The University of Kansas
2014-2024 Campus Master Plan
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
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To Our University of Kansas Community:

*Bold Aspirations*, our 2012-2017 strategic plan, charts a transformation of the University of Kansas across every aspect of our institution. In January, 2013, the university community embarked on a year-long journey to create an updated campus master plan and to put our bold aspirations into physical form. The Lawrence and Overland Park campuses and surrounding communities have engaged in an open and transparent process including open forums, focus groups, and more than 150 consultations.

In the 150-year history of KU, this is the fifth comprehensive master plan. Like its predecessors, this plan lays out future growth for the Lawrence and Edwards campuses. In addition, this plan has been designed to be a living document, one that will be revisited in the coming years to be adjusted as part of an ongoing process.

The plan is also our most comprehensive, including extensive analysis, space and classroom utilization, historic patterns and resources, land use, program accommodation, sustainability, and coordination with the local community.

I want to thank the members of the university team who have worked on crafting the plan, the members of the steering committee and executive committee who guided its development, and our partners with the architecture and planning firm Hanbury Evans Wright Vlattas + Company.

Our master plan aligns with our values, our principles, and our goals for the future. It sets forth an ideal for a modern research university that can advance our mission of educating leaders, building healthy communities, and making discoveries that will change the world.

Best regards,

Bernadette Gray-Little
Chancellor
INTRODUCTION

The University of Kansas is a major public research and teaching institution of 28,000 students and 2,600 faculty members on five campuses. While the size and complexity of the institution has changed dramatically over the last 150 years, KU has remained true to its origins: to educate leaders, build healthy communities, and make discoveries that change the world.

In 2012, KU developed its strategic plan, Bold Aspirations, as a guiding institutional vision with six goals:

1. Strengthen recruitment, teaching, and mentoring to prepare undergraduate students for lifelong learning, leadership, and success.

2. Prepare doctoral students as innovators and leaders who are ready to meet the demands of the academy and our global society.

3. Enhance research broadly, with special emphasis upon areas of present and emerging strength in order to push the boundaries of knowledge and society.

4. Engage local, state, national, and global communities as partners in scholarly activities that have direct public impact.

5. Recruit, value, develop, and retain an excellent and diverse faculty and staff.

6. Responsibly steward fiscal and physical resources and energize supporters to expand the resource base.

These goals served as inspiration for the 2014-2024 Campus Master Plan, which provides a flexible framework for physical growth on the Lawrence and Edwards campuses, assisting KU with fulfilling its intention to be recognized as a top-tier public research institution.
KU was established in September of 1866. Its bold vision to educate and serve the citizens of Kansas prompted a series of early physical master plans that have produced one of the most beautiful collegiate environments in the nation. Beginning with the first campus master plan by George Kessler and Henry Wright of St. Louis in 1904, this rich legacy has capitalized on the extraordinary ridge-top location to create an academic community centered on Jayhawk Boulevard and its iconic buildings. Stewardship of historic landscapes, such as Marvin Grove and Potter Lake, has preserved the park-like campus setting and reinforced the remarkable views and vistas.

The Kansas City landscape architectural firm of Hare & Hare produced the second campus development plan of 1928. This plan was gracefully executed and bears close resemblance to what KU now calls the historic core. After Hare & Hare updated the master plan in 1932, subsequent planning was handled internally.
The 2014–2024 Campus Master Plan honors the historic and cultural context of the university, yet prepares KU for a challenging future. This master plan implements the goals of Bold Aspirations by strategically siting new and expanded academic, research, and residential communities to promote interdisciplinary collaboration and engaged innovative scholarship.

It builds on KU’s historic planning principles to knit together what is currently described as two separate Lawrence campuses, Main and West, into one cohesive Lawrence campus of three districts: North, Central, and West.

Although each appears distinct, the master plan thoughtfully connects the districts into one unified Lawrence campus community.
The 11 Principles of the master plan arose as physical planning themes to serve as touchstones during the design process and ensure alignment with KU’s strategic plan, Bold Aspirations. They are embodied in the proposed physical plan and will guide campus development in the future.

Over the course of a year, the campus and Lawrence community were engaged to develop this set of planning goals and principles. The process involved dozens of meetings with hundreds of individuals, including deans, department heads, and other campus leaders, as well as focus groups and open forums.

Principles of the master plan embody both the historic excellence of the university and the aspiration to be recognized as a top-tier, public international research institution. They enable the physical campus plan to take on a significant role in the implementation of Bold Aspirations.
The central tenet of our master plan is to physically embody *Bold Aspirations* to positively affect student success, increase opportunities for research, and grow human and physical resources. That is accomplished by grouping the Principles thematically around KU’s strategic priorities into Drivers. These Drivers serve as the building blocks of the plan.

The Drivers were developed by analyzing the goals and challenges identified in the strategic plan and in KU’s administrative savings initiative, *Changing for Excellence*. Working with KU leaders, stakeholders, and the governance committee for the master plan, the design team grouped these goals and challenges into thematic areas.

