

Comprehensive Master Plan for the Ithaca Campus of Cornell University
Phase 3: Draft Plan Open House Materials
September 26, 2007

Context and Introduction

The accompanying materials were presented for review at the Open Houses held on campus at Willard Straight Hall and downtown at the Hilton Garden Inn, on September 26, 2007. These panels accompanied a PowerPoint presentation delivered by members of the consultant team that was designed to provide attendees with a full overview of the features of the Draft Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP). The Open Houses were organized to update participants on the elements of the Plan, to obtain input and feedback, and to confirm and refine the final directions for the Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP). There are a total of 16 Panels, summarized as follows:

- Panel 1 provides an introduction to the Draft CMP and identifies the six essential qualities that the plan seeks to attain in the future campus.
- Panel 2 identifies the five overarching principles that have guided development of the plan and the campus, related to Academic Mission, Stewardship, Campus Experience, Community and the implementation of Integrative Planning and Design.
- Panel 3 delineates the significant extent of Cornell's land holdings in the Ithaca Region and introduces the essential message that Cornell's research fields and natural areas are outdoor classrooms and labs as valuable to the academic mission as its built spaces.
- Panels 4 and 5 describe the *Physical Structure* of Cornell's campus, historically and into the future. Panel 4 describes how Cornell's fundamental location at the threshold between town and country has evolved over time. It reinforces that this relationship will be intentionally carried forward through the CMP. The panel indicates that campus's physical character and structure have been directly shaped by the characteristics of its natural setting and topography, and articulates the goal of continuing to reinforce the presence of the campus within its spectacular natural setting. Panel 5 describes how the pattern of formal quads, walks, courts and avenues has been overlaid on top of the natural setting, creating cherished spaces and further defining the organization of campus. The illustrations indicate how this structure of formal spaces will be extended to shape future growth on the east side of campus and how 'three-sided quads' celebrate the spectacular views between the campus and its surroundings.
- Panels 6 through 9 describe the *Functional Structure* of the future campus. The first illustration on Panel 6 introduces the significant opportunity to overcome the historic divide between the west and east sides of campus through the introduction of the new "East Center". It also recognizes the importance of existing secondary centers like Collegetown, Downtown, North Campus and West Campus to campus life and seeks to establish new centers at East Hill Village and Game Farm Road over time. The second illustration identifies three important areas of campus intended for a mix of active uses and which will be the primary locations for the campus's essential social and cultural infrastructure. Panel 7 reinforces the importance of providing accessible recreation and athletic facilities, recognizing the role these facilities play in wellness and in community-building. Panel 8 shows the framework for building a more pedestrian-oriented campus. This will involve establishing a comprehensive and fully connected primary pedestrian network that covers all of campus; introducing a dedicated transit circulator route that will work together with the regional transit system to provide even better transit service on campus; strengthening the four primary approaches to campus, particularly from the visitor perspective; and distributing parking along the route of the transit circulator and moving the majority of it into parking structures over time. Panel 9 summarizes the intended



pattern of functional uses on campus, demonstrating that campus will be more mixed and integrated in the future, particularly in the centers.

- Panel 10 illustrates a component of the detailed analysis that has been prepared for the CMP. The illustrations begin with the pattern of building footprints that exist today and end with a potential pattern of building footprints in the long-term future (+/- 60 years). To get from the patterns of the present to the future, the plan has identified those buildings that should be considered for adaptive reuse or replacement.
- Panel 11 speaks to the symbiotic relationships between development on campus, Collegetown, Downtown, the neighborhoods and the future center at East Hill Plaza. Cornell recognizes that development of its campus must support the objectives of its home communities, and that investments in one center cannot diminish the health of the others.
- Panels 12 through 16 illustrate the long-term potential of the campus in three-dimensions, from a variety of viewpoints. These 3-D images indicate what campus could look like in 60 or so years, following the principles articulated for in the CMP. The images are illustrative and represent possibilities for the growth and evolution of the campus; they are not intended to depict actual building designs. In their next stage of work, the Comprehensive Master Plan Working Committee and consultant team will prepare scenarios to illustrate how campus could develop at interim time horizons.

FEEDBACK

Your comments, questions and input on all of the information contained within this package are welcome and encouraged at http://masterplan.cornell.edu/contact/cmp_contact.cfm.

