

South Quad Open Space Planning Study

Final Report

AUGUST 7, 2025

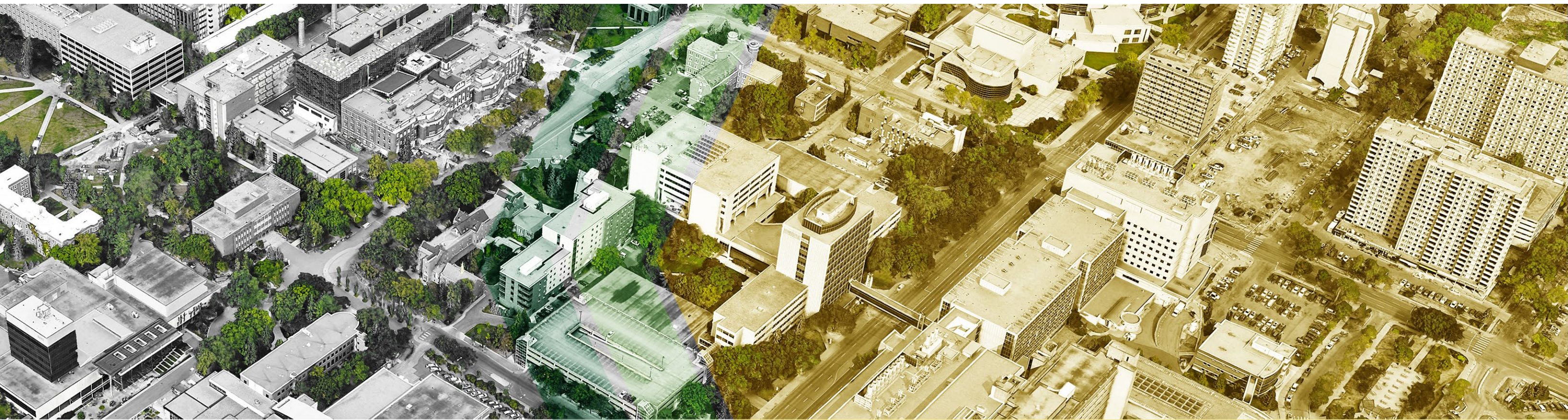


Table of Contents

Executive Summary	
Acknowledgements	
1	Introduction 2
1.1	Campus History 2
1.2	Vision - Purpose of Study 3
1.3	Planning Context - Relevant Campus Planning History 4
2	Study Area Background Context 14
2.1	Open Space Assets 14
2.2	A Sense of Place and History 16
2.3	Existing Circulation and Connectivity 18
2.4	Existing Infrastructure 20
3	Issues and Opportunities Analysis 23
3.1	Site Relationship with Surrounding Buildings and Spaces 23
3.2	Open Space, Art, and Culture 23
3.3	Mobility and Connectivity 23
3.4	Lighting and Electrical 23
3.5	Underground Utilities and Site Drainage 23
4	Campus Community Engagement 26
4.1	Engagement Approach and Methodology 26
4.2	Engagement Outcomes 27
5	Planning Principles and Site Programming 30
5.1	Planning Principles 30
5.2	Site Programming 31

6	Open Space Planning Process 33
6.1	Urban Design Framework 33
6.2	Planning Approach and Methodology 34
6.3	Concept Plan - Scenarios A and B 35
6.4	From Feedback to Framework: Informing the Refined Concept 41
7	Refined Open Space Concept Plan 43
7.1	Summer Circulation and Programming 44
7.2	Winter Circulation and Programming 47
7.3	Conceptual Lighting Design 49
7.4	From Planning Principles to Concept Plan: Translating a New Vision for South Quad 51
APPENDIX A: Issues and Opportunities Summary Memo	
APPENDIX B: Lighting and Electrical Systems Pre-Design Report	
APPENDIX C: Campus Engagement Outcomes: What We Heard Report	

Executive Summary

The South Quad Open Space Planning Study has been initiated to re-imagine a significantly expanded and reconfigured open space at heart of the University of Alberta's North Campus in Edmonton. Located at the prominent 114 Street campus entrance, at the intersection with 89 Avenue Students' Boulevard, 'South Quad' connects historic Main Quad with the existing Celebration Plaza to the south, along with surrounding academic and student life buildings and spaces.

The imminent removal of the former Administration (Admin) building has provided a timely opportunity to redefine the spatial structure, connectivity, and identity of South Quad, repositioning it as a vibrant, welcoming, and flexible space for the campus community. This planning study responds to the emerging needs and long-term aspirations of the campus, to improve the function, safety, inclusivity, and vitality of the its open space network.

Section 1 - Introduction provides a brief history of the campus, outlines the purpose of the planning study, and outlines the university's existing open space vision and policy framework, including relevant institutional strategic plans and campus planning documents.

Section 2 - Study Area Background Context highlights the historical roots of the campus core. Anchored by early 20th-century red-brick buildings such as Pembina, Athabasca, and Assiniboia Halls, early campus development was guided by the 1912 Block Plan, which emphasized axial views and formal organization of open space. While the physical fabric of the campus has evolved over the past century, these foundational principles remain influential. Together with an understanding of the existing infrastructure and circulation patterns, these principles have been reinterpreted through a contemporary lens within this planning study.

Section 3 - Issues and Opportunities Analysis includes a detailed multi-disciplinary review of the existing campus infrastructure and corresponding spatial relationships, including buildings, historic monuments, services/utilities, circulation routes, etc. The resulting mapping set a strong base for the development of concept plans and corresponding campus engagement.

Section 4 - Campus Community Engagement outlines the two-phase process that was undertaken with students, faculty, staff, and alumni in early 2025. The first round of engagement focused on informing and confirming the vision, program and values of the study area, while the second round gathered feedback on the key elements, priorities, and trade-offs presented within the two concept plan options. Common themes included strong support for flexible gathering spaces, improved lighting, all-season comfort, enhanced safety, accessible circulation, and spaces that reflect and celebrate the University of Alberta's culture and identity.

Informed by this feedback and aligned with campus planning policy, *Section 5 - Planning Principles and Site Programming* outlines six key principles established to guide the development of the concept plans and future planning / design decisions:

- **Energize the campus node**
- **Champion access, community, and belonging**
- **Elevate quality of life and student experience**
- **Orchestrate whole systems planning**
- **Ignite day/night and four seasons vitality**
- **Enrich open space and landscape**

Section 6 - Open Space Planning Process provides an overview of the urban design framework and planning approach / methodology that influenced the initial direction of the plan. Concept Plan Scenarios A and B are presented, along with a brief analysis of the feedback received during the engagement process and the corresponding considerations to be applied to the Refined Concept Plan.

The planning principles, program, vision and engagement feedback converge together within *Section 7 - Refined Concept Plan*. The study area and proposed programming are further analyzed from a seasonal perspective, with separate winter and summer renderings and circulation diagrams. Key programmatic features include a central plaza to host year-round activities and events, flexible planted berms for informal gathering, a seasonal skating pond with integrated stormwater function,

and adventure play zones. The architectural pavilion supports seasonal use, activities and events, while a multi-layered lighting approach enhances safety and after-dark activation. The legacy footprint of the former Administration Building is also interpreted through landscape and storytelling features, anchoring the site's cultural significance.

Complementary to this planning study, the university has also engaged a cost consultant to prepare a *Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) Cost Report*, to establish an initial baseline construction cost estimate for the infrastructure and amenities proposed within the Refined Concept Plan. This will also help provide university leadership with cost certainty that will inform discussions and decisions relating to the feasibility, funding, timing and logistics related to potential future implementation of the proposed plan.

In summary, this planning study reinforces the vision of South Quad Open Space as a future-ready, inclusive, and community-anchored campus space that reflects the values, traditions, and aspirations of the University of Alberta.



Acknowledgements

We wish to thank the following participants who contributed their time, efforts and insights to the South Quad Open Space Planning Study.

Core University Team

Tony Hodge - Director, Infrastructure Development

Kelly Hopkin - Manager, Campus Architecture

Jeffrey Klassen - Partner, Communications and Marketing

Danielle Zauscher - Project Manager

University Advisory Group

Gisele Bourgeois - Executive Coordinator, Provost & Vice-President Academic - Admin

Gordon Cross - Director, Electrical Utilities

Kevin Friese - Assist Dean Health & Wellness

Keith Hollands - Director, Engineering / Operations

Christine McAnally - Manager, Donour Engagement (Advancement / Alumni Relations)

Laurel Roblin - Manager, Mechanical Utilities

Carrie Smith - Vice-Provost EDI (Accessibility / Inclusion)

Sophie Wang - Cost Manager

Sarah Wolgemuth - Director, SEAP (Student Experience Action Plan)

Joshua Zarobiak - Director, Integrated Communications

Elaine Ziccarelli - Project Admin Coordinator

Consultant Project Team

Phil Rinn - Project Manager; Campus Planning Lead (AI-Terra)

Thu Ngo - Design Lead; Landscape Architect (AI-Terra)

Janet Varghese - Project Coordinator (AI-Terra)

Eti Borah - Design & Graphics support (AI-Terra)

Alleissa Cayanan - Design & Graphics support (AI-Terra)

Brittany Sutherland - Civil Engineering Lead (AI-Terra)

Hussien Al-Turk - Engineer in Training (AI-Terra)

Paul Thoman - Active Transportation Specialist (AI-Terra)

Geoff Bouckley - Lighting Specialist (lightSPACE, SMP Engineering)

Richard Carlson - Electrical Designer (SMP Engineering)

Jacqueline Tessier – Public Engagement Lead (Twenty/20)

Tammy Gartner – Senior Public Engagement Consultant (Twenty/20)

Liane Cournoyer – Public Engagement Consultant (Twenty/20)



Section 1

Introduction

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Campus History

The University of Alberta’s Main Quad and surrounding red-brick historic buildings remain the symbolic and physical heart of the North Campus. Early campus development was shaped by President Henry Marshall Tory and Premier Alexander Rutherford, who envisioned a grand university situated prominently above the North Saskatchewan River. This vision took form with the construction of Athabasca Hall in 1911, followed by Assiniboia Hall in 1913 and Pembina Hall in 1914—buildings designed to support both residential life and academic pursuits. Their placement established the foundational geometry for Main Quad’s evolution over the coming decades.

The 1912 Block Plan, prepared by architects Nobbs and Hyde, introduced a Beaux-Arts layout defined by symmetry, formal open spaces, and a central axis extending from the river valley through the Main Quad. The Arts Building, completed in 1915, anchored the eastern edge of the campus and reinforced this academic core. These early buildings, unified by materials like red brick and Tyndall stone, set a cohesive architectural tone still evident today.

As the campus expanded through the mid-20th century, several developments began to diverge from the original Block Plan. Most notably, the construction of the Administration Building in the

1950s interrupted the intended north-south open vista through the Quad, creating a physical and visual barrier that altered the spatial experience of the precinct.

Despite these changes, the Main Quad has largely retained its prominence and identity. Mature tree canopies planted during the early decades now define its spatial character and continue to contribute to the campus’s distinctive atmosphere. While post-war growth introduced more contemporary buildings and urban infrastructure, this historic core has remained central to the University’s image and student experience.

With the upcoming removal of the Administration Building, there is now an opportunity to revisit the original spatial intent and legacy of the 1912 Block Plan, and to reimagine the south portion of the Main Quad (South Quad) as a renewed open space that reflects both the University’s heritage and its evolving future.



Figure 1. Historic Assiniboia Hall (1913) retains its original connection to Main Quad.
Sources: North Campus Open Space Plan (2014)

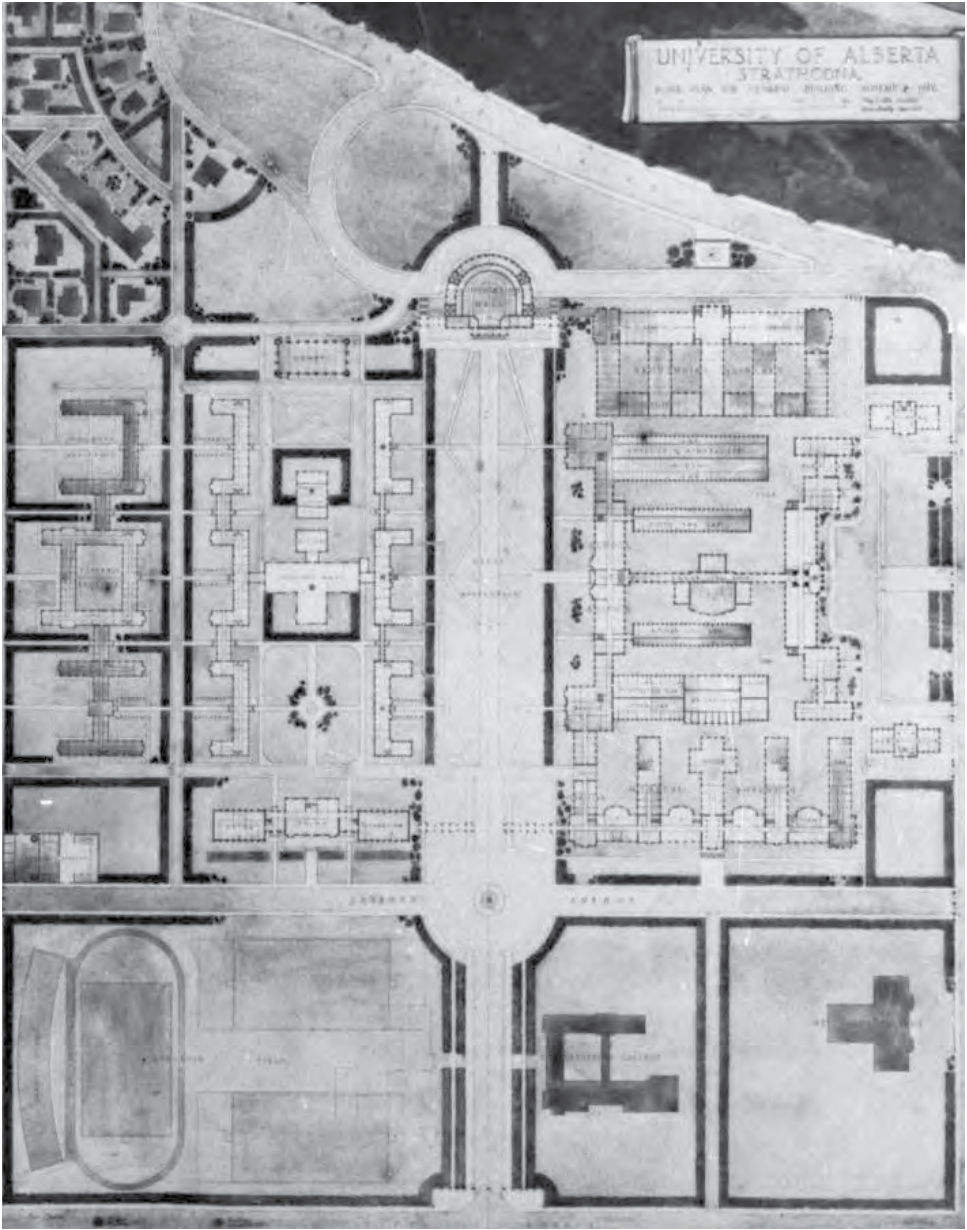


Figure 2. The original 1912 campus plan developed by Nobbs and Hyde of Montreal envisioned a grand campus in the classic academic tradition.
Sources: North Campus Open Space Plan (2014), University of Alberta Archives, UAA 73-124 and UAA 75-50.

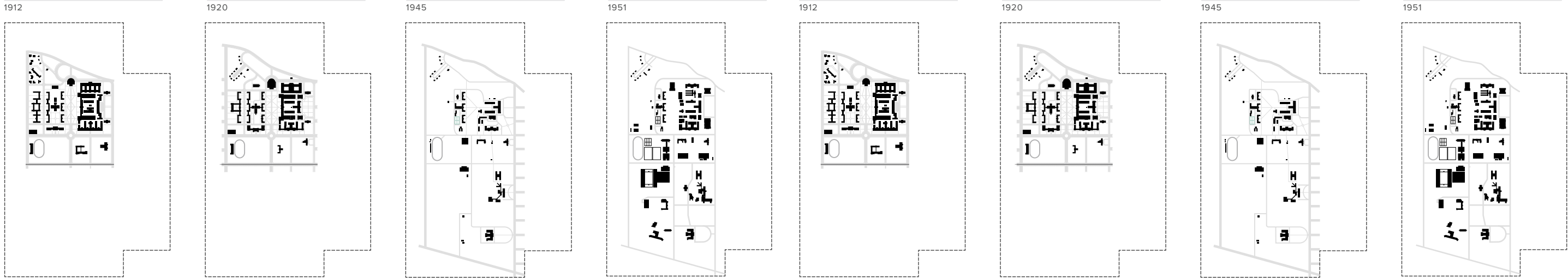


Figure 3. Figure-ground images (evolution of campus around Main Quad)
Sources: North Campus Open Space Plan (2014)

1.2 Vision - Purpose of Study

The South Quad Open Space Planning Study is a strategic initiative led by the University of Alberta to reimagine and integrate the current Celebration Plaza and Administration Building areas into an expanded Main Quad that is a vibrant, inclusive, and dynamic outdoor space that honours the university's culture, history, and aspirations for the future.

At the heart of this study is the area currently occupied by the Administration Building, which has reached the end of its functional lifespan and has been identified for removal. Its planned demolition presents a unique opportunity to rethink the future of the south edge of Main Quad, one of the campus' most prominent open spaces. The study area includes the existing Celebration Plaza,

surrounding open spaces at the intersection of 114 Street and 89 Avenue Students' Boulevard, and the southern extent of Main Quad—collectively forming **'South Quad,'** a major campus gateway and civic-scale gathering space.

This study builds on the direction, priorities, and ambitions outlined in previous campus planning efforts, particularly the **North Campus Open Space Plan (2014)** and the **89 Avenue Students' Boulevard Planning Concept (2020)**. These foundational studies have emphasized the importance of enhancing campus connectivity, creating welcoming and people-centered spaces, and strengthening the university's public realm. The South Quad Planning Study continues this trajectory by investigating

the site's existing conditions and exploring the potential to unlock a new chapter in Main Quad's evolution - one that embraces both the ceremonial and everyday functions of the space.

In addition to addressing the physical transformation of the site, the study also aims to explore the deeper meaning and identity of South Quad, and how it can serve the broader campus community as a site of gathering, movement, reflection, and celebration. Together, these ambitions form the basis for a visionary rethinking of the South Quad that integrates landscape, culture, sustainability, and campus life.

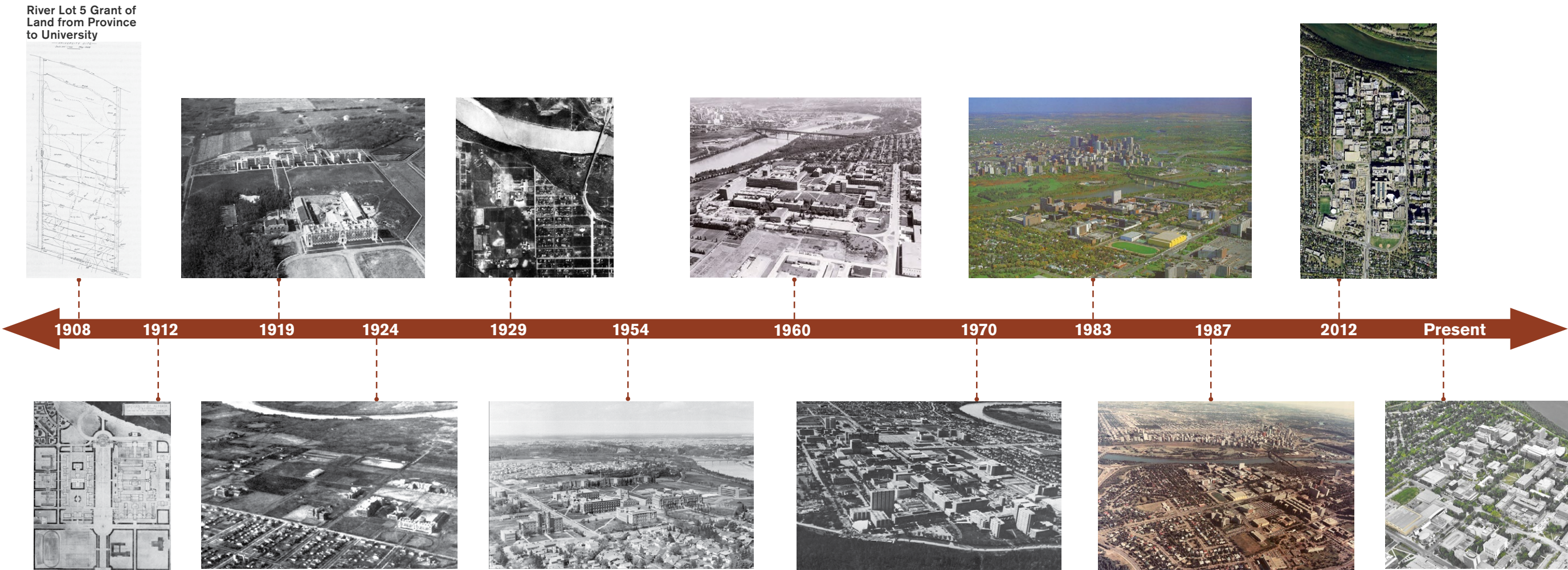


Figure 4. Campus timeline graphic
Sources: Campus Buildings & Aerial Photographs, Department of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, Centennial (1912-2012).
North Campus Open Space Plan (2014), University of Alberta: A Century of Campus Maps (2007), Google Earth Pro.

1.3 Planning Context - Relevant Campus Planning History

The South Quad Open Space Planning Study builds on the University of Alberta's long-standing campus planning legacy. In particular, the planning policies below have set out strategic principles and physical development frameworks that directly inform the vision, objectives, and recommendations of this study.

1.3.1 Long Range Development Plan (2002)

The Long Range Development Plan (LRDP), adopted in 2002, provides the overarching policy and land use framework for all University of Alberta campuses. It establishes a long-term vision for campus development that aligns with the university's academic, research, and institutional goals. The LRDP outlines generalized development concepts and supporting plan elements that guide how physical assets, infrastructure, and land uses should evolve to meet future needs.

Several of the LRDP's strategic planning principles remain highly relevant to the South Quad context. These include a commitment to:

- Creating welcoming, safe, and memorable public environments;
- Supporting academic and research excellence through responsive physical infrastructure;
- Developing a strong campus identity within each precinct while contributing to the overall institutional culture;
- Promoting sustainable growth and environmental responsibility;
- Enhancing connectivity and accessibility through thoughtful pedestrian, bicycle, and transit planning.

Additionally, the LRDP emphasizes the role of open spaces, heritage resources, gateways, and circulation networks in reinforcing the quality of the campus experience. These elements are especially critical for South Quad, which acts as both a ceremonial and functional gateway into the heart of campus.



1.3.2 Long Range Development Plan - North Campus Amendment (2014)

The 2014 North Campus LRDP Amendment builds upon the foundations of the 2002 LRDP and reflects updated aspirations for how the North Campus is expected to evolve in the coming decades. While rooted in the same strategic planning principles, the Amendment sharpens its focus on urban intensification, place-making, and creating a more livable and connected campus. Several specific themes within the Amendment are directly relevant to the South Quad Planning Study and offer key guidance for the development of this critical open space.

Land Use

The LRDP Amendment reinforces a consistent and integrated land use vision for North Campus, dividing campus space into purposeful categories including academic/research, mixed use, residential (student housing), recreation, parking, university support services, open space, and natural reserve. This classification framework supports a balanced approach to campus development that accommodates future growth while preserving essential campus functions. In the context of South Quad, the emphasis on open space and university support uses aligns with the opportunity to repurpose land currently occupied by the Administration Building into a flexible, inclusive, and activated outdoor environment that serves students, staff, and visitors alike.

Campus Life and Housing

The Amendment acknowledges the university's role not just as an academic institution, but also as a place where community and identity are formed through shared experience. It emphasizes that student development is supported both inside and outside the classroom, including through residential life and social spaces. Although South Quad is not designated for housing, the space can still play a critical role in enriching campus life by providing gathering areas, flexible programming opportunities, and an improved setting for institutional rituals and informal social exchange.

Open Space System

A cornerstone of the 2014 Amendment is the vision for an interconnected and vibrant open space system. This system is composed of elements such as treelined boulevards, walkways, quads, courtyards, commons, plazas, commemorative art, lighting, and green landscapes, all working together to form the connective tissue of the campus. The open space system is understood not only as physical infrastructure but also as a cultural and emotional landscape that links past, present, and future university life.

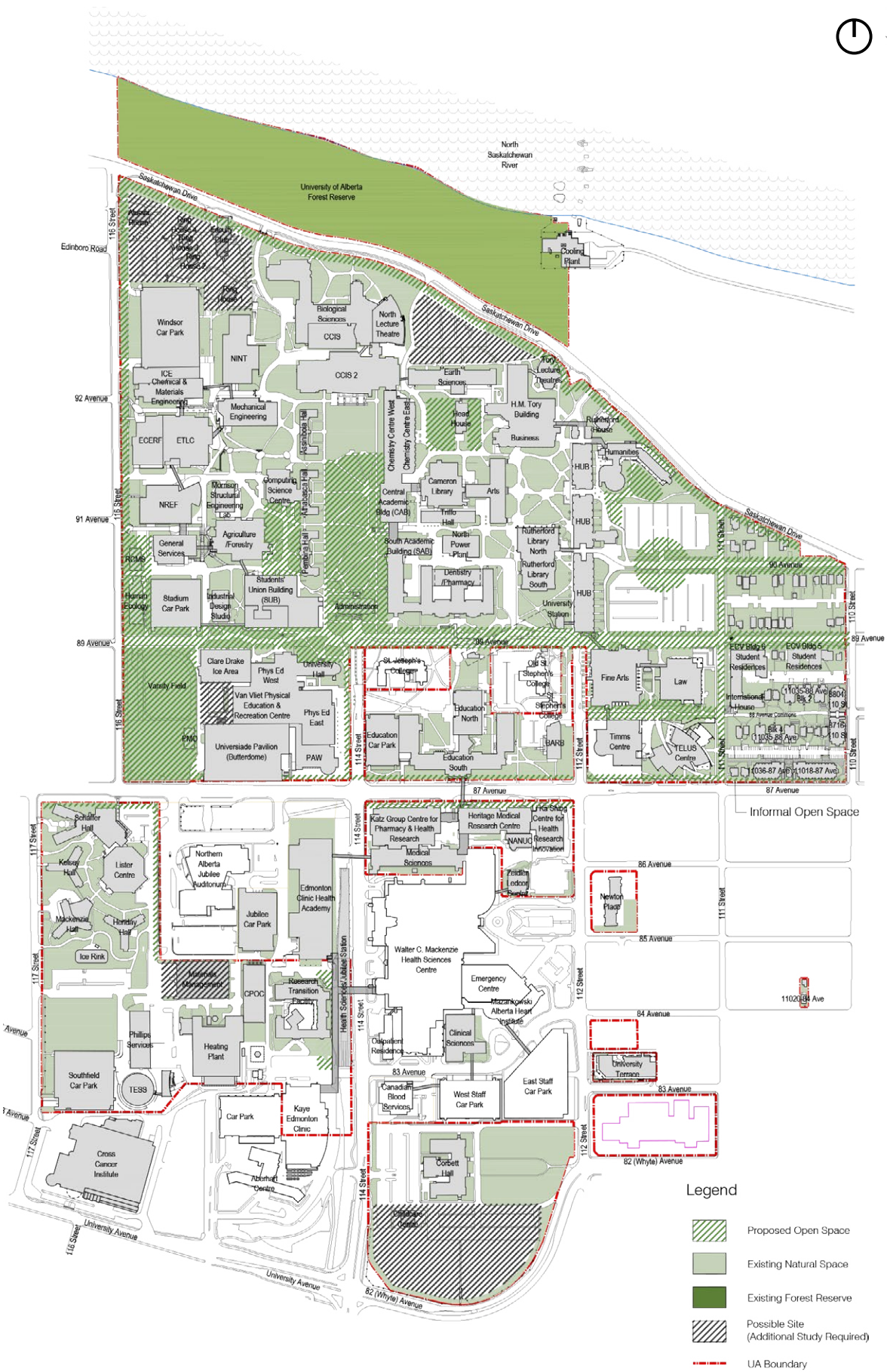
South Quad is a vital component of this network, and its redevelopment represents an opportunity to strengthen these connections—physically, socially, and symbolically. The plan emphasizes open spaces as key to livability, community building, and sustainability, as well as integral to winter city design principles. The vision for South Quad aligns with this thinking: to create a memorable, inclusive space that supports year-round activity, celebrates university culture, and fosters a sense of place and belonging.

