

Cover image: northward looking view of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Main Quad and Illini Union from the steps of Foellinger Auditorium (University Office for Facilities Planning and Programs, 2004).

# University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus Master Plan Update

March 2007

prepared by

Sasaki Associates, Inc. (Watertown, MA)

University Office for Facilities Planning and Programs

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Facilities and Services

\* planning input provided by additional stakeholders and professional services consultants participating in the campus master plan update process is credited in the corresponding sections

under the direction of

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# Forward

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has a strong campus planning heritage of providing forward-looking vision for its physical development that began at the institution's founding in 1867 and continues today. Shortly after the turn of the twentieth century, the first plan to address future campus growth needs was advanced with the intention of creating a campus core by locating proposed buildings around a large, green quadrangle. Today that space, the *Main Quad* (seen on the cover of this report), not only functions as the heart of academic instruction but also serves as an institutional icon whose form is the foundation for all campus planning efforts that followed it.

Now, shortly after the turn of the twenty-first century, this campus master plan update continues the focus on future campus growth needs. As it builds upon the historic framework of existing patterns of land use, circulation, infrastructure, and open space established in earlier planning efforts, it also provides recommendations for making wise use of limited resources relevant to the campus today and into the foreseeable future. Some issues involved in this update include traditional academic campus growth and redistribution needs but many seek to better integrate the campus with its surrounding communities. Connecting the University and its neighbors (whether through public/private development, economic development, transportation, or the landscape) not only supports institutional goals that build community partnerships but also serves to enhance the quality of life on and around campus.

As has been noted in previous planning efforts, campus master plans are the visionary development guidelines that allow administrators to make informed, coordinated, and cost-effective decisions regarding the campus' physical environment. To accommodate the potential for changing needs and/or resources during the course of plan implementation, those guidelines must also be flexible. That flexibility must always be governed such that any modifications to the campus master plan take into consideration this institution's legacy and our responsibility to steward it to a brilliant future. To provide further definition to the master plan framework, campus is currently engaged in a long-term visioning charrette that will supplement these planning efforts.

*President University of Illinois* 

Richard H. Herman Chancellor Urbana-Champaign campus

#### University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus Master Plan Update

# UIUC Master Plan Chronology

the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus Master Plan is a composite and update of plans (since 1986) reviewed and approved by the University of Illinois Board of Trustees

North Campus Master Plan, April 1986 by Sasaki Assoc., Inc. (Watertown, MA) [University Ave. to Green St., 6th St. to Linclon Ave.]

South Campus Master Plan, Sept. 1986 by Sasaki Assoc., Inc. (Watertown, MA) [Nevada St. to St. Mary's Rd., Neil St. to Linclon Ave.] \* this area is now part of the Central Campus in the current plan

Central Campus Master Plan, Oct. 1989 by Sasaki Assoc., Inc. (Watertown, MA) [Green St. to Gregory Dr., 4th St. to Linclon Ave.]

Arboretum Master Plan, July 1990 by Sasaki Assoc., Inc. (Watertown, MA) [Florida Ave. to Windsor Rd., Lincoln Ave. to Race St.]

South Farms Master Plan, Sept. 1990 by Sasaki Assoc., Inc. (Watertown, MA) [Kirby/Florida Ave. to Church St./Deers Rd., Neil St. to Philo Rd.] \* this area is now the South Campus in the current plan

Core Campus Master Plan Update, Oct. 1996 by University Office for Capital Programs (now UOFP&P) [University Ave. to St. Mary's Rd., Neil St. to Linclon Ave.]

South Campus Master Plan, June 1999 by Sasaki Assoc., Inc. (Watertown, MA) [Kirby/Florida Ave. to Airport Rd., Neil St. to Philo Rd.] \* this area was formerly known as the South Farms

Arboretum Master Plan Update, June 2001 by Sasaki Assoc., Inc. (Watertown, MA) [Florida Ave. to Windsor Rd., Lincoln Ave. to Race St.]

South Campus Master Plan Update, July 2001 by SmithGroup JJR (Chicago, IL) [St. Mary's Rd. to Windsor Rd., Neil St. to Lincoln Ave.]

