



Campus

Master Plan Update

The University of Texas at Arlington

Executive Summary

SMITHGROUP

The Maverick Way to a Bright Future

The boldest dreams need a visionary and ambitious plan if they are to be realized. This Campus Master Plan Update is just that—a strategic framework that will guide the evolution of our University’s physical spaces over the next 10 to 20 years, supporting our mission of excellence in education, research, and community engagement.

The Campus Master Plan Update aligns seamlessly with the priorities of our strategic plan, UTA 2030: Shared Dreams, Bright Future, which focuses on themes such as People and Culture, Student Success, Alumni and Community Engagement, Finance and Infrastructure, and Research and Innovation. By aligning physical development with these strategic themes, the Campus Master Plan Update reflects our commitment to creating a campus environment that inspires big ideas, fosters collaboration, enriches the Maverick experience, and enhances the University’s role as a leading institution in the region.

The development of this plan began in Fall 2023 and unfolded in phases that included seeking input from those who know UTA best—our students, faculty, staff, and alumni—extensive data analysis, and ultimately, the realization of our ideal campus.

To that end, these updates are centered on strengthening our ability to support the success of our growing student body, enhance our research capabilities, and ensure the sustainability of our campus resources. More than physical improvements; they are foundational to creating a University that is future-focused and globally competitive. As stewards of our resources, we are implementing these changes responsibly, with an emphasis on financial sustainability and operational efficiency. By prioritizing strategic investments, we are ensuring that every step forward is purposeful and supports the overarching goals of UTA 2030.

The Campus Master Plan Update represents a shared vision, and we invite you to continue sharing your insights and to join us in celebrating these milestones as they unfold. Thank you for your dedication to making UTA a beacon of opportunity, innovation, and impact.

We would also like to thank the Executive Committee, Steering Committee, and the many working groups for their time, expertise, and efforts in guiding the future of our campus, along with SmithGroup for their valued partnership.

Together, we are building a brighter future for our Maverick community and beyond.



Dr. Jennifer Cowley, Ph.D.
President

Shared Dreams, Bright Future

The University of Texas at Arlington Campus Master Plan Update defines an exciting vision for the next decade and beyond. This vision highlights a framework to guide the responsible growth and development of UTA as a nationally prominent public research university. This plan is the culmination of an 18-month process guided by input from students, alumni, faculty, staff, the City of Arlington, and community members. The Campus Master Plan Update is a series of powerful ideas to advance and support the institution's mission.

The University of Texas at Arlington is transforming Texas and the world with its premier academic programs, groundbreaking research, record enrollment, unparalleled student achievements, and renowned faculty. UTA is proud of its national excellence and continues its pioneering leadership in student success.

To sustain this impressive momentum, the Campus Master Plan Update outlines a bold vision for the next generation of Mavericks.

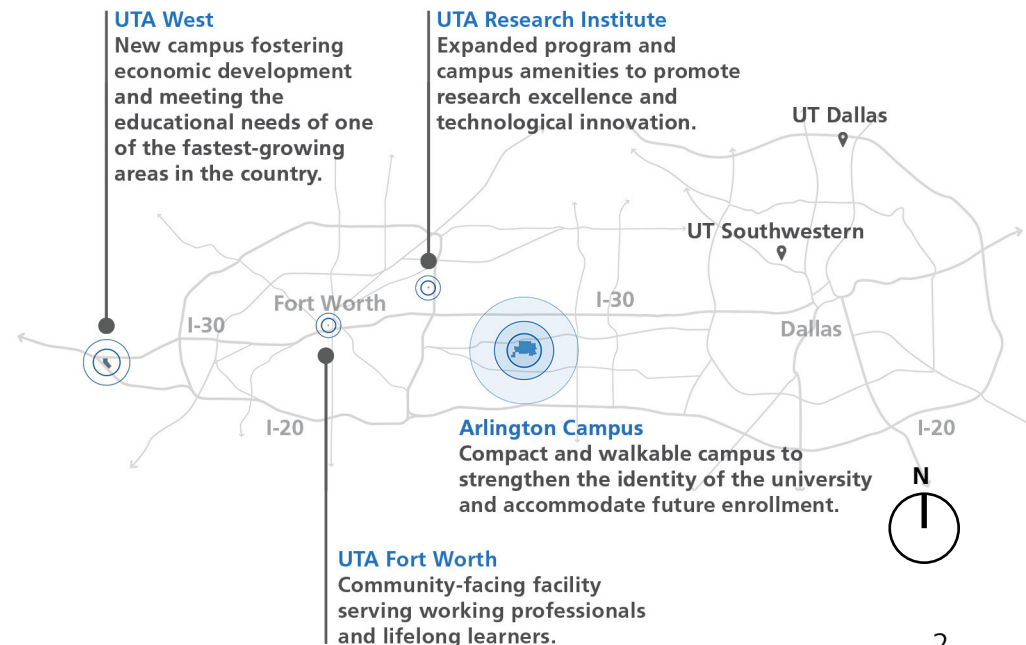
We have a unique moment to Dream Big.

The Campus Master Plan Update outlines opportunities to create innovative teaching, learning, and research spaces, strengthen our infrastructure, celebrate the unique character of North Texas, connect with our host community, and enhance the student experience.

Institutional Overview

Established in 1895, UTA has grown to offer more than 180 baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degree programs, with a student body nearing 41,000.

Located in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan region, UTA encompasses 420 acres, 100+ buildings, and more than 7M square feet of facilities. It is recognized as a Very High Research Activity institution according to the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, reflecting its commitment to research excellence. The university maintains multiple campus locations in the Metroplex including the largest and oldest footprint in Arlington, a Downtown Fort Worth Campus, The University of Texas at Arlington Research Institute (UTARI) Complex, and UTA West. The primary focus of this Campus Master Plan Update is the Arlington Campus.



Planning Drivers

The actions of today define the outcomes of tomorrow. Foundationally, UTA has identified several important planning drivers to shape the direction of the Campus Master Plan Update. Foremost among them are:

1. Providing greater academic and research capability,
2. Managing burgeoning enrollment growth,
3. Enhancing student life and the residential experience, and
4. Aligning with the Energy Efficiency Plan.

Collectively, these factors present both challenges and opportunities to UTA, including efficient land use and capacity, energy leadership, programmatic innovation, and balancing growth while simultaneously maintaining campus character.

Increased Research

UTA aspires to grow its research enterprise by improving both capacity and support infrastructure. The university is planning for \$300 million in annual expenditures and anticipates hiring additional faculty through the RISE 100 initiative by 2030. This research growth will further enhance UTA's \$29 billion annual statewide economic impact and reinforce strategic research areas of Health and the Human Condition, Sustainable Communities, Culture and Societal Transformations, Data-Driven Discovery, and Global Environmental Impact.

Enhanced Student Life

As the residential network continues to evolve, UTA will transition to a higher percentage of on-campus housing. This maturation includes increasing the bed count by 2,800, offering undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to choose a wider range of housing typologies including traditional, suites, and apartment styles. Parallel to this growth, UTA anticipates developing additional student center space, more collaboration and amenity spaces, additional indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, and enhanced student services and academic support spaces.

Responsible Growth

UTA will continue to responsibly grow student enrollment. Over the next decade, UTA anticipates adding up to 10,000 additional students. This trajectory will increase growth in both undergraduate and graduate cohorts and proportionally increase participation in each of the schools and colleges. Special emphasis will be placed on space needs related to research and teaching laboratories, classrooms, interdisciplinary and collaborative learning spaces and the student support network.

Energy Efficiency Plan Alignment

One of the most important elements of the Campus Master Plan Update is the strategic alignment with the Energy Efficiency Plan. Specific recommendations incorporate infrastructure strategies to expand chilled water service, expedite the conversion from steam to hot water, expand electrical capacity, and utilize the creek corridor for expanded stormwater management.

Strategic Plan Alignment

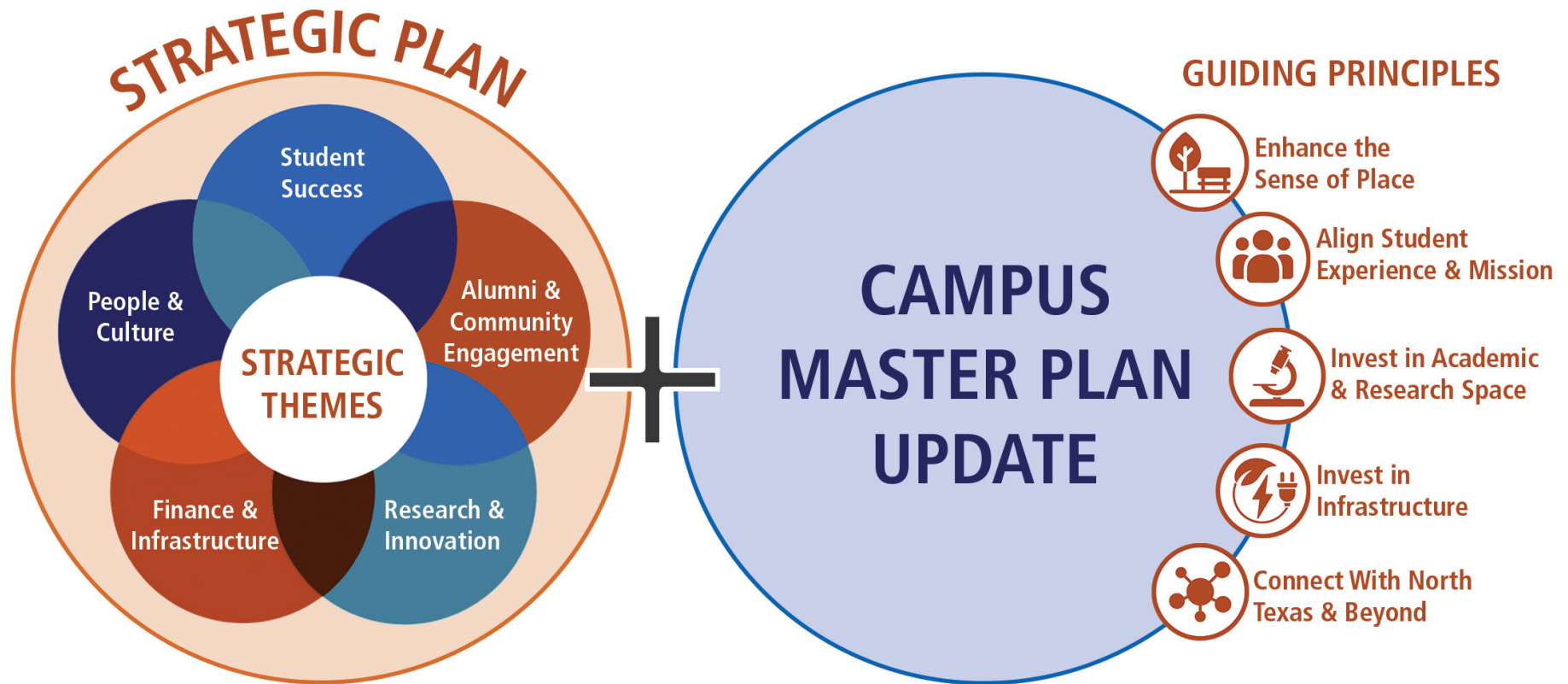
“Together we will realize our strategic plan, ensuring we accomplish big dreams together.”

