



6. MARQUAM HILL CAMPUS PLACEMAKING

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The chapter on existing conditions on the OHSU campuses cited a number of aspects of the Marquam Hill Campus environment that fall short of the quality to be expected of a prestigious institution. This chapter explores improvements to the outdoor environment that will rectify such shortcomings, creating a cohesive and understandable system of open spaces and circulation routes. Recommended improvements are focused on safety and functional efficiency as well as aesthetics.

Future Building Sites & Open Space

Since adoption of the OHSU Framework Plan in 1983, a strategic rationale for the placement of new buildings and other improvements to the Marquam Hill campus has been followed. However, the focus has been on the functional arrangement and internal connections of buildings, in some cases to the exclusion of consideration of the outdoor environment – the connective tissue of the campus through which visitors and denizens alike must navigate. While there are outdoor spaces of great beauty on the campus, and some spectacular viewpoints, the landscape as a whole lacks cohesion and defies intuitive way-finding among winding streets and a warren of interconnecting spaces. It is the purpose of this section of the Plan to explore how this can be rectified, siting new buildings and configuring remodels to respect the functions of the outdoor environment without compromising the efficiency of building design.



OHSU Campus



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Campus Features & Themes

Perched on a basalt outcrop overlooking Portland and the Willamette River, the Marquam Hill campus occupies a distinctively Pacific Northwest location swathed in native evergreen woodland. Virtue has been made of the variable topography, fitting buildings and circulation into a complex of ridges and canyons. With the addition of the OHSU Schnitzer Campus next to the river and 400 feet below, there is an opportunity to relieve the Marquam Hill Campus of ever-increasing pressure to squeeze in more buildings. With this comes the opportunity to reconsider and reform the landscape of the hilltop campus as a coherent and understandable series of spaces that support the themes of quality care and innovation that characterize the institution, and add both convenience and amenity to the environment through which thousands of people must circulate each day.

In shaping any landscape, it is wise to recognize and capitalize on valued existing features. Besides the themes of quality care and innovation, the Marquam Hill campus is memorable for numerous views across Portland from northeast to south. It is also memorable for the forest quality of foreground views into the surrounding woodlands, and for the distinctive manmade landscapes that have been created in some quadrangles between buildings.

Campus Repair & Placemaking Recommendations

As some functions of the Marquam Hill campus are removed to the OHSU Schnitzer campus, there is an opportunity to take stock of buildings and open spaces collectively, and to consider how the ensemble could be modified over time to serve more effectively all who use the campus.

This has been done in the past. With the design and construction of the Vollum Institute for Advanced Biomedical Research in the mid-1980s an unsightly parking lot and loading area was converted into a plaza that knits together four research buildings and the north side of Mackenzie Hall. The space has become an important gathering area for students and faculty and is heavily used when the weather is pleasant. This basic theme of adding or improving formal open space and gathering areas when new buildings are built or older buildings are torn down is a central design principal of this plan.

For the first time in a generation, with the phased relocation of uses from Marquam Hill to the waterfront, there is an opportunity to consider the whole campus as a functional environment whose responsibility is to delight its users as well as to accommodate their various needs. Since much of the outdoor environment comprises remainders of space around buildings, it is appropriate to term this process 'repair' of the landscape; restoring to impoverished remainder spaces a sense of place and purpose as part of the whole.

CREATING A COHESIVE IMAGE

Features of the campus landscape that can draw scattered spaces together include the network of streets, driveways and footpaths that provide access between all campus facilities. This circulation system is unusual in that it depends on a number of interior corridors, stairs, elevators and footbridges to make it whole. An objective is to complete the outdoor system of circulation as far as possible so that people, especially those unfamiliar with the campus, can see continuity in their route as they walk. Continuity means not only connectedness, but also the use of consistent paving and planting materials that signal a bona fide public walking route. Indoor connections may seem private or restricted to some visitors, and so detract from the welcoming intentions of the campus.



OHSU Research Courtyard



OHSU Doernbecher Auditorium

It is important to consider how this system serves its users after dark as well as during the day. Lighting and directional signage must be designed and coordinated to fulfill their purposes in all ambient light conditions. The nighttime image of the campus must address some additional challenges. Sharp contrasts between bright lighting and dark shadows can create a threatening environment, so it will be important to avoid unlit corners and to ensure that lighting levels are sufficient for legibility of faces and signs, but not so bright that they dazzle or create blind spots by contrast. Lighting should also be configured to avoid spilling into nearby spaces where it may be unwelcome, and cutoffs should be used to prevent light pollution of the night sky.

Complementing a consistent walking route will be alternatives to stairs and steep slopes that can accommodate wheelchair users and others for whom a gentler route is preferable to the most direct path. The concept of 'universal access' goes beyond the regulations imposed by The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to include common sense provisions such as eliminating tripping hazards and ensuring good sight lines at corners. It is intended that pedestrian routes throughout the campus should be safe and convenient for all users, regardless of age and infirmity, by adherence to the principles of universal access.