Public Vehicular Transportation and Parking

The LRDP Amendment calls for an integrated transportation system that prioritizes non-vehicular modes while carefully managing vehicular access and parking. Acknowledging the importance of transit and vehicle access for operations and deliveries, the Amendment also stresses the need to reduce the impacts of traffic on campus and adjacent communities. For South Quad, this direction underscores the importance of maintaining necessary service access to SUB while implementing design strategies—such as traffic calming and clear spatial cues—to ensure pedestrian safety and prioritize walkability.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Circulation

The Amendment places strong emphasis on enhancing pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure to support safe, legible, and integrated campus circulation. It promotes the creation of precincts where vehicle access is restricted and walking and cycling are encouraged. Hierarchies of walkways and extended pedestrian spines are intended to improve wayfinding and circulation.



1.3.3 North Campus Sector Plans (2004)

The University of Alberta's North Campus is organized into eleven distinct Sectors, each delineated for more detailed land use planning, operations, and maintenance purposes. Sector Plans are identified within the North Campus Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) as an important tool to guide future development. They provide a finer level of detail than the LRDP, offering both sector-wide and site-specific guidance for land use, open space planning, architectural character, connectivity, and campus livability. Although not all sectors have an associated Sector Plan, those that have been completed are intended to complement the LRDP and assist in ensuring alignment between proposed development and the broader campus vision.

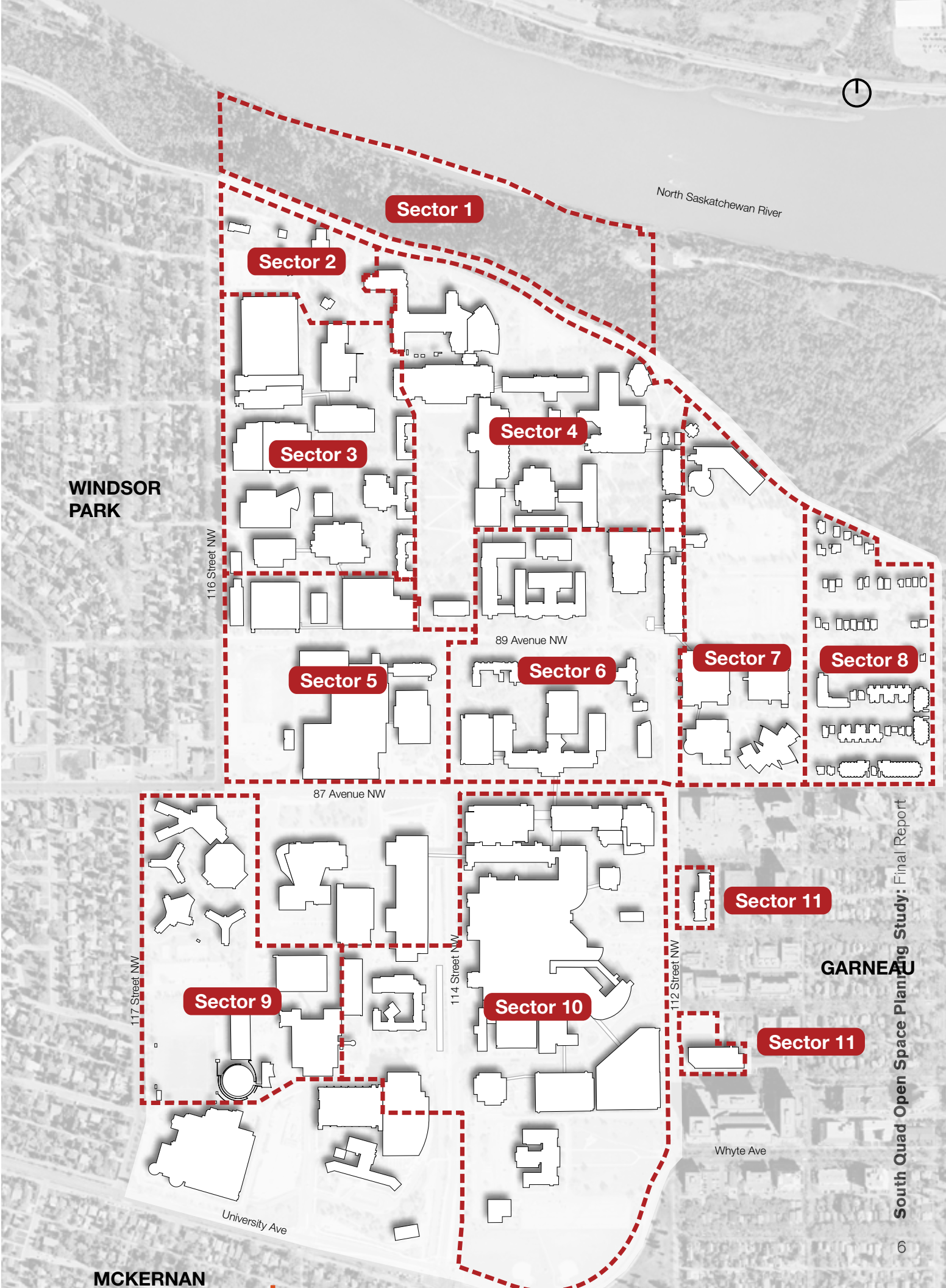
South Quad is situated within **Sector 4**, as identified on Figure 6. Importantly, the site also shares adjacent boundaries with Sectors 3, 5, and 6, placing it at a strategic location where multiple Sector Plans converge. As such, planning for South Quad must consider not only the specific development guidelines established in the Sector 4 Plan, but also the interface conditions and connectivity objectives articulated in the Sector Plans for the surrounding sectors. This includes transitions in land use, pedestrian circulation, spatial hierarchy, and the preservation of key view corridors, edges, and social nodes.

Sector 4 encompasses the **North Campus Quad District**, which is defined as the symbolic and physical heart of the University. The Quad District is one of the most significant public realms on campus, anchored by key academic, administrative, and heritage buildings and used extensively as a central gathering place. The Sector 4 Plan outlines both objectives and guidelines to ensure the continued integrity and evolution of this space, and these will serve as critical direction for the South Quad Planning Study.

Relevant guidelines from the North Campus Quad District include:

- To maintain the Quad's role and physical definition as the central symbolic space of the North Campus.
- To ensure that the Quad and the adjacent Celebration Plaza provide high-quality passive open space during typical campus days, while retaining flexibility to support active use during special events and ceremonies.

Figure 6. North Campus Planning Sectors
Source: North Campus Open Space Plan (2014)



Development Guidelines:

- **Preservation of Form and Enclosure:**
New development or redevelopment should reinforce the Quad's formal rectangular configuration. Intrusions into the Quad space should be avoided or reimagined to strengthen spatial continuity and architectural enclosure.
- **Interpretive Walks:**
The introduction of Alumni and Heritage Walks is encouraged within the District. These interpretive elements should be integrated into the open space design of South Quad to highlight institutional history and identity.
- **Architectural Cohesion:**
All new interventions should demonstrate respect for the historic and evolving architectural character of the University. Built form, materiality, and massing should contribute to a cohesive sense of place that honours institutional heritage while supporting contemporary use.
- **Celebration of Heritage:**
The exterior courtyards of Assiniboia, Athabasca, and Pembina Halls—directly adjacent to or visually connected with South Quad—should be enhanced through permanent interpretive installations and landscape improvements that reinforce their heritage value.
- **Formal Landscape Character:**
Tree planting, seating, and pathway layouts should reinforce the rectilinear geometry and formal quality of the Quad. These elements must also be designed to accommodate campus-wide gatherings and events without obstructing movement or views.
- **Improved Wayfinding and Continuity:**
The South Quad plan should contribute to improved wayfinding and spatial continuity across Sectors 3, 4, 5, and 6. This includes establishing a coherent pedestrian network and reinforcing visual and physical linkages between key destinations.
- **Pedestrian Network:**
A hierarchical system of walkways should be developed to ensure comfort, safety, legibility, and connectivity. These pathways should provide clear and inviting movement corridors both within South Quad and to adjacent campus precincts.

Planning Implications for South Quad:

Given its prominent location within Sector 4 and at the crossroads of multiple sectors, South Quad holds immense potential to serve as both a destination and a connector within the North Campus. The Sector Plan's focus on architectural cohesion, spatial enclosure, and interpretive storytelling provide an important foundation for the design framework. Additionally, its edges must be carefully coordinated with surrounding Sectors to ensure seamless integration with adjacent open spaces, buildings, and circulation networks.

The redevelopment of South Quad offers an opportunity to strengthen the Quad District's symbolic role, enhance heritage awareness, support active and passive uses, and improve the user experience through thoughtful design aligned with long-term planning directions.

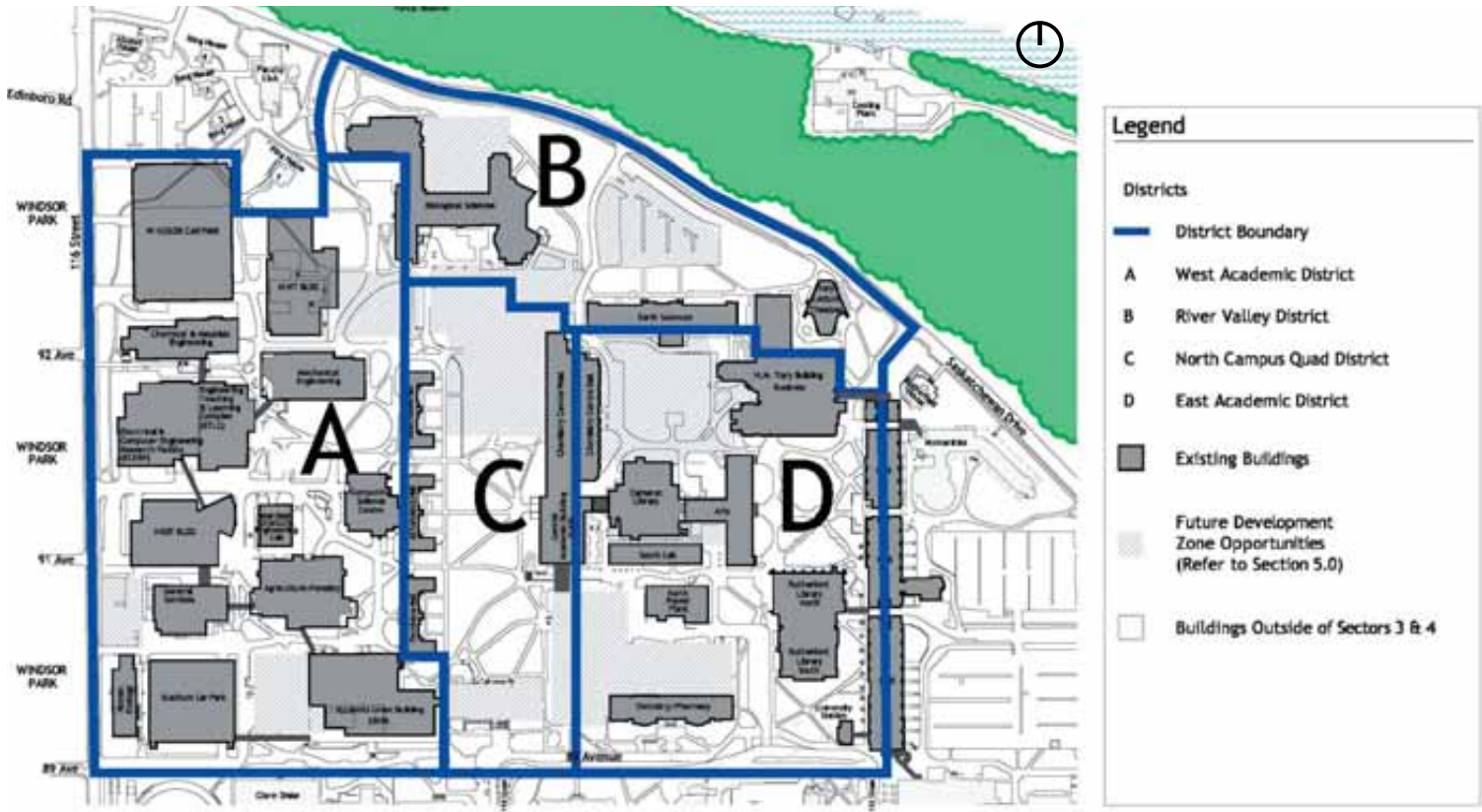


Figure 7. University of Alberta - North Campus Academic Sectors 3 & 4
Sources: Sector Plans Long Range Development Plan : Sector Plan 3 and 4

1.3.4 North Campus Open Space Plan (2014)

The **North Campus Open Space Plan (NCOSP)** provides overarching guidance for the planning, enhancement, and long-term stewardship of open spaces across the University of Alberta's North Campus. Recognizing the campus landscape as integral to the University's academic, social, and cultural life, the NCOSP articulates a cohesive vision for strengthening this environment as the campus continues to evolve.

The Plan emphasizes the significance of maintaining the character and function of prominent open spaces, such as the Main Quad, while enhancing their accessibility, flexibility, and year-round usability. A central principle of the NCOSP is that campus open spaces should be active, inclusive, and supportive of a broad range of activities—from daily campus life and informal social gatherings to ceremonial events and community functions.

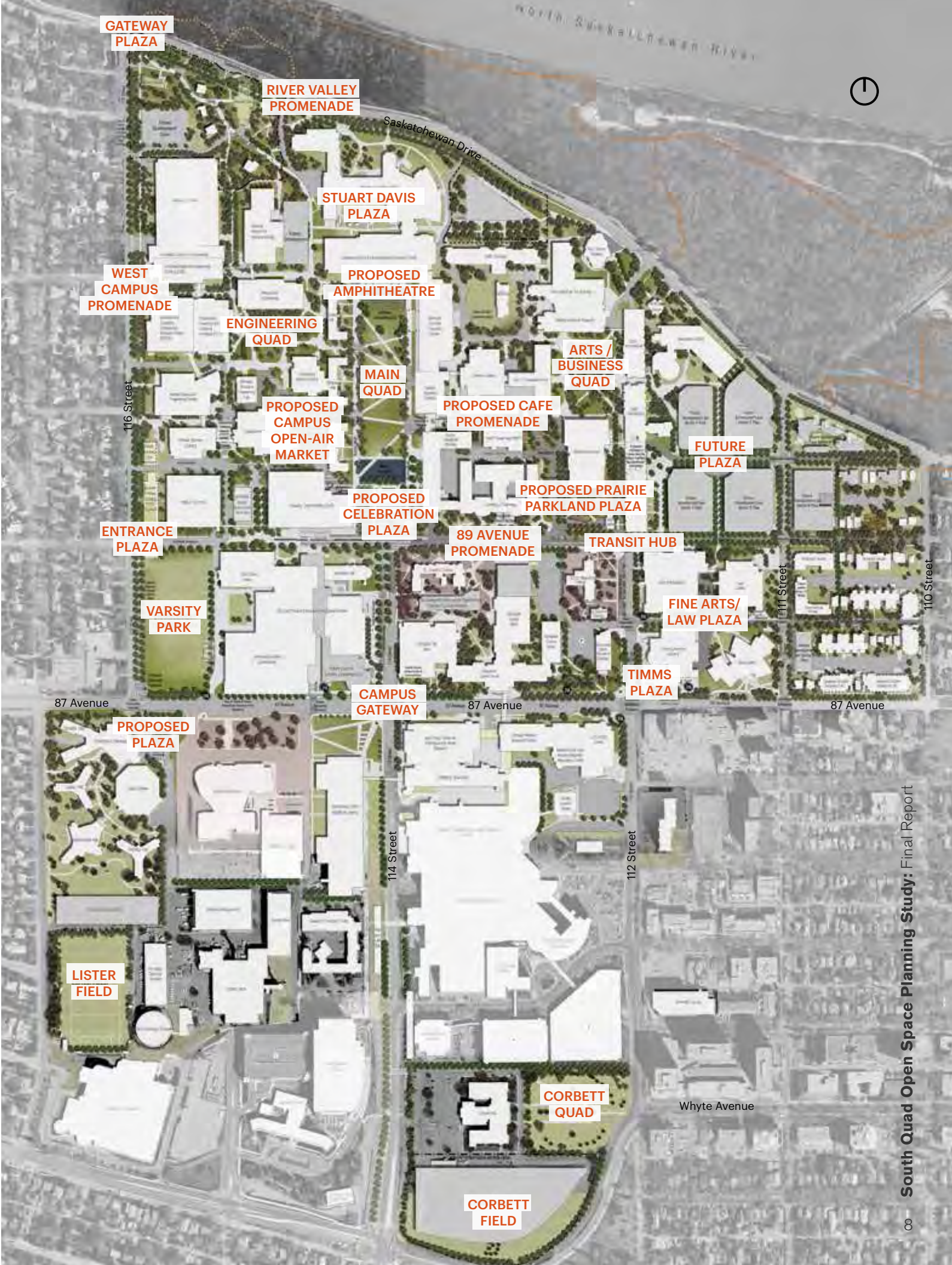
South Quad, located at the south end of the Main Quad, is situated within the Central Quad Precinct, one of the primary landscape districts identified in the NCOSP. The Plan refers to South Quad as Celebration Plaza, envisioning it as a major open space node that would reinforce the symbolic and functional role of the Main Quad as the historic heart of campus. Building on the original 1912 campus plan, the NCOSP proposed the removal of the existing Administration Building to open a visual corridor and restore a grand southern approach to the Main Quad. This move is intended to re-establish the connection between the heart of campus and the 114 Street corridor, while supporting place-making goals that honour University history and enhance campus identity.

Within this context, Celebration Plaza is proposed as a gathering-focused space anchored by a large, multi-seasonal water feature—offering opportunities for informal seating and summer interaction as well as winter programming (e.g., skating). The plan also includes the Presidents' Circle, a commemorative installation intended to recognize the foundational contributions of University leaders such as Rutherford and Tory. Enhanced tree planting, hardscape features, and flexible open space would support the use of this area year-round.

The NCOSP also promotes a broader network approach to campus landscape planning—identifying spatial linkages, circulation corridors, and landscape nodes that contribute to an accessible and cohesive public realm. South Quad is positioned as a key connector in this network, and its future design is envisioned to strengthen its integration with adjacent buildings, pedestrian routes, and open space systems.

Finally, the Plan reinforces the need for sustainable open space management. Key directions include the use of native and adapted plant species, tree canopy renewal strategies, and low-impact development practices to manage stormwater. In all, the NCOSP encourages open spaces to reflect University values, embody a welcoming and safe campus environment, and serve as a long-term investment in both physical infrastructure and campus life.

Figure 8. Overall Open Space Concept for North Campus
Source: North Campus Open Space Plan (2014)



1.3.5 Indigenous Strategic Plan (2022)

The **Indigenous Strategic Plan**, aptly titled “Braiding Past, Present and Future,” sets a five-year institutional framework for reconciliation through embracing Indigenous leadership, knowledge systems, and the deep histories connected to this land. Guided by the concept of a sweetgrass braid—symbolizing past, present, and future—it emphasizes:

- **Honouring History** (“Looking to the Past”): Recognizing the ongoing impacts of colonialism, preserving Indigenous ways of knowing, affirming relationships with the land and nations.
- **Empowering Today** (“In-Powering the Present”): Creating safe, inclusive spaces on campus; increasing Indigenous representation among students, faculty, and staff.
- **Envisioning Tomorrow** (“Imagining the Future”): Supporting community-led research, strengthening Indigenous-led scholarship, and fostering sustainable partnerships.

The South Quad reimagining process aligns closely with the Plan’s goals:

- **Storytelling & Place-Making:** Embedding interpretive landscape features and site elements can honor Indigenous history and perspectives, helping to “braid” shared stories into the public realm.
- **Safe & Welcoming Spaces:** The design should prioritize culturally resonant, accessible spaces where Indigenous and non-Indigenous users alike feel belonging—reinforcing the Plan’s emphasis on safe, inclusive spaces.
- **Land Partnerships:** Physical reminders of Indigenous relationships to this place can reinforce the university’s commitment to reconciliation, fulfilling the Plan’s aspirational self-determination objectives.
- **Symbolic Continuity:** Like the sweetgrass braid, South Quad can symbolically weave together past, present, and future at the heart of campus—through respectful design, materials, and programming that supports Indigenous presence and leadership.

By integrating elements grounded in Indigenous worldview, environment, and ceremonial presence, the South Quad transformation can become a living expression of the university’s broader reconciliation commitments and campus-wide journey toward inclusion, healing, and shared futures.

Top left to right, Figure 9. Participants in the Young Indigenous Women’s Circle of Leadership engaging in land-based learning

Figure 10. Braiding Past, Present and Future
Source: Indigenous Strategic Plan (2022)



Bottom left to right, Figure 11. and Figure 12
Source: Indigenous Strategic Plan (2022)



1.3.6 Student Experience Action Plan (2023)

The **Student Experience Action Plan (SEAP)**, titled Igniting Purpose, is a three-year strategic framework that articulates the University of Alberta's commitment to enhancing the overall student experience. Developed through broad engagement with students, faculty, and staff, the plan identifies a series of priorities to foster well-being, belonging, and purposeful engagement. These priorities are anchored in three guiding principles:

- Connections are Fostered
- Exploration is Essential
- Challenge Accepted

Several aspects of this Action Plan are directly relevant to the future vision for the South Quad, a central and highly visible open space on the North Campus:

Safe, Accessible, and Connected Campus Environments

The plan emphasizes the importance of designing physical environments that are safe, welcoming, and inclusive of diverse student needs and identities. A connected and accessible campus is seen as foundational to student well-being, with particular attention to the removal of physical and psychological barriers. This principle supports the development of public realm spaces that prioritize universal access, seasonal usability, and legible connections to other parts of campus.

Fostering Belonging and Social Connection

SEAP identifies a strong sense of belonging as central to student success. The strategy advocates for shared public spaces that encourage formal and informal gathering, promote campus vibrancy, and enable students from various backgrounds to build meaningful connections. Open spaces like South Quad are positioned to support these goals through intentional spatial programming that reinforces social interaction and collective identity.

Indigenous Worldviews and Relationship with Place

A key commitment in the SEAP is the incorporation of Indigenous worldviews in shaping the campus experience. Grounded in the understanding that learning is relational and place-based, the plan calls for outdoor spaces that reflect Indigenous history, values, and ongoing presence. South Quad, as a prominent gathering space, has the potential to support this direction through landscape-based storytelling, interpretive elements, and design language that reflects a deeper relationship with the land and Indigenous ways of knowing.

Opportunities for Exploration and Engagement

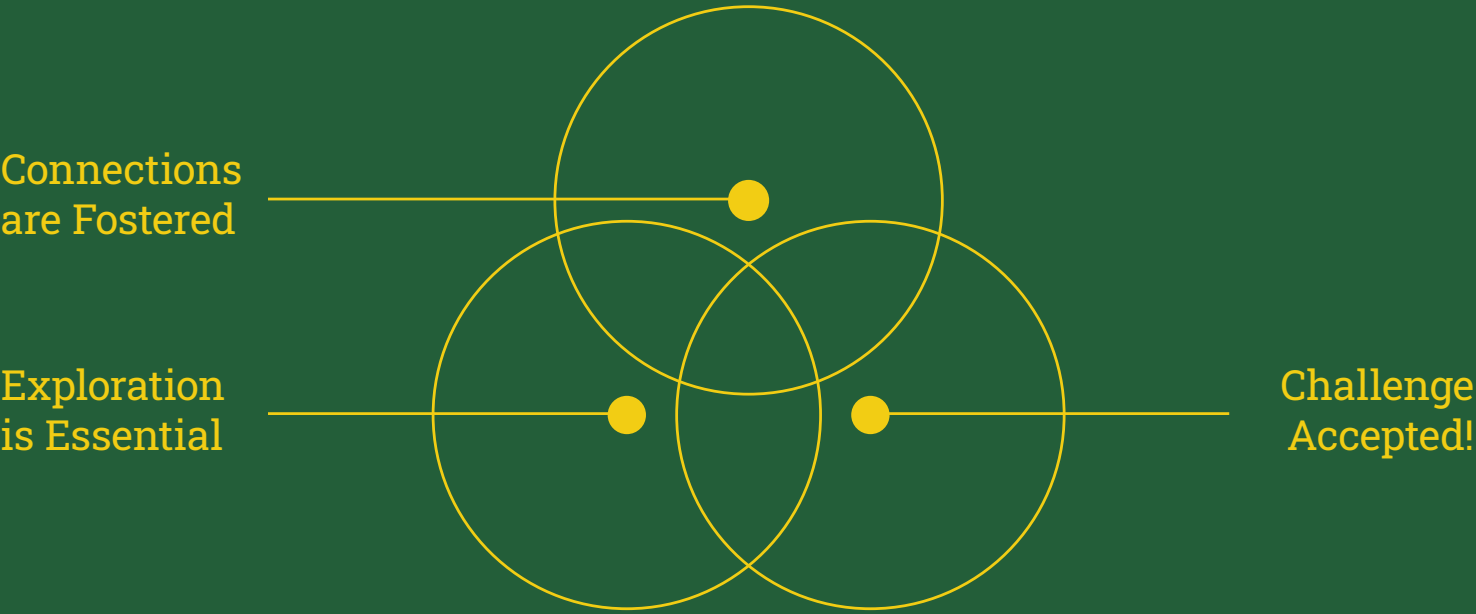
The Action Plan highlights the role of campus spaces in supporting active exploration, creativity, and engagement beyond the classroom. Flexible and multi-use outdoor environments are encouraged to facilitate a wide range of student-led and university-supported activities. The open space network—including South Quad—is therefore recognized as a platform for cultural programming, experiential learning, recreation, and celebration that contributes to the holistic student journey.

