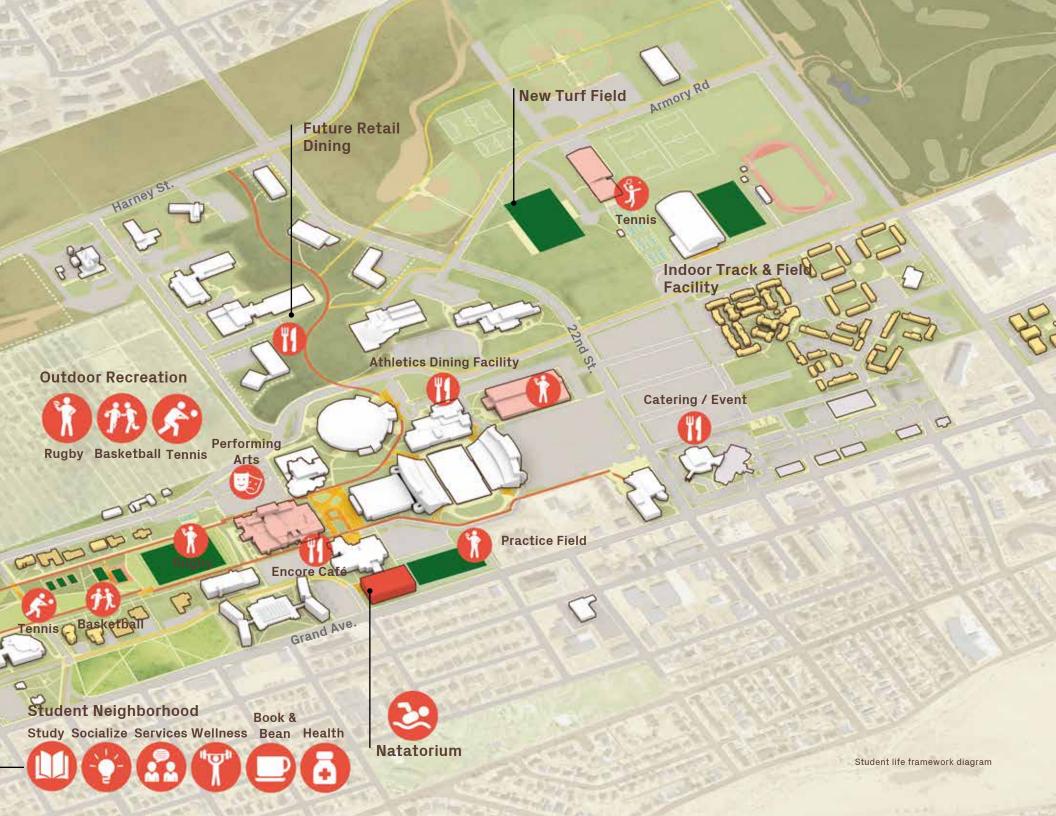
Ivinson Ave. er.

**New Dining Center** 

Rendezvous

Future Retail Dining

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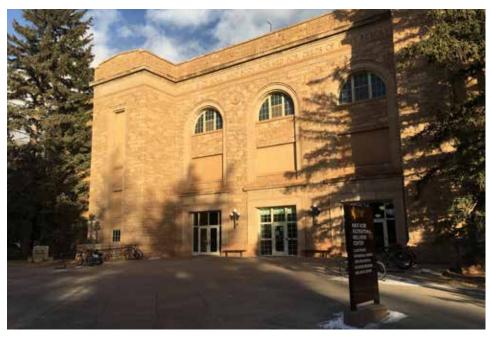


Plaza outside the Wyoming Union

#### Student Life Neighborhood

The master plan focuses student life and support services in a defined precinct centered between new student residential neighborhoods and adjacent to academic uses within the Campus Core. The precinct contains the Wyoming Union, Coe Library, and Half Acre. The Wyoming Union is renovated and expanded to the east to better support student life and engagement activities, while the ground floor of the library and the space made available by the proposed relocation of the History Department could be repositioned to focus on student success and accommodate student service programs relocated from Knight Hall. Renovations could include assigned spaces for affinity groups to support diverse student groups. Wellness programs continue to be supported in Half Acre.

The master plan also creates a new campus green to the east of the Wyoming Union as mandated by legislation. Located at the crossroads of enhanced north/south and east/west pedestrian routes, the green provides a welcoming arrival to the Wyoming Union. Service access continues to be accommodated.



Half Acre Gymnasium



#### **Athletics & Recreation Framework**

The master plan also creates a cohesive athletics and recreation district that reinforces the existing concentration of athletics and recreation facilities within the East Campus. The district accommodates planned improvements to existing facilities, a small addition to the south side of the Arena Auditorum, the renovation of Corbett, introduction of a new natatorium, as well as a new indoor track and field facility, which would accommodate functions from the existing Memorial Fieldhouse. Subsequently, the Memorial Fieldhouse is renovated to accommodate functions currently located in the UniWyo Sports Complex and its adjacent spaces.

The renovation of the Fieldhouse introduces a new concourse level within the existing structure, and provides expanded seating for 3,000 spectators. Program space for the intercollegiate athletics wrestling and volleyball teams, including offices, sports medicine, strength and conditioning space, locker rooms, meeting rooms, storage, and a wrestling training room, athletics administration offices, and visitor locker rooms are also provided. The renovation includes a new entrance on the west side fronting the new East Campus Plaza. The UniWyo Sports Complex is demolished in the long term following the renovation of the Memorial Fieldhouse.

Additional improvements within the athletics and recreation district include the renovation of the west side of War Memorial Stadium for an improved fan experience, creation of VIP parking for the stadium, repurposing of the Louis S. Madrid Sports Complex facility for soccer only, and the creation of a new turf field and football practice field. Proposed Athletics & Recreation Buildings
 Renovated Athletics & Recreation Buildings
 Buildings with Athletics & Recreation Functions
 Other Buildings
 Proposed Fields

Lewis St

Cit

Ivinson Ave

Gym



Field House Athletics Center



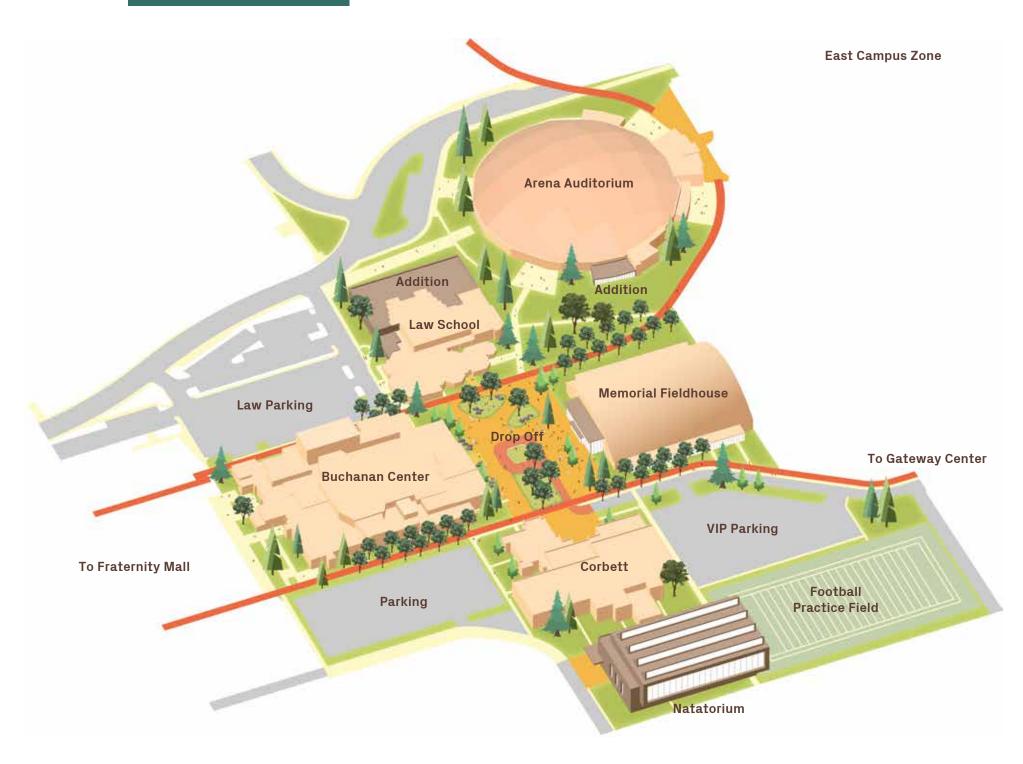
East Campus Plaza

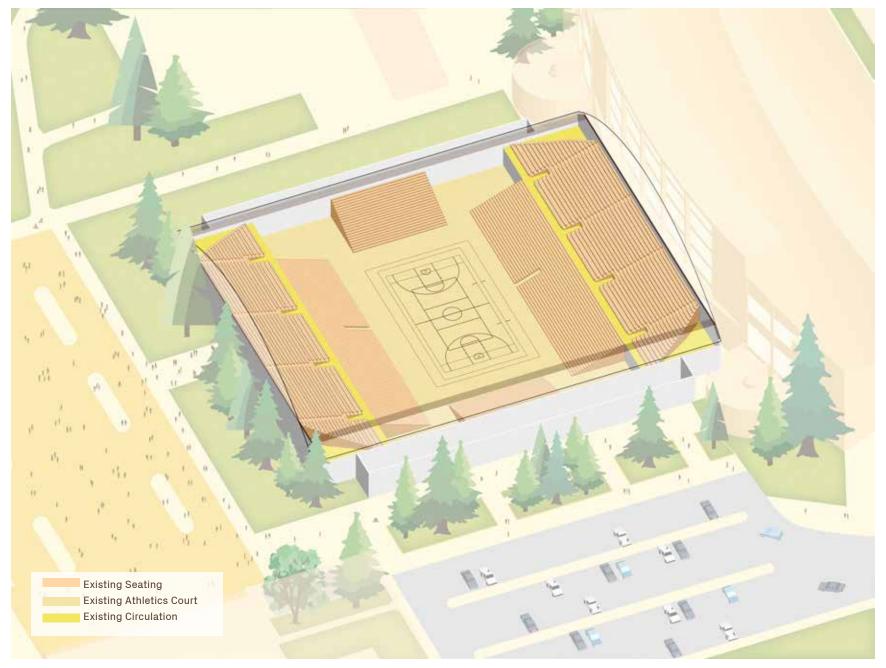
The master plan also introduces a new East Campus Plaza that unifies the diverse collection of academic, athletics and recreation, and performing arts uses located within the East Campus to create a new destination and identity for this area of the campus. The plaza is framed by the Law School to the north, the Buchanan Center for the Performing Arts to the west, the renovated Memorial Fieldhouse to the east, and a renovated Corbett to the south. It is designed as a gathering space that is well-protected from the harsh winter climate, and can accommodate flexible year-round programming. The plaza also includes vehicular drop-off for patrons of the Buchanan Center for the Performing Arts and the renovated Memorial Fieldhouse, and connections to the broader campus pedestrian network.

Precedent image: University of Michigan Eda U. Gerstacker Grove

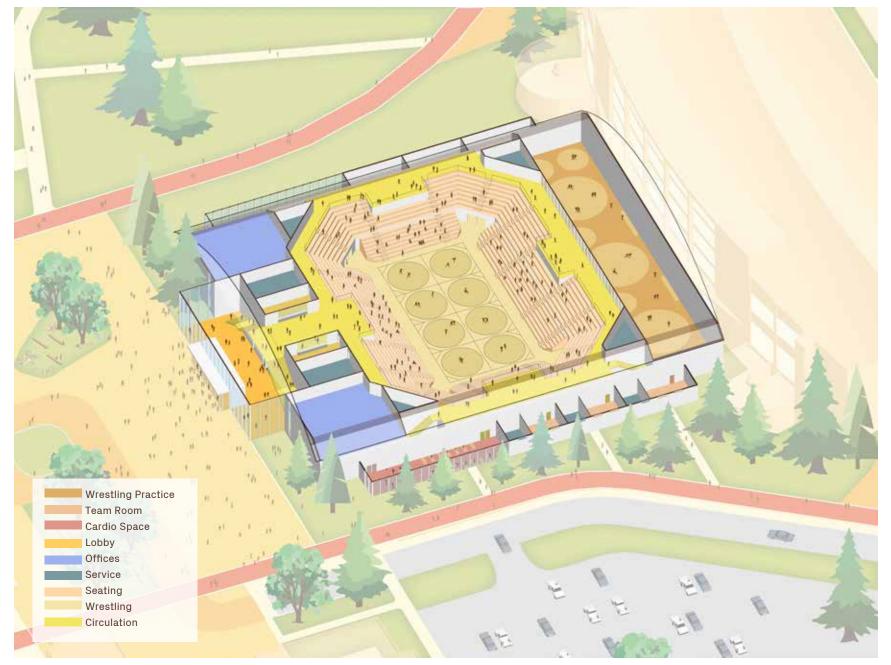


Precedent image: Harvard University Plaza





Existing Memorial Fieldhouse



Proposed transformation of Memorial Fieldhouse



Existing East Campus area



Proposed East Campus Plaza on Gameday



# Big Idea # 4—

# Pedestrian Friendly: Extend the pedestrian-friendly qualities of the Campus Core to all areas of the campus.

### **Context and Analysis**

#### **Mission and Strategic Plan Relevance**

#### Mission

- Honor our heritage as the state's flagship and land-grant university by providing accessible and affordable higher education of the highest quality, rigorous scholarship, the communication and application of knowledge, economic and community development, and responsible stewardship of our cultural, historical, and natural resources
- Promote opportunities for personal health and growth, physical health, athletic competition, and leadership development for all members of the university community

#### Strategic Plan Goal Two: Inspiring Students

- Inspire students to pursue a productive, engaged, and fulfilling life and prepare them to succeed in a sustainable global economy
- Welcome, support, and graduate students of differing backgrounds, abilities, and needs and from different cultures, communities, and nations

#### Strategic Plan Goal Four: A high performing university

• Assure the long-term strength and stability of the university by preserving, caring for, and developing human, intellectual, financial, structural, and marketing resources

#### Key Themes

#### Landscape and Open Space

- The natural landscape and climate conditions associated with the sagebrush steppe ecoregion shape considerations around landscape design and maintenance
- The cultural landscape, since the university's inception, has been designed to make this ecoregion habitable, resulting in a green oasis campus environment that is highly irrigated and planted with windbreak trees
- Pedestrian-friendly spaces should be promoted, as 71% of the existing campus landscape is used for non-pedestrian-purposes (e.g., rangeland, edge landscape, parking)
- New boulderscape landscapes that have been introduced reflect the regional landscape character, require less maintenance, and create small-scale, pedestrian-friendly spaces that reflect the materiality and palette of the local ecoregion
- Prexy's Pasture is the iconic campus landscape, the Hollows is a historic landscape, and Fraternity Mall is a recreation landscape; each of these landscapes plays a significant role in the experience of the campus and should be preserved
- A need exists for more habitable outdoor spaces that consider the local climate, most notably, the westerly winds
- Interest in more public art on the campus exists

#### <u>Mobility</u>

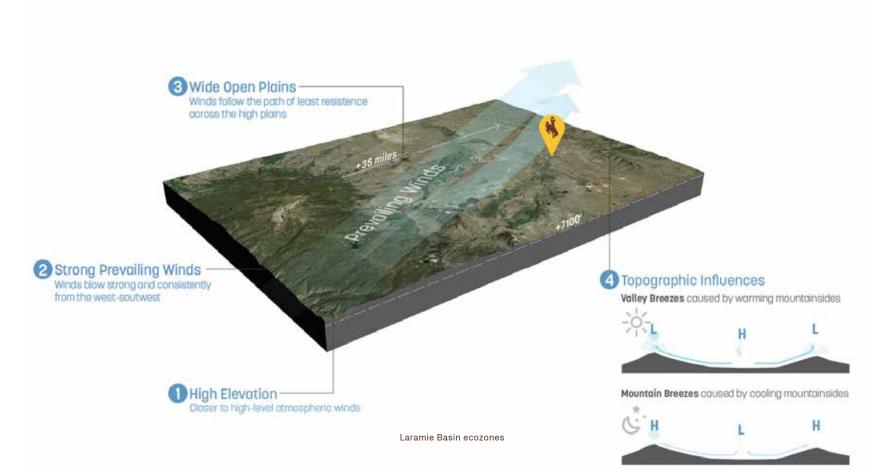
- Access between the Campus Core and key destinations within the East Campus is a challenge due to distance
- 15th Street is a barrier that separates the Campus Core and East Campus areas; pedestrian crossings could significantly improve
- The quality of pedestrian routes across the campus is inconsistent in terms of overall connectivity, lighting, and tree cover; pedestrian routes that are shaded and exposed to winter winds become icy and difficult to navigate in the winter
- There are accessibility challenges associated with climate conditions and historic buildings
- Bicycling is very popular; Willett Drive and 13th Street are popular cycling routes
- There is interest in creating improved access to surrounding open space and off-campus trails
- Alternatives to private automobile use are encouraged; the functional and visual impact of surface parking on campus requires mitigation
- Campus and city cooperation is required for street and landscape improvements within surrounding city-owned streets; there is interest in improving connections between campus and downtown Laramie



Boulderscape



Near War Memorial Stadium



#### Landscape Analysis

#### Landscape and Open Space

The analysis of the University of Wyoming campus landscape and open space setting considered the historic cultural response to the natural landscape and ecoregion, plant palette and habitability, campus topography and slopes, and campus landscape types.