The appearance of campus spaces varies as much as that of the buildings that shape them. A commensurate variety in the design of landscapes within these spaces is appropriate, and need not detract from a cohesive image of the whole. Elements of continuity between spaces can be provided by consistent use of paving and other building materials, the design and color of signage, light fixtures, handrails, benches and other furnishings. Plant selections will vary with the scale of each space and the neighboring structures, with solar access and orientation, with soil quality, drainage, and other factors. The intention is to create a campus landscape that is diverse in the quality and identity of constituent spaces, yet cohesive in its overall quality and appearance. It will bring delight as well as utility to its users.

SAFE AND CONVENIENT CIRCULATION

Careful observation of the campus through a typical work day reveals a number of issues to be addressed. For visitors unfamiliar with the campus, it is unclear where one should enter, and with limited views of the campus, difficult to navigate to one's intended destination. Coordinated improvements to signage and lighting are needed. Related to this is the lack of differentiation between groups of buildings and between different parts of the campus. The spaces between buildings are not resolved into a recognizable sequence of distinct places. A third issue is the number of places where limited sightlines, loading areas and pedestrian crossings coincide to create potential accident spots. There are also numerous places where pedestrian routes are ambiguous: lacking sidewalks or leading between blank-walled buildings. For many north-south routes, the only pedestrian connection involves entering a building and moving to another floor: not an intuitively obvious move for a visitor new to the campus.