UTA 2030, Shared Dreams, Bright Future

The Campus Master Plan Update translates the strategic initiatives from the UTA 2030: Shared Dreams, Bright Future vision into physical responses for the continued growth and evolution as a leading public research university. The primary goal of this document is to provide a forward-looking, flexible framework for developing and maintaining

a physical setting that supports the continued advancement of the university’s teaching, research, and public service mission dedicated to the advancement of knowledge through scholarship and creative work.

This Campus Master Plan Update continues the longstanding tradition of linking physical and strategic planning and sustains the momentum of previous capital investments. This plan leverages the progress achieved by prior and current capital improvement efforts, while pivoting toward the future—laying the groundwork for forthcoming capital campaigns.



Guiding Principles

Interpreted from the Strategic Plan, the following planning principles serve as a tangible foundation of the Campus Master Plan Update and will guide decision-making and prioritization during both project planning and implementation. These principles are the product of a transparent and consensus-driven process with input from critical stakeholders from vital communities of interest.



Enhance the Sense of Place

- Create a network of open spaces that promote a variety of activities and comfortable outdoor environments.
- Activate campus outside of daylight hours by enhancing the transparency and openness of the building facade.
- Strengthen pedestrian and micromobility networks across all of campus.
- Improve connectivity across Cooper Street, focus on Trading House Creek Corridor improvements.



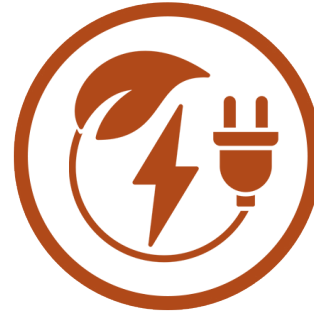
Align Student Experience & Mission

- Increase on-campus housing and dining quantities in locations that improve campus life.
- Enhance holistic wellness access across campus.
- Identify locations for more collaboration and student organization space.
- Align athletics and recreation spaces with user needs.
- Provide spaces that enhance the sense of community for all campus users.



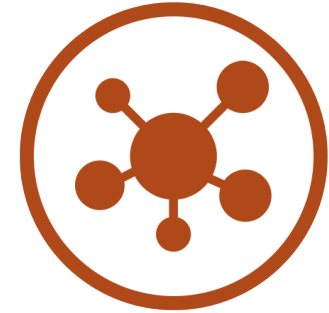
Invest in Academic & Research Space

- Improve the quality and quantity of research space across the main campus and satellite campuses.
- Transform teaching spaces into smart, flexible classrooms that support dynamic, interactive learning.
- Identify and address library needs across all colleges.
- Increase inter/multidisciplinary research, learning and collaboration spaces.



Invest in Infrastructure

- Expand utility capacity to enhance reliability and ensure continuity of campus operations.
- Upgrade energy systems to improve efficiency and support long-term campus needs.
- Prioritize renovation and modernization of existing facilities to address maintenance needs and align with the university's future growth.
- Integrate strategic design principles to enhance campus functionality and long-term efficiency.



Connect With North Texas & Beyond

- Enhance educational opportunities in the greater Dallas-Fort Worth region.
- Create physical spaces for partnership opportunities that align UTA's mission with workforce needs in the Dallas-Fort Worth region.
- Improve physical and programmatic connections with downtown Arlington.
- Create additional venues and facilities that can host public outreach and engagement events.

Planning Process

The Campus Master Plan Update was conducted in three phases over 18 months, completing in early 2025. These phases included Understand, Explore, and Realize. This was an iterative and cumulative planning process, allowing each phase to consecutively build upon the previous one. The resulting planning syntheses ensured alignment with university fiscal, spatial, and strategic goals.

Building Consensus

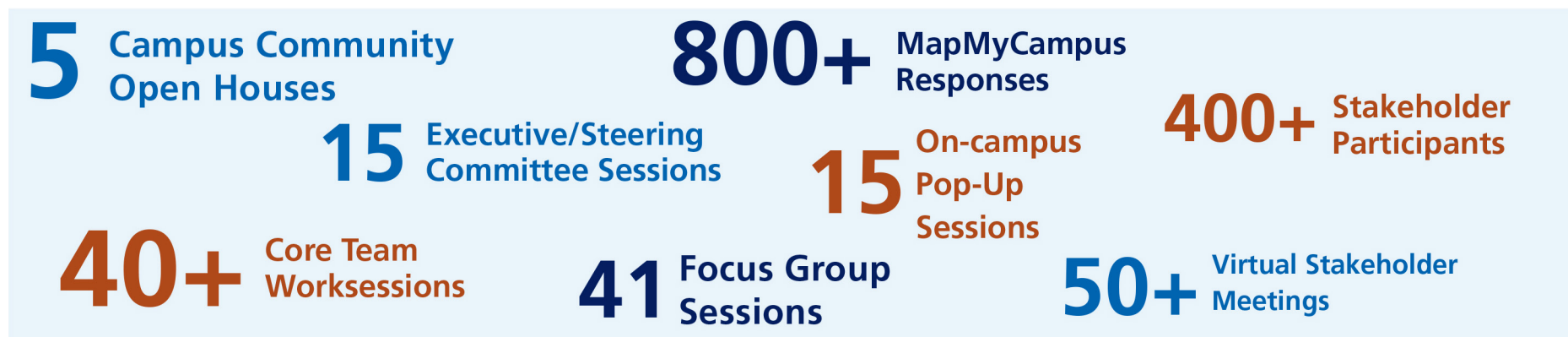
The University of Texas at Arlington intentionally established an inclusive, multi-tiered process consisting of standing committees, focus groups, open forums, and online engagement. This process involved widespread participation and garnered support from a large cross-section of the institution and the greater Arlington community. More importantly, the Campus Master Plan Update benefited from hundreds of individual voices representing, students, staff, faculty, civic leaders, and community members. As a result of this collaborative process, the Campus Master Plan Update has engendered widespread understanding and support.