#### Ecoregion

The University of Wyoming campus landscape and open space setting is one of creating a habitable campus in a harsh environment. Laramie, the second-windiest city in the state, sits in the larger Wyoming Basin ecoregion typified by its high elevation (7,220 feet above sea level), wide open plains, and climatic influences from the surrounding mountains, all contributing to a campus environment that is greatly affected by strong westerly winds. While there are areas of significant shade on campus cast by buildings and coniferous trees, blocking westerly winds is the most important factor to creating comfortable, habitable spaces.



Wyoming Basin wind effects

#### **Riparian Forests & Shrublands**

Image OxidE http://www.wys.edu/hthei/





Plains Cottonwood Populus deltoides



Narrowloaf Willow

Salix exigua



Quaking Aspen Populus tremulaides Populus angustilolia



Swida sericea

Redosier Dogwood





Image Credit USIS

Boutelua gracilis



Sagebrush Steppe & Mixedgrass Prairie







Western Wheetgross Pascopyrum smithil

Indian Ricegross **Oryzopsis** hymenoides

Rocky Mtn. Juniper Juniperus scopulorum

Mtn. Big Sogebrush Artemisia tridentata

Foothill Shrublands & Woodlands

Image Gredit: Pilot Hill Project

Panderosa Pine Pinus ponderosa

Mountain Mahagany

Cercocarpus montanus

Utah Serviceberry Amelanchier utahensis

Skunkbush sumoc

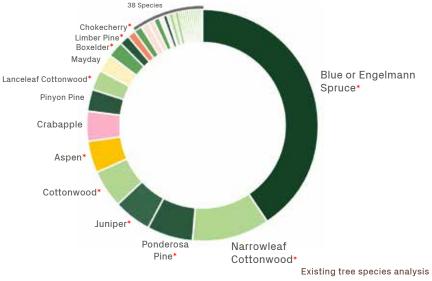
Rhus Trilobata

#### **Plant Palette and Habitability**

Silver Buffaloberry

Shepherdia argentea

The campus sits within a sagebrush steppe and mixed-grass prairie ecozone, a largely treeless environment that does little to block westerly winds. Over time, a collection of trees native to adjacent river and mountain ecozones have been introduced to the campus, most notably blue and Engelmann spruce, cottonwood, and aspen, creating a plant palette and texture that promotes human habitability. These trees have become iconic to the image of the university landscape. Spruce trees are located at the perimeter of large open spaces, such as Prexy's Pasture, creating windbreaks and spatial enclosure. Cottonwoods have become the iconic street tree on campus and in the City of Laramie. Aspen trees, the most recent addition to the campus landscape, have been paired with imported boulders and perennial plants to create boulderscapes-usable plazas and spaces near building entries that are effective in creating an intimate landscape arrival experience.





5-10x Tree Height

Klimaat

Human comfort and the effects of windbreaks

The campus tree palette is overwhelmingly native (83% native to Albany County) that can survive the harsh climate of the Laramie Basin. Most trees (59%) are coniferous, which create a more habitable environment and a mountain aesthetic. Large trees—which can reach over 60 feet at maturity—dominate the campus (62%), can shape outdoor spaces, and act as windbreaks within the landscape. Microclimates formed by tree windbreaks can feel as much as 3 degrees Fahrenheit warmer in the winter months, compared to spaces without windbreaks, which can feel up to 18 degrees Fahrenheit colder. It is recommended that a tree succession plan be prepared to ensure the long term health and diversity of the tree stock.



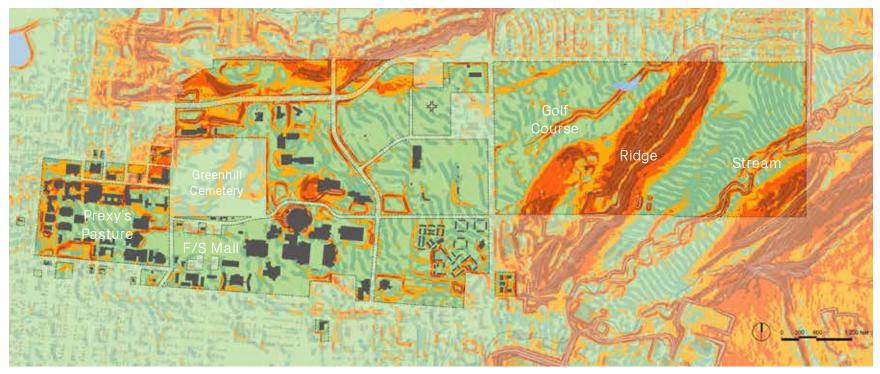
Trees create wind breaks on Fraternity Mall

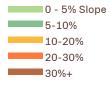




#### Campus Terrain

The university landscape is generally flat, with the most notable exception of the area directly north of Prexy's Pasture. Prexy's Pasture is a plateau (elevation 7,195 feet) bounded by a steep hillside that wraps from the Hollows to 9th Street to Lewis Street then northeast to Willett Drive. The campus low point is on the lower edge of this hillside at 9th and Lewis Streets (elevation 7,158 feet). This hillside creates barriers to accessibility in the landscape, mainly in the pinch points between buildings, such as the Agriculture and Engineering buildings. Some sloping areas exist east of 15th Street. Around the Arena-Auditorium and American Heritage Center are artificial sloping spaces at the building's edge. East of 30th Street is the campus high point (elevation 7,368 feet) at the ridge that bounds Jacoby Golf Course to the east. Existing campus terrain and elevations





Existing campus slopes



Large quad open space: The Hollows

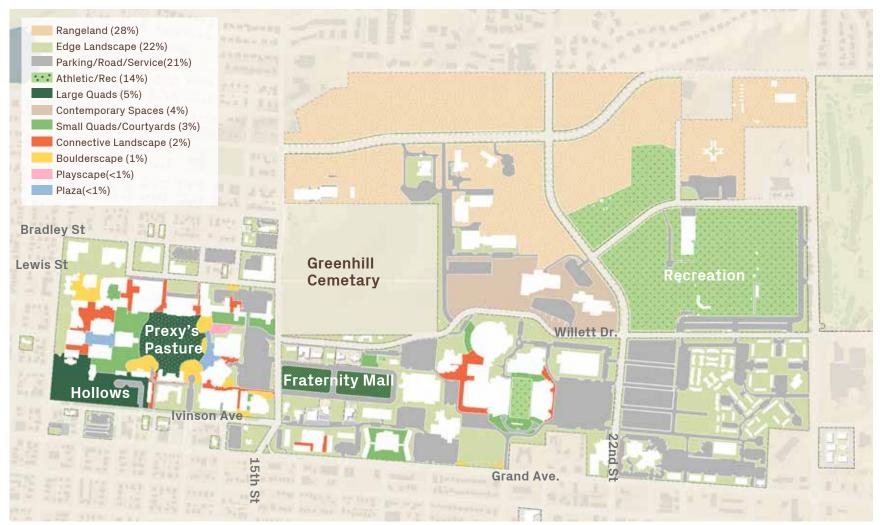


#### **Campus Landscape Types**

The University of Wyoming campus is composed of 11 different landscape types, not including the golf course. "Identity Open Spaces" comprise 6% of the overall campus. Seventy one percent of campus is comprised of largely non-pedestrian spaces. Although, the Campus Core is rich with pedestrian open space types. Each type has a different planting palette, character, degree of openness, use, and visual characteristics. The iconic and memorable open spaces on campus—Prexy's Pasture, the Hollows, and Fraternity Mall-make up 6% of the total campus area. The Campus Core contains pedestrian-oriented and humanscaled open space types associated with historic buildings. East of 15th Street, the campus is characterized by a more dispersed development pattern, a less cohesive landscape, and large areas of surface parking. Seventy-one percent of the campus can be defined as non-pedestrian spaces, such as parking lots, service areas, rangeland, and edge landscapes mostly east of 15th Street.

#### Landscape and Open Space Opportunities

- Prioritize pedestrians and bicycles through the placement of pedestrian-oriented amenities, the promotion of universal design principles, and the minimization of conflicts with other mobility modes.
- Design for the local climate and consider year-round, 24hour comfort across the campus. Emphasize protection from harsh winter conditions and westerly winds by creating tree windbreaks at strategic locations. Accommodate active outdoor uses in sunny areas whenever possible.
- Take cues from the local setting in landscape and open design, and use native tree and plant species to create authentic and sustainable places.
- Extend boulderscape landscapes throughout the campus, and consider introducing new elements, such as seating, surfaces to highlight stormwater management, or artistic features.
- Create active and passive landscapes that support academic, research, and student life functions at multiple scales, and with seasonal programming. Reinforce connections between landscapes and adjacent buildings through appropriate approach and entry treatments.
- Plan for tree succession by creating alternatives to coniferous windbreaks. Alternative species for coniferous windbreaks should respond to the specific site conditions where they will



Existing open space types

be planted. If they are relied upon to act as windbreaks for a large open space, larger species such as Pseudotsuga menzisii (Douglas Fir) and Picea glauca (White Spruce) may be suitable. For smaller open spaces, Pinus nigra (Austrian Pine) and Abies fraseri (Fraser Fir) may be suitable.

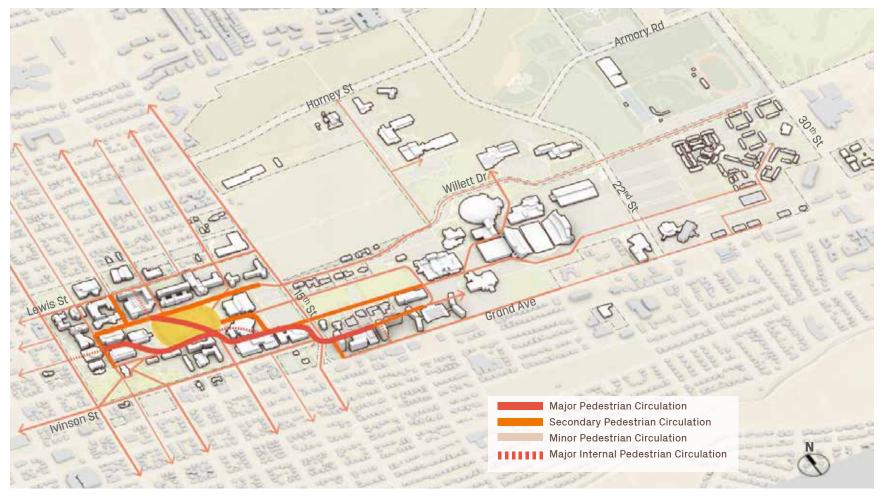
- Reduce the risk of catastrophic loss of spruce and cottonwood trees due to disease or pests by proactively planting other native plants that contribute to the character of the campus, support habitable outdoor spaces, and reduce long-term maintenance needs.
- Given a limited budget, the most effective expenditure of funds to improve a street is trees. Alternative species to Cottonwoods for streets and roadways should be planted at regular intervals to create a rhythm of trees along the road. Trees should be salt tolerant and have a large, upright branching form. Species such as Celtis occidentalis (Hackberry), Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis (Thornless Honeylocust), Gymnocladus dioicus (Kentucky Coffeetree), and Ulmus americana (American Elm) would be suitable.



#### **Mobility Analysis**

#### **Existing Regional Access**

Regional access to the campus occurs from Grand Avenue (Interstate 80) from the east, and Highway 230, Snowy Range Road (Highway 130) and Harney Street from the west, with connections via 9th, 15th and 22nd Streets. Key vehicular gateways are located on the south side of campus at Grand Avenue and 22nd Street (Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center), Grand Avenue and 15th Street, and Ivinson Avenue and 9th Street, and on the north at Lewis and 9th Streets, Lewis and 15th Streets, and Harney and 22nd Streets. Access between the campus and downtown Laramie occurs via Lewis Street, and Ivinson Avenue. Existing regional access



Existing pedestrian network

#### **Existing Pedestrian Network**

There are strong north-south and east-west pedestrian routes surrounding Prexy's Pasture and a pedestrian spine that extends northwest-southeast through the Campus Core. East of 15th Street, there is significant pedestrian travel along the south edge of Fraternity Mall and King Street, but pedestrian routes in this area are less well-defined. Pedestrian connections are weakest east of the mall, which is dominated by large areas of surface parking surrounding the university's athletics and recreation facilities. Pedestrian connections between the campus and surrounding city streets are generally not well-defined.



Existing accessibility network

#### **Existing Wayfinding and Accessibility**

These factors contribute to a wayfinding experience that can feel inconsistent from one side of 15th Street to the other. In the Campus Core, Prexy's Pasture acts as an orienting space that assists pedestrians in understanding their surroundings, and in facilitating navigation to campus destinations. The Classroom building, Wyoming Union, and Enzi STEM Facility all serve as destinations that define pedestrian travel routes. Pathways are generally sufficiently wide to accommodate pedestrian volumes, and are connected, creating a continuous network that contributes to an intuitive wayfinding experience. Within the East Campus, the network of walkways is less consistent and sparse, and is dominated by the vehicular routes and parking. The Visual Arts building, the Buchanan Center for the Performing Arts, the Law School, and Corbett as well as the intercollegiate athletics facilities clustered around War Memorial Stadium are key destinations within the East Campus, but are not well-served by pedestrian paths of travel.

