



**San Francisco State University
Campus Master Plan**

**Chapter 2.
Introduction**

2. Introduction



The Quad is the heart of the SF State campus

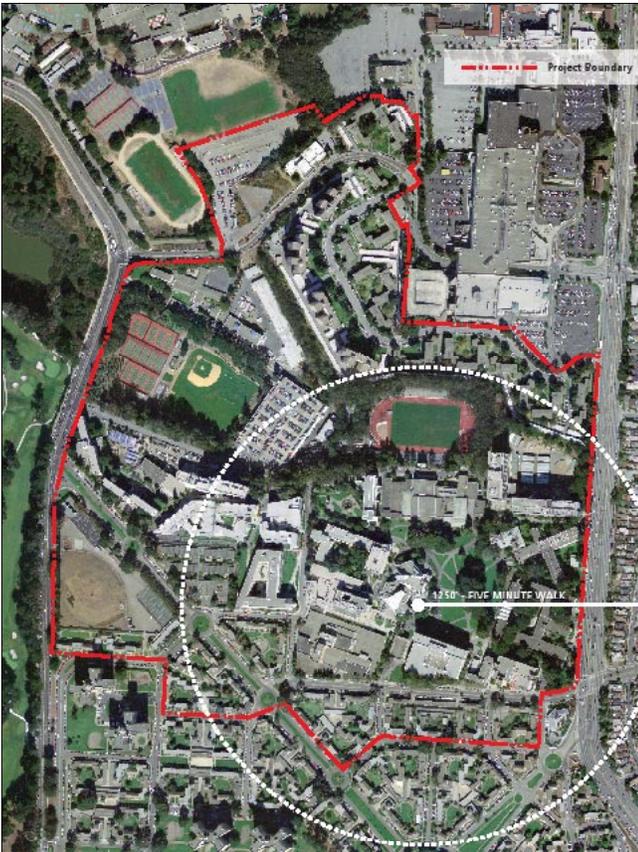
Purpose and Scope

The 2007–2020 San Francisco State University Campus Master Plan provides a vision for the physical development of the SF State campus and a detailed implementation strategy through 2020. The campus master plan treats the campus property in its entirety and in the context of its unique location in San Francisco. The master plan embodies SF State’s aspiration to become a “model urban university.”

The campus master plan offers a comprehensive framework to guide physical growth and change in support of the University’s academic mission. It identifies facility, site, and infrastructure projects to accommodate an increase in enrollment from 20,000 to 25,000 full-time equivalent students (FTES) and defines the capacity of the campus for future growth. Specifically, the master plan establishes development sites and sequencing for projects in two consecutive construction cycles, beginning with those identified in the University’s 2007-2008 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

The master plan will serve as a reference for all physical improvements—regardless of scale—to ensure that every project undertaken by the University contributes to the overall campus vision. The master plan updates and supersedes the 1989 master plan. It will be used in tandem with the University’s 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan and summary master plan approved annually by the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees.

Project Boundary



The master plan is accompanied by the Master Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR), as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The EIR presents a detailed discussion of SF State’s existing environmental setting, potentially significant physical environmental impacts of the master plan, proposed mitigation measures, and an analysis of possible alternatives.

Project Boundary

The campus master plan addresses only the SF State main campus and does not include the University’s satellite centers. The project boundary contains 141.6 acres of state-owned campus land and the 2.5-acre School of the Arts (SOTA) property, under negotiation for purchase at the time of this writing. The master plan study treats the entire 144.1 acres as one planning area.

Planning Process

The master plan is the product of close to two years of collaborative planning, guided by the SF State Master Plan Steering Committee—composed of faculty, staff, administrators, and student representatives—and supported by Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC / Solomon E.T.C., a firm of campus planners, urban designers, architects and landscape

architects, and its team of subconsultants. The full planning team brings expertise in transportation planning; civil, mechanical, electrical, and structural engineering; environmental consulting; cost estimating; and Web site design.

From early November 2005 through October 2006, the steering committee met regularly with the planning team to review work produced at each stage of the process—from the analysis of existing campus conditions through the various iterations of the campus design concept.

Members of the six master plan sub-committees—Academics, Campus Community, Enrollment and Housing, Communications and Outreach, Facilities and Infrastructure, and Transportation, Circulation and Parking—met with the planning team at the outset of the project to provide insight on the campus from their respective areas of expertise, and again at a workshop in May 2006 to evaluate preliminary design concepts. Additional coordination and information exchange occurred with the individual committees as needed, independent of the formal workshops. The President’s Cabinet also met with the planning team to review work at key milestones throughout the process.

A visioning charrette held in early December 2005 engaged a group of 35 students, faculty, staff, and administrators in a half-day of brainstorming about the future campus and ways to translate into physical terms the core values and related themes articulated in the University’s strategic plan. The charrette proved to be a seminal event in the planning process, resulting in a collective vision for the campus that guided development of the master plan and served as the litmus test as each design option was explored.

“It gives me the feeling of being at a really great school...The campus vision really brings out a new feeling of excitement.”

“I like how there will be more student housing. It appears this will create a community that is currently nonexistent.”

A series of open houses engaged the broader campus community and SF State’s neighbors and confirmed the campus vision and design approach. The planning team presented the analysis findings, vision statement, and initial design concepts at two open houses in April 2006; further concept refinements at an open house in May 2006; and preferred master plan concepts at two open houses held in September 2006. The team presented the draft master plan at three open houses in early December 2006—the first held on campus and the following two in the neighborhoods, at Parkmerced and Lowell High School, respectively. Throughout the process, the campus master plan Web site—www.sfsu.com/masterplan.org—chronicled the progress of the master plan and provided an additional vehicle for community review and comment. It will serve as a comprehensive and dynamic record of the planning process and master plan.



The visioning charrette provided an opportunity for campus stakeholders to express their ideas about a future vision for the campus.

Open house events provided a forum for community review and comment.



Development of the Plan

The planning team studied seven options for organizing the campus and locating and sequencing new development projects before arriving at an eighth and final preferred concept. Of all future projects, the gym/recreation-wellness center, with its large footprint and high-volume spaces, proved to be the most challenging and pivotal element to site. A further key factor in selecting options was the need to minimize disruption to departments and programs, avoiding multiple moves into surge space to the extent possible as new facilities are constructed. Finally, opening up the central valley remained a strong guiding force for the future arrangement of functions, consistent with the campus vision.

Because of these complexities, and in order to allow sufficient time to explore options fully, the University extended the concept phase of the planning process. The selected concept, described in detail in this report, resolves a number of key challenges: it finds an ample and relatively unencumbered site for the proposed gym/recreation-wellness center, allows for the seamless phasing of new construction with minimal disruption to the academic program, and preserves the campus vision of an open valley greenway.

“The clear lines and connections through campus will be a welcome relief to the convoluted methods of getting around now—giving a clear line from 19th Avenue down the valley to Lake Merced.”

“I really like the idea of opening up the green space and re-creating aspects of the original ecosystem, such as restoring the watershed with the creek and freeing up the view of Lake Merced from 19th Avenue.”

“I like the progressive, environmental stance that emphasizes sustainability. Also, the integration into the community, like the pedestrian and transit access.”

“I want this campus to become more visible to the surroundings and more attractive to the students here.”

Quotes from public open house, May 18, 2006, Cesar Chavez Student Center