Campus Master Plan
Executive Summary
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We come to the Valparaiso University Campus Master Plan expecting to look into the future. Area by area, the campus of tomorrow unfurls before us. New buildings. Redesigned landscape. Revitalized neighborhoods. And yet, a deeper look reveals far more. We discover that the plan also serves as a bridge between the past and the future. We see the University’s long-held vision and values come to life in bricks and mortar, steel and glass, in open spaces and walkways.

The master plan is rooted in the fundamental tenets of our mission – that we are a community of learning dedicated to excellence and grounded in the Lutheran tradition of scholarship, freedom, and faith. It anticipates the student population growing to 6,000 in less than a decade – a 50 percent increase. However, the plan also anticipates that even as we grow, its design must reflect and solidify our identity as a distinguished Lutheran community of learning constituted by people of many beliefs and backgrounds.

From academics to athletics, from research to residential life, from faith to free discourse, the master plan will contribute to the long-term social, economic and environmental prosperity of the University and surrounding community. Its principles, both disciplined and flexible, position the University to meet unknown future needs while respecting our Lutheran ethos. The Campus Master Plan sets out the long-term vision for the campus and is the product of input from the Board of Directors, faculty, staff, students and community members – a diverse group that shares a commitment to a vital, sustainable future that remains true to our heritage. I thank each of you for your time, thoughts and prayers as we engaged in this process for nearly a year and a half.

As you review the plan, I invite you to imagine the campus as it will become in the years and decades ahead. Imagine students of promise from around the world drawn to this extraordinary learning environment, religion, and ethics. It anticipates the student population growing to 6,000 in less than a decade. Faculty and staff levels will rise to support a larger student body. Consequently campus facilities must expand and improve to support this growth. The evolution of the University’s facilities must continue and accelerate.

The campus facilities must also meet the standards and reputation of the University. As a premier Lutheran higher education institution, Valparaiso University has earned a stellar reputation. Yet many feel that some of the existing buildings and grounds do not support that reputation. Our Common Pursuit, Valparaiso University’s strategic plan, sets out the long-held vision and values come to life in bricks and mortar, steel and glass, in open spaces and walkways.

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“ We must not sacrifice our courage, our boldness, to settle for what is safe or what we think we can manage reasonably — that is, quite simply, to surrender to the ‘tyranny of the possible.’ ”

President Mark A. Heckler, Inaugural Address, 2008

Valparaiso University’s strategic plan, Our Common Pursuit, is visionary and ambitious. We have imagined that student enrollment will increase from approximately 4,000 students today to 6,000 students in less than a decade. Faculty and staff levels will rise to support a larger student body. Consequently campus facilities must expand and improve to support this growth. The evolution of the University’s facilities must continue and accelerate.

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Enrollment Growth

For the University to continue thriving in an ever-changing academic climate, it will alter its size, composition, and shape. Valpo must do so with careful planning in order to maintain the comprehensive character of the institution.

Student Experience

Service and leadership opportunities through campus organizations, athletics, internships and communities, and numerous other avenues allow students to enrich their experience by interacting with one another and choosing their role within the campus community.

Innovation

Translating Lutheran tradition through a focus on emerging fields of study and an investment in signature programs is critical to Valpo’s future success and necessary for it to be known for interdisciplinary innovation. By exploring the connections between STEM, language, technology, engineering, and mathematical sciences, students prepare for leadership roles in public policy, studying future effects on the environment, religion, and ethics.

Engagement

Valparaiso University seeks to strengthen the affiliation among students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the broader community, using innovative methods to bring these constituencies closer together, establishing pride and building stronger institutional culture.
Vision

The campus core, defined by the Chapel of the Resurrection, the Christopher Center, the Harre Union, and the Center for the Arts, is the academic heart of campus, with the Chapel of the Resurrection as the focal point. While the Valparaiso University Law School will remain in the historic campus, all other academic uses are relocated to within a five-minute walk of the campus core.

