



Arkansas State University Campus Master Plan

Executive Summary



JANUARY 2013

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

[INTRODUCTORY LETTER FROM DR. HUDSON]

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Sincerely,

Dr. Tim Hudson
Chancellor



The Arkansas State University is in transition. The University seeks to transform itself from a regional comprehensive public university into a research institution and athletic powerhouse. ASU's expectations for its academic instruction, research, student body, athletics, and facilities are rising.

Existing campus facilities struggle to keep up. New academic spaces such as the Delta Center and Reynolds Center highlight the inadequacy of the Business Building and Fine Arts Annex. Despite new on-campus suites, apartments, live-learn residential halls, family housing, and Greek housing, there is a waiting list for these facilities and many students must be housed off campus.

The Convocation Center and Liberty Bank Stadium host a newly energized athletics program and regional entertainment, yet these and other athletic facilities don't match ASU's competition. The Red WOLF Center provides state-of-the-art recreation, but the swimming pool in HPESS is in poor condition and outdoor recreation spaces must be driven to.

From its 1909 founding in downtown Jonesboro in the old Elks Lodge Hall above a jewelry store, to its nearly four million square feet in 130 buildings spread over 850 acres, the Arkansas State University campus has experienced significant evolution. This campus master plan provides a roadmap to overcome these challenges and achieve the vision for ASU's next stage of evolution.

Master Plan Vision

The ASU campus is a center for the exchange of ideas. Academic spaces are continuously improved and expanded. The Humanities and Social Sciences Building anchors the campus core, dramatically defining the edges of multiple plazas and vistas. Through new buildings and renovations, the Colleges of Business, Fine Arts, Humanities, and Nursing expand. A new Academic/Research Building provides the lab and collaboration spaces necessary for ASU's growing research activities.

Campus life is physically and programmatically focused on the Carl R. Reng Student Union. Students have broad choices of quality residential options, from traditional rooms to suites to apartments and family housing, all located adjacent to the campus academic core and an easy walk to the Student Union. Greek living is transformed – sorority members live in their own houses for the first time. A new hall expands dining options.

The prestige and popularity of ASU's athletic programs increases with a transformation of the athletic complex. Competitive teams practice in quality facilities, including new indoor and outdoor practice and competition fields, and expansions to Liberty Bank Stadium and the Convocation Center. The game-day experience is exciting with new tailgating areas, celebratory plazas, and expanded parking.

The iconic academic core welcomes walkers and bicyclists along wide sidewalks under mature tree canopies. Parking is still plentiful and close by, featuring a new parking deck.

Perhaps most striking is the character of the campus quadrangles. Two existing pedestrian malls are lengthened and better defined with new buildings. The plaza east of the Student Union is expanded and improved to become a comfortable campus "living room". The character of the southeast campus is transformed by a new iconic pedestrian mall.





Our Guiding Principles

The campus master plan must be based on a flexible, forward-thinking, and campus-wide foundation that will guide current and future campus facility decisions. The guiding principles establish that foundation.

A successful campus master plan at Arkansas State University must:

...focus on the academic purpose in order to be a learning-centered university

Provide the physical spaces necessary for the University to be a place of intellectual, cultural, and social education and exchange.

... further transform ASU into a global research-intensive institution

Provide the physical spaces and infrastructure necessary to support additional research, the exchange of ideas, and the nurturing of innovation.

...anticipate change and design for function and flexibility

Maintain and enhance the unique character of the campus while accommodating growth and change.

...develop a sense of campus community

Locate buildings and open spaces in close proximity to enhance synergistic learning and inclusive social interaction.

...promote environmental responsibility and stewardship

Design buildings, landscapes, and infrastructure that are compatible with the regional environment and conserve natural resources.





...strive for financial sustainability

Establish capital priorities that emphasize efficiency, effectiveness, and the optimal use of valuable existing resources.

...craft a sense of place

Create a distinctive and memorable place for all members of the campus community, alumni and friends, and residents of the surrounding region.

...move toward visual coherence

Create a single integrated design language in which the parts all relate to one another, regardless of when and where they are built.

...respect the campus context

Respect and address the University's heritage, environmental context, architectural fabric, and unique features.

...create a clear campus identity

Establish a clear identity within the community and strengthen the campus edges.

...balance all modes of transportation

Create a coherent and comfortable campus environment that is scaled for people rather than vehicles.

