In September of 2012, South Dakota State University administration issued the 2025 Design and Master Plan. This document provides a consolidated summary of the recommendations of various planning studies completed by the university and presents a unified vision for the development of campus. The 2025 Design and Master Plan outlined a series of fundamental changes to the current campus core in order to “create a framework that promotes an efficient, sustainable and pedestrian-friendly environment through land use, circulation and parking, gateways and community connections, accessibility, utilities and infrastructure, and architectural considerations.”

Campus greens are among the most recognizable and memorable campus spaces. They provide settings for classes, special events, recreation and contemplation. Campus greens and open space should reinforce the high-quality values and vision of the university. Characteristics of these spaces should include:

• Seamless and universally attractive campus landscape;
• Quality design and thoughtful use of architectural and landscape materials;
• Notable pedestrian “front doors” at the campus edge;
• Efficient pedestrian and bicycle access and circulation;
• Clear incorporation of a campus wayfinding program;
• Incorporation of sustainable design principles;
• Support of campus art; and
• Thoughtful incorporation of utilities and infrastructure.

The 2025 Design and Master Plan describes the two prominent campus greens - the Jackrabbit Green and the College Green - and the need to develop connectivity between these two greens and among their entrances to campus. The development of the greens will allow for further creation of pedestrian corridors, thus enhancing campus connectivity.

The 2014 Jackrabbit Green Master Plan is a redevelopment study of approximately 22 acres of the north end of the existing campus core. The study area includes a complex variety of conditions including vacated streets, high volume pedestrian circulation routes, major utility infrastructure, mature trees and significant historical and cultural spaces.

This document is an update of the March 2010 Jackrabbit Green Development Plan, following through on the planning principles established in 2012 by the 2025 Design and Master Plan, including the creation of a campus framework that:

• Celebrates the university’s land-grant mission and heritage;
• Promotes a partnership with the city of Brookings;
• Sets a standard for the quality of spaces within the campus to enrich students’ academic and campus-life experience and engenders respect for the physical environment;
• Enhances a unique identity;
• Creates a user-friendly campus that is welcoming, easily navigable, and accommodating for visitors, students, faculty and staff; and
• Establishes an environment that nurtures interaction and communication.

JACKRAINT GREEN GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In support of the 2025 Design and Master Plan, the Campus Master Plan Committee developed the following guiding principles to lead concept development of the Jackrabbit Green:

• Create memorable spaces for students, faculty, employees and visitors to experience - a lasting positive image of campus;
• Create spaces that invite use and activity, beyond circulation;
• Communicate and build upon the traditions and history of the university;
• Provide an efficient pedestrian circulation system that effectively connects to the remainder of campus; and
• Provide a circulation system that accommodates flexible building development along the Jackrabbit Green corridor.

Following these principles led to the creation of a plan for the Jackrabbit Green that will stimulate the development of vibrant outdoor spaces, capable of meeting the university’s needs for years to come.
STUDY LIMITS AND CONNECTIVITY

For the purpose of the study, the area between Medary Avenue to Frost Arena and the University Student Union to Briggs Library was identified as the approximate limits of the Jackrabbit Green. While the majority of the improvements recommended by the 2014 Jackrabbit Green Master Plan fall within the described project limits, connections to adjacent buildings, campus parking, open space and pedestrian corridors greatly impact the characteristic of these improvements. The graphic below illustrates the project area and major campus connections that were considered.
The Jackrabbit Green Master Plan serves as a guide for the development of a vibrant east-to-west pedestrian thoroughfare along the north end of campus. The concept for the corridor is highlighted by a series of gathering nodes, campus art installations, historical and cultural exhibits, wayfinding signage and landscape. The elements of the corridor link open spaces within the core of campus, tying the historic College Green to the Jackrabbit Green with a unified palette of site features and materials.

**PROPOSED PROJECT AREAS**

The concept plan is strategically divided into seven distinct, yet connected project areas. The separate project areas accommodate phased implementation of improvements; allowing the Jackrabbit Green to develop over time as fundraising or building projects stimulate construction. The improvements to each project area may be completed in any particular order with minimal disruption to the adjacent site features.

Each project area shown below is described in more detail in the following pages of this document.
CONCEPT ILLUSTRATIVE VIEW TO EAST

BRIGGS LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

AREA 5

AREA 6

AREA 7

"THE BARN"
CONCEPT ILLUSTRATIVE VIEW TO EAST

ALFRED DAIRY SCIENCE HALL
BERG AGRICULTURAL HALL

THE BARN

AREA 5
AREA 6
AREA 7
AREA 1

The limits of area one extend from the south face of the Wellness Center to the University Student Union parking lot. Suggested improvements within this area will move pedestrian circulation away from the parking lot, creating two identifiable entry points to the Jackrabbit Green at the east and west ends of the recreation lawn. Re-grading of the existing lawn area would eliminate berming and create a space that will be well-suited to accommodate a variety of recreation activities.

NOTABLE IMPROVEMENTS

- Improved pedestrian circulation with identifiable entries and clear connections to the University Student Union and residence halls south of this location;
- Establishment of an open lawn space for wellness use and informal recreation; and
- Creation of a landscape buffer along the north edge of the adjacent parking lot.
**AREA 2**

Proposed revisions to walk alignments within area two will improve circulation and provide direct routes between destinations. Nodes along the pathways accommodate high volumes of pedestrian traffic and provide areas for the incorporation of art, wayfinding elements, and landscape.