The Igniting Purpose Action Plan offers clear direction on how open spaces like South Quad can meaningfully contribute to the student experience. It calls for inclusive, engaging, and culturally rich environments that foster connection, support well-being, and express a strong sense of place rooted in diverse identities and experiences. These principles provide a strategic foundation for reimagining South Quad as a dynamic campus space responsive to current and future generations of learners.

Figure 13. SEAP Principles
Source: Student Experience Action Plan (2023)

SEAP PRINCIPLES

Informed by the extensive engagement and co-creative process underpinning the SEAP, the following three principles are foundational to the university community's commitment to continually shaping an exceptional student experience.



Connections are Fostered

Students are supported by a community that values and respects all perspectives, histories and worldviews. Through connecting with community members on and off campus, students enjoy a rich, transformative experience that inspires personal, academic and professional success.

Exploration is Essential

A vital benefit of belonging to the expansive and diverse U of A community is the opportunity for students to have dynamic experiences, engage with new and differing perspectives and explore the parts of themselves that will support them in pursuing self-defined success.

Challenge Accepted!

The U of A offers a space to learn, grow and develop, potentially beyond what a student thought possible. However, challenges in life are inevitable. While navigating academic and interpersonal difficulties throughout a student's experience provides invaluable life and problem-solving skills to take into the rest of their lives, challenges should exist in the right places. The U of A is committed to minimizing barriers throughout the institution, ensuring our students' energy is dedicated to the pursuits of fostering relationships, achieving academic and professional success and finding enjoyment in the journey.

1.3.7 89 Avenue Students' Boulevard Planning Concept (2020)

The **Integrated Transportation Planning Concept along 89 Avenue Students' Boulevard and Vicinity** offers important contextual guidance for the South Quad Open Space Planning Study, given South Quad's prominent location at the intersection of 89 Avenue and 114 Street. As part of this active and highly visible corridor, South Quad is a key node along the 89 Avenue axis—an area where active transportation, campus life, and cultural flows converge.

The 89 Avenue Study was initiated to support the implementation of a major east-west cycle route across North Campus while aligning with several upcoming University and City projects. These include the proposed demolition of the Administration Building, development of adjacent academic buildings, and City initiatives such as the Garneau Neighbourhood Renewal, Southside Bike Network, and Centre LRT. The study emphasizes improved multi-modal connectivity, enhanced pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure, and the creation of a vibrant, welcoming campus environment.

The planning framework is built on three core objectives—

- 1. Reinforcing pedestrian safety.
- 2. Improving multi-modal functionality.
- 3. Enhancing the experience of students, alumni, and visitors.

These principles are particularly relevant to South Quad, which sits at a junction where pedestrian, cycling, transit, and service routes intersect.

The South Quad Open Space Planning Study will carry forward several objectives from the 89 Avenue Study, recognizing the overlapping conditions of use and movement in this area. These include:

- Accommodating a major campus cycle route along 89 Avenue;
- Enhancing pedestrian safety and accessibility through lighting, clear wayfinding, and quality infrastructure;
- Minimizing non-essential vehicle traffic while ensuring necessary service access;
- Strengthening inter-modal connections near the LRT station and transit centre;
- Improving the public realm to encourage campus

users to linger and engage beyond class hours;

- Promoting a strong sense of place rooted in University identity and responsive to year-round use.

The design intent set out in the 89 Avenue Study includes guidelines for circulation, surface treatments, lighting, planting, seating, and accessibility—all of which will be valuable references in shaping the future character of South Quad as an inclusive, connected, and memorable campus space.

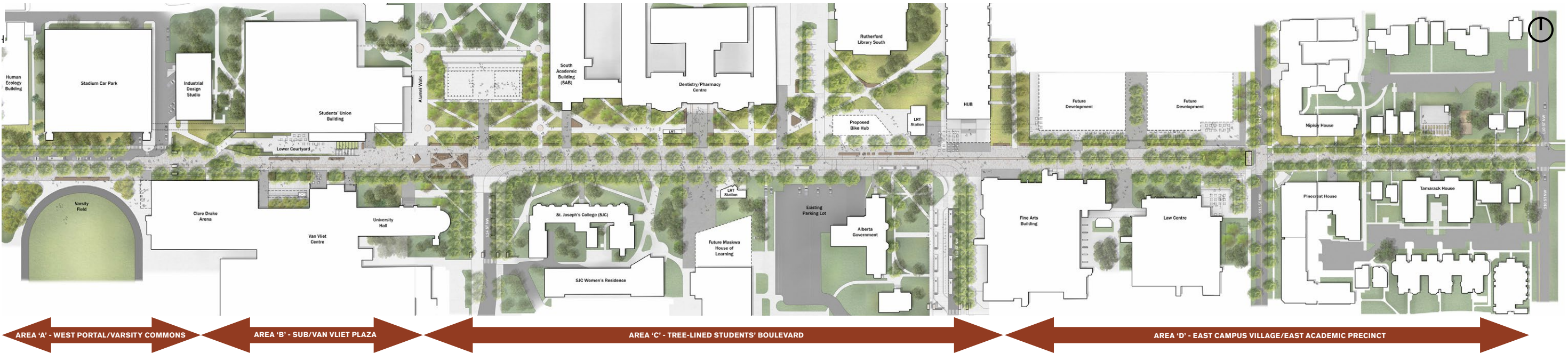


Figure 14. Rendered Planning Concept of 89 Avenue
Source: Integrated Transportation Planning Concept along 89 Avenue Students' Boulevard and Vicinity

1.3.8 Other University Policies

Several University of Alberta policies provide important context and direction for the South Quad Planning Study:

Preservation of University Facilities and Grounds Policy

This policy affirms the University's commitment to preserving architectural and landscape elements of historic or intrinsic value. Any changes to such elements in South Quad should align with recommendations from the University Architect and the Open Space Principles to ensure sensitive integration into the evolving campus fabric.

Environmental Policy

As an institutional leader in environmental stewardship, the University expects development to meet or exceed environmental standards. Planning for South Quad should incorporate sustainable practices that protect natural systems and promote health and wellness.

Land and Buildings Security Policy

The North Campus's urban setting requires thoughtful landscape and open space design to promote safety and a welcoming environment. South Quad improvements should contribute to a secure, inclusive, and active public realm.

Signage Policy

Campus signage is seen as part of a cohesive system for wayfinding, recognition, and storytelling. Signage in South Quad should reflect institutional standards and complement the character of the open space.

Naming Policy

The University supports naming opportunities that recognize significant contributions and align with its mission. If naming opportunities arise for elements within South Quad (e.g., plazas, pathways), they should be coordinated with broader campus strategies and signage guidelines.



Section 2

Study Area Background Context

2.0 Study Area Background Context

Located at the heart of the University of Alberta's North Campus, South Quad forms the southern extent of the Central Quad Precinct—an area that exemplifies the core identity and landscape character of the campus. South Quad plays a pivotal role within this framework as a prominent open space that transitions between the historic Main Quad and the broader 114 Street and 89 Avenue Students' Boulevard corridors. It is a place where landscape, architecture, and cultural narratives intersect.

As part of the Central Quad Precinct, South Quad embodies key campus values such as connectivity, walkability, inclusivity, and environmental stewardship. The following sections explore the site's existing open space assets, vegetation and canopy structure, built form and heritage elements, and its role in supporting campus activities and cultural expression. This background provides a foundation for reimagining South Quad as a welcoming, meaningful, and enduring public space within the University's evolving landscape.

2.1 Open Space Assets

2.1.1 Open Spaces

The South Quad study area is enriched by a diverse array of existing open spaces and focal features that contribute to its cultural, social, and spatial identity. These features form essential assets that will be leveraged and enhanced in the new concept plan.

1. Existing Administration Building Plaza:

Situated directly in front of the Administration Building, this paved plaza currently serves as an arrival space to the South Quad. Its openness and scale offer potential as a prominent threshold into the historic heart of campus; however, the area lacks spatial definition, visual interest, and a strong sense of character. Without clear landmarks, orientation cues, or welcoming elements, the space feels transitional rather than intentional—missing the opportunity to serve as a meaningful place of arrival, gathering, and campus identity.

2. Tree-lined 114 Street/89 Avenue Boulevard:

This prominent thoroughfare is framed by mature

street-tree canopy, providing shade and reinforcing the classical axial structure of Campus. It currently serves as a ceremonial gateway into the Quad and will remain essential to future wayfinding and sense of arrival.

3. Main Quad

Located immediately north of the study area, the Main Quad is defined by a strong rectilinear layout and mature elms and spruce, offering a formal, open green space. It acts as both a spatial anchor and a vital node in the campus open-space network.

4. Presidents' Circle and Bronze Monument ("The Visionaries")

Positioned at the southeastern end of the Quad where student, public, and ceremonial life converge, this circular brick and stone plaza celebrates founding figures through thoughtful memorialization. It already serves as an intuitive meeting and gathering point within the campus fabric.

5. Alumni Circle

Located at the northwest corner of South Quad, this smaller circular node is embedded along the Alumni Walk. It functions as both an informal seating zone and a subtle wayfinding feature linking dominant pedestrian routes.

6. Sweetgrass Bear Sculpture

Located at the centre of the north edge of South Quad, Stewart Steinhauer's 2016 granite sculpture symbolizes Treaty Six territory and reconciliation. It serves as a culturally significant landmark whose presence enriches the spiritual and symbolic landscape of the campus.

7. Water Feature

A linear water element, designed to evoke the character of a gentle creek, offers a quiet and contemplative presence within the Central Quad. Well-loved by the campus community, it provides sensory engagement and seasonal interest, serving as a calming counterpoint to the surrounding academic environment. Its success presents a valuable precedent and inspiration for incorporating a similar water feature into the new South Quad concept.

8. Scattered Seating Nodes

A variety of standalone benches and informal seating points are distributed through paths, plazas, and green lawns. While these offer rest areas, they are currently underutilized and irregularly sited.

This collection of open space elements provides a strong foundation for the South Quad revitalization. Site assets like the monumental plaza in front of the Administration Building, the existing tree-lined boulevards, and heritage sculpture deserve enhancement as connectors and destinations. Defined nodes like Alumni and Presidents' Circles can be refined to support expansion into South Quad, while seating and water features could be reorganized to enhance flexibility, activation, and social interaction across both everyday and event-based uses.

However, spatial fragmentation, limited integration between elements, and inconsistent wayfinding currently diminish their full potential. The South Quad planning process presents an opportunity to reinforce spatial continuity, enhance connectivity, reshape underused plazas, amplify cultural and historical landscapes, and support seasonal programming within a coherent open-space strategy.

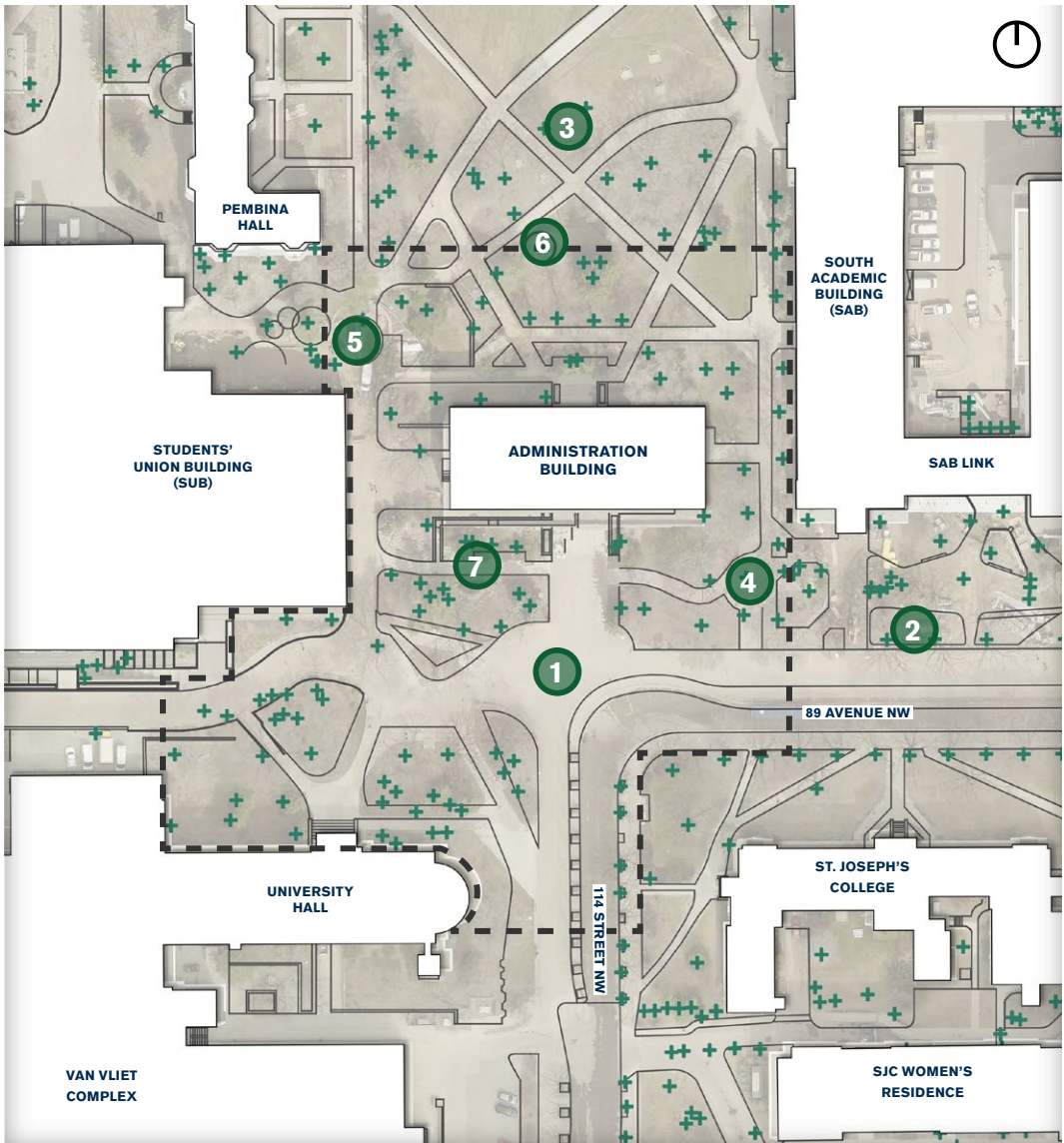


Figure 15. Study Area Background Context Map - Open Spaces



2.1.2 Vegetation

Vegetation is a defining element of the University of Alberta's North Campus and plays a central role in shaping its identity, function, and ecological value. From grand tree-lined alleés to intricately planted shrub beds and high-canopy groves, the campus landscape supports both formal and informal spaces for daily campus life. Vegetation contributes significantly to campus character and memory, while offering essential ecosystem services such as air purification, stormwater reduction, habitat provision, and microclimate regulation.

The Main Quad, located adjacent to the South Quad study area, exemplifies the mature canopy conditions of North Campus. Towering elms and spruce planted in the 1930s structure the space, offering visual enclosure, seasonal shade, and a stately landscape character. These trees—particularly the mature elms—serve as a benchmark for long-term tree establishment success on campus.

A unique feature of the North Campus is its underground steam line infrastructure, which contributes to the creation of localized warmer microclimates. This condition allows trees to achieve greater size and vitality than would typically be expected in Edmonton's climate. As a result, many of the trees across campus exhibit exceptional form, health, and canopy coverage—benefits that underscore the importance of intentional planting and long-term stewardship.

Cultural and historical significance is also embedded in the campus vegetation. Within the South Quad study area, four trees are recognized for their heritage value and personal dedications, and these trees will be retained and protected as part of the planning process:

- 1. *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas Fir): Designated as a Heritage Tree of Canada (AB2006-TF318)
- 2. *Tilia americana* (American Linden): Dedicated in honour of "Myer Horowitz"
- 3. *Betula davurica* (Dahurian Birch): Designated as a Heritage Tree of Canada (AB2007-TF762)
- 4. *Crataegus sp.* (Hawthorn): Dedicated to "Ellen Schoeck, BA Honours, MA"

Looking forward, a sustainable and holistic approach to vegetation management is encouraged to ensure both the continuity and evolution of the campus urban forest. While many mature trees currently define the landscape, they are also reaching the end of their life cycles. A long-term canopy renewal strategy is essential to maintaining the ecological, cultural, and aesthetic contributions of vegetation. Campus vegetation—especially tree canopy—remains one of the most valuable and iconic assets of the University of Alberta's open space network. As a component of the South Quad study, it provides a foundation for expressing cultural identity, environmental responsibility, and a lasting sense of place.

DEDICATED TREES

1
PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII
HERITAGE TREE OF CANADA AB2006-TF318

2
TILIA AMERICANA
DEDICATED "MYER HOROWITZ"

3
BETULA DAVURICA
HERITAGE TREE OF CANADA AB2007-TF762

4
CRATAEGUS SP.
DEDICATED "ELLEN SCHOECK, BA HONOURS, MA"

PRIMARY EXISTING TREES

SIBERIAN LARCH
LARIX SIBIRICA

WHITE SPRUCE
PICEA GLAUCA

NORWAY MAPLE
ACER PLATANOIDEA

OHIO BUCKEYE
AESCULUS GLABRA

LITTLE LEAF LINDEN
TILIA CORDATA

MANITOBA MAPLE
ACER NEGUNDO

BALSAM FIR
ABIES BALSAMIFERA

BLACK ASH
FRAXINUS NIGRA

SIBERIAN ELM
ULMUS PUMILA

DOUGLAS FIR
PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII

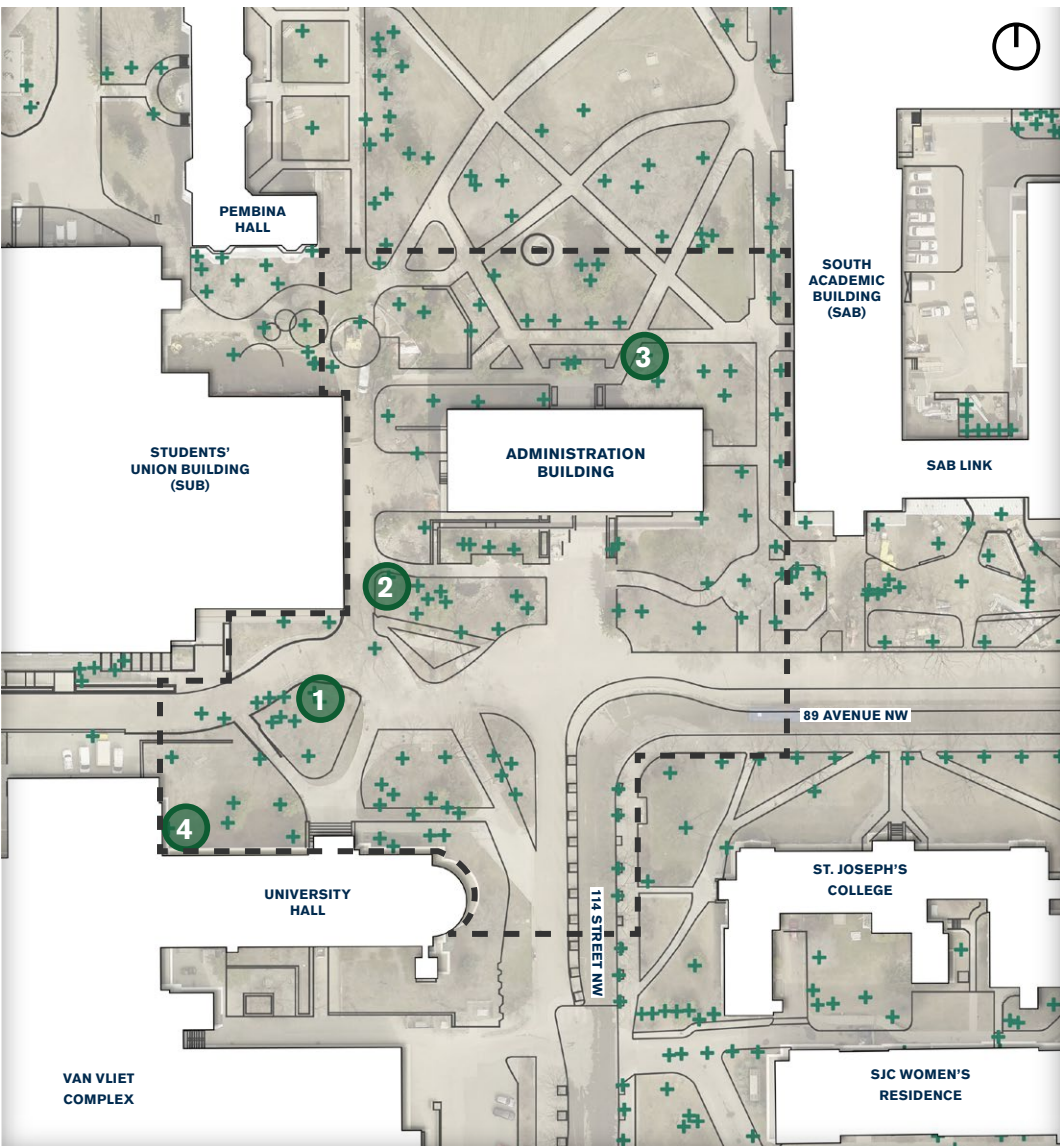


Figure 16. Study Area Background Context Map - Vegetation

2.2 A Sense of Place and History

2.2.1 Historical and Architectural Features

The South Quad study area is embedded within the Central Quad Precinct—the historic and symbolic heart of the University of Alberta. Framed by a rich architectural context, the area reflects over a century of campus evolution and contributes significantly to the University’s strong sense of identity and place.

Surrounding the South Quad are landmark buildings that span a wide range of architectural styles and eras. To the north, the iconic Arts Building and the original residences—Athabasca, Assiniboia, and Pembina Halls—showcase the early Collegiate Gothic style typical of the 1910s and 1920s. Constructed with distinctive red brick, these buildings form the historic backbone of the original 1912 Block Plan and give the Main Quad its enduring academic character.

In contrast, contemporary structures such as the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS) and the Students’ Union Building (SUB) express a more modern design language. Their bold architectural forms and materials speak to the evolving needs and forward-looking vision of the University, creating a dynamic visual dialogue with the older historic buildings.

Within the landscape, several architectural and commemorative elements enrich the cultural texture of the precinct. The red paving stones and Manitoba Tyndall stone are a unifying feature that connect key pedestrian areas, while plaques and markers—including the Alumni Honour Plaque—help to root the space in collective memory. The centrally located Flame Tower stands as a powerful vertical marker and a symbolic focal point, evoking a sense of continuity, scholarship, and remembrance.

To the south, the gateway features at Presidents’ Circle—composed of red brick and stone—reinforce the arrival experience into the academic core from 114 Street. Together with other spatial cues, these architectural elements frame the South Quad and define its edges, supporting orientation and legibility.

These layers of architectural expression—from historic to contemporary, commemorative to functional—contribute to the distinct identity of the study area. As a result, the South Quad is not merely a space between buildings, but an integral part of the larger academic and cultural landscape that defines the University of Alberta’s North Campus. Future improvements to the space can draw from this rich heritage to strengthen its role as a meaningful and memorable place on campus.

2.2.2 Character and Built-form

The North Campus as a whole is defined by its compact, walkable layout and its strong academic character, but it is in the Central Quad Precinct—anchored by the Main Quad—where the built form is most cohesive and symbolically resonant. A defining feature of the area is the rich juxtaposition of architectural styles and building eras. Together, these buildings create a diverse yet legible urban fabric that supports the ceremonial and everyday uses of the space.

The edges of the study area are well-defined by built form. The 87 Avenue corridor provides a hard southern edge, shaping the boundary of the campus and contributing to the transition between city and university. SUB to the west and SAB to the northeast both act as strong physical and visual edges that contain and structure pedestrian movement through the space. These buildings, combined with the mature vegetation of the Main Quad, establish clear spatial boundaries and a rhythm of movement, gathering, and pause.

The spatial definition of the South Quad is further shaped by the height and massing of surrounding buildings. The scale of these structures creates a comfortable sense of enclosure without overwhelming the open space. Their height also establishes a vertical frame for key views and axes—particularly the strong north-south axis that connects the Main Quad with Presidents’ Circle and the 114 Street corridor. East-west pedestrian flows are shaped by formal and informal pathways, visual sightlines, and activity nodes, further reinforcing the legibility of the precinct.

Sunlight and shade are important contributors to the character and usability of the space. The extensive tree canopy—made up of mature deciduous and coniferous trees—provides significant shading during summer months, creating a cool, dappled environment. At the same time, the spatial openness of South Quad, particularly around the existing Administration Building plaza, allows for generous sun exposure in the shoulder seasons and winter. Buildings such as SUB and SAB also cast shadows that change throughout the day and season, influencing microclimates and activity zones within the open space.

At night, the architectural presence of surrounding buildings is enhanced by soft building-mounted lighting and pedestrian-scale fixtures. This subtle illumination contributes to a sense of orientation, while allowing the historic materials and textures of the buildings to continue to define the space after dark. Lighting also highlights key landmarks and circulation routes, reinforcing South Quad’s importance as a central passage and destination on campus.

The proposed removal of the Administration Building presents a major shift in the spatial definition and character of the South Quad. Currently, the building forms a terminus to the Main Quad axis and a visual threshold into the central campus. Its removal will significantly open up views and alter the enclosure ratio of the space. While this change creates an opportunity to enhance openness, visibility, and circulation, it also requires careful consideration of how to re-establish a strong sense of place and spatial coherence.

Future interventions—whether new structures, tree plantings, or landscape features—should respond to this altered condition by reinstating some of the lost definition, framing views, and reinforcing the ceremonial and arrival functions of South Quad. Building massing, landscape elements, and canopy strategies will all play a critical role in shaping the next chapter of the site’s built form and character.