Grouped thematically, the goals and challenges are shaped into these Drivers to promote creative solutions for implementing KU’s strategic priorities, creating a direct link between *Bold Aspirations* and the physical campus.
As future campus needs were analyzed through the prism of the master plan Drivers, broad physical planning Concepts emerged around future campus needs. In total, a projected need for approximately 2 million square feet of additional space in the 10-year planning horizon was identified.

These broad physical Concepts are not limited by one area of campus, but instead group together program and facility placement to knit the campus together into a unified whole. Working together, the Drivers and Concepts will make the most of existing resources while effectively developing new opportunities through entrepreneurial thinking.

The Concepts support the four Bold Aspirations strategic initiatives themes:

- Sustaining the Planet, Powering the World
- Promoting Well-Being, Finding Cures
- Building Communities, Expanding Opportunities
- Harnessing Information, Multiplying Knowledge
CONCEPT 1: STUDENT SUCCESS, CAMPUS LIFE

Bold Aspirations: Goals 1 & 2
Plan Driver: Academic Vision, Collaborative Learning Space & Community

The campus master plan proposes an academic, collaborative learning community that promotes student success through learning spaces, living spaces, and social spaces. Academic success is greatly enhanced by educating the whole person, and creating an atmosphere of engagement.

Highlights of this concept include:

Freshman Housing: New housing developments will create outdoor open space that begins to mitigate the scale on Daisy Hill and develop the next generation of a residential village.
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CONCEPT 1: STUDENT SUCCESS, CAMPUS LIFE

Ambler Student Recreation Center

19th and Iowa Gateway: A proposed mixed-use development for upper-level and graduate students will include housing, student amenities, and retail. An accessible path connects the Central and West Districts bridging Iowa Street as an extension of the proposed Jayhawk Trail.

Student Amenities: An expanded Anschutz Library becomes a learning commons and technology convergence center. Teaching spaces built or remodeled for redesigned courses support active learning and enhance student outcomes. A natatorium addition to Ambler Student Recreation Center boosts health and fitness programming.
CONCEPT 2: ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES

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INNOVATION WAY: LONG-TERM PLAN

Focused on discovery and innovation, KU’s role as an international research university engages interdisciplinary scholarship and innovation that requires an overlap of activities and intellectual space. Highlights of this concept that facilitate interaction and build a community of collaboration include:

Innovation Way: Connecting the natural, physical, and life sciences with engineering and pharmacy, the underutilized land at Stouffer Place Apartments links Innovation Way facilities that span from Haworth Hall near the core of campus to the new Research Partnership Zone in the West District.
CONCEPT 2: ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES

South Slope Zone/Sunnyside Lawn: New facilities for the natural and physical sciences on the southern slope between Jayhawk Boulevard and Sunnyside Avenue expand resources for undergraduate science education. Sustainable landscapes and public space provided by the Sunnyside Lawn improve connections to campus buildings.

Stouffer Green: A signature new landscape, on the eastern slope of Daisy Hill and the connection to Jayhawk Trail will link expanded student housing to the south with the Research Sciences Zone. A prairie landscaped slope and stormwater capture features are also proposed.
Research Partnership Zone: The need to seamlessly engage industry to support research and development mandates a new partnership zone for KU. Adjacent to an expanded translational research zone at Becker Drive, and using a real estate development model on KU Endowment land, this development promotes partnerships, start-ups, and private enterprise.
CONCEPT 2: ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES

Multidisciplinary Research Building
CONCEPT 3: SUSTAINABLE LAND USE & GROWTH PATTERNS

Bold Aspirations: Goals 5 & 6
Plan Driver: Integrated, Systemic, and Connected Planning

KU has tremendous natural, built, and human resources that must be sustained to flourish as “One Lawrence Campus.” Strategic placement of programs, development of new program areas and strengthening campus connections are key steps to deliver more integrated and connected planning solutions.

Highlights of this concept include:

**One Lawrence Campus:** Expanded academic and research programs bridge Iowa Street conceptually and physically through new facility development and higher quality landscape treatments.
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KU 2014–2024 CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

HISTORIC RESOURCES

- HISTORIC DISTRICTS
- CURRENTLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
- CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT
- NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT
- POTTER LAKE
- POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTING LANDSCAPES TO HISTORIC DISTRICT
- POTENTIAL INDIVIDUALLY ELIGIBLE LANDSCAPES

Preservation of Key Cultural and Historic Resources:
KU has two districts on the state and national historic registers that characterize much of the university’s historic identity.

Conservation and Stormwater Management:
Conservation of existing naturalized areas and hydrological systems in the West District, as well as the creation of new naturalized stormwater management systems in the North and Central Districts, reduces quantity and increases the quality of stormwater runoff.

Spooner Hall, built in 1894

Lippincott Hall, built in 1905

Stormwater captures, best practices
CONCEPT 3: SUSTAINABLE LAND USE & GROWTH PATTERNS

JAYHAWK TRAIL

Transit: Multi-modal circulation systems, a defining strength of the Lawrence campus, are improved to provide more efficient transit routes, accessible paths, and bicycle accommodations that connect to the regional network. Jayhawk Boulevard renovations improve infrastructure, multi-modal movement, pedestrian safety, and landscape.