The analysis of campus topography highlighted several areas with steeper slopes where accessible pathways are required to navigate

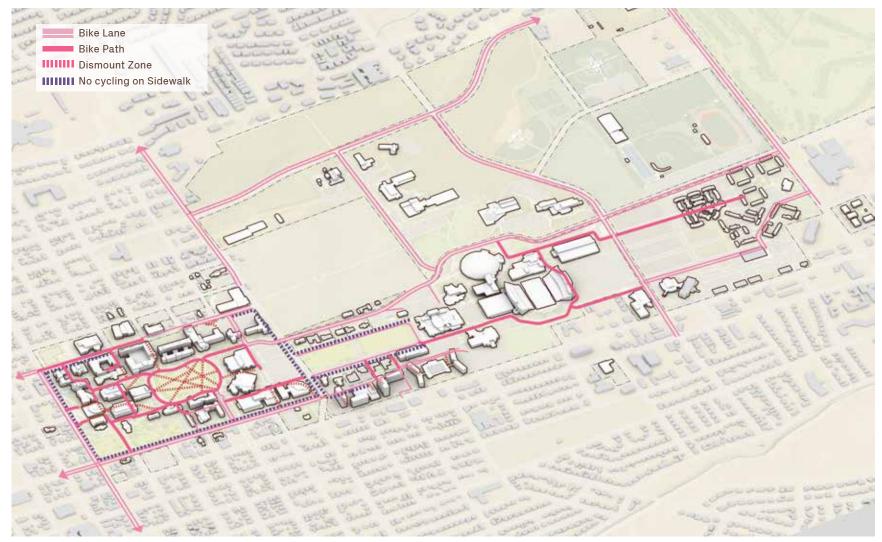


#### Existing recreational trail access

among campus destinations. Chief among these are the areas between Prexy's Pasture and Lewis Street, and within the Campus Core immediately to the east of 9th Street. The campus has an overall accessible parking supply of approximately 4.5% of total supply, which exceeds the minimum ADA requirement of 2%. With new academic and research facilities along Lewis Street, and new parking structures planned on the existing Ivinson Avenue parking lot and at Bradley and 15th Streets, design strategies will need to ensure accessibility is fully accommodated within mobility systems, and that sufficient ADA parking is provided in locations convenient to new facilities. From a signage perspective, the university employs a consistent approach to stand-alone building identification signs, employing consistent colors and fonts. Building names integrated with building architecture vary and reinforce the era of construction. Opportunities exist to enhance a consistent gateway sign type and can be integrated with landscape.

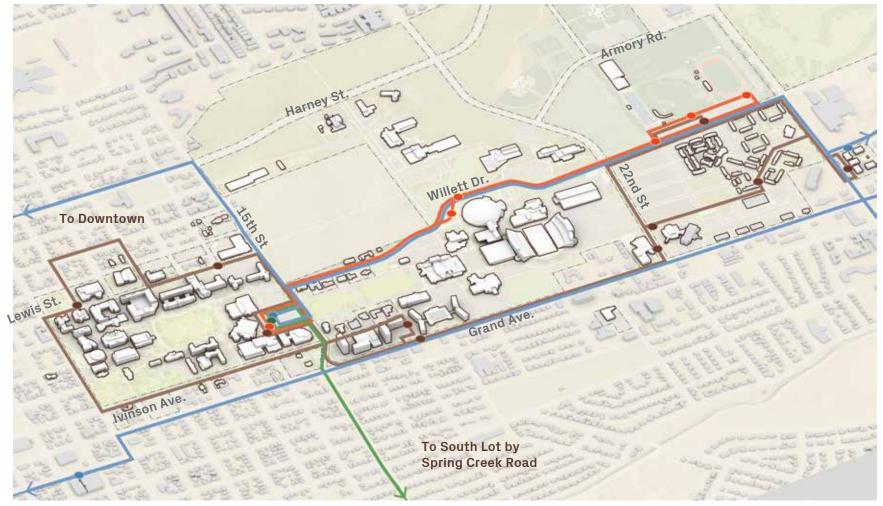
#### **Existing Recreational Trails**

Regional recreational trails are located to the east of the university's golf course towards Pilot Hill, and to the west within the Laramie River corridor. Opportunities exist to enhance connections with the trail systems, which are important campus and community amenities.



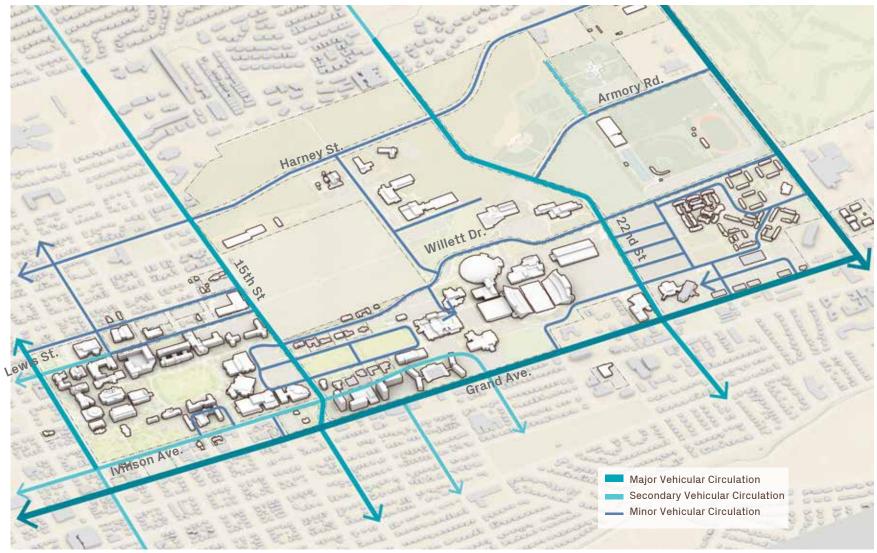
#### **Existing Bicycle Network**

Several on-street bicycle routes connect the campus to the surrounding urban setting. East-west routes extend along Lewis Street, Willett Drive, and Ivinson Avenue, while north-south routes occur on 9th, 15th, 22nd and 30th Streets. Additional off-street multi-use bicycle paths are located throughout the Campus Core, and around athletics and recreation facilities in the East Campus, through to the Bison Run, Landmark Village, Spanish Walk, and River Village student residential neighborhood east of 22nd Street. Given the popularity of cycling as a means of mobility, and the relatively long distances between destinations in the Campus Core and East Campus, there are clear opportunities to strengthen the overall bicycle circulation system to improve campus mobility. Existing bicycle network



#### **Existing Transit Network**

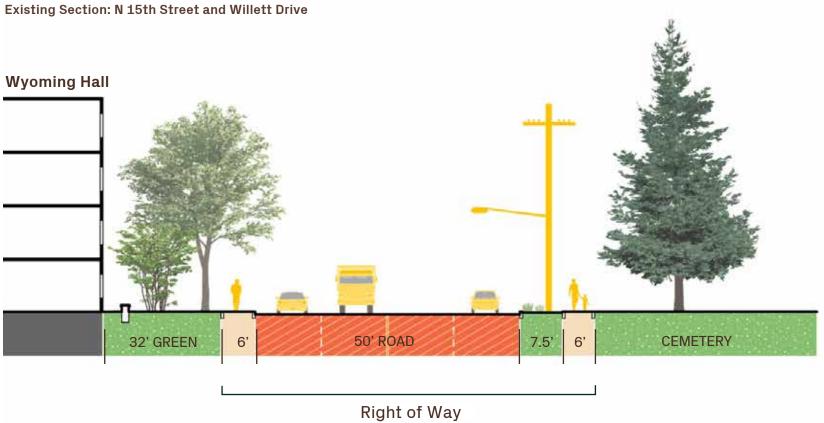
The university's shuttle system provides service between the Campus Core and destinations east of 15th Street, including academic, cultural, and athletics and recreation facilities within the East Campus, and the student residential neighborhood east of 22nd Street and East Express Lot. The transit network also connects to the South Express Lot. While the campus shuttle system is essential to campus mobility and is well-regarded, shuttle service needs to be reviewed over time, so that service is aligned with new land use patterns associated with development of academic uses along Lewis Street, and new student housing east of the Academic Core. Existing transit network



Existing vehicular network

#### Existing Vehicular Network

Grand Avenue is the main east-west vehicular route serving the campus, while Ivinson Avenue, Harney Street, Bradley Street, and Willett Drive also support east-west circulation. 9th, 15th, 22nd and 30th Streets are all important north-south routes. 15th Street is a popular north-south connector route within the City of Laramie, but divides the Campus Core from the East Campus. Pedestrian and bicycle connections across 15th Street have long been a safety concern, and opportunities to mitigate traffic in this area have been identified as a high priority. Vehicular circulation around the Campus Core generally occurs on surrounding city streets. East of 15th Street, Willett Drive draws public traffic through the campus, resulting in less clarity and definition between campus and public mobility systems.

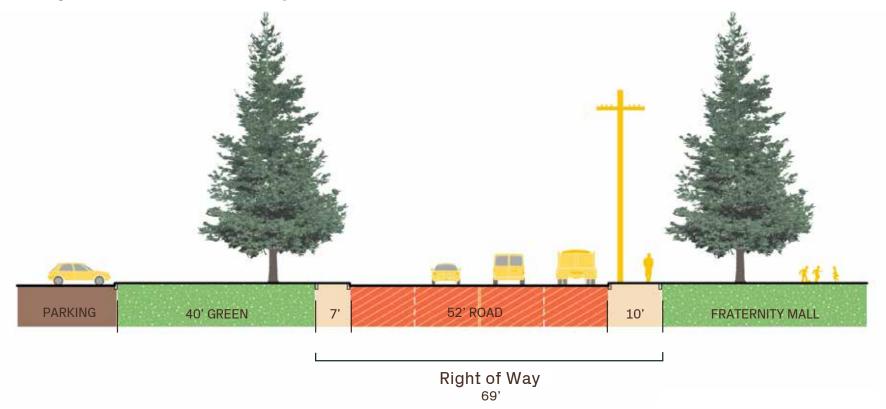


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Existing section: N 15th Street and Willett Drive

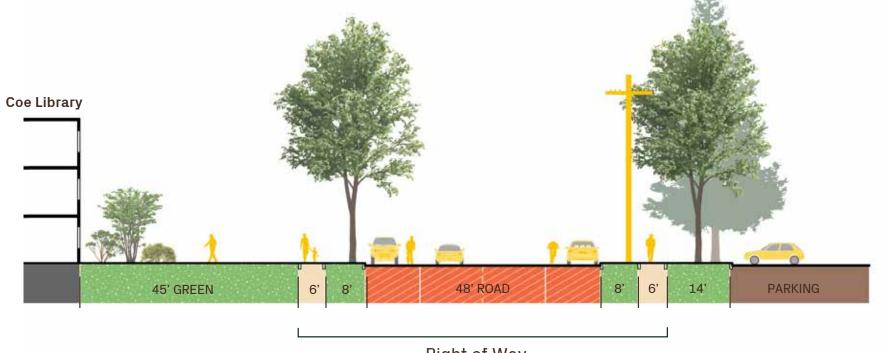
#### Existing Section: N 15th Street and Sorority Row





Existing section: N 15th Street and Sorority Row

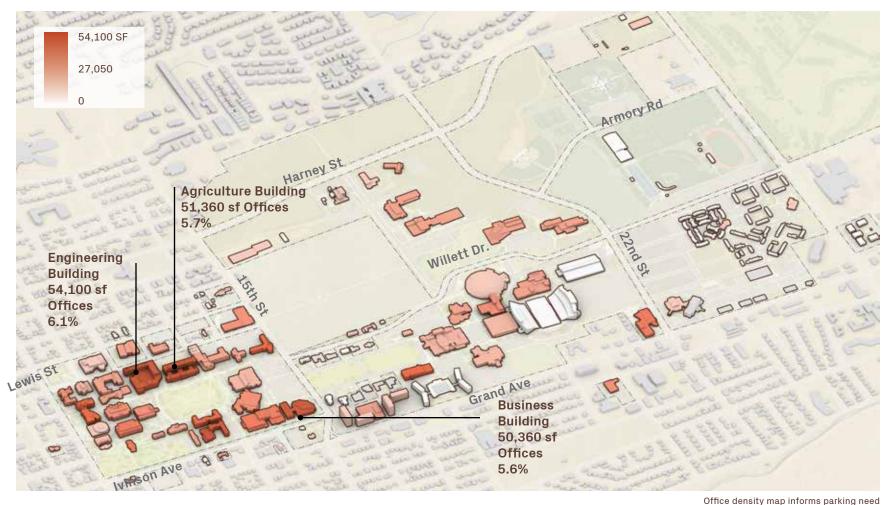
#### Existing Section: East Ivinson Avenue



Right of Way 76'



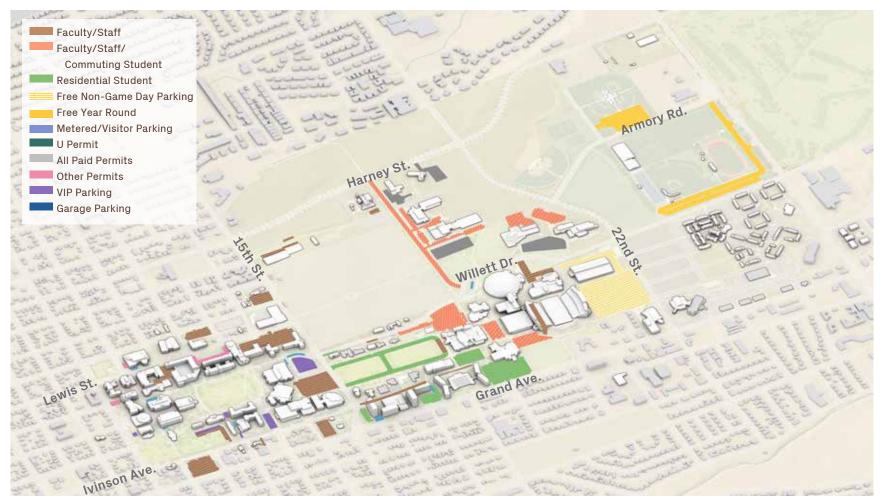
Existing section: E lvinson Avenue



Office density map mortins parking r

#### Parking Occupancy and Office Density

While a recent parking study concluded there is sufficient parking capacity across the campus overall, parking is not evenly distributed, and there is a perceived lack of proximate and available parking in several areas, including the Campus Core. A separate analysis of office locations across the campus suggests the northwest area of the campus contains the highest population within the Campus Core. The university is only able to satisfy parking demand through remote lots served by the campus shuttle system. Parking east of 15th Street occurs within large surface parking lots and along vehicular routes, creating a significant impact on the visual quality of the East Campus.



Existing parking supply

## **Master Plan Strategy**

#### Landscape and Open Space Strategy

#### Public Realm Framework

The public realm framework extends the special qualities of the Campus Core to all areas of the campus, in order to create a cohesive, pedestrian-friendly environment that integrates landscape and mobility networks.

