How the physical campus should evolve over time

Guiding Principles | Big Moves
Long-Term Demonstration Plans | Illustrating The Vision
Campus Planning Systems | Campus Projects
OVERVIEW

The SFU Burnaby 2065 Campus Master Plan provides a comprehensive physical vision and flexible planning and decision-making framework to guide the evolution of the campus over the next 50 years.

THE NEED FOR A CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

SFU first opened on September 9, 1965 as the “Instant University”, having grown from an idea to a built campus with 2,500 students in only 30 months. Arthur Erickson and Geoffrey Massey’s original vision for the campus has provided a strong foundation and enduring legacy, helping to guide the first 50 years of incremental campus growth and development.

SFU Burnaby has now physically expanded beyond the area originally contemplated by the Erickson/Massey framework, with some aspects of the original vision for a modern university campus proving to be more successful than others. In this time, some new ideas such as UniverCity have come to fruition, alongside continued planning for others, such as the Gondola transit link. The University’s success has also led to the development of satellite campuses in Surrey and downtown Vancouver.

To continue this success, it is time to establish a comprehensive physical vision and framework to guide the evolution of the Burnaby campus as it continues to respond to this changing context, and the broader contemporary opportunities and challenges that face all post-secondary institutions.

The SFU Burnaby 2065 Campus Master Plan takes this leap forward, providing a foundation and structure to strengthen SFU Burnaby as an inspiring and beautiful destination for academic learning, cutting-edge research, and broad community engagement. The Plan responds to the need to provide a sustainable campus, to support truth and reconciliation and the indigenization of the campus, and to respond to changes in pedagogy, research, and student expectations.

This Plan is one of the key tools that will support SFU’s efforts to maintain itself as a highly competitive academic institution with a full complement of facilities and campus environment that not only attracts the best and brightest students, faculty and staff, but that also welcomes and actively engages broader communities in SFU’s academic, research, athletics, and arts and cultural activities.

This Magazine provides a condensed overview of the Master Plan, focusing on the key elements. Further information on the Master Plan, and additional detail to the information provided here, can be found in the Master Plan Report.

For more information, please visit www.sfu.ca/burnaby2065

THE STUDY AREA

SFU’s land holdings include much of the peak of Burnaby Mountain, in addition to lands in Surrey and Downtown Vancouver. This Plan contemplates the future of the SFU Burnaby campus only, as illustrated below. As the UniverCity lands are controlled by SFU Community Trust, they were not formally included within the Study Area. However, the importance of the relationship and connections between the SFU Burnaby Campus and UniverCity have factored prominently in the development of this Plan.
The Guiding Principles are broad-based and mutually supportive planning objectives that the Campus Master Plan must achieve, and are grounded in the University community’s values and priorities. They provide comprehensive direction for the Campus Master Plan as a foundation to inform physical recommendations, and offer a means for evaluating future projects and amendments to the Campus Master Plan.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- **Support Simon Fraser University’s Mission**
- **Build a Complete Community on the Mountain**
- **Weave Opportunities to Support Indigenization throughout the Campus**
- **Thoughtfully Celebrate Erickson and Massey’s Original Aspirations for the Campus**
- **Position the Burnaby Campus as a Destination for Active Engagement**
- **Enhance Connectivity and Movement**
- **Foster Sustainability and Resilience**

The Vision is based on seven ‘Big Moves’ that describe the physical nature of change and opportunity at the highest level. Taken together, these big moves support the Guiding Principles and set the stage for more detailed recommendations.

**SEVEN ‘BIG MOVES’**

1. **Preserve, repair & enhance the ceremonial axis & ensemble of iconic spaces & buildings**
2. **Renew, revive or replace aging buildings and places that extend from the axis**
3. **Connect & expand the system of open spaces, including a broader athletics & recreation precinct to serve the full community**
4. **Extend patterns of development & placemaking to the edges**
5. **Extend a new east-west mobility corridor across the campus to enhance connectivity and serve future development**
6. **Guide expansion into the forest to meet future needs, based on available knowledge of environmental constraints and opportunities**
7. **Introduce new north-south connections along the axis to connect the existing campus to future development**
LONG-TERM DEMONSTRATION PLAN

The Long-Term Demonstration Plan illustrates the full range and capacity for future development over the 50 year horizon of the Campus Master Plan, highlighting the integration of new buildings, open spaces and movement patterns.
Within this structure, there is substantive capacity for SFU to grow and engage new communities on Burnaby Mountain over the 50 year horizon of this plan, continuing to build a critical mass of activity and positioning the campus as a vibrant, community-oriented destination.