...create permanence with each incremental step

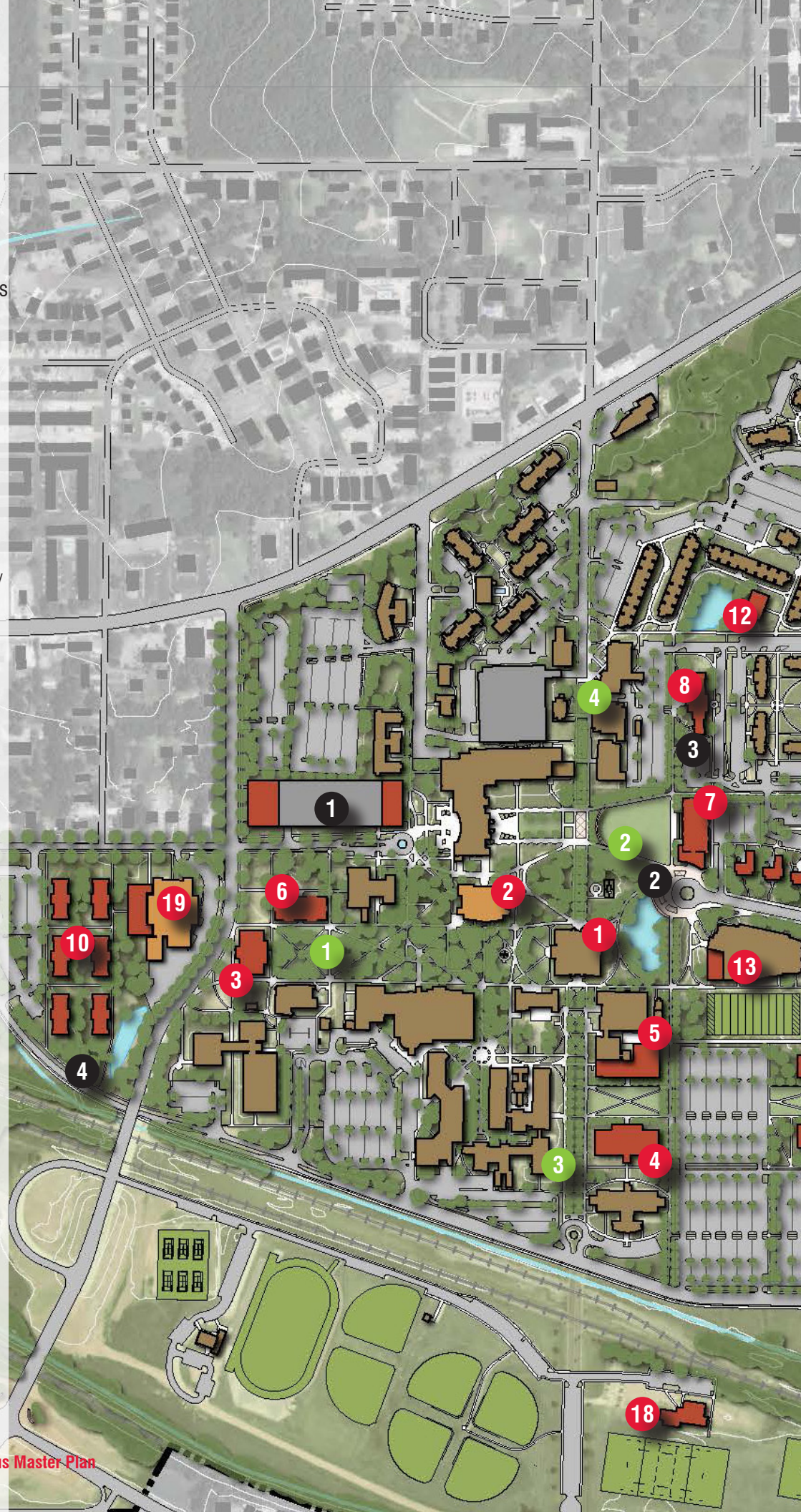
Establish a distinctive campus pattern that allows for changes in academic priorities, funding opportunities, and strategic direction.

