

CAL POLY CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

California Polytechnic State University | San Luis Obispo | 2035 Campus Master Plan



VIBRANT, ENGAGING, SUPPORTIVE, DIVERSE

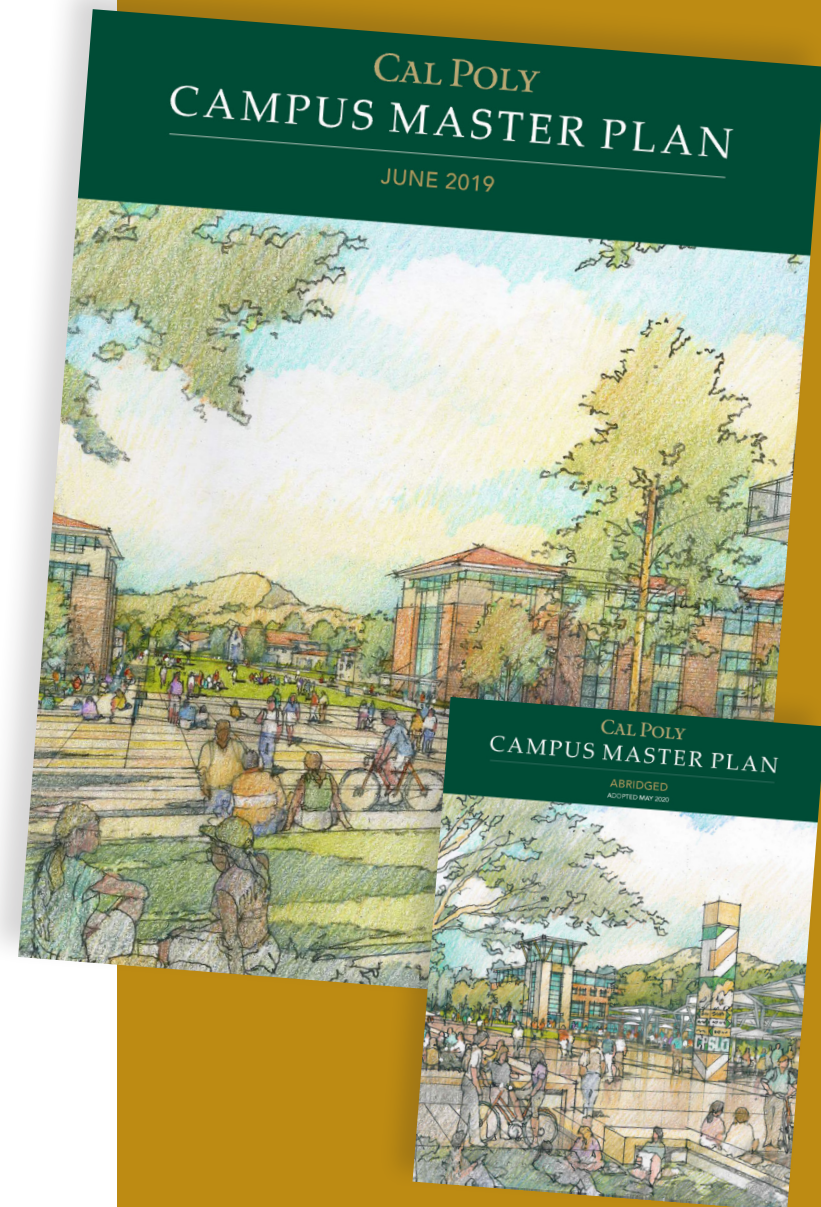
These words describe the essence of the 2035 Campus Master Plan. The 2035 Master Plan was an initiative designed to create the physical and cultural campus of the future, engaging all aspects of university life for students, faculty, staff and visitors. With many more students living on campus, there was a heightened awareness of the growing needs of a more diverse community. A master plan was needed that addressed the many other aspects of university life, including recreation, dining, entertainment, and retail activities, as well as support services.

Aided by a large on-campus and off-campus engagement process, University leadership and campus planners articulated a vision that will transform the university into a vibrant 24-hour residential community while supporting a future student enrollment of an approximate 25,000 headcount, or 22,500 net Full-Time Equivalent Students (FTES). The plan focuses on redeveloping the historical academic core with new and renovated academic buildings surrounded by a ring of residential neighborhoods. A key goal was to enhance and protect the prime agricultural lands and natural systems that surround the campus core that define the character of the campus.

California leads the U.S. in demographic change – with people from diverse backgrounds and a large aging population. Cal Poly seeks to achieve a more representative student body as well as to increase faculty and staff diversity. The physical environment contributes to Cal Poly becoming a more inclusive community of scholars and creative thinkers by providing space and facilities for living and learning that are inviting to people from various social and economic backgrounds and cultures.