The plan knits the campus together through a unified landscape identity and integrated multi-use pedestrian paths that enhance pedestrian movement through all areas of the campus, and eliminate barriers to accessibility. Within the Campus Core, the plan integrates new development on Lewis Street by extending the landscape qualities of Prexy's Pasture and the boulderscapes through to Bradley Street, and closing Lewis Street to vehicular traffic in favor of pedestrians. East of 15th Street, the plan creates a more rigorous and apparent urban design structure that prioritizes pedestrians, bicycles, and transit over cars, and promotes a consistent campus identity.

The plan celebrates the unique natural setting of the Laramie ecoregion, with consideration for regional ecology, campus topography, seasonal climate variation, and native trees and plant materials. Design solutions support academic, research, athletics, recreational, and community activities in all seasons, such as westerly tree windbreaks at key locations that create sheltered spaces for greater outdoor comfort. Given the age of the overall campus tree canopy, the master plan recommends the university implement a detailed tree succession plan to begin to replace aging trees strategically across campus, prioritizing key open spaces such as Prexy's Pasture, the Hollows, and Fraternity Mall.

The public realm framework is reinforced with system plans for pedestrian and vehicular circulation, as well as integrated landscape and circulation design strategies for several areas, including Lewis Street, the 15th Street pedestrian crossings, a new Welcoming Lawn at 15th Street and Grand Avenue, and Fraternity Mall as a space for active and passive recreation. Respected Cultural Landscape
 Connective Pedestiran Corridor
 Secondary Pedestrain Path
 Accessible Paths
 Enahnced Campus Edge
 Pedestrianized Street
 Pedestrian Plazas
 Major Open Spaces

Lewis St. 00

(iii)

lvinson Ave.



#### Welcoming Lawn

The provision of new and renovated student housing within the Campus Core enables the removal of White, Downey, McIntyre, and Orr Halls, and the Washakie Dining Center facility. The Crane-Hill complex remains and serves as surge space. The master plan leverages this opportunity to introduce a new six-acre Welcoming Lawn as a campus and community park at this important gateway to the campus. The park provides opportunities for sculpture collection, recreation, passive activities, tailgating, and community activities. The landscape design takes its inspiration from the Hollows, and contains lawns, stands of mostly deciduous trees that will mature over time and provide shelter from westerly winds, subtle topographical changes, and direct pedestrian pathway connections between the campus and adjacent city streets. King Street is repositioned as a multi-use pedestrian pathway that is closed from 15th Street, while providing service access to sorority parking lots from 19th Street to the east.



The Hollows



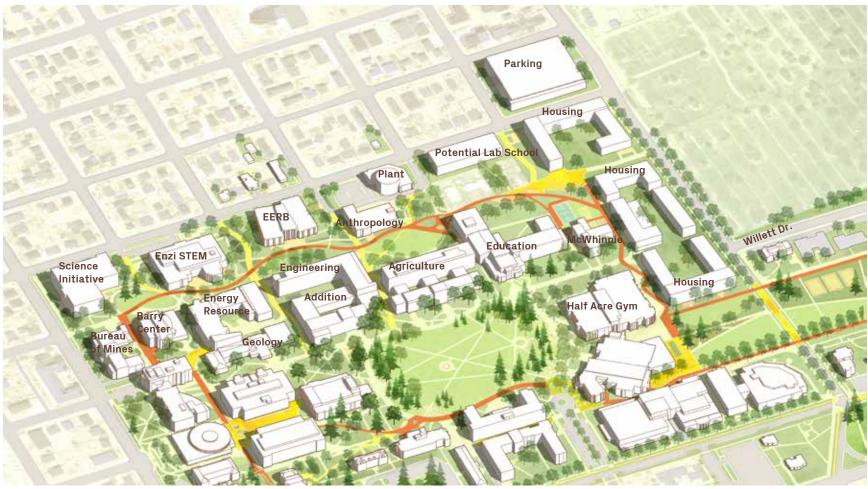
The Hollows



Precedent image: Opportunities for sculpture, Andy Goldsworthy



Welcoming Lawn



Lewis Street Corridor

#### The plan removes vehicular circulation from Lewis Street to create a new landscaped corridor containing a multi-use pathway that prioritizes pedestrian and bicycle mobility. The corridor is designed with iconic boulderscapes that have emerged as defining features of the campus landscape, and contains trees and

Lewis Street Corridor

defining features of the campus landscape, and contains trees and landscape elements that create multiple outdoor rooms protected from western winds. Lewis Street is connected to Prexy's Pasture with accessible, barrier-free pedestrian pathways that use landscape to mitigate grade changes between buildings.



Fraternity Mall

#### Fraternity Mall

Fraternity Mall is a major asset in the campus open-space network and plays an important role in connecting East Campus to the Core Campus. The function and design of the Mall has potential for improvement through refinement of circulation systems, improved pedestrian accommodations, landscape and strategic development measures. Pedestrian and bicycle corridors are envisioned to replace the existing drive lanes and parking lots currently flanking the Mall. Dominated by vehicles, this area currently provides two narrow sidewalks and no accommodation of bicycles. The east side of the Mall provides little accommodation for pedestrian circulation. As you reach the Buchanan Center for the Performing Arts, the pathways flanking the building dissolve. Clear and direct pathways should be created in this zone.

The physical division of campus created by 15th is further exacerbated by the visual barrier of trees currently located on the east side of the Half Acre Gymnasium parking lot. Future landscape plans for this zone should create and maintain a visual connection from the Buchanan Center for the Performing Arts to the Wyoming Union, employing a consistent landscaping theme in an effort to tie the campus across 15th Street. The Mall should continue to serve as recreational fields for organized sports and general campus recreation use, while a more



Precedent image: winter programming at Washington Canal Park

formal lawn and plaza should front the Wyoming Union. Renovation or new construction surrounding the Mall should reinforce campus design standards. Maintaining consistent architectural and landscape themes will further define this zone and reinforce its link to Campus Core.

Fraternity Mall is redesigned as a new 11.75-acre open space at the geographic heart of the campus. The mall extends from a new Wyoming Union plaza to the Buchanan Center for the Performing Arts, and is designed as a unified landscape containing a collection of outdoor rooms with wellness and recreation amenities serving the Wyoming Union, Half Acre, new dormitories, and the fraternities and sororities lining the mall. At the Wyoming Union, a new plaza is introduced

with an entry plaza east of the building, a boulderscape and lawn, and accommodation for service and loading for the Wyoming Union and Half Acre Gym. Improved pedestrian crossings over 15th Street create a seamless transition between the plaza and mall.

These paths are lined with a regular rhythm of canopy trees, light fixtures, and seating elements. The west portion of the existing Fraternity Mall green space is redeveloped with active outdoor recreation elements such as basketball, volleyball, or bocce courts; places for horseshoes; and an informal recreation field. The existing rugby field is preserved and enhanced with a windbreak at its western edge. Additional boulderscape landscape elements create continuity with the Wyoming Union plaza, and landscape design incorporates additional tree windbreaks to improve outdoor comfort.



Precedent image: pedestrian corridor and open space at Klyde Warren Park



Precedent image: small scale recreation at Philadelphia Navy Yards



Existing parking lot near the Wyoming Union



Proposed Fraternity Mall open space and pedestrian corridors



#### **Mobility Strategy**

#### **Pedestrian Circulation**

The master plan creates a clear system of pedestrian routes with enhanced pedestrian connections and amenities through all areas of the campus. The system includes major pedestrian corridors, secondary pedestrian corridors, walkways, and pedestrianoriented open space areas.

Major pedestrian corridors accommodate east-west and northsouth pedestrian flows through the Campus Core and the East Campus, connect key campus destinations, and further connect the campus with surrounding city streets. Within the Campus Core, the plan reinforces the existing north-south connection between the Arts and Sciences plaza and Lewis Street, which is transformed into a new landscaped corridor containing a multiuse pathway that prioritizes pedestrian and bicycle mobility.

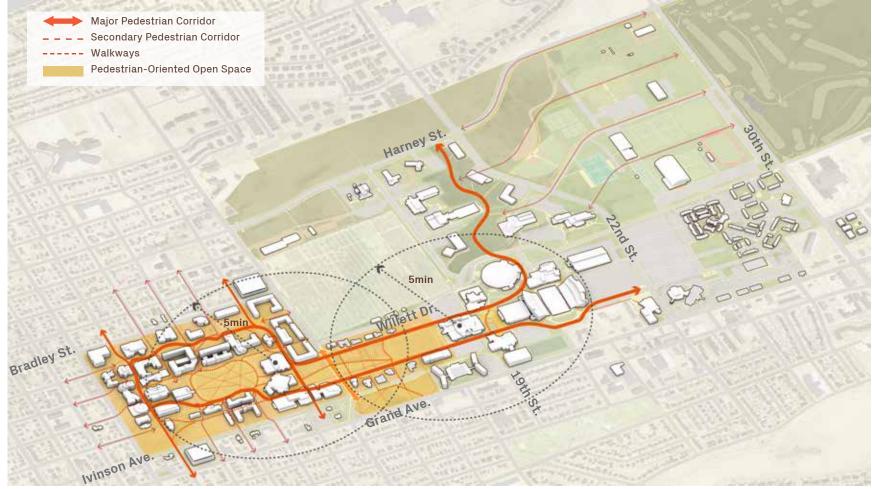
As new student housing is developed along the east edge of the Campus Core, the plan introduces a new north-south pedestrian corridor that connects existing east-west circulation south of the Wyoming Union through to Lewis Street. Major east-west corridors include a route extending from 15th Street between Coe Library and the Wyoming Union, along Prexy's Pasture and through the Arts and Sciences plaza to the Classroom building, and another east-west route extending along Lewis Street between 10th and 14th Streets.



Pedestrian traffic around Prexy's Pasture



Plaza at Coe Library



Proposed pedestrian network

Secondary pedestrian corridors provide connections to buildings and destinations located off major corridors, or paths of travel through major open spaces. These include the existing pedestrian route around Prexy's Pasture, an east-west route along the north side of Prexy's Pasture, extending from McWhinnie Hall to the Health Sciences Center, and another east-west route extending between Ross and Knight Halls from Coe Library and the Wyoming Union to Old Main. Additional secondary pedestrian corridors connect the Wyoming Union across 15th Street with destinations around Fraternity Mall, through the Welcoming Lawn to Grand Avenue, and through the East Campus plaza. Walkways are provided throughout the campus to provide direct building access from the major and secondary pedestrian corridors. Pedestrian-oriented open spaces include the Hollows, Prexy's Pasture, Fraternity Mall, and the Welcoming Lawn. These areas are designed to prioritize pedestrian movement, and include landscape elements to enhance outdoor comfort, as well as pedestrian amenities such as benches and seating areas. Vehicular access is generally restricted to ADA, service, and emergency vehicles.

#### 15th Street Pedestrian Crossing

The plan introduces three potential options to enhance pedestrian safety across 15th Street, and improve connections between the Campus Core and the East Campus.

**Option 1** introduces a raised pedestrian table within the 15th Street right-of-way as a traffic calming device that slows down cars and favors pedestrian movement. The table is designed as an extension of the Fraternity Mall landscape that merges seamlessly with the new Wyoming Union plaza. The north and south pedestrian corridors frame the pedestrian table and provide direct connections with the Wyoming Union and Half Acre.



15th Street Pedestrian Crossing Option 1



15th Street Pedestrian Crossing Option 2



15th Street Pedestrian Crossing Option 3

**Option 2** narrows 15th Street with a road diet that reduces vehicular travel to single north and south lanes between Ivinson Avenue and Willett Drive. Pedestrian crossings occur where the north and south pedestrian corridors meet the street, and consist of enhanced pedestrian crossings, ADA ramps, and signage. Curbs and sidewalks are preserved within the 15th Street right-of-way.

**Option 3** closes 15th Street to through traffic, while preserving emergency vehicle access. In this option, the right-of-way is integrated within the campus landscape, which is designed to accommodate north-south emergency vehicle travel and vehicular drop-off to the south. Other vehicular traffic is diverted to the surrounding grid of city streets.



Proposed accessible paths from garages

#### Accessible Paths from Garages

The master plan extends the existing network of accessible pathways from the Campus Core through to new development along Lewis Street, and to the new Ivinson Avenue garage to the south. The Lewis Street corridor contains a continuous east-west accessible pathway that connects to Prexy's Pasture through landscape design strategies that mitigate grade changes between buildings. The pedestrianization of 14th Street between Bradley and Lewis Streets provides a direct link from the north to the Lewis Street corridor and paths associated with new student housing along 15th Street. Parking garages are connected to the Campus Core through multiple barrier-free paths. At the Ivinson Avenue garage, existing paths can be utilized to provide accessible connections from the south.



Precedent image: separated bicycle and pedestrian path

#### **Bicycle Use Strategies**

The university encourages bicycling as an efficient and healthy activity. The master plan supports this mission with a strong and connected bicycle path and parking system. Programmatic measures, some of which have already been established by the university, can also promote bicycling, including the following:

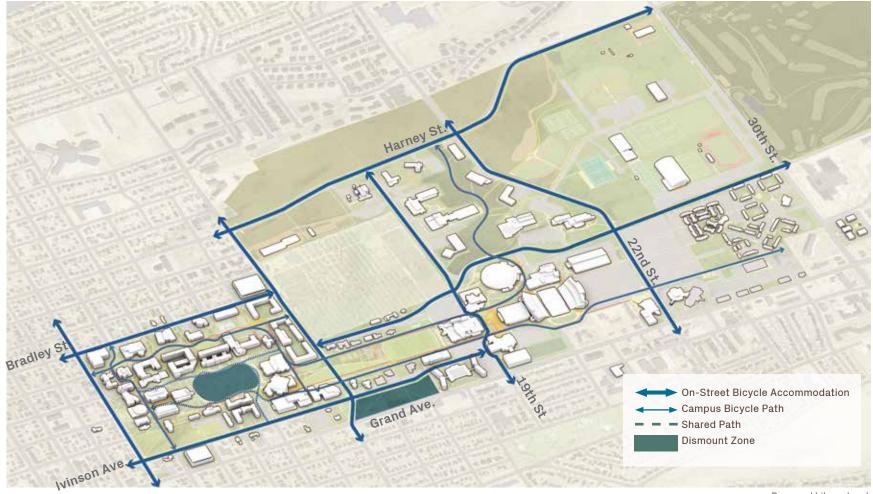
- Bicycle registration
- Preferred vehicle parking permits for bike commuters
- Shower facilities
- Air and repair stations
- Rental bicycle lockers
- Bike rental program

Most universities attaining gold or platinum recognition in the League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly University program have full-time bicycle coordinators, and produce a campus bicycle plan, such as the one created by UW's Campus Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Committee.

#### **Bicycle Circulation**

The master plan also creates a clear system of bicycle routes to support bicycle travel within the campus, with connections to the surrounding urban area and regional open space network. The system includes on-street bicycle accommodation, campus bicycle paths, shared paths, and dismount zones.

On-street bicycle accommodation consists of designated bicycle routes along city streets that serve the campus. East-west routes include Harney Street, Bradley Street, Willett Drive, and Ivinson Avenue, and north-south routes include 9th 15th, 19th and 22nd Streets. With the exception of Willett Drive, these roads are controlled by the City of Laramie, so the university and the city will need to work together to establish the most appropriate and effective strategies to create safe bicycle routes within shared, multi-modal rights of way.



