Williams College

Campus Plan Concepts Overview

October 2022

01 / Introduction

Williams College

The Campus Plan Framework:

- A methodology for directing change in the physical environment over time.
- Leverages a college's strategic vision to ensure campus development reinforces mission.
- Strategically positions the institution to make ongoing decisions that maximize impact, while building incrementally towards a greater and grander vision.

Rather than <u>being</u> a plan, the framework is about <u>how</u> to plan.

The Campus Plan is Inclusive

The Campus Plan is Sustainable

The Campus Plan is Principle-Based

1. **Embody a collaborative mindset**

   We will ensure that the physical environment supports and contributes to the overall mission of the college through broad consultation and by integrating strategic, physical, and financial planning.

2. **Advance academic excellence**

   We will support the core educational mission by developing and maintaining facilities that enable the greatest flexibility and innovation in teaching, learning, and scholarship.

3. **Foster a comprehensive living, learning, and working environment**
   We will nurture an environment that supports the academic, creative, social, and professional needs of the entire Williams community by enabling wellness, collaboration, and growth.

4. **Cultivate a campus for all**

   We will represent and promote the values of accessibility, diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout our built environment and the decision-making processes that shape it.

5. **Recognize the college's past, place, and space**

   We will honor our sense of place through design decisions that respect the existing scale and character of the campus and its surrounding environment, and acknowledge the elements that contribute to our understanding of the college's past.

6. **Exemplify institutional stewardship**

   We will foster environmental, social, and fiscal sustainability by making the most responsible possible use of resources while promoting projects that support our core mission.

7. **Connect to the community**

   We will be attentive to opportunities for collaboration with Williamstown and the wider Berkshire region through our physical environment.

The Principles Inform a Series of Big Ideas

The Big Ideas: Williams Campus Strategies

1. **Promote Multidisciplinary Discovery in the Liberal Arts**

   Spark academic opportunity through flexible learning and collaboration spaces

2. **Reimagine Route 2 as a Cultural Corridor**

   Amplify the visibility and connectivity of arts, culture, and institutional identity on Route 2

3. **Strengthen North-South Connections**

   Create a civic spine linking the north and south campus

4. **Create a Campus Loop**

   Introduce new accessible routes to better link campus precincts

5. **Establish a Mixed-Use Wellness District**

   Highlight the role of integrated wellness as a campus cornerstone

6. **Foster a Cohesive Dining Network**

   Adapt facilities and operations to meet contemporary dining needs

7. **Enhance the Residential Experience**

   Foster a balanced student life through spaces that build community

8. **Preserve a Pastoral Landscape within a Compact Campus**

   Maintain iconic open spaces and views through efficient and responsible land use

9. **Embrace the Broader Campus Community**

   Foster new opportunities for integration with the surrounding community

Existing Campus

Opportunity Sites

Planning Framework

Objectives

- Develop an **integrated** framework
- Provide an organizational structure for future development
- Improve connectivity through systematic enhancements to the network of circulation routes and open spaces on campus
- Target public realm investments along major corridors

02 / Concept Development

Williams College

Big Idea 1: Promote Multidisciplinary Discovery in the Liberal Arts

Spark academic opportunity through flexible learning and collaboration spaces

1. Academic Life

Big Idea 2: Reimagine Route 2 as a Cultural Corridor

Amplify the visibility and connectivity of arts, culture, and institutional identity on Route 2

2. Route 2

Big Idea 3: Strengthen North-South Connections

Create a civic spine linking the north and south campus

3. Campus Spine

Big Idea 4: Create a Campus Loop

Introduce new accessible routes to better link campus precincts

4. Campus Loop

Big Idea 5: Preserve a Pastoral Landscape within a Compact Campus

Maintain iconic open spaces and views through efficient and responsible land use

5. Campus Landscape

Big Idea 6: Establish a Mixed-Use Wellness District

Highlight the role of integrated wellness as a campus cornerstone

6. Health & Wellness

Big Idea 7: Foster a Cohesive Dining Network

7. Dining

Adapt facilities and operations to meet contemporary dining needs

Big Idea 8: Enhance the Residential Experience

Foster a balanced student life through spaces that build community

8. Res Life

Big Idea 9: Embrace the Broader Campus Community

Foster new opportunities for integration with the surrounding community

9. Town & Gown

03 / Potential Projects

Williams College

Recent Academic Investments

2019 Center for Development Economics

17,000sf (Fellows Hall)
17,500sf (Saint Anthony Hall)

2008 Hollander Hall

58,000 sf

2015 Zilkha Center for Environmental Studies

9,500sf

2008 Schapiro Hall

42,000 sf

2014 Sawyer Library

176,000sf

2021 Wachenheim Science Center

Mathematics and statistics, psychology geosciences
105,000sf

2018 Hopper Science Center

Biology, Chemistry, Physics
175,000sf

Prior to the commencement of the Campus Plan, Williams had already made a number of investments in academic facilities over the last 15 years.

