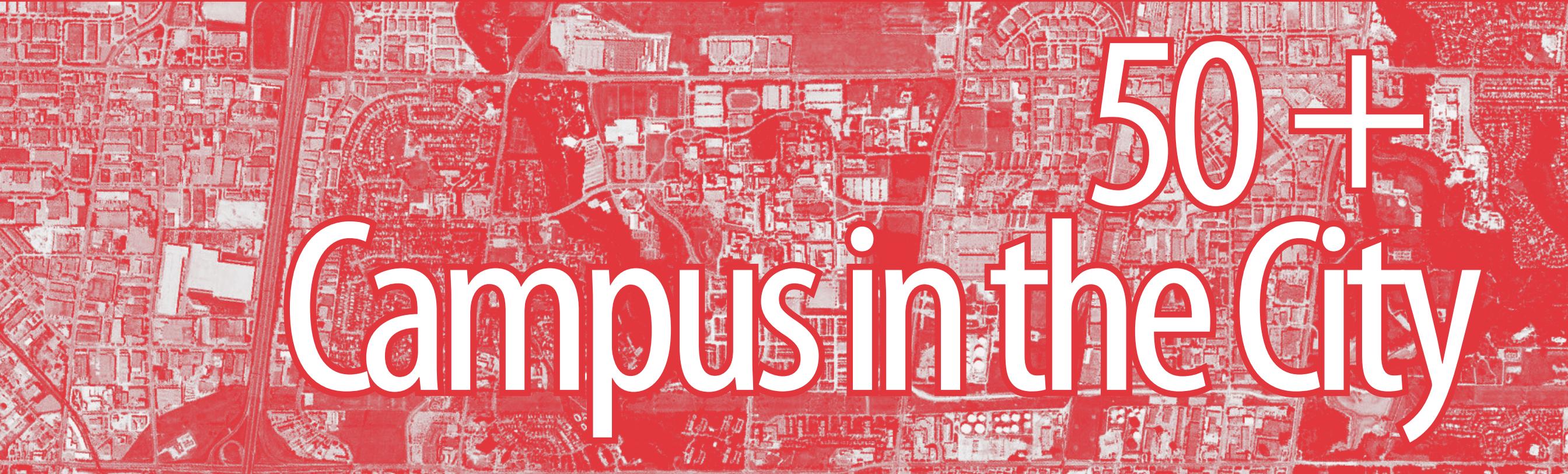
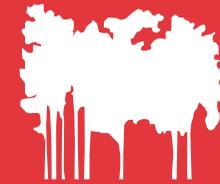


FINAL DRAFT



50+ Campus in the City

Moving Forward: The Master Plan for the York University Keele Campus

YORK
UNIVERSITY
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

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Introduction



York University Campus Aerial (2008), showing boundary of Academic Core in red

Master Plan Update — *a campus in the city*

York University's Keele Campus has reached a critical point in its evolution as it becomes a truly urban University. It sits within an evolving urban context and is subject to major external as well as internal pressures; it must be able to respond to the imperative of major new investments in transportation infrastructure, and at the same time, it possesses a significant untapped strategic land resource whose potential may now be realized.

By embracing and shaping this inevitable round of change, there is an opportunity to create the next York University with an updated vision for the Keele Campus that moves it from a suburban campus to a '**campus in the city**'.

This Master Plan focuses on the **Academic Core** as defined on the diagram on the facing page. The Academic Core is the area where academic and student facilities are concentrated and includes the Rexall Canada Centre and the Canlan Ice Sports.

As York shapes its destiny for the future, it must above all support its **academic mission**, and consider how the physical setting of the campus and facilities serve that mission, using the momentum of change to improve the campus environment.

As the campus continues to evolve and change, the Master Plan must be able to accommodate the University's next priority capital projects and facilitate the University's long-term growth. It needs to **protect for the growth of the Academic Core** and the University's ability to expand programs into key areas like Science, Engineering, Health and Medicine and others as identified. The Master Plan sets a framework to consider new capital projects, infrastructure improvements and enhancements to the public realm. It is intended to **meet the precinct planning requirements of the Secondary Plan**.

The Master Plan positions York to **leverage opportunities associated with transit, including research and development opportunities and opportunities for shared use**. This has to be a flexible plan which preserves the University's ability to respond to funding opportunities as they arise. There are already many successful examples of these partnerships at York and the Master Plan provides a structure and framework which encourages that kind of collaboration. These opportunities arise periodically and take forms that are impossible to predict with any certainty. The Master Plan is, therefore, a **flexible framework** that identifies ample places for growth to occur, and provides direction without being overly prescriptive. For York to remain competitive in meeting its academic goals, it must remain entrepreneurial and open to drawing potential partners to the university. This means allowing for a **broad range of new initiatives** within the Academic Core to be accommodated without a protracted approvals process.

The Master Plan addresses the **quality of student life** on the campus through for example, strategies for open space, pedestrian circulation, and infilling. In a competitive environment, the quality of student life is a key factor influencing university choice. Places to gather, to study, to eat, and play form a critical part of the academic experience. There are many opportunities to build on the landscape foundation that was laid in the first master plan for the Keele Campus to create a beautiful and memorable network of green spaces.



The Green



Proposed York University Subway Station

The Vision for York University

The Master Plan is the product of many voices that contributed to identifying opportunities to enhance the Keele Campus. This Master Plan envisions an urban campus that will evolve through a framework defined by broad structuring elements that guide the long term development of the Keele Campus. This 'living' document will be reviewed regularly to monitor changes and to update the framework. The drawing on the facing page is one scenario illustrating the application of the Master Plan's strategies to depict York University in the long term with new buildings and open spaces infilling key locations in the Academic Core and new mixed use neighbourhoods south of Steeles Avenue West and The Pond Road.