The use of valuable space near the campus core is intensified so that growth can occur in place and athletics and recreation facilities can contract from Eastgate back to campus. Campus density will increase as low-density structures are replaced by new multi-purpose buildings. The natural sciences and the arts are each integrated in new and repurposed structures.

On-campus living is transformed through sequential reconstruction of residence halls.

This growth and intensification does not come at the expense of open space. The campus core open space is redefined and enhanced to welcome campus residents and visitors. Academic structures from the western Law School to the eastern science and education village are linked through a central pedestrian ribbon. The residential neighborhood open spaces are constructed anew and better defined.

As the campus grows, it will become more focused on the pedestrian and scaled to people rather than vehicles. Parking is accommodated but kept to the campus edges.

The campus will better connect to the greater Valparaiso community. It will spur the revitalization of Lincolnway and reach toward downtown.
Our Guiding Principles

The campus master plan must be based on a flexible, forward-thinking, and campus-wide foundation that will guide current and future campus decisions. The guiding principles are that foundation. In this vision-driven process, the guiding principles spurred analysis, shaped the assessment of alternative concepts, and drove their evolution to become the recommended master plan. They should continue to guide the master plan’s implementation.

The guiding principles will outlast the master plan’s specific recommendations. This plan cannot anticipate every situation the University will encounter over the long term. Future decision makers should rely on the core guiding principles. On this foundation, University leadership can comfortably understand new concerns and make wise decisions that still seek the University’s defined future. The specific issues most assuredly will change, but the plan’s guiding principles and campus structure must remain constant.

A successful campus master plan at Valparaiso University must:

... focus on purpose
Provide the physical spaces necessary so that the University can be a place of intellectual, cultural, social, and spiritual education and exchange.
Strengthen the connection between faith and learning.

... enhance academic and social interaction
Design campus physical spaces so that they promote greater understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures and ethnicities and actively support tolerance, civility, and respect for the rights and sensibilities of each person. Locate buildings and open spaces in close proximity to enhance synergistic learning and inclusive social interaction.

... strive for environmental sustainability
Design buildings, landscapes, and infrastructure so that they are compatible with the regional environment and conserve natural resources.

... strive for financial sustainability
Consider not only the efficient use of funds budgeted for the initial project design and construction, but also the life cycle cost of the continuing operation and maintenance.
. . . anticipate change and thus design for function and flexibility
Satisfy the current program and functional requirements without compromising future flexibility and adaptability for changing needs and uses.

. . . craft a sense of place
Strengthen and re-establish the genius loci of the campus and its neighborhoods.

. . . move toward visual coherence
Create a single integrated campus design in which the parts all relate to one another, regardless of when and where they are built.

. . . respect the campus context
Respect and address the University’s heritage, environmental context, and unique features.

. . . integrate the university with its host community
Integrate the University further into the Valparaiso community. Strive to simultaneously meet both the University’s academic and strategic goals and the community’s goals.

. . . create a clear campus identity
Establish a clear identity within the community, strengthen the campus edges, and provide definition to the academic, residential, and recreational districts of campus.

. . . balance all modes of transportation
Create a coherent and comfortable campus environment that is scaled for people rather than vehicles. Safeguard the core of the campus as a pedestrian-focused area.

. . . emphasize quality
Increase the enjoyment, productivity, and success of indoor and outdoor environments through thoughtful design. Design and build institutional facilities that are expected to last 50-100 years.

. . . create permanence with each incremental step
Establish a distinctive campus pattern while allowing for changes in academic priorities, funding opportunities, and strategic direction.
Building Initiatives
1. Science and Education Village
2. College of Nursing Building
3. College of Business Building
4. Center for the Arts Additions
5. Neil Center Repurpose
6. Future Academic Building
7. Welcome Center
8. New Suite-Style Residence Halls
9. Residence Hall Reconstruction
10. Greek Housing
11. Athletics/Recreation Complex
12. McIntyre Court
13. Lincolnway Redevelopment
14. Mixed Use Redevelopment

Open Space Initiatives
1. Campus Core Open Space
2. Convocation Plaza
3. Harre Union-Arts Plaza
4. Athletics Gateway Plaza
5. Quadrangles
6. Amphitheater
7. Resurrection Meadow
8. Sturdy/30 Gateway
9. Minor Gateway
10. Historic Student Bridge Path
11. Campus Arboretum

