





| Titi oddction | | \ |
|------------------------------------|--------|---|
| Campus Master Plan Prin | ciples | 15 |
| | | |
| Vision & Recommendation | ns 🔇 | 19 |
| | | |
| Campus Structure | | 61 |
| Implementation Strategie | .s A | 73 |







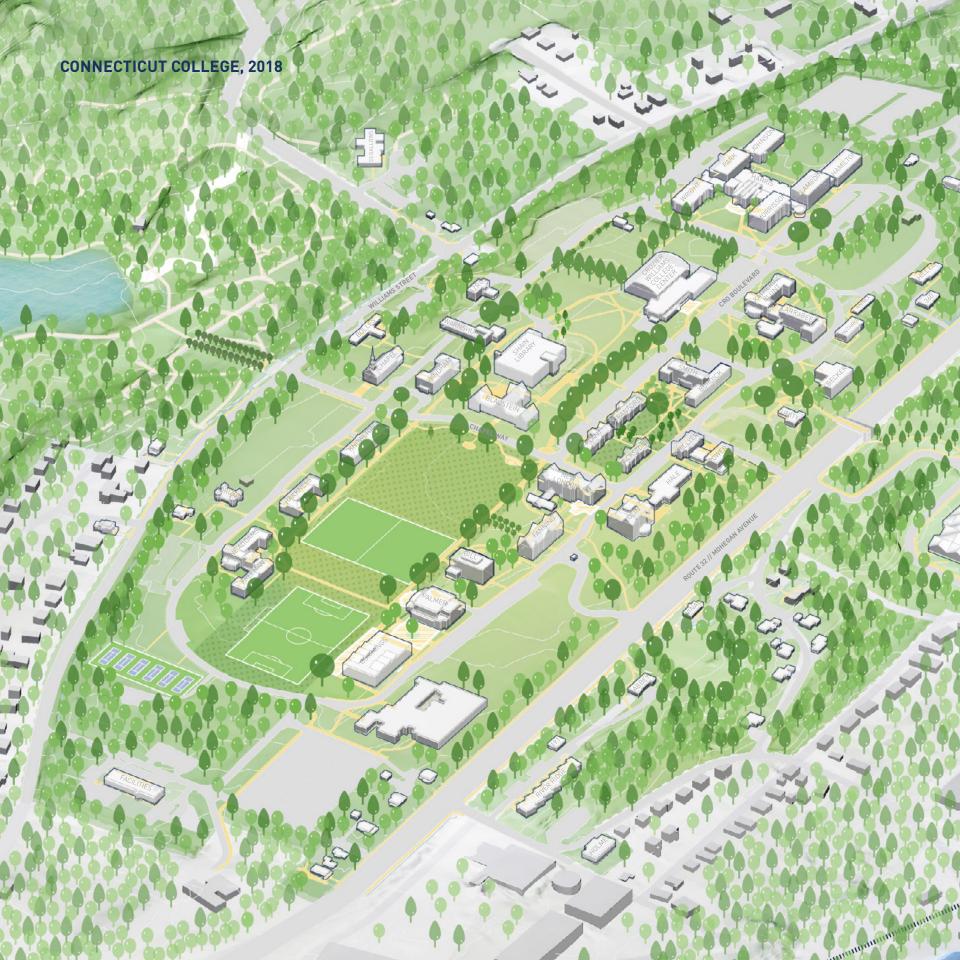


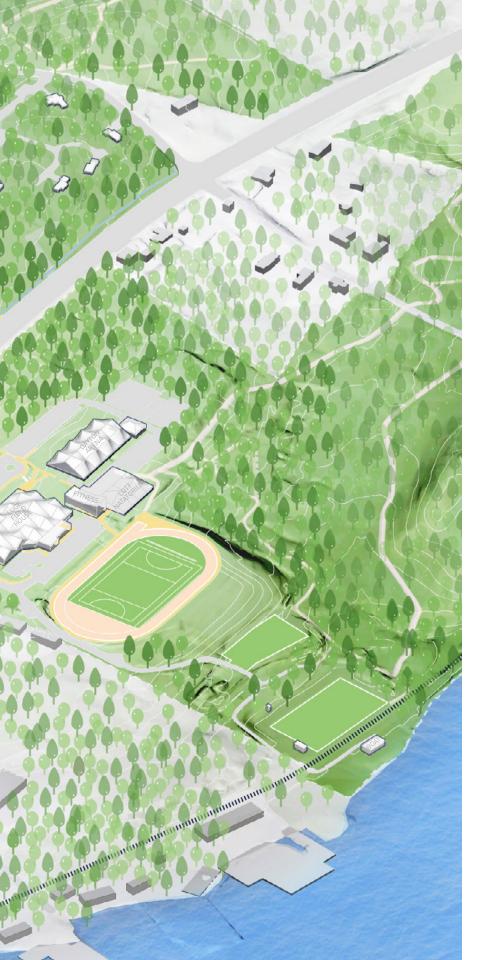
About Connecticut College

Connecticut College (Conn) was founded in 1911 as a women's college rooted in the liberal arts tradition. Over the past one hundred and seven years, Conn has become a co-educational institution, and enrollment has grown to a student population of nearly two thousand students per year. Conn offers 41 majors and has established a reputation for excellence in academics, the performing arts, and athletics.

During the past fifteen years, the student population at Conn has been relatively stable, fluctuating by no more than 100 students. At the outset of the study, 1,865 students were enrolled. Approximately 63% of the student body identified as female, and 97% of students lived on-campus. That year, the College employed 223 faculty and instructional staff members, and 553 non-instructional staff. The majority of Conn students major in Social Sciences (45%), followed by majors in the Natural Sciences (25%) and Humanities (25%). The Master Plan relies on these base figures to inform space needs.

In their 1913 letter to President Blunt, the Olmsted Brothers (sons of renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted) emphasized Conn's hilltop location, quality of views, and physical setting as primary factors that influenced their proposed layout of buildings and landscapes for the new campus. Today, the campus context continues to play an important role in the community experience and campus identity.





Purpose of the Campus Master Plan

Conceptual Design Framework For 2018-2038

The 2018 Connecticut College Campus Master Plan serves as a conceptual design framework that outlines development opportunities over a twenty-year horizon. It establishes an armature for development, defining the physical structure for circulation, open space, and development opportunities within which academic and campus life can flourish. Having a flexible physical planning framework in place enables the College to seize opportunities for growth and development as they emerge, while incrementally realizing the collective vision for the future of the College.

"Building On Strength" – A New Strategic Plan for the College

The Campus Master Plan serves as a complement to the recently completed Strategic Plan, providing a guide for the evolution of the campus and the physical spaces necessary to realize the goals of the College. Building on Strength: A New Plan for Connecticut College1 focuses on reinforcing the strengths of the institution, and is rooted in the following three pillars:

- Enhancing Academic Distinction
- ▶ Enriching the Student Experience
- Supporting a Diverse, Just, and Sustainable Community.

Conn has already implemented programs to support these areas, including implementation of the interdisciplinary Connections curriculum and building a LEED-certified addition to New London Hall.

 Axonometric view of the Connecticut College campus in 2018

Process

Schedule



DISCOVERY & ANALYSIS

CONCEPT ALTERNATIVES



Worksession/Engagement

The Campus Master Plan is the product of a three-phase planning process that includes a comprehensive inventory and analysis phase, the development of concept alternatives and project principles phase, and the final development and implementation phase.

The first phase of the project occurred in the fall of 2017. The Discovery & Analysis phase included a review of previous planning studies, the campus history, and the current built environment and landscape. The planning team analyzed scheduling and utilization data for classrooms and labs (including studios), visited campus to record observations, conducted interviews with stakeholders, and released an online myCampus mapping survey to the Conn community.

Phase two of the planning process included development of concept alternatives for the campus, responding to the findings from the Discovery & Analysis phase. The steering committee and senior administrators provided feedback on two concept alternatives to help refine desired goals and priorities for the campus plan. Based on this input, a hybrid option combined favored ideas from each concept, and served as the draft campus master plan. The hybrid option prioritized safe, accessible connections between the central and east portions of campus, strategic renovation and construction projects, and a reimagined campus core.

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May 18

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES



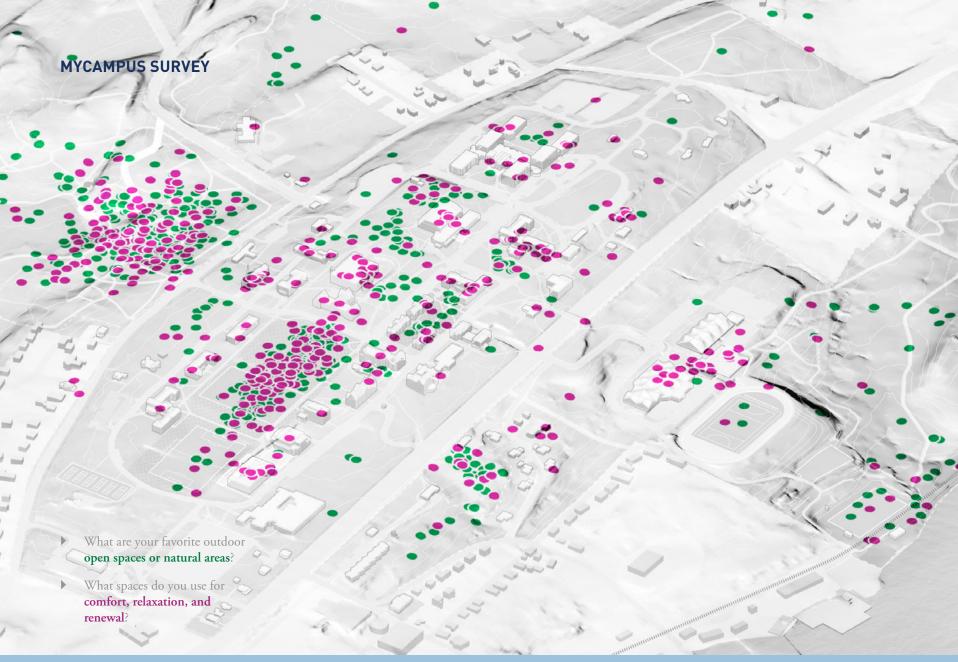
The final phase of the planning process includes the development of an implementation strategy, including cost estimates, space migration, and phasing. The conclusion of phase three is the final documentation of the campus master plan and the planning process.