Erickson/Massey’s central campus core and axis trace the Burnaby Mountain ridge and establish a linear sequence of ceremonial spaces and framed views.

Taken together, this axis and spatial ensemble heightens the experience of the mountain and its location within the lower mainland.

It is an experience that connects the sublime to the communal and the individual.

University Projects are highlighted in red. These are further described on pages 24–35.
The grandeur of Erickson and Massey’s original vision is experienced on your early morning walk to class from the West Campus.
The Burnaby 2065 Plan complements the central Erickson/Massey axis with the addition of a second, informal corridor that also traces an east-west route across the mountain, but provides an experience that is integrated within, rather than imposed upon the landscape.

A series of new places will emerge along this mobility corridor as the campus expands to the south over time. Following the informality of this new corridor, new development, athletic fields and landscapes will also sit within a more natural setting.

The mobility corridor facilitates multi-modal and universally accessible connections across the full campus, playing an important role in the experience of arrival to and movement across the campus.
‘The Fields’ introduces an improved setting to the campus, consolidating new and renewed athletic fields, facilities, and recreational landscapes, with improved connections between them. **This major landscape will help to mediate between the formality of the central campus and more natural areas to the south.**

Where ‘The Fields’ meet the core campus, respectful enhancements to central places like Maggie’s Field, Terry Fox Field, and the Transportation Centre will knit together new and existing areas of the campus as it continues to expand and evolve over time.
On a rainy day the campus still shines for people arriving on the gondola, grabbing a coffee and meeting colleagues.

This expanded campus structure will preserve the key experiential qualities of the SFU Burnaby campus, providing a framework to organize future development and the evolution of the campus over time.
The Vision provides a framework that will guide the growth and evolution of the campus over time. This section provides a more detailed look at the major systems that contribute to this framework, including land use and development, open space, and mobility. Implementation of these systems, including specific major University Projects, will ensure that the Vision, Guiding Principles, and Big Moves are realized.

A **DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK** provides a high level framework illustrating the integration of buildings, open spaces and movement corridors, and development opportunities.

A **LAND USE PLAN**, which applies land use designations across the campus to provide direction on the overall structure and strategic location and clustering of various uses.

A **STRATEGY FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY** integrates social and community-oriented uses within the overall physical and spatial structure of the campus.

The **OPEN SPACE SYSTEM** describes the fabric of places and settings that connect campus buildings to one another, and to the surrounding Conservation Area.

**MOBILITY** systems can evolve over time to seamlessly support all modes of travel and enhance connectivity across the campus.

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The Campus Development Framework integrates elements of the mobility, open space, and land use systems to create an overall framework to guide future development. These are more prescriptive within the campus core, where opportunities for near term strategic infill and renewal can build upon and extend the existing campus fabric, organized around the central ceremonial axis.

Development to the immediate south of the existing core campus is organized around the proposed east/west Mobility Corridor, which in combination with the introduction of related new streets can open opportunities for expansion to the south by providing access, servicing, and building address.
LAND USE PLAN

The Land Use Plan identifies how different uses should be organized across the campus, reserving space for academic activities at the core of the campus and encouraging a greater integration of different uses in strategic locations to facilitate academic interaction, support community building, encourage sustainable modes of travel, rationalize infrastructure and generally improve the quality of life on campus. The Land Use Plan incorporates a framework of major open spaces integrated within the full campus to support day-to-day life.

MAJOR SOCIAL HUBS

The Master Plan provides a framework to position and connect social hubs within the overall structure of the campus, aligning spatial hierarchies with the hierarchy of community and social activities. This strategy seeks to not only build community and support a broad range of social activities, it also seeks to improve campus legibility and wayfinding by positioning vibrant social activity at important and visible locations in the structure of the campus.

Major social hubs should be located at key areas of intersection between land uses, major pedestrian circulation routes, and major open space networks. With the central axis and new east/west Mobility Corridor providing primary connections across the full campus, major social hubs are located at regular intervals along these two corridors, where they are intersected by major north/south open spaces and connections.
The Open Space System provides the fabric of places and settings that connect the campus’s notable buildings to one another, and to the surrounding Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area. Burnaby Mountain serves as the headwaters for eight different creek systems, and is part of the traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples. In the decades to come, the Open Space System must respond to contemporary sustainability and resilience imperatives, particularly as these relate to the mountaintop setting. As SFU advances new placemaking initiatives, this system must also support the University’s truth and reconciliation efforts, and broader objectives related to building community, and providing a vibrant and engaged campus environment.