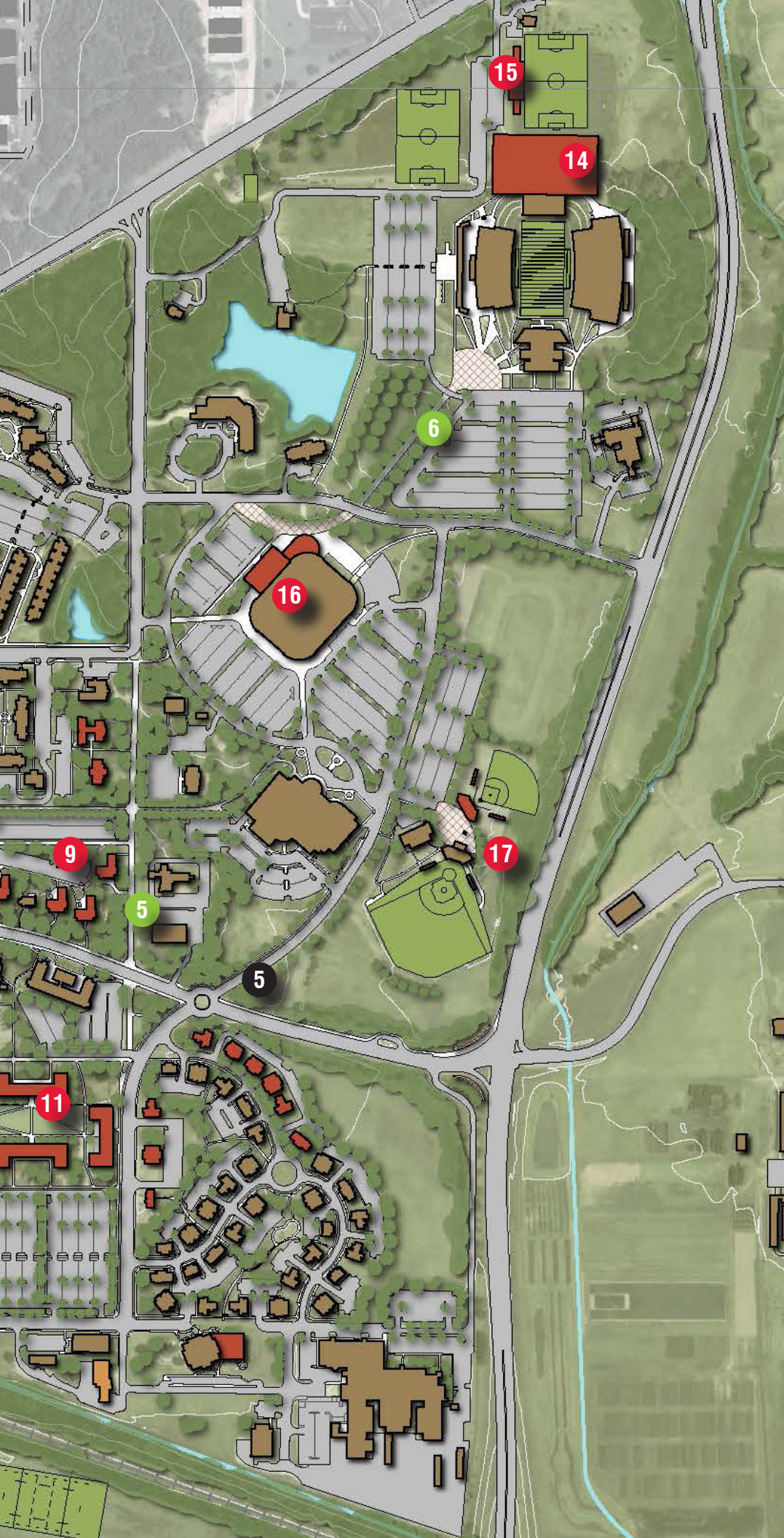
...be based on transparent planning and decision-making

Implement the campus master plan with the same level of transparency as it was prepared.

BUILDING INITIATIVES

- 1 Humanities and Social Sciences Building
- 2 Wilson Hall Renovation for International & Other Programs
- 3 New Business Building
- 4 Academic/Research Building
- 5 Studio Arts Addition to Fine Arts
- 6 Historic Mall Academic Building
- 7 Campus Commons Academic/Administrative Building & Visitors Center
- 8 Honors Live/Learn Residential Hall
- 9 Greek Village
- 10 West Housing
- 11 Southeast Housing
- 12 Dining Facility in Northpark Quads
- 13 Red WOLF Center Addition
- 14 North Stadium Practice Facility
- 15 Athletic Stadium and Practice Field
- 16 Convocation Center Renovation and Expansion
- 17 Softball/Baseball Complex
- 18 Club Sports Facility
- 19 University Police Facility





