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**San Francisco State University  
Campus Master Plan**

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**Chapter 6.  
Framework and Land Use**



*District Connectivity. The campus circulation network can help fill gaps in the district network, enhancing access to district open space.*

## 6. Framework and Land Use

Based on the planning principles described in the previous chapter, the master plan establishes an overarching framework and land use plan that guide campus growth and change. Along with internal factors, an equally compelling influence on the organization of the campus is the need to connect the University with its district.

### District Connectivity

#### *Strengthening the University's connection to the city and region*

SF State's location in San Francisco is one of the University's great assets and a major draw beyond the Bay Area. Forging stronger connections to the city is a strategic objective of the University and a major thrust of the master plan.

The campus is fortunate to be located close to transit routes and regional arterials. The master plan strengthens connections to transit services—Muni M line, bus lines, and Daly City BART—and to the surrounding street network. The framework configures the main entrance

to campus and the 19th Avenue frontage and establishes cross-campus connections to take full advantage of district networks and services.

#### *Strengthening the University's connections to Lake Merced, district open space, and the surrounding neighborhoods*

The SF State campus is uniquely positioned in proximity to Lake Merced and other important recreational resources such as Fort Funston and Harding Park Golf Course. It also enjoys proximity to Stonestown Galleria and several San Francisco neighborhoods, such as Ingleside and Parkmerced. Yet the University remains relatively isolated and disconnected from its surroundings due to the significant barriers posed by 19th Avenue and Lake Merced Boulevard and a general lack of connective network. The master plan removes barriers and creates connections to the lake and surrounding areas through public open space, pedestrian and bicycle paths, crossings, views and vistas, and gateways into campus (see District Connectivity diagram).

## Organizing Framework

The campus framework is responsive to both the district context and internal factors. The framework strengthens connections to the city street network and district open space system, enhances the campus's visibility, improves wayfinding to and through the campus, recognizes the western expansion of the academic core, and integrates the newly acquired properties to the north and south. The organizing framework consists of the following elements as illustrated in the accompanying diagram:

### *The valley as the central feature of campus*

The framework establishes the valley as the central feature of campus connecting from 19th Avenue to Lake Merced. With a new surface creek flowing through it to the lake, the valley is part of a larger campus vision to demonstrate the ideal of sustainable living and to reconnect the campus to its ecological past. The master plan takes steps toward returning the valley to its natural form and accommodating much-needed new recreational fields.

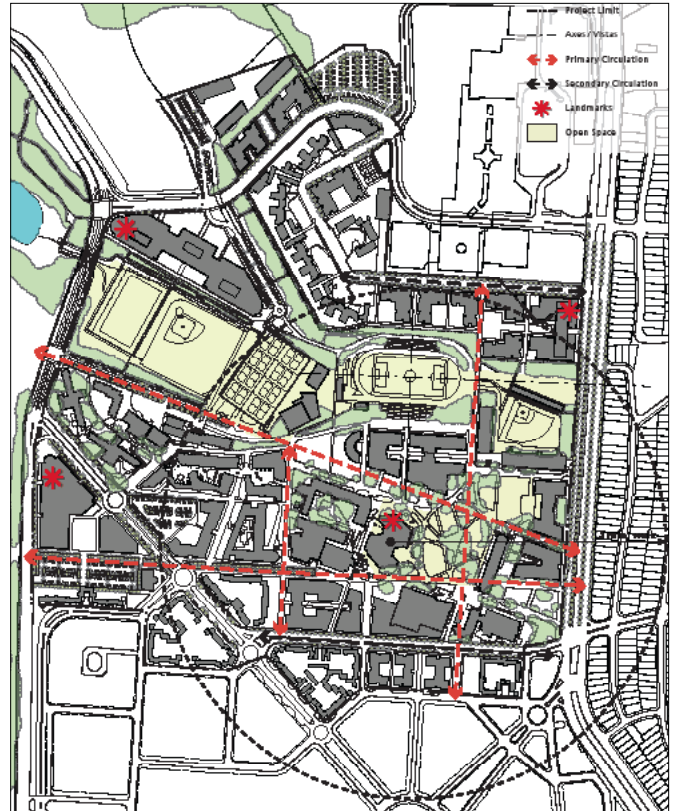
### *The Quad as the symbolic heart of campus*

Framed by the library and iconic student center, the Quad is the heart of the academic core and original center of the SF State campus. With its expansive lawn and towering stands of cypress and pine, the Quad is the most memorable part of the campus. The framework recognizes the centrality of the Quad and its importance as the crossroads and symbolic center of campus. The Arts Allée, a tree-lined promenade, extends the Quad westward and becomes the organizing open space element along which new academic buildings are located.

