Opportunities

The following diagrams illustrate strong opportunities for future improvement both the East and West Sides of UIC. These opportunities may begin to solve the major issues with the campus previously described in this report.
While the East and West Sides of campus are fundamentally different in their historic origin and evolution, the emerging opportunity is to reinforce the cores: focus investment in exterior spaces at the center(s) of each side of campus. This may involve the removal of pavements, site walls or even select buildings to reconstitute a campus fabric of buildings, landscape and circulation patterns.

Reinforce the Landscape Core

**LEGEND:**
- **CONTRIBUTING BUILDING TO LANDSCAPE CORE**
- **LANDSCAPE CORE**
- **REINFORCEMENT AREA**
On the West Side, the core landscape is primarily streetscape for visitors and courtyards for staff (Fig. 60). Bolstering the streetscape along Taylor Street would enliven the entrance to the Medical Center and create a more welcoming environment for patients.

The Quad, on the East Side, is perceived as the ‘center’ of East Side campus activity, however the broad expanse of pavement and the seating configuration have attracted a number of criticisms (Fig. 61). It has been described as not being a comfortable destination. It does not encourage one to linger but only to pass through.

The connective fabric of pedestrian pavements currently passes across under-utilized landscape that may be reconfigured as destination landscape for gathering, lingering and programming.
Connect the Dots

**LEGEND:**
- DESTINATION BUILDING
- CTA STOP, GATEWAY, CAMPUS CENTERS
- POSSIBLE CONNECTIONS
There are key places on campus (dots) that are seen as destinations, such as the Outpatient Care Center and the Peoria exit from the CTA UIC/Halsted station. These destinations are the current generators of activity on campus. As the Master Plan moves forward, it will be important to connect these dots or activity centers and build upon the existing energy to create a vibrant and long lasting UIC campus identity.
Potential Development Opportunities

**LEGEND:**
- Blue: Mixed-use development study site (under evaluation)
- Green: Additional mixed-use infill study site (recommended by Master Plan Consultant Team)
Under separate contract by UIC, U.S. Equities will provide a real estate analysis of the development “attractiveness” of the highlighted sites. From this analysis, the development scenarios will be established for each site that will assist the Master Plan team in its goal to provide more mixed-use facility locations and enhance the campus “sense of place” with extended day or 24/7 amenities.
Existing Buildings & Development Opportunities

LEGEND:
- NEW BUILDINGS
- BUILDINGS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR DISPOSITION
- BUILDINGS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR DEMOLITION
- EXISTING BUILDINGS

NEW BUILDING NEEDS
1. Advanced Chemical Technology Building (142,000 sf)
NEW BUILDING NEEDS

1. Advanced Pharmaceutical Research Building  (115,000 sf)
2. New Hospital (465,000 sf) + Future Hospital (600,000 sf)
3. Illinois Ear & Eye Institute  (119,000 sf)
4. Future Ambulatory Expansion Phase 1  (99,000 sf)
5. Future Ambulatory Expansion Phase 2  (99,000 sf)
6. Pathology Center  (99,000 sf)
Sustainable Initiatives - Existing

**LEGEND:**
- **NATIVE PLANTINGS**
- **CO-GENERATOR LOCATION**
- **GEOTHERMAL FIELD**
- **LEED or SUSTAINABLY DESIGNED BUILDING**
- **URBAN GARDEN**
- **GREEN ROOF**
UIC has started the movement towards a more sustainable campus by becoming one of the inaugural signators of the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment. This commitment is to create both a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality as soon as possible and to identify two or more tangible actions to reduce greenhouse gases imminently, while the more comprehensive plan is being developed. UIC will establish a policy that all new campus construction will be built to at least the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED Silver standard or equivalent and that access to public transportation for all faculty, staff, students and visitors will be encouraged. This diagram indicates current sustainable efforts on campus. As the Master Plan moves forward, more concepts of campus sustainability will be incorporated.
As part of the commitment to achieve climate neutrality on campus and to provide for a more comfortable and inviting campus, a thorough understanding of the affects of sun and wind must be considered in relation to existing and future campus needs. This diagram shows these two aspects that should influence future campus growth. One is the prevailing wind direction: the blue arrows show the winter
prevailing winds and the red arrows show the summer prevailing winds. The other aspect is sun direction. The icon showing the optimal solar aspect shows the overall sun direction: the yellow circle illustrates the sun, which travels east to west over the course of the day in the southern sky. And at noon time the southern side of campus buildings will receive the most sun exposure.