OHSU Campus pedestrian circulation and shared service access



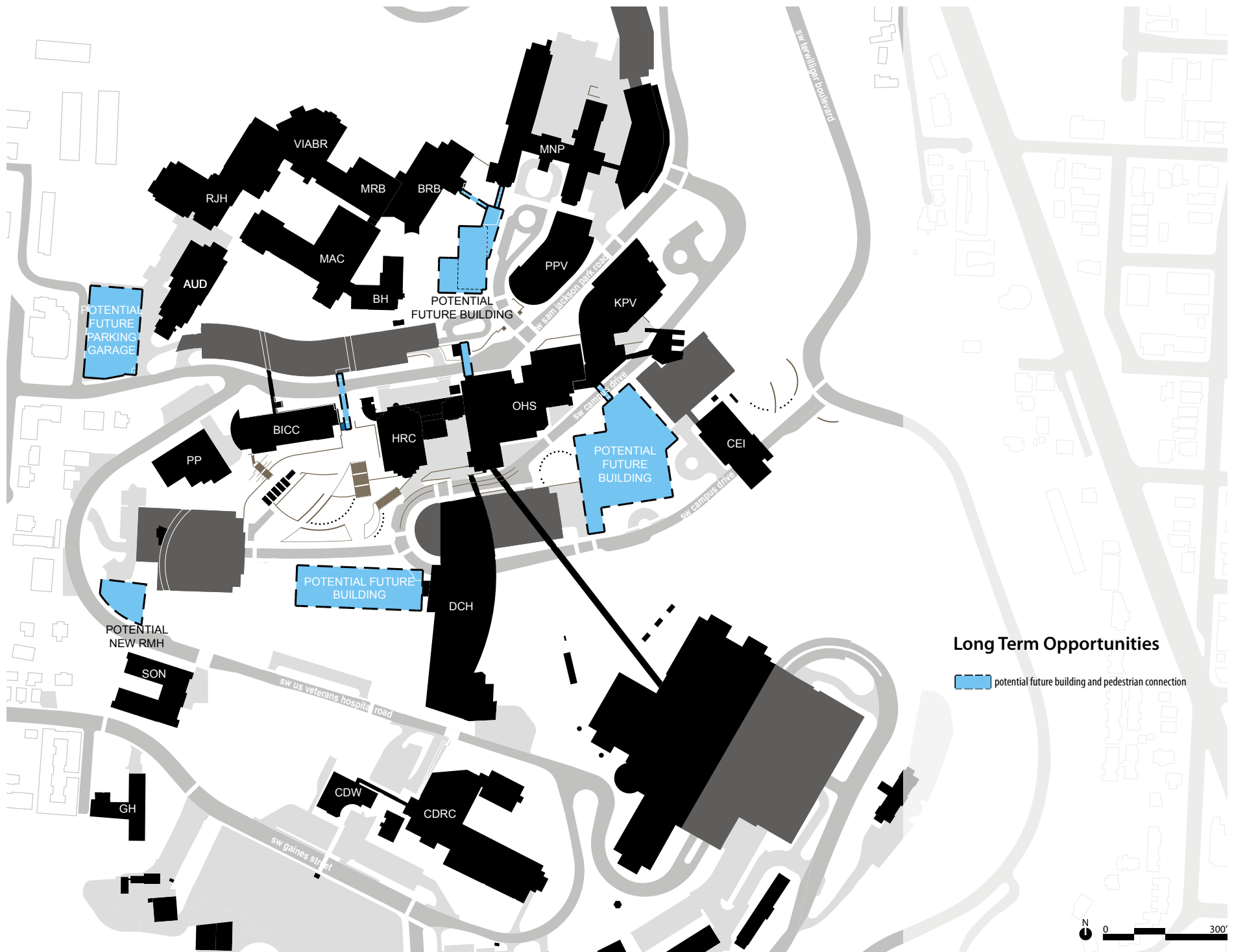


Longer Term Opportunities

An important function of a plan is to look beyond immediate needs and concerns and to anticipate future needs and opportunities. One such set of opportunities relates to the fact that some buildings will reach the end of their useful life and be removed. By examining the fabric, utility and adaptability of buildings today, those most likely to be considered for removal can be identified. These we have characterized as 'site opportunities', since their removal would offer reconsideration of not only their footprints, but the adjacent open spaces.

For some site opportunities, replacement with another building is probable, by virtue of the uses and needs of adjacent buildings. Yet the spaces around these buildings have the potential to enhance the setting of buildings and contribute to a cohesive sequence of open spaces that contribute to the order and quality of the campus as a whole. Other site opportunities may remain unbuilt, giving breathing space to neighboring buildings and allowing connective views across the campus. Such spaces could be landscaped to strengthen the individual qualities of the place, at the same time accommodating safe and convenient pedestrian access.





Campus Repair Opportunities

There are places on campus where sidewalks are missing, signage has been placed where drivers cannot read it until too late, lighting is inconsistent, pathways are interrupted or difficult to find. For the most part, these are the inevitable consequences of multiple improvement projects that have not benefited from a comprehensive view of campus landscape design. The Plan has identified many of these as opportunities for campus repair.

Implementation of campus repairs and improvements is often problematic because building improvements rarely claim ownership of them. One solution is to apportion the whole campus to adjoining buildings and sites, with the requirement that each is responsible for the open space adjacent to it. Responsibility might extend to the centerline of a road adjacent to a building, in which case responsibility for sidewalks and landscape between road and building reside with that building.



Campus Drive



Sam Jackson Hall on the right may offer future open space and building opportunities



SW US Veteran Hospital Road



OHSU Campus entry from Terwillinger Boulevard



- ### Campus Repair Opportunities
- open space opportunity 'event'
 - ▬ campus repair opportunity
 - ↔ existing pedestrian connection to be strengthened & enhanced
 - ⋯↔ new pedestrian connection
 - new building locations