Circulation Initiatives
1. Chapel Drop-Off and Parking
2. Center for the Arts Drop-Off
3. Union Parking Structure
4. Athletics/Recreation Ramp
5. Core Parking Removal
6. Surface Parking Expansion
7. New Road Connections
8. Road Segment Removal
9. Pedestrian Spine
10. Athlete’s Walk
Valparaiso University seeks to transform the way students comprehend and utilize science and the scientific approach. The University wants all undergraduate students to participate in an engaging learning experience that will develop an understanding of the scientific method.

This effort mirrors a national trend in integrating the natural sciences. The common term for this effort is "STEM" which incorporates the sciences, technology, engineering, and math. Valparaiso University has expanded the concept to incorporate science education. Thus the term "STEEM" is used to indicate an addition of education into the mix.

As an interdisciplinary approach, the effort will directly engage all departments associated with science, technology, engineering, math, nursing, environmental sciences, psychology, and education. All Valparaiso University graduates will have a high level of scientific literacy.

The STEEM Village will be a cluster of six facilities focused on the Gellersen Center:

- Gellersen Center with the Fites Innovation Center and James S. Markiewicz Solar Energy Research Facility
- Kallay-Christopher Hall – Geography and Meteorology
- Urschel Hall – repurposed for Psychology
- Three new buildings – shared homes for Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy, and Education

Nursing is a STEEM discipline, yet as a professional program, its physical adjacency to Gellersen Center is not necessary. The New College of Nursing building will be located just west of the Harre Union, a short walk through the campus core.

The heart of campus is where the academic, the social, and the spiritual cross. In the physical realm, that location is the space between the Harre Union and the entrance to the Chapel of the Resurrection. Now paved and used for vehicle parking, this space has the potential to be the campus’s focal point. This central gathering space should be designed and redeveloped to support both formal and informal activities. A landscaped open space could provide a space for a variety of student gatherings. It should offer many choices of things to do – socializing, eating, reading, raising consciousness, rallying for an impending game, playing, and interacting with art. This active plaza lies within the greater open space of the campus core. The campus’s most prominent buildings – Harre Union, Christopher Center, Chapel of the Resurrection, and the Center for the Arts – define the space, yet it is not meeting its potential. The master plan expands this core open space, better defines its edges with additional academic facilities, and improves its internal aesthetics and function with landscape design guidelines.

Above: The central plaza will be the core area where students will instinctively gather.
The University has been moving toward a pedestrian-focused campus core for years, removing Chapel Drive and creating a ring road system. The campus master plan accelerates that evolution, making it easier to walk and bike on campus while still providing vehicle parking, drop-off, and circulation.

Surface parking and roads are moved from the center of campus to the edges. Most campus users will park on the edges of campus and walk to their classes and offices. Parking and front-door drop-off will still be available at major community destinations such as the Harre Union, Christopher Center, Chapel of the Resurrection, and Center for the Arts. A new parking ramp north of the Union will provide convenient parking for regular campus users and occasional visitors.

Connecting the entire campus will be a pedestrian spine—a wide path that will link every major building from the Law School to the STEEM Village. Students, faculty, staff, and visitors will mix and socialize on the pedestrian spine.

New and removed road segments will make driving around campus more intuitive, especially in the historic west areas of campus.

Over the next decades, residential life at Valparaiso University will be completely transformed. Housing choices will expand when the University constructs two suite-style residence halls, the first near Laporte and University Drive and the second near Guild and Memorial Halls. The northeast residence halls—Scheele, Lankenau, Alumni, Brandt, and Walenberg—will be incrementally reconstructed. On a case-by-case basis, each hall will be either fundamentally and dramatically renovated, including new room configurations and the addition of air conditioning, or completely demolished and reconstructed. New buildings will be sited to create quadrangles that will host informal recreation and mingling.