THE 2035 MASTER PLAN SETS FORTH THE FOLLOWING GOALS:

1. Lay out the land use, circulation, and physical development of the campus to accommodate a future student enrollment of 25,000 headcount (22,500 net Full-Time Equivalent Students)
2. Enhance academic quality and student success through Learn by Doing
3. Increase the diversity of students, faculty, and staff
4. Strengthen the campus' compact, cross-disciplinary academic core
5. House more students in residential communities on campus
6. Offer more vibrant evening and weekend events and activities on campus
7. Attain a modal shift from cars to more pedestrian, bicycle, and transit use
8. Reinforce campus-wide environmental sustainability; and
9. Generate revenues from public and private sources to realize the above goals



The 2035 Campus Master Plan as well as the Abridged Master Plan can be found at: masterplan.calpoly.edu/

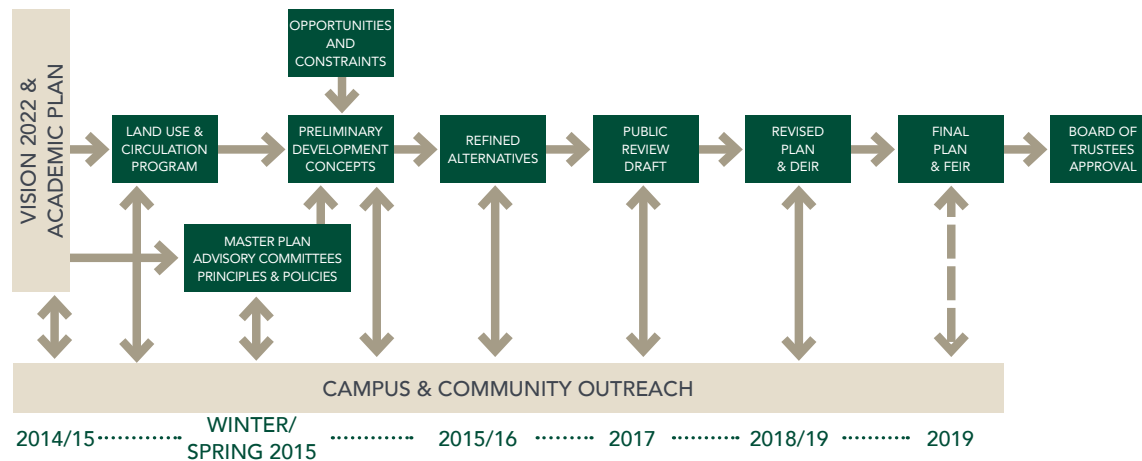


SCOPE:

Master Planning and Architecture, from programming through Master Plan adoption.

IMPLEMENTATION AND PHASING:

The Master Plan will be implemented over a 15-year period and will be guided by the University President and his Administration in conjunction with oversight from the California State Board of Trustees. The Plan sets forth a number of prioritized projects to accommodate demand for higher education ranging from additional on-campus housing to new labs and classrooms.



CLIENT:

California Polytechnic State University,
California State University Board of Trustees

LOCATION:

San Luis Obispo, California

PLANNING PERIOD:

2020-2035

TOTAL CAMPUS AREA:

6,500 acres

MASTER PLAN AREA:

Main Campus, 1,321 acres

NEW ACADEMIC, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND SUPPORT BUILDINGS:

1.29 million Gross Square Feet (GSF)

REPLACEMENT BUILDING SPACE:

455,000 Gross Square Feet (GSF)

NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT:

4,056 (Headcount)

NEW FACULTY:

356 (Headcount)

NEW STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION:

431 (Headcount)

NEW STUDENT HOUSING:

7,200 Beds

NEW OUTDOOR RECREATION:

18.6 acres

NEW PARKING:

174 spaces

CAMPUS CORE

CAMPUS CORE FRAMEWORK



CAMPUS CO





San Luis Obispo is a thriving town situated seven miles from the Pacific Ocean and halfway between Los Angeles and the Bay Area. It is known for its beautiful landscapes, temperate climate, and vital Historic downtown, home to the world-famous Farmers Market.