Steering Committee

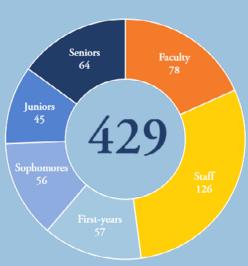
The Campus Master Plan Steering Committee was established to guide the process and included Connecticut College faculty, staff, and students. Members of the Steering Committee included:

- Vice President Finance & Administration, Richard Madonna
- Associate Vice President Facilities Management and Campus Planning, Trina Learned
- Vice President Advancement, Kim Verstandig
- Dean of the College, Jefferson Singer
- Dean of Institutional Equity, John McKnight
- Dean of Students, Victor Arcelus
- Dean of the Faculty, Abigail VanSlyck
- Assistant Director of Sustainability, Margaret Bounds
- Assistant Director Facilities, Anne Kelley
- Director of the Arboretum, Glenn Dreyer
- Director of Athletics, Fran Shields
- Arts Faculty, David Dorfmar
- Environmental Studies Faculty, Peter Siver
- Psychology Faculty, Ann Devlin
- Student Representative, Ariana Pazmino, `18
- Student Representative, Myles McDevitt, '18
- Student Representative, Courtney Peyko, '20
- Student Representative, Catherine Rockett, '18

The Steering Committee was responsible for relaying ideas and considerations of the areas they represented, as well as communicating key ideas of the master plan back to their colleagues for feedback. Steering Committee members actively participated in shaping the process and development of the plan. They confirmed, corrected, and reinforced findings based on their understanding of existing conditions and key considerations. The Steering Committee members will serve as ambassadors and advocates for the plan in years to come.



To understand how the various campus populations use the campus, we launched an online survey, called the MyCampus survey, that invites users to place icons on an interactive map and write comments. The comments provide tremendous insight into the culture on campus and impact of the physical environment on the experience at Connecticut College. The survey was open for two weeks, and 429 individuals participated by placing nearly 14,000 icons. Topics surveyed include accessibility, campus heart, collaboration, dining, gathering, improvement needed, innovation, natural areas, open spaces, outdoor learning, recreation, reflection, socializing, studying, traditions, unsafe areas, and various forms of mobility. Responses to the open spaces, natural areas, and relaxation questions are shown above, with additional responses included in the appendix.



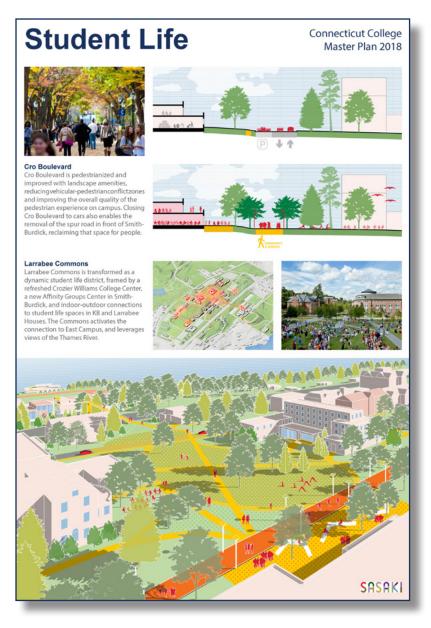




Top: Steering Committee members identify areas of opportunity during the kickoff

Bottom: Campus community members provide feedback on the proposed campus

Right: Example board displayed during an open house outreach session.



Engagement

Over the duration of the process the campus community provided input on the plan and were engaged in a variety of ways, including:

- 6 milestone steering committee meetings
- 24 bi-weekly internal steering committee meetings
- 30 stakeholder interviews and focus groups
- 40 core team weekly virtual conferences
- 300+ participants attended outreach sessions
- 429 online survey participants





Campus Master Plan Principles

Building on the Strategic Plan's objectives and priorities, the Campus Master Plan is guided by the following principles:



Reveal the life of the campus - both academic and social

Take opportunities to physically showcase the Connections curriculum, including spaces for multidisciplinary collaboration, and to highlight Conn's robust student life activities.



Rationalize campus systems and organization

Create a sense of visual and physical cohesion across campus while improving efficiency and safety.



Renew and reinvest in existing campus environment

Celebrate the historically significant landscape structure and extensive Arboretum collection. Provide varied outdoor spaces to encourage exploration and learning. Reaffirm Conn's commitment to existing buildings through renovations and addressing deferred maintenance.



Promote accessibility and diversity

Bring parity to Conn's affinity groups, providing dedicated, high-quality space to each. Improve accessibility to campus buildings and landscapes.



Embody sustainability best practices

Further Conn's dedication to environmental and economic stewardship by aspiring toward sustainable standards in every project, including new construction, renovation, and landscape maintenance.



Celebrate Conn's setting: hilltop location, proximity to river, arboretum identity

Leverage Conn's unique location and variety of landscape types by improving visual and physical connections between the Arboretum, campus core, and Thames River.



VISION AND RECOMMENDATIONS





Vision and Recommendations

The Connecticut College Campus Master Plan envisions a campus befitting the school's identity as a preeminent liberal arts college. The recommendations present a comprehensive vision for a unified campus. Foundational to this are rationalized pedestrian and vehicular mobility systems that foster the dynamic interactions of the campus community and improved accessibility and safety for everyone. The integrated landscape recommendations extend the existing pedestrian spine toward Crozier Williams College Center, and provide places for assembly and impromptu interactions. New construction and strategic renovations improve parity across learning, living, and social environments, and provide visual and physical connections to the landscape. This holistic approach to the campus extends learning beyond the classroom, supporting the Connections curriculum.

The Campus Master Plan vision and recommendations are organized around the three primary Academic Strategic Plan pillars:

Enhancing Academic Distinction

Enriching the Student Experience

Supporting a Diverse, Just, and **Sustainable Community**

■ Axonometric view of the proposed plan for Connecticut College





Enhancing Academic Distinction

Plans to enhance academic distinction focus on improving spaces for facultystudent connections, co-locating collaborative departments, and increasing accessibility.

Based on the space utilization assessment, Conn has sufficient formal learning spaces, including classrooms, labs, and studios, to support its current course offerings and enrollment. However, increasing the total number of offices and informal learning spaces would have a positive impact on the academic environment at the College. Informal learning spaces, such as seating areas near classrooms and labs, provide opportunities for continuing discussions after class time and encouraging collaboration across departments. These spaces, in turn, support interdisciplinary learning goals outlined in the Connections curriculum.

Co-locating collaborating departments would further bolster the Connections curriculum goals. In addition, shifting departments housed in peripheral locations to the academic core provides a more central location for departments with high enrollment and student interaction levels, while increasing collaboration opportunities between departments. Many existing academic buildings lack elevators notably Fanning Hall, Bill Hall, and Winthrop Hall, which limits access to instructional areas. Adding elevators and upgrading the infrastructure, furnishings, and fixtures in older academic buildings that serve core campus functions enhances access for all.

Improving student-facing administrative spaces with increased accessibility and visibility enables students to have ready access to the resources they need, contributing to student success. Co-locating collaborative offices enables faculty and staff to oversee efficiently College operations.





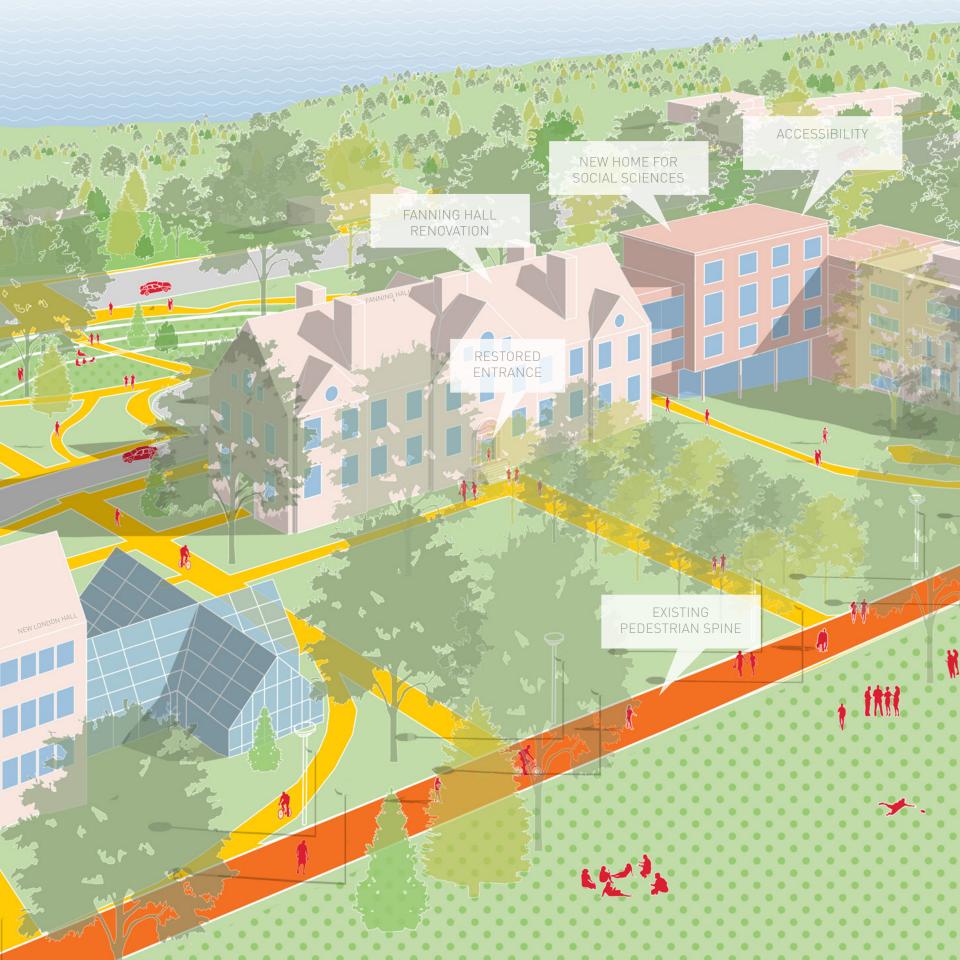
KEY ACADEMIC GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