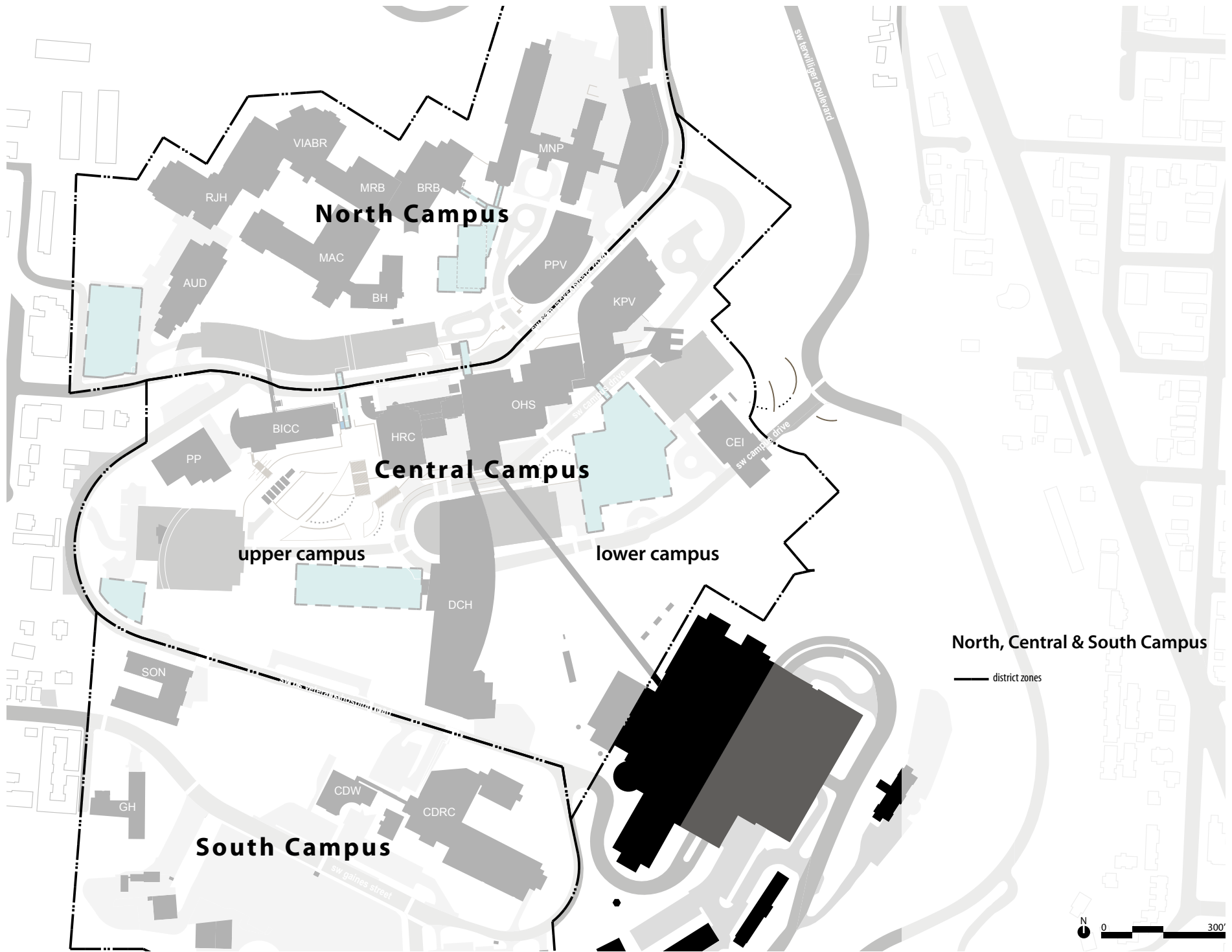
North, Central & South Campus

Variable topography, winding roads and interrupted views make spatial understanding of the Marquam Hill Campus particularly challenging. To make comprehension easier, three spatially distinct zones are used here:

- North Campus: the upper areas including everything north of a line through the Auditorium, OHS and the School of Dentistry.
- Central Campus: all between US Veterans Hospital Road and a line through the Auditorium, OHS and the School of Dentistry;
- South Campus: the lower areas comprising everything south of Doernbecher and US Veterans Hospital Road;

Each of these zones has the potential to relate the buildings within it to major, identifiable open spaces. The appearance of each space will be distinctive, providing strong locational signals to people circulating through the campus. Wherever the opportunity exists, the sphere of influence of each space will be extended by relating it to a roadway or distant sight line. It is suggested that the siting and design of future buildings respect this campus structure so that it becomes progressively more comprehensible to visitors.

The design of each open space will accommodate pedestrian circulation routes that are as safe, direct and amenable as conditions allow. Ideally, conflicts with service and other vehicles would be minimized, sight lines towards each destination would be clear, and each journey would be through a pleasant landscape with a variety of interesting views and vistas. There are many circumstances in which one or more of these qualities cannot be achieved, but collectively the experience of everyone walking or driving through the campus should be noticeably improved in convenience and quality.



NORTH CAMPUS

The existing circumstance on North Campus is characterized by a series of separated spaces formed by tightly packed buildings, some starved of sun, some over-run by traffic. Removal of Sam Jackson Hall and Dillehunt Hall will create a substantial open site extending from Physicians Pavilion in the east to Baird Hall and the Biomedical Research Building (BRB) to the west, and from OHSU Hospital in the south to Multnomah Pavilion in the north. A new research building is anticipated on part of this site, and it can be located to create a series of connected, distinctive open spaces around it. Each of these spaces has the potential to add significantly to the quality of the campus in a different way. By opening the space immediately south of the Multnomah Pavilion west wing, a spectacular view towards Mount Hood would grace the conference space in BRB. At the same time, the gracious forecourt to Multnomah Pavilion entrance can be restored.

Currently, the main point of arrival for most visitors is at the OHSU Hospital entrance on Sam Jackson Park Road. This space could be expanded to a more generous proportion, enabling those arriving to orient themselves to the Hospital, Baird Hall, the new research building and Physicians Pavilion. This space will have an open and airy aspect, its landscaped surface extending to Baird Hall and beyond. This sense of continuity, and of open sight lines to other parts of the campus as one circulates through it, will make the campus a safer and friendlier place, projecting the quality of place fitting to this center for health care and research.

SAM JACKSON HALL SITE

The dignified southerly approach to Multnomah Pavilion was compromised years ago by crowding buildings. Eventual removal of Sam Jackson Hall and Dillehunt Hall will provide an opportunity to reform the approach, and at the same time open up a vista towards Mount Hood from the Biomedical Research Building. Should a new building be sited in place of Sam Jackson and Dillehunt Halls, it would be sited to keep an open sunny landscape between the new building, Baird Hall and the Biomedical Research Building. This open space would flow south into the space between the Physicians Pavilion and Sam Jackson Park Road. Currently fragmented spaces between buildings would thus be united in a single sweeping space uniting six major buildings and enabling orientation among them.