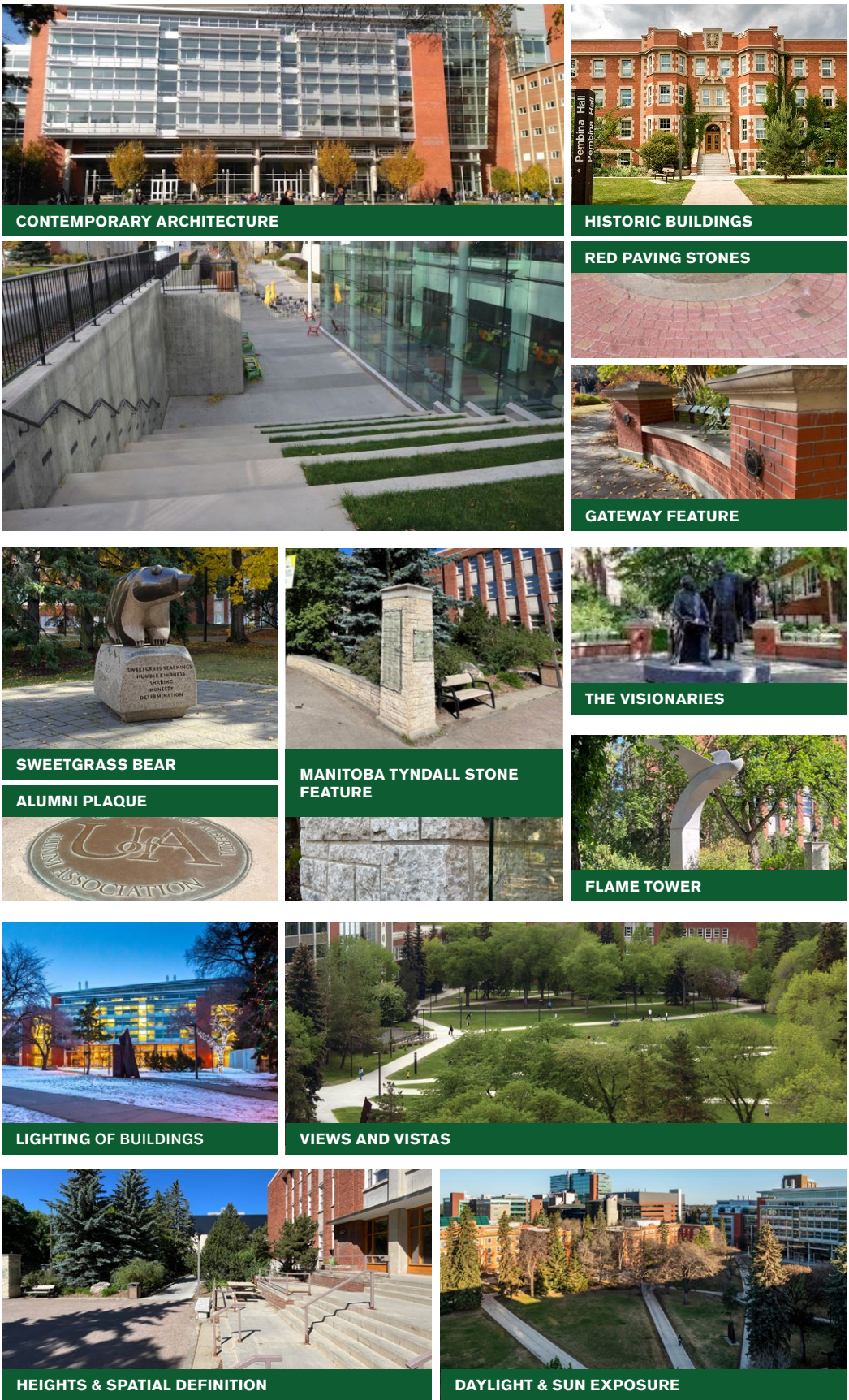


Figure 17. A Sense of Place and History

2.2.3 Cultural Aspect and Activities

The South Quad, as part of the Central Quad Precinct, is more than a space defined by its physical boundaries—it is a cultural landscape that expresses the academic mission, values, and spirit of the University of Alberta. This is a place where tradition and progress intersect, where personal and collective milestones are marked, and where the campus community gathers, learns, and celebrates. These cultural dimensions are deeply embedded in the activities, events, and symbolic features that shape the day-to-day and seasonal life of the campus.

The Central Quad Precinct serves as a “learning landscape,” supporting both formal education and informal learning through its spatial design, commemorative features, and open spaces that invite exploration and reflection. The academic atmosphere is not only established by the architecture and institutional presence, but also by the intangible feeling of being part of something greater—a place where the pursuit of knowledge and the aspiration to make a difference are palpably present.

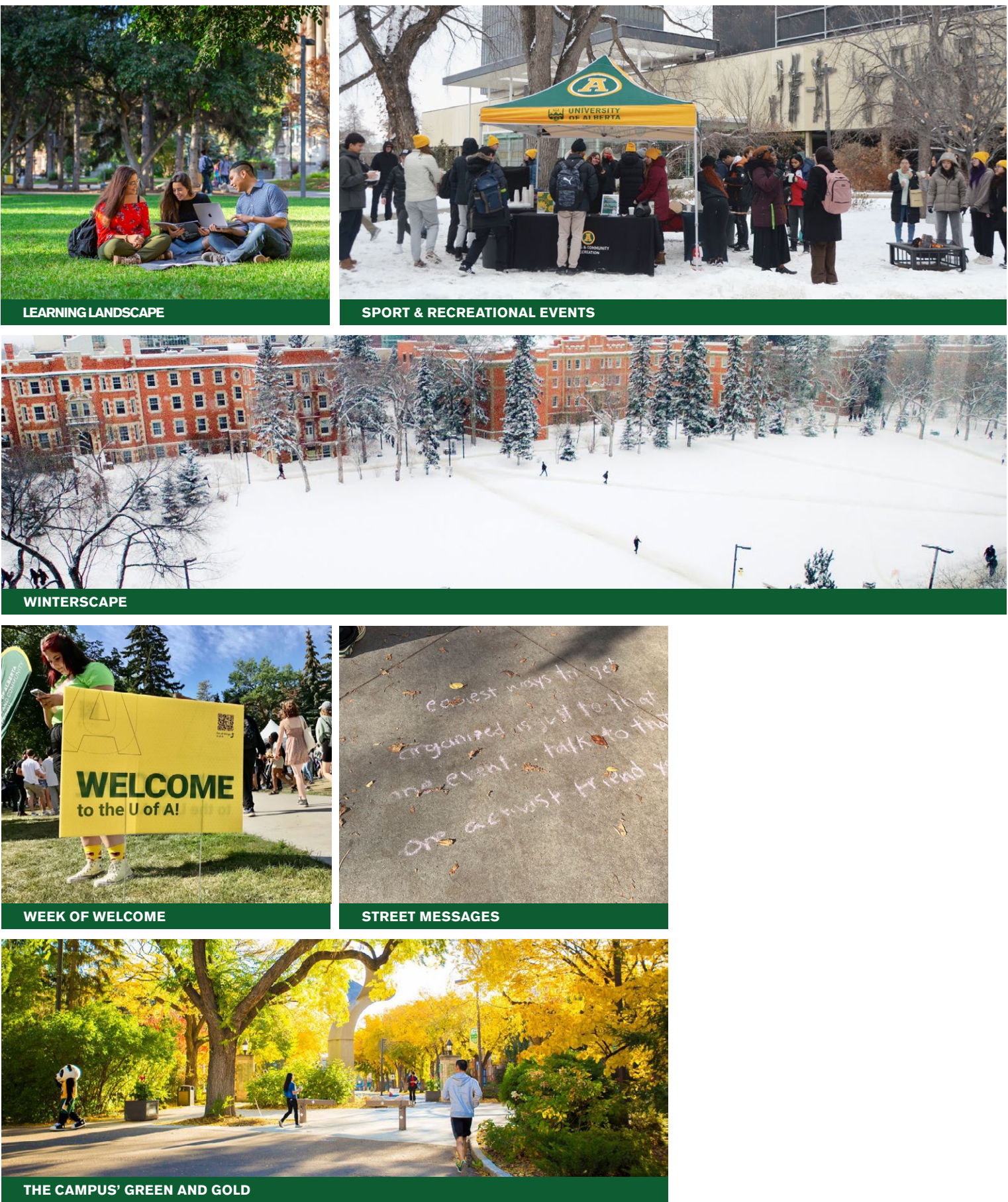
South Quad plays a central role in hosting large-scale university events that define the rhythm of campus life. The Week of Welcome transforms the area into a festive gathering space full of energy, student-led programming, and orientation activities that reinforce a sense of belonging for new students. Other annual events, such as recreational sports tournaments, pop-up markets, performances, and convocation celebrations, all activate the open spaces in different ways throughout the year. This part of campus is also a canvas for student expression and activism. Temporary chalk messages on pathways, informal art installations, and seasonal decoration of trees and benches reflect the social consciousness and creative energy of the student body. These expressions contribute to the evolving story of the campus, grounding the academic environment in lived experience.

Seasonal changes transform the area, with winter bringing a more contemplative character that contrasts the energy of fall and spring events. The quiet calm of the open lawn offers a reflective and contemplative atmosphere and the sheltering presence of evergreen trees create a serene campus experience that complements the busier times of year.

The University’s Green and Gold identity is subtly woven into the landscape through banners, plaques, and curated moments of branding. These features help build pride and continuity, reinforcing the institution’s legacy and future vision. Interpretive signage and features like the Sweetgrass Bear Statue and Presidents’ Circle installation contribute to storytelling, honouring the contributions of Indigenous cultures, university founders, and notable alumni. These elements layer the landscape with meaning, inviting reflection on the past, recognition of the present, and aspiration for the future.

As new programming is developed for South Quad, it is critical that these cultural assets are not only preserved but enhanced. The next iteration of this important open space must fortify the campus’s sense of arrival, pride, and welcome. It should be a place that motivates students and faculty to engage deeply, fosters inclusivity, and encourages curiosity. At the same time, South Quad should offer quieter spaces that support contemplation and reflection—allowing people to pause, connect with campus history, and envision the future they are helping to build. The challenge and opportunity ahead is to design a place that amplifies the academic spirit and emotional resonance of this part of campus: a place that feels like home, inspires greatness, and respects the many layers of meaning embedded in its landscape.

Figure 18. Cultural Aspect and Activities



2.3 Existing Circulation and Connectivity

2.3.1 Pedestrian And Bicycle Circulation

Pedestrian and bicycle movements around South Quad occur in a largely shared and undifferentiated space, with no infrastructure to separate cyclists or pedestrians. The busiest pedestrian circulation is between the LRT station/ portals and bus stops along 89 Avenue Students' Boulevard to the east and the Student Union Building (SUB) and Van Vliet building area to the west. There is also a lesser, but steady flow of people along 114 Street between 87 Avenue and Main Quad and the northern part of campus beyond. Cycling movements are primarily east-west along 89 Avenue which connects to the 88 Avenue bike facility and High Level Bridge to the east. Many students, faculty and staff live in the neighbourhoods south of North Campus and commute by bicycle, in addition to those cyclists travelling between North and South campuses (e.g. student athletes).

The existing configuration of 89 Avenue—a wide boulevard—accommodates significant foot and bicycle traffic (up to 10,000 pedestrian movements per day), however it lacks clearly defined bicycle and micro-mobility lanes. As a result, pedestrians and cyclists often compete for space, leading to potential conflicts and safety concerns. Introducing designated, separated travel

lanes along 89 Avenue would help manage the varying speeds and behaviors of different users, creating a safer and more intuitive circulation environment.

Given the central location of South Quad and its future role as a major campus gathering space and event destination, there is a growing need for enhanced bicycle infrastructure, including an increase in secure, accessible bicycle parking. A central bicycle parking area—with ample racks and protective shelter—should be integrated into the design as a key element of South Quad's active transportation network.

Such a facility would not only support cycling as a sustainable and healthy mode of travel to campus, but also provide a convenient end-of-trip amenity for students, faculty, visitors and transit riders. Locating this facility near main circulation routes and within visible, well-lit areas would also promote natural surveillance, improve perceptions of safety, and encourage higher usage.

As cycling demand continues to grow and multi-modal travel becomes more integrated into campus planning, the provision of separated bike and pedestrian facilities as well as sheltered bike parking will be critical to the long-term success of South Quad as a truly multimodal, inclusive, and future-ready public space.

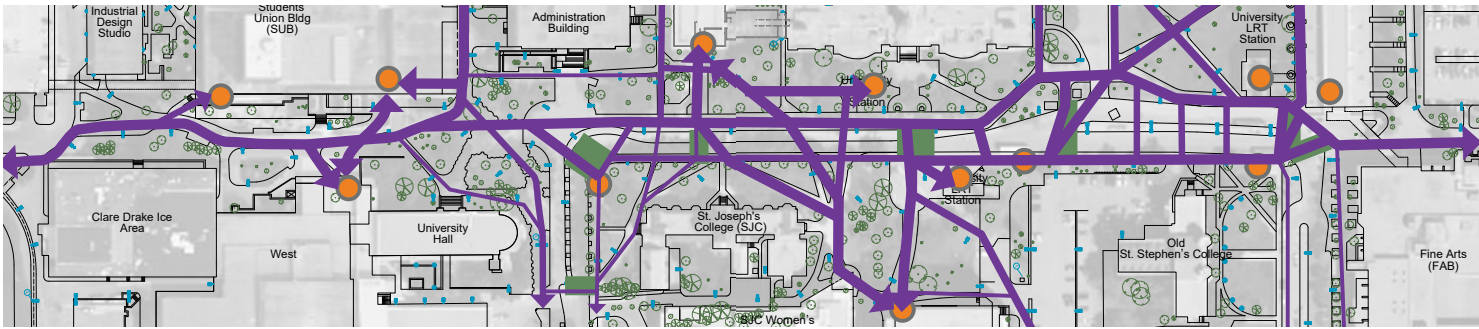


Figure 19. Pedestrian Desire Lines Identified During Site Analysis.
Source: Integrated Transportation Planning Concept, Strategy and Guidelines Along 89 Avenue Students' Boulevard and Vicinity.

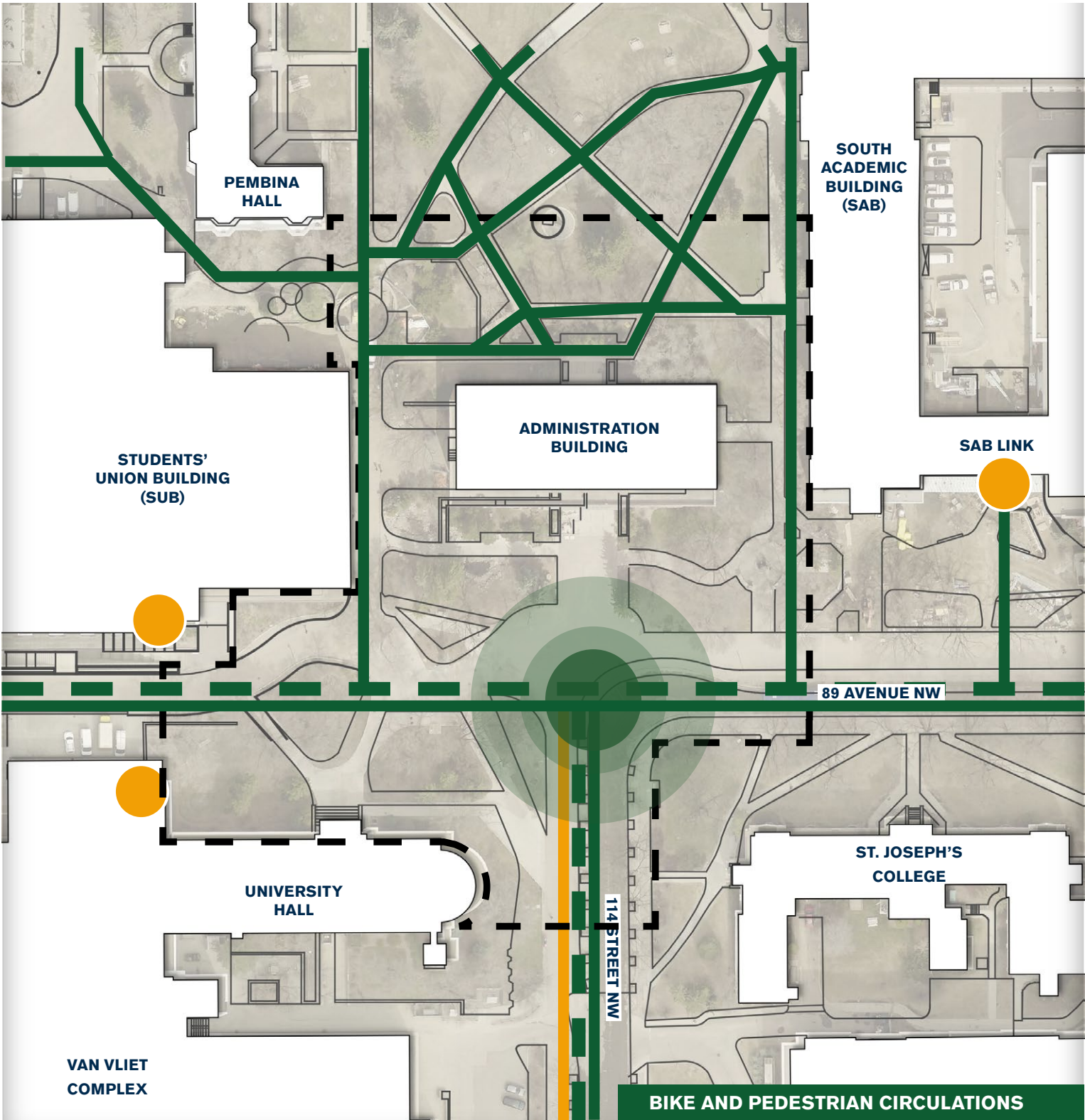


Figure 20. Bike and Pedestrian Circulations Map

2.3.2 Vehicle Circulation And Parking

Vehicle circulation within the study area is currently limited and controlled, contributing to the pedestrian-friendly nature of the Main Quad and surrounding spaces. The primary vehicular movements include the dedicated bus corridor along 114 St and 89 Avenue at the south edge of the study area, and a service access lane located at the south end of Alumni Walk. This service lane enables access to critical campus infrastructure such as the Student Union Building (SUB) and adjacent facilities, and is essential for daily operations, including deliveries, waste collection, and emergency services.

The existing service lane is sufficiently wide to accommodate large vehicles and currently allows vehicular movement adjacent to the Administration Building and SUB. While the presence of service vehicles introduces operational noise and disrupts the pedestrian experience, maintaining this access is crucial for sustaining campus functionality. Unless an alternative route for service vehicles is developed elsewhere on campus, continued access through this corridor is recommended to avoid disruptions to campus services and maintenance routines.

That said, the future vision for South Quad proposes a more pedestrian-oriented, public-facing plaza that acts as a major western gateway to the heart of the University of Alberta's campus. As such, there is an opportunity to rethink how service vehicles interact with this space. With the anticipated removal of the existing Administration Building, the west entry into South Quad will become more visible and active, further reinforcing the need to minimize conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles.

Future design considerations should include the necessary provisions to eliminate all public vehicle access including drop offs. The space should be designed for pedestrians and events first, cyclists second, and then as a service access third. Using intervention measures such as textured pathways instead of paved ones, bollards, narrow roads and strategically placed plantings or other landscaping features can help enforce this modal priority. These design interventions can help slow vehicle speeds and improve safety, ensuring that the space remains functional for necessary service vehicle access and passable for cyclists while supporting a high-quality pedestrian experience.

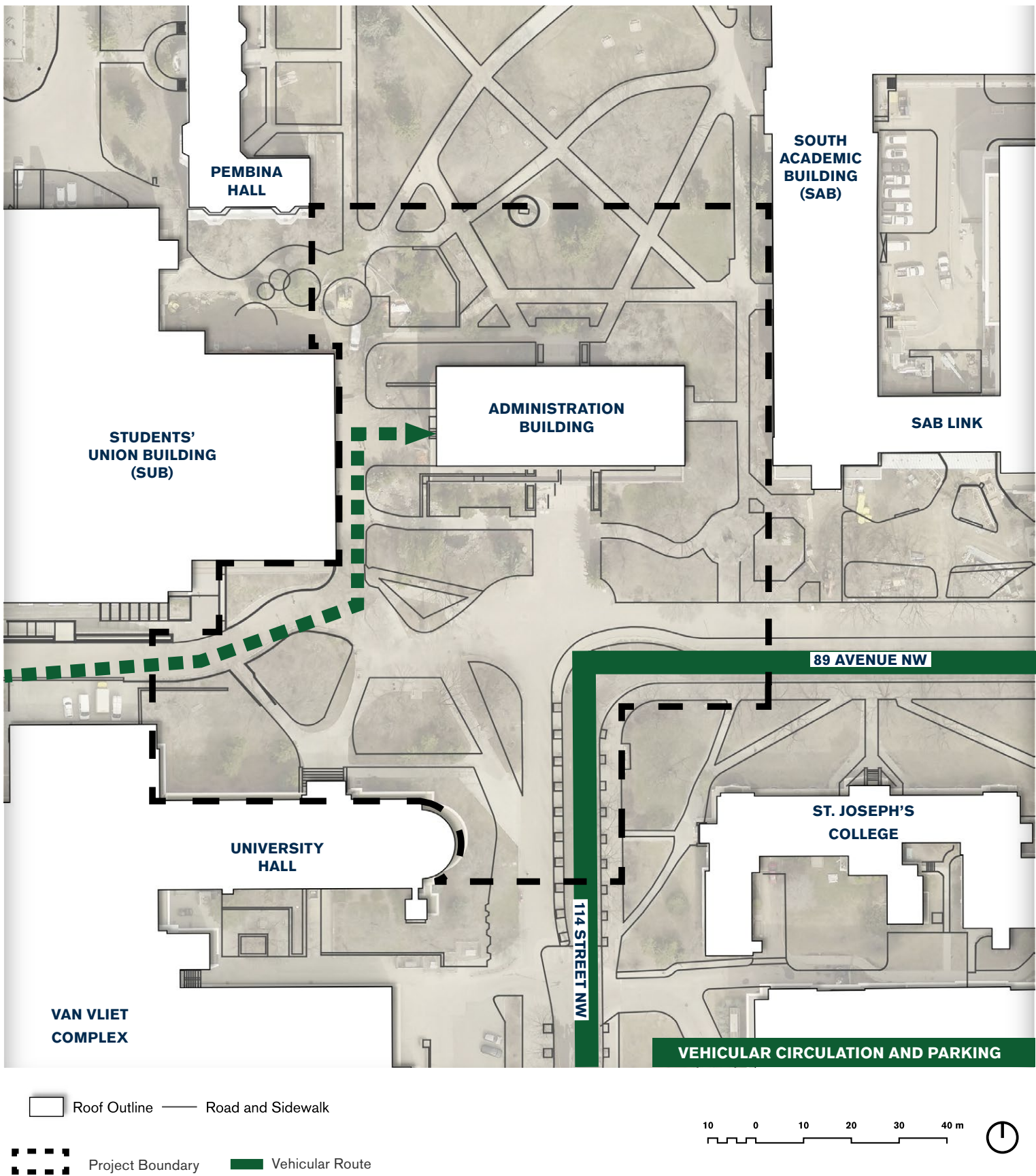


Figure 21. Vehicular Circulations and Parking Map

2.4 Existing Infrastructure

The existing infrastructure at the University of Alberta campus is a complex system of shallow and deep utilities that service the buildings, quads, and adjacent pathways. The first category of existing infrastructure reviewed in the site analysis are those routed through the underground utility corridors that consolidate water, gas, and steam utility lines extending throughout the campus for ease of access and maintenance making it a critical piece of the campus' infrastructure. The second category of existing infrastructure reviewed in the site analysis is the remaining utilities external to the utility corridors, including storm sewers, sanitary sewers, power, and telecommunication infrastructure. The final category of existing infrastructure outlined below is the exterior lighting fixtures.

2.4.1 Within Utility Corridors (Water, Gas, Steam)

There is an existing utility corridor south of the Administration Building consisting of watermains, gas mains, and steam lines that provide water and heating to the surrounding buildings. The corridors are critical to the University campus infrastructure, therefore a key goal of the project is to accommodate them and avoid proposing any modifications through the upcoming planning and design process if possible. All service lines that extend beyond the corridors can be renewed or abandoned as required, however limited modification around the corridors is a site constraint that must be respected.

New structures that are proposed in the South Quad that require heating or water will require modification to existing service pipes or new services from the adjacent utility corridor. Similarly, any water features would also require modifications to the existing water service that services the existing Administration Building and adjacent water feature.