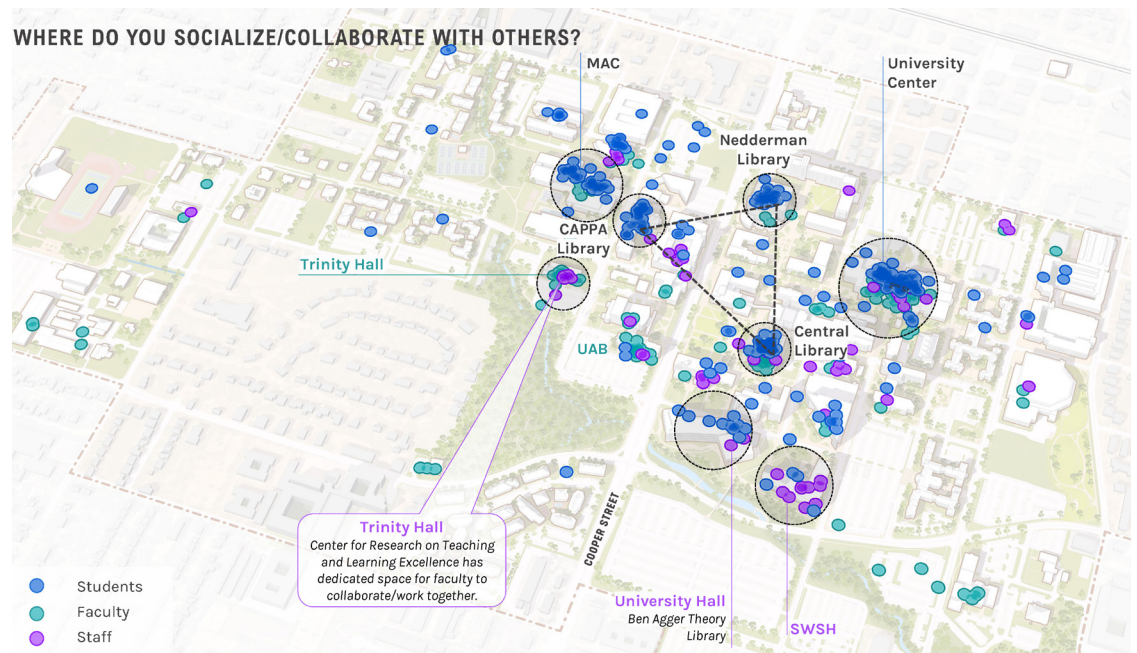
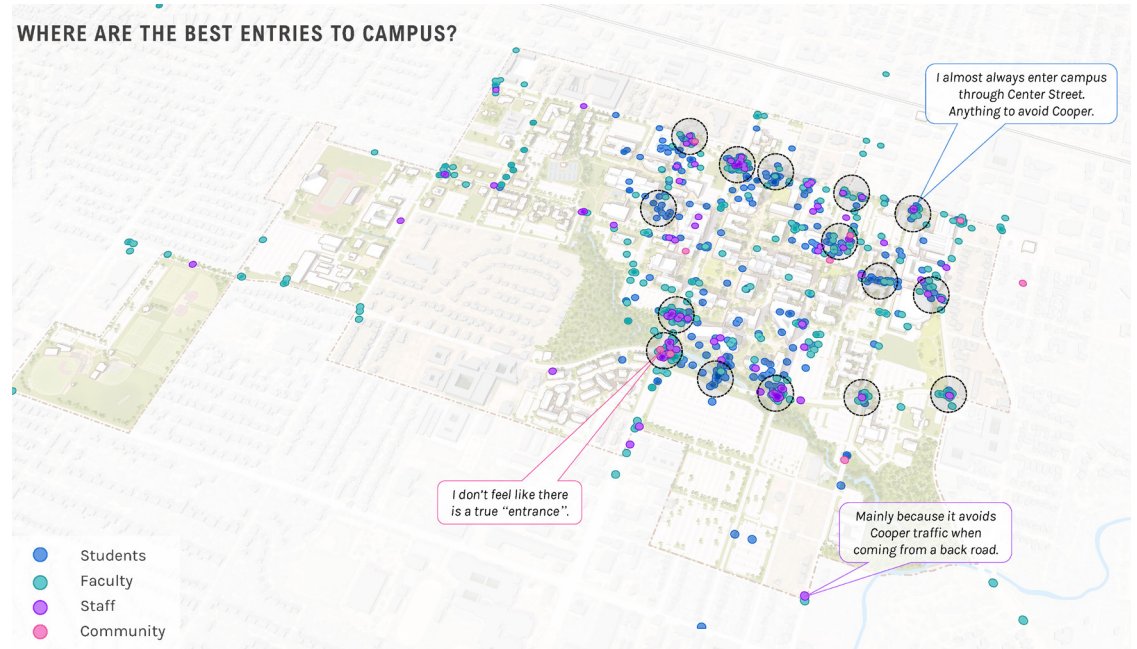
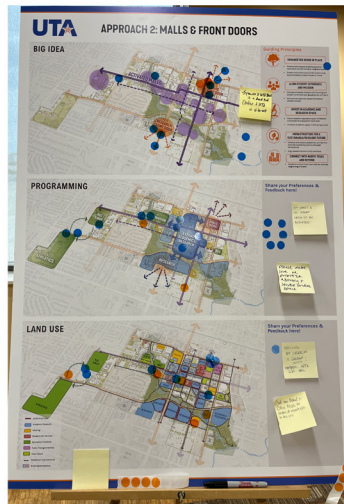
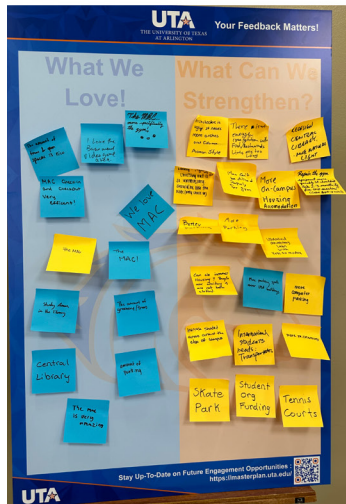
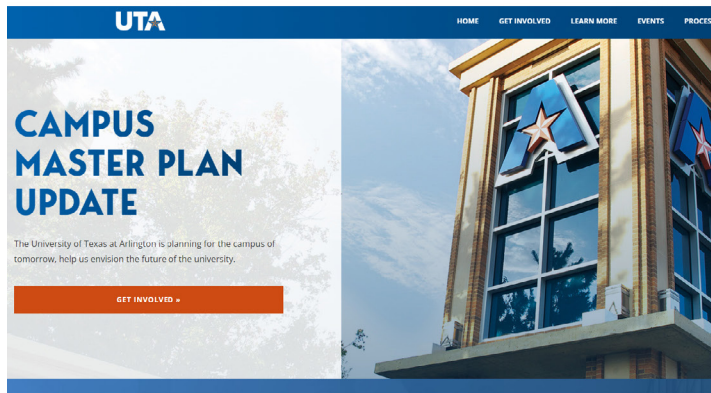
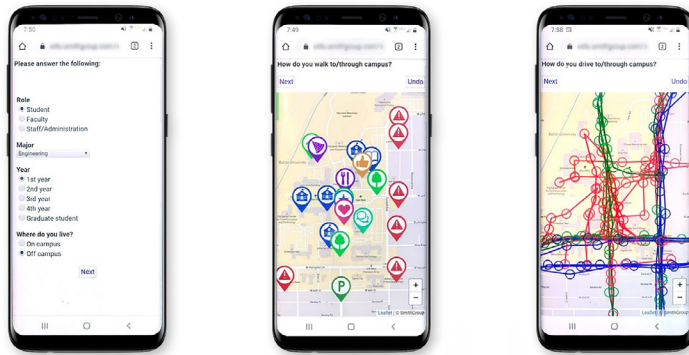
Interactive Website & Survey Tools

In addition to in-person participation, UTA developed a robust online platform to engage faculty, students, staff, alumni, and other interested stakeholders. This interactive planning website was used successfully throughout the planning horizon to expand communication, collect ideas, and provide feedback to a broad constituency. The website was particularly useful to extend conversations started during on-campus visits. This platform featured a number of robust tools including an interactive mapping tool called MapMyCampus.

The MapMyCampus tool is a custom web-based survey mapping application used to collect location-based data from UTA students, faculty, and staff. This tool allowed participants to describe “a day in their life” by highlighting individual circulation routes, rating classroom and laboratory learning environments, identifying favorite and least places on campus, and other experientially focused questions.

Collectively, this engagement platform was visited by hundreds of people, generating many useful and insightful ideas. More importantly, these tools allowed critical feedback on proposed planning ideas during each phase of the project. This data-driven approach enabled university leadership to make real-time informed decisions about campus improvements, facility management, and student life enhancements.





Campus Master Plan Update

Academics/Research

- 1 Performing Arts Center
- 2 Hotel/Conference Center & Hospitality Academic Complex
- 3 Science Hall & Earth and Environmental Sciences Building Replacement
- 4 Academic & Student Life Building
- 5 Hammond Hall Expansion
- 6 College of Business Building Renovation
- 7 Fine Arts Building Renovation
- 8 College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs Building Renovation
- 9 Academic/Research Building

Student Experience

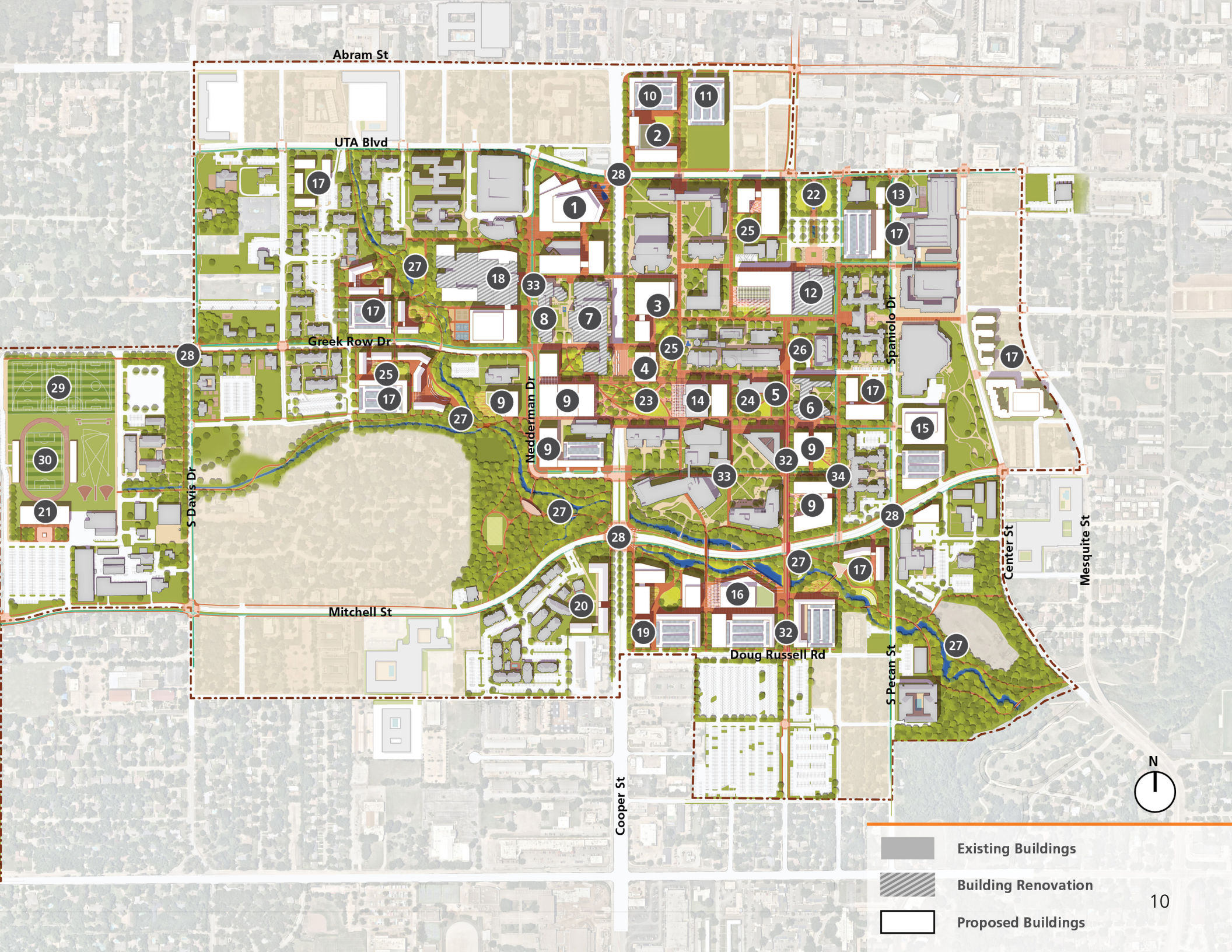
- 10 Student Services One-Stop/Welcome Center
- 11 Transit Hub
- 12 University Center Renovation & Expansion
- 13 Student Housing/Student Life Building
- 14 Library Expansion & Pavilion
- 15 Physical Education & Recreation Building
- 16 Student Life & Recreation Building
- 17 Student Housing
- 18 Maverick Activities Center Renovation & Expansion
- 19 Health Center
- 20 Centennial Courts Addition
- 21 New Athletics Building & Gateway

Sense of Place

- 22 University Center Entry Landscape
- 23 Library Mall
- 24 East Library Green Space
- 25 New Campus Green Spaces
- 26 Brazos Park Expansion & Drop-off
- 27 Creek Landscape & Greenway
- 28 Street Intersection Improvements
- 29 Multipurpose Recreation Fields
- 30 Track & Soccer Field
- 31 Tennis Courts
- 32 S West Street Conversion
- 33 Nedderman Street Pedestrianization
- 34 Oak Street Pedestrianization

*The numbers on the map do not indicate implementation sequencing.