Jayhawk Trail: This shared-use path connects the historic core with proposed zones of redevelopment in the Central and West Districts, incorporating pedestrian-oriented features, such as lighting, benches, seat walls, trash receptacles, and recycling bins. It is the intent that the Jayhawk Trail could be made accessible.

Living Laboratories: Living labs promote experiential learning, research, and responsible stewardship of fiscal and physical resources. Modern, more sustainable infrastructure systems will improve user productivity and effectiveness.
CONCEPT 3: SUSTAINABLE LAND USE & GROWTH PATTERNS

New Jayhawk Boulevard streetscape (conceptual rendering)
Analysis of campus infrastructure, land constraints, and building site opportunities provided a flexible framework for these concepts. A Land Use Plan and a 10-Year Plan grew from this process.

The Land Use Plan builds the campus framework for growth to identify land development zones for particular uses. The placement, size, and adjacency of these uses were developed with KU in order to stimulate strategic planning initiatives.
THE MASTER PLAN VISION

10-YEAR PLAN

The 10-Year Plan proposes a variety of enhancement projects for academic, research, student life, and athletics facilities in order to physically implement Bold Aspirations.

The rich tapestry of natural beauty, history, and tradition on KU’s Lawrence campus provides the backdrop for an exciting future. The strategic plan provides the direction for attaining that future, and the 2014-2024 Campus Master Plan transforms that vision into a physical plan for sustainable implementation.

- MASTER PLAN BUILDINGS, 10 YEAR
- EXISTING BUILDINGS
- RENOVATION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS
- WATER FEATURES, STORMWATER RETENTION
- STORMWATER DETENTION
- REC FIELDS
- ATHLETIC FIELDS
- CRITICAL OPEN SPACE
- INTERSTITIAL OPEN AREAS
- LANDSCAPING/SITE WORK AT PROGRAM PROJECT
- JAYHAWK TRAIL
- WATER COURSES
The academic, student life, auxiliary, athletic, and community partnership projects proposed in this master plan will be phased over a 10-year planning horizon. However, to more fully understand KU’s potential, the planning process was guided by a longer view, looking at both the university’s objectives and the capacity of its real estate holdings well into the future.
Campanile at sunset
EDWARDS CAMPUS

EDWARDS CAMPUS TEN YEAR PLAN

- PROPOSED MASTER PLAN BUILDINGS
- EXISTING BUILDINGS
- STORMWATER DETENTION
- RENOVATION

The Edwards campus has grown from one 55,000 square foot building to four buildings totaling 238,000 square feet on 30 acres. Edwards has a projected 40 percent enrollment growth in the 10-year planning horizon.

As with the Lawrence campus, planners synthesized a set of Drivers to guide concepts for the Edwards campus. They are:

- Enrich students’ experience on campus by shaping spaces for social engagement.
- Boost the campus’ visibility and presence, visually branding it as a university campus.
- Anticipate future growth and adapt academic facilities to new technology and learning strategies.

Since its opening in 1993, the KU Edwards campus has brought “the high-quality academic programs, research, and public service of the University of Kansas to the greater Kansas City community to serve the workforce, economic, and community development needs of the region.”

Edwards Campus Mission Statement
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CONCEPT 1: STUDENT SUCCESS & CAMPUS LIFE
- Create a Learning Commons with a 10,000 square foot Regents Center addition to address student collaborative and study space.
- Renovate Jayhawk Central, including interior remodel and reconfiguration.

CONCEPT 2: ACADEMIC COMMUNITY
- Extend the campus quadrangle to the west, formed by the potential of 150,000 to 200,000 square feet of new facilities.
- Construct a 60,000 square foot applied research building north and east of the BEST Building for future active learning classrooms and research space.

CONCEPT 3: SUSTAINABLE LAND USE & GROWTH PATTERNS
- Site the next two capital projects at key campus edges, creating a crescent-shaped green civic space at the entry drive and circle to enhance campus identity along Quivira Road.
- Investigate Public Private Partnerships for projects and programs that could strategically enhance the Edwards campus as well as potentially tie to programs on the Lawrence campus.
This master plan honors the historic and cultural context of the university. It reinforces existing campus centers and extends the civic realm to accommodate new facilities, while creating important new campus spaces. The plan strengthens the physical relationship with the university’s host communities by enhancing campus gateways and connections to outreach programs. The master plan is a guide, a living plan meant to be used and amended routinely by the Lawrence and Edwards campuses, weighing decisions against the planning principles and drivers, as well as strategic plan goals.

The 2014-2024 Campus Master Plan is truly KU’s vision, balancing physical elements in harmony with our strategic plan Bold Aspirations. It envisions a modern, sustainable campus environment where our accomplished faculty, staff, and students can fulfill our mission: educating leaders, building healthy communities, and making discoveries that change the world.
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