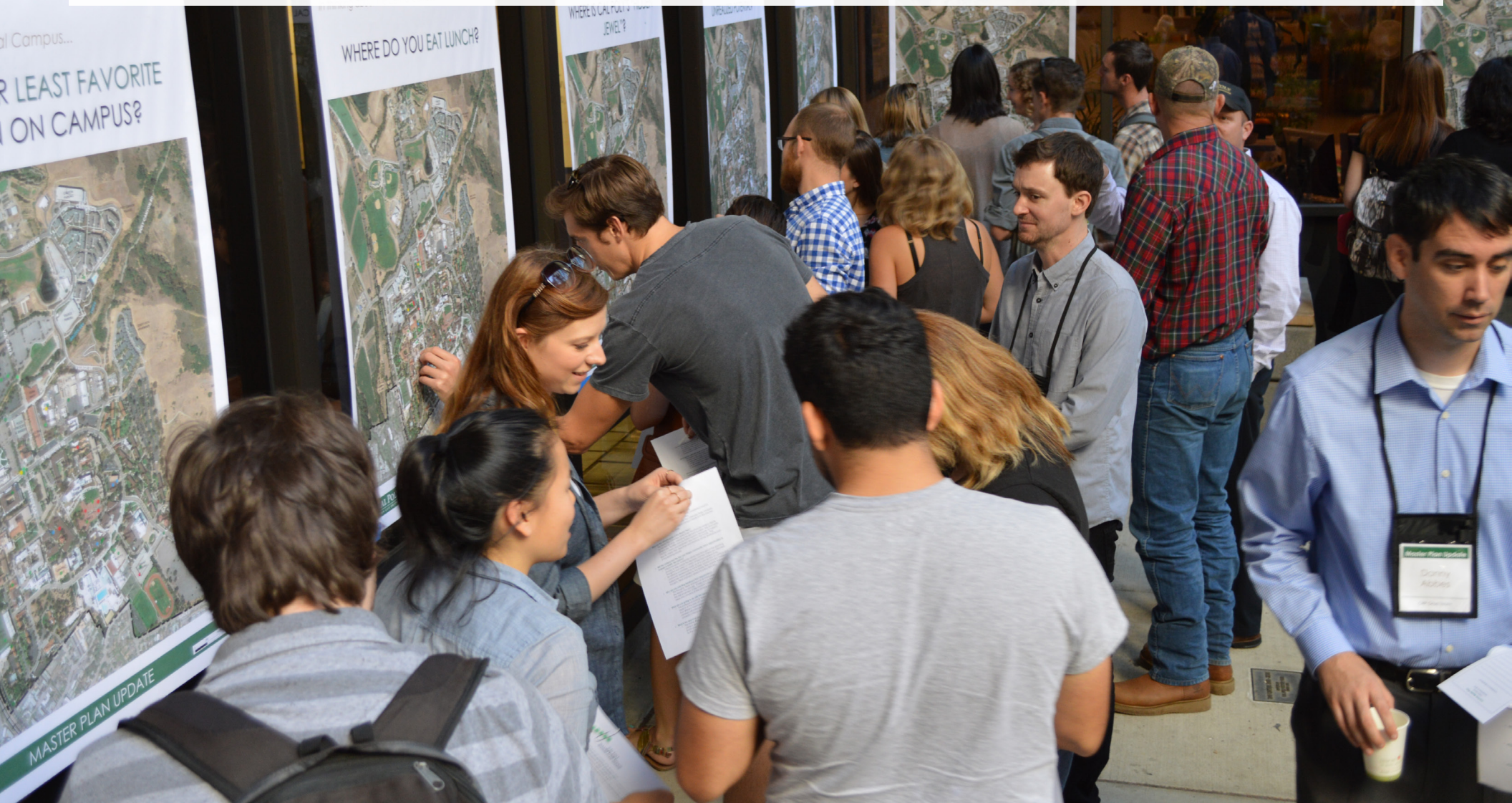
Engagement with stakeholders focused on two primary groups: the off-campus community and on-campus community. The off-campus stakeholders included the neighborhoods surrounding the campus, Residents for Quality Neighborhoods advocates, city government, environmental groups, active transportation advocates and the business community represented by the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce. The on-campus community included students, faculty, staff, and University administration.

One of the primary challenges was managing community relations: Cal Poly has long had a dominating presence in San Luis Obispo. With a permanent residential population of just over 47,000, Cal Poly's size (over 20,000 students) is just over half again the size of the entire town. Significant effort went into strengthening the campus and community relations from the start to establish a trusted working relationship where issues could be vetted, discussed, and solutions tested and agreed upon. The process yielded great value and resulted in a master plan that was widely supported by both the on- and off-campus constituents.

Approximately five years of planning went into the effort through an inclusive process that engaged students, faculty, staff, and the broader San Luis Obispo community. Six Advisory Committees developed a set of Guiding Principles that set the direction for the Plan. Cal Poly's leadership incorporated input from several preliminary concept maps circulated widely during the process in making decisions on where/how to grow both academically and physically and identifying campus priorities. Derived from the university academic plan, campus planning alternatives were vetted against the planning principles and reviewed in workshop settings in both on- and off-campus settings. Ultimately, compromises were reached, and a consensus plan emerged that is now the adopted Master Plan.

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The university has an immense impact on the small community in both positive and challenging ways. The university is a huge economic contributor to the local economy and the primary reason for its vitality. Its presence has fundamentally shaped the culture and spirit of San Luis Obispo. Conversely, the neighborhoods surrounding campus and the downtown must co-exist with a youthful and energetic student population. Tensions can run high from un-met expectations, poor communication, and disruptive behavior from all parties. These long-challenging town/gown relations were at the forefront of increasing the on-campus housing population from its present 38% to over 65% in order to relieve neighborhoods of student housing and bringing them on campus.