Campus Master Plan Update, March 2007 by Sasaki Assoc., Inc. (Watertown, MA) et. al. [University Ave. to Airport Rd., Neil St. to Philo Rd.] \* pending University of Illinois Board of Trustees approval at the March 13, 2007 meeting in Urbana, IL

# Background

### Intent

The Campus Master Plan Update for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) is intended to provide a guide for physical development of the nearly 7,000-acre campus master plan boundaries into the foreseeable future of the next 20-25 years. This plan builds upon the framework established by previous plans dating back to 1986 with varying scopes to create a comprehensive update of the entire campus.

# Process

In January 2004, Sasaki Associates, Inc. was retained by the University of Illinois to assist in the preparation of a campus master plan update. Sasaki's role in the process was to provide planning analysis and recommendations to resolve specific questions and issues involving program and land use needs confronting the UIUC campus. Planners from Sasaki also provided review services of the other planning efforts being developed throughout campus by various stakeholders and professional services consultants in order to help the University coordinate a comprehensive update consistent with the established campus framework.

The University Office for Facilities Planning and Programs (UOFP&P), working collaboratively with UIUC Facilities and Services (F&S), coordinated the overall planning process, (re)developed and/or adapted planning schemes to integrate within the bigger plan, and provided final Campus Master Plan Update documentation for the University. The planning process completed as follows:

| January 2004Contract consultant                            |
|--|
| February 2004Meet with stakeholders to collect data        |
| March 2004Review alternative concepts/program              |
| January 2005Review draft with stakeholders                 |
| January 2005Present draft to Board of Trustees             |
| Feb. 2005 - Feb. 2007Coordinate planning & development     |
| April 2006 - Feb. 2007Review update plan with stakeholders |
| June 2006 - Feb. 2007 Finalize update documentation        |
| March 2007Present final to Board of Trustees               |

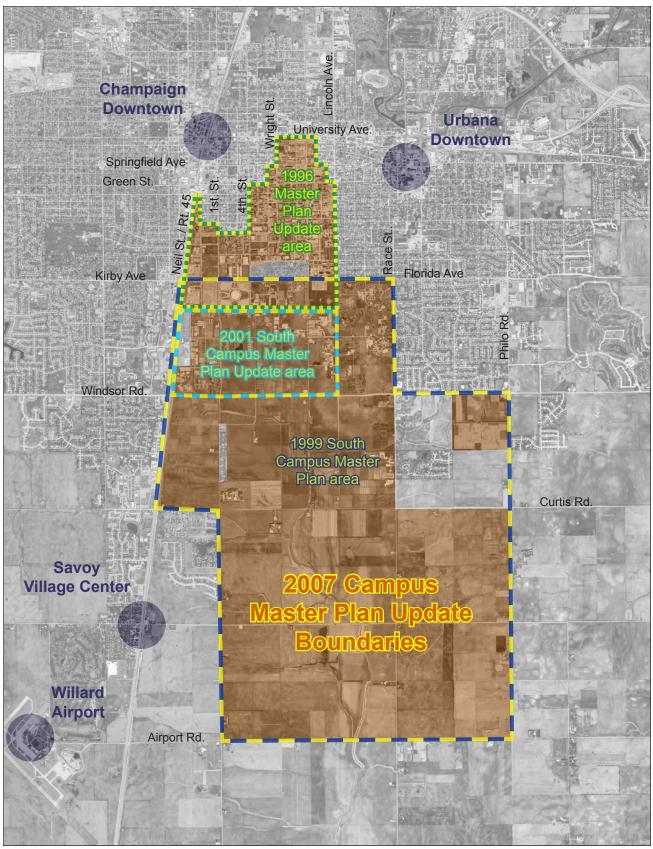


Figure 1: Campus Context and Project Boundaries Map (Surdex Aerial Photography, 2002).

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus Master Plan Update area (denoted with orange highlight) encompasses the boundaries roughly defined within Neil St. to the west, University Ave. to the north, Philo Rd. to the east, and Airport Rd. to the south. Previous campus master plan project areas are shown with color-coded overlay outlines.

# **Executive Summary**

# Purpose

The existing University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) Campus Master Plan is a composite of area plans and updates approved by the University of Illinois Board of Trustees since 1986. Of those area plans, the three most



relevant to current UIUC campus planning issues are: the *Master Plan Update* (Academic Core area of campus) in October 1996; the South Campus Master Plan (area formerly known as the South Farms) in June 1999; and the South Campus *Master Plan Update* (north of Windsor Rd.) in July 2001. Each of these plans built upon the framework and core

Figure 2: Oblique aerial view (Land Slides, 2000) of the Campus Master Plan Update project area from the northern edge of campus along University Ave. looking south to the horizon across the academic core and agricultural field research plots.

objectives established by prior plans; however, the issues that ultimately shaped each of these subsequent plans were relevant to the time when each was developed.