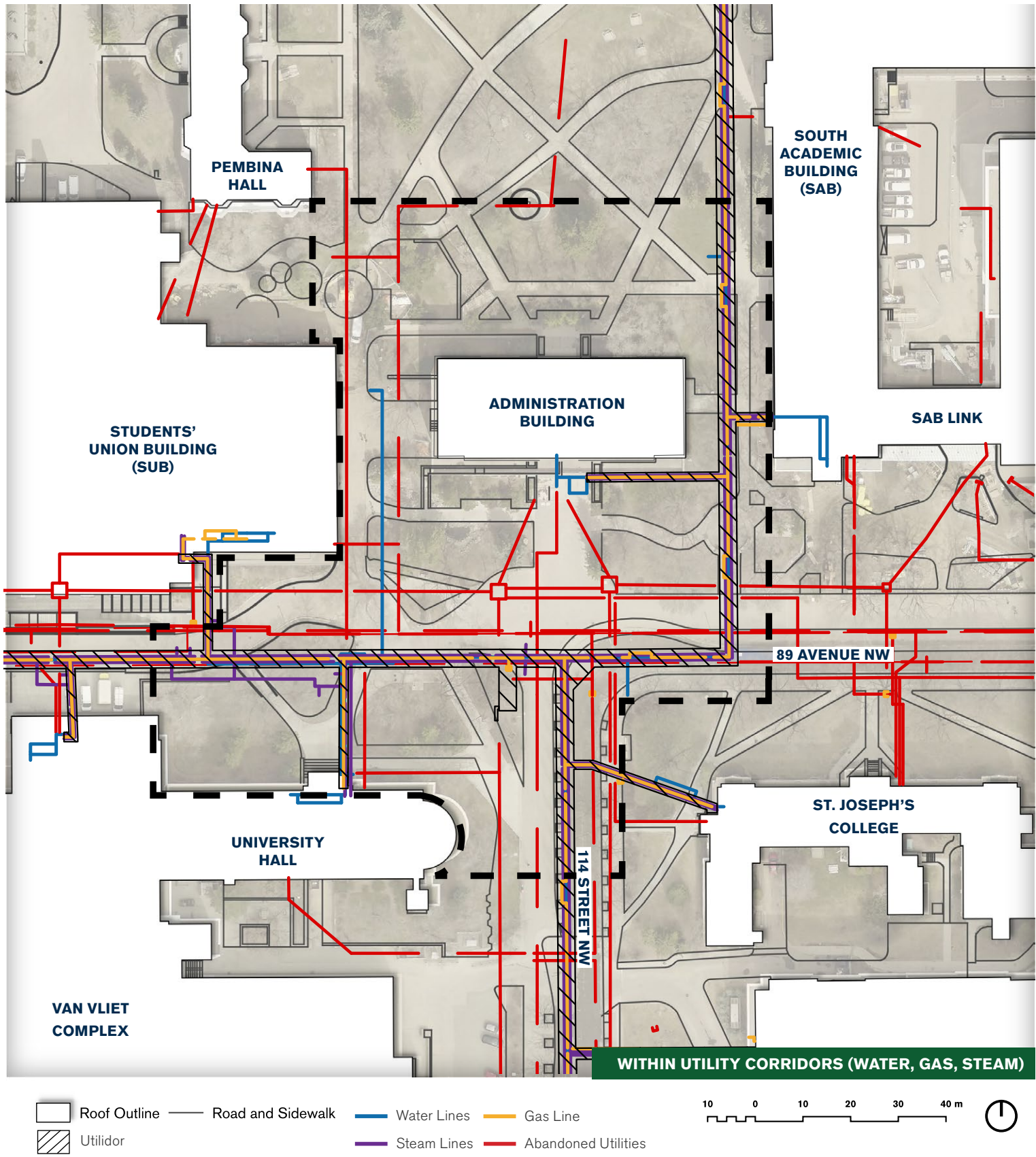


Figure 22. Within Utility Corridors (Water, Gas, Steam) Map

2.4.2 Outside Utility Corridors (Storm, Sanitary, Power, Telecom) And Surface Drainage

Campus utilities that are independent of the utility corridors include storm sewers, sanitary sewers, lighting/power, and telecommunication lines. The complexity with these utilities is that they form a network of infrastructure that is less organized than those routed through the corridors, with some utility alignments (mainly power, streetlights, and telecommunications) crossing through the site at various angles. These shallow utilities may need to be removed or relocated to fit the new development. The alignment of existing power lines will need to be reviewed with context to the overall lighting and electrical strategy proposed for the South Quad Planning Study area.

Due to the construction cost of removing deep utilities, storm and sanitary services may be abandoned in place if they are no longer required (for example, as part of the Administration Building demolition. With changes in grading and land use, re-evaluation of drainage directions and stormwater flows should be undertaken to determine the extent of runoff and inform if any drainage improvements are required. Opportunities to incorporate low impact development (LID) facilities as part of the drainage improvements (such as on-site infiltration and soil cells) is recommended to provide sustainable drainage solutions, increase climate resilience, and provide opportunities for increased planting space or expanding the campus tree canopy.



PRESIDENTS' CIRCLE LIGHTING



INCONSISTENT LIGHTING



CONTRASTING LUMINOSITY

2.4.3 Lighting Inventory

The existing lighting within South Quad lacks consistency in several aspects, particularly in the area south of the Administration Building along 89 Avenue. Variations in light pole height, fixture types, and colour temperature result in uneven site illumination—some areas are overly bright, while others remain inadequately lit. This inconsistent lighting condition affects visibility and user comfort, creating an environment that feels less safe and inviting. The stark contrasts between light levels make it difficult for the eye to adjust, especially during nighttime transitions between lit and unlit zones.

As outlined in **Appendix B: Lighting and Electrical Systems Pre-Design Report**, the current system includes a 120/208V distribution panel on the west side of the Quad, with receptacles and junction boxes fed by underground Teck cables. In some areas, lighting in trees is powered by exposed 'free-air' cabling, further contributing to inconsistencies and safety concerns.

With the planned demolition of the Administration Building, existing electrical services from the adjacent utility corridor will be removed—providing an opportunity to reconfigure the lighting system. Future lighting upgrades should align with applicable codes and University of Alberta standards, as identified in the consultant's report

To address the current inconsistencies, varying light heights, colour temperatures, and outdated fixture types should be replaced or modified as part of a cohesive lighting approach for South Quad. This coordination with electrical upgrades will help achieve a unified site experience that supports extended use, comfort, and accessibility across all hours of the day and throughout the seasons.

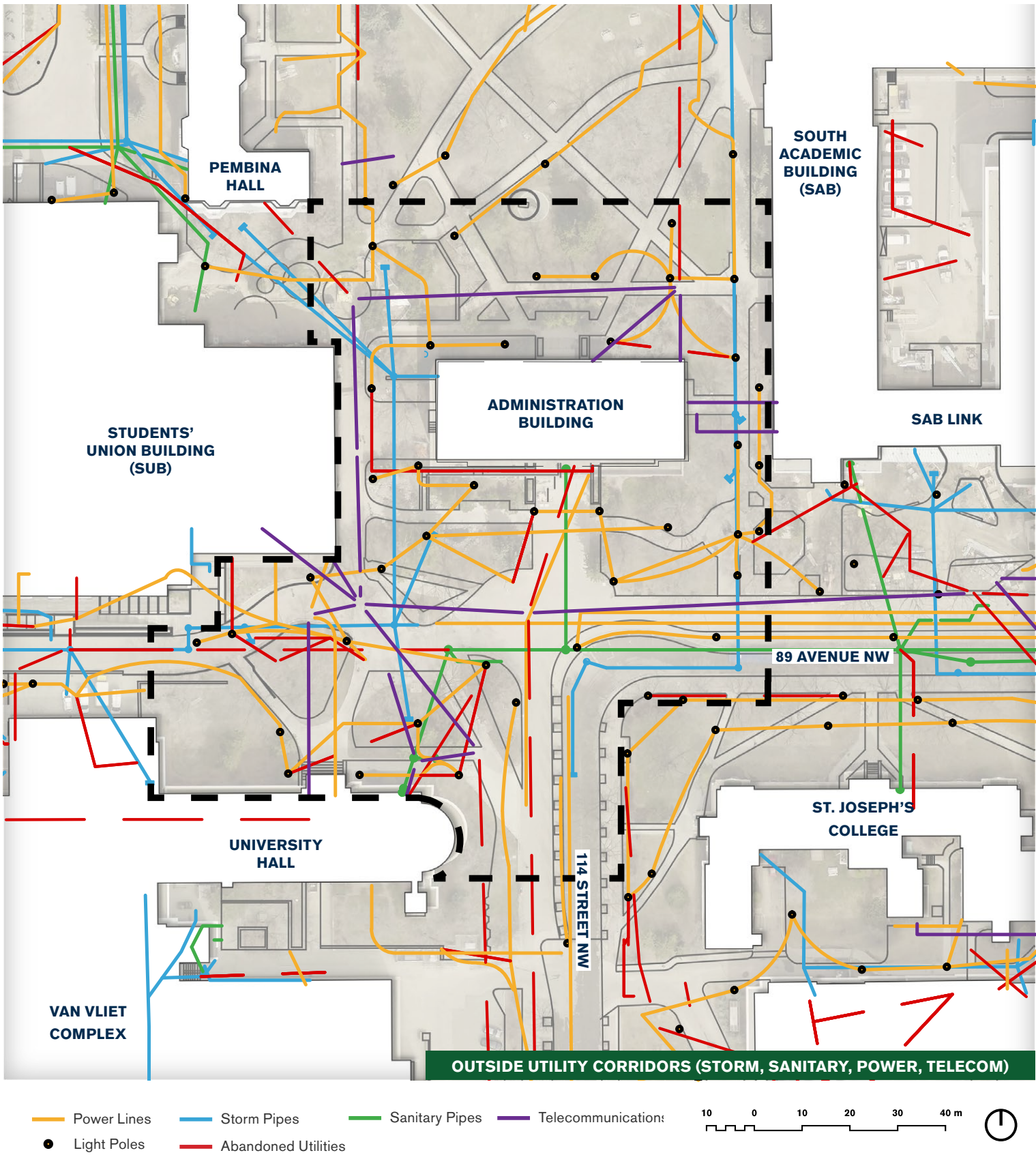


Figure 23. Outside Utility Corridors (Storm, Sanitary, Power, Telecom) Map

Section 3

Issues and Opportunities Analysis

3.0 Issues and Opportunities Analysis

The following analysis outlines key themes that emerged from the review of existing conditions, highlighting opportunities and constraints that may influence future planning and design decisions for South Quad. These findings have helped identify areas where targeted interventions could improve functionality, user experience, and spatial quality. Each topic below connects to early considerations that can shape how the space evolves, while details of the full analysis are provided in **Appendix A – Issues and Opportunities Analysis Summary Memo.**

3.1 Site Relationship with Surrounding Buildings and Spaces:

South Quad is framed by several academic and administrative buildings, many of which currently lack strong physical or visual relationships with the open space. The placement of entrances, window orientation, and surrounding service functions contribute to a sense of spatial fragmentation and limited edge activation. However, the configuration also presents opportunities to enhance connections between indoor and outdoor uses, particularly near student-oriented and high-footfall buildings.

Future design strategies may consider how to introduce or strengthen social gathering areas, outdoor classrooms, or study nooks along these edges. Building thresholds could be reimaged to invite more activity and blur the transition between built form and landscape, supporting a more cohesive campus node.

3.2 Open Space, Art, and Culture:

The current lack of interpretive features, cultural markers, and artistic interventions presents a notable gap in the identity and experience of South Quad. As a major crossroads on campus, the site could serve a stronger role in expressing campus culture and celebrating diverse voices. There is an opportunity to embed public art, storytelling elements, and space for informal cultural programming that reflect the university's

history, values, and aspirations. The future concept plan could also consider incorporating remnants of the former administration building as a storytelling element, preserving part of the structure to reveal how the space has evolved over time. These interventions would allow South Quad to become a dynamic site of memory, creativity, and gathering.

3.3 Mobility and Connectivity:

The existing circulation pattern is shaped heavily by legacy vehicle routes and does not currently prioritize active modes of travel. Conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists, and service vehicles, especially along 89 Avenue and near building service zones, suggest a need to rethink movement hierarchies. Future enhancements could benefit from reorganizing the circulation network to better reflect actual movement patterns and support intuitive navigation. Opportunities exist to reallocate space for shared-use zones, improve crossing clarity, and support safer, more comfortable transitions between buildings and outdoor spaces. Integration with the broader campus transportation system, including transit connections and wayfinding, will also be key. In addition, there is currently a lack of formalized or secure end-of-journey bike parking facilities. The future plan could identify appropriate locations for such facilities to improve convenience, safety, and the overall organization of movement across the site.

3.4 Lighting and Electrical:

South Quad currently features inconsistent lighting, both in placement and quality, reducing safety and visual comfort. Existing electrical infrastructure is limited in its capacity to support expanded programming, especially for seasonal or event-based uses. These limitations suggest an opportunity to establish a more cohesive lighting strategy, potentially incorporating layered illumination for pathways, nodes, and key architectural or landscape features. The use of recent, high-tech lighting products—selected for durability and performance in Edmonton's climate—could enhance both safety and visual appeal, while

creating opportunities for artistic expression and nighttime identity. Expanded electrical infrastructure may also be needed to support flexible programming and future enhancements. These interventions would align with broader campus strategies to create a safe, accessible, and welcoming campus environment.

3.5 Underground Utilities and Site Drainage:

The site's complex utility network poses constraints but also opens the door for more efficient utility alignments and sustainable stormwater management. By integrating Low Impact Development (LID) strategies and leveraging the site's natural drainage patterns, future improvements can reduce environmental impact and support healthier landscape conditions.

Site Relationship with the Surroundings

- 1. Weak physical and visual connection between SAB, SUB, University Hall, and the open space of South Quad
- 2. Back-of-house service areas (especially near SUB and the Administration Building) create fragmented and inactive edges
- 3. Primary entrances and windows of adjacent buildings do not orient toward South Quad, limiting engagement
- 4. High-footfall zones around SUB and SAB lack outdoor spaces to support gathering, lingering, or studying

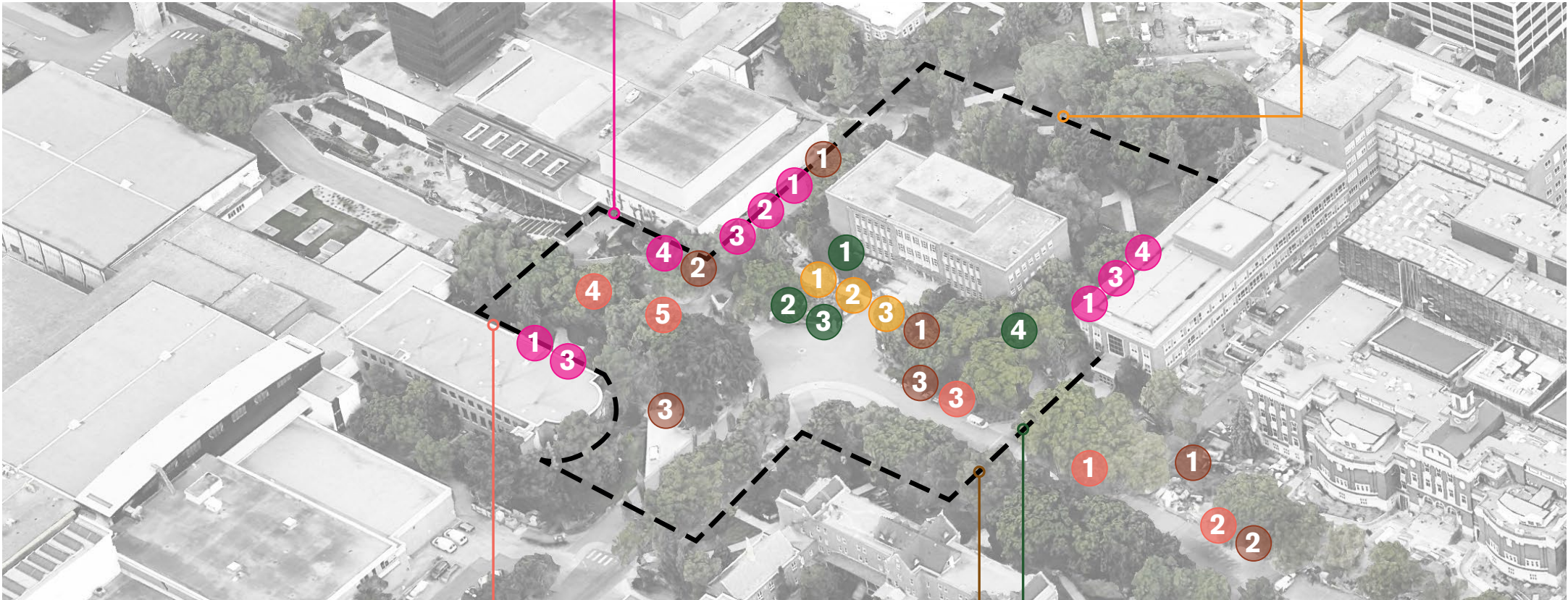


Figure 24. Issues and Opportunities Analysis Map

Mobility and Connectivity

- 1. Conflicts along 89 Avenue between pedestrians, cyclists, service vehicles, and transit users
- 2. Narrow, undefined routes at the LRT pedway pop-up and SAB create congestion and limit accessibility
- 3. No dedicated, secure end-of-journey bike parking near high-traffic areas like SUB, Dentistry/Pharmacy Centre, or SAB
- 4. Poorly marked service vehicle access points along 89 Avenue cause safety and visibility issues
- 5. T-bollards at key crossings block pedestrian flow and reduce spatial permeability

Open Space, Art and Culture

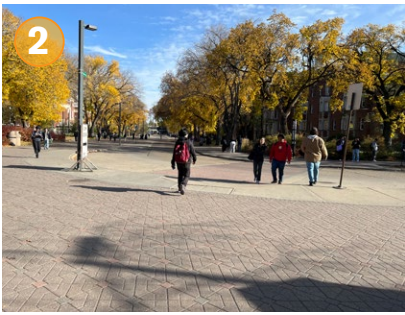
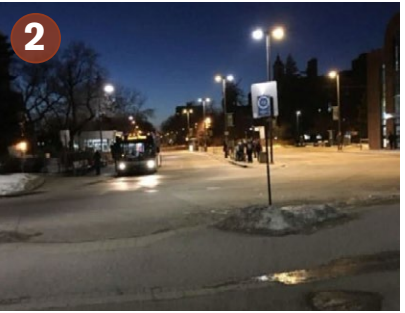
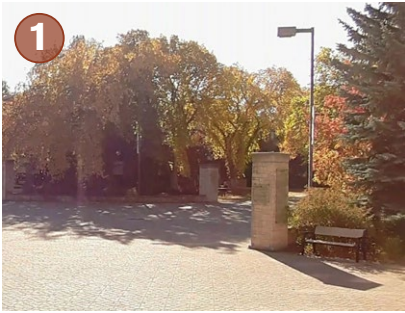
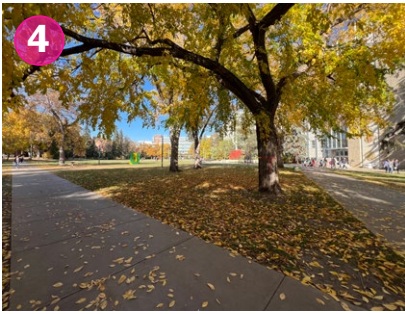
- 1. No interpretive elements or public art within South Quad to express the University's history
- 2. Open space south of the former Administration Building lacks any cultural markers or memorial elements
- 3. Absence of flexible space for informal performances or student-led cultural activities

Lighting and Electrical

- 1. Inconsistent lighting levels along pathways east of SUB, between Dentistry/Pharmacy Centre and SAB, and across the Admin Building frontage
- 2. Dim or outdated fixtures contribute to a sense of insecurity after dark, particularly near SUB's southeast corner and the LRT pedway area
- 3. Limited electrical outlets prevent pop-up events or seasonal installations

Underground Utilities and Site Drainage

- 1. Existing underground utilities concentrated around former Admin Building and SUB service zones may limit new construction or deep-rooted planting
- 2. Lack of a visible or effective stormwater management strategy across the site, especially near the lower lawn areas
- 3. Opportunity to integrate LID strategies where natural slopes occur, particularly along the southeast quadrant of South Quad
- 4. Existing gas line (possibly aligned near SAB) could support a future fire pit if such a feature is pursued



Section 4

Campus Community Engagement

4.0 Campus Community Engagement

4.1 Engagement Approach and Methodology

A two-phase campus engagement process was implemented to inform the development of concept plans for South Quad. The intent was to provide students, faculty/staff, and alumni with meaningful opportunities to learn about the planning study, contribute their ideas, and help shape the future space. Engagement activities were designed to gather broad input and confirm the Planning Principles in Round 1 (January 2025), and to solicit feedback on draft concept designs in Round 2 (March–April 2025). This approach involved the campus community both at the front end and during the planning process, helping build a sense of connection and alignment with campus needs.

Round 1 engagement focused on visioning and programming. An online survey, available from January 16 to 27, received 216 responses. A pop-up event held at the Students' Union Building (SUB) on January 22 attracted significant participation, generating nearly 200 comments and 23 design idea drawings. These tools allowed participants to share creative ideas and priorities for how the space could support student life, community connections, and outdoor activities. Gathering this foundational input helped guide the design team in shaping draft conceptual designs that reflected campus community values and aspirations.

Round 2 gathered feedback on the draft conceptual designs. From March 25 to April 8, a second online survey collected 253 responses, demonstrating sustained interest and engagement. Pop-up sessions on April 2 in two high-traffic locations, SUB and the Central Academic Building (CAB), gave participants a chance to review the conceptual designs in person and provide feedback. Nearly 120 comments were submitted, contributing to the selection and refinement of design elements. This iterative process allowed the planning study team to test ideas and align the final concept with community preferences.

A communication strategy supported participation in the campus engagement process. A dedicated study webpage hosted key information and survey links, while internal university communication tools promoted the engagement opportunities. Materials, including postcards (500 in Round 1 and 1000 in Round 2) and 20 campus signs (A-frames and lawn signs), helped create visibility and drive traffic to both the online and in-person activities. These tactics were important in reaching a broad audience and inviting diverse voices to inform the design process.

In addition to campus-wide engagement, the Planning Study included conversations with a University Advisory Group consisting of representatives from key departments and initiatives across campus, including the Director of Integrated Communications, Director of the Student Experience Action Plan (SEAP), Manager of Donor Engagement (Advancement / Alumni Relations), Community Relations Officer, and the Vice-Provost for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (Accessibility / Inclusion), among others. The Planning Study strived to involve and listen to the advice of core groups to reflect a wide spectrum of perspectives and the voice of the broader campus community.

Overall, this structured and inclusive campus engagement process gathered input from over 600 participants. By involving partners and stakeholders at multiple points and using a variety of communication tools, the proposed Concept Plan reflects shared values that aim to enhance the campus experience for students, faculty/staff and visitors in the future.



4.2 Engagement Outcomes

Round 1 (Visioning and Programming)

In Round 1, respondents told us they want the future South Quad to be a space where they feel relaxed, inspired, connected and welcomed. They envision a calm, comfortable environment that offers a break from the busyness of campus life, with considerations for both noise and weather protection. At the same time, they value a space that energizes and inspires creativity, learning and meaningful engagement. A strong sense of connection is also important— socially to peers and the broader campus community and emotionally to the university's heritage, Indigenous lands and nature. The space should serve not just as a thoroughfare, but as a destination—welcoming to all, functional year-round and reflective of the campus's identity.

Respondents emphasize the need for a multifunctional, accessible space that supports both structured and informal activities throughout all seasons. They call for lush landscaping and natural features, comfortable and varied seating and relaxed outdoor study areas. Suggestions include windbreaks and weather protection, appropriate lighting for safety, public art and reliable Wi-Fi to support study and connection. Aesthetic enhancements such as Indigenous and cultural art, alongside preserved historical elements, would foster a sense of identity and inspiration. Social infrastructure is also key— suggested elements include food trucks, student events and markets, performances and concerts, outdoor classrooms and areas for fitness and exercise. These features would support daily campus life while encouraging interaction, creativity and a strong sense of community.

The vast majority of respondents feel that the Planning Principles are well-guided, on the right track and comprehensive.

Round 2 (Conceptual Options)

Two draft conceptual designs were presented for feedback to gather input to inform the final concept:

- **Concept A:** *A vibrant, dynamic and accessible plaza that energizes campus life is designed for celebrations, performances and social gatherings, and provides separate cycling routes and walking paths. This concept transforms South Quad into a lively destination, prioritizing activation and engagement year-round.*
- **Concept B:** *A serene, reflective and accessible space that fosters connections, gathering and learning with meandering, shared-use paths and space for celebrations. This concept emphasizes natural elements, historical and cultural significance and a calm atmosphere, creating a peaceful retreat within the campus.*

Concept A

Concept A received strong support for its focus on community gathering and multifunctional spaces. The flat central plaza is praised as a flexible, inclusive hub that can host events, performances and social activities. Respondents also value the outdoor skating rink as a seasonal amenity that encourages winter use and interaction. Dedicated bike lanes and covered bike racks are seen as important for improving safety and promoting active transportation. Many also appreciate the range of seating options—social stairs, eating areas and shaded nooks—that address current seating shortages and enhance comfort. The inclusion of green elements, like trees and a bioretention garden, is welcomed for aesthetic appeal and environmental function.

Features that support social interaction, relaxation and integration with nature are strongly favoured. The most popular elements include the treed area with seating paths, the grass berm with large social stairs, the bioretention garden and the flat central plaza that serves as both an event space and skating rink. Other well-supported features include flat outdoor gathering areas and entry plazas under tree groves, reflecting a desire for welcoming, multifunctional spaces. Mid-level

preferences were given to the Sweetgrass Bear Plaza, performance stage and the luminous pavilion, while practical elements like bike lanes, central bike parking, spill-out plazas and accessibility ramps received less support, suggesting they are viewed as secondary to the overall atmosphere and usability of the space by some.

Some Concept A features raised concerns. The large concrete plaza and stage are seen by some as potentially hot, noisy, and underused outside of events. The skating rink is viewed by a few as costly to maintain and of limited use. Decorative elements such as interactive lighting and patterned walkways are considered by some to be unnecessary and high-maintenance. The luminous pavilion building drew mixed reactions, with concerns about its cost, upkeep and placement that interrupts the natural campus flow. Some respondents also questioned the year-round practicality of bike lanes, especially in winter, with concerns that they may be misused as pedestrian paths.

Concept B

Respondents show strong support for Concept B's natural, inviting design and emphasis on green space. The calming presence of the water feature is appreciated, along with the amphitheatre and stage area, which are seen as excellent venues for year-round gatherings and performances. The design is commended for its alignment with existing pedestrian and cyclist flows, creating a more intuitive and shared experience. The lawn's seasonal transformation into a skating rink is welcomed, as are the varied seating areas set within greenery, which are viewed as ideal for studying, relaxing and socializing. Many respondents favour the park-like atmosphere, increased biodiversity and reduced concrete footprint, which contribute to a more peaceful and sustainable campus environment.

Respondents showed the strongest preference for features that support gathering, relaxation and a strong connection to nature. *Flat seating areas with art and trees, outdoor gathering spaces, reflection gardens* and green features

like the *main lawn* and *bioretention garden* were particularly well-received. Elements that offer seasonal flexibility—such as the *amphitheatre* that doubles as a sliding hill and the lawn that becomes a social ice surface—were also popular. Features like the *Sweetgrass Bear Plaza, mixed bike and pedestrian zones* and the *luminous pavilion* received more moderate interest. In contrast, practical elements like *bike parking* and *accessibility ramps* were less commonly selected, suggesting they are seen as supportive but not central to the space's appeal by some.

Concerns were raised by some features of Concept B. The water feature and ice elements were viewed by a few as costly, high-maintenance and potentially vulnerable to vandalism while displacing valuable green space. The social ice surface was described by some as too small or oddly shaped to be useful and features like interactive lighting, the pavilion and the sliding hill were seen by some as impractical or unnecessary. A few respondents expressed concern about shared-use pathways leading to potential conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians and some found the indirect routes inefficient for navigating the campus efficiently. Concerns were also raised about outdoor seating being unusable in winter, with issues related to wet or snow-covered furniture, theft and damage to grass from movable tables and chairs.

Suggestions for Improvements

Public suggestions for both Concept A and Concept B emphasize a strong desire for improvements that enhance safety, comfort, accessibility and year-round usability. Key priorities include improved lighting for safety and ambiance, the application of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles (e.g., clear sightlines, cameras, call buttons), and well-defined pedestrian and cyclist circulation to reduce conflicts and improve navigation. Winter readiness was also a common concern, with calls for better snow and ice maintenance, heated areas and wind protection.