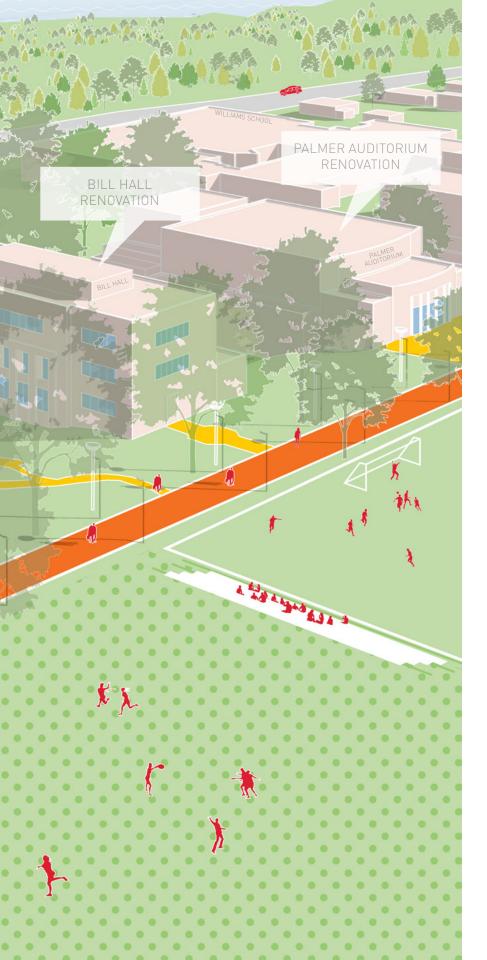
- Renovate and enhance arts spaces: all Theater and Dance spaces in Palmer Auditorium, Film Studies in Hillyer Hall, and Architectural Studies and the Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology in the Cummings Arts Center.
- Construct the Bill-Fanning Connector to co-locate collaborating social sciences departments, a group with the most declared majors for the College.
- Renovate Bill Hall and Fanning Hall to enhance the quality of space, address space needs, and improve accessibility.
- Co-locate language and culture departments to Blaustein Hall, home to Humanities, strengthening the Otto and Fran Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement.
- Renovate and reposition the Bolles House as the home for the Native Plant Collection / Arboretum and Environmental Studies.
- Renovate 33 Gallows Lane as the new home for the Lab School.
- Relocate and consolidate Music Library from Cummings; Writing Center expands east of Academic Resource Center.

KEY ADMINISTRATIVE GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Vacate non-student oriented administrative functions from Crozier Williams College Center, and renovate the offices that remain.
- Renovate office spaces in Warnshuis, Winthrop Hall and Annex, and in Fanning Hall.
- Locate offices such as Campus Safety and Human Resources closer to the campus core to give them greater visibility and improve access.
- Move student-facing and visitor-facing administrative functions to Fanning Hall, including the Office of Financial Aid Services.
- Shift non-student-facing administrative functions to Winthrop Hall, such as Information Services and Accounting.
- Vacate administrative functions from buildings with other student programming.

◀ Academic and Administrative Strategy





BILL-FANNING CONNECTOR

A new building connecting Bill Hall and Fanning Hall becomes a new home for the Social Sciences within the campus core and provides elevator access to both Bill Hall and Fanning Hall. Social Sciences departments are co-located in the new building, including Anthropology, Economics, History, Sociology, Government, Education, Human Development, and Gender and Women's Studies. In addition, the building accommodates a first-year resources area that will increase the visibility of the Connections office and the Writing Center. Moreover, six new classrooms will serve first year seminar classes and provide the social sciences departments with teaching spaces adjacent to their offices.





◀ Rendering of renovated Palmer Auditorium

PALMER AUDITORIUM RENOVATION

Plans are underway to revitalize Palmer Auditorium, a building which has helped Connecticut College become a national leader in the arts. The goal is to inspire new forms of teaching, research, and performance. The proposed renovations address façade renewal, code requirements, and accessibility, and include the south-adjacent Castle Court as well as external staircase connecting the courtyard to Tempel Green. Proposed improvements to Castle Court will re-conceive the space as a natural amphitheater and outdoor classroom, expanding its use and impact throughout the year. The complete renovation is designed to activate a new social hub on the southern end of central campus, complementing the College Center to the north. Bill-Fanning Connector

A new building connecting Bill Hall and Fanning Hall becomes a new home for the Social Sciences within the campus core and provides elevator access to both Bill Hall and Fanning Hall. Social Sciences departments are co-located in the new building, including Anthropology, Economics, History, Sociology, Government, Education, Human Development, and Gender and Women's Studies. In addition, the building accommodates a first-year resources area that will increase the visibility of the Connections office and the Writing Center. Moreover, six new classrooms will serve first year seminar classes and provide the social sciences departments with teaching spaces adjacent to their offices.





Enriching the Student Experience

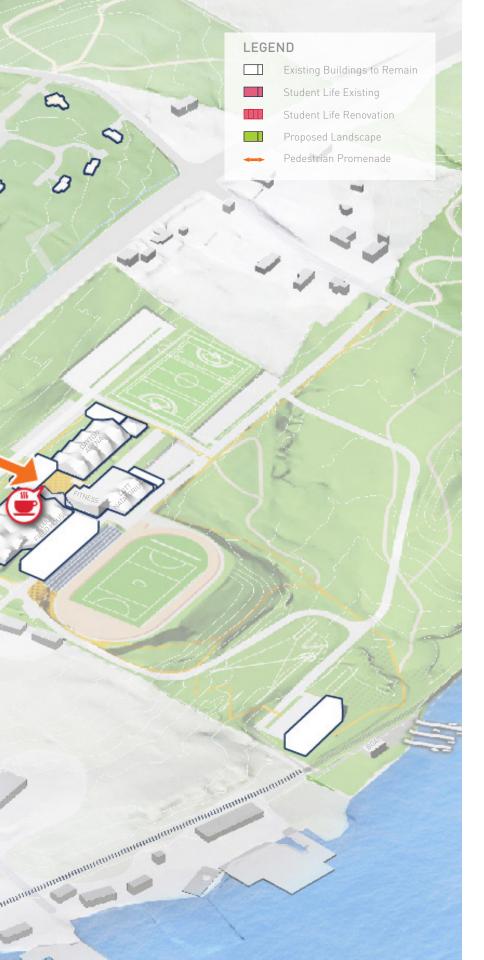
Student Life

Most campus destinations are within a five-minute walk from Shain Library. This compactness concentrates activity in the campus core and grants the College a sense of community. This sense of community, however, is frequently obscured behind opaque facades. Opportunity exists to insert transparent facades into historic buildings, inviting pedestrians into spaces and revealing the life of the campus. The plan positions the area surrounding the College Center at Crozier Williams (Cro) and Shain Library as the heart of the campus. Crozier Boulevard, in the future, is reimagined as a pedestrian-oriented promenade within which the life of the campus unfolds.

KEY STUDENT LIFE GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Activate the campus heart, broadly defined by the area surrounding the College Center at Crozier-Williams, or Cro, and Shain Library.
- Pedestrianize the campus core.
- Renovate student life spaces to support contemporary programs and welcome people.
- Create new student life landscapes to extend interior social spaces outdoors.







Locust Walk is a vibrant, social pedestrian corridor replaces a roadway at University of Pennsylvania.

◀ Student Life Strategy

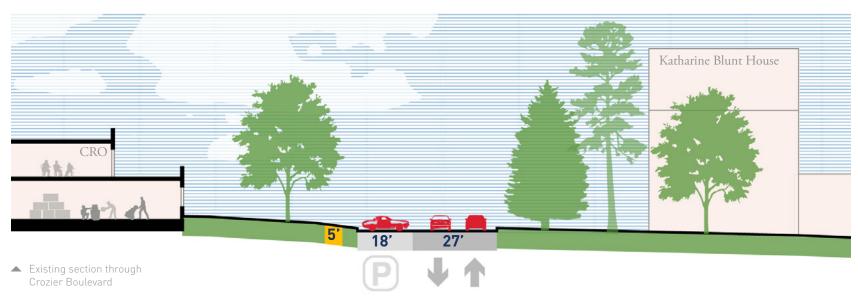
CROZIER WILLIAMS COLLEGE CENTER

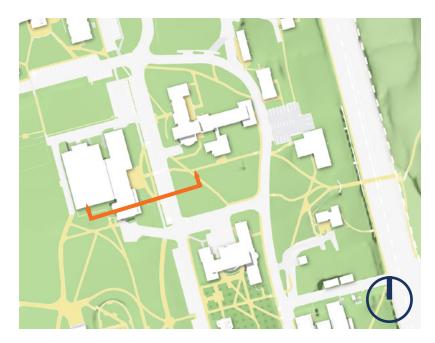
Renovations and additions to Cro create expanded space for student life organizations, the Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy, the Office of Sustainability, and Residential Life. Potential areas for future exploration include centralizing all dining and catering activity within Cro. This would help gather the campus community together and encourage students to explore the rich student life offerings housed within Cro.

Within a renovated Cro, dynamic spaces are envisioned at the building corners, replete with transparent facades that showcase the activity within. Establishing strong indoor-outdoor connections between Cro and proposed adjacent landscapes reinforces the important role that student activities have in the Connecticut College experience.