As a framework, the Master Plan builds on the positive changes in its environment with the introduction of a new subway line through the heart of the campus and the extensive redevelopment that will add a significant population of new residents and employees within walking distance of the campus. York will use its own extensive land base more intensively with new uses that expand the Academic Core while improving the amenities that contribute to the **quality of campus life**. This shift to a mature **urban campus** will happen incrementally as each new component of campus growth contributes to a renewed vision for the Keele Campus.

Within the three precincts that form the University's Academic Core there is ample opportunity for the growth and adaptation of existing academic programs and the introduction of significant new ones to fulfill the needs of the University's academic mission. As the campus develops in a more urban, **pedestrian oriented** form, structured parking integrated within redevelopment sites strategically located outside the Ring Road will replace the large lots currently reserved for surface parking. Underused sites in the core will fill in with new buildings and additions to existing ones offering opportunities to provide needed new facilities and demonstrate **design excellence**, while improving the overall coherence and quality of the campus public realm. The scale and design quality of these new campus buildings will reflect an emphasis on the way they shape and frame pedestrian spaces and provide interest and amenity to the campus as a whole.



Ian MacDonald looking south towards York Blvd. demonstrating the possibilities through the application of the strategies.

The campus will become more **walkable** to better serve the daily routines of its users. Getting around on campus will become easier and more enjoyable. Circulation patterns will be oriented to take full advantage of the new subway station on the Harry W. Arthurs Common (The Common) in the heart of the campus and on Steeles Avenue, including a clear system of campus wayfinding. With the removal of heavy bus traffic from its perimeter and the introduction of the subway, The Common can once again become the true symbolic **heart of the campus** and the focus of pedestrian life and activity, a place where people want to be. With traffic removed, The Common will extend from building face to building face and its landscape will be simplified to provide informal playing fields, gathering spaces and seating.

The pedestrian realm is still mainly contained by the boundaries defined by the Ring Road. Within this space, the opportunity exists to rehabilitate and reinforce the original system of quadrangles and pathways to improve the public realm. An improved network of north-south and east-west pedestrian routes within the primarily pedestrian Academic Core inside the Ring Road will facilitate interaction and synergies among the broad range of undergraduate and graduate pursuits across the entire Keele Campus and make it more comfortable to move from class to class and to access the subway stations, drop off points and parking. Along these routes, there will be opportunities to enhance daily life throughout the campus, providing a series of new and improved smaller **green spaces** and new facilities distributed throughout the campus, new eating places and a variety of new and expanded locations for **student activities** along with expanded athletic and recreational facilities concentrated in a landscaped setting along the edge of the Black Creek Valley.

By adaptively reshaping and transforming some of its key features, the campus will also become **greener and more connected** internally and to its surroundings. The already well treed campus will be enhanced with new planting expanding the existing tree canopy. The distinctive curvilinear Ring Road that defines the heart of the Academic Core will be redesigned to reflect the shift from a primarily auto orientation to a balanced network which privileges walking and cycling. This internal campus circulation network will link seamlessly to surrounding regional trails and bike routes. By consolidating and improving existing campus landscapes and streetscapes, the Ring Road will become an attractive and generously landscaped greenway and a distinctive permeable set of public spaces forming the shared edge between the academic heart of the campus and the new **mixed-use neighbourhoods** that frame and surround it. At key points on the Ring Road the existing access points to the Academic Core will be reinforced as distinctively landscaped gateways that extend inviting 'green fingers' out to Keele Street, Steeles Avenue, Sentinel Road and Shoreham Drive signaling the welcoming people to the University on arrival.



On all sides of the Academic Core, new external relationships will form with the emerging neighbourhoods on the University's perimeter lands. In the lands surrounding the Academic Core, there will be opportunities to work with the private sector to create a permeable border for the campus in the form of mixed-use **campus neighbourhoods** with housing, offices including shopping, restaurants, cafes, and a variety of daily life activities. There will also be buildings housing spin-off economic development activities carried out by entrepreneurs who seek to benefit from York's research activities as part of larger knowledge based regional strategies supported by the City of Toronto and York Region.

These new mixed-use walkable urban neighbourhoods will provide attractive places to **live, work and shop**. As this transformation occurs, the ideal of the lively and successful University "quarter" is replacing that of a self-contained and detached suburban campus. With that shift comes an increased appreciation of the value of joint planning around a shared vision. The highly desirable neighbourhood environments surrounding the Academic Core will serve students, staff and faculty and will invite the larger population to take advantage of the academic, cultural and recreational facilities the campus provides. By enhancing this key edge within the Keele Campus and making it more inviting for day and evening use, York will be affirming its identity as a major urban University.



One demonstration of the possibilities for The Common after the subway opens.

York is very conscious of its roles and responsibilities as a **city builder**. This changing relationship between the University and its surroundings holds great opportunities for mutual benefits through high quality development, which takes full advantage of the presence of the University community and provides facilities needed by the University to enhance its ability to successfully attract students, faculty and staff and investment in research based on the quality of life in its urban setting.



The Ring Road north of York Blvd demonstrating the possibilities through the application of the strategies.

York University Today

With the largest single campus population in Ontario, York University is Canada's third largest university. York has a student population of approximately 51,000, including over 6,000 graduate students, 7,000 full and part time staff, and 200,000 alumni worldwide. It has eleven faculties, including the Faculty of Science and Engineering, Schulich School of Business, Osgoode Hall Law School, Glendon College, the Faculty of Fine Arts, the Faculty of Health, the Faculty of Environmental Studies, and 24 research centres.

York University has a significant presence in Toronto. The Keele Campus occupies 185 hectares (457 acres) in the south west quadrant of Steeles Avenue West and Keele Street. The Glendon campus is a 34 hectare (85 acre) area on Bayview Avenue, south of Lawrence Avenue. The University has two facilities in downtown Toronto: the Miles S. Nadal Management Centre of the Schulich School of Business at King and Bay Streets and the Osgoode Hall Law School Professional Development Centre at Dundas and Yonge Streets.