Proposed bike network

Campus bicycle paths reflect existing routes, and align with the major campus pedestrian corridors, described above. Improvements to the existing bicycle path system include a new east-west route within the Lewis Street corridor, a north-south route on the west side of new student housing along 15th Street, and an improved connection from Ivinson Avenue and 10th Street to the Classroom building. Within the East Campus a new north-south route extends through the research precinct to connect with paths along Fraternity Mall. On shared paths, bicycle and pedestrian circulation are differentiated through signage or pavement treatment. The plan designates Prexy's Pasture and the Welcoming Lawn as bicycle dismount zones to enhance pedestrian



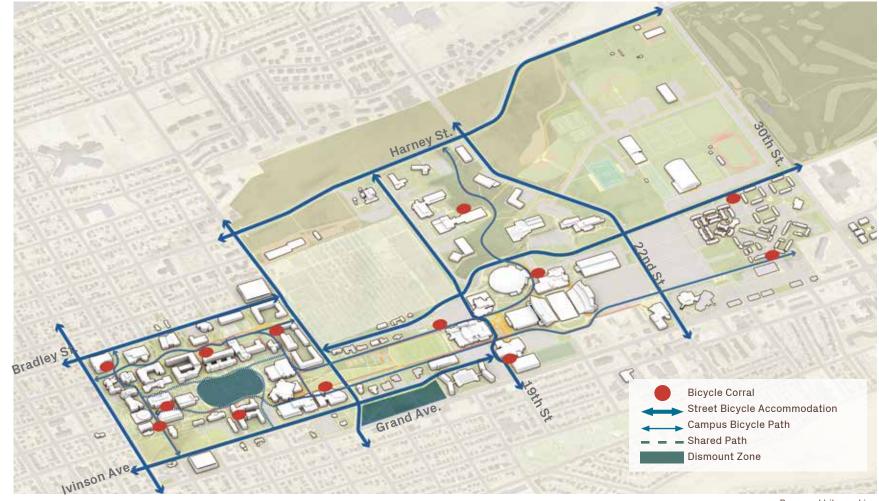
safety and comfort.

Precedent image: bicycle corral with planting

#### **Bicycle Parking**

The master plan accommodates bicycle parking in several larger corrals containing 30 to 40 bicycle parking spaces, and in smaller bicycle racks that are more widely distributed across campus. Bicycle corrals are located along on-campus bicycle paths next to major campus destinations and areas with high population concentrations. Within the Campus Core, locations include the Aven Nelson building, adjacent to the Arts and Sciences plaza, the planned Science Initiative building, the north side of the Agriculture building, Lewis Street next to new student housing, Coe Library, and between Ross and Knight Halls. Within the East Campus, locations include Buchanan Center for the Performing Arts, near the renovated Corbett and new natatorium, the Rochelle Athletics Center, the Animal Science/Molecular Biology building, and the Landmark Village and River Village residential complexes.

Bicycle racks are provided throughout campus, next to building entrances, as needed. When designing and siting bicycle corrals and racks, siting should consider broader campus bicycle and pedestrian movements to minimize conflicts. Locating racks by



Proposed bike parking



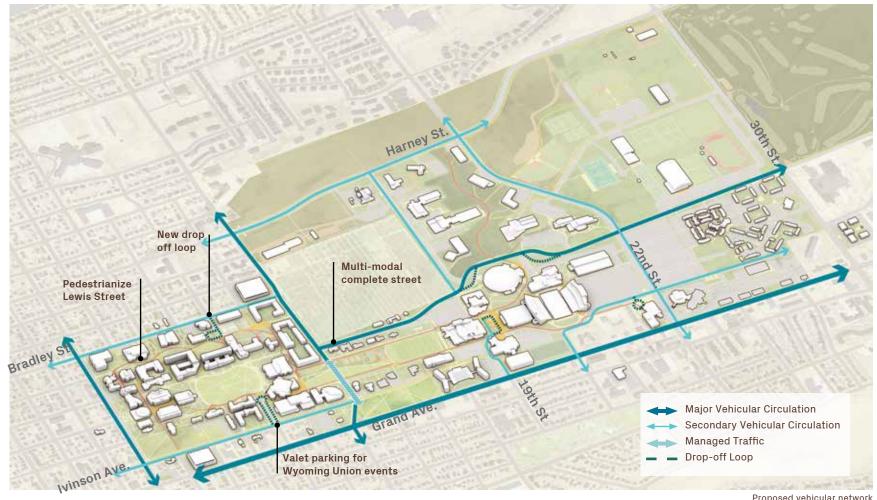
building side doors can be helpful.

#### Vehicular Circulation

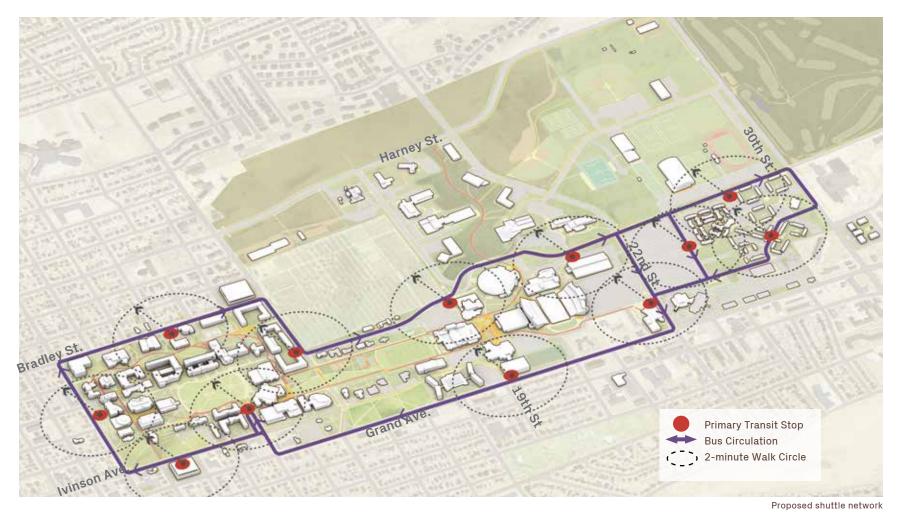
The master plan rationalizes the campus vehicular circulation system by relocating primary vehicular routes to the campus periphery to further reinforce the pedestrian environment. Major east-west vehicular access to the campus continues to occur from Grand Avenue and Harney Street, while primary access from the north and south occurs on 9th, 13th, 15th and 22nd Streets. Willett Drive is repositioned as a new multi-modal street accommodating vehicular, transit, and bicycle circulation. Secondary east-west vehicular routes include Ivinson Avenue and Bradley Street, which accommodates traffic redirected from Lewis Street. Secondary north-south routes include 19th and 22nd Streets. New parking structures on Ivinson Avenue and at 15th and Bradley Streets receive vehicular traffic arriving from these routes. The master plan removes or limits vehicular circulation in several areas, while preserving emergency and service vehicle access:

- Within the Campus Core, Lewis Street is closed to most vehicular traffic in order to implement the planned Lewis Street pedestrian corridor and landscape strategy. Access is preserved to properties the university does not own.
- Planned new pedestrian crossings of 15th Street between Ivinson Avenue and Willett Drive assist in managing traffic in this area.
- King Street is closed to through-traffic between 15th and 19th Streets (after the Washakie Dining Center has been removed), and converted to a service drive, in order to create a continuous open space experience extending from Fraternity Mall to Grand Avenue.
- Access to King Street occurs from 19th Street, which also provides access to uses surrounding the new East Campus plaza and to houses on the north side of King Street.

Willett Drive



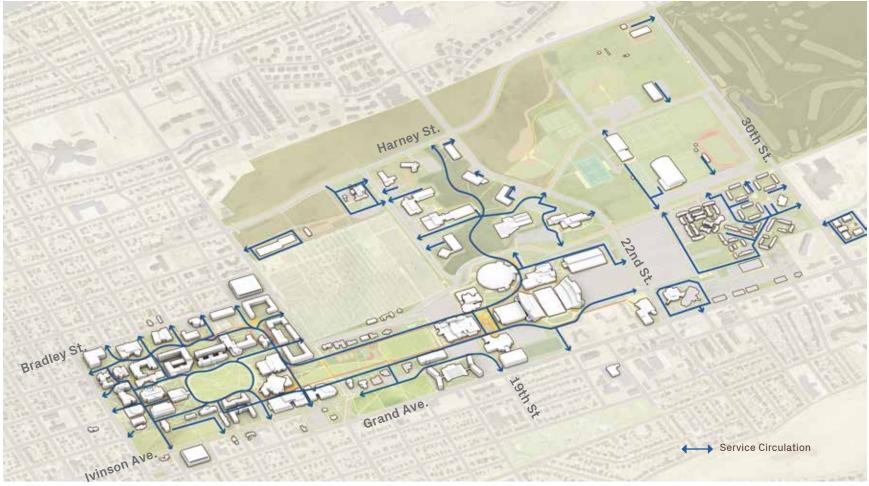
Proposed vehicular network



#### Shuttle Bus Circulation

The master plan allows a shuttle bus scheme utilizing the city streets surrounding the campus to accommodate efficient shuttle service to all areas of the campus. Shuttle circulation runs in a clockwise direction, which allows pick-up and drop-off to occur consistently along campus edges, avoiding potentially dangerous pedestrian crossings of busy roads. The plan also identifies locations for multi-modal hubs and shuttle stops to support existing and planned land uses, and align with major vehicular arrival points to the campus and parking. Proposed multi-modal hub and shuttle stop locations include:

- Multi-modal hub at 13th Street at the Wyoming Union
- Shuttle stop on 9th Street at the Classroom building
- Shuttle stop on Bradley Street near the Anthropology building
- Shuttle stop at the intersection of 15th Street and Willett Drive
- Shuttle stop on Willett Drive near the Law School Building
- Shuttle stop on Willett Drive near the Indoor Practice Facility (across from the Visual Arts building)



Proposed service network

- Shuttle stops serving Bison Run, Landmark and River Villages
- Shuttle stop on 22nd Street at the Gateway Center
- Shuttle stop at the new Ivinson Parking Garage/Old Main
- Shuttle stop on Grand Avenue and 19th Street

#### Service

Service routes are provided to allow access from streets to buildings as needed for emergency, delivery and service access. Some routes provide direct vehicular access, while others, primarily for emergency vehicles, use shared pathways. Walkways that double as service routes should be reinforced to carry vehicular loads.

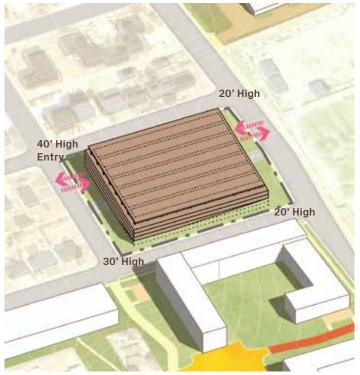


Proposed parking lot at lvinson Avenue

#### **Parking**

The master plan addresses parking needs in all areas of the campus, and connects parking with land use and transit in a coordinated manner. In total, 5,230 spaces are provided in the plan, including 1,814 spaces west of 15th Street, 2,603 spaces between 15th and 22nd Streets, and 813 spaces between 22nd and 30th Streets.

Within the Campus Core, parking displaced for new student housing is replaced in new parking facilities, including a new parking garage on Ivinson Avenue. Fleet vehicle parking is relocated to the new off-site facility to the south to accommodate additional surface parking. The Ivinson Avenue garage will include a major stop on the campus loop, while 13th Street at the Wyoming Union is envisioned as a multimodal transit hub. The garage includes the relocated Police Department offices, a new visitor kiosk, and a sheltered waiting area for transit service.



Proposed parking lot at Bradley Street

Within the East Campus, parking surrounding Fraternity Mall is removed in the long term and replaced with a garage at 15th and Bradley Streets. Parking and service access for buildings fronting the Mall should be focused to the rear of each structure, minimizing vehicular traffic to create pedestrian-oriented landscapes and convenient circulation corridors. Land along Willett Drive between 15th and 19th Streets is currently underutilized. Combined with the proposed removal of the existing residence halls along Grand Avenue, there are opportunities to accommodate improved access to the rear of all structures fronting the Mall.

Given the concentration of campus population in the northwest area of the Campus Core and new development along Lewis Street, additional parking may be needed to serve this area of the campus. Please reference the 5-minute walk circle on the proposed parking diagram. The university has acquired several properties along Bradley Street that could accommodate new surface parking lots to meet a portion of the current need. Additional properties could potentially be acquired in the areas to the north and west of campus if warranted by demand.



Proposed parking diagram

Between 9th and 15th Existing Parking Spaces: 1,114 Displaced Parking Spaces: ~ 836 Approximate Parking Need: ~ 1,600-1,800 Between 15th and 22nd Existing Parking Spaces: 3,219 Displaced Parking Spaces: ~ 616 Proposed Parking Spaces: ~ 2,600 Between 22nd 30th Existing Parking Spaces: 813 Proposed Parking Spaces: 813

# Big Idea # 5—

# Welcoming Campus: Reinforce connections beyond the campus to create a welcoming campus.

### **Context and Analysis**

#### **Mission and Strategic Plan Relevance**

#### Mission

- Cultivate a community of learning energized by collaborative work among students, faculty, staff, and external partners
- Promote opportunities for personal health and growth, physical health, athletic competition, and leadership development for all members of the university community
- As Wyoming's only public university, we are committed to scholarship, outreach, and service that extend our human talent and technological capacity to serve the people in our communities, our state, the nation, and the world

#### Strategic Plan Goal Three: Impacting Communities

- Improve and enhance the health and well-being of our communities and environments though outreach programs and in collaboration with our constituents and partners
- Facilitate collaboration between the university and its constituents to address complex economic, environmental, and social challenges through research, education, entrepreneurship, economic diversification, and growth
- Build a statewide community of learners by collaborating with schools, community colleges, and tribal nations to connect students and citizens
- Engage strong and celebratory alumni who connect UW to regional, national, and international communities, welcome graduates into a lifetime association with the university, and boost all our endeavors through a culture of giving

#### **Key Themes**

The University of Wyoming community is strong locally and across the state:

- Community colleges offer partnership opportunities and a pool of potential future students
- Prospective students have many profiles and require different levels of support when they enroll
- Downtown Laramie offers diverse attractions, but is not perceived to be close to campus; pedestrian, bicycle, and transit connections between the campus and downtown could be improved

- Downtown would benefit from additional businesses, activities, and events to attract students
- The campus contains a number of amenities that are a resource for the community
- Opportunity exists to enhance the university's sense of arrival and presence along its edges
- The regional open space system is an important recreational amenity for the campus community

#### Analysis

As the state's only public four-year higher education institution, the University of Wyoming is a top choice for many high school students considering post-secondary studies. The state's community colleges also serve as feeders to the university through arrangements where students spend their first two years at a local community college before transferring to the university. Students coming from a range of locations from across the state with diverse socio-economic backgrounds, or as transfer students from community colleges, require different levels of support to adjust to the university environment.

The campus does not currently have a strong presence along key edges with the surrounding urban setting, and there is no clear sense of arrival from either Grand Avenue or Snowy Range Road. The demolition of White, Downey, McIntyre and Orr Halls and the Washakie Dining Center create the opportunity to enhance the university's presence and sense of arrival along Grand Avenue.