CROZIER BOULEVARD TODAY

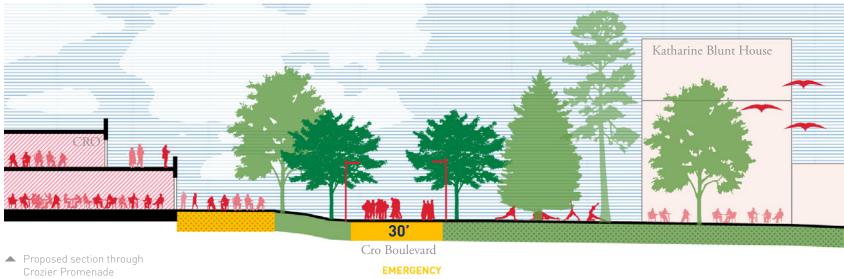
WEST





CROZIER PROMENADE PROPOSED





& SERVICE

CROZIER PROMENADE

In its current condition, Crozier Boulevard creates a barrier to comfortable pedestrian circulation within the most active area of the campus core. By relocating parking to perimeter lots along the proposed campus loop road, vehicular traffic along Crozier Boulevard can be limited to service and emergency vehicles. Instead of a linear parking lot, the new "Crozier Promenade" becomes a vibrant pedestrian corridor extending larger patterns of connectivity between the Plex to the north and Tempel Green and beyond to the Lyman Allen Museum to the south. Pedestrian connectivity across this new linear landscape is also improved and complemented by welcoming plaza spaces at main building frontages.



A firepit enables year-round outdoor socializing at Trinity College

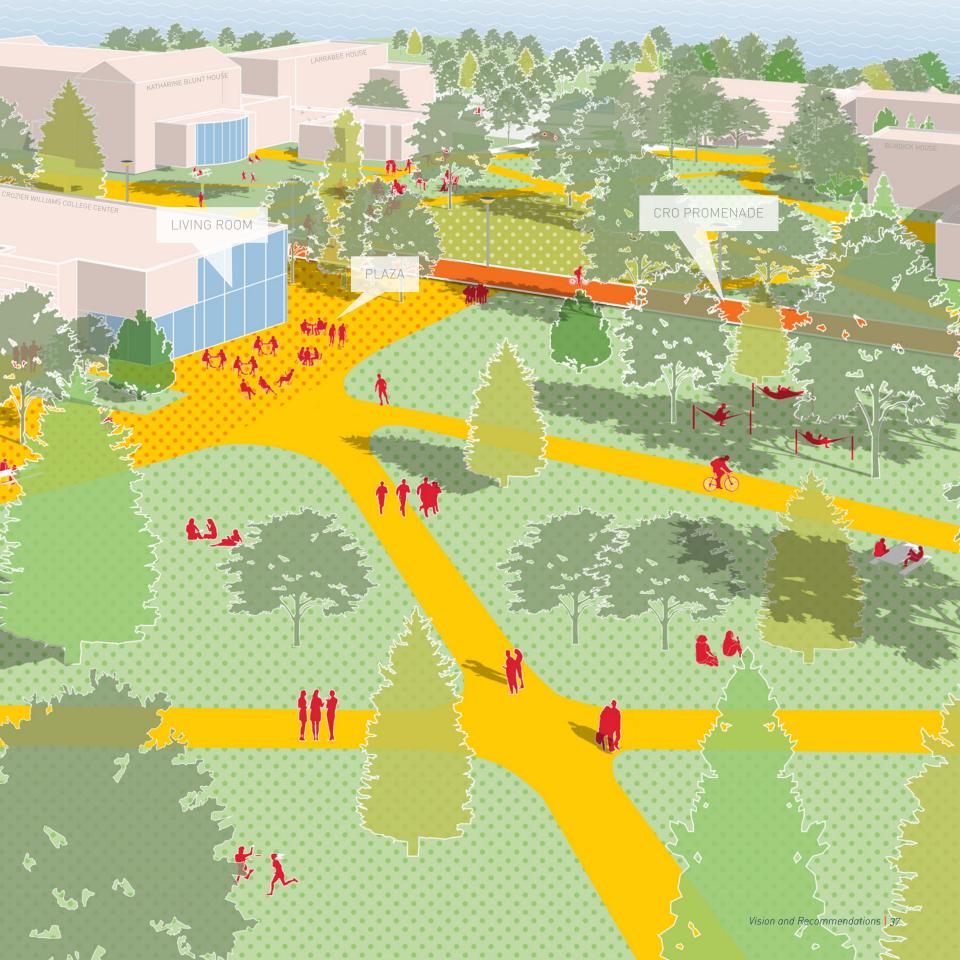


Dining plaza activates an adjacent open space at Monash University

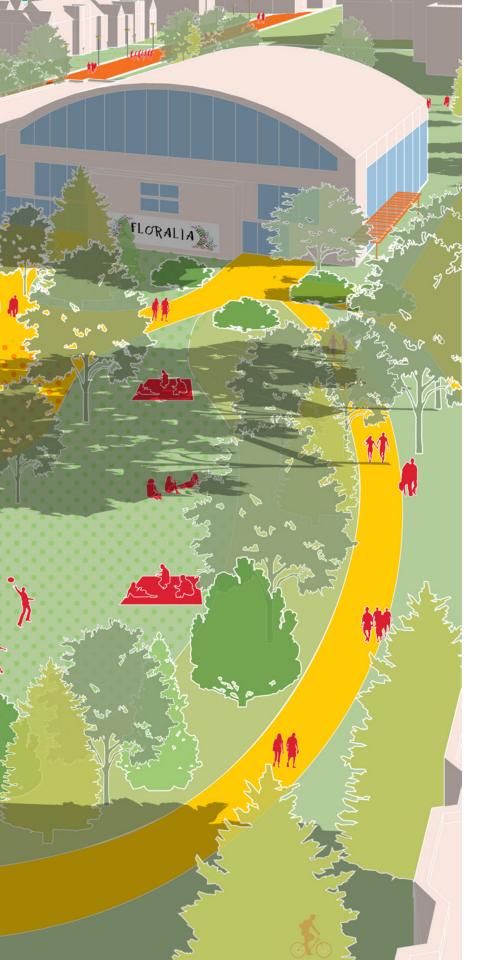
SHAIN OVAL

The large expanse of open space between Shain Library and Cro is reimagined as an outdoor hub of daily student activity. Its location along the south façade of Cro makes it an ideal location to accommodate outdoor dining, an outdoor social plaza, recreational lawns, and additional footpaths. By creating intimate scale spaces, the landscape becomes friendlier for smaller groups of students. The adjacent Cro Promenade, devoid of parked cars, provides a physical and visual connection from the Shain Oval to the residence halls and the Larrabee Commons, knitting the campus together at the heart. Envisioned as a flexible and playful space, it is accommodating in all four seasons.











A shallow amphitheater is a place for events and informal gathering.



A sculptural platform serves as informal seating, an event stage, and public art.

CROZIER DELL

With the campus road shifting to the north side of the Plex, a new significant landscape referred to as the "Crozier Dell" is proposed between the Plex and Cro. Working with the natural topography of the site, an outdoor amphitheater becomes a place for both formal and informal student performances, as well as larger events such as the popular campus-wide event Floralia. Along the western edge, the relocated Sprout Garden offers an experiential learning environment and provides produce for the campus kitchens.



An outdoor dining plaza extends the indoors outside



Cultivated nature contributes to a contemplative landscape at Howard Community College.

UNITY CENTER

The Unity Center in Smith-Burdick House provides the Womxn's Center, the LGBTQIA Center, the Multicultural Center, and the International Student Center with dedicated meeting and offices spaces, as well as shared spaces for individual or collaborative events. The Unity Center provides greater parity and access to affinity groups. To accommodate this new program, the first and ground floors of Smith-Burdick are renovated, including a transparent addition to the northern façade that opens onto Larrabee Commons.

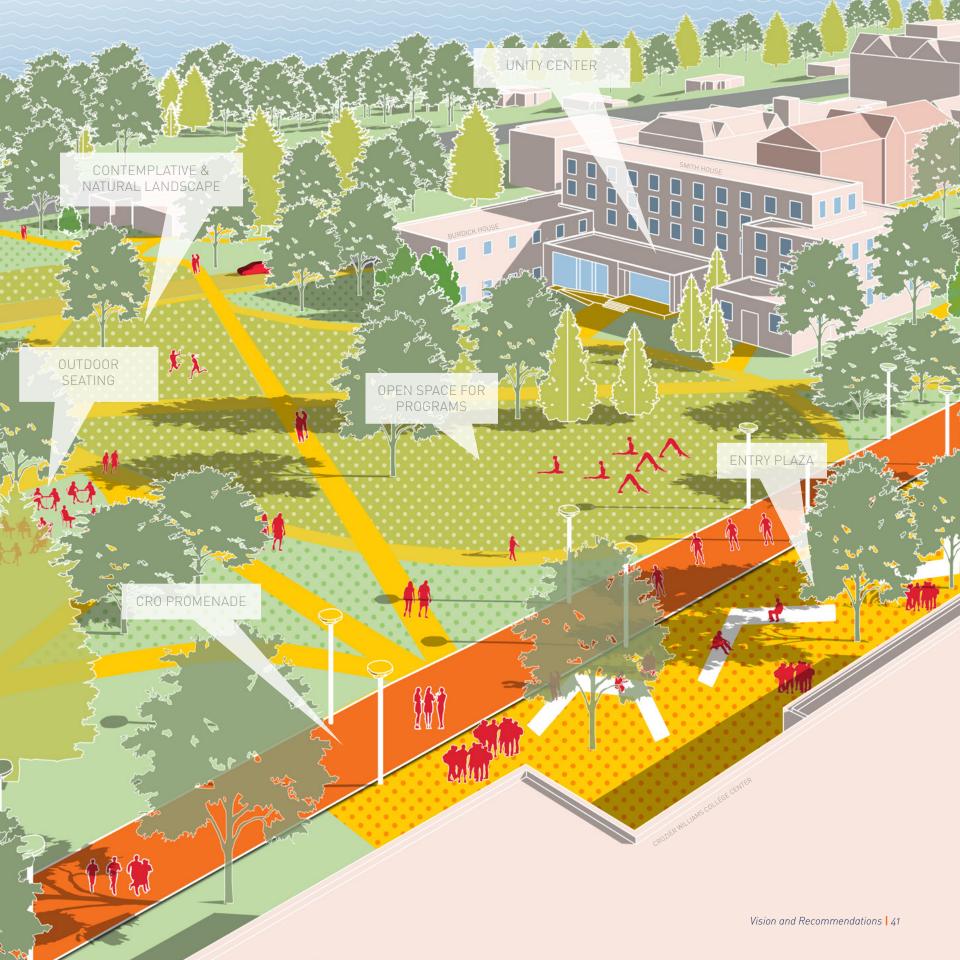
LARRABEE COMMONS

The Larrabee Commons reimagines the open space between Smith-Burdick House, Larrabee House, Katharine Blunt House, and Becker House. Taking advantage of views to the Thames River, it is transformed into a contemplative landscape that offers space for quiet reflection, meditation, and relaxation. Creating strong, intentional connections between the building entrances and the landscape enhances the sense of place in this central campus location. Larrabee Commons diversifies the landscape program by offering a counterpoint to the actively-programmed Shain Oval and Crozier Dell, and provides a legible connection to the Athletics Center across Route 32.