OPEN SPACE INITIATIVES

- 1 Historic Mall Defined and Lengthened
- 2 Campus Commons
- 3 South Caraway Mall
- 4 North Caraway Mall
- 5 Greek Village Pedestrian Mall on University Loop East
- 6 Walk of Champions

CIRCULATION INITIATIVES

- 1 West Parking Deck
- 2 Remove Aggie Road and Caraway Road from Academic Core
- 3 Driver Street Pedestrian Mall
- 4 University Loop South Extension to Aggie Road at State Street
- 5 University Loop East, Olympic Drive, and Alumni Drive Realignment

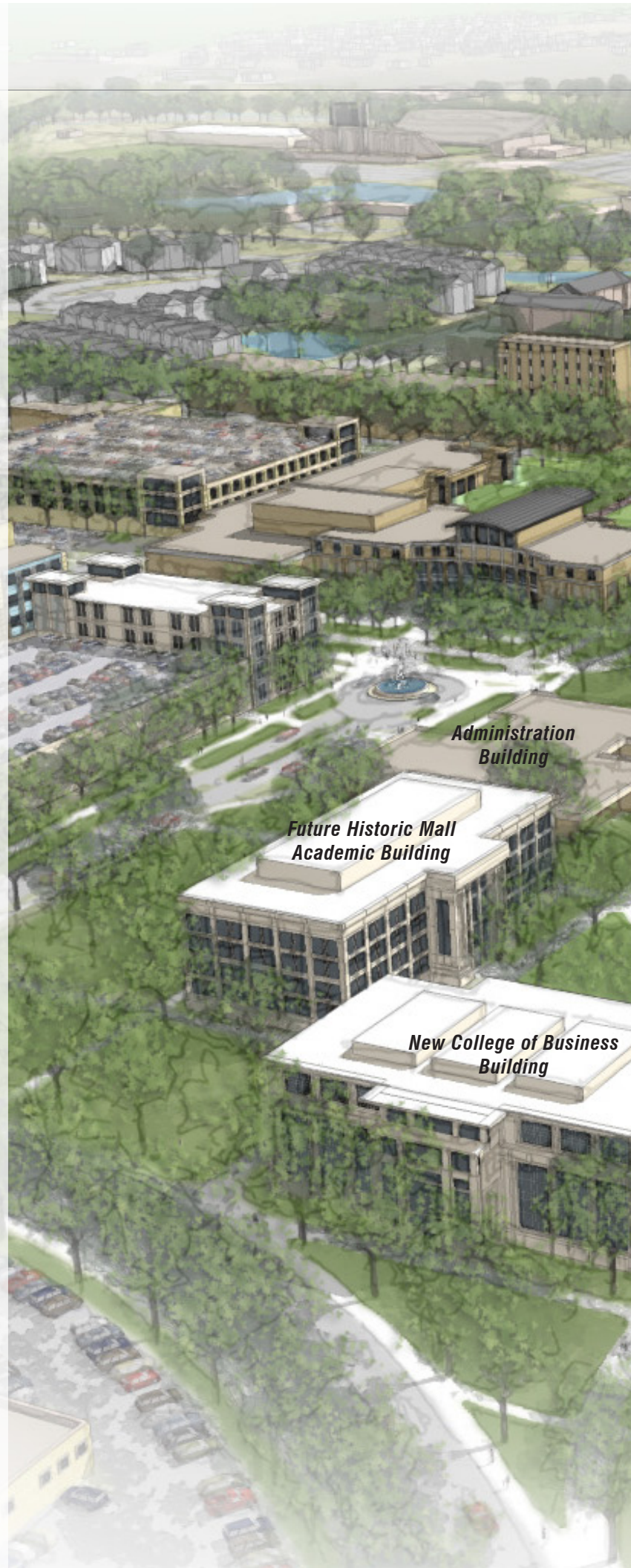
Learning-Centered, Student-Centered

ASU's historic pedestrian mall is one of the most beautiful spaces in the region. It is defined by a mature tree canopy and framed by the striking Ellis Library tower and the historic Wilson Hall. The campus master plan extends the mall west, encompassing the College of Business facilities.

The New College of Business Building will anchor the west end of the lengthened historic mall and greet those entering campus off the Marion Berry Parkway.

Wilson Hall opened for classes in November 1932 and is ASU's oldest academic structure. It will breathe new life after renovation as a new center for academic support services.

A new parking deck will provide expanded and convenient parking for the Student Union and the academic core.