This Master Plan report applies to the Keele Campus of York University.



Vari Hall, York University, Toronto

York University is largely GTA focused, with most students living at home. At the same time, York's influence spans the globe. It has established its reputation worldwide, attracting international students representing some 155 countries.

York faculties, departments and research centres work with partners in academic institutions, NGOs, the private sector and governments in projects funded by local governments and institutions, CIDA, IDRC, UNESCO, the World Bank and foundations. York has more than 150 academic partnership agreements with universities throughout the world to facilitate academic collaboration, including the exchange of students and faculty.

York University researchers are breaking new ground, undertaking innovative research of local, national and international significance. York is a leading force in developing knowledge that provides insight into scientific, economic, social and cultural issues affecting quality of life concerns for Canadians and people around the world. York's expertise is reflected in its wide range of interdisciplinary degree programs, organized research centres, professional development programs and co-curricular student activities.



The Common, York University, Toronto

York is home to 28 research centres including:

Canadian Centre for German & European Studies
Centre for Atmospheric Chemistry
Centre for Education & Community
Centre for Feminist Research
The Israel & Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies
Centre for Practical Ethics
Centre for Public Policy & Public Law
Centre for Refugee Studies
Centre for Research on Biometrical Interactions
Centre for Research in Earth & Space Science
Centre for Research on Language Contact
Centre for Research on Latin America & the Caribbean
Centre for Research in Mass Spectrometry
Centre for Research on Work & Society
Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration & Settlement - The Ontario Metropolis Centre
The City Institute at York University
The Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples
Institute for Research & Innovation in Sustainability
Institute for Research on Learning Technologies
Institute for Social Research
The Jack & Mae Nathanson Centre for the Study of Transnational Human Rights, Crime and Security
LaMarsh Centre for Research on Violence & Conflict Resolution
Muscle Health Research Centre
Roberts Centre for Canadian Studies
York Centre for Asian Research
York Centre for International & Security Studies
York Centre for Vision Research

York's top ranked programs set international standards. Positioning itself at the forefront of post secondary education York has developed a reputation for spearheading innovation is well deserved: a hothouse of new thinking, pioneering academics and revolutionary research:

Schulich School of Business ranks among the top business schools in the world. Its MBA ranks #1 in Canada and its executive programs are #1 in the world.

Osgoode Hall is Canada's #1 ranking and largest common-law law school.

The University has one of the largest concentrations of professional humanists and social scientists in Canada.

91 per cent of faculty have the highest educational qualification in their field.

York is the Canadian university on the NASA/Stanford theory of relativity experiment.

Researchers at York in fields from Space Science, Engineering and Atmospheric Chemistry make York Canada's lead university for the NASA 2007 Phoenix Mission to Mars.

York has Canada's only degree of its kind in atmospheric chemistry and the only space engineering program in Canada.

York's Faculty of Fine Arts is the first and largest comprehensive faculty in Canada. Home of the Accolade project – the visionary new academic and fine arts building.

York offers the only MBA/MFA/MA joint program – between Schulich and the Faculty of Fine Arts

York's Computer Science and Engineering Building has garnered 'green' architectural awards from around the world.

York and Timothy's World Coffee have joined forces to sell York's own brand of certified, sustainable coffee, Las Nubes, in 140 Timothy's World Coffee locations across Canada.

Campus History & Evolution

York University has evolved in a little over two generations into a remarkable institution with a distinctive physical form and character. It is rapidly evolving from what was originally conceived of as a suburban campus enclave on the urban fringe, into an urban campus that is a catalyst for a newly forming urban district along the expanded Toronto-York Spadina Subway.