The climate experiences of severe winter temperatures and wind creates a need for planning strategies to help mitigate extreme conditions. The solar aspect will be important for the optimal solar placement of buildings and campus landscapes. Wind tunnels are the most extreme in the west-east “corridors” created by the location of buildings and land forms. By considering both solar and wind patterns, new buildings and landscapes can be opportunities for creating a “winterscape” that is more hospitable to pedestrians on campus.
Campus Program Use

LEGEND:
- Yellow: Office Administration
- Red: Classrooms / Academic
- Purple: Student Services
- Blue: Research
- Green: Patient Care
- Brown: Event
- Pink: Athletic & Other
- Gray: Parking
- Teal: Residential
As mentioned in the Campus Evolution, the East Side of campus was founded on the concept of creating buildings for multiple programmatic uses rather than dedicated college space. The West Side programmatic uses, however, evolved over time, and often through opportunistic acquisitions. The current diversity in the facilities allocation is indicated by this diagram.
Open Space Issues

LEGEND:

- SERVICE PARKING
  - DISPLACED TRADITIONAL COURTYARD
  - NOISY

- SURFACE PARKING LOT
  - NO NEARBY LANDSCAPE

INCREASE ACCESS AND VISIBILITY

UPGRADE POLK STATION

UNREALIZED AXIS & ACCESS

- PREDOMINANTLY PARKING AT ASHLAND & TAYLOR
- NOT AN ADEQUATE GATEWAY

- PREDOMINANTLY PAVED PEDESTRIAN CONCOURSE
- NOISY
- FEW ENTRANCES
- NEEDS UPGRADE

- RESIDUAL SPACE
- VISIBILITY INTO / FROM QUAD TRUNCATED
- SITE WALLS RESTRICT ACCESS

- SPRAWLING SURFACE PARKING

- PLANNED BUILDING
- CONFLICTS WITH SOFTBALL FIELD
- CURRENTLY UNDER UTILIZED AS PARKING LOT

- REALIZED AXIS & ACCESS

- SERVICE PARKING
  - DISPLACED TRADITIONAL COURTYARD
  - NOISY

- ISOLATED PEDESTRIAN LANDSCAPE WITH REDUNDANT SERVICE DRIVE
- WEARING, NOISY COURTYARD
- VEHICULAR FOCUSED STREETSCAPE
- SOME BUILDINGS FRONT ONTO THE STREET WHERE OTHERS DO NOT

- EXISTING CONDITIONS

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Both Sides of campus have ground plane issues that impact visual perceptions of, and physical access to, the campus. Surface parking, vehicular dominance, excessive pedestrian pavement, and building opacity are a few of the general issues. These directly affect both the daily rituals of occupying the campus and the long term assessments of what it feels like to be a part of the UIC community.
Open Space Opportunities

**LEGEND:**
- POTENTIAL RECONFIGURED OPEN SPACE
- POTENTIAL BUILDING LOCATIONS

**WEST SIDE COURTYARDS**
These courtyards need to be updated and adjusted to clarify pedestrian paving routes. It is important to improve image without removing service.

**TAYLOR STREET CORRIDOR**
This is an important thoroughfare for the west side and should be re-conceived as a unified iconic corridor. It should emphasize the pedestrian scale and access.