The University’s sororities are located within Scheele Hall and most fraternities are found off-campus largely within the Hilltop neighborhood. In order to provide for current Greek housing needs and its expansion, the University will offer sites on Union Street to VU’s Greek organizations. Greeks living on Union Street will be off-campus, but their close presence will enliven west campus and the athletics/recreation complex.

Below: Two new residence halls at Laporte and University Drive will transform the campus’s northern gateway.

Above: Scheele, Lankenau, Alumni, Brandt, and Walenberg will all be transformed, and many point to Guild and Memorial Halls as the desired character of reconstructed halls.
Gathering the Crusaders

The master plan envisions a wholesale reevaluation of the campus's athletics and recreation facilities. The purchase of the Porter Hospital site provides a unique opportunity to consolidate, expand, and improve the existing athletics and recreational facilities anchored by the Athletics-Recreation Center.

The severe crowding in the Athletics-Recreation Center will be alleviated with a new field house. All Eastgate facilities will be relocated to the northwest athletics and recreation complex.

The facilities on the former hospital site will be connected to the existing softball field, tennis courts, and Union parking ramp through the Athlete's Walk, a wide pedestrian path that will celebrate Crusader accomplishments on the field.

The game day experience for the campus visitor will be improved. Plenty of parking will be available, with convenient access to both the Lincolnway and Union parking ramps. Entry and gateway plazas will host game day celebrations. All competition fields and courts will be within easy walking distance.

This consolidation, expansion, and improvement does not come at the cost of McIntyre Court. The historic street will maintain its residential character and be the site of University housing and offices.

The campus has been constructed incrementally, resulting in an eclectic mix of building styles. A consistent landscape design will unite the University grounds, elevating the campus image.

The campus open space network will consist of quadrangles, courtyards, plazas, gateways, and an arboretum. The campus master plan provides design direction so that not only is each component functional and well-defined but that together they create a livable and beautiful campus that can be effectively maintained.

Garden, Arboretum, Campus


Left Top: Protect and enhance tree canopies.

Left Bottom: The academic year spans the cold northwest Indiana winter, so campus open spaces should enable the University community to embrace the season.

Right: Create memorable spaces.
Join Us As We Build Our Future

The campus master plan charts the next decades for Valparaiso University. The campus master plan sets the overall campus vision, which will be achieved through many component projects. The vision will be realized, incrementally and over time. The master plan describes each project, how that project must be sequenced, and an initial estimate of cost. The master plan vision informs all facility decisions, from the largest of new buildings to the smallest of landscape efforts.

It will take collaboration among the University and its many partners to achieve our strategic goals and implement this vision. The University seeks to deepen its partnership with the City of Valparaiso, our students, our alumni, and our friends.

The past growth and improvement of the campus has been supported by the generosity of the University’s dedicated students, alumni, and friends. The proposed projects are opportunities for alumni and other friends to contribute to Valparaiso University in a remarkable and lasting way.

Acknowledgments

Valparaiso University extends heartfelt thanks to all within the Valparaiso University community for their contributions and commitment to the campus master plan. Our gratitude goes out to the University’s Board of Directors, the master plan task force, students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends who helped define the future for the Valparaiso University campus.

Key individuals are listed, but many more University faculty, staff, and students and City staff and elected officials provided input and feedback throughout the planning process.

Master Plan Task Force

- Janet Brown (Co-chair)
- Bonnie Hunter (Co-chair)
- Gretchen Buggeln
- Curt Cuchowski
- Margaret Franson
- Eric Johnson
- Jon Kilpinen
- Mark LaBarbera
- Scott Oleander
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- Fred Plant
- Dean Schroeder

Board of Directors Facilities and Capital Committee

- Richard E. Beumer, Chair
- John L. Draheim
- Mark F. Hagerman
- Charles E. Niemier
- Harley W. Snyder
- Carl H. Young

The Members of the Facilities and Capital Committee provided review and direction at each critical decision point.

The following additional individuals also provided significant support:

- Mark Heckler
- Ray Austrom
- Charley Gillispe
- Gary Greiner
- Mel Pohl
- David Rowland
- Mark Schwehn

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