SCHOOL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

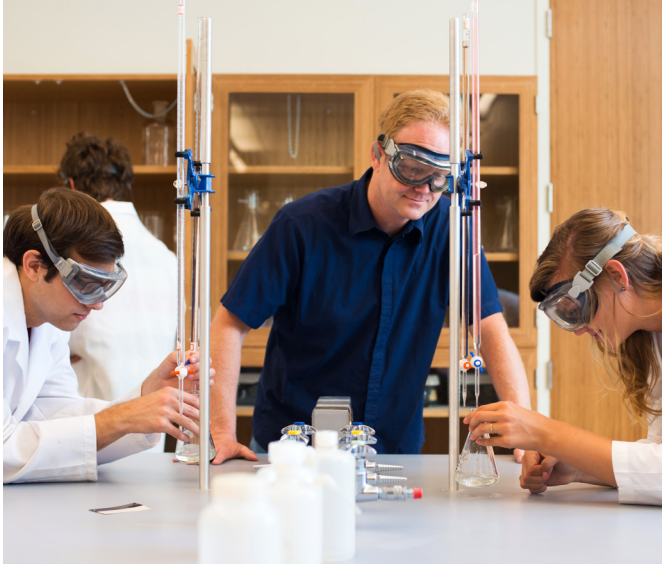


EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

LEARN BY DOING is the educational philosophy of Cal Poly. Applied research using a teacher-scholar model has been the distinguishing trait of Cal Poly within the twenty-three campus State University System. Cal Poly is and will remain primarily focused on undergraduate degrees in technical fields with emphasis on hands-on learning and partnerships with industry sponsors. In the future, Cal Poly will expand opportunities for flexible areas in facilities that are clearly welcoming to students and faculty from all disciplines. Led by the Center of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, cross-disciplinary learning will progress from the Innovation Sandbox, to the Hatchery, to the SLO Hot House and/or Cal Poly Technology Park as an enterprise matures.



EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT: *EDUCATIONAL VISION*



The pedagogy in each college involves a different balance of classroom and laboratory instruction. The Campus Master Plan recognizes the importance of outdoor space for teaching and learning for students in all colleges. This includes the Academic Core, which is a critical location for smaller scale outdoor teaching and learning activity – planned and spontaneous, permanent, or temporary. The wide array of educational environments support the school's overall vision of Learn by Doing as well as the distinct curriculum in each of the six colleges at the university.

Cal Poly's Master Plan is designed to reinforce the university's Learn by Doing approach to education. The university acknowledges the importance of outdoor teaching and learning as well as more traditional classroom and laboratory settings and study areas. The Master Plan calls for selective renovation, replacement and new construction, particularly in the Academic Core. It also recognizes the value of providing for neutral and unscheduled spaces interspersed with more formal instructional facilities.



Cal Poly's Academic Plan explicitly recognizes that "learning occurs everywhere." National research has demonstrated that undergraduate student success depends upon engagement with activities and support systems that complement and extend the formal curriculum. They include relatively traditional individual and group projects outside the classroom or lab and include internships, service learning, field work, and travel study. The Master Plan has been specifically designed and programmed to propel this dynamic educational ecosystem. Faculty members actively sponsor many of these activities, some of which are discipline-specific and others interdisciplinary. For example, the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship is cross-disciplinary; and music, theatre, and debate at Cal Poly involve students from all colleges.



EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT: *ADAPTABILITY & FLEXIBILITY*