For both concepts, respondents request sheltered, inclusive seating and covered study spaces equipped with Wi-Fi and power, supporting a range of casual and academic uses throughout the year. Additional desired amenities include washrooms, fire pits, skate rentals, food trucks or cafés, and accessible tables and drinking fountains. There was also strong support for integrating Indigenous art, cultural programming, along with sustainability features such as native plants, permeable materials, community gardens and efforts to reduce concrete and preserve mature trees. These shared suggestions reflect a unified vision for a safe, inclusive, and environmentally sensitive space that balances social activation with natural retreat.

Overall Summary: Comparison of Preferences Between Concept A and Concept B

Feedback on the two draft conceptual designs reveals strong overall support for both, with shared appreciation for spaces that promote gathering, relaxation, seasonal use and connection to nature. Respondents consistently value features such as treed seating areas, bioretention gardens, multifunctional lawns, and event spaces, along with the integration of natural elements and year-round usability. Both concepts are seen to enhance campus life by offering inclusive, accessible spaces for socializing, performances and informal use.

One key area of divergence between the two conceptual designs is the pathway design and movement flow. Respondents who prefer Concept A, overwhelmingly support the use of direct, separated pathways, emphasizing the need for faster, safer and more efficient movement for both cyclists and pedestrians. Dedicated bike lanes are seen as reducing conflicts and better reflecting actual student behavior, such as rushing between classes and following natural desire lines. In contrast, those favouring Concept B appreciate its slower, more relaxed approach, with shared-use paths that support pedestrian comfort, social interaction and a more natural, park-like experience. These respondents feel that shared pathways align more closely with how campus spaces are actually used and help preserve a calm and inviting atmosphere.

While both conceptual designs have features that raise concerns—such as high-maintenance elements, underused winter amenities, or potential safety and circulation issues—Concept A generates more feedback about the potential overuse of concrete and the seasonal practicality of event infrastructure. Meanwhile, Concept B draws criticism related to the functionality of shared-use paths, the cost and upkeep of the water feature and the usefulness of smaller winter elements like the social ice surface.

Overall, Concept A is viewed as more urban, structured and event-focused, whereas Concept B is seen as natural, reflective and community-oriented. Preferences are generally split based on whether respondents prioritize dynamic activation and movement efficiency or a tranquil, nature-immersed retreat within campus.

A detailed account of the public feedback received can be found in **Appendix C – Campus Engagement Outcomes: What We Heard Report**.



Section 5

Planning Principles and Site Programming

5.0 Planning Principles and Site Programming

5.1 Planning Principles

Public engagement played a key role in shaping how South Quad will evolve, but it was not the starting point. The planning principles for this project were first developed based on the University of Alberta's existing campus planning policies, broader open space objectives, and the specific goals of this study. These principles set the foundation for the design direction, outlining priorities around inclusion, accessibility, sustainability, and quality of life.

Once drafted, the six principles were shared during Round 1 of public engagement to test their alignment with how the campus community sees and values South Quad. Through feedback, participants validated the direction, helped refine the language and focus of the principles, and added nuance based on their lived experience. This engagement confirmed the importance of themes like belonging, flexibility, seasonal use, and the desire for the space to be more welcoming and activated.

The site programming that follows builds on this shared foundation—translating the planning principles into real features and functions that reflect the daily and seasonal rhythms of campus life.

5.1.1 Energize the Campus Node

- Transform South Quad Open Space into a dynamic hub for social and academic life, fostering vibrant daily activity and community connections.
- Emphasize walking and cycling, create distinctive gateways, and maintain a unified landscape for accessibility and inclusivity.

5.1.2 Champion Access, Community and Belonging

- Shape South Quad Open Space into a beacon of safety and cultural vibrancy where everyone feels respected and valued.
- Highlight well-lit, universally accessible paths,

celebrate heritage, and create spaces that promote belonging and well-being.

5.1.3 Elevate Quality of Life and Student Experience

- Cultivate informal gathering spaces that invite students to linger, connect, and unwind, creating a “home away from home.”
- Infuse the environment with art, interactive programming, and transparent indoor/outdoor transitions that reflect campus identity.

5.1.4 Orchestrate Whole Systems Planning

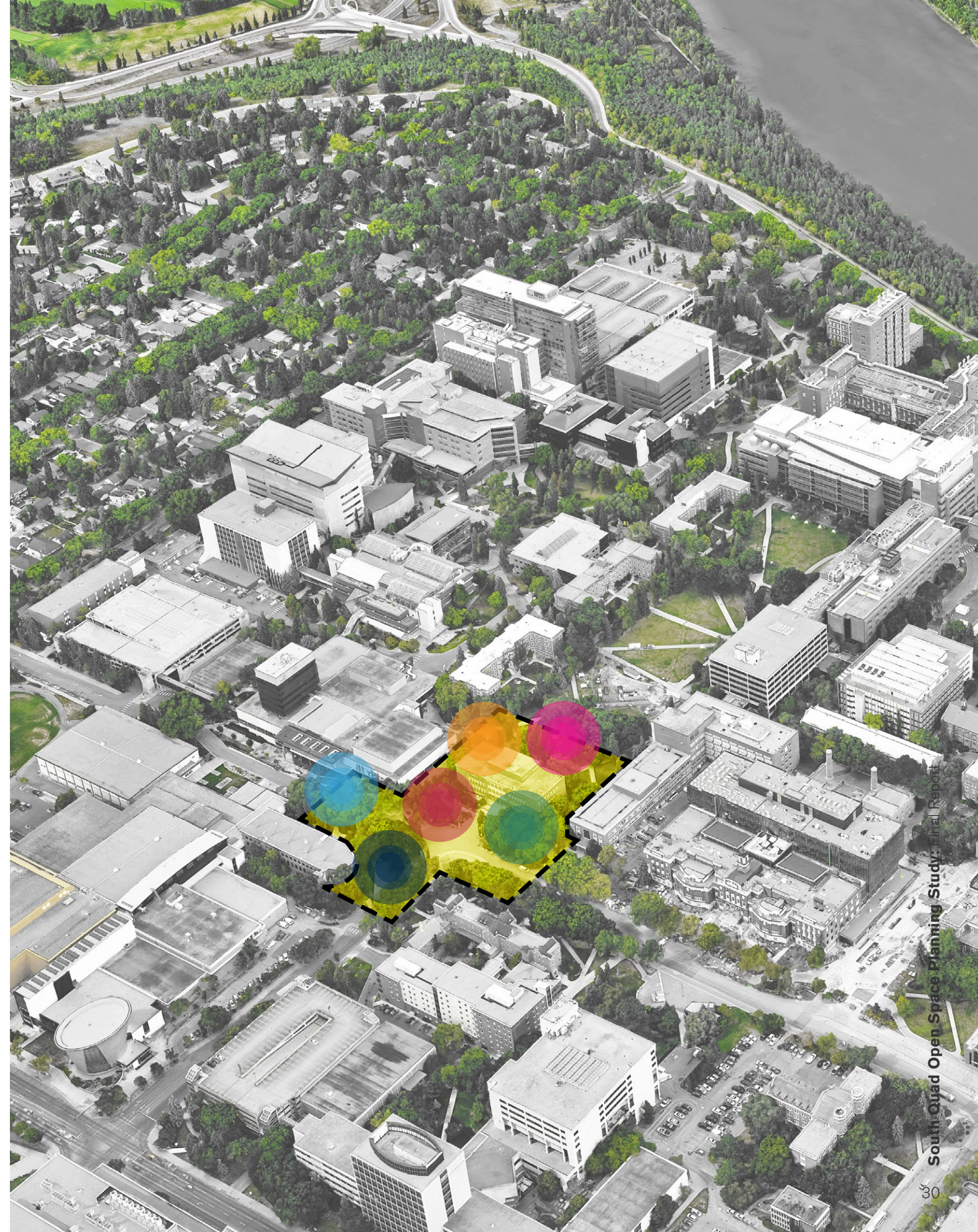
- Integrate South Quad Open Space seamlessly into the larger campus and city network, ensuring flexibility and sustainability.
- Prioritize active transportation, accommodate essential services, and embed innovative landscape systems that adapt to future needs.

5.1.5 Ignite Day/Night and Four Seasons Vitality

- Create spaces that come alive at any time and in any season, featuring inviting lighting, weather protection, and warm, engaging elements.
- Enable year-round activities with outdoor food and drink options and spaces tailored for gatherings and public events.

5.1.6 Enrich Open Space and Landscape

- Elevate the natural beauty of the South Quad Open Space study area by enhancing trees, plantings, and ecological systems that reflect local character.
- Balance aesthetics and functionality, ensuring seasonal variety, safety, and sustainability.



5.2 Site Programming

The site programming for South Quad reflects a collaborative process where broad planning goals were refined by on-the-ground insights from students, staff, and faculty.

In Round 1, participants were invited to share how they experience the space today, how they want to feel there in the future, and what kinds of activities or features would support those feelings across seasons. Their input helped shape an early understanding of program needs—such as informal gathering zones, outdoor study areas, shade and warmth, accessibility, and a balance between active and quiet spaces.

In Round 2, the design team presented two draft concept options, incorporating feedback from the first round. The campus community and advisory group were invited to respond to each concept—highlighting which elements resonated, suggesting refinements, and sharing preferences on issues like circulation, safety, and bike movement. This input helped the team move toward a revised concept plan grounded in real campus behaviours, rhythms, and aspirations.

This step-by-step process gave the design team the opportunity to learn from the input received and adjust the design in ways that reflect how people currently use the space and what they would like to see in the future. Community input influenced not only what features to include, but also how they could work together in the space, helping the team consider different perspectives and find a balance between needs.

The feedback was carefully reviewed and grouped into themes to better understand what mattered most to people—such as comfort in all seasons, a mix of active and quiet areas, places to gather, and safe, well-lit pathways. These ideas played a key role in shaping decisions about the size, location, and character of features like open gathering spaces, seating areas, planting, lighting, and circulation routes.

The updated site program includes a mix of flexible seating spaces, seasonal features like a skating pond, tree bosques with seating, improved lighting, gathering berms, adventure play zone, and a multi-functional pavilion. Together these features respond to the six planning principles and reflect many of the ideas shared through engagement - creating a landscape that is inclusive, dynamic, and deeply rooted in the campus experience..

Summer



BIKE LANES WITH CENTRAL PARKING AREA



OUTDOOR MARKET WITH SEATING



FOODTRUCK



PERFORMANCE SPACE



BASKING AREA



PEDESTRIANISED PLAZA



SKATING RINK



CELEBRATING WINTER



FREEZEWAY



INDOOR PAVILION



WARMING HUTS



WINTER SPECIALISED GAMES

Winter

Figure 25. Site Programming - Summer and Winter

Section 6

Open Space Planning Process

6.0 Open Space Planning Process

6.1 Urban Design Framework

The urban design framework for this study was shaped by combining what we heard from public engagement with what we observed in a detailed site analysis. This approach helped the design team propose ideas that reflect community input while also responding to the existing conditions, access points, and layout of the site.

Three key diagrams helped guide the development of the plan:

Spatial Structure

This diagram identifies five main access points to South Quad—from 89 Avenue (east), the service road (west), 114 Street (south), North Quad (north), and a secondary connection from the southeast. It

also includes several smaller pathways and nearby building entrances. Based on these points, main circulation lines were drawn to help people move easily through the space. These routes are shaped around natural walking patterns and help make the space easier to navigate.

Functional Relationships

This diagram maps out different zones across the site, showing where various types of activities might happen. It highlights key areas for gathering and socializing, especially where major pathways intersect. These nodes are placed in spots that are easy to find and well-connected, helping to bring people together in a natural way.

Flows and Circulations

This diagram looks at how people are expected to move through the space—including on foot, by bike, or with service vehicles. It considers where people are coming from, where they are going, and how those movement patterns cross. This helps the design create clear routes, reduce potential conflicts, and support a smoother experience for everyone using the space.

Together, these three diagrams formed the basis of the concept design. They helped the team develop a plan that fits the site, supports how people want to use it, and aligns with the broader goals for the future of South Quad.

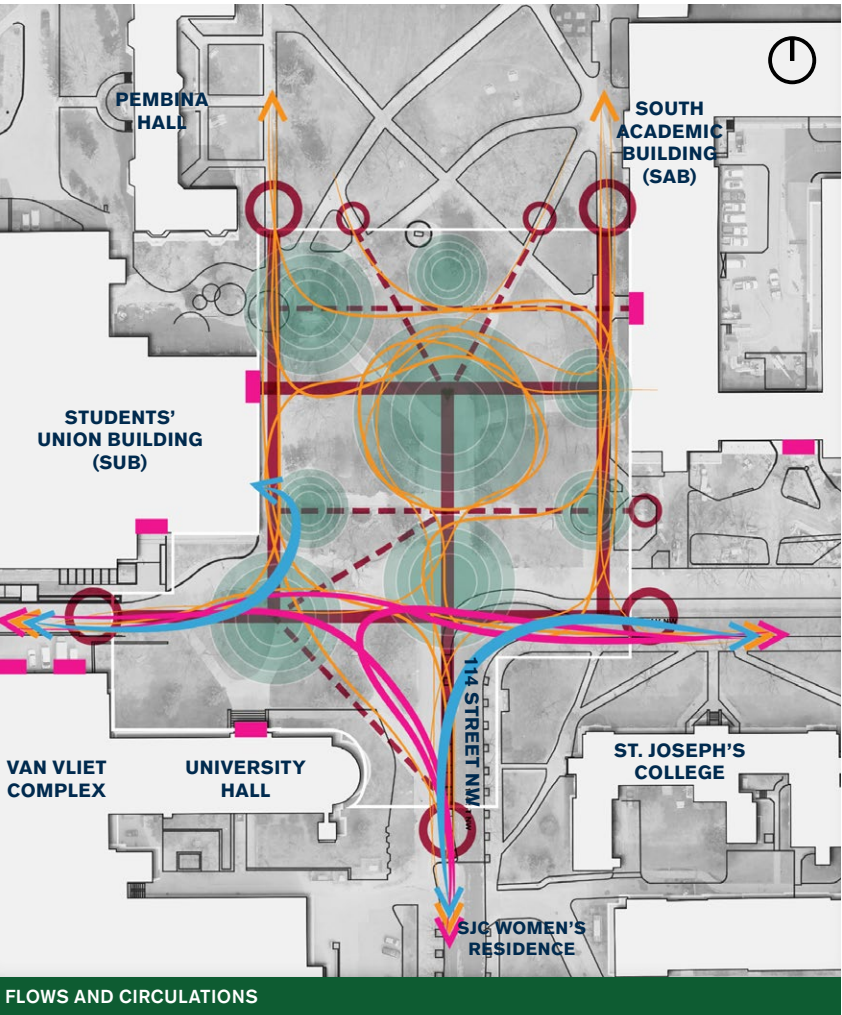
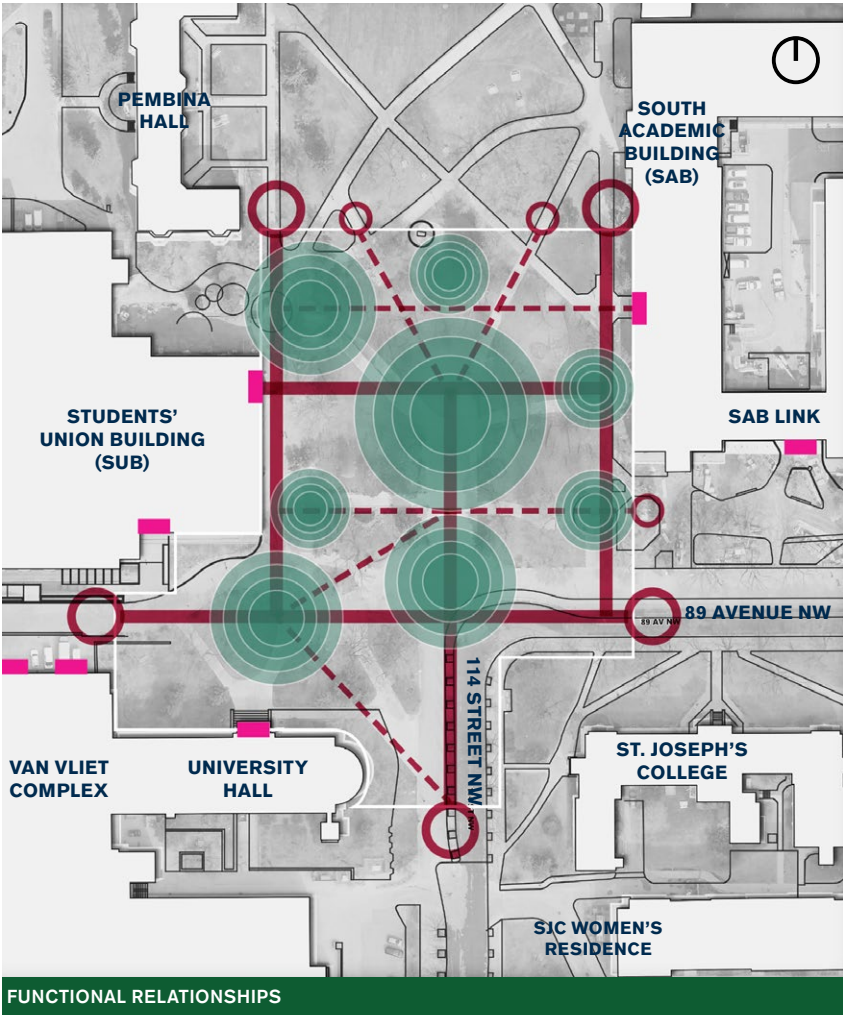
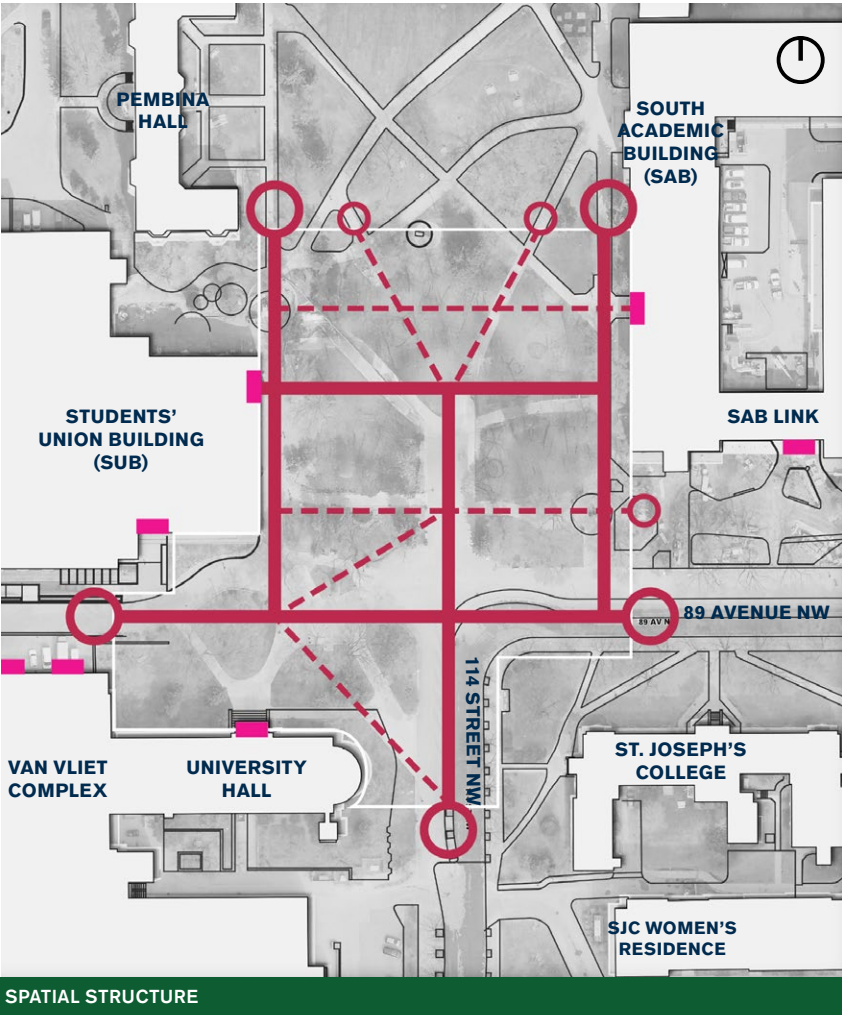


Figure 26. Maps Showing Open Space Planning Process

6.2 Planning Approach and Methodology

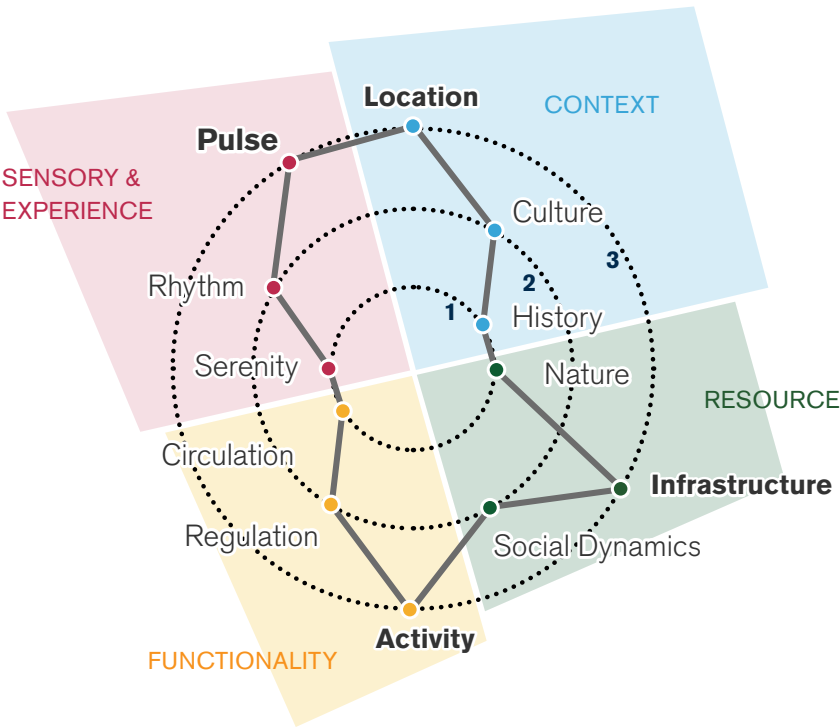
The planning approach for the South Quad redevelopment was grounded in an extensive process of public engagement and site analysis. A wealth of feedback was received from the public, expressing a wide range of aspirations for the future of South Quad. Common themes emerged around relaxation and comfort, inspiration and energy, meaningful social connections, a welcoming atmosphere, and all-season functionality.

To navigate the diverse opinions and priorities expressed, the project team employed a structured concept development methodology. A radar chart tool was used to compare different design directions against a baseline set of metrics. To simplify the complexity of overlapping ideas, similar design variables were grouped into four key matrix families:

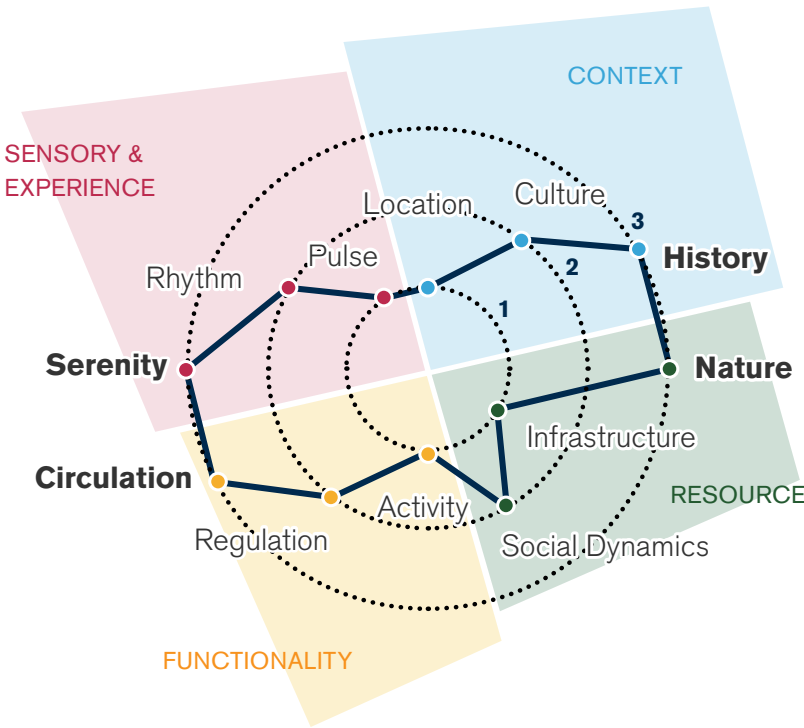
- **Context** (site history, cultural significance, shared memories, central location)
- **Resources** (balance of natural and built elements, and the social dynamics shaping use)
- **Functionality** (programming, regulation, circulation, safety, inclusiveness, sustainability)
- **Sensory & Experiential Qualities** (user experience, energy, mood, atmosphere)

By visualizing and comparing these variables, the team developed two distinct concept scenarios that highlight contrasting priorities and offer different pathways for how South Quad could evolve. When the two radar charts for the scenarios are overlaid, a set of shared values emerges — notably, the importance of culture, social dynamics, regulation, and rhythm. These common elements will remain foundational across

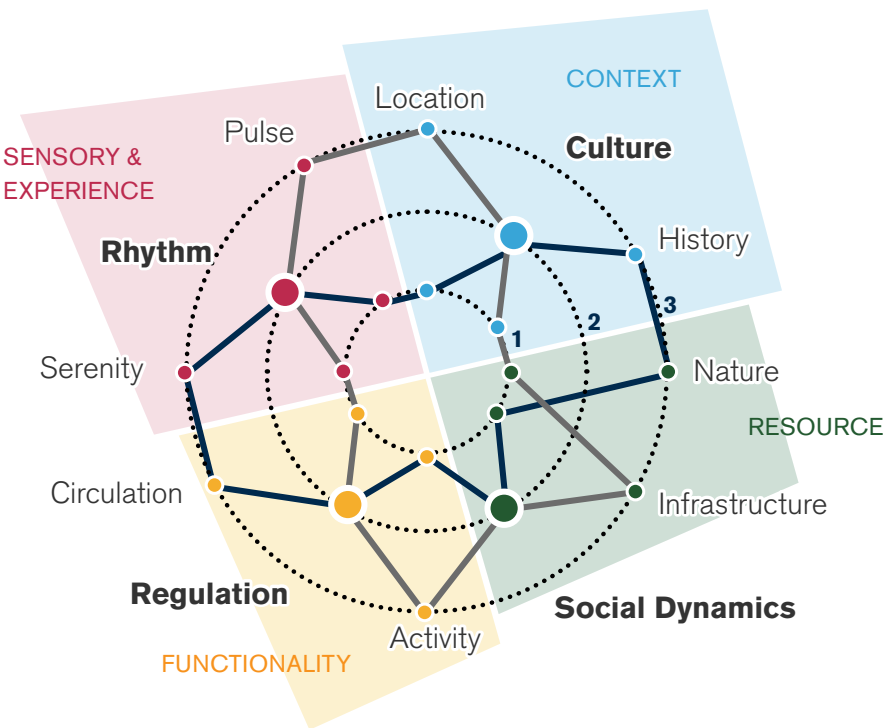
both design directions, ensuring that no matter which path is pursued, South Quad will retain a cohesive identity and serve as a meaningful and valued space on campus.