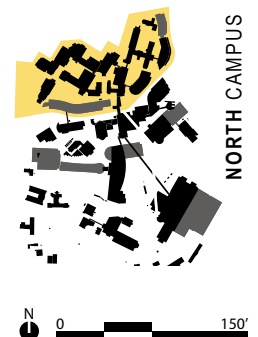
North Campus Improvements

- 1** Capitalize Mount Hood view with terraced open lawn and stairs



- 2** Realign drive aisle with parking entry (move roundabout south to strengthen existing pedestrian connection). Re-configure roadway and landscape roundabout and median areas
- 3** Entry plaza and drop-off for potential future building
- 4** Celebrate and enhance this sequence of drop-offs (honoring MNP's historical significance and formal entry on campus)
- 5** Complete pedestrian intersections
- 6** Update pedestrian bridge

- 7** Re-configure drop-off to maximize pedestrian surfaces
- 8** Expand and extend green space and provide informal seating



CENTRAL CAMPUS

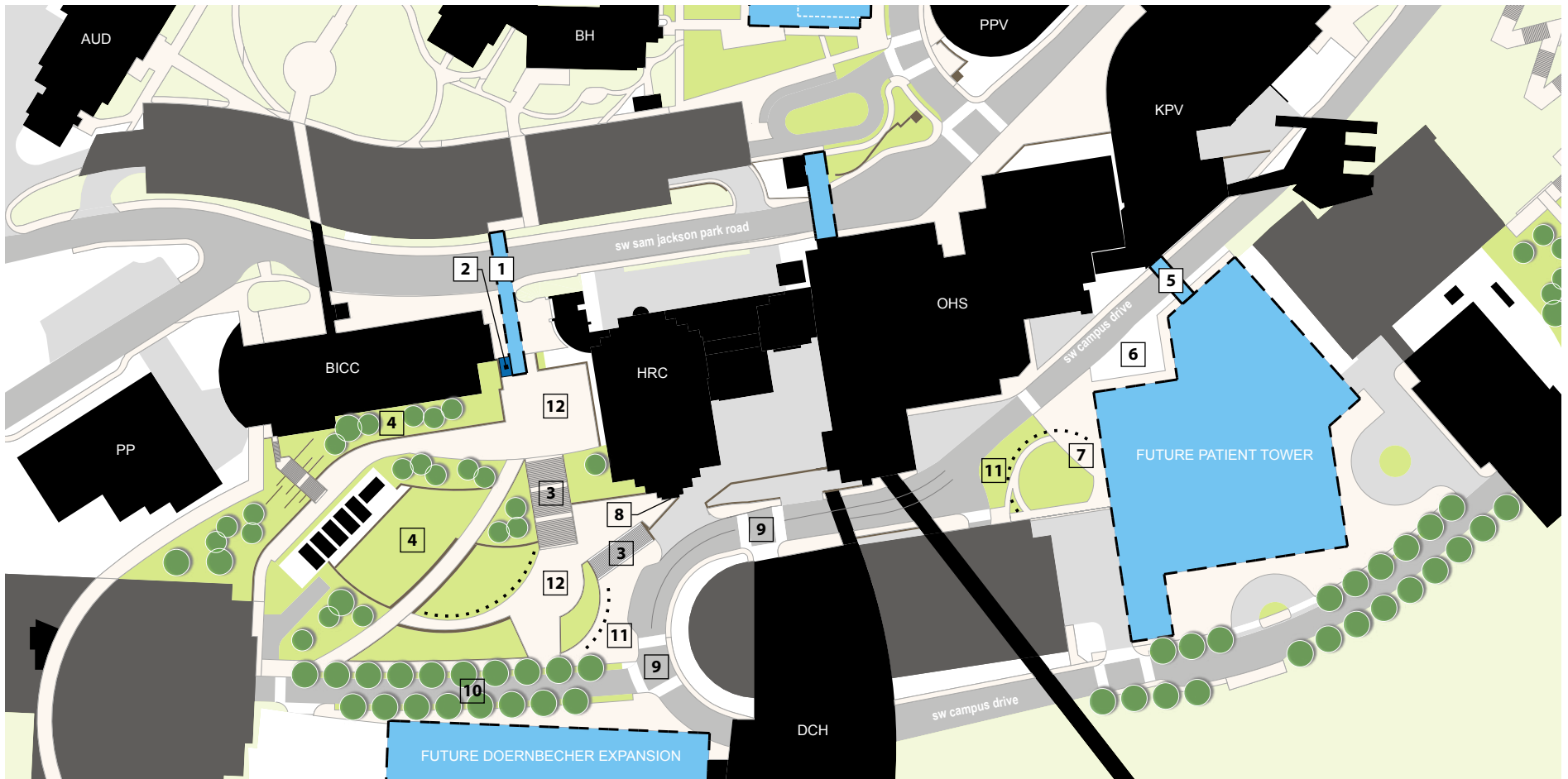
Over time, Campus Drive is planned to become the main public entrance to OHSU for patients and visitors rather than the windy and narrow climb up Sam Jackson Park Road from downtown Portland. Ultimately, when a new patient tower is built on the site of the School of Dentistry the hospital's main entrance and potentially the emergency department will be relocated to the central campus. As such, the intersection of Campus Drive with Terwilliger Blvd. will become a key gateway to the campus and the design of the lower section of Campus Drive from the Casey Eye Institute to the Canyon Parking Structure is critical to welcome visitors and guide them to their destinations. There is a real need to add open space and formal landscaping to counter the enclosed feel of the central campus, especially at the western end where Campus Drive makes a 180-degree turn east towards the Kohler Pavilion,