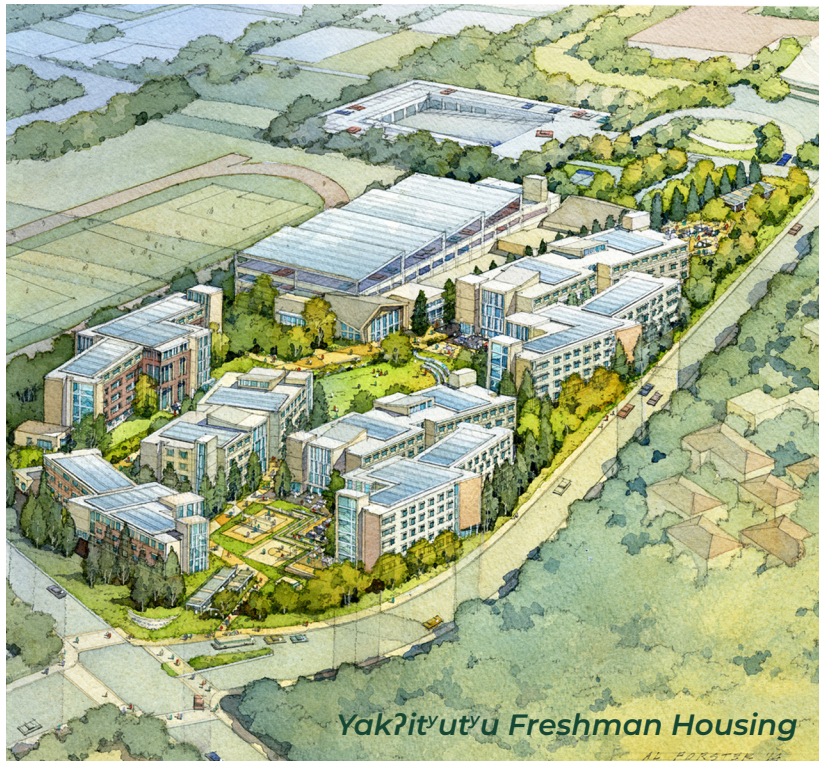


PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

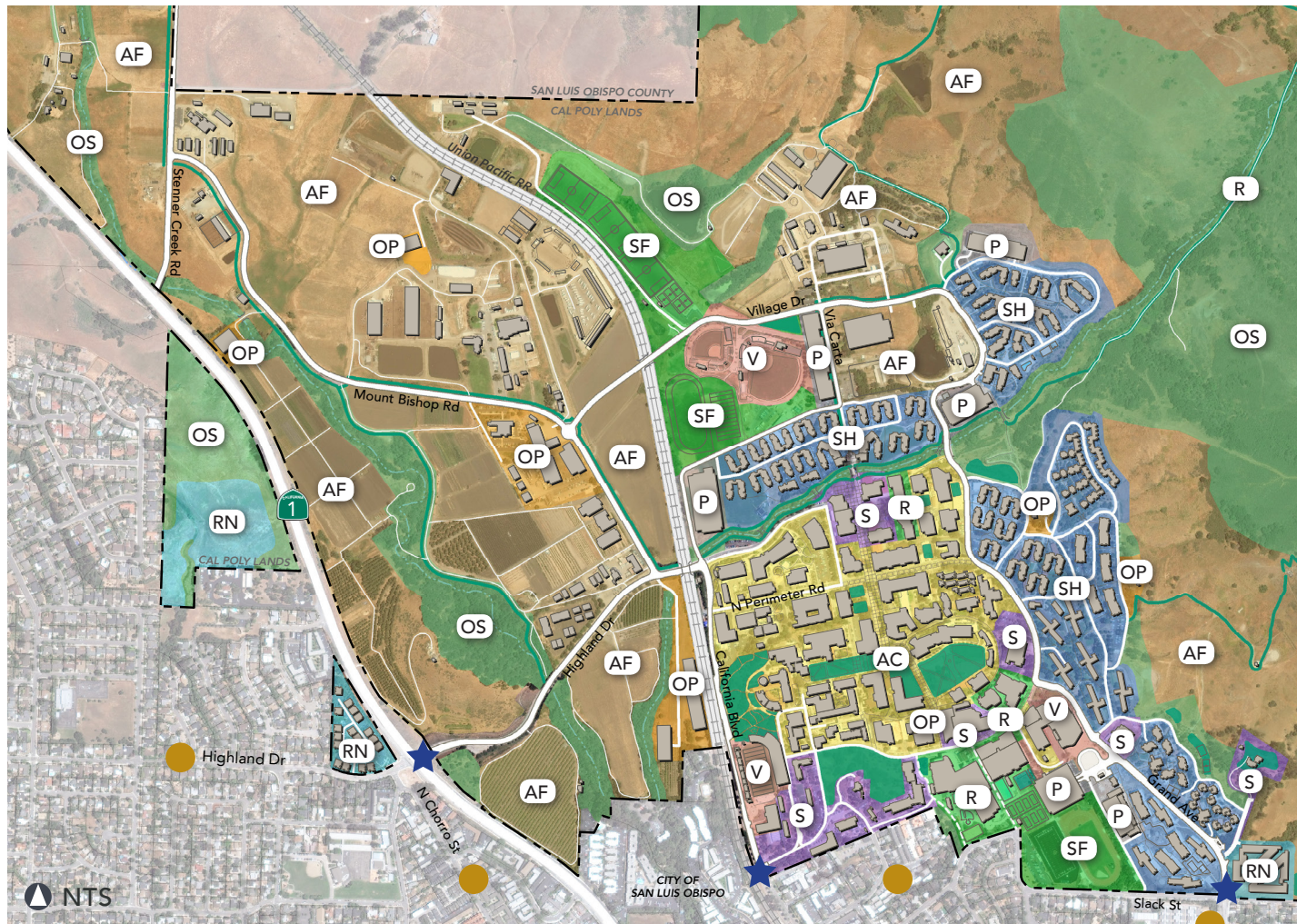
Cal Poly is nestled in a spectacularly beautiful natural setting with dramatic topography and views that include volcanic peaks known colloquially as the Nine Sisters, rolling hills, and outcroppings of trees and vegetation. The natural campus setting is remarkable, therefore the Master Plan emphasizes maintaining and enhancing the visual connection to the surrounding landscape. Scenic open spaces and agricultural landscapes are woven into the campus plan to form open space corridors and connections between the Core of Campus to these lands. Scenic vistas to the Cal Poly outer lands and surrounding hills is an important consideration when viewing from open spaces, circulation ways, and building windows.