Abram St

UTA Blvd

Greek Row Dr

Mitchell St

Doug Russell Rd

Cooper St

S Pecan St

Center St

Mesquite St

- Existing Buildings
- Building Renovation
- Proposed Buildings



Academics & Research

Reposition for Next-Generation Education

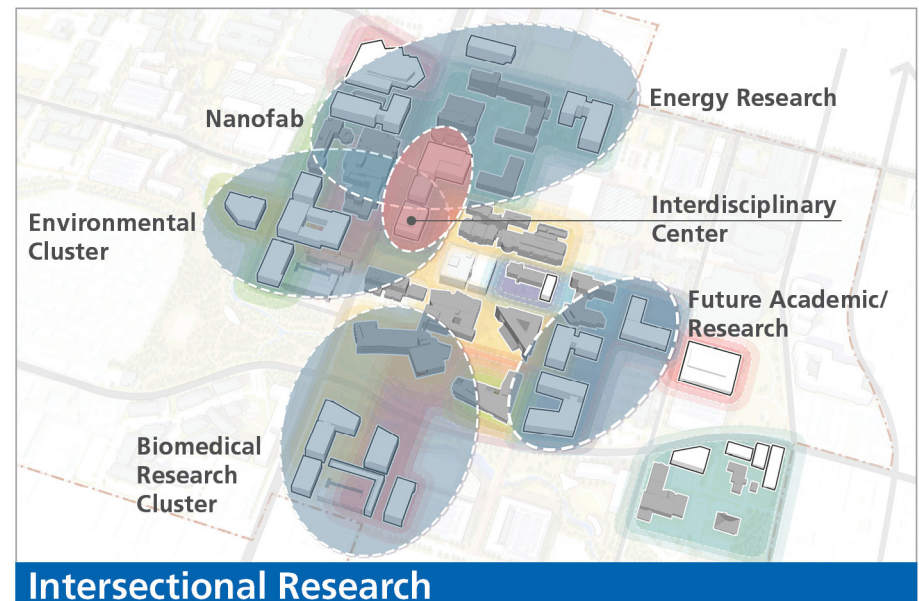
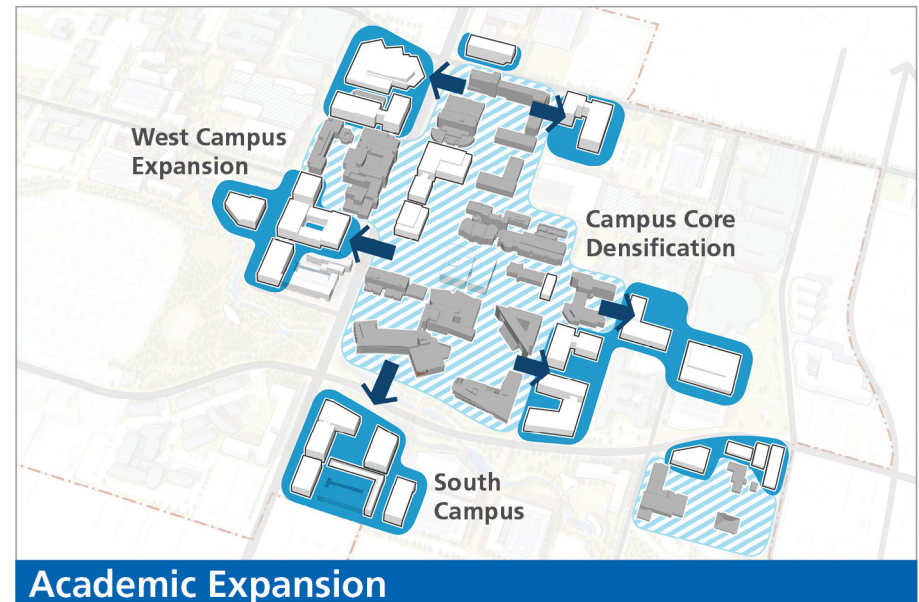
Students and their success come first at The University of Texas at Arlington. We celebrate our robust academic programs, the value of face-to-face education, research opportunities, and meaningful relationships with world-class faculty. This differentiates the UTA experience and remains at the core of our ethos. Today, UTA offers innovative degree programs throughout nine colleges, providing students a technology-rich, experiential and project-based learning environment at the intersection of arts and humanities, science and technology and engineering.

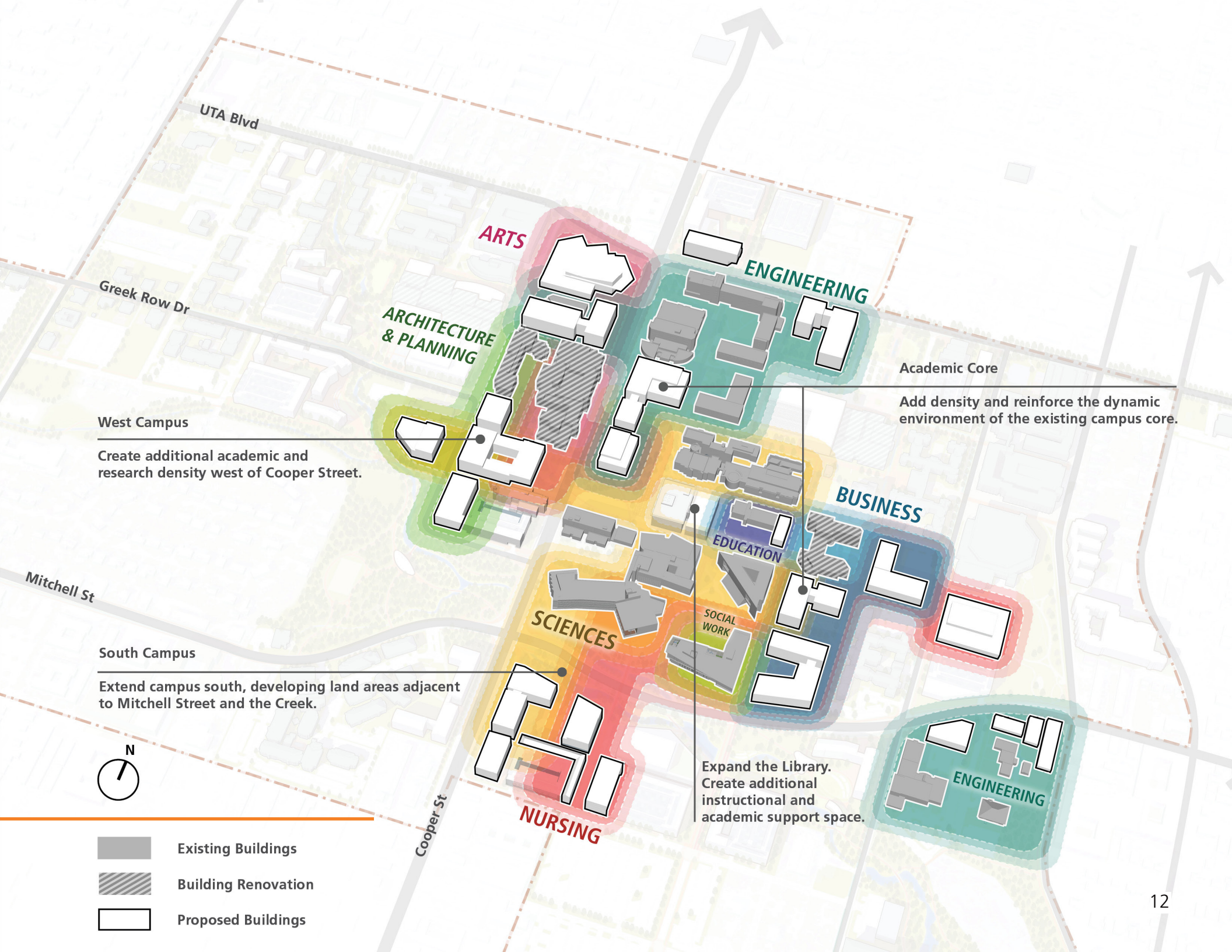
Increase Academic Capacity

Based on the strategic and enrollment plans, UTA anticipates accommodating 10,000 more students and hundreds of additional faculty and staff over the next decade. The existing campus buildings and infrastructure are currently stretched to meet the demands of this burgeoning student population. As a result of these compounded pressures, the Campus Master Plan Update recommends adding, renovating and repositioning significant quantities of space. Campus growth and expansion will require the transformation of land use patterns, use of surface parking lots, and the redevelopment of low density and/or underutilized building assets.

Promote Intersectional Research

The UTA research enterprise drives innovation and industry collaboration in Texas and beyond, significantly impacting engineering, health care, life sciences, and environmental markets. Seeking to achieve \$300 million in sponsored awards, the university is challenging how research activities are delivered—advocating for a transdisciplinary, clustered, and theme-based model that blurs physical and disciplinary boundaries.