Future expansion of Doernbecher Children's Hospital westward along Campus Drive to the Canyon Parking Structure will complete a circle of buildings around the Fitness Center and modular buildings. Removal of these two structures will create a broad, sloping quadrangle between the encircling buildings, and an opportunity for a hill-climb landscape to the Hatfield Research Center (HRC), the Biomedical Information Communications Center (BICC), and North Campus. The south facing slope could be richly landscaped with wheelchair-compatible pathways and broad stairways offering alternative routes to and from all

directions. Pedestrian paving from the quadrangle would reach east along Campus Drive to a green forecourt at the secondary entrance to the future patient tower, reinforcing the senses of orientation and direction to aid way-finding. The sunny sloping quadrangle would become a popular place of passage, and a welcome open outlook to Doernbecher, HRC and BICC. It would also be a place of chance encounters and impromptu meetings, so important to the cultivation of creative thinking.

STUDENT CENTER SITE

As teaching facilities are relocated onto the Schnitzer campus, demand for the bookstore, fitness and health center will move with them. Removal of this building and the adjacent modular buildings will create a major new space north of the Doernbecher expansion. This space will provide the opportunity to add a 'hill-climb' link between Doernbecher and the east end of the BICC, and thence to the north campus. The sloping site will have accessible sloping diagonal pathways as well as direct stairways to an elevator to the upper courtyard. It will be a broad, sunny space landscaped as a distinct place uniting the buildings around it.



Central Campus Improvements

- 1** Pedestrian bridge connecting from parking garage to courtyard by HRC
- 2** Elevator connecting pedestrian bridge to upper courtyard
- 3** Generous stair connecting lower to upper courtyards

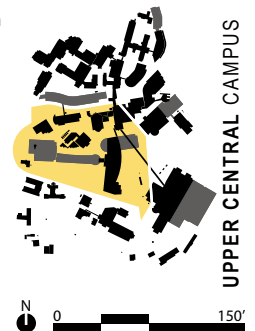


- 4** Graceful steep grade stabilizing strategies



- 5** Pedestrian bridge connecting KPV and future Patient Tower
- 6** Loading and service area for future Patient Tower
- 7** Secondary entry to future Patient Tower

- 8** HRC lower entrance
- 9** Complete pedestrian intersection, and re-configure roadway to improve sightlines and maximize pedestrian environment
- 10** Consistent vehicle level and pedestrian scale lighting and tree-lined Campus Drive
- 11** Vertical element (sculpture) as focal point and visual marker
- 12** Sunny upper and lower courtyards



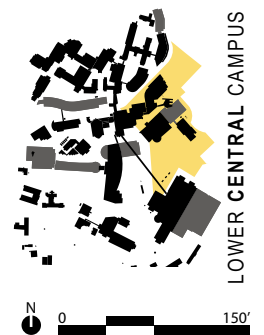
CAMPUS ENTRY – LOWER CENTRAL CAMPUS

Most visitors will arrive at the hilltop campus from SW Terwilliger Blvd. at Campus Drive by the Casey Eye Institute. Today, only the keenest observer will recognize this as the main visitor entrance to the campus, since signage and landscaping are so understated. Coordinated new plantings and signage are proposed, together with sidewalk and crosswalk improvements by the bus stop on Terwilliger and on Campus Drive west of Casey Eye Institute. Pedestrian and vehicular lighting will be made consistent along a tree-lined Campus Drive.



Lower Central Campus Improvements

- 1 Main entry off Terwilliger, part of Campus Drive, and stair connection from Sam Jackson Park Road
- 2 Monument sign at the main entrance to the OHSU Marquam Hill campus
- 3 Plantings as backdrop for signage and to screen buildings and parking garages
- 4 Right-turn lane to Terwilliger south-bound
- 5 Stair access connecting Sam Jackson Park Road and lower campus on Campus Drive
- 6 Lookout point
- 7 Consistent vehicle level and pedestrian scale lighting and tree-lined Campus Drive
- 8 Entry and drop-off for future Patient Tower
- 9 Complete pedestrian intersection



SOUTH CAMPUS

Between the Child Development & Rehabilitation Center (CDRC) and the School of Nursing (SON) is potential for a broad, open sloping landscape quite different in character from anything else on the campus. With removal of the Campus Services Building and Building 28, the full sweep of land between US Veterans Hospital Road and SW Gaines Street would be opened up. Existing plantings would be cleared of invasive species and supplemented to create a place of relaxation on this southern slope, with footpaths connecting principal destination points at Gaines Hall, SON, Central Campus, Doernbecher and CDRC main and West.