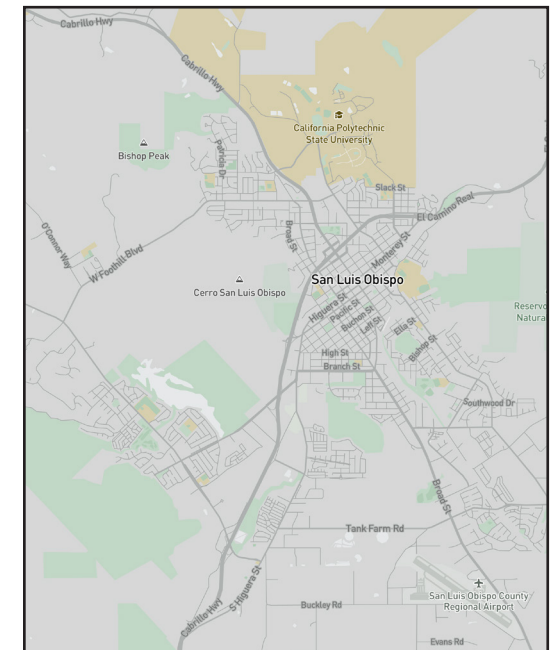
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT: *EXISTING & PROPOSED ELEMENTS*



PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT: *PLANNED CAMPUS CONCEPTS*



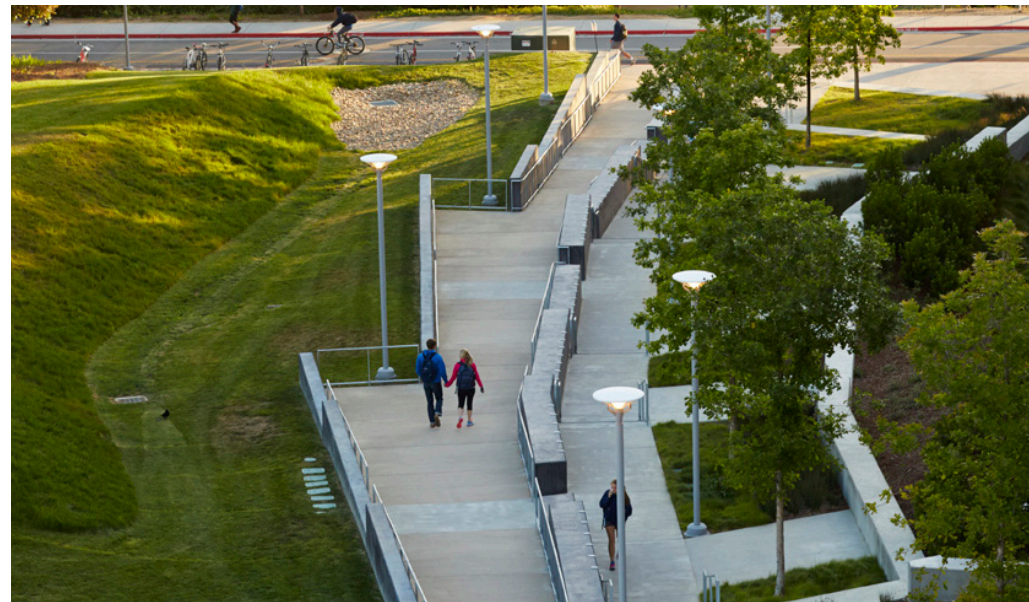
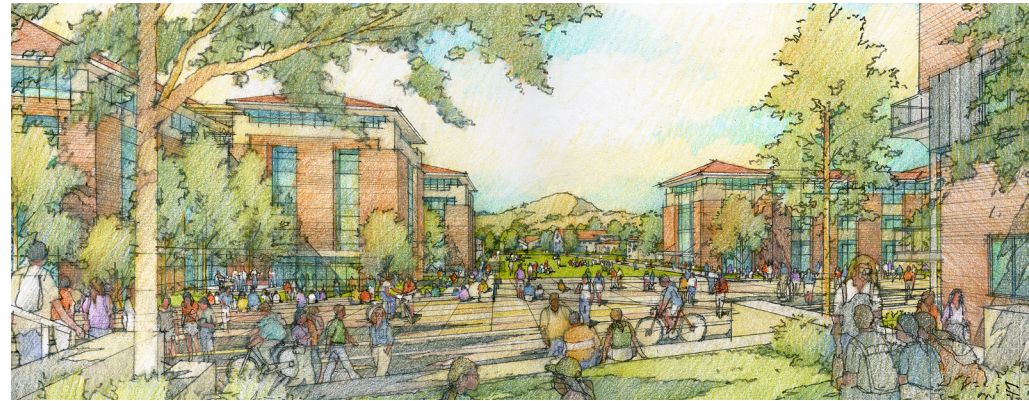
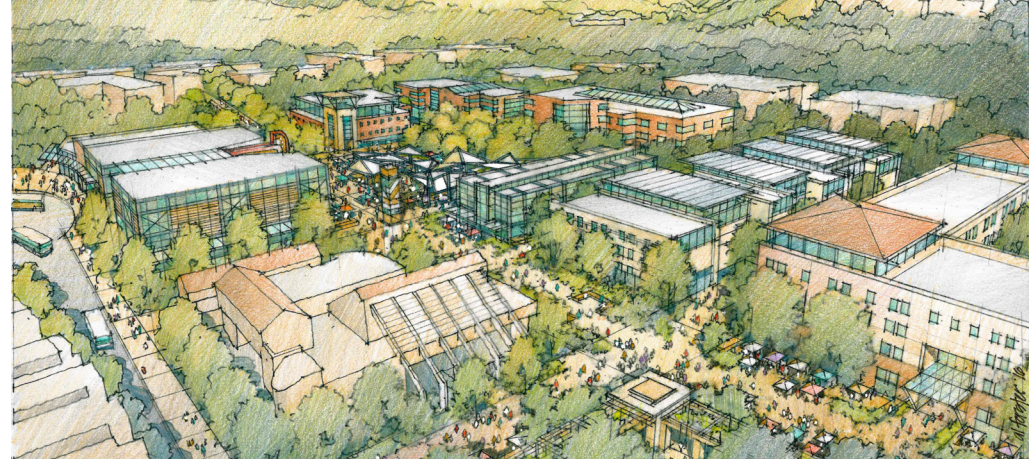
- Academic Core (AC)
- Student Housing (SH)
- Residential Neighborhoods (RN)
- Venues (V)
- Sports Fields (SF)
- Services (S)
- Operational (OP)
- Agriculture Facility (AF)
- Open Space (OS)
- Parking (P)
- Surrounding Neighborhoods
- Main Campus Entries