STUDENT CAFES

The individual personalities of the College's many student-run coffee shops create a unique network of satellite student life spaces, offering a space for everyone. Minor renovations to Coffee Grounds, in Katharine Blunt House, could greatly enhance the space's contribution to the campus culture. A new set of doors on the southern façade would create an ideal indoor-outdoor connection









Enriching the Student Experience

Residential Life

Connecticut College is a residential college, and almost all students live on campus. Several opportunities exist to improve the residential student experience, including comfort, quality, and personal development.

KEY RESIDENTIAL GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The College can improve the quality of the residential experience through surgical renovations, bed reallocations, and new construction. Specific goals and recommendations include:

- Increase the number of apartment-style and suite-style living options on central campus to diversify the housing typologies on campus and supporting students' personal growth with more independent-living
- Repurpose vestigial dining spaces in existing residence halls to create suite-style housing.
- Consider creating a first-year residential experience by co-locating firstyear residence halls.
- Develop new residential life building(s) to increase the supply of highquality housing.
- Consider long-term ground lease opportunities on land east of Route 32, including land associated with the vacated River Ridge apartments, Abbey House, and 191 Mohegan.





◀ Residential Life Strategy

NEW APARTMENT-STYLE RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

A new residential building north of Lazrus House adds apartment-style housing to the campus core, offering independent living options for upperclassmen while encouraging residents to remain involved in on-campus activities. Proposed semi-private open spaces and adjacent parking area support more independent-living. This proposed building would replace the beds presently located in the River Ridge Apartments, 191 Mohegan, and Abbey House.

NEW RESIDENCE HALL

A new residence hall north of Blackstone House would complete the historic quad. Matching the size and scale of the existing quad structures, the new facility would add a sufficient number of traditional beds to decommission basement and overcrowded bedrooms across campus. Adding beds in this central location helps reinforce the residential communities on campus today.

IMPROVE EXISTING RESIDENCE HALLS

Renovations to existing residence halls, including changes to room typology to increase the diversity of available housing types, quality improvements to remove exposed piping, and upgrades to common areas, would improve the overall student experience at the College. Recent renovations to Hamilton House and Morrison House have been well-received, and could be used as a guide for future residential renovation projects. Comparable renovations are currently planned for other residence halls within the Plex.





Enriching the Student Experience

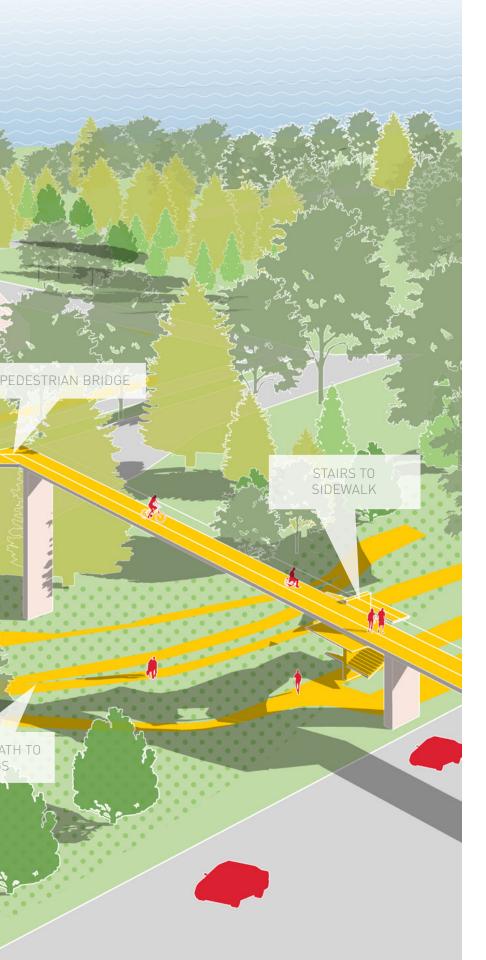
Athletics and Recreation

The majority of athletics and recreation facilities at the College are located east of the campus core, across Route 32 in the area referred to as the Athletics Center. The district is home to buildings of varying ages, and many need upgrades just to accommodate basic programmatic needs and parity among programs. Today, the athletics facilities can feel unwelcoming to visitors or casual users who encounter a series of buildings with no clear entrance or wayfinding system. Additionally, while the topography creates opportunities to celebrate the view of the Thames River, this amenity remains an untapped resource from many vantage points. The dramatic topography from the core campus also adds challenges for accessibility, and along with the distance from the core, can feel like a barrier to those less likely to participate in the district's offerings.

KEY ATHLETICS AND RECREATION GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Address clarity and cohesion by upgrading the branding, arrival, transparency, and social experience within the Athletics precinct.
- Implement strategic renovations and additions to the athletics and recreation facilities, including new support facilities for all programs, and new outdoor spaces.
- Celebrate the College's legacy as the only NESCAC School with waterfront access







An outdoor elevator and pedestrian bridge traverses a slope and a roadway above grade to give pedestrians and cyclists a seamless across the topographic change.

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

A pedestrian bridge replacement extends from the Larrabee Commons across Route 32 to the athletics district. The bridge span is elongated compared to the existing pedestrian bridge in order to traverse more of the topography. A pedestrian elevator incorporated at the eastern terminus of the bridge creates a fully accessible crossing from the campus core to the athletics district. A ramp or stair connects the pedestrian bridge to the eastern sidewalk along Route 32 to create pedestrian access to other buildings on the eastern side of Route 32. Together with the proposed Athletics Gateway Building, the pedestrian bridge provides a welcoming link and strong first impression for all, establishing an important point of entry into the Connecticut College experience for students, future applicants, parents, and visitors.

ATHLETICS GATEWAY BUILDING

A new gateway building addition at the western edge of the precinct greets facility users and visitors arriving by car, bike, or on foot. It serves as a clear entrance to the district, and provides directions and pathways to each athletics and recreation venue within. As the entry node for the district, it is well-positioned to showcase the Conn College brand as well as the history and success of the athletics teams.





◀ Athletics and Recreation Strategy

ATHLETICS SUPPORT BUILDING

An addition to the east side of Luce Field House offers integrated spectator seating for the stadium, additional locker rooms that support the College's athletics teams, storage space, and an enhanced sport medicine facility. A multipurpose space on the second floor provides a vantage point to view athletics competitions on the stadium turf and offers expansive views of the Thames River. This space is intended to support recruiting efforts, athletics alumni events, which are currently hosted away from the athletics facilities, as well as team meetings and general campus events.