An important feature would be pedestrian scale lighting and signage at each pedestrian crossing place, particularly to safely guide employees from Central and North Campus buildings to the permit parking areas south of Gaines Street. Street trees on the north side of US Veterans Hospital Road would extend the park-like quality across the street. While space may be reserved in this area for a future building, by expanding and improving the open space, the north/south pedestrian routes can be rationalized and enhanced while strengthening the connections between the buildings.

Taken together, the three sets of open space improvements described above will create safe and convenient north-south pedestrian routes across campus that are difficult to negotiate, or in some cases, non-existent today. Whether one walks or drives through the campus, the distinctive character of each place will be made manifest by the combination of buildings and landscape open to view at each turn. Implementation of these open space improvements will raise the quality of the campus as a working environment and make it more understandable to visitors.

CAMPUS SERVICES BUILDING SITE

Currently, the CSB and BTE separate the School of Nursing and the Child Development & Rehabilitation Center from the landscaped area between them. Removal of both buildings would enable expansion of the open space from SW Veterans Hospital Road to SW Gaines Street. An extension of existing pathways is proposed to link crosswalks on both streets, adding another element to north-south circulation across the campus. Improvements to planting, lighting and crossings on SW Veterans Hospital Road will unify the expanded open space to the south with the bank rising to the Doernbecher expansion to the north.



South Campus Improvements

- 1** Open lawn with meandering pathways at former building sites



- 2** Widen and light existing pedestrian crossing to strengthen north-south pedestrian connection

- 3** New sidewalk with retaining wall. Remove invasive species and replant to aid in bank stabilization. Add ornamental value to SW Veteran Hospital Road

- 4** Consistent vehicle level and pedestrian scale lighting and tree-lined Veteran Road

- 5** New pedestrian crossing

- 6** Widen existing walkway and lite with pedestrian scale lighting

- 7** Existing trees to remain

- 8** New pedestrian crossing (direct link to existing cut-through through CDRC)