This update addresses the prevalent campus facility program and land use needs through minor plan adjustments...

- · Acknowledgement of recently constructed facilites
- Approved projects currently under construction
- Resolution to campus planning questions and issues that affect how program and land use are accommodated

... that resolve issues relevant to today's needs while being respectful of the basic framework and core objectives previously established. This planning effort also comprehensively combines all previous area plans into one project area inclusive of the entire campus master plan boundaries (shown on the map in Figure 1).

# **The Planning Need**

Given that projects currently either approved for or under construction technically become (through the University's Project Approval Process) a part of the current campus master plan, then the primary need for this planning effort is one of understanding pertinent program and land use questions/issues affecting the physical campus. Five different types of questions/issues dominate this effort to modify the existing University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus Master Plan:

- 1. Confirm or update program and/or land use accommodation in the following locations...
  - a. North Campus
  - b. Research Park (including State Surveys Campus)
  - c. Division of Intercollegiate Athletics Campus
  - d. Orchard Downs Redevelopment
- 2. Study the symptoms and causes of campus pedestrian and vehicular circulation conflicts via a review of Campus Area Transportation Study and determine strategies to make the campus environment safer.
- 3. Determine an appropriate location for a warehouse district or managed remote storage facility.
- 4. What is the viability of and what strategies are appropriate for integrating unmet commercial needs in the following campus and campus community locations?
  - a. North Campus Garage
  - b. Campus Town
  - c. East Campus Commercial Area
  - d. Research Park
  - e. Orchard Downs
- 5. Inventory the current landscape structure and determine strategies that enrich campus open spaces and provide more sustainable grounds management.

Additional planning updates and opportunities that emerged during the campus planning effort are also incorporated in this report.

# **Planning Objectives**

The following planning objectives descibe the intent of the Campus Master Plan Update:

- Provide planning analyses and recommendations to resolve identified questions and issues involving how program and land use needs are accommodated
- Coordinate the planning efforts being developed throughout campus by various stakeholders and professional services consultants into one cogent Campus Master Plan Update

**Executive Summary** 

# **Summary of Recommendations**

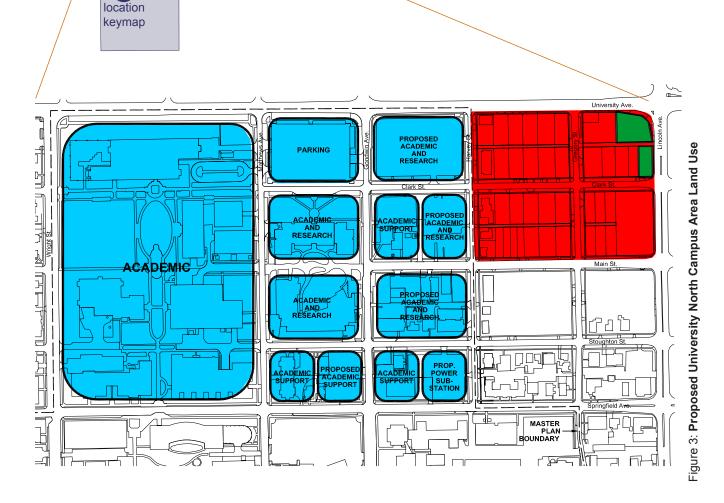
The following summary of Campus Master Plan Update recommendations define the basic proposals for the plan. Adjacent to each set of recommendations is a "location keymap"graphic to illustrate where each of the proposal(s) is in context of the rest of campus. A composite illustrative of the entire Campus Master Plan Update follows this recommendations section.

#### A. North Campus Land Use (Sasaki Associates, Inc.)

Continue to reserve the land between Goodwin Ave. and Harvey St. for future University academic facilities.

The University should support commercial development east of Harvey St. to renew and stabilize the area.

If the University sells the corner parcels at University Ave. and Lincoln Ave., restrictions should be established to control use, height, setbacks, and parking locations.