**NOTABLE IMPROVEMENTS**

- Improved pedestrian circulation paths that respond to current desire paths;
- Reinforcement of a formal lawn space defined by tree plantings at the edges;
- Addition of a brick screen wall to shield views to Student Union service area;
- Incorporation of an athletic monument feature or major sculptural element at the northeast entrance to the Jackrabbit Green; and
- Incorporation of an architectural feature on the west face of a future wellness center addition - providing a terminal view to the corridor for pedestrians traveling east
AREA 3

The concept of the central quad space is organized by two prominent north-south pedestrian routes - one extending directly south from the library entrance and one that extends directly north from the west edge of the University Student Union. Paths crossing the space diagonally satisfy the pedestrian desire routes and nodes at each end of the space create a gathering point and a place for incorporating campus event and wayfinding signage.

NOTABLE IMPROVEMENTS

• A formal walk layout reinforced with landscape and major sculpture element(s);
• Gathering nodes with campus event and wayfinding information;
• Location that accommodate the set up of a temporary stage element and creates a public gathering space; and
• Enhanced entry pathway to Briggs Library and improved accessibility to the main entrance.
AREA 4

The Medal of Honor Park was originally dedicated in September 2000 as a recognition of Congressional Medal of Honor recipients from South Dakota State University. The revised park concept removes a grove of declining evergreen trees and relocates the existing monuments, flags and plaques within the existing location.

NOTABLE IMPROVEMENTS

- Re-use of the existing Medal of Honor Park features;
- A park space organized to provide a remote setting for private reflection while presenting the park features as a prominent unified display directed towards the adjacent green;
- A revised pedestrian route that provides an enhanced connection between the Jackrabbit Green corridor and the University Student Union; and
- New landscape and signage enhancements
AREA 5

The corridor will be the link between the Medary Avenue pedestrian entrance and the main open space on the east end of the Jackrabbit Green. The corridor concept features a series of landscaped seat nodes, campus historical and tradition elements, signage and landscape that create a memorable campus entry experience.

NOTABLE IMPROVEMENTS

• Removal of the vacated section of Rotunda Lane;
• The implementation of a new prominent pedestrian corridor terminated by an architectural feature at a future Wellness Center addition;
• Art elements that communicate the diversity of the university while building new campus traditions;
• Interpretive element(s) that describe campus history; and
• Flexibility to accommodate a range of building development on Sexauer Field
AREA 6

The Campus Parking Study completed in the Fall of 2010 analyzed the amount, types and location of parking necessary to support the current and future demand of university programs. The study balanced the need for controlled vehicular access and supported the strategic premise of transitioning the campus to a pedestrian-oriented framework that fosters a safe collegiate atmosphere. The study recommended the removal of the parking lots north of Yeager Hall and recommended the conversion of that space to pedestrian corridor and campus open space. Parking required for facilities in this vicinity will be accounted for in adjacent lots according to the recommendations of the Campus Parking Study.

NOTABLE IMPROVEMENTS

- Enhanced pedestrian corridors with direct connections to destinations;
- Pavement designed for occasional service or emergency vehicle access;
- Additional accessible parking incorporated in nearby existing lots;
- Replacement of maintenance intensive paved areas with prominent landscaping and visual relief; and
- Informal lawn space defined by multiple plantings throughout
AREA 7

The proposed Berg Lawn would connect the historical College Green to the Jackrabbit Green corridor. Currently, views to the College Green are obstructed by existing mature trees and topography. Long-term management of the built structures, trees, and landscaping in this area will significantly improve the visual connection to the most prominent feature of the Historic Campus Green - the Coughlin Campanile.

NOTABLE IMPROVEMENTS

- Removal of the Berg parking lot and incorporation of additional accessible and visitor parking east of Alfred Dairy Science Hall for access to Berg Agricultural Hall and "The Barn";
- Monument pieces that contribute to campus wayfinding and historical storytelling; and
- A tree management plan, establishing a framed view to the Coughlin Campanile.
CONCLUSION

The Campus Master Planning and Design Committee and the Jackrabbit Green Advisory Committee provided leadership and continuous input throughout the planning process. University staff from Facilities and Services was integral to the process, providing planning, design and management services throughout the study.

Input for the refinement of the concept was gathered from the campus community through a series of presentations to groups representing campus entities.

CAMPUS ART

The Jackrabbit Green Master Plan identifies several locations where campus art or an architectural feature would be appropriate within the context of the project. As the area develops, other locations for art elements may become evident within the spaces created within the Jackrabbit Green. Factors such as appropriateness of scale, orientation and content should be considered when placing art within the Jackrabbit Green.

Submissions for placement of art on campus are to be reviewed and recommended by a campus building subcommittee. Submissions approved by the subcommittee then go to the university president for final review and decision.

TREE MANAGEMENT

The Jackrabbit Green Master Plan reflects a significant change to the character of the site elements within project area. One element moderately impacted with the changes will be the existing trees. Approximately 125 trees would be moved or removed as the Jackrabbit Green develops. Of those 125 trees, approximately 60 are evergreen trees associated with the Medal of Honor Park or Sexauer Field that are in a declining condition and currently slated for removal by the university.

The new plan calls for the addition of approximately 220 new evergreen, ornamental, and canopy trees strategically placed within the project areas to direct views and define spaces. Tree species should be selected to promote and expand the diversity of the tree population on campus and support the university’s efforts to maintain their status as an Arbor Day Foundation “Tree Campus USA University”. Tree planting should be done incrementally as a systematic approach over a period of many years in order to establish a tree population that will be diverse in both species and age; avoiding future instances of widespread decline in tree health within the Jackrabbit Green.

BUDGET AND MAINTENANCE

As part of the conclusion of this document, an estimate of construction costs as well annual maintenance costs were generated for the university. These costs estimates will help to prepare the university for the long-term commitment of maintaining the high quality vision for Jackrabbit Green.

CONSLANTANT

CONFLUENCE

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