**DAMEN AVE FRONTAGE**
Formalize this open space to be an iconic threshold along Damen. Simplify pedestrian/cyclist access to encourage a variety of programs.

**MORGAN CUL-DE-SAC**
Adjust paving and vehicular access to improve neighborhood/campus connections.

**ASHLAND & TAYLOR**
Design entrance landscape that adds or updates buildings to incorporate their landscapes with streetscape. Current parking and landscapes can be reconfigured to improve access and identity of the medical campus.

**ROOSEVELT & HALSTED**
Design entrance gateway and adapt paving to suit pedestrian use. There are opportunities for rethinking buildings along both Halsted and Roosevelt.

**OVERHAUL POLK STREET STATION AS CAMPUS GATEWAY.**

**EDIT PAVING & UPDATE FURNITURE, FUTURE BUILDINGS COULD ENCLOSE THE SPACE AND REMOVE SURFACE PARKING FROM THE HEART OF CAMPUS.**

**POSSIBLY CLOSE WOLCOTT BETWEEN TAYLOR & POLK.**

**ADD SMALL PEDESTRIAN COURTYARD AND/OR BUILDING.**

**REFURBISH AS GATEWAY OR GREEN WINDOW.**

**CLOSE MARSHFIELD BETWEEN TAYLOR & POLK TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.**

**EXTENDING THE MBRB LANDSCAPE WEST TO PAULINA STREET CHANGES THE AXIS EMPHASIS AND IMPROVES PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS ACROSS CAMPUS. FUTURE BUILDINGS CAN ENCLOSE AND ENGAGE THE SPACE.**

**ENFORCE DIRECT ACCESS TO THE QUAD THROUGH ADAPTING PAVEMENTS AND SEATING.**

**OVERHAUL POLK STREET STATION AS CAMPUS GATEWAY.**

**EDIT PAVING & UPDATE FURNITURE. FUTURE BUILDINGS COULD ENCLOSE THE SPACE AND REMOVE SURFACE PARKING FROM THE HEART OF CAMPUS.**

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**ENFORCE DIRECT ACCESS TO THE QUAD THROUGH ADAPTING PAVEMENTS AND SEATING.**

**OVERHAUL POLK STREET STATION AS CAMPUS GATEWAY.**
At UIC, both Sides of campus have open space issues that impact visual perceptions of and physical access to the campus. Some of these issues are: surface parking, vehicular dominance, excessive pedestrian pavement and building opacity. These directly affect both the daily rituals of occupying the campus and the long term judgment of what it physically means to be a part of the UIC community. The diagram above identifies where these concerns occur on campus; identifying the problem type will lead to turning these concerns into opportunities as the campus grows. Overall, the predominant issues are the significant amount of campus open space relegated to surface parking lots and the vehicular/pedestrian conflicts that hinder campus access on both the West and East Sides and between the city and the campus. At each site, these itemized opportunities may contradict one another, as we list divergent scenarios for
UIC Shuttle Bus Studies
These studies look at ways to shorten the shuttle bus routes. The possibility of stopping at a limited number of places that connect campus centers, rather than at all building entrances, could improve usage and serve to connect the East and West Sides. Further study and options will be developed and reviewed by the Transportation Subcommittee.
Although UIC is convenient to public transportation which many of the students, faculty and staff use, the automobile remains one of the primary modes of travel for various parts and populations of campus. The Parking Analysis (located in the Appendix) reviews the current parking demand and needs, has a preliminary projection of
future parking needs for the next 20 years, and reviews the opportunities for removal and additions of parking. With projected campus growth, there could be opportunities to consolidate existing surface lot parking into existing parking structures and thus create new open green spaces. This diagram suggests many potential opportunities to provide more connective green spaces that would decrease the urban heat island effect and reduce stormwater management. Note that more opportunities could exist at event parking locations which are currently sized for maximum occupancy, which occurs infrequently. Final disposition of parking to be reviewed within the context of the overall master plan.