Street & Transit Network
The street and transit network builds on the existing network of campus streets, identifying new connections to support all forms of mobility, structuring campus development. This includes consideration of the strategic location of regional transit hubs in anticipation of the Gondola, and potential locations for a future internal shuttle service that may become desirable as the campus expands.

Pedestrian Network
Building on the street and transit network, the pedestrian network explores an optimal hierarchy for pedestrian routes through the campus. Clear connections between the mobility corridor, outdoor pedestrian connections, and interior/covered connections are envisioned, with clear ‘Thresholds’ provided to navigate grade changes and indoor/outdoor movement.

Cycling Network
The cycling and ‘micro-mobility’ network provides a vision for a comprehensive network of off-street multi-use pathways, on-street dedicated lands, and on-street shared facilities to support cycling, and other types of micro-mobility as a viable alternative to walking or driving (skateboards, in-line skates, scooters, and other small motorized mobility devices).
University Projects are large-scale initiatives that will play a central role in implementing the Vision, informing the location, orientation, access and character of future development. These projects will help to shape the identity and experience of the campus, providing an overall structure for specific areas that ties together existing and future development.

University Projects will need to be created incrementally in conjunction with new development, requiring centralized implementation and management by university administration due to their scale, complexity, and the fact that they are not necessarily tied to specific faculties and individual capital projects.

**THE TRANSPORTATION CENTRE**
A vibrant, pedestrian-oriented gateway into the campus

**THE WEST AXIS**
A community-oriented green space connecting through the athletics precinct

**THE WEST GREEN**
An extension of the ceremonial axis to anchor the west campus community

**THE FIELDS**
Enhancing connectivity and community-oriented recreation

**THE MOBILITY CORRIDOR**
Expanding cross-campus connectivity for all types of movements

**THE EAST GREEN**
A new place of arrival, providing north/south connections from the Gondola

The Transportation Centre occupies a key location within the campus. Today, its transportation function is constrained and dominated by vehicular activity, and its other important function as a primary place of arrival and first impression of the campus has not been fully realized. Recommendations for its transformation focus on transitioning from its function today as a transit node dominated by vehicular movement, to an active and animated space that better supports a ceremonial arrival experience, pedestrian movement and day-to-day use and amenity. Renewing the Centre and incorporating other uses will bring new vitality to this iconic place at the heart of the campus.
An extension of the ceremonial axis to anchor the west campus community

The Erickson/Massey Plan proposed a dramatic east/west ceremonial axis around which the campus is organized. Although this axis was realized to the east, its development to the west has not been as successful. In some places it was either not created, or was realized as two parallel corridors, diminishing its effectiveness and spatial clarity. The consolidation and extension of this axis to the west will provide a strong idea about how to organize movement and views, as well as positioning new development and open spaces in a way that connects to the east campus and promotes synergies within this portion of campus.

The Residential Quad provides a green space for passive recreation at the heart of the western residential community, reclaiming and greening existing parking, and extending the central axis to the west.

West Mall
The West Mall is an evolving movement and view corridor linking between the Transportation Centre and western residential community.

West Prospect
West Prospect, located at the terminus of the axis, can be realized as a distinct open space or building, functioning as a hub for local amenities, and capitalizing on striking views to Downtown Vancouver.

West Commons
The West Commons creates a new ‘living room’ for passive and active recreation, as well as outdoor dining and study, capitalizing on its proximity to the new dining hall, Lorne Davies Complex and West Mall Complex.

Residential Quad
The Residential Quad provides a green space for passive recreation at the heart of the western residential community, reclaiming and greening existing parking, and extending the central axis to the west.
The West Green is a linear open space, providing opportunities for enhanced north/south movement by connecting from the West Axis through The Fields to new development to the south. It will support long views to and from the campus, and incorporate environmental functions such as stormwater management.

At its northern extent where it intersects the Central Axis - the West Commons - it recalls the original western residential quad in the Erickson/Massey Plan, providing a living room for the west campus residential community.

Where it intersects with Gaglardi Way and the new east/west Mobility Corridor, the West Green creates a new secondary gateway into the campus, connecting between these two primary east/west corridors. The location and design of existing and future athletic fields and facilities should accommodate the creation of this important landscape and the north/south connections it provides.

WEST GREEN
A community-oriented green space connecting through the athletics precinct

Athletics Central Commons
The Athletics Central Commons provides a key north/south connection between the mobility corridor to the central axis, opening long views to the south and providing informal spaces for spectators to enjoy formal athletic activities on adjacent fields.