While the campus does not currently feel connected with downtown Laramie or the regional open space system, there are opportunities to reinforce existing linkages and create new physical connections with these destinations. Further investment in amenities serving the community will reinforce the campus as a welcoming destination.



Downtown Laramie

### **Master Plan Strategy**

The master plan proposes several strategies to support incoming students, enhance the sense of arrival at key gateways, create a more welcoming presence along campus edges, reinforce linkages with downtown and the surrounding open space network, and enhance community amenities. Many of these strategies are addressed through other master plan proposals, and are described in greater detail in other sections of this report.

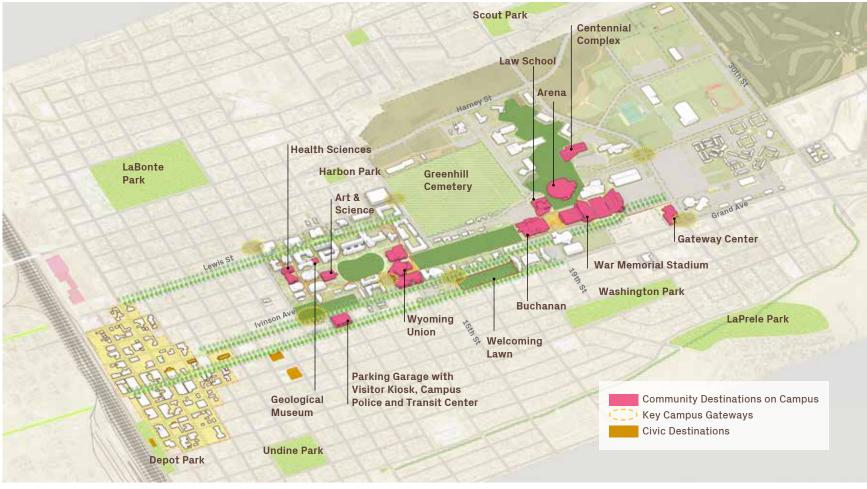
#### Student Support

The master plan proposes several comprehensive strategies to create a more welcoming student experience and support student success, which are described in the Residential Roots, Student Life Experience, and Pedestrian Friendly sections of the plan. These include the creation of a more robust living and learning student experience with the construction of new student residence halls in the Campus Core, the concentration of student engagement and student support services, including affinity group space, within the Wyoming Union and Coe Library, the introduction of collaboration hubs in academic building across the Campus Core, and enhancements to campus open space and mobility systems to create a more welcoming and pedestrianfriendly campus.

#### **Campus Arrival and Connections**

Strong gateway opportunities exist at Grand Avenue and 9th, 13th, 15th and 22nd Streets, as well as Lewis Street and 9th and 15th Streets. These areas should be acknowledged with special landscape treatments or signage to enhance the sense of arrival to campus. The plan introduces a new visitor kiosk at the Wyoming Union 13th Street transit hub and the Ivinson Parking Garage. A future welcome center could reside within the Wyoming Union and Coe Library vicinity. The plan identifies Ivinson Avenue, Lewis Street, and Grand Avenue as priority connecting routes to downtown Laramie. The university is encouraged to work in partnership with the City of Laramie to reinforce pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and enhance transit connections along these routes for shared benefit. Strategies could include the continuation of proposed streetscape improvements for Ivinson Avenue between 3rd and 15th Streets. Coordination of routes with the Laramie Link could be an opportunity to provide a direct connection between downtown and the proposed Ivinson Avenue garage transit hub.

The master plan also contains recommendations for improvements to campus mobility systems that create more continuous pedestrian and bicycle connections throughout the campus. These include the creation of a multi-use pathway along Willett Drive, the extension of a pathway through to 22nd and Harney Streets within the new Research Precinct, and the implementation of the Lewis Street pedestrian corridor. Together, these improvements create the opportunity for more direct connections with the regional open space system, including Pilot Hill to the east and the Laramie River greenway corridor to the west.



Connections with the community

The campus contains a number of cultural, recreational, and service amenities that serve the surrounding Laramie

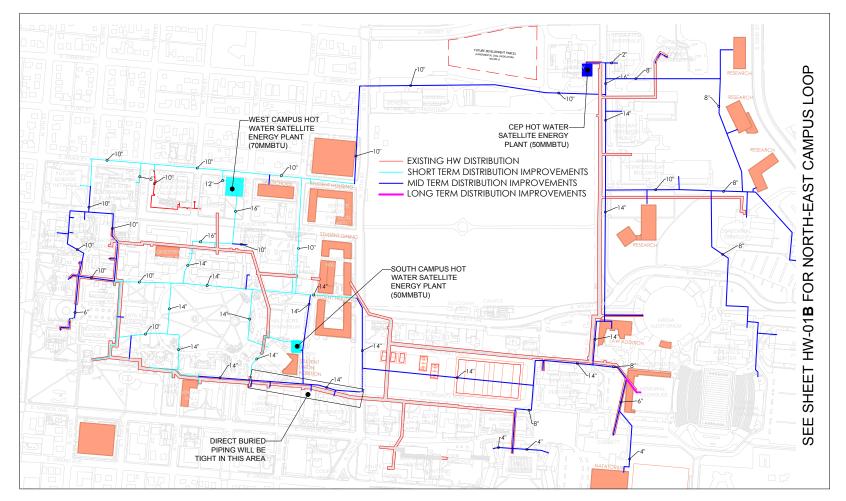
**Community Amenities** 

and service amenities that serve the surrounding Laramie community. The master plan proposes several building and site improvements to further welcome the community, including the following:

• Creation of the Arts and Sciences plaza and East Campus plaza, as well as the Welcoming Lawn, Fraternity Mall, and Research Precinct open spaces as campus and community amenity spaces

- Renovation of and addition to the Wyoming Union to expand service offerings
- Introduction of a visitor kiosk within the transit hub at 13th Street and the Wyoming Union, and in the Ivinson Parking garage
- Addition to the Law School to accommodate communityserving law clinics
- Addition to the War Memorial Stadium and creation of VIP parking to improve the fan experience

# 5.0 Implementation



Hot Water Distribution Network

# **5.0 Implementation**

## **Utility Infrastructure**

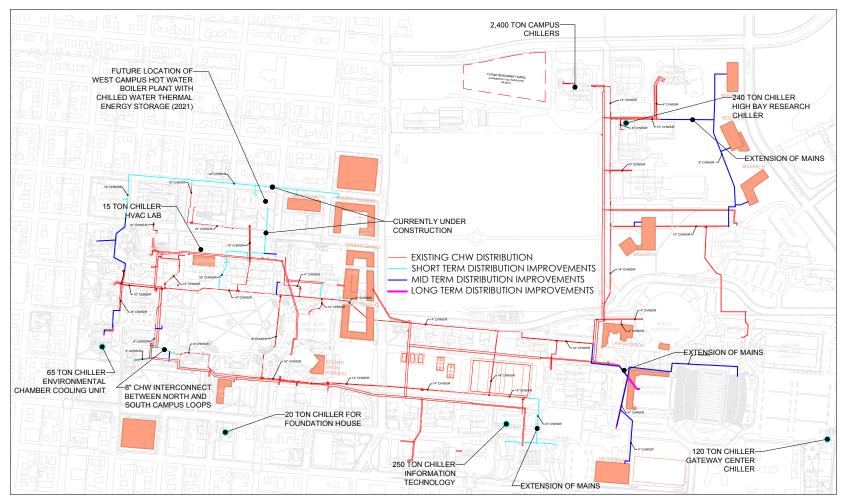
The campus master plan is supported by a comprehensive infrastructure master plan that describes current infrastructure needs, as well as future investments that will be required to implement the master plan proposals for building and campus improvements. The key issues and recommendations from the infrastructure master plan are summarized in this report, while the comprehensive plan is provided within the separate Utility Master Plan Report.

### **Existing Conditions**

The following is a summary of existing campus infrastructure conditions:

- A significant portion of the campus utility infrastructure requires improvement, upgrades, or replacement despite performance of routine preventative maintenance
- Campus heating and cooling production infrastructure lacks needed redundancy
- Inefficiencies and structural deterioration within the steam distribution system cause higher operational costs
- The university is dependent on City of Laramie infrastructure systems for potable and fire suppression water, sanitary sewers, and storm sewers; city systems require some upgrades

- Power outages and bumps across campus are associated with Rocky Mountain Power's (RMP) distribution system and also through the Western Area Power Administration's system. Having overhead distribution in such windy conditions is problematic. RMP has been addressing some of these issues, but it will take time to complete
- Roadway lighting also controlled by Rocky Mountain Power – requires improvement in some areas. It is recommended that UW install its own systems and remove the reliance from RMP's lighting infrastructure
- At the building level, many service entrance switchboards and transformers require upgrades or replacement
- A variety of the campus emergency generator systems exist including code compliance issues, control problems, fuel capacity shortfalls, as well as a lack of clear documentation as to how some generators are wired. There are numerous buildings that do not contain an emergency source of power, or existing equipment is operating beyond its reliable life span
- There is a lack of clear documentation as to the University's communications infrastructure



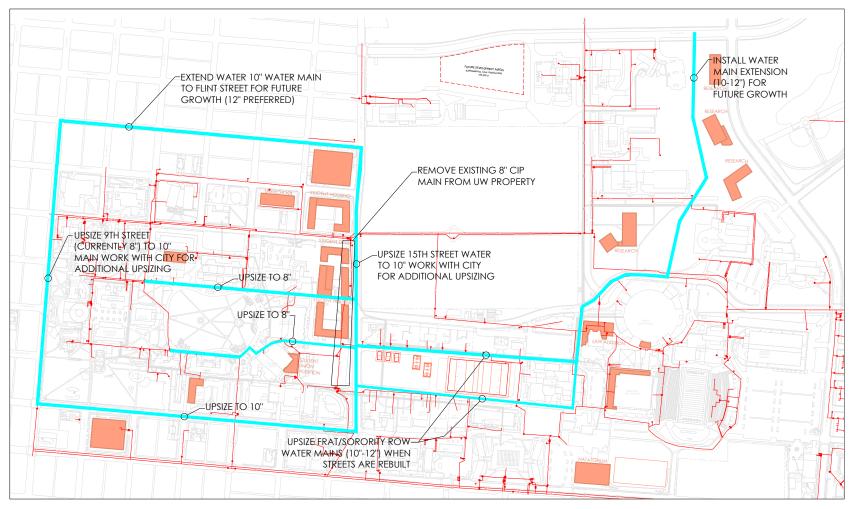
**Chilled Water Distribution Network** 

### Recommended Infrastructure Improvements

The infrastructure master plan defines key corridors for infrastructure accommodation, as well as general locations for future plants. The plan supports the proposed master plan development program in all areas of the campus in support of the 20-year vision. With the exception of the main heating water distribution loops and network, the majority of the improvements described in the plan can be implemented as needed over time.

### Heating and Cooling

The new West Campus Satellite Plant will come online in the spring of 2021, enabling the start of a new hot water production distribution system as a first step in reducing the number of inefficient Steam/Condensate piping systems. The construction of the chilled water thermal energy storage system will provide ample chilled water supply to new and renovated buildings. Anticipated heating requirements for buildings connected to the hot water system will require the full buildout of the West Campus Satellite Plant. Supporting hot water and chilled water service is under construction for several buildings along Lewis Street, and should be extended to buildings within the Campus Core to facilitate the conversion of existing heating and cooling systems.



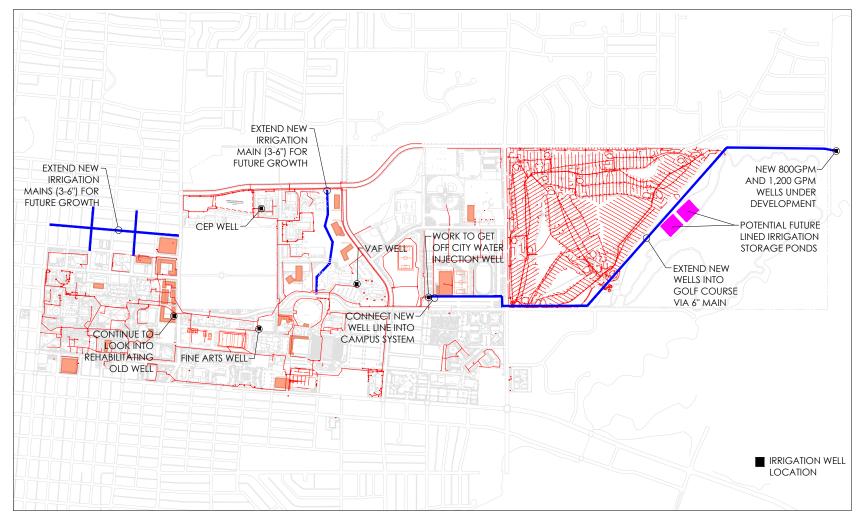
Potable Water and Fire Protection Network

Second and third satellite hot water production plants, together with hot and chilled water service extensions, will be required to support long-term campus development. The second plant would ideally be located near the Wyoming Union. Equipment for the third plant could be placed within the existing Central Energy Plant as existing steam boilers are removed. The Central Energy Plant cooling towers, pumps, and older chiller will eventually need to be replaced. If an additional location is needed, Memorial Fieldhouse could be considered.

### Domestic Water

The campus domestic water distribution system forms part of the overall City of Laramie water supply system. Improvements to both campus and city infrastructure will be needed to meet current and future potable and fire water demand, including the following:

- Upsizing/replacement of older cast-iron water mains with larger mains
- Upsizing of undersized mains located along Ivinson Avenue, 9th Street and 15th Street



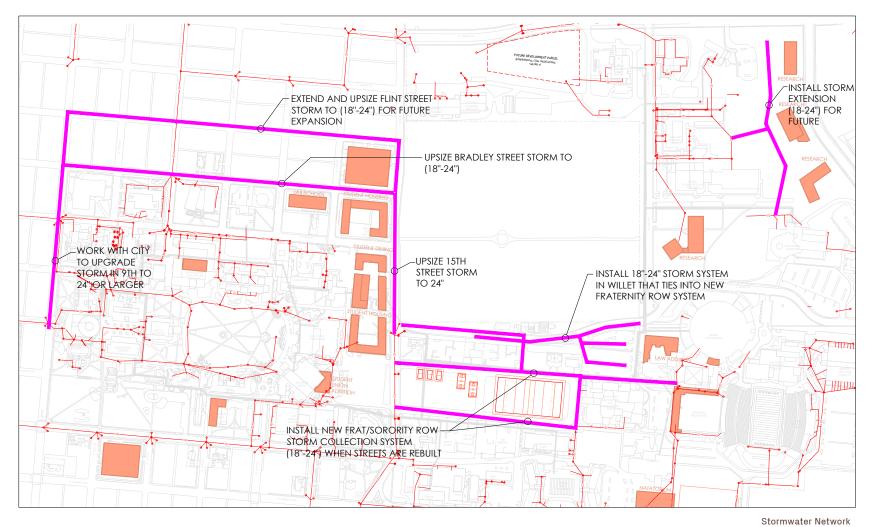
Irrigation Network

- Extension of new water mains along 15th Street, Flint Street, and Gibbon Street to minimum 10" mains
- Introduction of new 10" water mains along Willett Drive and within the Research Precinct open space to support development in this area of the campus

The North Laramie Water Tank Project is scheduled to be completed in 2021 or 2022, and will provide city and campus water distribution systems with better pressure and increased capacity for required fire flows.