***Humanities and
Social Sciences***

***Wilson Hall –
Renovated and
Repurposed***

***Dean W. Ellis
Library***

***Delta Center
for Economic
Development***

The Science of Art, the Art of Science

Humanities and Social Sciences

The completion of the Humanities and Social Science Building is the University's highest academic building priority. The building will contain state-of-the-art classrooms, computer labs, and departmental suites. The building is at perhaps the most critical location on campus. It will serve as the hub that will link the historic mall to the west, the Caraway Mall to the south, and the new Campus Commons to the north.

Studio Arts Addition to Fine Arts

The Art Department is split between two buildings on South Caraway Mall. The Fine Arts Annex is perhaps ASU's oldest, smallest, and most challenged academic structure. A Studio Arts Addition to the Fine Arts Center will consolidate arts instruction, ease the sharing of faculty and equipment, and allow the removal of the Fine Arts Annex.

Academic/Research Building

A new Academic/Research Building will provide modern labs and offices for expanding faculty-driven research. Combined with the Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ABI), Agriculture Building, and Lab Sciences East and West, the south end of the Caraway Mall will become a center for pure and applied sciences.



View of Caraway Mall from south

Build Community through Transformation

The Academic/Research Building, the Studio Arts Addition to Fine Arts, and Southeast Housing will set up a dramatic transformation of the southeast campus precinct. ASU will remove poor quality single-family housing and surface parking lots, setting the stage

for the Southeast Mall. Two additional sites for future academic and research buildings are reserved. The Southeast Mall will extend the beauty and elegance of the historic mall and Caraway Mall.



View of Future Southeast Mall from west

Life Outside the Classroom



The open space east of the Carl R. Reng Student Union is the campus’s “back yard” – the place where planned and unscheduled activities spill outside. It is the only large recreational space within walking distance of on-campus residence halls.

This open space will be improved and expanded to become the Campus Commons. Unlike the more formal and conservative historic mall, the Campus Commons will become the place where students will hang out just to be seen.

The Campus Commons will not be one space, but many. It will include the existing hardscaped plaza at the east door of the Student Union, the formal Unity Park, the more natural tree canopied area north and east of the Humanities and Social Sciences Building, as well as fountains and landscaping, open lawns, and the entry into a new visitors center.

Grow the On-Campus Community



Quality on-campus housing attracts and retains the best students. Started in 1999, the transformation of ASU's on-campus housing continues full steam.

Southeast Housing

Single family homes south of Arkansas Hall are razed for multiple new residence halls.

Honors Living Learning Expansion

A fourth Honors Living Learning hall will meet the growing demand for on-campus Honors housing.

Village Apartments Expansion

Nine new Village Apartment buildings will accommodate increasing demand for non-traditional student housing, particularly as research activity increases.