UTA Blvd

Greek Row Dr

ARTS

ARCHITECTURE
& PLANNING

ENGINEERING

Academic Core

Add density and reinforce the dynamic environment of the existing campus core.

West Campus

Create additional academic and research density west of Cooper Street.

BUSINESS

EDUCATION

SOCIAL WORK

SCIENCES

South Campus

Extend campus south, developing land areas adjacent to Mitchell Street and the Creek.

Mitchell St




Cooper St

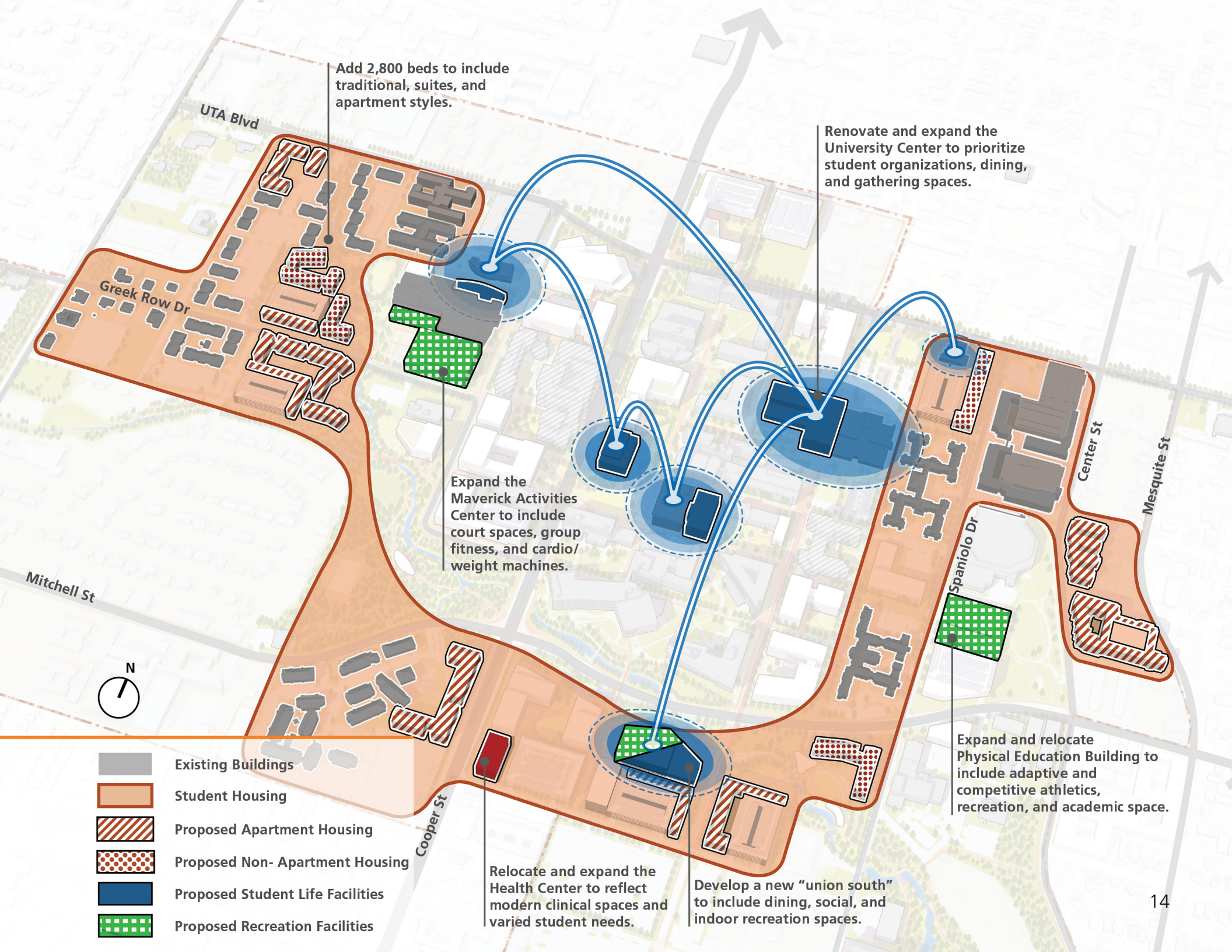
NURSING

ENGINEERING

Expand the Library.
Create additional instructional and academic support space.



-  Existing Buildings
-  Building Renovation
-  Proposed Buildings



Add 2,800 beds to include traditional, suites, and apartment styles.

Renovate and expand the University Center to prioritize student organizations, dining, and gathering spaces.

Expand the Maverick Activities Center to include court spaces, group fitness, and cardio/weight machines.

Expand and relocate Physical Education Building to include adaptive and competitive athletics, recreation, and academic space.

Relocate and expand the Health Center to reflect modern clinical spaces and varied student needs.

Develop a new "union south" to include dining, social, and indoor recreation spaces.

Existing Buildings

Student Housing

Proposed Apartment Housing

Proposed Non- Apartment Housing

Proposed Student Life Facilities

Proposed Recreation Facilities

Sense of Place

Landscape as Brand

Consider the importance of our place. North Texas, Arlington, Cross Timbers and Prairies Ecoregion, and the UTA campus have created indelible memories and unique traditions. Our brand is reflected in our environment: the campus, downtown and urban fabric, Trading House Creek, and Doug Russell Park.

As the university continues to expand, it is crucial to preserve the campus's cultural and environmental resources. Thoughtful planning and development will ensure the integration of both campus and community character and the quality of the student experience.

As an important part of the Campus Master Plan Update, we elevate several tenets to guide decision-making.

- Celebrate the Genius Loci “spirit of the place.”
- Gathering spaces and gateways matter and are vital to our purpose.
- Pedestrian mobility is a priority.
- Campus connectivity is paramount.
- Vehicular movement, parking, and service are necessary but subservient to the pedestrian experience.

Enhanced Open Spaces

The existing landscape and open spaces, such as the iconic Central Library Mall, Brazos Park, and the Green at College Park, create memorable spaces that enhance the student experience. The Campus Master Plan Update builds on this existing landscape structure, extending the character of the campus core into new and emerging districts and neighborhoods—namely south across Mitchell Street and westward across Cooper Street. Planning opportunities include new signature spaces, improved pedestrian pathways, enhanced natural landscapes, vibrant malls and new plazas. Each utilizing native landscape, amenities, and seasonal responsiveness that reflect the university's commitment to sustainability and continuity of campus experience.

Transform the Creek into a central organizing element on campus.

Develop a uniquely branded "Library Mall over Cooper" to connect east and west sides of campus. This signature open space envisions depressing Cooper Street allowing a seamless, at-grade connection linking the library to western campus expansion.

Create a reimagined library plaza with outdoor gathering spaces, and a shade structure, serving as a new campus living room.

Develop a campus gateway and "front door" at the University Center as a connection to downtown.

Extend the unique DNA of UTA's pedestrian malls: extending the scale, character, and materiality to developing portions of campus.

Develop unique, programmatically inspired plazas and quadrangles within each campus neighborhood.

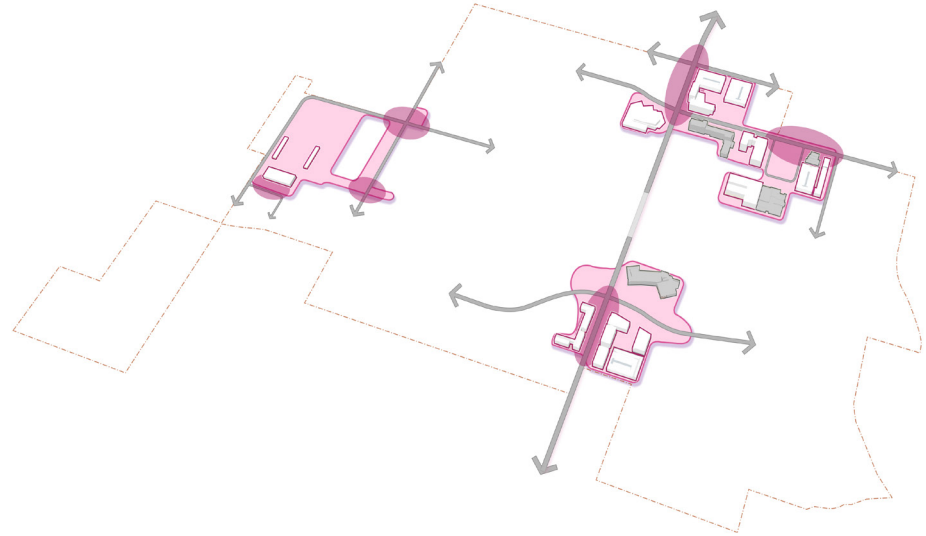
Convert South Oak and South West Streets into new pedestrian malls.



- Existing Pedestrian Malls
- Proposed Pedestrian Malls

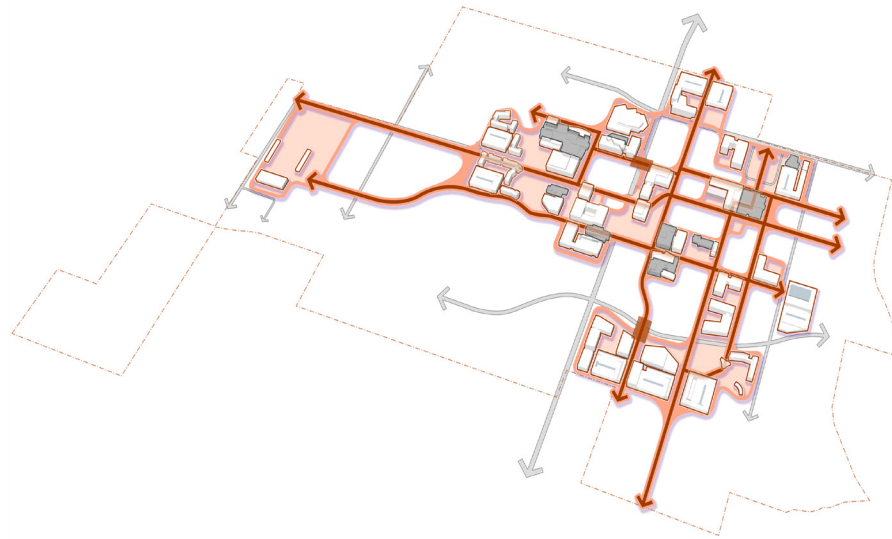
Campus Frameworks

Campus Frameworks are an important organizational tool to help shape physical development. For UTA, these framework diagrams offer a simple, yet powerful guide for organizing and implementing complex patterns over time. They are reductive, distilling complex planning concepts into easily understood and cohesive forms. The Campus Master Plan Update is layered on three overlapping frameworks: Campus Gateways, Campus Connectors, and Creek Corridor.