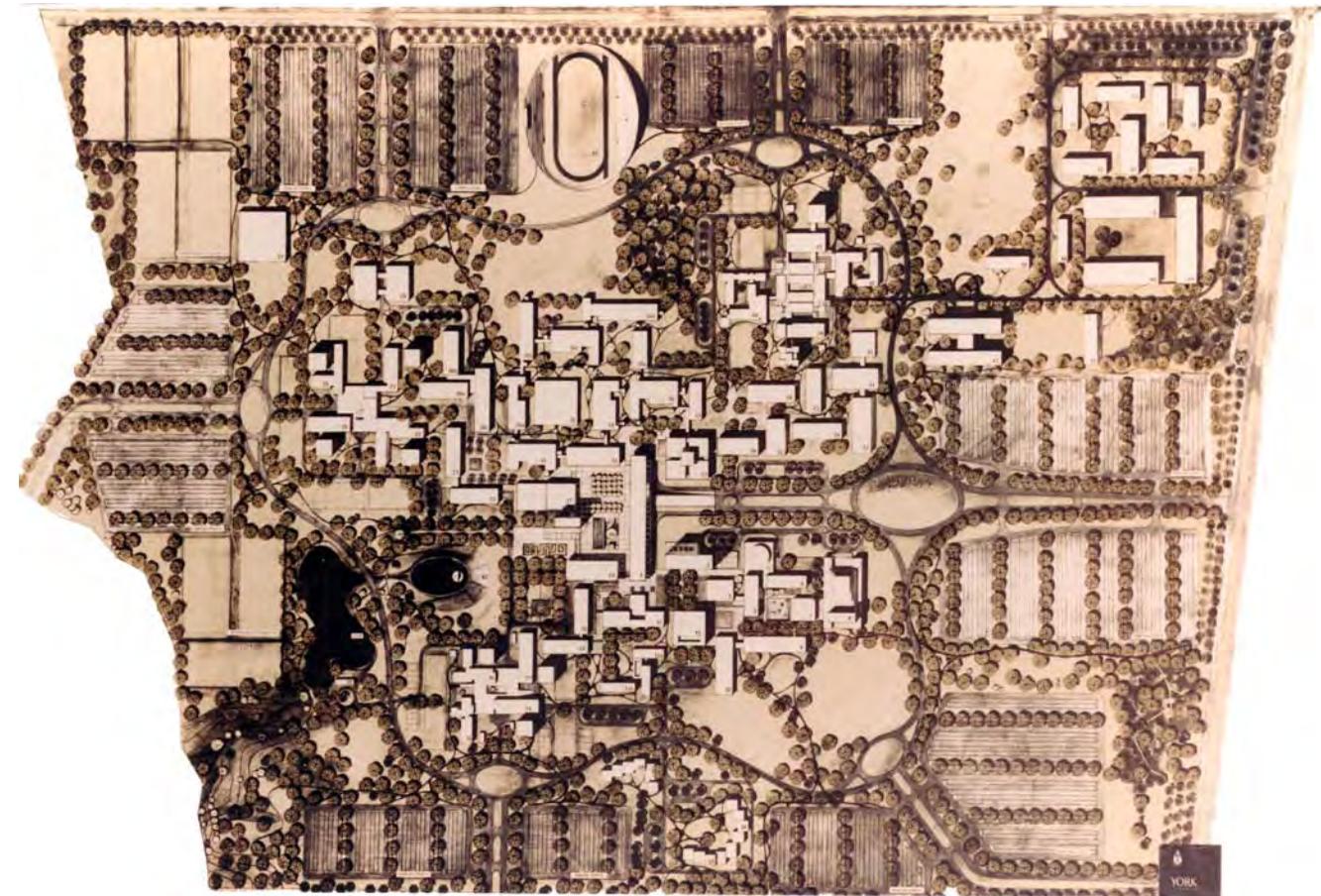
Murray Ross, Keele Campus, 1963

1963 Campus Plan

In 1962, the Province of Ontario allocated 185 hectares (457 acres) of gently sloping farmland and forests located at the edge of Toronto's rapidly growing urban fringe as the site for York University's new campus. The site is defined by the Black Creek valley to the west, Steeles Avenue to the north, Keele Street to the east with Finch Avenue south of the university lands. The University Board of Governors commissioned University Planners, Architects and Consulting Engineers (UPACE), including noted landscape architect Hideo Sasaki, to develop a master plan that would provide a framework to guide the design and development of the university campus.

The initial Master Plan produced by this group in 1963 conceived of the university as an academic cloister based on the residential college model in a pastoral setting separate from the city, an idea that pervaded university planning in the 1960's. The plan proposed a pedestrian campus enclave contained by a Ring Road with a loose orthogonal pattern of buildings forming interlocking open courtyards and pedestrian walkways at two levels.

At the time, the connection to the surrounding context was only planned for the approach of drivers and passengers who commuted to school on a daily basis. On arrival, students, faculty, staff and visitors got a sense of the campus as a distinct entity through the landscape character of the campus and the landscaped boulevards and roundabouts on the six main approach roads. The gracious curvilinear Ring Road served as a distributor of traffic to large peripheral surface parking lots.



1963 Master Plan Vision

The Keele Campus, then on the northern outskirts of Toronto, opened in 1965 and was regarded from the start as isolated, in a generally industrialized part of the city. The vast expanses of space between buildings, and the long treks to buildings from the parking lots were not suitable for the Canadian winter in this exposed setting. Still, many of these initial built form conditions remain embedded in the character of the campus as a significant legacy of this early period, some valuable and others problematic. While a great deal has changed, these layers from the early foundational plan provide an opportunity to reinterpret and adapt them to new and emerging realities.



1988 Master Plan

In 1988 a new master plan was prepared under the guidance of President Harry Arthurs. The guiding idea was integration of the campus within an emerging pattern of urbanization which was beginning to surround the campus. This was to be achieved through a radical dismantling of some of the key circulation concepts of the 1963 Master Plan, including the Ring Road to be replaced by the introduction of a grid of north south and east west city streets that would create urban blocks. The 1988 Master Plan identified the lands at the edge of the Academic Core (the area generally contained by the Ring Road) for “accessory and complementary uses”. The Academic Core was to be consolidated through the addition of new buildings and facilities.

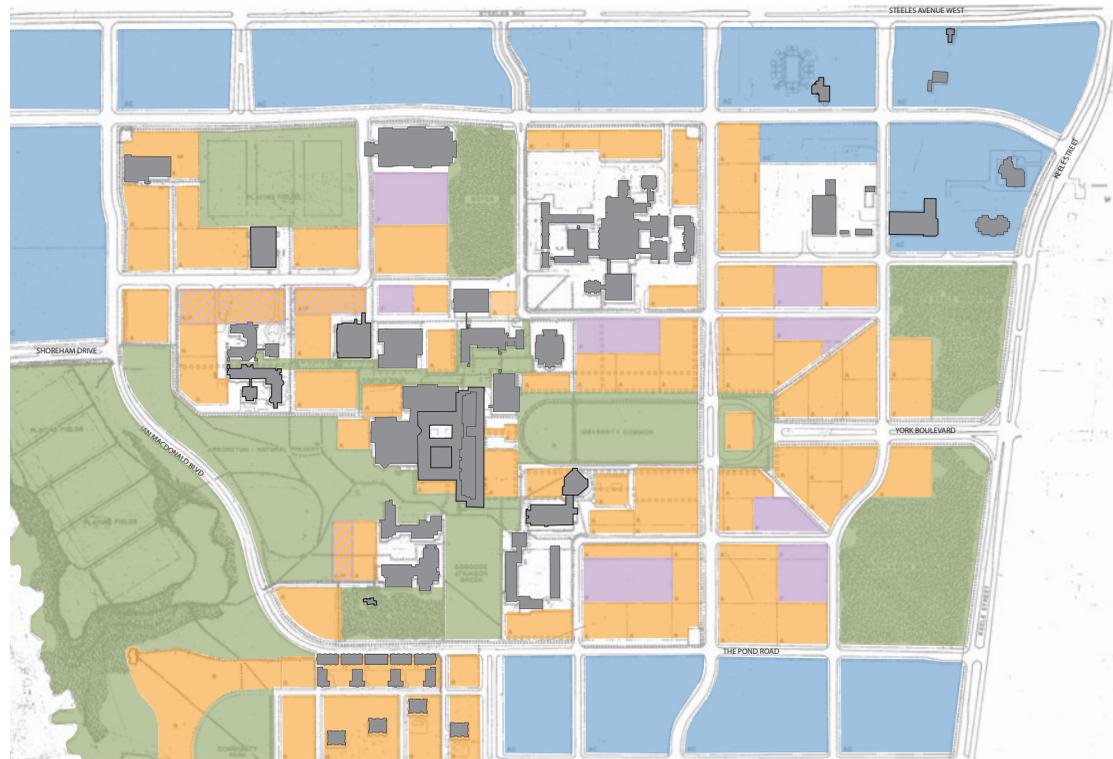
The 1988 Master Plan also defined some significant open spaces including Stong Pond, and proposed the removal of the monumental ramp leading up to the Ross Building to create a landscaped “York Common”, surrounded by arcaded buildings.