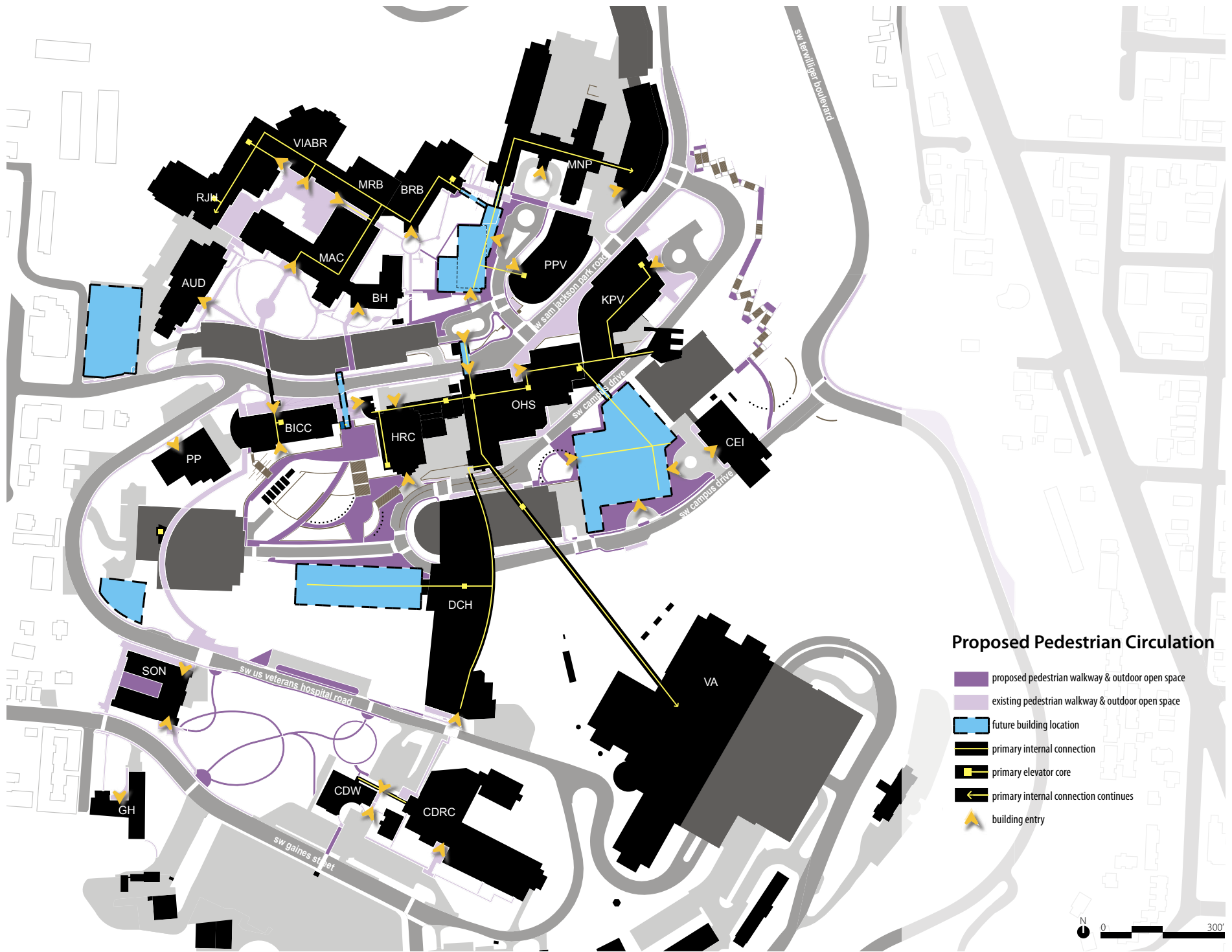
A SAFE AND PLEASANT PLACE TO WALK

The plan showing 'pedestrian access and circulation' in chapter 2 illustrates how indoor and outdoor routes combine to enable movement between buildings across the campus. Less evident are discontinuities in sidewalks, conflicts with service traffic and the hazard of blind corners. It is resolution of those shortcomings, together with open space improvements afforded by longer term site opportunities that have contributed the 'proposed pedestrian circulation' plan. While this plan focuses on safe and convenient walking connections to unite the campus, routes are closely integrated with the design of the open spaces that contain pathways and sidewalks.



OHSU Campus existing pedestrian circulation





Proposed Pedestrian Circulation

- proposed pedestrian walkway & outdoor open space
- existing pedestrian walkway & outdoor open space
- future building location
- primary internal connection
- primary elevator core
- primary internal connection continues
- building entry

Proposed Open Space Framework

PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION & ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

An important characteristic of an understandable campus is the ability to see where one is going more than a few yards ahead. Topography or plantings may obscure a direct view of a footpath, but the alignment of light poles or other features receding into the distance can provide useful clues.

A specific opportunity is to create one or more conspicuous central open spaces on the campus. Each will function as a nexus of intersecting routes and thus as a natural meeting place. An important feature of any creative environment is a variety of places where impromptu encounters may occur, especially in places where people are more likely to linger long enough to exchange thoughts. A landscape concept for the design of this space in a central location assembled from lesser spaces around and including the cleared sites of the Student Center and modular buildings has been developed. This addresses the absence of needed north-south circulation through the center of the campus. It also provides visual connections between buildings that are currently disassociated. This will be a landmark space on the campus which will help people to get their bearings and find their way. Three other such spaces are proposed, and are described in the following section.



OHSU Campus existing open space



Proposed Open Space Framework

- open lawn
- courtyard
- building terrace
- entry plaza
- main OHSU entry
- primary patient & visitor vehicular circulation
- potential new building locations
- 6.23 page reference to new open space





Universal access signage

UNIVERSAL ACCESS

The Americans with Disabilities Act is specific about the maximum gradients to be used, and the steep and variable topography of the campus sometimes makes these difficult to achieve. However, optimum safety and convenience of the environment to all users of the campus sometimes reaches beyond ADA standards. Termed 'universal access', the intention is to take initiative beyond legal requirements to eliminate hazards and inconvenience. For example, a sidewalk ramp with tactile paving may be required for the width of a wheelchair. By extending the ramp across the full width of the sidewalk, tripping hazards can be removed. Count-down crosswalk signs are not required, but have been found to reduce accidents – and so are candidate for universal access design. Instead of relying only on an ADA compliant route, addition of a stairway can provide a more direct route for the able-bodied, thus improving convenience.



OHSU KP signage and sculptural element as landmark

WAY-FINDING

Navigating the campus, whether on foot or by car, can be very confusing for those unfamiliar with the layout. In part, this will be improved by longer lines of sight and open spaces that are recognizably distinct places. But there remains a need for clear identification of buildings, entrances, and changes in direction. Existing signage has been updated many times and in some instances is no longer located where it needs to be for optimal visibility by those seeking direction. A comprehensive review of the style, size, location and lighting of signage is called for. Coordination of signage and lighting with landscape design and other aspects of the campus plan will enable phased implementation in step with other improvements.

CAMPUS AMENITIES

There are aspects of the campus landscape that some may regard as not strictly necessary to the functions of the institution; features which nevertheless contribute materially to its success as a place of healing, learning and innovation. Quality building materials, for example, may not be strictly necessary, yet are effective in communicating that this institution will accept nothing short of excellence in all its endeavors. It is important that the campus landscape convey a similar message: that OHSU cares about the safety and comfort of everyone on the campus. Thus potential conflicts such as those between service vehicles and pedestrians must be eliminated, and confusing or threatening places must be tamed.

There are many places on campus where views of buildings or of vistas beyond can be enjoyed and at the same time help to orient visitors to their surroundings. These can be made features of the landscape by the alignment of a stretch of footpath or placement of a bench. In similar fashion, a distinctive tree or landform can create a local landmark within the campus, helping to identify a place.



Campus amenities include safety, space for comfort, and recreational trail on campus