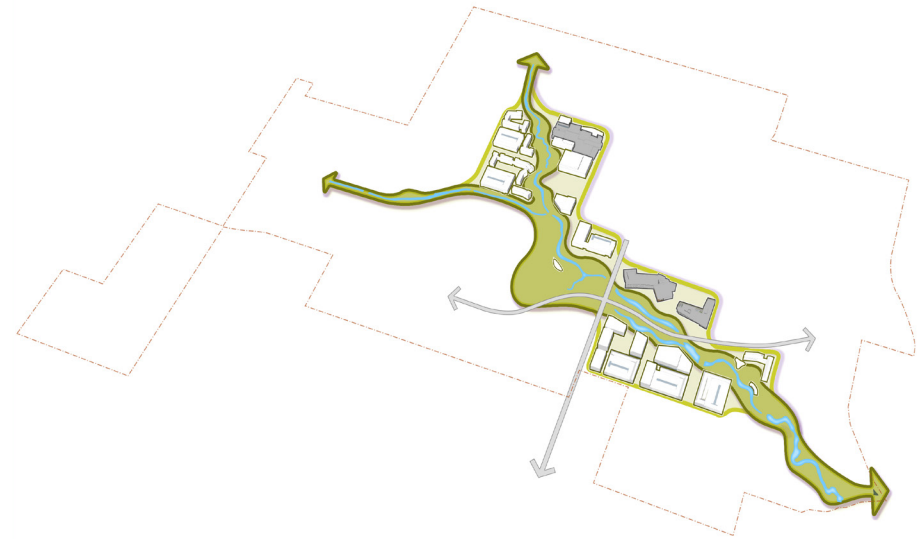
Campus Gateways

First impressions matter. The gateways framework is part of a larger outward facing initiative committed to enhancing the UTA signature brand and identity. Several components comprise these improvements: distinct architectural, vehicular, and landscape/signage features at each gateway location. The Campus Master Plan Update recommends fewer, but better “front doors” as both vehicular gateways and pedestrian portals. This includes simplifying the number of campus entrances and giving each gateway a consistent UTA brand identity. The primary gateway locations include the intersections of Cooper Street and Spaniolo Drive at Mitchell Street and UTA Boulevard. Secondary considerations highlight S. Davis Dr. at Greek Row Drive and Center Street at UTA Boulevard.



Campus Connectors

UTA is reinforcing the connection between campus walkability and the pedestrian experience. The Campus Master Plan Update is reinforcing the longstanding tradition of linear malls and an interconnected pedestrian ecosystem. Expansion of this network creates both linear movement and destination locations. Both elements are important in the development and preservation of memories and campus traditions for students and visitors. To achieve these objectives, reinforce the existing east-west pedestrian mall linking East 2nd Street to Greek Row Drive and develop a new corridor along the West 4th Street connecting the Green at College Park to the athletics and recreation district. In addition, extend and transform two north-south corridors into vibrant pedestrian malls: South Oak Street and South West Streets.



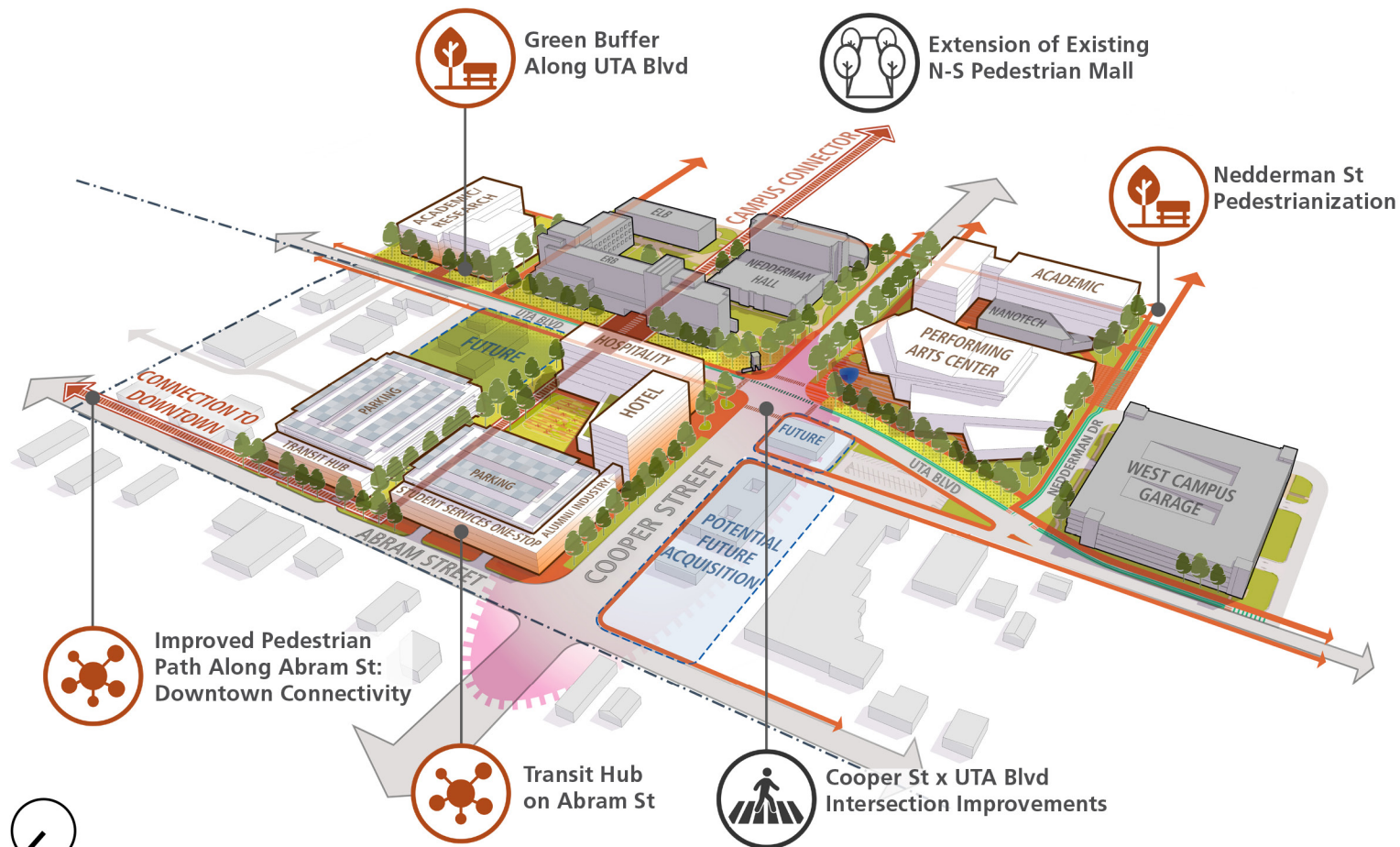
Creek Corridor

The Trading House Creek is an important, yet undervalued community and campus amenity. The Campus Master Plan Update envisions transforming this asset from a divisive back-of-house feature into a central-organizing and connective front door element. To achieve this transformation as a centerpiece of the future open space framework, several components should be considered: reinforce the trail network for pedestrian and non-motorized transportation connecting campus and community networks, daylight sections of the creek corridor, stabilize and restore creek banks, and utilize the corridor as a stormwater demonstration project.

North Gateway

Plans for the North Gateway re-imagine the old Social Work Complex into a welcome center and one-stop location for student services, a new transit hub, a hotel and conference center, an academic building for the Hospitality and Service Industry Program, and structured parking.

Across the intersection, a new Performing Arts Center anchors the gateway, resulting in a dynamic mix of uses that expand opportunities for UTA's mission and provide additional venues for community engagement. This new gateway visually promotes UTA's brand and announces its presence at the busiest intersection on campus.