In the last two decades, many aspects of the 1988 Master Plan have been implemented and the campus has been intensified with new buildings. Since 1988, the Keele Campus is now home to new buildings including, the Schulich School of Business, the Accolade buildings, Seneca @ York, the Pond Road residence, the Canlan Ice Sports, the Rexall Tennis Canada Centre, the Kaneff Tower and the Life Sciences building. The south east quadrant of the campus reflects the new urban form and character envisioned in the 1988 Master Plan with a grid of streets and street edge buildings.

While the 1988 Master Plan contemplated a significantly different campus than that of the 1963 Master Plan, many of the elements of the original plan still remain in place. The 1988 Master Plan’s intention to eliminate the Ring Road in favour of a grid of urban streets has not been fully realized resulting in

a hybrid condition today that still preserves many elements of the 1963 Plan. There have been modifications to the early road network and ovals, yet much of the Ring Road and several of the ovals are intact. Traffic inside the academic area has been kept to a minimum. Sporting facilities and most parking are located outside the Ring Road.

The Harry W. Arthurs Common was designed as the heart of the campus, however years of increasing bus traffic circulating around the space detracts from the enjoyment of the space. The Green, as the terminus of Sentinel Road, will mark the gateway to the campus from the south. The linear green space along Campus Walk has become a well used and programmed pedestrian route. There are also a number of smaller open spaces at the approaches to many of the new buildings, in courtyards and along many of the walkways. The plan to introduce covered walkways into the campus has been integrated into some of the more recent developments. The arcades and overhanging storeys of York Lanes retains the spirit and intent of the original 1963 Master Plan, especially since the walkways have been extended from York Lanes to the Students Centre and Vari Hall.



1988 Master Plan. Grid of streets through the Academic Core and adjacent non-academic development

- academic precincts as per Secondary Plan 2009
- green area
- R - proposed university residential sites
■ A - proposed academic building sites
- AC - proposed accessory and complementary uses building sites
- P - proposed parking structures
- academic building or residential building/parking

Consultation with the University Community

The Master Plan emerged from a process rooted in consultation. It began with a scoping exercise with University leaders to identify the key concerns, issues, and opportunities facing the campus for the coming 50 years of growth.

A consultation strategy was developed to engage with a diverse cross section of the York community to generate concrete directions for the Master Plan. The comments, questions and ideas gathered through the process were used to guide the development of principles, strategies and key directions that support a renewed vision for the Keele Campus. The insight gained from conversing with students, faculty and staff directly shaped this document.

On April 13, 2011, a well-attended open house was held in the Rotunda of Vari Hall, where the team responsible for the Master Plan presented the new Plan's framework.

From the fall of 2011 to the spring of 2012, students, faculty and staff were engaged in-person, over the phone and online. Throughout October 2011 nine focus groups were held for faculty and staff members. Invitations were sent to each faculty, which resulted in a broad range of participants from across the campus. In addition to these sessions, the team also conducted meetings and presentations that were requested by specific University groups. These included:

- The Faculty of Fine Arts (November 18, 2011);
- The Department of Geography (December 9, 2011);
- Division of Advancement (November 29, 2011)
- The President's Sustainability Council (January 27, 2012);
- Access York (October 28, 2011); and,
- The Faculty of Environmental Studies (November 9, 2011).

In partnership with four York University graduate students, the master planning team also organized an Information Booth that

roved the campus providing information on the Master Plan and further engaging students in discussions on the future of the Keele Campus. The Information Booth was situated in 12 different high-traffic locations across campus.

In addition to these in-person meetings, the master planning team also established and managed a social media campaign to allow individuals to participate in the Master Plan process remotely. A Facebook page, Twitter feed, blog and dedicated email address allowed members of the campus community to submit thoughts, questions and ideas, or comment on text and images provided by the master planning team. The interactive and immediate nature of social media provided further opportunities to engage in meaningful ways with a greater demographic and gather more insight into the Keele Campus.

Throughout the consultation process, a number of key topics came to light. These are summarized by below.

Safety & Security

Due to the large, disparate nature of the Keele Campus, some students, faculty and staff noted that they feel a sense of isolation and exposure that leads to fear. Participants agreed that infilling the campus to create a denser urban structure that prompts congregation and channels pedestrians into main, populated walkways could greatly reduce these fears.

Improving lighting across campus, enhancing the prominence of security staff, adding more cameras and blue safety phones, and increasing the frequency of shuttle services were also identified as viable measures to promote a culture of safety throughout the campus.

Transit & Parking

Participants were largely supportive of new and planned transit improvements, including the construction of the York University and Pioneer Village Subway Stations, the relocation of the buses from The Common to Steeles Avenue, and the enhancement of cycling lanes and pedestrian walkways. Participants were excited by the opportunities these enhanced connections to the City of Toronto and York Region will bring.

