UNIVERSITY VISION

Master Plan Goals & Objectives

Goal A

Promote Boise State University as an Urban University and a Good Neighbor

Objectives

1. Encourage on-campus residential and cultural uses that expand after-hours vitality.
2. Encourage commercial uses at the campus periphery which support the university and serve nearby residential uses.
3. Provide an appropriate transition of land use, scale, and density between the campus and the South Boise neighborhoods and the Capitol Boulevard and Broadway Avenue commercial areas.
4. Develop compatible campus uses and careful design adjacent to existing neighborhood housing. Large surface parking lots are neither a good transition nor a good neighbor.
5. Provide a positive sense of campus arrival at the intersections of Capitol Boulevard and University Drive and at Broadway Avenue and University Drive. Make the campus environment of institutional buildings, open spaces and student activities more visible from these two locations.
6. Complement efforts to revitalize Boise’s central city with the university’s long range planning and development.

Goal B

Reinforce a Pedestrian Campus Environment for Boise State University

Objectives

1. Give priority to pedestrians, cyclists and transit users over auto traffic both to and within the campus.
2. Provide a consistent, connected system of open spaces and paths as an organizing element of the campus master plan. Extend this system to new campus expansion areas, to adjacent neighborhoods and parks.
3. Provide pathways that are direct, pleasant and of adequate size for their intended use.
4. Provide frequent links to riverside walks and footbridges.
5. Provide a hierarchy of paths that forms a complete and understandable system.
6. Design lighting and signage which make pathways safe and convenient to use by day and after dark.
7. Design primary pathways to accommodate service and emergency access.
8. Discourage through traffic on University Drive.
9. Develop peripheral parking resources with direct paths to the campus heart.
10. Disperse surface parking to a series of structures and smaller, interconnected lots which can be used efficiently without dominating the campus or disrupting circulation on foot.
UNIVERSITY VISION

Master Plan Goals & Objectives

Goal C
Integrate the Boise River Greenbelt with the Boise State University Campus

Objectives
1. Treat the riverfront as a frontage, not a service access.
2. Link internal open spaces and paths to the Greenbelt.
3. Orient new buildings, building expansions and open spaces to the Greenbelt (and to other internal open spaces).
4. Reinforce a pedestrian environment along the Greenbelt.
5. Develop appropriate access to the water’s edge.
6. Limit vehicular circulation along the Greenbelt to local, campus access, special event egress and essential service and emergency traffic.
7. Capitalize on views of the river, Julia Davis Park, and the foothills.
8. Increase access between Julia Davis Park and the campus with additional footbridges over the river.

Goal D
Provide Flexibility in the Long Range Plan for Boise State University to Meet the Changing Demands for Higher Education in the 21st Century

Objectives
1. Identify potential development sites that could accommodate a variety of future uses.
2. In the design of both new and remodeled buildings, anticipate future expansions, modifications, and equipment upgrades.
3. Equip new buildings for changing technology, with generous provision of conduits and raceways.
4. Group facilities to promote interdisciplinary programs and research.
5. Build new facilities at least three stories tall to conserve future development sites.
6. Consider work-related locations off campus for professional technical training programs.
UNIVERSITY VISION

Master Plan Assumptions

The Boise State University campus has grown outwards to such an extent that the distance across campus has become too great to walk in a 10 minute class break. Increasingly, the horizontal spread of surface parking lots has compounded the separation of facilities and conflicts with the logic of a compact, convenient arrangement of facilities. This tension between parking and development sites will increase as Boise State University grows to accommodate the demands of increasing enrollment and new course and degree offerings.

As the campus has grown outward from the original core, its edges have become ill-defined, presenting a “back door” view of the university from Capitol Boulevard and other edges.

There are current space deficiencies throughout the campus in several colleges and departments. In some cases these deficiencies are serious enough to hamper the learning and research environment. Some courses and degrees cannot be offered due to a lack of available or appropriate space in suitably sized and equipped lecture halls, adequate computer labs or specialized science labs. Departments within the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs are among those scattered between several buildings, making management inefficient and costly. In other cases, space deficiencies result in inconvenience for students and faculty due to conflicting schedules and spaces.

One approach to resolving such difficulties is to build a new building for a consolidated department or college. Vacated space can then be remodeled to meet the needs of other departments.

Most buildable sites near the campus core have already been developed.
As the demand for advanced studies and research increases with Boise State University’s transition to a metropolitan research university of distinction, so the average floorspace per student will increase, as more sophisticated facilities are provided. Conversely, the advances in transmission technology for distance learning has in some cases allowed Boise State University to expand total enrollment without building new classroom space. In the long term, the university will have to accommodate both needs: more specialized buildings on campus for upper level courses and more opportunities and locations for distance learning.

At the same time, increasing demand for interdisciplinary research will necessitate new research buildings that are shared between several departments and programs.

Capital funding from the state for new facilities has to be balanced with the needs of all institutions of higher education in the State of Idaho. For Boise State University, this means continued reliance on other public or private sources for the development of new facilities. This close relationship with the private sector actually reinforces Boise State University’s mission to emphasize programs and research in engineering, applied technology, public affairs, business, arts, and health sciences.

Finally, the quality of the physical infrastructure of campus, the campus setting, must keep pace with improvements to buildings. This should be accomplished by requiring that new development projects each assume responsibility for improvements to nearby utility, pedestrian, open space, and landscape systems.

The following section, Campus Framework Analysis, evaluates the current campus in its individual component systems.