SCENARIO A: ACTIVATION



SCENARIO B: SERENITY



COMBINED RADAR CHART

Figure 27. Charts Showing Two Scenarios Of Planning Approach And Combined Approach

6.3 Concept Plan - Scenarios A and B

6.3.1 Concept Scenario A - Activation

Scenario A, titled Activation, emphasizes South Quad's strategic role as a gateway and central arrival point on campus. This concept favors new built infrastructure over preserved green space, focusing on active programming and event-driven uses over contemplative or passive spaces. The design envisions South Quad as a vibrant event hub — a space with pulse, rhythm, and energy, capable of hosting celebrations, performances, and social gatherings year-round. The goal is to create a dynamic, multifunctional destination that energizes campus life, fosters meaningful interactions, and draws people into the heart of the university.

Existing Features

- a. Sweetgrass Bear Treaty 6 Marker
- b. Alumni Circle
- c. Presidents' Circle
- d. Flame Tower Statue
- e. Dedicated Trees

Proposed Features

- 1. Performance Stage and Event Space with Lighting and Sound Equipment
- 2. Flat Central Plaza / Event Space / Skating Rink
- 3. Grass Berm with Big Social Seating Stairs
- 4. Accessible Ramps and Viewing Platform
- 5. Flat Central Promenade / Event Space
- 6. Flat Entry Plaza with Gathering Space under Tree Grove
- 7. Flat Extended Plaza / Spill-out Event Space
- 8. Luminous Pavilion Building
- 9. Flat Outdoor Gathering and Seating Space
- 10. Treed Area with Paths and Seating Nodes
- 11. Bioretention Garden
- 12. Sweetgrass Bear Plaza with Seating Walls
- 13. Designated Bike Lane
- 14. Central Bike Parking with Shelter
- 15. Shared Service Road

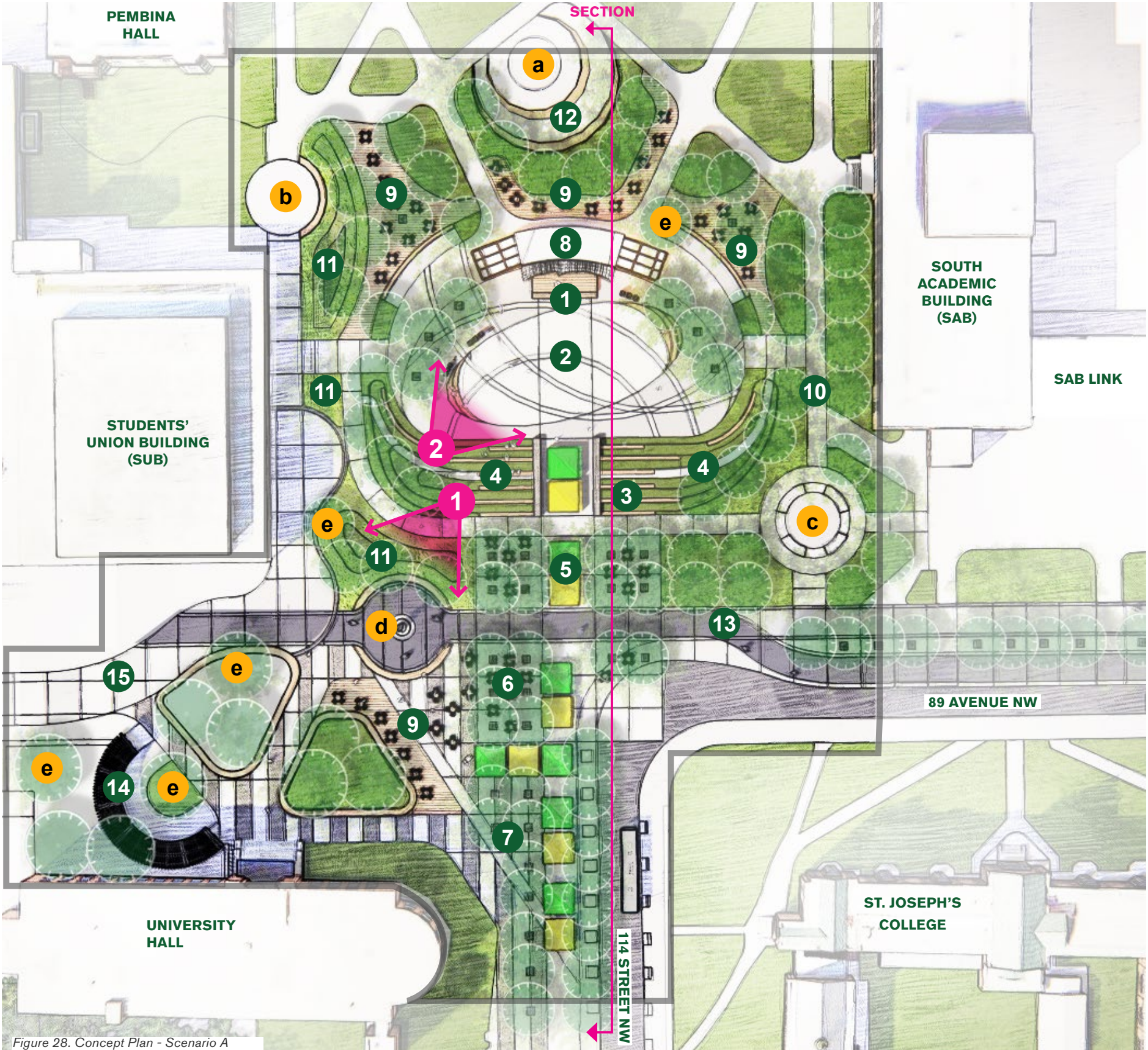


Figure 28. Concept Plan - Scenario A

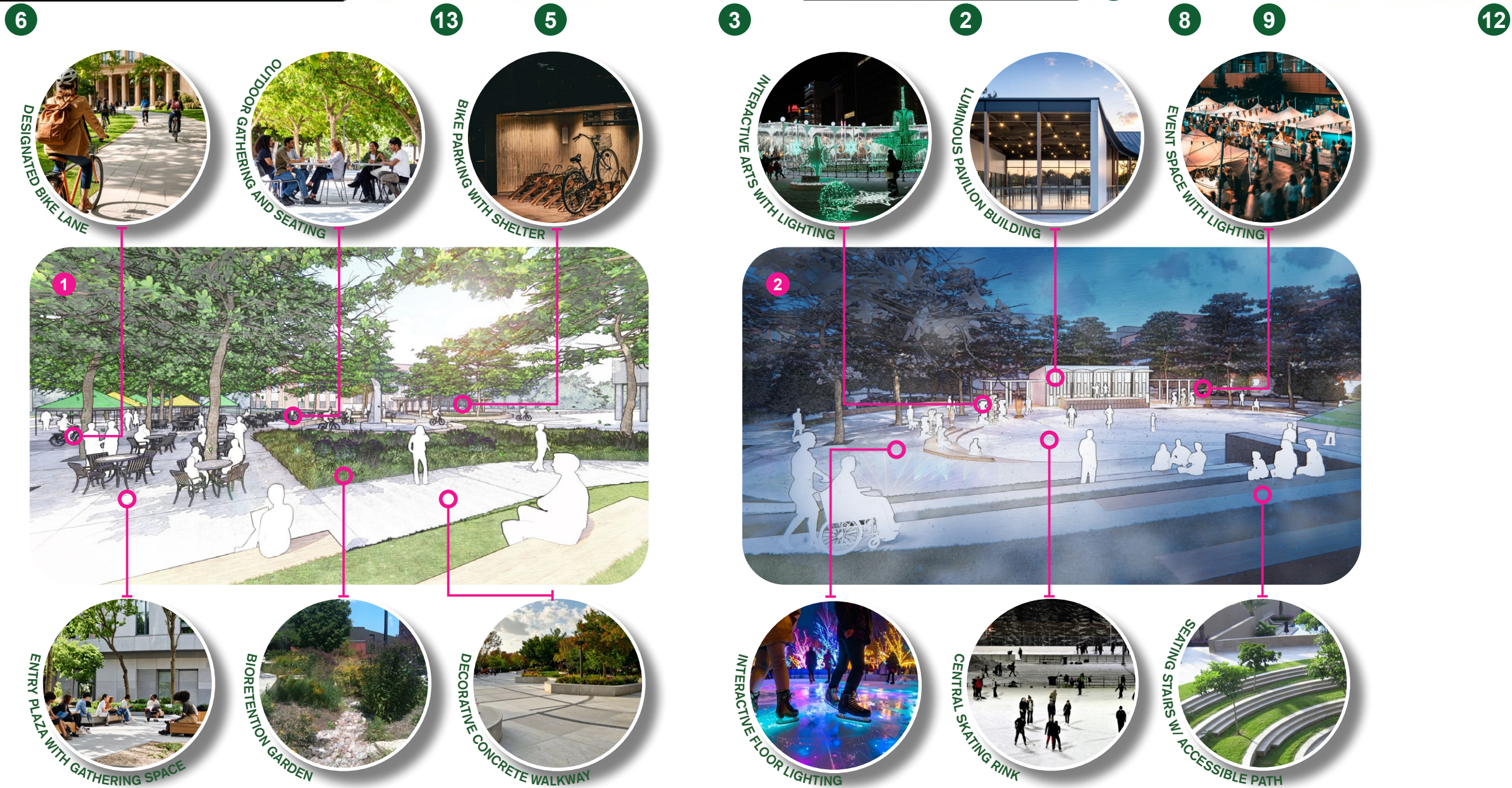
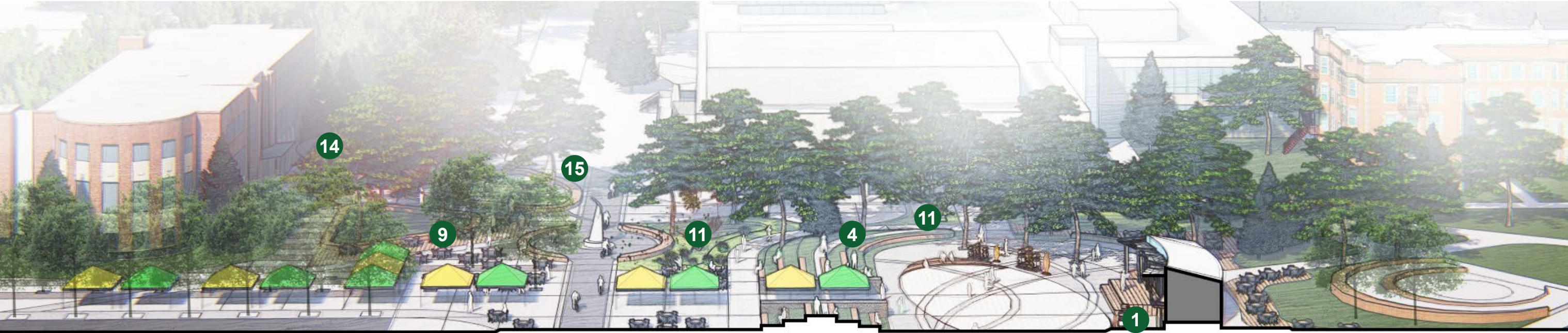


Figure 29. Sectional Perspective View and Perspective Views - Scenario A

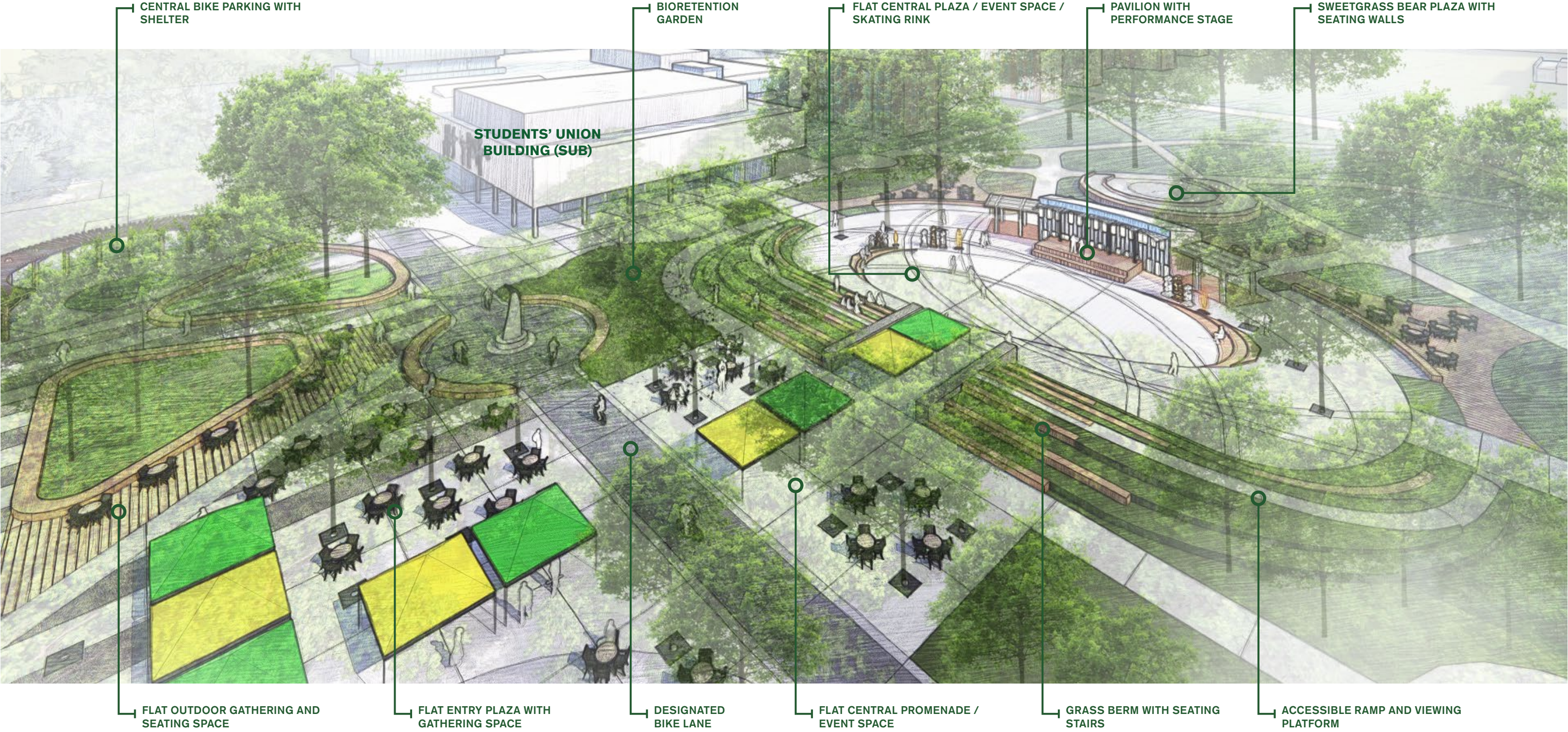


Figure 30. Bird Eye View - Scenario A

6.3.2 Concept Scenario B - Serenity

Scenario B, titled Serenity, takes a more reflective and contemplative approach. This concept prioritizes the site's history and cultural layers over its gateway role and favors the preservation of natural landscapes over the introduction of new built infrastructure. Circulation flows are emphasized over programmed events, creating an environment focused on calm, relaxation, and quiet connection. The design envisions South Quad as a serene, nature-rich space that invites users to slow down, reflect, and experience a sense of peace and respite at the heart of campus.

Existing Features

- a. Sweetgrass Bear Treaty 6 Marker
- b. Alumni Circle
- c. Presidents' Circle
- d. Flame Tower Statue
- e. Dedicated Trees

Proposed Features

- 1. Main Lawn
- 2. Amphitheatre / Sliding Hill
- 3. Accessible Ramp and Viewing Platform
- 4. Lawn / Social Ice Surface
- 5. Luminous Pavilion Building
- 6. Water Feature / Ice Sculpture Display
- 7. Flat Seating Nodes with Arts and Trees
- 8. Flat Entry Plaza with Gathering Space under Tree Grove
- 9. Flat Outdoor Gathering and Seating Space
- 10. Reflection Garden with Paths and Seating Nodes
- 11. Bioretention Garden
- 12. Sweetgrass Bear Plaza with Seating Walls
- 13. Pedestrian and Bike Mixed Zone
- 14. Central Bike Parking with Shelter
- 15. Shared Service Road

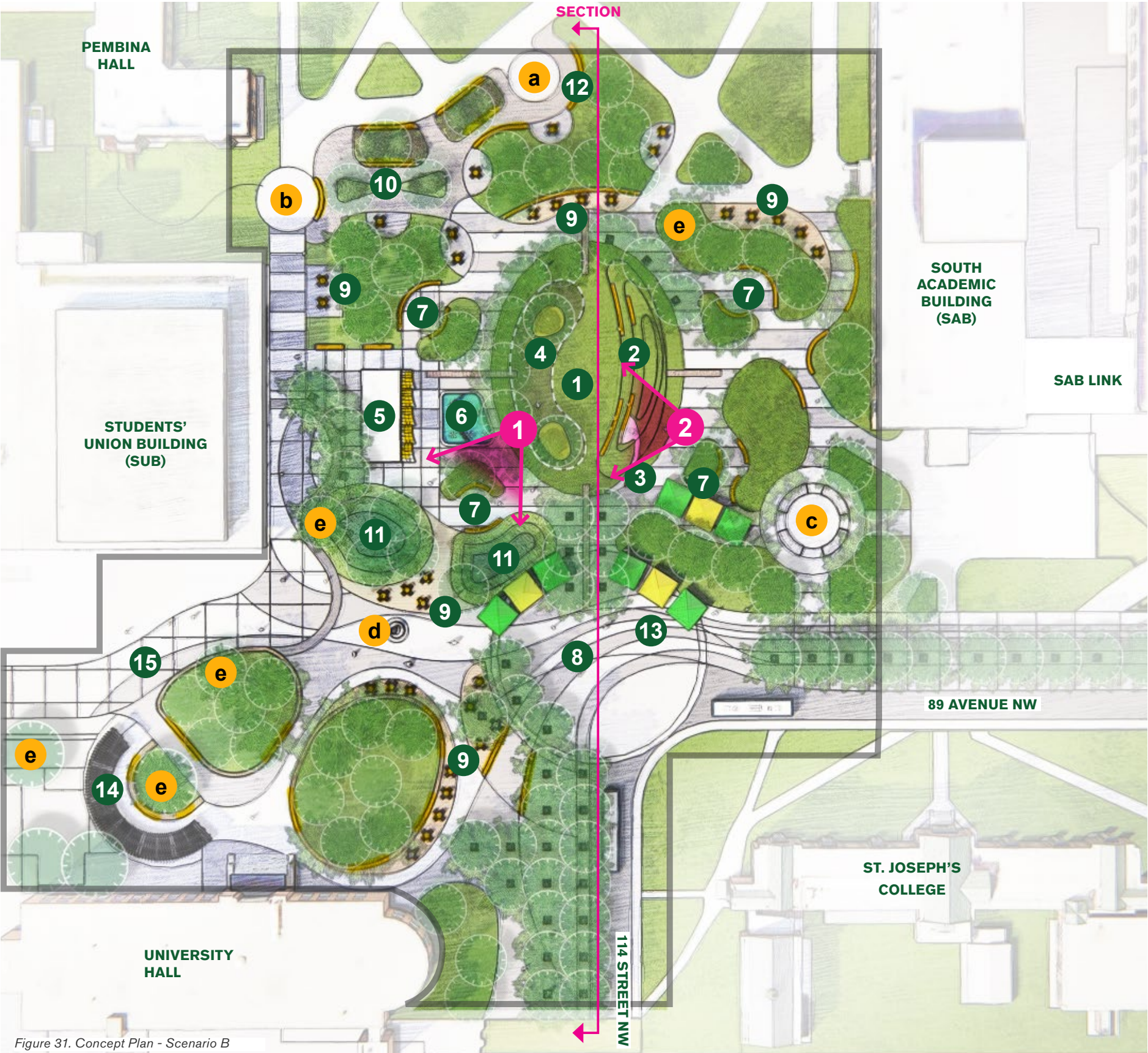


Figure 31. Concept Plan - Scenario B

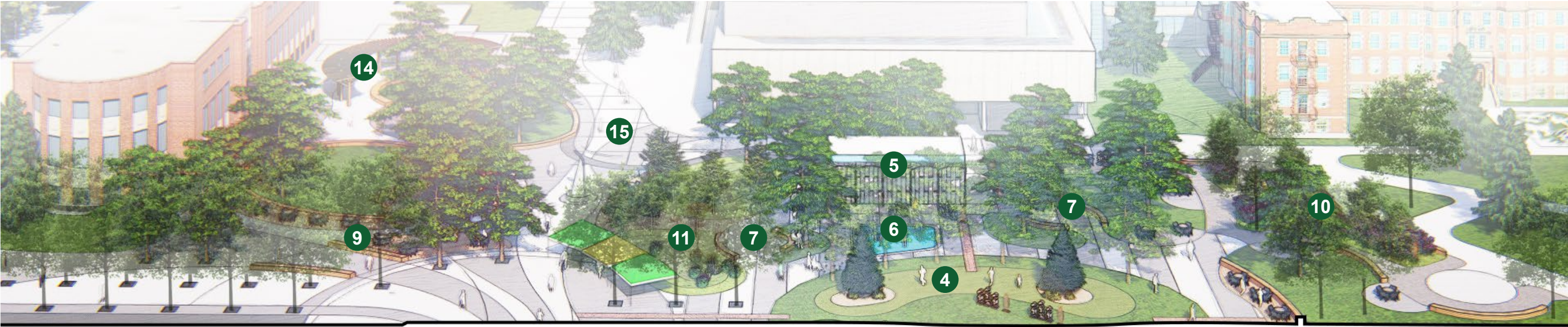


Figure 32. Sectional Perspective View and Perspective Views - Scenario B

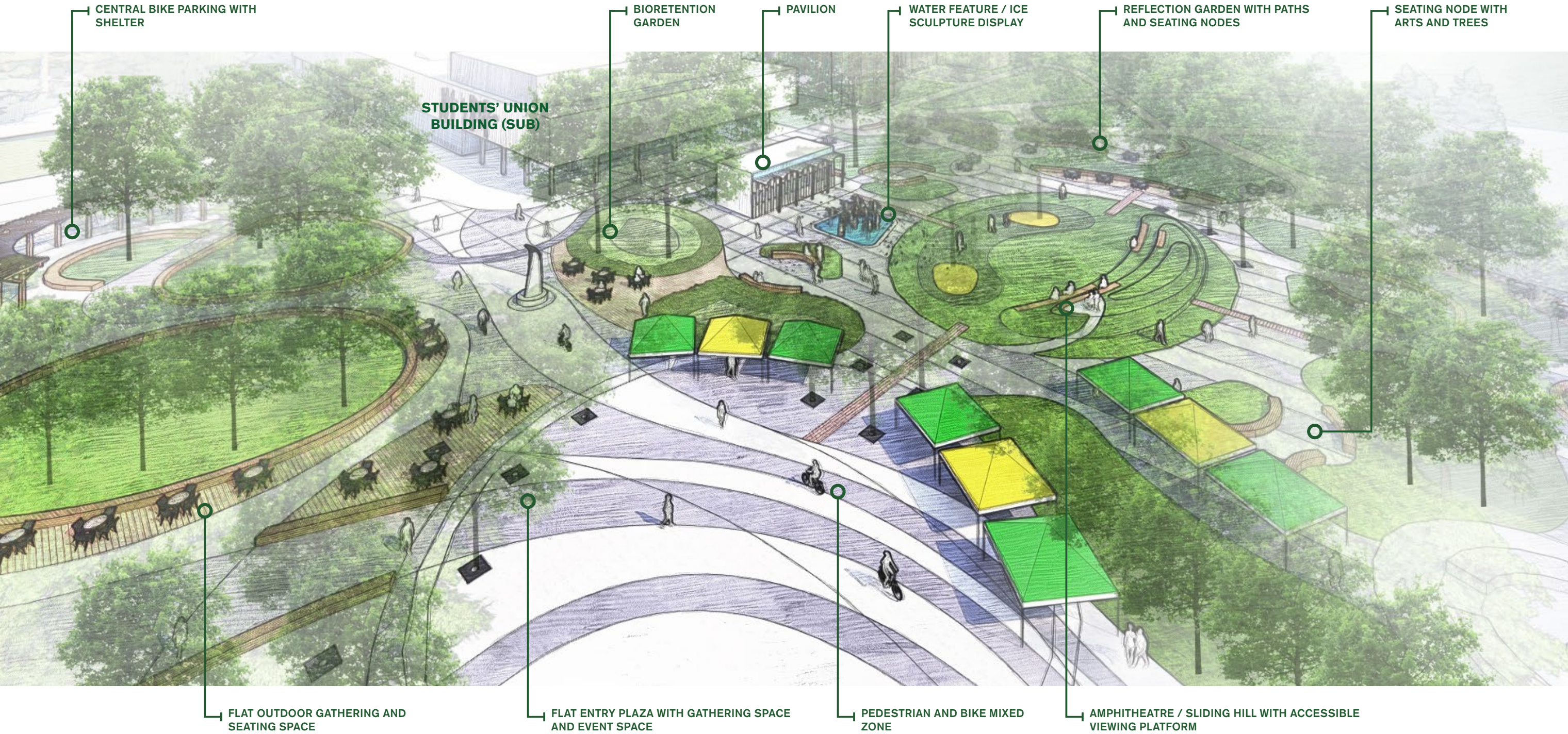


Figure 33. Bird Eye View - Scenario B

6.4 From Feedback to Framework: Informing the Refined Concept

As part of the planning study, the two preliminary concept scenarios were shared with the broader campus community through a second round of pop-up events and an online survey. In parallel, the concepts were reviewed and discussed in detail with the University of Alberta project team and advisory group.

Feedback from the stakeholders showed divided preferences between the two concepts, reflecting a wide spectrum of needs, priorities, and values across the university population.