However, some who currently drive to the campus were concerned about the reduction of on-campus parking. Suggestions were made to introduce on-street parking and more flexible payment options, such as a deductible payment parking card, in the new parking strategy. These options would allow users to access parking facilities when necessary, but also to choose public transit when possible.

Participants also advocated for implementing a number of taxi stands across campus and designating drop-off areas close to the entrances of academic and residential buildings to allow visitors and members of the campus community to more easily access the campus. There was also a high level of enthusiasm amongst participants for introducing a bike-sharing program to allow for quick and convenient travel across the campus without a vehicle.

Wayfinding & Accessibility

Many of the individuals interviewed find navigating the campus to be challenging, and several noted that visitors to the campus – including prospective students, visiting professors, and guest lecturers – have especially difficult experiences finding their way. Although the majority of interviewees agreed that the new signage system is a substantial improvement and very helpful, they also believe that more could be done to simplify navigation. Most agreed that providing clear building addresses on streets or walkways would provide greater direction for visitors and would enhance safety by allowing emergency vehicles to quickly and easily find specific locations across campus.

Improving circulation across campus also requires that designing the campus to be used by people of all abilities is an important strategy in the Master Plan Update.

The Woodlots & the Arboretum

Participants often referenced the need to protect the Woodlots and the Arboretum, which are viewed as valuable parts of the campus landscape and the York University identity. They provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and are frequently used by the Environmental Studies, Geography and Science Departments for academic studies. The enhancement of these natural areas is a priority.

Courtyards & Open Spaces

Participants responded with great enthusiasm for improving and beautifying courtyards and open spaces across campus. These are viewed as areas of great potential and their success is integral to the social and cultural life of the campus. The Schulich School of Business courtyard was highlighted as a successful example to use as inspiration for designing and maintaining other spaces across campus.

As the figurative and literal heart of the campus, The Common elicits emotional connections from the campus community. The majority of participants agreed that The Common needs specific attention within the Master Plan and an improved landscape would benefit the University. Participants were supportive of the transition of The Common to a pedestrian-focused area and were excited by the proposal to include more seating and casual dining opportunities, shaded areas, and a treed allée that wraps around the green space.

Environmental Sustainability

The campus community is proud of the University's status as a leader in post-secondary sustainability and encourages further commitment to greening the campus. The campus landscape as part of the ecology of the larger bioregion is also recognized. Students, faculty and staff were vocal in their support for the use of sustainable technologies and retrofitting initiatives across campus. Permeable paving, LED outdoor lighting, geothermal heating, green roofs, renewable energy and community gardens were all suggested as possible projects.

Good Design

Participants view the Master Plan as an opportunity to encourage good design across the campus and create an inviting public realm. Interesting, innovative architecture and landscape architecture are priorities for the campus community.

On Campus Housing

Participants noted that some of the on-campus student residences have fallen into disrepair and are in need of upgrades. Many see the diminishing quality of undergraduate and graduate student residences as a barrier to attracting students to attend York University. The development of new on-campus housing, complete with adjacent student services and amenities such as grocery stores and fitness facilities, was enthusiastically supported by students. New and improved housing options would foster a greater sense of community amongst the student population, enhance safety and security, and make efficient use of University resources.

Student Amenities

Students, faculty and staff all recognized an immediate need for more student spaces across the campus. Students do not feel that they have adequate space to congregate, socialize, study or eat together. The spaces that are available are too small to accommodate the current student population and deter students from staying on-campus to work and socialize. One often cited example of these constraints is the Scott Library, which was highlighted as a facility in need of expansion. Creating more attractive, usable student spaces would enhance student life and encourage a greater sense of community on campus.

Participants also regularly noted a desire to have a greater diversity of food outlets on campus. A greater selection or healthy, affordable food in a variety of locations across the campus was also identified as a priority in a Town Hall Meeting held by the York Federation of Students in November 2012 and dedicated to discussing food services on campus.

Cost of Implementation

Staff are concerned about the cost of implementing recommendations in the Strategies given the decreasing pool of funds available for maintenance and capital projects.

9 Focus Groups

6 Special Presentations

12 Info Booth Locations

1 Open House

Online Engagement Program

Facebook

Twitter

Blog

Email



Open House 2011, Vari Hall



Roving Information Booth, York Lanes and HNES

Master Plan Framework

7 pillars



3 lenses



The Master Plan is organized under 7 overarching pillars that frame the details of each Lens. The Master Plan for the Keele Campus is viewed through three distinct, but inter-related lenses: Pedestrians First at York University, Greening York University and Infilling York University.

Pedestrians First at York University describes strategies with respect to transit, pedestrian routes, roads, parking, bicycling, wayfinding, service and delivery.

Greening York University describes strategies with respect to “greening” the Academic Core and sets out strategies for natural areas, the Arboretum, Cultural Heritage Landscapes, The Common, the greens, streetscapes, gateways, athletic facilities, public art, sustainability and stormwater management.

Infilling York University describes strategies focused on the distribution of development potential across underused parcels in and around the Academic Core, guidelines for urban design, student housing, protection of heritage buildings, protection of archaeological resources and provision of servicing. Guidelines for urban design in the Academic Core bring together the strategies contained in all three lenses to direct the detailed planning and design for new capital projects.

Pillars of the Master Plan

This section describes the overarching pillars of the Master Plan. The pillars frame the strategies and directions in each of the three lenses.

1 Enhance safety on campus

York University is committed to ensuring a healthy, safe environment for students, staff, faculty and visitors. The University has spearheaded a number of innovative programs to enhance safety, and continues to improve campus infrastructure to support a safe environment.

The York University Community Safety Council is an integral part of promoting a culture of safety across campus. Including representatives from a wide variety of groups and department across campus, the Council has important insight into the safety concerns of the campus community. With an intimate knowledge of the campus, the Council is able to both identify issues and develop strategies for their resolution.