### *Circulation and axes that clarify wayfinding*

Primary circulation spines and axes organize the campus, connecting new facilities to the core and improving wayfinding. In the east-west direction, the Arts Allée connects 19th Avenue and the Quad to the new Creative Arts complex, and the Pacific Allée follows the diagonal orientation of the Quad to link 19th Avenue to the undergraduate housing complex on the west. In the north-south direction, Millennium Walk and Bridge link the campus and neighborhoods across the valley. Buckingham Way is realigned to improve circulation, clarify organization, and take advantage of views across the valley.

The framework recognizes the visual and historic importance of Cox Stadium, the first structure built on campus. The stadium's axes define the location of new residential and academic buildings and organize views across the valley between the Quad and University Park North (UPN) and along the length of the valley from 19th Avenue westward.



*Organizing Framework. New circulation axes through campus create a framework for organizing campus facilities.*

### *Landmark buildings that strengthen identity*

The plan locates landmark buildings at the corners of campus to house semi-public facilities used by neighbors and visitors, as well as members of the campus community. These include the Creative Arts complex in the southwest, the gym/recreation-wellness center to the northwest, and the University Conference Center to the northeast. These buildings—along with the student center—serve as powerful icons for SF State and help to strengthen the University's presence and identity in the city.

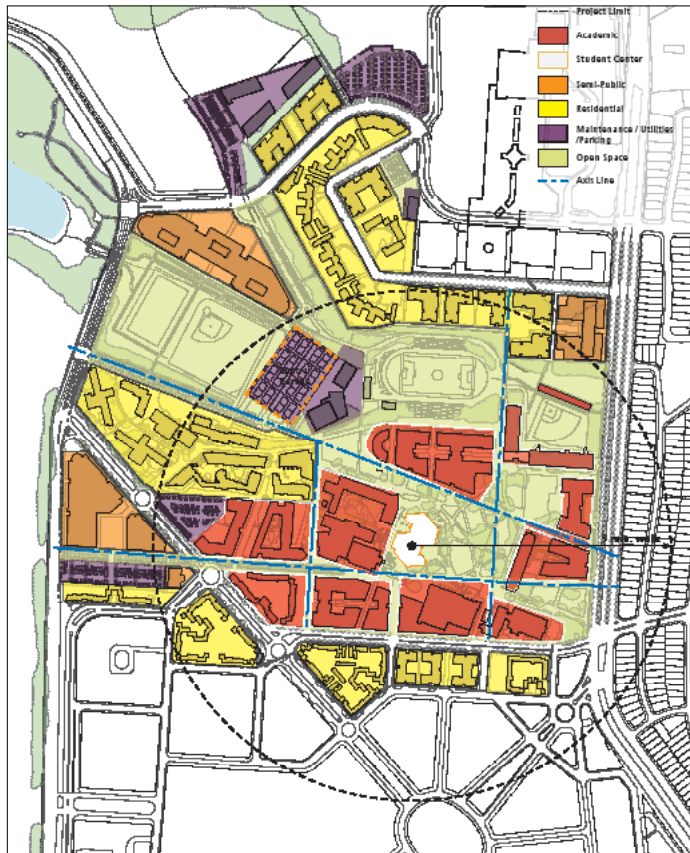
### **Campus Land Use**

As illustrated in the accompanying land use plan, the master plan envisions a clear definition of districts with a tight academic core flanked by residential villages to the north, south, and west, with open space as the connective fabric. Each of the districts provides clarity of function within the campus, as well as presenting a distinct and definable edge character to the external community. Semi-public uses anchor the corners of campus presenting an attractive and welcoming identity to the community at these visible points.

### *Academic*

The campus land use plan reinforces existing patterns and creates new linkages. It concentrates academic uses around the Quad, strengthening the academic core and extending it westward along the new Arts Allée.

Campus Land Use Plan



### *Residential*

The plan establishes distinct residential districts, with undergraduate housing to the west and new housing villages to the north and south on the University Park North and South properties. The land use plan also establishes college main streets along Holloway and Buckingham as the anchors to the residential districts.

### *Semi-public*

Semi-public uses are located at the corners of campus to heighten the University's visibility and provide inviting and convenient access for visitors and community members attending campus events. These uses have both an internal campus function—whether academic, recreation, or other—and a public function that serves the larger community.

*Open space*

Open space unifies and gives the campus its distinctive identity. By clustering like uses and utilizing land more efficiently, the master plan allows for significant areas of open space—the valley, Quad, 19th Avenue entry—that provide needed gathering and recreation space and serve as a powerful emblem for the University, making the campus uniquely memorable.

*Facilities and maintenance*

The Facilities Building and the corporation yard are located to the northernmost part of campus, freeing land closer to the core and to the valley for academic and recreation use.