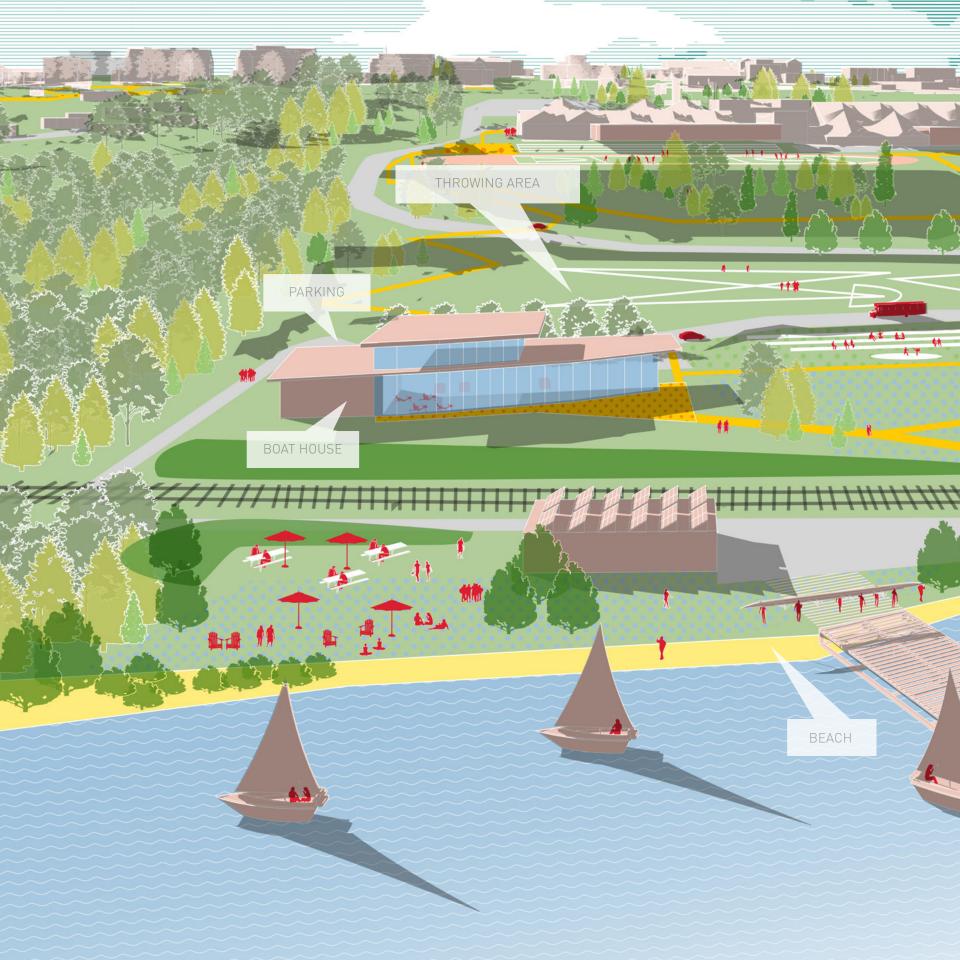
FACILITIES ADDITIONS

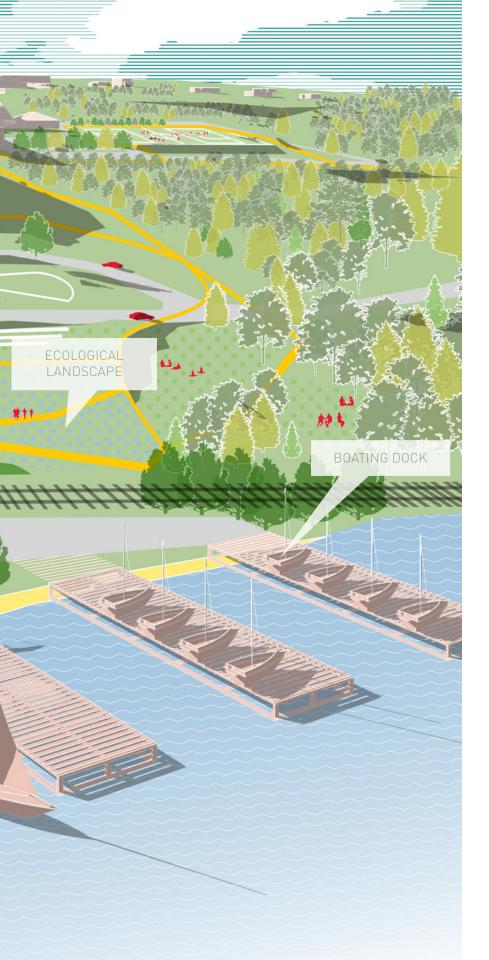
An addition to Dayton Arena provides necessary locker rooms for home and visiting teams, as well as for coaches and officials. The addition will also improve the visitor experience, connecting to the proposed Athletics Gateway Building to provide a clear entrance to the Arena's spectator accommodations. An addition to Lott Natatorium offers space to expand and essentially double the locker room facilities and seamlessly integrate the building within the larger athletics district. This would provide locker rooms for visiting and home teams on the pool deck level while potentially accommodating new multi-purpose studios on its upper level, near the fitness center.

OUTDOOR ATHLETICS FACILITIES

A new synthetic turf field north of Dayton Arena provides the preferred surface for field hockey. The field's position takes advantage of the natural topography to integrate spectator seating into the hillside, as well as provide sufficient pedestrian connections to the field. A new throwing area east of the stadium, at a lower elevation, provides space for track and field events.

On the campus core, additional tennis courts adjacent to the existing tennis courts south of JA-Freeman House offer space for concurrent men's and women's tennis matches. A new grass field east of the tennis courts supports recreation, clubs, and intramural sports, replacing the grass field near the waterfront. An adjacent support structure provides spectator seating, restrooms, and storage.





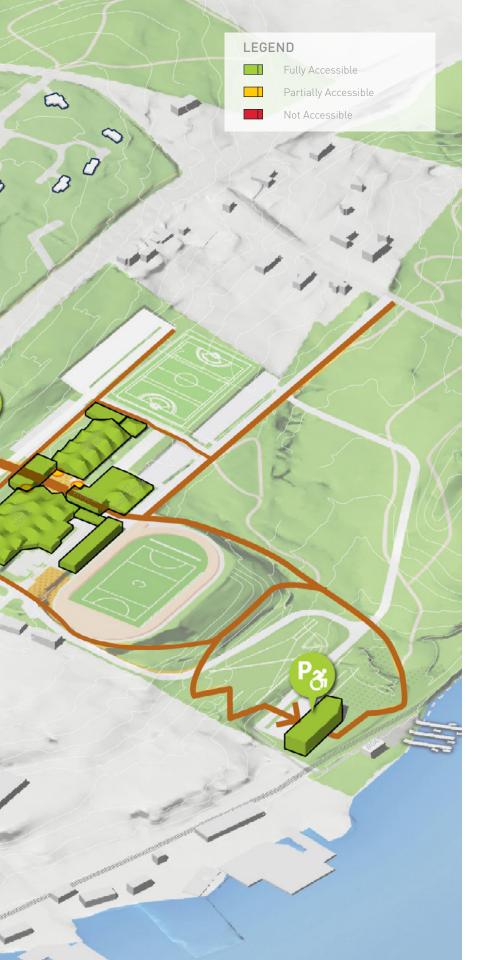
BOATHOUSE

A new boathouse supports athletics, recreation, academics, special events, and community programs. The lower level addresses the sailing team's storage and meeting needs, while an adjacent multi-purpose space can be used for teaching and learning by the Environmental Studies and Biology programs. In addition, the boathouse can serve as a unique waterfront event space for the College and New London communities, encouraging greater access and engagement with the waterfront. The existing grass field, which relocates and gets replaced east of the tennis courts, converts into parking and trails that support the new waterfront park.

WATERFRONT

A new park-like environment on the waterfront enhances the open space adjacent to the new boathouse along the Thames River. Featuring natural and ecological landscapes, shade for outdoor learning spaces, and opportunities to view the activities taking place on the water, it is an incredible amenity that Conn can offer the campus community. Integrated trails lead up to the athletics precinct, and can accommodate a vehicular road with space for parking.





Supporting a Diverse, Just, and Sustainable Community

An Inclusive Campus Environment

The third pillar of the Strategic Plan calls for supporting a diverse, just, and sustainable community. Physical manifestations of these ideas include creating a welcoming and inclusive campus environment, improvements to building and landscape accessibility, and environmentally and economically sustainable recommendations for the campus as a whole.

INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT

An inclusive environment should welcome all to campus. The Unity Center described on the preceding pages creates a welcoming environment for affinity groups to come together both individually and collectively. An inclusive environment also accounts for the families of faculty and staff. Relocating the Children's Program from the Holmes House to a renovated 33 Gallows provides additional space for the program and allows faculty members in the Department of Human Development easier access. The potential conversion of the Winchester apartments, Vinal Cottage, and houses along Williams Street and Mohegan Avenue into residences for faculty and staff helps welcome multi-generational members of the Conn community onto campus, and gives additional life to these peripheral campus buildings.

ACCESSIBILITY

Today, 18 campus buildings are considered fully accessible, 17 campus buildings are considered partially accessible, and 32 campus buildings are considered inaccessible. Following the build-out of the master plan, 8 more buildings will have improved accessibility and all 7 proposed buildings will be fully accessible. Renovations to Palmer Auditorium will make the building fully accessible. The new Bill-Fanning Connector is intended to make Bill Hall, Fanning Hall, and the Connector itself fully accessible. This impactful project will serve a significant percentage of the campus community.

LANDSCAPE ACCESSIBILITY

The College landscape is largely accessible using sidewalks, curb cuts, and ramps, but there are opportunities to close accessibility gaps by completing the sidewalk network, increasing the number of accessible ramps, and providing a stronger connection between the campus core and the athletics district east of Route 32. The replacement pedestrian bridge connecting the Larrabee Commons with the Athletics Gateway Building provides a critical and accessible link. Pedestrian and vehicular trails to the waterfront from the athletics buildings are other high impact accessibility projects, and complete an east-west link from the Arboretum to the waterfront.

◀ Campus accessibility (proposed)





Supporting a Diverse, Just, and Sustainable Community

A Sustainable Campus Environment

Connecticut College has demonstrated a strong commitment to environmental sustainability. The Office of Sustainability, alongside initiatives such as the Sustainability Plan, the President's Climate Commitment, and building to LEED Silver standards, form a strong foundation to further innovate and steward.

GEOTHERMAL AND ELECTRIC GRIDS

Incorporating geothermal grids beneath open spaces, such as the area west of the renovated Cro, can reduce the energy cost burden for the College. Opportunities to partner with an energy provider to install electric microgrids on the Athletics Center and Power Plant offer additional opportunities for sustainable energy consumption as well.

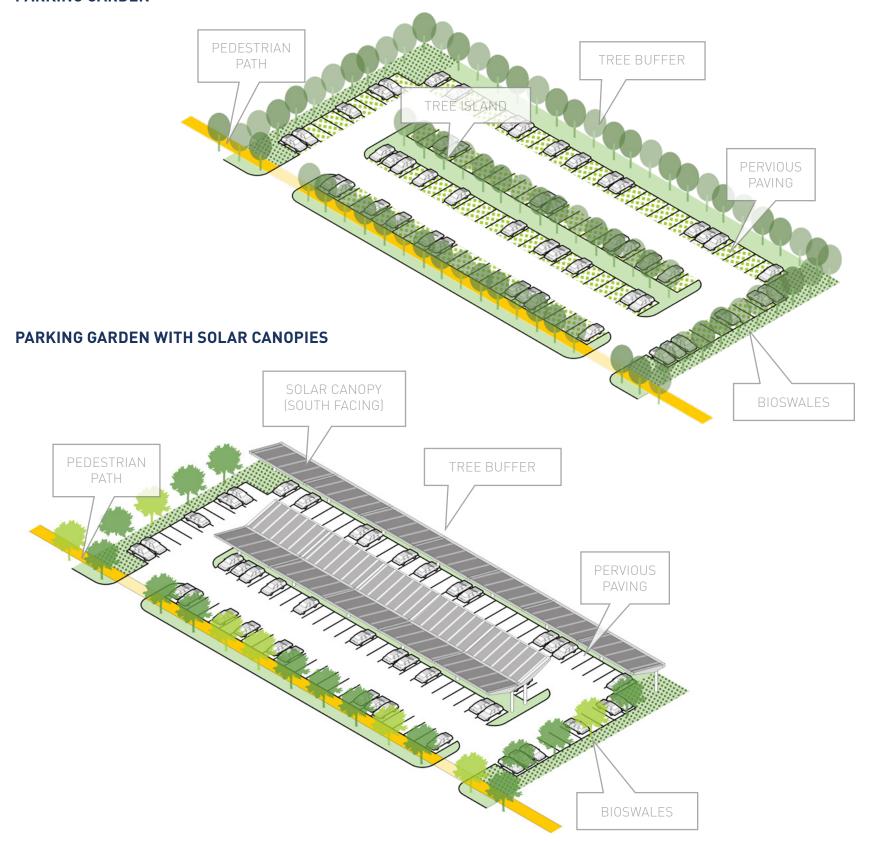
LOW MAINTENANCE LANDSCAPES

Transitioning parts of the College landscape into low-maintenance landscapes that reduce water, fertilizer, and pesticide use offers environmental and economic sustainability benefits. Carefully manicured areas at the campus core help contribute to Conn's sense of place, but native plants can reduce the maintenance burden of these areas. New or renovated landscapes such as the Shain Oval, Crozier Dell, and Larrabee Commons would contain a blend of landscape types that reduce long-term maintenance needs. In addition, some peripheral areas of the campus landscape provide opportunities to establish native meadow and woodland landscapes that are characteristic of the natural environment of the region.