West Green Gateway
The West Green Gateway provides a new entrance bridging between the existing campus to the north and potential future development to the south. A plaza space framed by new development should create a sense of arrival, supporting views and movement to the north between Gaglardi Way, the mobility corridor and the central axis.
THE FIELDS

Enhancing connectivity and community-oriented recreation

The Fields are made up of new and renewed athletic fields and passive recreational spaces, with enhanced connections between them. This new major landscape mediates between the formality of the western portions of the campus and the green and natural qualities of the forest to the south.

Community Open Spaces anchor the east and west edges of The Fields, providing broad recreational opportunities for surrounding communities.

Sports fields existing sports fields will continue to serve structured athletic activities, with opportunities for new sports fields or facilities south of the new Mobility Corridor on the Field 5 site.

Connections improve north/south porosity between large sports fields, connecting the new east/west Mobility Corridor through to the Central Axis and west residential community.

THE FIELDS

Maggie’s Field

Existing formal sports fields should be maintained to support varsity athletics and informal use by the broader community.

Field 5

This site could be used for a variety of uses, such as interim surface parking, new buildings, or new fields, protecting for athletic fields as the first priority if required.

Maggie’s Field will be recreated as a gently sloped amphitheater, providing a place for both programmed events and un-programmed gathering.

The West Residential Field is a new open space, positioned as the western anchor to The Fields, providing recreational opportunities for the growing west residential campus.

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West Residential Field

THE FIELDS

Existing Sport Fields

Maggie’s Field

Field 5

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This site could be used for a variety of uses, such as interim surface parking, new buildings, or new fields, protecting for athletic fields as the first priority if required.

Maggie’s Field will be recreated as a gently sloped amphitheater, providing a place for both programmed events and un-programmed gathering.
The Mobility Corridor enhances east/west connectivity across the campus for a range of travel modes, including pedestrians, cycling, transit, and vehicles. As a counterpoint to the Central Axis, the Corridor provides an experience that is integrated within rather than imposed upon the landscape, providing new clues for how to organize future development and open spaces along the Corridor. As a relatively flat route, the Corridor enhances accessibility and multi-modal connections across the campus. It also creates access for future development, parking, and open spaces, becoming a significant place that contributes to the arrival experience and overall identity of the campus. The Corridor will be created incrementally over time in conjunction with new development, which should activate the Corridor and contribute to its function as a vibrant public space.

In zone 1, a future complete street envisions a 22 m right of way that incorporates the new Mobility Corridor along its northern edge, with a vehicular street to the south.

In zone 2, in the central area of the campus, the Mobility Corridor is envisioned as a multi-use pathway to be located along the northern edge of the existing South Campus Rd.

In zone 3, the Mobility Corridor separates from South Campus Rd to maintain a relatively flat grade, continuing northwards to intersect with Science Road just west of Tower Road.
The East Green is a major north/south linear space extending across the full campus, providing opportunities for movement and amenity from the north and south of the anticipated future Gondola landing. It will provide a new place of arrival into the campus, and will organize and provide a setting for new communities and buildings as the campus grows. Located where the UniverCity and SFU communities intersect, it also provides a place of amenity for all in tying these two communities together. The East Green will contain a variety of landscape types and experiences, ranging from more formal and urbane to more natural as one moves down the mountain. It will create long views to and from the campus, and support important environmental functions such as stormwater management.

**North Gateway**

The North Gateway is a transitional open space at the northern extent of the East Green that bridges the hardscape urban places areas to the south, and incorporates generous plantings and water features that connect into the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area and trail systems.

**Strand Commons and Town Square**

Strand Commons is a new green open space replacing existing surface parking to create a central space where the SFU and UniverCity communities can come together. The North Gateway is a transitional open space at the northern extent of the East Green that bridges the hardscape urban places areas to the south, and incorporates generous plantings and water features that connect into the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area and trail systems.

**Discovery Commons**

Discovery Commons provides a central open space to organize new development along the southern slopes. The open space provides a focus and day-to-day amenity for new buildings on either side, as well as the existing Discovery 2 and Fraser Internal College buildings located in this area of campus.

**Innovation Plaza**

Innovation Plaza extends south from Town & Gown Square to South Campus Road, creating a new central open space between the existing Sciences Complex and a new Innovation District being planned on the east parking lot.
The preparation of the SFU Burnaby 2065 Campus Master Plan has been completed over the course of two years and has been informed by the input from, and consultation with, the University leadership and all its communities - engaging thousands. The Plan will help the University direct growth and reinvestment, support decision-making and dialogue, define projects, and most importantly continue to create a remarkable place and community on top of Burnaby Mountain.