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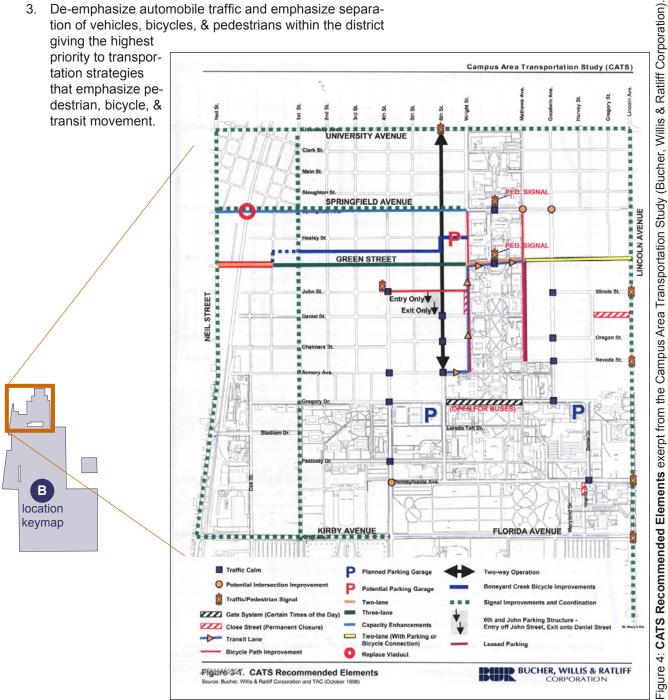
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Executive Summary

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#### B. Campus Area Transportation (Sasaki Associates, Inc.)

- 1. Adopt, as part of the Campus Master Plan, the principles set forth in the 1999 Campus Area Transportation Study.
- Establish a University District in which uniform transpor-2. tation policy and design standards will apply.
- 3. De-emphasize automobile traffic and emphasize separation of vehicles, bicycles, & pedestrians within the district giving the highest priority to transportation strategies



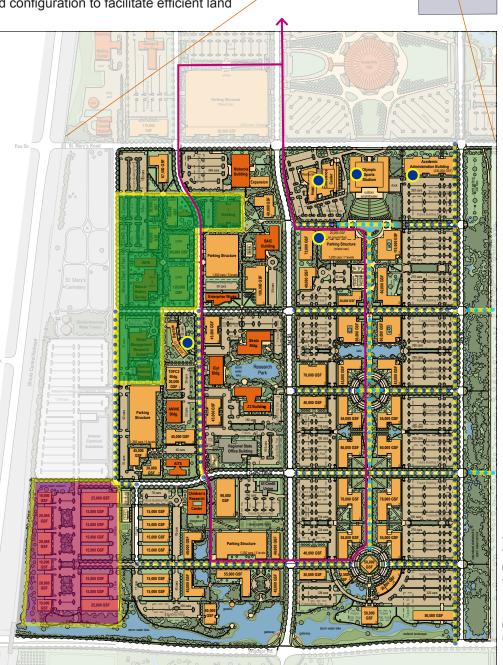
- C. Research Park Update (University of Illinois with input from Sasaki Associates, Inc. - based on the "A Vision for Growth" Research Park master plan developed by Cannon Design and Fox/Atkins Development, LLC)
  - Designate land within the Research Park for a State Surveys Campus.
  - Relocate the entire Illinois Fire Service Institute operations from its current location in the Research Park to a remote South Campus location (see issue "k").
  - (3.) Adopt a street grid configuration to facilitate efficient land use, compact

infrastructure development, the ability to economically increase the density of the research park over time, and to create a stronger connection among the Research Park facilities.

Mixed uses (including hotel/conference facilities. childcare facility, retail, athletic facilities, and possible administrative office functions) should be developed within the Research Park.

5. Accommodate the potential for a Research Park / Main Campus connection via a fixed guideway 'tram' route.

6. Maintain plan flexibility for long-term building and roadway infill capabilities.



**Executive Summary** 

location

keymap

С



Figure 6: Athletics Areas.

**Executive Summary** 

- E. Orchard Downs Redevelopment (planning in-progress)
  - 1. Campus is working with land developer teams to interact with the community and generate plans on how to best develop the property.