LOCALLY-SOURCED FOOD

The Sprout Garden is a student-run local food initiative for the College. It serves as a source of produce for campus kitchens and as a learning laboratory for the campus community, providing an educational benefit. Expanding the Sprout Garden and relocating it to a more visible, active area will expand its reach and impact.

PARKING GARDEN





A parking garden with permeable pavers can feel like a natural extension of open



A parking garden with bioswale plantings helps capture stormwater for a large area of impermeable parking surfaces.

PARKING GARDENS

Existing and proposed parking areas are enhanced to create a more garden-like setting while providing stormwater management, shade, human comfort, and aesthetic value. Parking gardens integrate bioswales between parking bays to capture, clean, and infiltrate stormwater and surface flows. Tree islands can be incorporated either between the parking bays or can replace every 10th parking stall to reduce heat island effect and enhance human comfort in the summer. The gardens often use pervious pavers for the parking areas, where soil conditions allow. The gardens can be suitable locations for solar arrays, as the panels can serve as shade canopies in the summer and snow shields in the winter. New parking areas proposed around the campus periphery include opportunities for parking gardens.



CAMPUS STRUCTURE





The master plan is a comprehensive guide for strategic changes to the College campus. To provide flexibility in accommodating emerging needs, the plan is structured around two physical frameworks—mobility and landscape—that support the vision and big ideas.

Mobility

The mobility framework establishes pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular networks. These forms of movement work as a system, enabling people to use multiple modes of transportation to get to and around campus. The pedestrian network connects to bicycle and vehicular networks at strategic points, prioritizing pedestrian safety while enabling drivers to park their cars and easily walk around campus. The vehicular network is introduced via two gateways, celebrating entry into the College, while providing sufficient parking spaces and service access. The mobility framework complements the landscape framework, respecting the boundaries of ecological systems and habitats. Together, they establish stronger wayfinding and enhance first impressions of the campus.

CAMPUS GATEWAYS

The proposed improvements to the main campus gateway on Route 32 celebrate the entry experience to the College. By regrading the entrance landscape, the gateway becomes more visually significant, heightens the College's presence on Route 32, and enhances the visual connection to Fanning Hall. Upon arrival, Fanning Hall sits among a row of newly renovated buildings along the Campus Road that seamlessly blend old and new, including Palmer Auditorium and the Bill-Fanning Connector to its south, and New London Hall to its north.

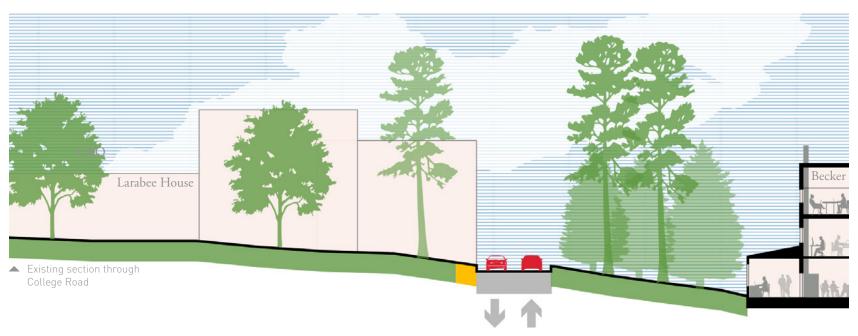
Approaching campus from Williams Street offers a quieter arrival sequence to the College, with visitors traveling from a smaller road and greeted first by the historic Harkness Chapel. A proposed sidewalk and additional trees near the gateway signifies that arrival moment, while also improving the pedestrian connection between central campus and the Arboretum.

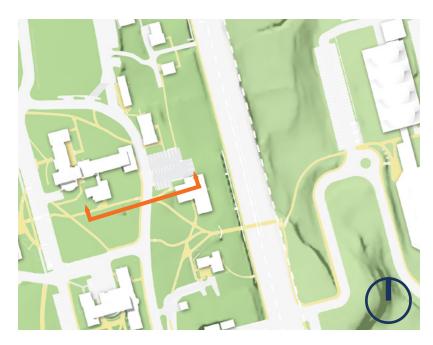
The main entrance to the Athletics Center shifts from its current location and to two new entries – one from the north off of Benham Avenue and one from the south off of Oneco Avenue.

 Proposed vehicular routes, campus gateways, and traffic signals and stops.

COLLEGE ROAD TODAY

WEST





COLLEGE ROAD PROPOSED

WEST

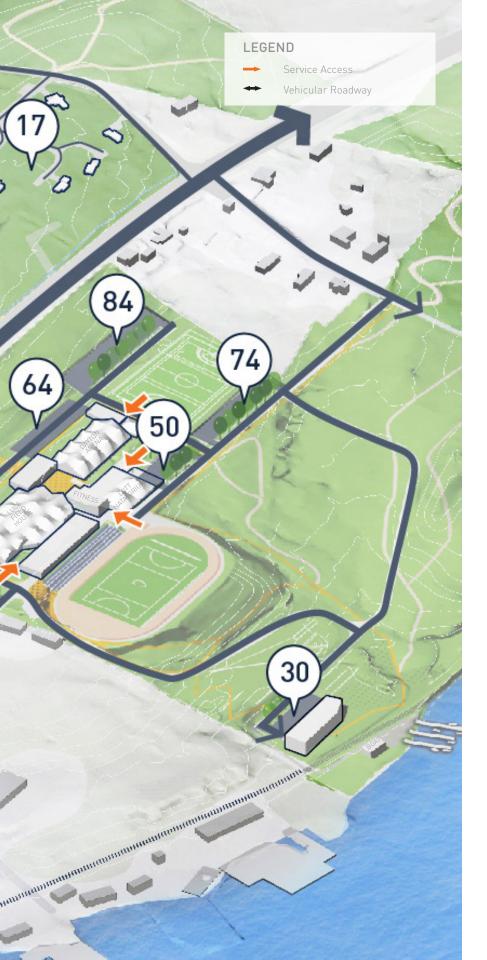


VEHICULAR CIRCULATION

Rerouting the loop road to stretch north of the Plex and south of the current southern-most recreational field improves the campus navigational experience for drivers and non-drivers alike, and supports the removal of Cro Boulevard, the road south of the Plex, and the road north of Smith Burdick as vehicular routes. The proposed campus road minimizes circulating cars in the campus core, providing scenic campus views along a continuous campus landscape. Vehicular access remains along Chapel Way. On the southeast corner of Cummings, the vehicular road has been rationalized into an orthogonal versus rounded corner.

The right-of-way is redesigned to add a contiguous network of sidewalks on both sides of the roadway, bioswales, and pedestrian scaled lighting.





PARKING

As the campus grows and when Cro Boulevard becomes Cro Promenade, parking supply needs to be continually available for the College community. The plan provides a better distribution of spaces around campus while increasing total supply. In the short term, existing gravel lots are converted to formal lots. Gradually, all surface lots, including new parking spaces, are converted to parking gardens, which grant aesthetic value to the campus in addition to stormwater management strategies and power-generation opportunities.

In total, there are 1,732 parking spaces on campus today, organized into five zones. The plan increases the number of parking spaces by 195 spaces for a total future parking count of 1,927 spaces. These spaces include a provision of thirty-seven ADA spaces, or 2% of the total inventory.

| PARKING ZONE | EXISTING | PROPOSED | CHANGE |
|----------------------|----------|----------|--------|
| 1 - Facilities | 86 | 72 | -14 |
| 2 - Tempel Green | 459 | 478 | 19 |
| 3 - Campus Core | 782 | 878 | 96 |
| 4 - East Residential | 155 | 67 | -88 |
| 5 - Athletics Center | 250 | 432 | 182 |
| Total | 1,732 | 1,927 | 195 |

SERVICE ACCESS

The new loop road will provide service access to buildings, keeping major vehicles away from pedestrian circulation and creating more opportunities for student life spaces to develop. At Smith-Burdick, for instance, the removed loading dock will allow the affinity group spaces on the first and basement levels to expand north into Larrabee Commons. Emergency access will be retained along Cro Promenade.

PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION

By rerouting the loop road, every path within the loop but Chapel Way becomes part of the pedestrian realm, an environment where students, faculty, and staff can interact outside of traditional instructional spaces. The main pedestrian spine lies on the east side of campus, where Cro Promenade is a focal point. The Promenade encourages student life activities from the College Center to spill beyond the building, and provides a buffer space between Cro and Larrabee Commons. The Commons channels pedestrian flow towards the new bridge crossing Route 32, connecting central campus to the Athletics precinct. The main pedestrian spine extends in conjunction with the rerouted loop road, providing an easier connection to the Facilities building and a more pleasant walk to peripheral parking lots. Proposed renovations to complete missing sidewalks will also improve overall pedestrian access throughout campus.

 Proposed vehicular parking areas and service access points





Landscape and Open Space

The landscape framework responds to the range of open space types on campus. It promotes ecological functions and creates open space amenities that are comfortable places where people can enjoy a variety of activities. The landscape framework also begins to inform the character of spaces at the intersection of the landscape framework and the mobility framework, including recommendations for enhancing human comfort along mobility networks.