Academic Building
for Hospitality

Academic/
Research Addition
to NanoFab

Hotel and
Conference Center

Cooper St

Performing
Arts Center





Student Housing

University
Center
Expansion

University
Center

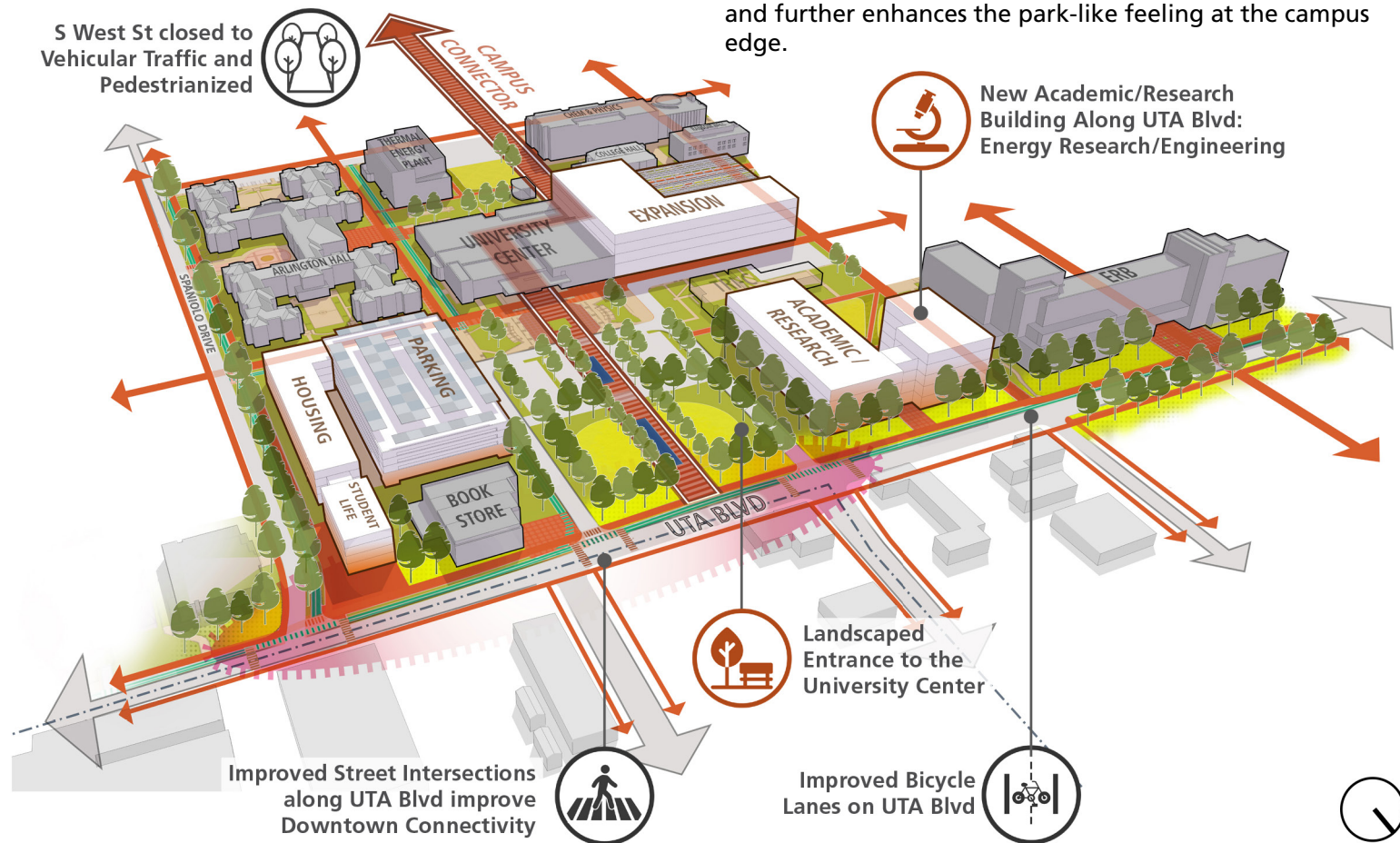
Landscaped
Entrance to the
University Center



Campus Front Door

Frontage along UTA Boulevard is perhaps the most significant campus edge as it borders downtown Arlington. Today, this edge consists primarily of surface parking and inconsistent landscape treatment. Many of the buildings are significantly set back from the street, which creates a relatively poor first impression when approaching from downtown Arlington.

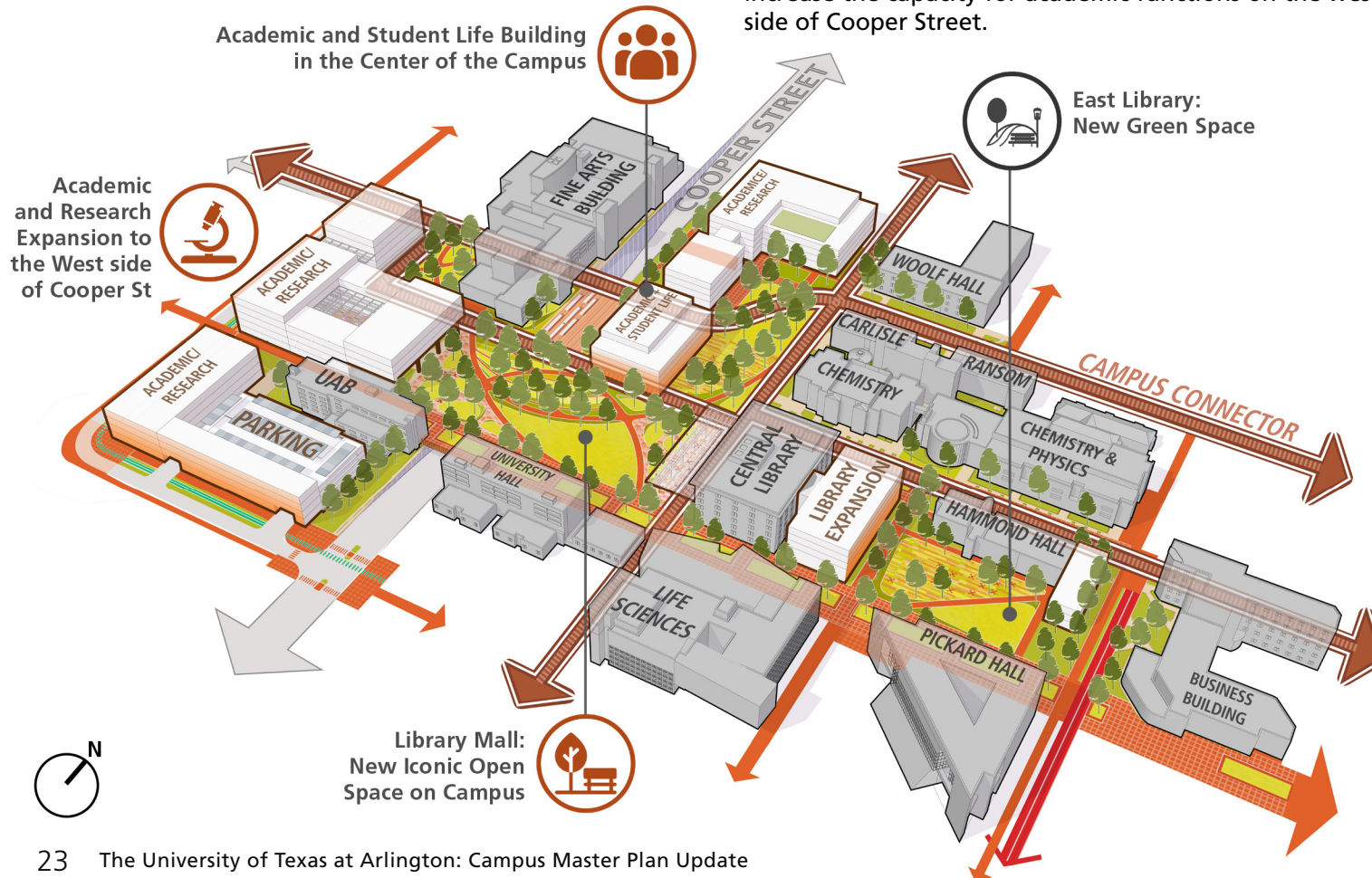
The Campus Master Plan Update proposes significantly enhancing this gateway by expanding student housing and student life functions at the corner of UTA Boulevard and Spaniolo Drive, an expanded University Center, a new academic/research building, and a consistent campus green buffer along the entirety of the campus edge. Replacing surface parking, a new campus green acts as the formal approach for pedestrians traveling to the University Center, and further enhances the park-like feeling at the campus edge.



Campus Nexus

The Central Library sits at the heart of campus today and is adjacent to Library Mall, the most significant open space. The library is the second campus hub alongside the University Center, where students gather for study, collaboration, creative pursuits, and relaxation. Intersecting the space is the primary north-south pedestrian mall that traverses the entire campus.

The Campus Master Plan Update proposes expanding the Central Library to the east, re-imagining Library Mall in the near-term with a long-term vision of extending the mall over Cooper Street. The north edge of Library Mall is transformed into an academic/student life building containing a mix of student life, academic, and interdisciplinary research. On the west edge of the park a new academic/research neighborhood is planned that will increase the capacity for academic functions on the west side of Cooper Street.