#### F. Campus Storage Facility (Sasaki Associates, Inc.)

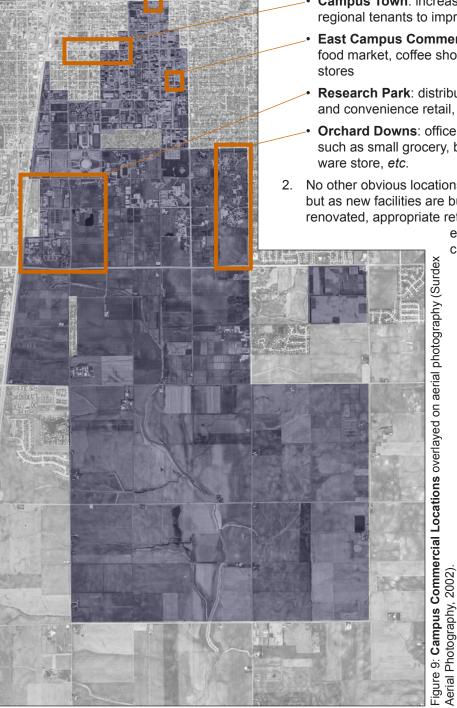
- Develop a managed, remote storage facility that would eliminate off-campus storage space leases, eliminate on-campus "out buildings," and free-up current storage areas in existing Main Campus buildings to become classrooms and/or offices.
- Colocate a remote storage facility with the relocated Illinois Fire Service Institute at the corner of Race St. and Old Church Rd. to minimize the short-term potential for relocation, decrease infrastructure costs, and increase site security.



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- G. Campus Commercial Areas (Jones Lang LaSalle IP, Inc.)
  - 1. Commercial Uses should be encouraged in all five study locations to better serve the immediate University community and the larger Champaign-Urbana market area. Appropriate strategies for study areas include:
    - North Campus Garage: coffee shop, market and deli, UPS store, specialty bookstore
    - Campus Town: increase the number of national and regional tenants to improve variety and quality
    - East Campus Commercial Area: restaurant, deli, food market, coffee shop, art supply, novelty, jewelry stores
    - Research Park: distributed dining, personal services, and convenience retail, as well as, destination dining
    - Orchard Downs: office space and neighborhood retail such as small grocery, barber shop, restaurants, hardware store, etc.
  - No other obvious locations were identified in the study but as new facilities are built and existing facilities are renovated, appropriate retail opportunities should be

explored to enhance the campus experience.

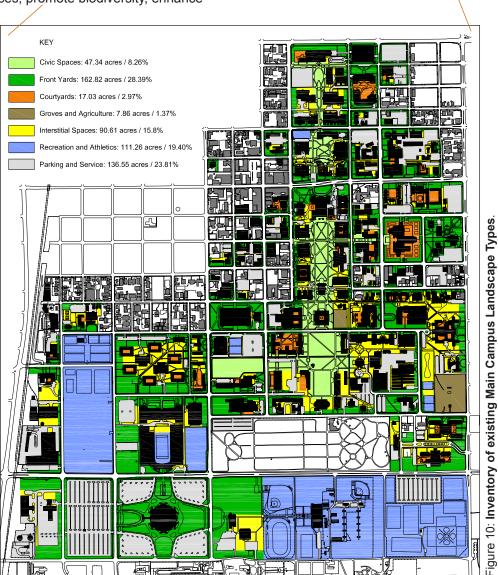


#### H. Open Spaces Enhancement (Sasaki Associates, Inc.)

- 1. Classify the campus landscape into types that help guide design appropriate to program, use, adjacencies, safety concerns, *etc*.
- 2. Maintain the historic spaces consistent with their original design principles but utilize sustainable design practices in those spaces to the extent possible without compromising the space's integrity (for instance, as trees naturally die in the Main Quad, they will be replaced with a longer-lived, native tree species).
- Advance sustainable landscape design practices throughout campus in all open spaces to increase informal gathering places, promote biodiversity, enhance

habitat, demonstrate native plant communities, and improve storm water infiltration.

4. Establish a Campus Art Committee of an appropriate composition to determine the types and placements of art on campus in order to ensure that a high quality collection is acquired and that those works are well integrated into the landscape.