The University also augmented the permanent Community Safety Council with the temporary University Safety Audit Committee to oversee the development of the York University Safety Audit, which was published in 2010. The report reiterates the value of active programs such as the goSafe Escort Service, SafeSource kiosk, shuttle buses to transit and local neighbourhoods, and innovative safety amenities such as the Blue Light Phones. However, the Audit also identified room for improvement in creating a safer campus. The Master Plan seeks to continue these efforts by implementing enhanced safety measures.

Infilling the campus to create a denser urban structure that prompts congregation and channels pedestrians into main, populated walkways will help to reduce risk. An enhanced public realm will help to further increase pedestrian traffic and animate public spaces, and improved housing resources will foster a greater sense of community and enhance safety and security for the many students living on-campus. Ensuring these indoor and outdoor areas are well lit and visible will further enhance safety and security.

A fundamental pillar of the Master Plan is to enhance safety across campus.



Pedestrian Lighting, York University

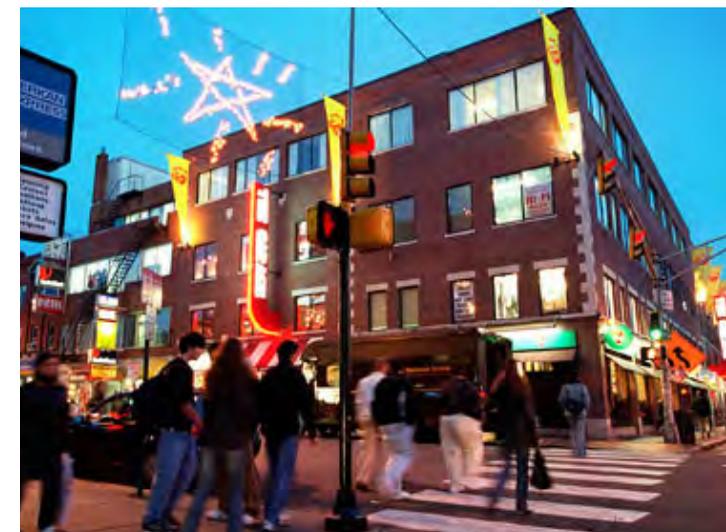


Keele Campus Map

2 Enhance student life

The most recent Planning Budget and Accountability Report identifies enhancing the student experience as one of the top eight priorities for the University Academic Plan. The Report recognizes that as a large university with a large population of students who commute daily, that York faces a special challenge in engaging students. Less than 10% of the student population lives on campus. Over the next few years, the University is committed to assigning a high priority to understanding student expectations and experiences and to taking the steps necessary to enhance the student experience throughout the University.

The Master Plan can play a pivotal role in contributing to an enhanced student life by creating the physical spaces and amenities for informal recreation, socializing and day-to-day interaction. **A fundamental pillar of the Master Plan is to accommodate facilities and spaces that will enhance student life.**



Harvard Square, Cambridge, Massachusetts

3 Accommodate long-term academic growth

York University consists of educational, cultural and research institutions, with associated support services and housing. The form of the campus is unique in the City in that it is a distinct collection of buildings, in a landscape setting, contained by the Ring Road. **A fundamental pillar of the Master Plan is that growth can be accommodated through infill and intensification of the Academic Core, as well as in the newly developing perimeter lands.** Long-term academic growth will include for example, the development of new buildings and open spaces, the expansion and consolidation of existing buildings, the development of new athletic facilities and the development of new services for students, faculty and staff.



Proposed Pan Am Stadium



Architect's Concept of Proposed Engineering Building

4 Respond to the considerable momentum for change

York University recognizes its role as a city-builder. The Toronto-York Spadina Subway extension will provide a critical extension for the existing TTC subway system across the City of Toronto /York Region municipal boundary. With two subway stations on the York University lands and a third station close by at Finch Avenue, access to the campus will be completely transformed. With the station located in the heart of the campus on Harry W. Arthurs Common, the need to use The Common as a bus terminal will be eliminated. The Common and its flanking buildings can once again become the true focus of the campus. The new subway station at Steeles Avenue West will also provide excellent access to the campus and in particular to the sports and athletic facilities located in its northwest quadrant. **A fundamental pillar of the Master Plan is to enhance connections from the new subway stations to and throughout the campus, and to plan for new academic buildings and facilities to take advantage of proximity to high-order transit.**



Proposed Pan Am Stadium Walkway



Pioneer Village Station Rendering

5 Become recognized leaders in environmental sustainability

In response to a recommendation of a 1999 Presidential Task Force on Sustainability, York University signed the Talloires Declaration in 2002. The Declaration is “a ten-point action plan for incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy in teaching, research, operations and outreach at colleges and universities. It has been signed by over 275 university presidents and chancellors in over 40 countries.

York University earned the highest rank of Canadian universities in the 2009 College Sustainability Report Card. The University is well known for its groundbreaking interdisciplinary curriculum, and for the sustainability initiatives that have been integrated throughout its processes and functions. The University is on the edge of the Black Creek Valley, one of the City’s important valleylands, and its campus landscape and woodlots are part of the larger bioregion.

The University has achieved reductions in energy consumption, diverted waste through recycling and reuse, and adopted a sustainable building strategy. The University is also shifting towards sustainable transportation that will be further enhanced with the opening of the subway extension to York University in 2016.

The University’s sustainable practices in campus development and management include:

- implementation of the Energy Management Program with a commitment to a 25% reduction in energy consumption over a 5 year period
- sustainability measures in the planning and design of facility renovations
- examination of all capital projects from a standpoint of maximizing building and operational sustainability
- extensive storm water management initiatives including bio swales, use of porous paving, stormceptors in parking lots and removal of excessive paved areas and replacement with soft ground treatment.
- the commuter modal split has been dramatically altered from predominantly single occupant vehicles to alternative modes of travel, including care share and transit
- sustainable landscape treatment and ground operations
- waste reduction and recycling
- power production with steam via natural gas in York’s 10.3 megawatt cogeneration plant (York meets 57% of its total electrical consumption through cogeneration)

A fundamental pillar of the Master Plan is the creation of a more sustainable future for campus facilities, landscape, natural features, services and operations.