Shaded Canopy
extending from
the Central Library

Academic/
Research Building

Academic/
Student Life
Building

LIBRARY

Transformed Mitchell Street with dedicated Bike Lanes and Pedestrian Paths

Expanded Creek and Stormwater Retention

Student Life Building

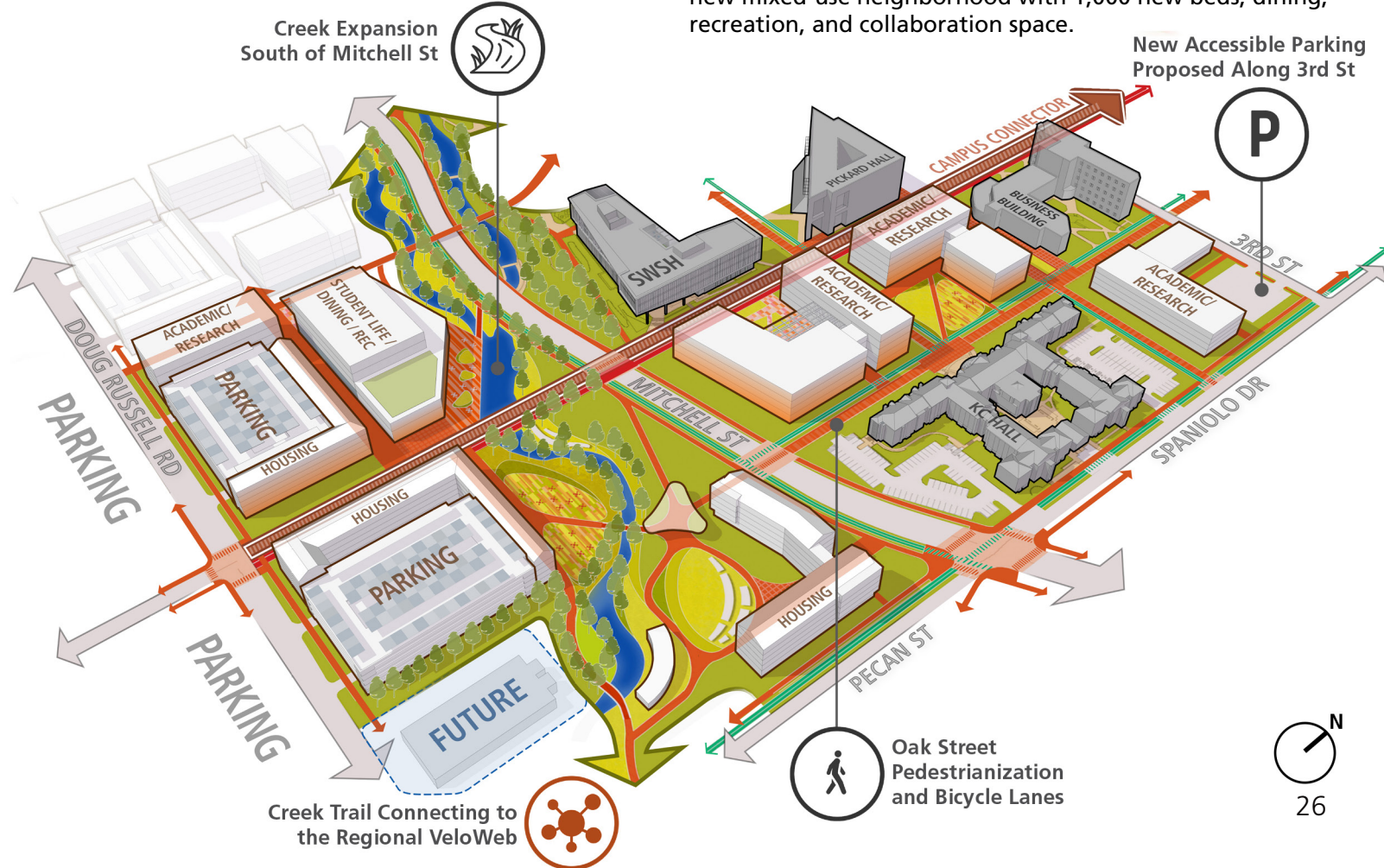
Academic/Research Cluster



Campus Link

The easternmost side of campus is a mix of academic, residential, athletic, and student life uses. The University Center, College Park District, and multiple student residence halls and academic buildings line S West Street, S Oak Street, and Spaniolo Drive. All these streets, in part or full, are vehicular today. All land south of Mitchell Street, and several interior parts of this neighborhood are surface parking.

The plan envisions dynamic redevelopment of this edge of campus long-term, pedestrianizing S West Street and S Oak Street, and turning Spaniolo Drive into a complete street with dedicated micromobility infrastructure. S West Street will have a point-to-point shuttle linking the parking assets in south campus all the way to the University Center and academic core. South of Mitchell Street, new housing and a student life hub building are proposed, creating a new mixed-use neighborhood with 1,000 new beds, dining, recreation, and collaboration space.

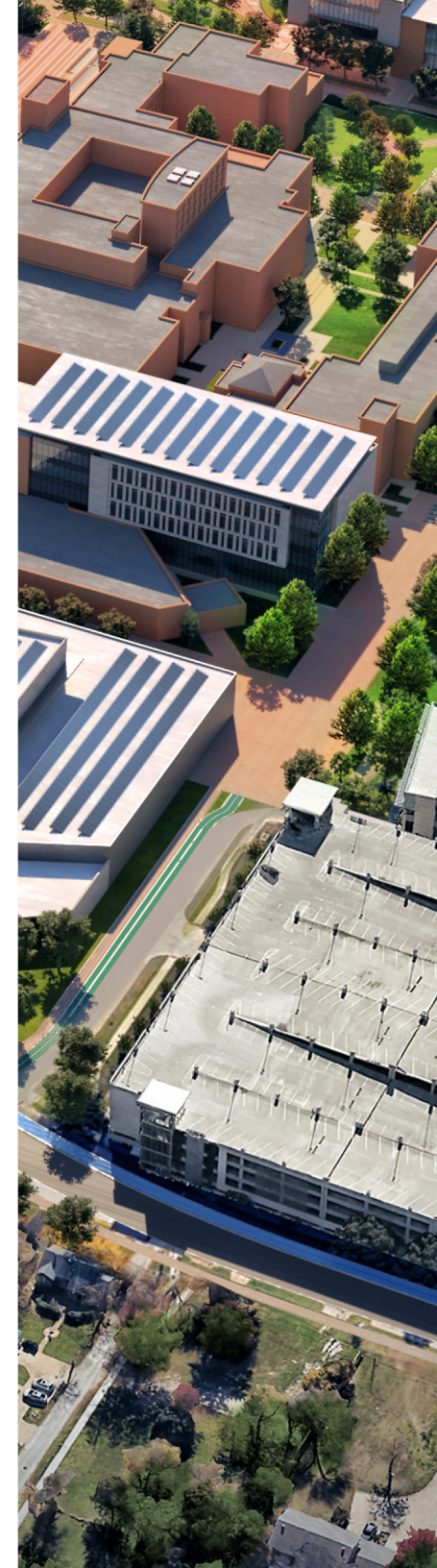
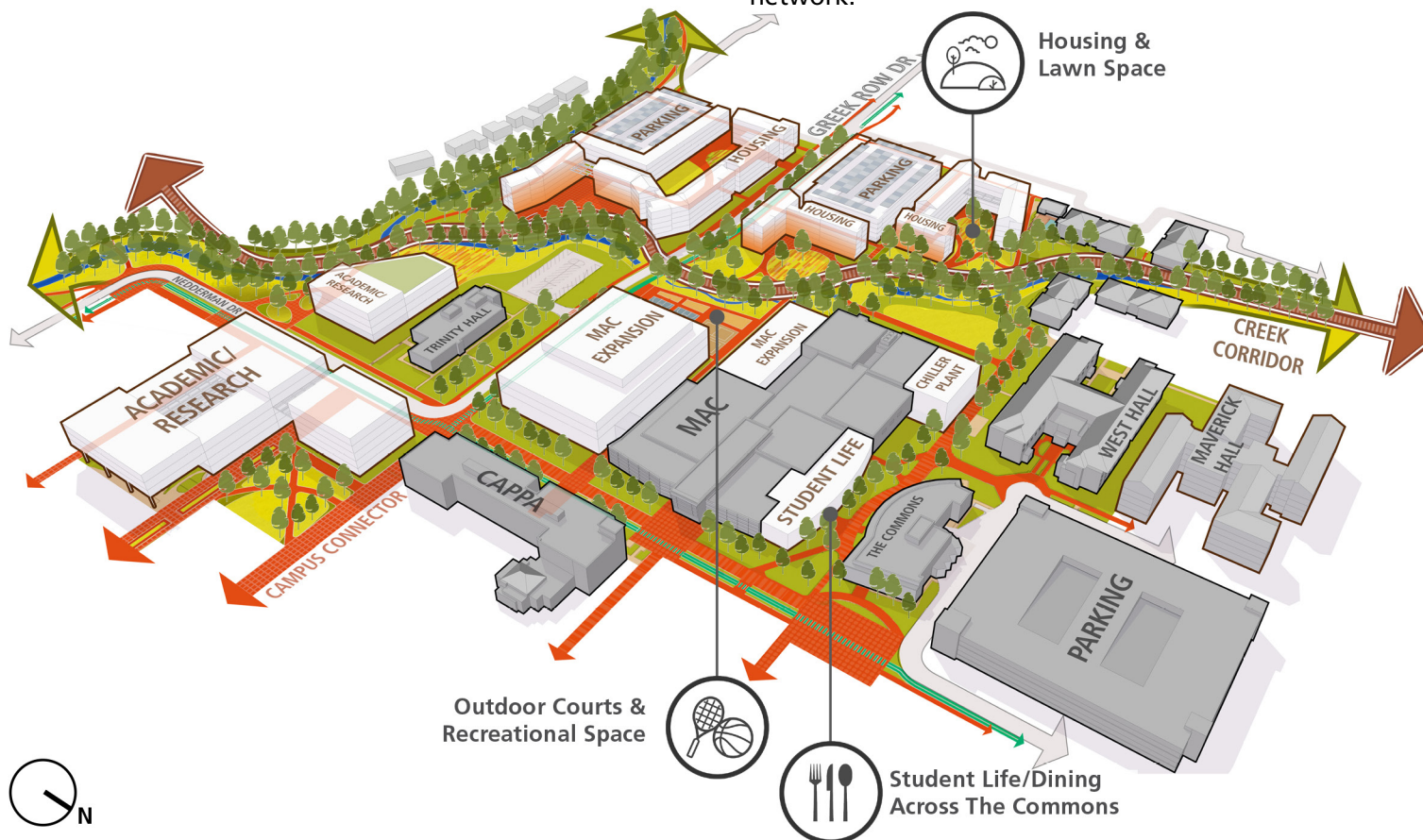


Creek Corridor North

In the north part of campus along the creek, a mix of apartment housing, recreational uses, and surface parking exist today, and the creek is in an underground tunnel for much of the section between UTA Boulevard and Greek Row Drive.

The Campus Master Plan Update proposes a significant expansion to the west residential neighborhood long-term, replacing the tennis courts, some surface

parking, and University Village Apartments with higher density housing and structured parking. Several outdoor courtyards, open spaces, and plazas are proposed within the new residential neighborhood. Significant expansion of the Maverick Activities Center is proposed to alleviate the recreation space deficit, and a new chiller plant addresses infrastructure needs to accommodate new campus construction. The creek corridor itself becomes a pedestrian pathway that links campus with the larger regional trail network.



MAC Renovation
and Expansion

Creek Daylighting
and Restoration

Student Housing
along the Creek

West Hall

Maverick Hall

Timberbrook
Apartments





UTA Boundary

UTA Blvd

Cooper St





Cooper St

Mitchell St

UTA Boundary

Mitchell St

UTA Blvd



30