Cal Poly campus (yellow) in relation to the City of San Luis Obispo

Cal Poly is situated immediately adjacent to the City of San Luis Obispo on its northeast side. 1/3 of the campus is surrounded by residential neighborhoods (south-west of campus in graphic above) while the remainder 1,321-acre Main Campus is largely surrounded by State and private ranch lands (north and east of campus in graphic above). Three primary points of access to the campus focus commuter traffic at Highway 1, Highway 101 at Grand Avenue, and at California Boulevard. The remaining small street network link directly to the residential neighborhoods. The Master Plan seeks to minimize traffic impacts and disruption from off-campus housing by vastly increasing the on-campus student population from approximately 40% today to over 65% by 2035. Additional on-campus housing for seniors, faculty and staff, and married graduate students is also planned, fulfilling the university's mission of creating a residential campus.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT: COMMUNITY CONTEXT + LAND USES



Scenic beauty and communion with nature have long inspired educators and academics. The Master Plan proudly emphasizes this long-held university value through the development of the campus greens, corridors, plazas, viewsheds, and preservation of the surrounding natural and agricultural lands. Increasing enrollment is largely accommodated by redevelopment of older single-story buildings into multi-story multidisciplined structures where the line between indoor and outdoor teaching and learning spaces is blurred. Due to Cal Poly's leadership on campus environment, the university is one of the most sought-out undergraduate institutions in the State, attracting far more freshman applicants that can be accommodated year-over-year. This special environmental quality and setting is also highly attractive to faculty, staff, and administration, all of which combine to rank Cal Poly as one of the top colleges in the West for Undergraduate Education.



PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT: *AERIAL VIEW + CAMPUS CULTURE*