Top: Bike sharing station, Montreal
Bottom: Rooftop garden, York University, Toronto

6 Re-interpret the setting to maximize the value of investments

The Keele Campus has a long history of planning and design. Its original plan, designed by a world-renowned landscape architect, is well recognized for its form and character. The Ring Road, the clusters of colleges, the pedestrian focus for the Academic Core, the ring of land intensive sports fields and parking located outside of the Core, are all characteristics of the campus's early plan.

A fundamental pillar of this Master Plan is to re-interpret the attributes of its core campus lands, existing buildings and landscape features to inform the vision for moving through, greening and infilling the campus.



Stong Pond, York University, Toronto

7 Enhance links with the community

York University is continually developing means of linking with the neighbouring communities. Some of the many programs and initiatives include:

- the Human Services Plan Coalition knowledge mobilization initiative in York Region
- the Westview Partnership (engages students from local schools in both academic and non academic pursuits)
- the York University-TD Community Engagement Centre in the Jane Finch community
- the Black Creek Community Health Centre
- the York University Satellite in Black Creek
- research and programming activities in local schools in the Jane Finch area
- expanding relationships with businesses, government and other institutions in the City of Toronto and York Region
- the Faculty of Health is developing collaboration and affiliation agreements with hospitals in York Region.
- the Faculty of Fine Arts is expanding and strengthening links to the professional art community, including links with the "905" municipalities

The Master Plan provides an opportunity to expand the physical links to the community. With the recently approved Secondary Plan, development is envisioned over the long term along Steeles Avenue West and Keele Street. This will completely change the context of the University with a mix of uses providing places for living, working, shopping and entertainment in a more urban environment. There is a tremendous opportunity to build strong relationships between the future developments and the University through for example, partnerships in the provision of parking, shared use of recreation and arts facilities, and shared use of libraries.

A fundamental pillar of the Master Plan is to enhance links with the community, including both that in the immediate surrounding and the broader region.



Kaneff Tower, York University, Toronto

Three Lenses Describe the Change

This section introduces the three lenses. Each lens is comprised of specific principles, strategies, key directions and priorities. A detailed description of each lens follows in Chapters 2, 3 and 4 of the Master Plan report.



The Master Plan puts **pedestrians first**, followed by cyclists and transit, then automobiles. On the edges of the Academic Core, this is accomplished through integration with the new **walkable mixed-use neighbourhoods** envisaged in the Secondary Plan linked to the campus with an expanded network of primary and secondary public streets demonstrating new standards for shared use. Within the Academic Core, the distinctive curvilinear Ring Road traffic distributor is redesigned as a shared use Greenway **favoured by cyclists and pedestrians**. Liberated from heavy bus traffic, the Harry W. Arthurs Common becomes the true **pedestrian heart of the campus** incorporating the main York University Subway Station.

The campus inside the Ring Road is a safe and convenient pedestrian only zone. The current campus pathway system is strengthened with an understandable hierarchy of north-south and east-west routes with the well-established **wayfinding system**. This augmented pedestrian network supports daily life patterns of movement to and from classes, subway stops, drop off points and student life amenities.

Cycling to and around the campus becomes a more attractive alternative with a well defined perimeter cycle route on the Ring Road linked to regional trails and on-street lanes, and provisions for bike storage and a shared bike system. As the campus intensifies, surface parking lots are replaced by a series of dispersed multi-storey garages integrated in mixed use development outside the Ring. Traffic Demand Management is employed to encourage car pooling and drop offs, servicing and deliveries are concentrated in controlled areas.



The natural beauty and distinctiveness of the Keele Campus setting on the edge of the Black Creek Valley is enhanced as the campus becomes both **denser and greener**. Building on existing landscapes, preserved and enhanced woodlots and valleys and streetscapes, the Master Plan weaves these existing features together into a connected web of **diverse green spaces** and **enhanced tree canopy** that confirms a strong **green identity** for the entire campus. Particular views and vantage points, like a new face for the campus on the Black Creek Valley, are strengthened by landscape treatment integrated with new built-form. The Ring Road provides a strong unifying element and extends welcoming "green fingers" outwards at the Gateways to the Academic Core. The Harry W Arthurs Common and Lorna R Marsden Honour Court and Welcome Centre provide its green heart. There are ample opportunities for **public art** to celebrate this generous green setting. Athletic facilities and fields both formal and informal are located throughout the campus with a focus for formal facilities in the north west quadrant of the Academic Core. The campus is also a working landscape incorporating **stormwater management** and **landscape ecology** within campus green spaces in keeping with the University's sustainability agenda.



There is ample **room for growth** within an expanded Academic Core as York University continues to evolve. The Master Plan provides a flexible framework to shape and guide that growth by building on the unique campus structure and character which exists today. As this occurs, responding to new program opportunities, increased access with the introduction of the subway and the urbanization of surrounding lands, the campus will become more **compact and walkable** with more convenient services for the University community. There is capacity to grow both horizontally and vertically within the Academic Core on unbuilt lands and through selective additions and replacement of underutilized existing structures. The Academic Core will continue to develop with a **diversity of building types** appropriate for different uses and locations all contributing to frame and activate a more **coherent and unifying public realm**. New buildings will respect the scale and character of the existing campus. New buildings will exemplify best practices in **sustainability** reflecting the University's commitment.

The framework identifies particular roles and obligations for each site as its contributions to the larger whole including landmark sites at key locations. Critical relationships are identified both with the Academic Core and along the Ring Road interface of the Academic Core and private development blocks on the perimeter lands surrounding the campus.