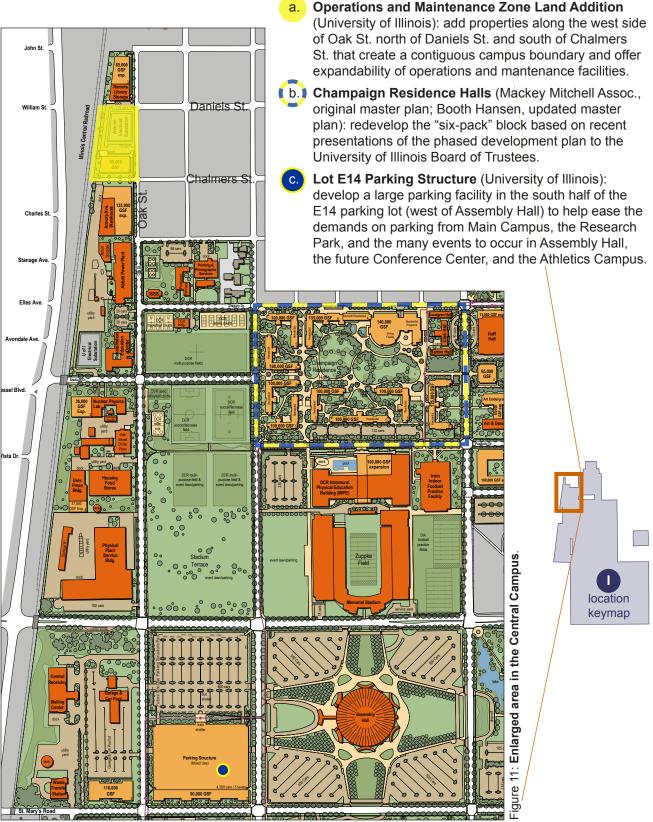
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location

keymap

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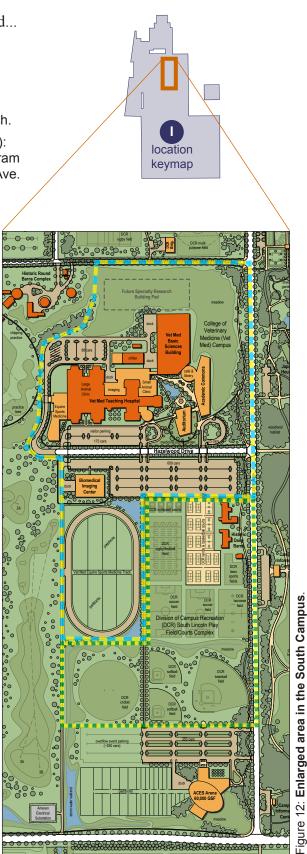
Executive Summary