### <u>Irrigation</u>

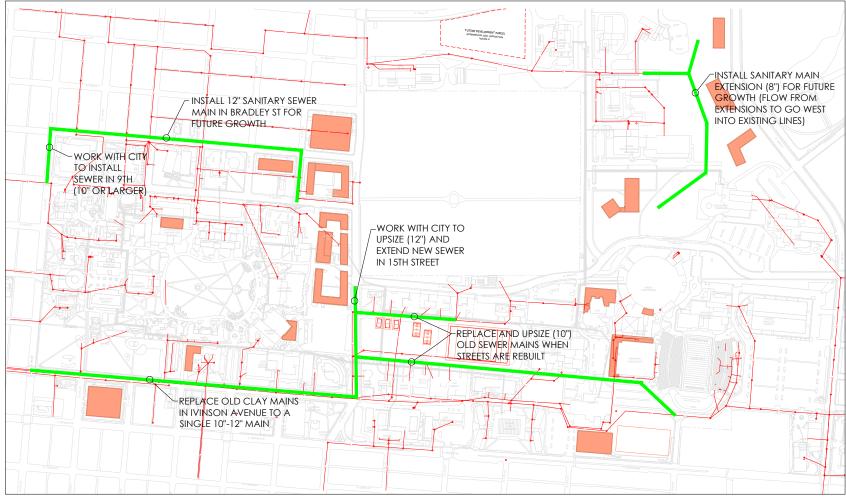
As the preferred University ground cover, blue grass requires an exuberant amount of water to survive. As such, the existing campus irrigation system is at capacity such that new buildings use city water supply for irrigation. To reduce reliance on the city system, the university will need to invest in new production wells connected to the campus irrigation system or increase payments to the city for irrigation water. Future demand will require a new irrigation water source, coupled with new water mains.



<u>Stormwater</u>

The storm sewer collection system is owned and maintained by the university where it doesn't fall within the City of Laramie's streets. UW's existing storm sewer collection system interconnects with the City's. With City storm infrastructure located around the perimeter as well as down many streets internal to campus, all university storm water discharges into the City's collection system. As a result, UW is entirely dependent on the size and condition of downstream City storm management infrastructure. The central location of the university and its storm water collection system serves as a constraint when it comes to future campus expansion as it will be controlled by downstream municipal storm infrastructure. Improvements include the following:

- Enhancement of stormwater infrastructure along 9th, 15th, Flint and Bradley Streets with 15" to 24" mains
- Identification and development of surface runoff detention areas within landscaped areas for new building development
- Flow metering on existing infrastructure is recommended to collect baseline capacity data
- New storm sewer mains within Fraternity Mall/Willett Drive to create a new infrastructure corridor for conveyance of stormwater
- New 12- to 24-inch storm sewer within the Research Precinct open space to support development in this area of the campus

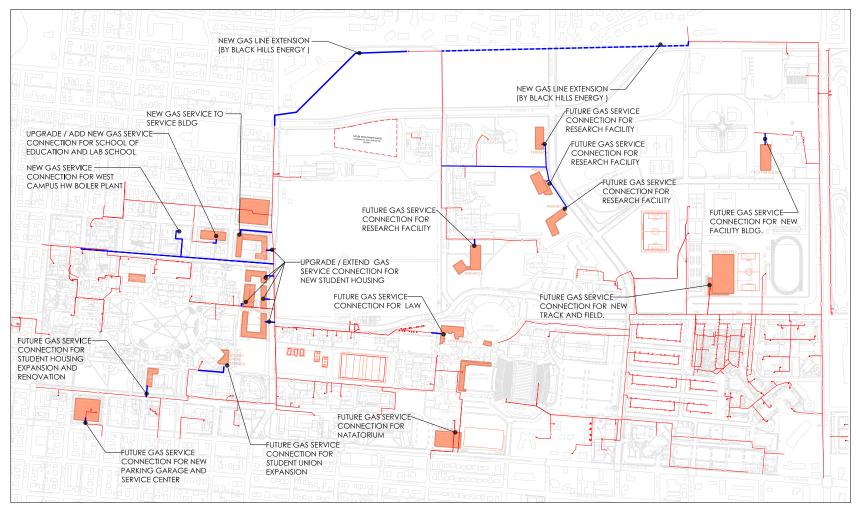


#### Sanitary Sewer

The University of Wyoming campus sanitary sewer collection system is owned and maintained by the University where it doesn't fall within the City of Laramie's streets. As indicated by the split ownership, the existing UW sanitary sewer collection system intermingles with the City's system. There are City sewer lines and manholes than are located in public streets that enter campus as well as on the peripheral. As a result of its central location, eventually all campus wastewater discharges into the City's collection system and thus is completely dependent on the capacity and condition of downstream municipal sanitary sewer infrastructure. Campus development will eventually require several improvements to the existing sanitary sewer system:

Sanitary Sewer Network

- Upsizing/replacement of 8" clay sewer mains within existing Fraternity and Sorority Row with10" PVC mains
- Upsizing/replacement of 8" sewer mains located along 9th and 15th Streets and Ivinson Avenue with 10" mains
- The impact of tree roots on the sanitary sewer system is a continuous issue.
- The lines serving the Washakie Dining Center are constantly being clogged with grease.
- New sewer main within the Research Precinct open space to support development in this area of the campus

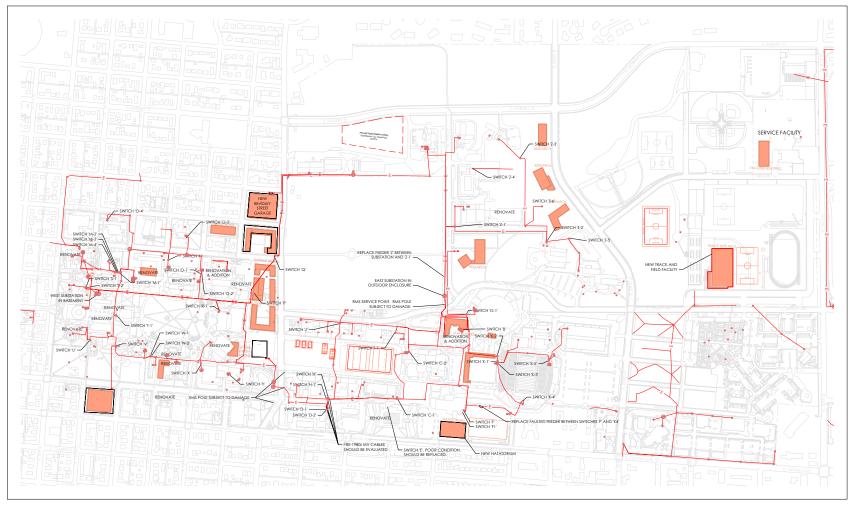


Natural Gas Network

Future City of Laramie sanitary sewer infrastructure improvement projects that will potentially improve conditions for the campus collection system include upsizing of the "C-Line" and Reynold Street sanitary trunk mains. No timetable has been set on those projects to date.

### <u>Natural Gas</u>

New gas service connections are required for buildings coming online within the Campus Core. This will include the extension of the gas line along Lewis Street and new service connections to support new student housing. The 22nd Street Research facilities will also require extension of the distribution system. The new Harney gas line improvements project to be completed by Black Hills Energy will help to facilitate future demands on campus. The university should reconsider connecting to the natural gas network near the Interstate, as previously explored.

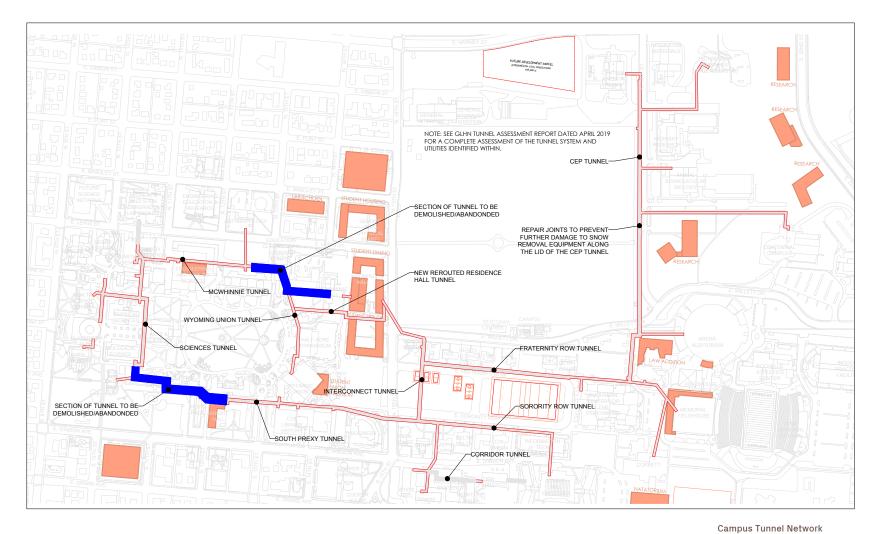


### Primary and Emergency Power Electrical Service

Additions and modifications are required to the campus medium voltage (MV) distribution system to supply power to new buildings including distribution cables, switches, manholes, and transformers. Improvements are also required to the secondary electrical systems including distribution cables, emergency power, lighting, and transformers. Further required electrical service improvements include:

Electrical Distribution Network

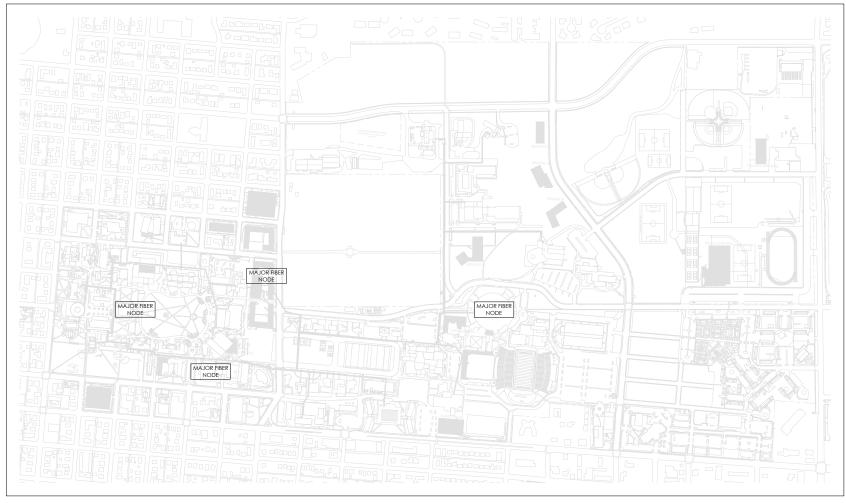
- Replacement of MV power switches and transformers serving renovated buildings
- Updates to power surge protection
- Replacement of existing emergency power generators and control systems on buildings where they have reached the end of their useful lives
- Emergency power supply for buildings that do not currently have back-up supply
- Inclusion of emergency power to non-backed up fire pumps



- Replacement of the West Campus Electrical Substation as part of the Physical Sciences building renovation, with a potential location in the Bureau of Mines building
- Replacement of the East Campus Electrical Substation, with a potential location in the existing Central Energy Plant
- Exterior lighting improvements

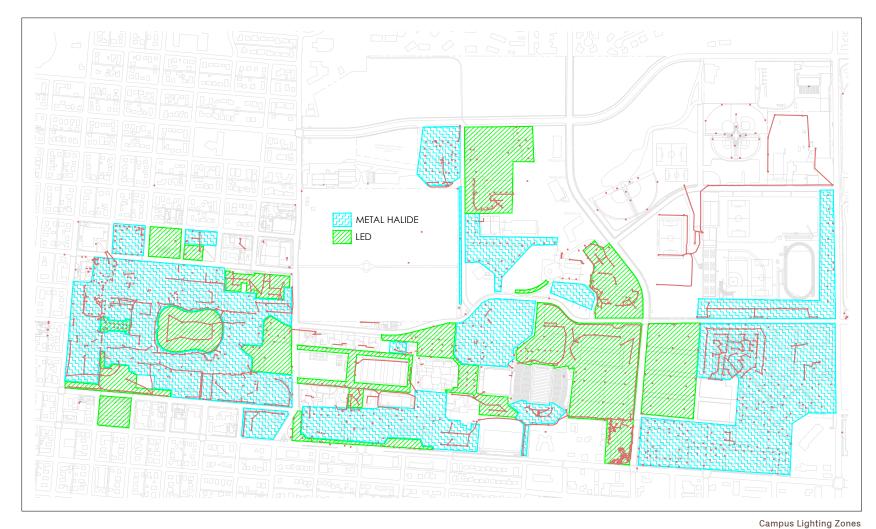
### Tunnel Improvements

The existing campus utility tunnel system requires abatement, relocation of utilities, and infill or demolition/replacement of the existing Tunnel around the Agriculture building/College of Education building/McWhinnie Hall and Merica Hall to Ross Hall.



Fiber Optic Nodes

Data Systems Additions and modification of existing campus fiber communications systems to supply data to new buildings. New fiber will be routed from existing utility tunnels.

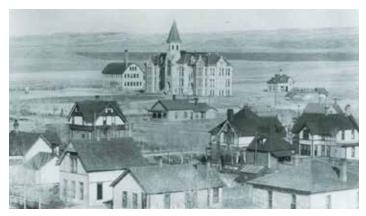


### Campus Exterior Lighting

Replacement of existing metal halide exterior lighting is required across the campus. Grounding of exterior lighting around the Biological Sciences, Arts and Sciences, and Old Main buildings, together with the tennis courts and baseball field, is also required.







Images courtesy of the University of Wyoming

# Historic Buildings and Landscapes

Historic buildings and landscapes are defining features of the campus, appreciated by students, alumni, faculty, and the broader community. Their preservation and appropriate treatment is important to the strengthening and enhancement of campus character, although it is recognized that alterations and additions to existing buildings may be necessary to support evolving needs over time.

The master plan supports the appropriate treatment of historic buildings and landscapes in its shaping and strengthening of campus character for the future. The plan contains recommendations for changes to the university's historic buildings to creatively address strategic initiatives and seeks to accommodate these changes, while preserving the historical integrity through which they contribute to campus character.

A key focus area of the plan is in the Campus Core surrounding Prexy's Pasture, where the most highly recognized historic buildings are located. The plan envisions the phased renovation and rehabilitation of the Arts and Sciences, Engineering, Agriculture, Education, Aven Nelson and Bureau of Mines academic buildings, and the renovation and rehabilitation of McWhinnie, Ross, Merica, Knight, and Hoyt Halls for residential use. With the exception of Aven Nelson, each of these buildings has a high degree of historic integrity and should be treated with the greatest care.

The plan also envisions the potential relocation of the Student Health Department from Cheney International Center, and the History Department, which is currently housed in a portion of Coe Library. These two small programs have occupied their spaces for so long their interiors have changed very little from the time of their construction. They are uniquely intact period interiors that retain a high degree of design integrity. New uses moved into these spaces should take care to preserve their historic character. The master plan calls for the removal of student dormitories constructed in the 1960s and replacement with new housing next to the Campus Core. Though of historical significance relative to their period and type, the 1960s dormitories are not as highly valued by the university community as the buildings within the Campus Core. Nevertheless, the dormitories should be fully documented photographically prior to their removal.