OPEN SPACES

The Campus Master Plan builds upon the existing open space structure at Conn by reinforcing the qualities of existing landscapes with already strong identities while establishing a cohesive landscape character in other areas that are currently lacking. To structure these interventions, the campus is conceived of as containing four major landscape zones, as well as strong physical and visual connections between them. The zones include: the Arboretum, Tempel Green, the Yard, and the Park. Each promotes student life activities, outdoor learning, and the residential experience. Collectively, they create a sense of place, providing memorable connections between buildings, pathways, and natural features.

The Arboretum zone highlights the existing Native Plant Collection area of the arboretum grounds, and introduces additional pedestrian connections. Proposed improvements include adding crosswalks to central campus, as well as introducing a pedestrian entrance at the intersection of Williams Street and Gallows Lane. In addition, greater horticultural presence is extended along Chapel Way to signify its importance as a connection to the Arboretum. Relocating the Arboretum offices from Olin Hall to the Bolles House provides a destination for the Arboretum, while enhancing the Williams Street gateway.

Residential buildings flank the west side of Tempel Green with academic buildings along its east edge. Comprised of ceremonial open spaces, recreational fields, and the Sculpture Walk, Tempel Green is characterized by lawn, limited trees, and views to the Long Island Sound. Proposed improvements to Tempel Green include enhancing the Chapel Way crossing between Blaustein Hall and Tempel Green to create a fluid transition from one of the most iconic buildings on campus to the largest on-campus lawn. This enhanced crossing will maintain the central vista from Blaustein Hall out towards the Long Island Sound, a landmark view. Cro promenade extends south of Chapel Way and merges with the existing pedestrian spine that defines the east edge of Tempel Green. Enhancements to the existing pedestrian walkway in the form of lighting, paving, landscape treatment and exterior furnishings create a continuous identity for the promenade. The promenade extends further south between the sculpture walk and park and recreation field, ultimately terminating at the Lyman Allyn Museum of Art.

Proposed Landscape and Open Space Structure





The Yard establishes a cohesive landscape character for the area of the core campus north of Chapel Way. Given the type, location, and distribution of buildings in this area as well as the larger number of mature canopy trees, a collegiate, canopied yard typology seems most suitable. This typology is also endlessly flexible and allows for a wide range of activities. Open space enhancements include leveraging the pedestrianized campus core to connect Cro with neighboring residential and academic buildings, while converting low-activity spaces into naturalized landscapes. The long-term sustainability of the Yard's tree canopy will also be ensured by establishing the next generation of canopy trees. The Yard is the most active of the four landscape zones, due to the plethora of opportunities to connect the indoor student-life spaces with the outdoor landscapes. These outdoor landscapes are defined as five sub zones, each promoting a different element of student life, including:

- ▶ Crozier Dell: An amphitheater space for large events such as Floralia, and which connects the Plex to the campus core. Incorporated in the Dell landscape is the relocated Sprout Garden.
- Shain Oval: An active lawn space between the College Center and Shain Library, featuring an outdoor classroom and casual outdoor seating options.
- Larrabee Commons: An active, outdoor extension of student life activities that occur in the affinity group spaces, Katharine Blunt student-run coffee shop (Coffee Grounds), and in the College Center. The Commons is advantageously located as a transition space between central and east campus.
- Fish Bowl: The semi-private open space framed by the Plex residential halls, improved to better support recreational sports and hall activities.

The Park is the only zone east of Route 32, a cohesive learning and athletics landscape that draws the community from central campus all the way down to the waterfront. The proposed Park leverages the topography to create visual access and spatial containment, such as at the hillside overlook next to the Athletics Center and along the two pedestrian routes that lead to the Waterfront Park: Meadow Walk and Forest Walk. The Park will be comprised of visually rich, low maintenance landscape connections, and its crowning feature will be the Waterfront Park. The Waterfront Park proposes a transformation of the riverfront into a destination open space and learning landscape, serving multiple departments and student groups. A designated outdoor classroom will act as an extension of the new boathouse.

VIEWSHEDS

Viewsheds create strong first impressions of a campus. Conn has leveraged its three historic views since the original Olmsted Brothers master plan. Two of the three views are enhanced, from the top of Tempel Green towards the Long Island Sound and from the entrance to the Native Plant Collection towards the Arboretum pond. The third view, towards the Thames River from the Athletics Center, will be re-established via a hillside overlook.

■ Viewsheds



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES



LEGEND Existing Buildings to Remain Proposed New Construction Proposed Retired Buildings In total, the master plan proposes renovating 410,000 gross square feet of existing campus development, accounting for ongoing restoration and deferred maintenance needs as the plan moves forward. The plan also identifies roughly 172,000 gross square feet of new development, primarily in support of academic, athletic, and residential needs. As

a result of the strategic relocations of functions, roughly 52,000 gross

square feet of space, largely associated with single family homes and the River Ridge apartments, has been identified for potential backfill

or retirement.

Project Opportunities

QUICK WINS (ESTIMATED AT LESS THAN \$5M)

- Film in Hillyer Hall
- Unity Center
- ▶ KB Coffee Shop
- Morrisson Renovation
- Williams Street Gateway
- Additional Tennis Courts

MODERATE SIZE PROJECTS (ESTIMATED TO COST \$5M TO \$20M)

- ▶ Connector Building
- Athletics Addition
- Dayton Locker Rooms
- Crozier Dell
- Cro Promenade
- Parking gardens
- College Road
- Retrofit existing road: (sidewalks, curbs, lighting, plants)
- Construct new road segments to complete the loop

MAJOR INVESTMENT (ESTIMATED TO COST GREATER THAN \$20M)

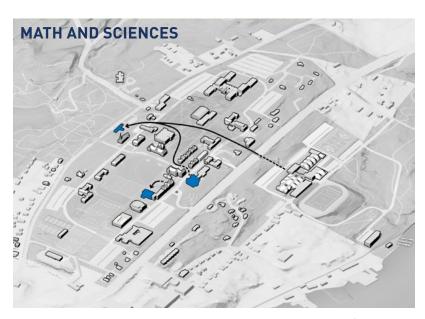
- ▶ Palmer Renovation
- Crozier Williams Renovation
- New Residence Hall West of Cro
- New Residence Hall on Historic Quad

ANNUAL RENEWAL

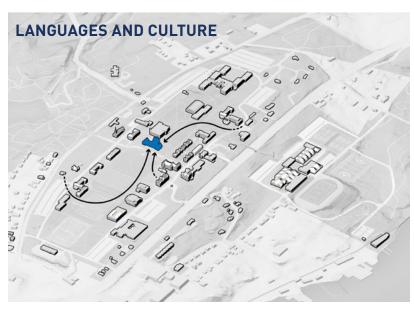
- Residence Halls Modernization
- Accessibility Upgrades
- Annual Building Renewal to Address Deferred Maintenance



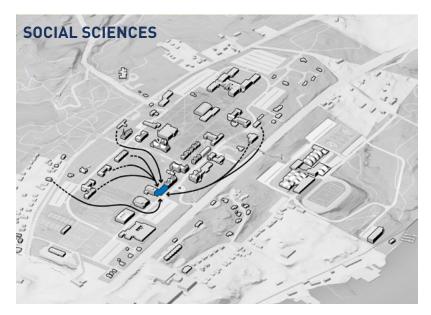
- Theater spaces consolidated in Palmer Auditorium
- Film Studies consolidated in Hillyer Hall
- Architectural Studies and the Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology consolidated in the Cummings Arts Center
- Relocate and consolidate Music Library into Shain Library



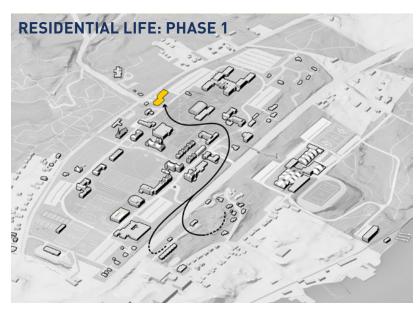
- Renovate Bolles House as the home for the Native Plant Collection / Arboretum and Environmental Studies
- Renovate 33 Gallows Lane as the new home for the Lab School
- Relocate Math to renovated Bill Hall



Co-locate language and culture departments to Blaustein Hall, home to Humanities, strengthening the Otto and Fran Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement: Hispanic Studies, East Asian Languages & Cultures, Classics, and Italian.



- Co-locate social science departments: Anthropology, Economics, History, Sociology, and Government
- Co-locate Education and Human Development
- Co-locate multidisciplinary centers: Gender and Women's Studies and Center for Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity

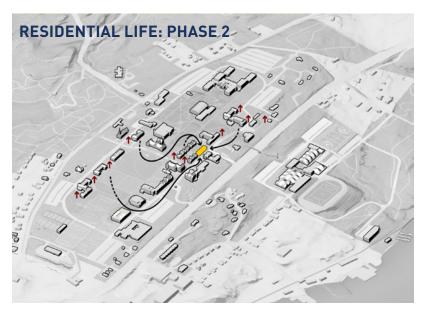


Relocate 163 students east of Mohegan Avenue to apartment-style housing in the campus core

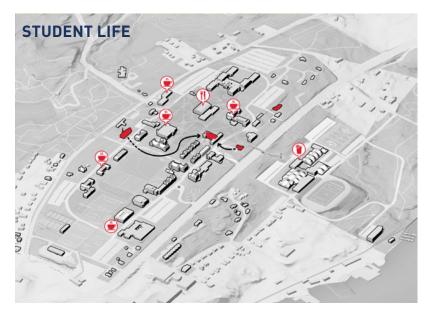
Proposed Space Migration

DETAILED SPACE MIGRATION

As part of the master plan process, a detailed space migration strategy was developed at the departmental scale in support of the broader development strategy. The accompanying spread illustrates the feasibility of the proposed development strategy and serves as a springboard for further conversations around departmental distribution.



Relocate students in basement bedrooms to a new residential life facility on the historic quadrangle



- Co-locate affinity groups in distinct but equal spaces in the Unity Center
- Distribute small food and beverage locations throughout campus