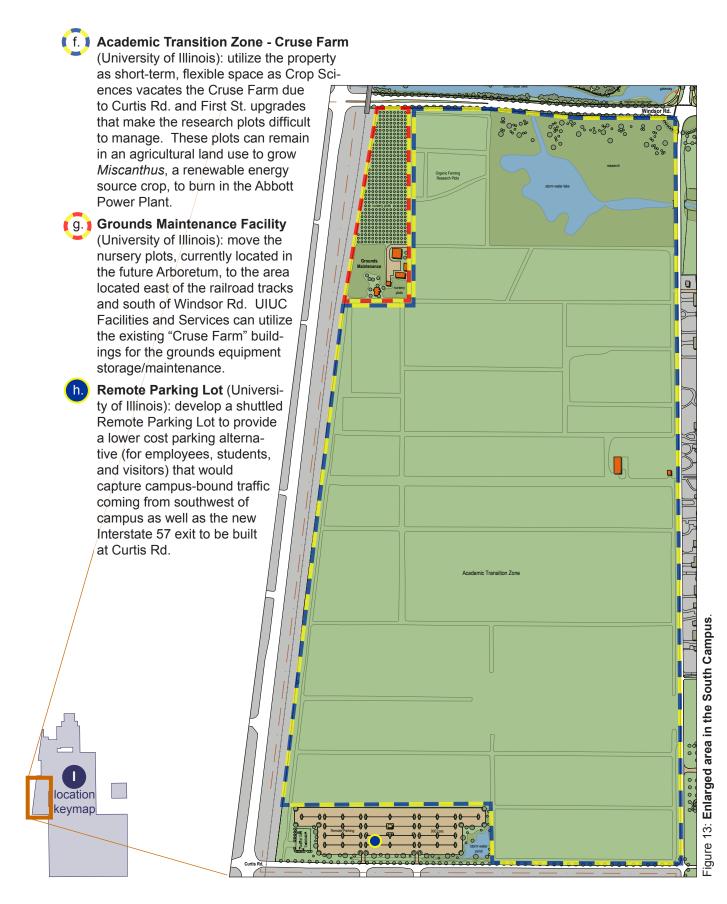


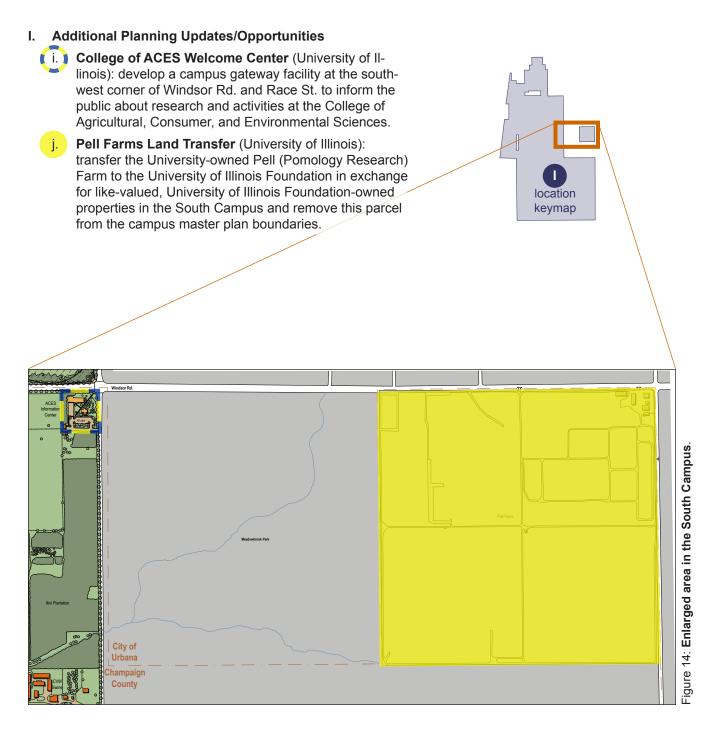
Ι. Additional Planning Updates/Opportunities

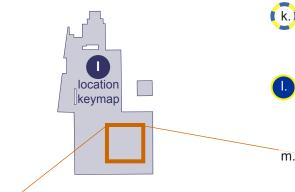
**Operations and Maintenance Zone Land Addition** 

- I. Additional Planning Updates/Opportunities
  - d.) College of Veterinary Medicine Campus (CUH2A): expand facilities as shown to accommodate Vet Med program growth and easier access for public outreach.
  - Campus Recreation Facilities (University of Illinois): relocate playfields and courts, lost to academic program infill over the years, south of Vet Med along Lincoln Ave.









(k.) Illinois Fire Service Institute (University of Illinois): relocate out of the Research Park all facilities (training, classroom, office, library, *etc.*) to the southwest corner of Race St. and Old Church Rd. in the South Campus.

**Wind Turbines** (University of Illinois): build three wind turbines, in the block north of Old Church Rd. and east of Race St., that connect to the University utility grid and provide electricity from this renwable energy source.

m. **Design Guidelines Update** (University of Illinois): edit the design guidelines in order to align the language with the intent of the Campus Master Plan Update.

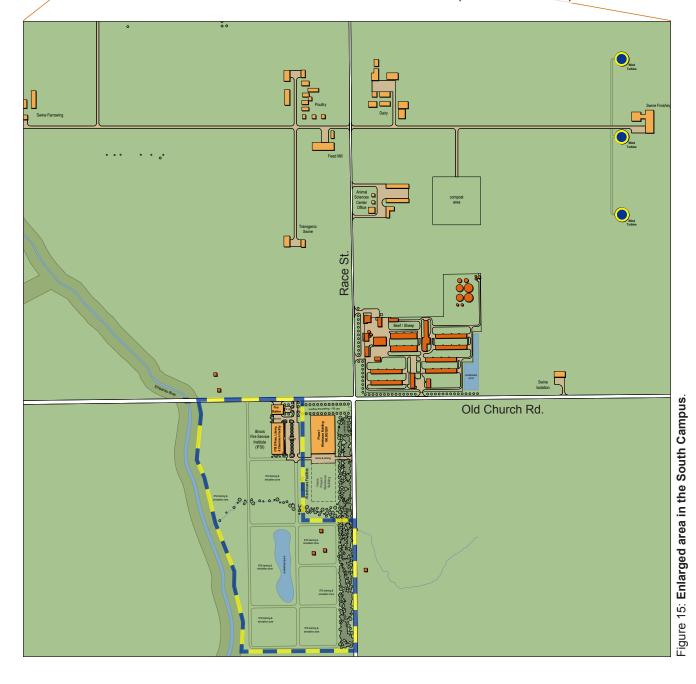




Figure 16: Campus Master Plan Update illustrative plan.



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