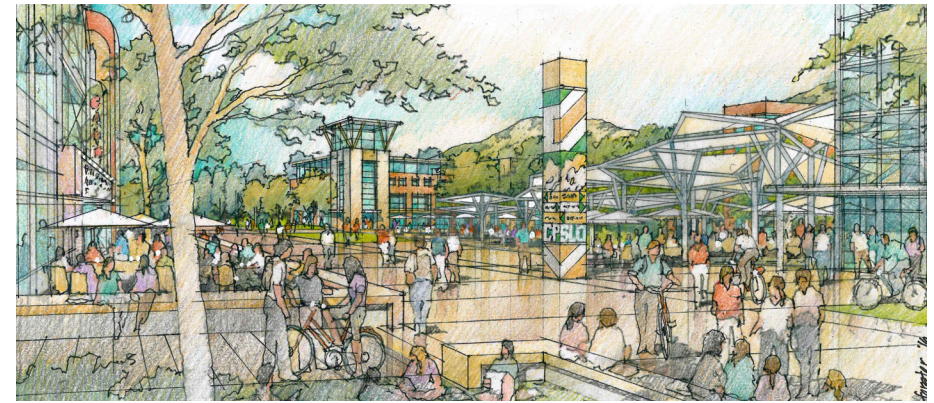


Cal Poly is committed to being a leader in sustainability in its facilities and operations and views sustainability as an essential element of its academic mission. Accordingly, the Master Plan is guided by overarching sustainability principles, and the goal of wise resource management is reflected in features and policies throughout the plan. The plan strives to protect important environmental resources, keeping most prime agricultural land open, creating protective buffers around creeks, and preserving open space and scenic resources. It also requires that new facilities and campus infrastructure be environmentally responsible, energy efficient, and showcase advancements in sustainable technology. New buildings are designed to meet LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards.



PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT: *SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS*

The Plan also emphasizes a pronounced shift away from cars toward active transportation modes including walking, cycling, and transit. To do so, the plan incorporates “smart growth” measures such as the compact form around the core and mixed uses, which improve the efficiency of infrastructure and energy use as well as reducing reliance on cars. The entirety of the campus core restricts access to motor vehicles (with the exception of facility and emergency vehicles) and the Master Plan proposes an expansion of the carless area of campus. Furthermore, the Plan calls for increased housing on campus which will reduce commuting and related impacts.



PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT: MAIN CAMPUS + ACADEMIC CORE CONCEPTS



Cal Poly's 2035 Campus Master Plan sets the stage for student success in innumerable ways. An intentional turn towards increased on-campus housing, protection of surrounding agricultural resources and open spaces, and integration and organization of campus core open space and redevelopment of the campus to maintain a compact academic core are all deliberate efforts to underscore the "teaching and learning happens everywhere" philosophy. Development on campus continued through the five-year master planning process resulting in a major new on-campus freshman student housing complex, new student, faculty and staff dining complex, several new classroom buildings and plans underway for additional faculty and staff housing, additional upper division student housing, a new JUSTIN and J. Lohr Center for Wine & Viticulture, the Oppenheimer Family Equestrian Center, and other notable additions to the physical campus. The university is more sought after than ever in its history and will welcome a new large freshman class this fall to begin their journey to lead our nation forward in science, mathematics, agriculture and other essential academic pursuits critical to a competitive global economic ecosystem.

Cal Poly Tech Park Lab Concept



JUSTIN and J. Lohr Center for Wine & Viticulture




Oppenheimer Family Equestrian Center

RESULTS OF THE PROCESS

As California continues to trail behind housing production demands, the Master Plan's focus on increasing on-campus housing provides a much-needed supply that will serve to ease the housing crisis in the local market. While this was a university goal from the start, the multiple benefits derived from this planning principle are evident in improvements to town-gown relations, student success, greenhouse gas reductions, circulation and parking congestion relief, and increased housing supply. Cal Poly has always had an on-campus residential component; however, it has largely relied on the town for its social and housing infrastructure. The sea-change to an on-campus residential community complete with entertainment, food and beverage, recreation, retail, industry research, and office space combined with on-campus residential neighborhoods in a university setting will fundamentally change the impact this significant institution has on its relatively small host city. These dramatic goals, while present from the start, have coalesced via the Master Plan into a truly transformative vision.



RESULTS OF THE PROCESS



The 2035 Master Plan was widely supported by City, County, and environmental and business interests in the community largely due to the strong initial effort to engage constituents. In so doing, the Master Plan was centered on solving existing issues that have long created tension between campus and community. Increased on-campus housing, conservation of natural lands, resources and sustainability, increased multi-modal transportation systems, redevelopment of the campus core, improving neighborhood relations, and improved communication between campus and local government all were results of the engagement process. The Master Plan will ensure that the community and university will prosper well into the future in a mutually beneficial co-existence with minimal friction.

RESULTS OF THE PROCESS



The Cal Poly Master Plan Update paves a path for the university's sustained growth through 2035. It serves not only as a roadmap for new buildings, facilities, and learning spaces, but holistically as a guide for the university to adhere to goals in the realms of sustainability, student diversity and inclusion, and much more. Ultimately, the Master Plan will help Cal Poly preserve their core philosophy: Learn By Doing. Whether learning takes place in an outdoor learning lab or in a dormitory study room, the Master Plan ensures that Learn by Doing is truly way a life at Cal Poly and beyond!

Special thanks to California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo, the California State University Board of Trustees, and the President's Cabinet for their collaboration in this endeavor, with additional thanks to all consultant teams.