## **Historic Preservation Plan**

In 2015, the university prepared a historic preservation plan to recognize and preserve the historic buildings and landscapes that contribute to campus character. The historic preservation plan outlines guidelines for the appropriate treatment of historic buildings and landscape features. It also outlines a flexible approach to decision-making for changes to buildings that considers preservation issues and values, and that applies accepted preservation principles to further enhance character as the campus evolves.

The preservation plan includes a review of each individual historic building and landscape on the campus with discussion of historical development, significance, integrity, condition, and treatment recommendations. These reviews provide initial background information to facilitate planning for new renovation and rehabilitation projects.

Additional investigation is required for the assessment and determination of appropriate treatment with respect to individual projects. The historic preservation plan outlines best practices for historic preservation, guidelines for the appropriate treatment of historic features and fabric, and design guidelines for additions and new construction within a historic context.

### **Preservation Principles and Processes**

Campus character at the University of Wyoming was inspired by its earliest buildings and officially recognized and articulated in the university's 1924 campus master plan. Since the mid-1920s, campus architects have generally conformed with, but continually reinterpreted, desired campus character through its expression in evolving architectural philosophies, forms, and styles.

The 1924 campus master plan created the landscape concept of a central campus quadrangle—Prexy's Pasture—surrounded by groups of buildings with smaller landscape areas and linkages creating a hierarchy of campus spaces. Buildings took inspiration from the Wyoming landscape, adapting to local conditions and using native materials, while expressing national stylistic trends. The most visually striking means of evoking the Wyoming landscape was the use of the native buff-rose-colored sandstone.

The 2015 historic preservation plan provides guidelines for preservation and enhancement of historic campus character through recognition of its character defining features and application of principles of historic preservation that have been developed and honed by practitioners in the field over the years. Historic preservation is a practical discipline that can accommodate growth and change while continuing to preserve the characteristics that make a place special. They are a touchstone for all activities affecting historic buildings and landscapes, and help to ensure that the care of historic buildings and landscapes is considered as building and site improvements are implemented over time.

In general, the standards and historic preservation practice emphasize the preservation of authentic historic features and fabric to the maximum extent possible. Central to the assessment of historic resources and their potential for change are the concepts of authenticity and integrity. Authenticity, with respect to a historic building, is associated with the preservation of original building fabric and features. Integrity relates to the degree to which any individual building retains its authentic building fabric and features.

In considering changes to the university's historic buildings as envisioned in the campus master plan, projects should use established processes outlined in the 2015 historic preservation plan. Preservation consultants should be retained to advise designers and the university. Key principles for consideration include the following:

- Authentic historic building features and fabric should be identified.
- Deteriorated features should be repaired rather than replaced. If replacement is necessary, new features should closely match the originals.
- Needed changes should be planned to minimize the loss of historic building features and fabric and preserve the building's overall integrity.
- The interiors of buildings should be divided into zones of sensitivity, with a high degree of preservation in areas of high sensitivity and importance, and needed changes directed to areas of less sensitivity and importance.

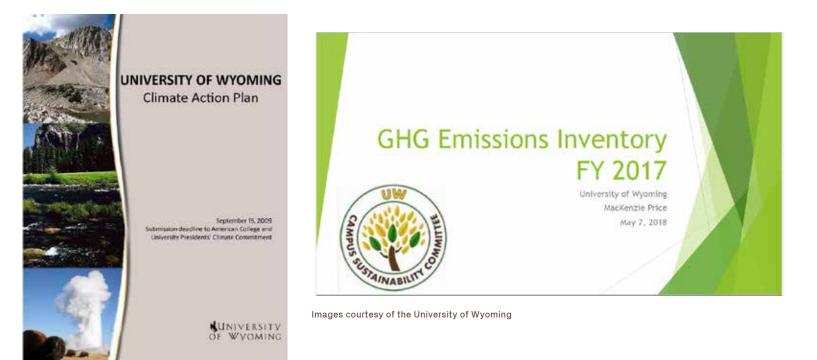
# Sustainability Campus Sustainability Committee

The university currently promotes sustainability on the campus through the Campus Sustainability Committee that is charged with the following mission:

To advance sustainability at the University of Wyoming and the broader community by promoting sustainability awareness, using campus as a living laboratory, and providing strategies for sustainable operations. Improve university operations by funding sustainability projects through support from the Major Maintenance fund and a grant from the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation

- Support passionate students interested in sustainability by providing project ideas and facilitating communication
- Ensure university compliance with the American College and University President's Climate Commitment by completing an annual greenhouse gas inventory
- Serve as a clearinghouse for sustainability information and resources
- Host sustainability forums, workshops, and celebrations

The Campus Sustainability Committee promotes sustainability in a number of areas, including energy efficiency, transportation, construction and renovation, purchasing, recycling, and waste management. The committee is also engaged with ongoing sustainability initiatives such as the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) and the Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS), described below.



## **Major Sustainability Initiatives**

In 2007, the university signed the ACUPCC, which commits the university to reducing its carbon emissions and eventually becoming carbon neutral. In support of the ACUPCC, the university prepared a climate action plan to provide guidance in achieving sustainability goals. The university tracks its annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which have remained steady or declined, despite growth in building square footage.

In April 2019, the university also submitted its Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) report to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). STARS provides a metric and reporting tool for a wide range of sustainability activities across academics, engagement, operations, and planning and administration.





Native perennial plantings



Native perennial plantings

## Master Plan Sustainability Support

The master plan supports overall campus sustainability efforts through several initiatives:

- Renovation of buildings within the Campus Core to meet current needs, reducing the need for new construction
- Concentration of uses within the Campus Core to make efficient use of land and building resources
- Creation of new on-campus housing within the Campus Core, reducing the need for travel to and from the campus
- Adaptive reuse of historic residence halls, reducing the need for new construction
- Implementation of landscape improvements that respond to the Laramie eco-region context and use native plant materials to reduce the need for irrigation
- Implementation of mobility improvements that create a pedestrian-friendly campus that encourages walking and cycling, and reduces the need for vehicle trips
- Creation of mobility hubs to encourage transit use
- Implementation of infrastructure improvements for greater energy efficiency



Potential land acquisition zones

## **Potential Acquisition Strategy**

The university has sufficient land to accommodate all program needs anticipated within the 20-year master plan horizon, and identifies sites for specific program elements. The plan also identifies additional sites for further growth of research within the East Campus area.

However, given the limited opportunity for development immediately adjacent to the Academic Core, the master plan identifies the area immediately north of the campus bounded by Bradley, Harney, 9th and 15th Streets, as well as the area immediately to the south of the campus bounded by Ivinson Street, Grand Avenue, 9th and 15th Streets as potential acquisition zones. While the university has no current plans for development within these zones, it will consider purchases of select properties as they become available for sale, based on mission, programmatic, or strategic priorities. A potential short term use within the north area includes surface parking to address the need for parking displaced by development of new student housing along 15th Street. Property acquisition within the south area creates the opportunity to improve the image of the campus and presence in Laramie, and enhance connections to downtown.



## **Development Summary**

Development strategy

The master plan includes a balanced mix of renovation and new construction, reflecting the university's commitment to the preservation of the cherished historic buildings that define the character of the campus, and equal resolve to sustain and enhance a 21st-century setting for teaching, learning, research, and student life in support of its core mission. Please refer to the university's design and construction standards for guidance in implementing the plan. A detailed list of associated proposed projects is provided on the following pages. With the exception of student housing mandated by legislation, projects will be implemented over time according to university priorities as funding becomes available. The following is a summary of the total development program proposed in the campus master plan:

- Total new construction: 1,553,000 GSF
- Total renovation: 2,242,000 GSF
- Total demolition: 801,000 GSF

PROPOSED PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION	ТҮРЕ	GSF	FUNCTION
Service Building Demolition	Demolish building to accommodate new student housing	Demolition	81,268	Support
Armory Building Demolition	Demolish building to accommodate new Services Building	Demolition	27,013	Support
Wyoming Hall Demolition	Demolish building to accommodate new student housing	Demolition	69,579	Office
White Hall Demolition	Demolish building once new student housing constructed	Demolition	122,947*	Housing
Downey Hall Demolition	Demolish building once new student housing constructed	Demolition	74,805*	Housing
Washakie Dining Center Demolition	Demolish building once new dining facility in new housing is constructed	Demolition	77,366*	Student Life
McIntyre Hall Demolition	Demolish building once new student housing constructed	Demolition	116,120*	Housing
Orr Hall Demolition	Demolish building once new student housing constructed	Demolition	74,643*	Housing
Knight Hall Partial Demolition	Demolish the western part of Knight Hall to accommodate additional student housing and dining	Demolition	14,351	Housing
University Police Facility Demolition	Demolish building to accommodate new parking structure	Demolition	7,807*	Support
555 N. 14th Street, Graduate Research Offices Demolition	Demolish building to accommodate new parking structure	Demolition	1,883*	Research
Engineering and Applied Science Building Central Area Demolition (Sawtooth)	Demolish central area (sawtooth) of building to accommodate new program space	Demolition	61,458	Academic
Fieldhouse North (UniWyo Complex) Demolition	Demolish building once Memorial Field House renovation is complete	Demolition	71,694	Athletics
lvinson Avenue Garage	Construct new garage on former parking lot	New Construction	201,600	Support
Service Facility	Construct a replacement building for existing Service Building on 15th Street/ Bradley Street	New Construction	50,000	Support

PROPOSED PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION	ТҮРЕ	GSF	FUNCTION
New Dining Facility	Construct new dining facility to support new student housing	New Construction	22,483	Student Life
New Student Housing	Construct new student housing on the Service Building site	New Construction	127,738	Housing
New Student Housing	Construct new student housing on the Wyoming Hall site and parking lots to the south	New Construction	164,860	Housing
New Student Housing	Construct new student housing on former parking lot opposite Half Acre	New Construction	125,540	Housing
Wyoming Union Addition	Construct addition to Wyoming Union to address program needs	New Construction	16,724	Student Life
Knight Hall Addition	Construct addition to accommodate higher bed capacity	New Construction	46,000	Housing
Natatorium	Construct new facility to support Health Sciences and Intercollegiate Athletics programs	New Construction	75,000	Athletics/Academic
Indoor Track and Field	Construct new facility to support Intercollegiate Athletics programs	New Construction	125,000	Athletics
Arena Auditorium Addition	Construct addition to provide support space	New Construction	3,000	Athletics
Law School Expansion	Construct addition to Law School to address program needs	New Construction	40,491	Academic
Bradley Street Garage	Construct new garage to accommodate displaced surface parking	New Construction	268,800	Support
Potential New Lab School	Construct potential new Lab School for College of Education	New Construction	58,563	Academic
Engineering and Applied Science Building Central Area Addition	Reconstruct addition in central area of building to accommodate program needs	New Construction	32,367	Academic
Future 19th Street Development 1	Construct new research building when demand arises	New Construction	69,090	Research
Future 19th Street Development 2	Construct new research building when demand arises	New Construction	34,304	Research
Future 19th Street Development 3	Construct new research building when demand arises	New Construction	44,840	Research
Future 19th Street Development 4	Construct new research building when demand arises	New Construction	43,464	Research

PROPOSED PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION	ТҮРЕ	GSF	FUNCTION
Memorial Fieldhouse Addition	Addition to the west side of facility	New Construction	2,688	Athletics
Corbett Hall Renovation	Renovate existing facility	Renovation	83,646	Athletics/Academic
Crane Hall Renovation	Renovate building for swing space	Renovation	78,304*	Swing Space
Crane Cafeteria Renovation	Renovate building for swing space	Renovation	20,791*	Swing Space
Hill Hall Renovation	Renovate building for swing space	Renovation	79,027*	Swing Space
Wyoming Union Renovation	Renovate building to address program needs	Renovation	133,790	Student Life
Coe Library Ground Floor Renovation	Renovate portion of ground floor	Renovation	35,499	Academic/Student Life
Physical Sciences Building Renovation	Renovate building to create contemporary classrooms and student space	Renovation	179,777	Academic
Biological Sciences Renovation	Renovate building to create contemporary teaching and student space	Renovation	205,350	Academic
Arts and Sciences Building Renovation	Renovate building to address deferred maintenance	Renovation	66,182	Academic
Knight Hall Renovation	Renovate building for use as student housing	Renovation	67,320	Housing
Ross Hall Renovation	Renovate building for use as student housing	Renovation	90,664	Office to Housing
War Memorial Stadium West Wing Renovation	Renovate west wing of War Memorial Stadium to improve patron experience	Renovation	59,411*	Athletics
Memorial Fieldhouse Renovation	Renovate Memorial Fieldhouse to accommodate Intercollegiate Athletics volleyball and wrestling programs	Renovation	195,855	Athletics
Law School Renovation	Renovate building to address program needs	Renovation	69,805	Academic
Education Building Renovation	Renovate building to create contemporary teaching and student space	Renovation	123,674	Academic
Education Annex Renovation	Renovate building to create contemporary teaching and student space	Renovation	27,840	Academic
Agriculture Building Renovation	Renovate building to create contemporary teaching and student space	Renovation	221,779	Academic
Animal Science Building East Part Renovation	Renovate east part of building for research use	Renovation	52,841	Research

PROPOSED PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION	ТҮРЕ	GSF	FUNCTION
Engineering and Applied Science Building Renovation	Renovate building to create contemporary teaching and student space	Renovation	269,522	Academic
Aven Nelson Renovation	Renovate building to create contemporary collaborative science facility	Renovation	32,832	Academic
Bureau of Mines Renovation	Renovate building to address deferred maintenance	Renovation	77,916	Office
Hoyt Hall Renovation	Renovate building for use as student housing	Renovation	26,369*	Office to Housing
McWhinnie Hall Renovation	Renovate building for use as student housing	Renovation	26,625	Office to Housing
Merica Hall Renovation	Renovate building for future use	Renovation	17,651	Future use
Open Space West of 15th Street	Construct landscape west of 15th Street next to Wyoming Union	Site	119,472	Landscape
Lewis Street Corridor Landscape Part 1	Construct new Lewis Street landscape and pedestrian improvements Part 1	Site	416,152	Landscape
Lewis Street Corridor Landscape Part 2	Construct new Lewis Street landscape and pedestrian improvements Part 2	Site	88,015	Landscape
Welcoming Lawn Landscape	Construct new landscape following demolition of existing residence halls	Site	173,054	Landscape
Arts and Sciences Plaza	Improve Arts and Sciences plaza together with building renovation	Site	31,100	Landscape
Ross-Knight Landscape Corridor	Construct new landscape corridor between Ross and Knight Halls	Site	14,583	Landscape
East Campus Plaza	Construct new plaza as part of East Campus open space improvements	Site	89,747	Landscape
Fraternity Mall	Construct planned improvements to mall as part of East Campus open space improvements	Site	460,775	Landscape
New Turf Field	Construct new turf field to address program needs	Site	467,765	Landscape

# 6.0 Acknowledgements

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- Paula Whaley, Deputy General Counsel
- Paige Trent, ASUW student representative
- Catherine Applegate, ASUW student representative

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