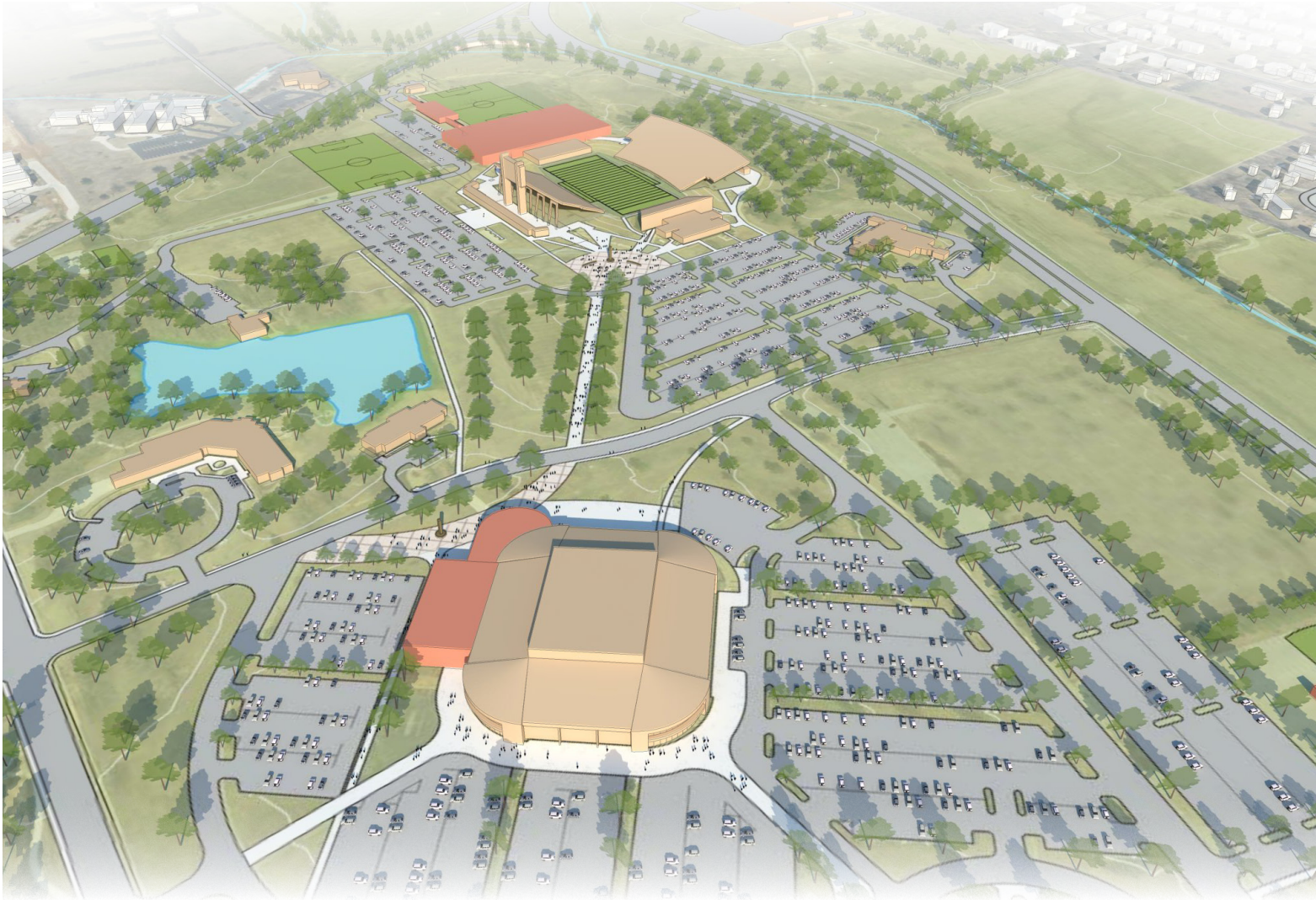
Greek Village

The Greek Village is comprised of existing fraternity houses, ASU's first individual chapter housing for sororities, and a new Greek Row pedestrian mall.

Dining in Northpark Quads

A new hall in the Northpark Quads will provide a supplemental dining choice for the upperclassmen of Northpark Quads, Red Wolf Den, the Living Learning Communities, and the Greek Village.

Let's Make this Game History



The Red Wolves are an emerging NCAA Division 1-A powerhouse. As the stature and excitement of the athletics and recreation programs expand, new facilities are constructed and existing spaces expanded and improved.

The most dramatic expansion is the indoor football practice facility, which will include a two-level football operations building and 76,000 square-foot indoor practice facility. Located in Liberty Bank Stadium's north end zone, the facility will not only position

A-State to be a perennial Top 25 national team, but it will transform the prominent northeast corner campus gateway.

The master plan also recommends that the Convocation Center be expanded to accommodate basketball practice facilities and better seating, that Tomlinson Stadium be expanded to incorporate softball, and that a club sports facility be constructed in the south athletics and recreation complex.



Liberty Bank Stadium North Football Practice Facility



The Red Wolves fans deserve an exciting game day experience. The master plan recommends reconstructing the current outdoor practice fields into a Walk of Champions, a ceremonial entrance that extols past victories and honors the scholar, player, and fan. Improved tailgating areas and expanded parking will enhance Red Wolves game day celebrations.

Join Us As We Build Our Future

The campus master plan charts the next decades for Arkansas State University. The plan sets the overall campus vision, which will be achieved through many component projects.

The vision will be realized incrementally and over time. The master plan describes each project, how that project must be sequenced, and design guidelines for each project and system. The master plan vision informs all facility decisions, from the largest of new buildings to the smallest of landscape efforts.

It will take collaboration among the University and its many partners to achieve our strategic goals and implement this vision. The University seeks to deepen its partnership with the City of Jonesboro, students, alumni, and friends.

The past growth and improvement of the campus has been supported by the generosity of the State of Arkansas and the University's dedicated supporters like you. The proposed projects are opportunities for you and other alumni and friends to contribute to Arkansas State University in a meaningful and lasting way. When you make a gift to Arkansas State University, you are investing in the very future of our extraordinary state.