Dining Network: Existing

What We've Heard:

- Paresky's location is an asset but it was not originally designed to serve as the primary dining hall
- Driscoll is undersized and outdated
- Mission is remote; distance from academic core a challenge for lunch; dinner activity is relatively low.
- Need more venues for faculty and student meetings and collaboration

Dining Network: Proposed

Academic Life | Dining | Campus Spine | Campus Loop | Health & Wellness | Campus Landscape

New Museum Site

Potential site for café

Mission

Potential site for café, snack bar

Faculty House

Faculty and student gathering

Paresky

All-you-care-to eat; market, snack bar

Sawyer Library

Potential site for café

Science Center Eco Cafe

Existing Cafe

Goodrich Hall

Existing student-run Cafe

New Dining Hall

All-you-care-to-eat

Legend

- Proposed dining hall
- Local retail dining

What We've Heard: Paresky

- Additional food preparation, storage, and refrigeration space needed in Paresky kitchen

- Lee Snack Bar experiences high volume; no back of house or storage space nearby

- Insufficient seating and queuing capacity to accommodate the high volume of students dining at Whitman's

Paresky: Existing

Programming Key

- Floors 1 & 2: See figure at right
- Basement: Main Kitchen, '82 Grill, Fresh N Go, Auditorium

Paresky: Proposed

Kitchen
New addition

Dining
Whitman's Dining hall with increased capacity; relocate existing offices

Floor 2

Grab and Go
Facing Chapin Lawn

Lounge
Baxter Hall

Dining
Lee Snack Bar
New Food Market

Ground Floor

Programming Key

- Floors 1 & 2: See figure at right
- Basement: Expanded main kitchen

Paresky: Precedents

Dining

- Providing outdoor views

Dining

- Double floor connection

Retail Market

Grab and Go

- Facing Chapin Lawn

Paresky: Proposed Whitman's on the Upper floor

Existing offices currently on Paresky second floor will be located to an alternative central space on campus.

Existing interior view

Paresky: Proposed Addition on Park Street

Existing view southeast

New Dining Hall

Programming Key

- Ground Floor & Floor -1: See figure at right
- Floor -2: Study Spaces
- Floor -3: Entrance On Health and Wellness Quad

New Dining Hall: Precedents

Key opportunities:

- More transparency
- Indoor-outdoor connectivity
- Universal design
- Flexible space

New Dining Hall from the Health and Wellness Plaza

Existing view north to Prospect Hall

New Dining Hall from the Health and Wellness Plaza

Existing view north to Prospect Hall

New Dining Hall from the Berkshire Quad

Existing view of Prospect Hall from Berkshire Quad

Health and Wellness: Existing

What We've Heard:

- The Pond House lacks adequate space to support growth; its location away from the campus core is inconvenient, and its services would benefit from co-locating with medical services
- Thompson Health Center is too far away from the campus core
- Lasell Gymnasium's historic structure is inefficient for hosting athletic and recreational programming
- Pond House and Thompson are good candidates to be backfilled with faculty offices

Health and Wellness: Proposed

Cultural Corridor | Campus Spine | Health & Wellness | Town & Gown

Featured projects align with several big ideas

Health and Wellness District: Public Realm

Health and Wellness District: Programmatic Elements

Floor 2

Other Health and Wellness program
Migrated from Lasell

Fitness
Migrated from Lasell

Ground Floor

Locker Rooms

Track and Field
NCAA right sized

Parking
Parking underneath the track with access from Meacham St

Floor -1

Ice Rink
Multi-Purpose function

Health and Wellness View: Latham Street

Existing view west toward Spring Street

Student Housing: Existing

What We've Heard:

- Need to address ADA issues, such as in Dodd House
- Older houses are inefficient and difficult to renovate as student housing facilities but could serve other functions, such as office use
- Desire to achieve better balance and distribution among housing districts

Student Housing: Proposed

Foster balanced student life through spaces that build community while supporting individuals' unique needs

Dodd Circle: Existing

What We've Heard:

- Dodd House not ADA compliant; requires renovation
- Parsons and Hubbell inefficient as res halls and lack contribution to campus fabric
- Dodd Annex not a long-term asset
- Sewall, Goodrich inefficient as res halls but offer reuse potential due to proximity to academic core.

Dodd Circle: Proposed

Campus Spine | Campus Loop | Health & Wellness | Res Life | Campus Landscape

Repurpose existing small houses to provide needed faculty offices. Create two new residence halls of similar size and scale to a renovated Dodd House.

Total future beds is equal to the number of existing beds

Dodd Circle: Proposed Public Realm

Dodd Circle: Precedents

Recent campus projects serve as precedents for architectural scale and character of new residence halls

Garfield House

Horn Hall

Williams Inn

Dodd Circle: New Residence Halls

Existing view looking south towards Parsons and Hubbell Houses

Dodd Circle: New Residence Halls

Existing view looking south towards Parsons and Hubbell Houses

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