- **Concept A** received strong support for its emphasis on connectivity, seating options, and event-oriented spaces, particularly the central plaza and seasonal skating pond. However, some respondents raised concerns about potential issues related to the dedicated bike lanes, the scale and intended use of the amphitheatre, and the maintenance demands of features like the pond and interactive lighting.
- **Concept B** was praised for its naturalistic design, calming atmosphere, and inclusion of a reflective water feature. The quieter tone and emphasis on green space appealed to many, though comments also noted practical concerns about maintenance costs, the utility and safety concerns of the shared bike-pedestrian zone, and whether some of the seasonal features would see regular use.

This feedback illustrates a recurring tension between the desire for active, multi-use destinations and serene, passive spaces. A detailed account of the public feedback received can be found in **Appendix C – Campus Engagement Outcomes: What We Heard Report**.

To address the conflicting public feedback and guide the next stage of design development, a collaborative workshop was held with the UAlberta project team. The workshop focused on five key design topics where perspectives diverged, with the goal of clarifying priorities and refining direction.

- **Active Transportation:** Discussions highlighted the challenge of accommodating cyclists while minimizing conflict with pedestrians. While some team members supported a dedicated bike lane, others leaned toward a shared, more flexible path system that better suits the central campus context. Related concerns about the visibility and perceived safety of the central bike parking location also led to further consideration of how design elements like seating, lighting, and gathering activity could contribute to greater natural surveillance.
- **Seasonal Skating Pond:** The proposed skating element sparked debate about versatility versus specialization. While the idea of a vibrant winter feature was appealing, the team acknowledged the need to ensure this space remained functional and inviting year-round. A preference emerged for a flexible plaza model that could accommodate multiple uses across all seasons.
- **Pavilion Building:** The group discussed whether it should serve a primarily symbolic or functional role. While its architectural presence was appreciated, there was a desire to clarify its programming potential—whether as a daily-use structure or a focal point for events and gatherings (e.g. staging area for skating, chagerooms, seating, heating, food/drinks).

- **Site Circulation:** Feedback on pathways and spatial structure reflected the dual goals of efficient movement for students on the go and immersive experiences for those seeking reflection and rest. The workshop emphasized striking a balance—ensuring primary circulation routes are clear and direct, while also incorporating secondary paths that allow for a slower, meandering experience through green spaces.
- **Lighting:** Recognized as a critical design component for both safety and atmosphere. The team emphasized the need for lighting that is campus-appropriate, aesthetically integrated, and creative—enhancing evening use while supporting a strong sense of place.

The results of this workshop were instrumental in refining the vision for South Quad and reconciling divergent feedback into a unified direction.

The next section of this report introduces the refined concept plan, which was developed by synthesizing input from both the campus engagement process and the UAlberta project team.

Section 7

Refined Open Space Concept Plan

7.0 Refined Open Space Concept Plan

The updated Concept Plan for South Quad reflects extensive input from the University community and incorporates key ideas gathered through engagement. It repositions South Quad as a gateway to campus and a place of discovery—a space that balances movement and pause,

celebration and reflection, and comfort across all seasons. With a focus on inclusive gathering, dynamic lighting, seasonal use, and layered programming, the revised layout prioritizes legibility, accessibility, and connection.

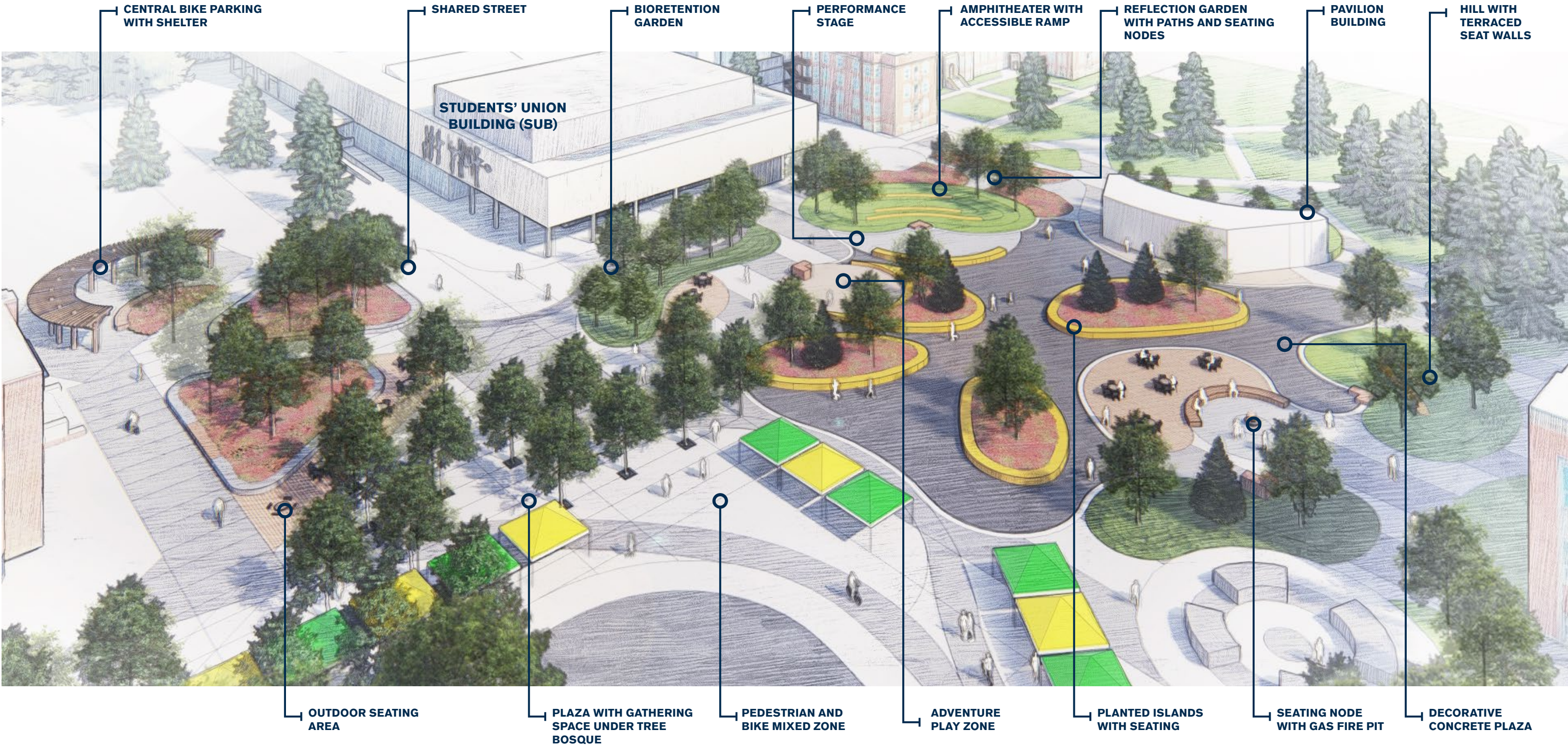
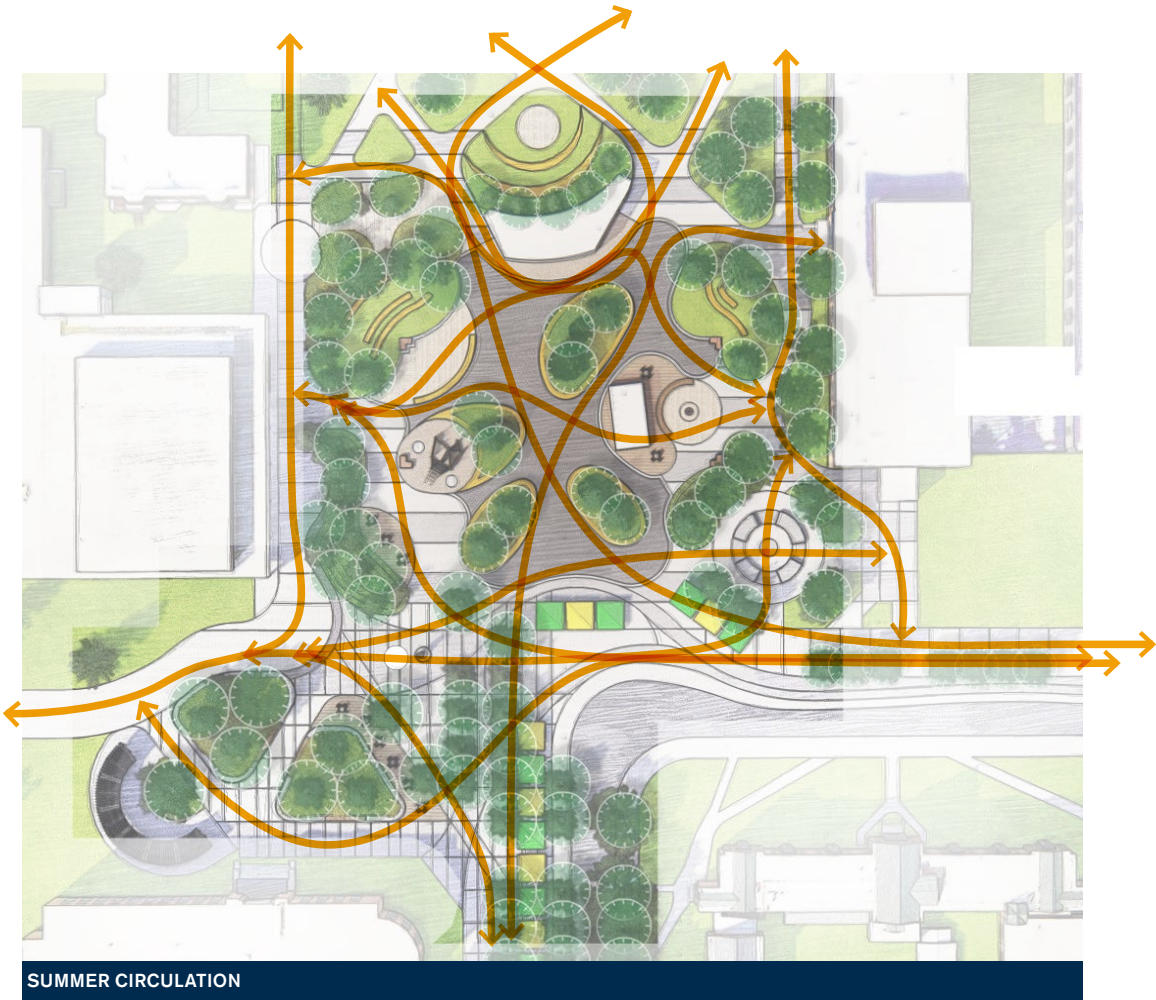


Figure 34. Bird Eye View - South Quad Open Space Concept Plan

7.1 Summer Circulation and Programming



Existing Features

- a. Sweetgrass Bear Treaty 6 Marker
- b. Alumni Circle
- c. Presidents' Circle
- d. Flame Tower Statue
- e. Dedicated Trees

Proposed Summer Programming

- 1. Pavilion Building
- 2. Reflection Garden
- 3. Retained Corner of Admin Building
- 4. Grass Berm with Seating Wall
- 5. Gathering Area with Gas Fire Pit
- 6. Outdoor Seating Area with Heated Shelter
- 7. Adventure Play Zone
- 8. Performance Stage
- 9. Amphitheatre with Accessible Ramp
- 10. Decorative Concrete Plaza
- 11. Planted Islands with Seating
- 12. Entrance Plaza / Event Space
- 13. Water Feature / Bioretention Garden
- 14. Dedicated Bike Lane
- 15. Plaza with Gathering Space under Tree Bosque
- 16. Central Bike Parking with Shelter
- 17. Shared Street

Figure 35. South Quad Open Space Concept Plan - Summer Projection

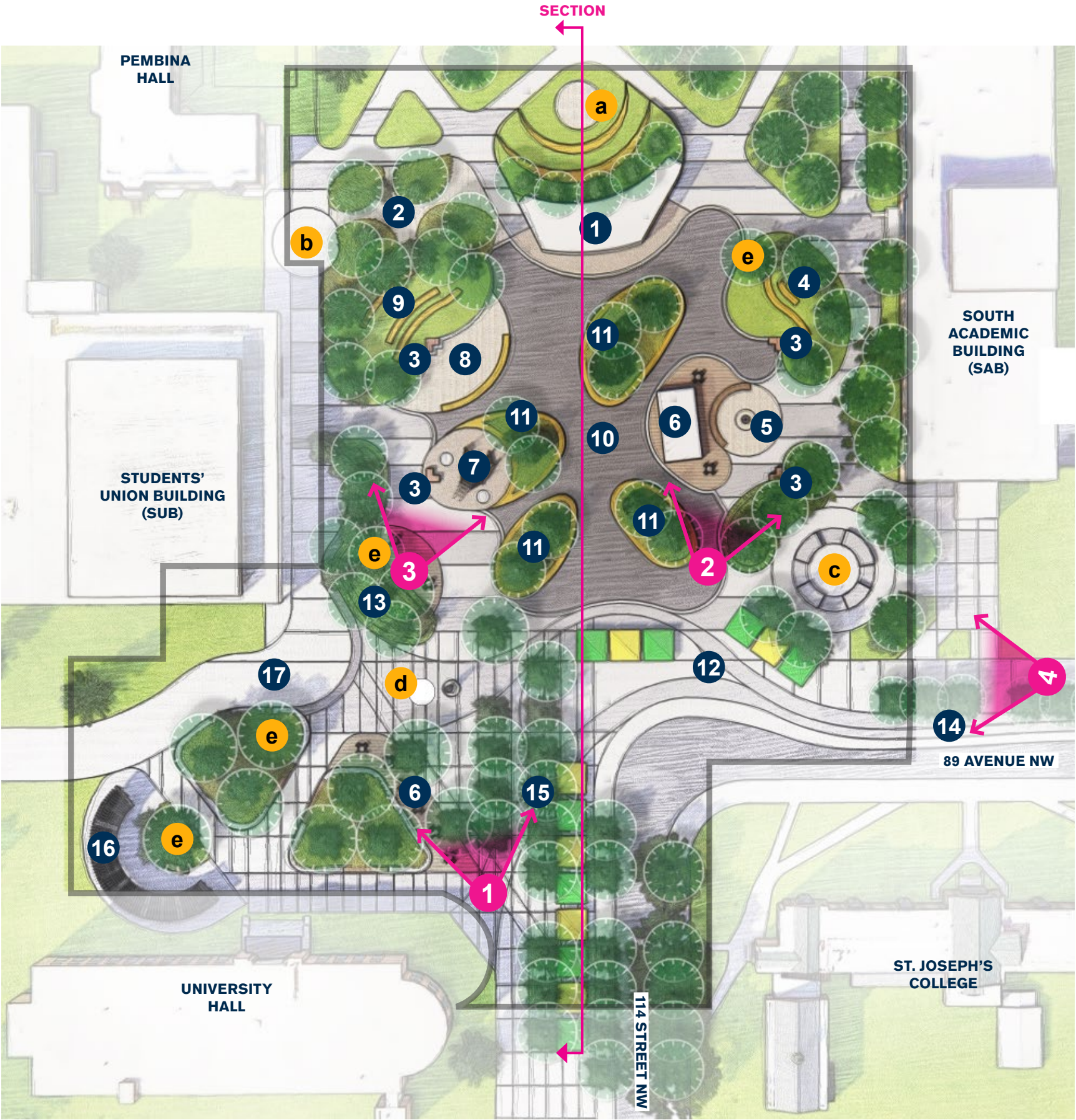


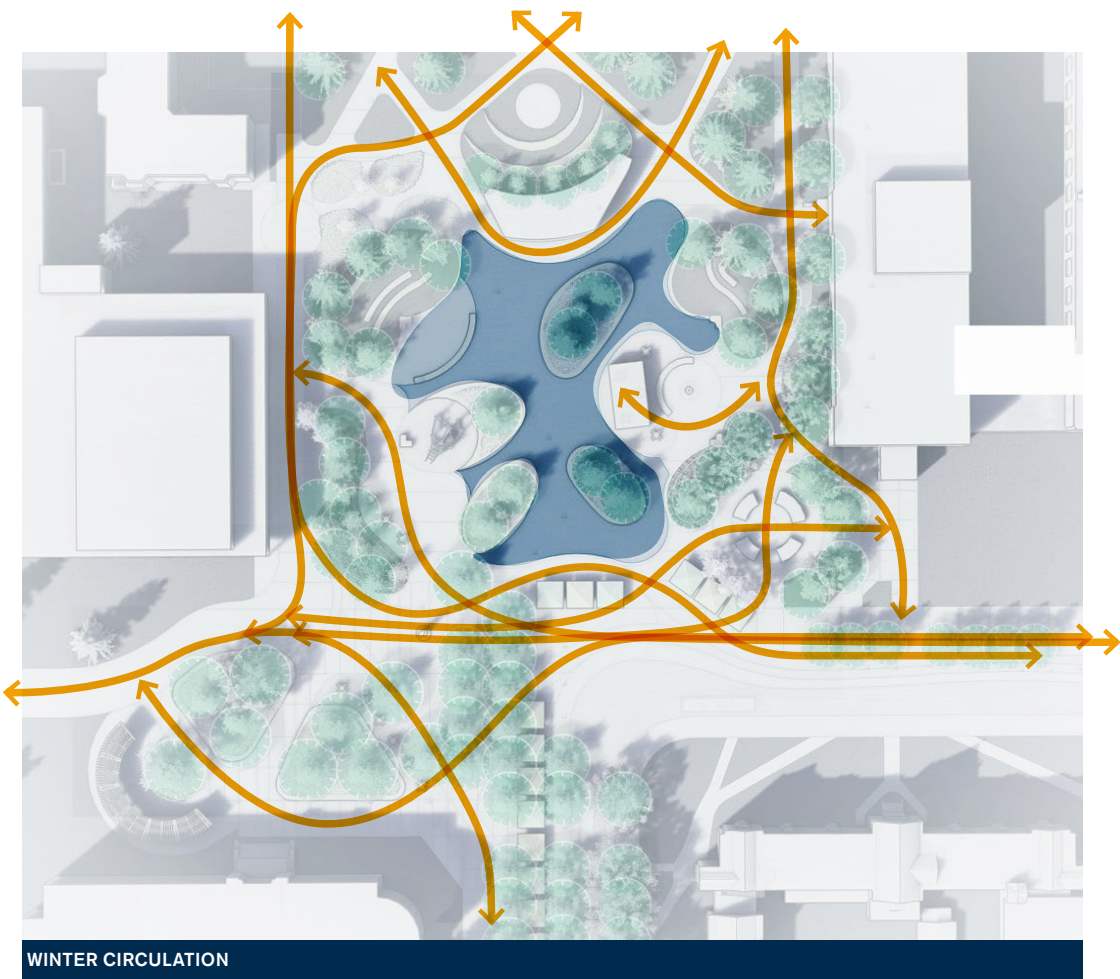


Figure 36. Perspective Views - South Quad Open Space Concept Plan



Figure 37. Perspective Views - South Quad Open Space Concept Plan

7.2 Winter Circulation and Programming



Existing Features

- a. Sweetgrass Bear Treaty 6 Marker
- b. Alumni Circle
- c. Presidents' Circle
- d. Flame Tower Statue
- e. Dedicated Trees

Proposed Winter Programming

- 1. Pavilion Building
- 2. Retained Corner of Admin Buidling with Lighting
- 3. Gathering Area with Gas Fire Pit
- 4. Outdoor Seating Area with Heated Shelter
- 5. Ice Sculpture Exhibit (programmed space example)
- 6. Amphitheatre with Accessible Ramp
- 7. Skating Area
- 8. Planted Islands with Seating and Lighting
- 9. Entrance Plaza / Winter Event Space
- 10. Dedicated Bike Lane
- 11. Central Bike Parking
- 12. Share Street

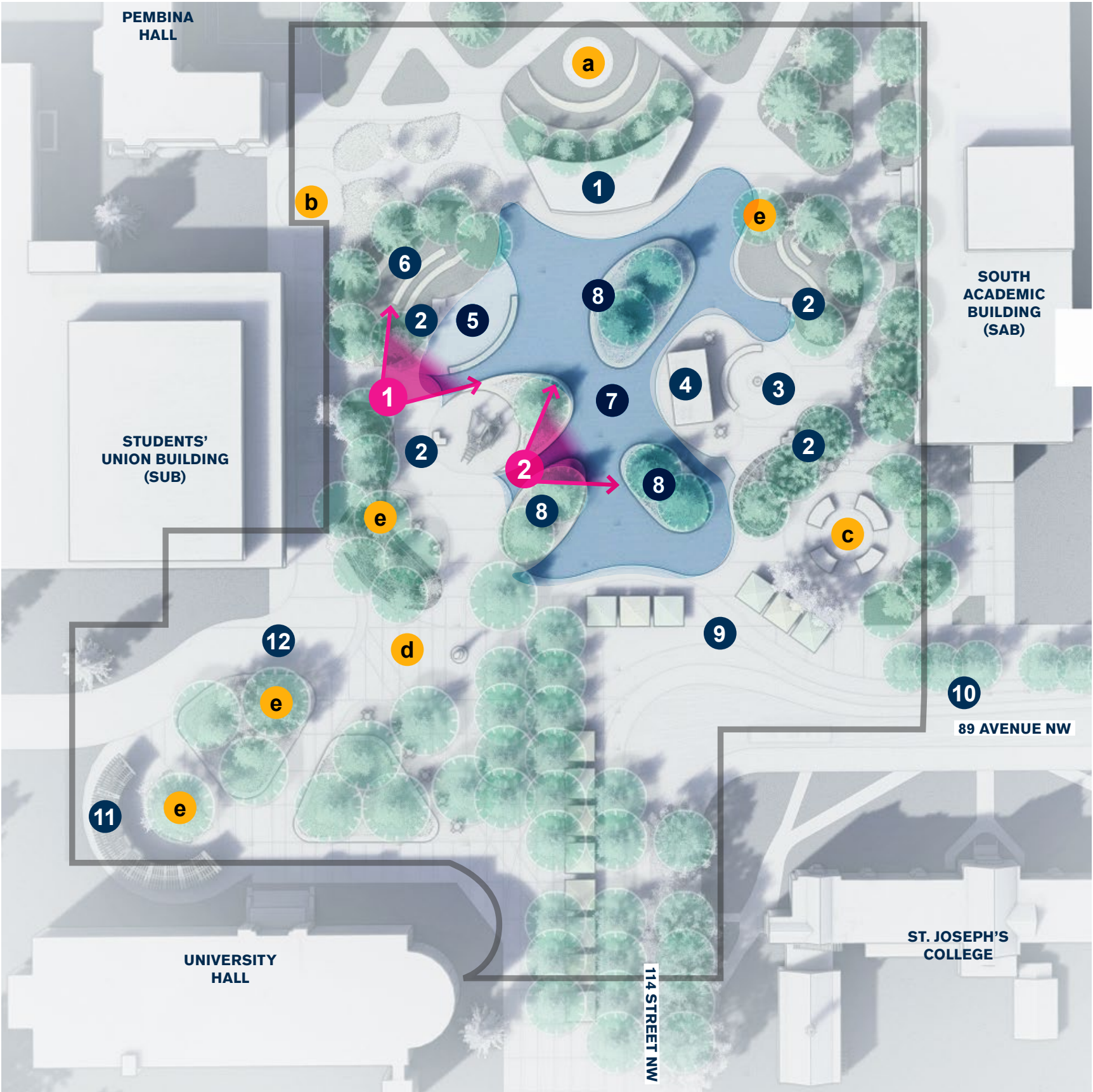


Figure 38. South Quad Open Space Concept Plan - Winter Projection



Figure 39. Perspective Views - South Quad Open Space Concept Plan

7.3 Conceptual Lighting Design

LEGEND



Campus Standard Pole Lights



New Smart Columns c/w Area Lights, Aimable Flood Lights, Cameras, PA, Receptacles, etc



Custom Bench Integrated Luminaires



Ingrade Linear Uplight on Admin Building Corner Blocks



Concrete embedded Ingrade RGBW Marker Lights (possibly fibre optic)



Aimable Flood Light for Stage/ Sculpture

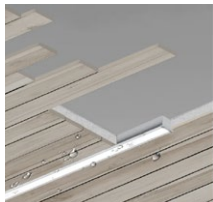
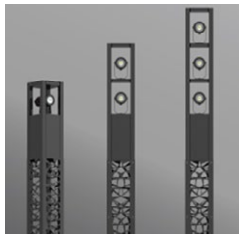


Architecturally Integrated Linear Light



Architecturally Integrated Linear Light

PRODUCT IMAGES



The figure is a detailed site plan of a campus area, specifically the South Quad. It shows several buildings: PEMBINA HALL at the top left, STUDENTS' UNION BUILDING (SUB) in the center left, UNIVERSITY HALL at the bottom left, SOUTH ACADEMIC BUILDING (SAB) at the top right, and ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE at the bottom right. Two streets are labeled: 89 AVENUE NW running horizontally across the middle right, and 114 STREET NW running vertically along the bottom right. The plan is filled with green spaces, trees, and various lighting fixtures indicated by red and blue icons. Red icons represent standard pole lights, while blue icons represent smart columns. There are also orange and yellow lines and shapes indicating specific lighting zones or features, such as curved paths and circular areas. The overall layout shows a central open space with buildings surrounding it, and a network of paths and streets connecting the different areas.

Figure 40. Lighting Concept Plan

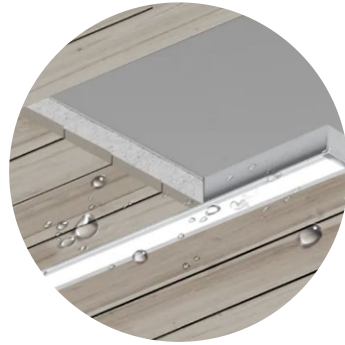
Section 7

South Quad Open Space Planning Study: Final Report

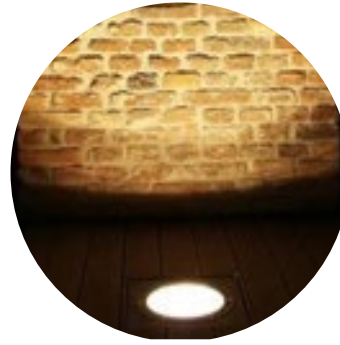
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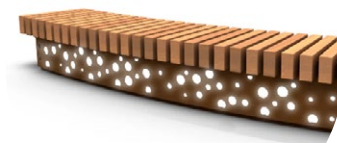
**CENTRAL BIKE PARKING
- ARCHITECTURALLY
INTERGRATED LUMINAIRES**



**STUDENTS' UNION
BUILDING (SUB)**



**ADMIN BUILDING
CORNER - LIGHTING**



**BENCH INTEGRATED
LUMINAIRES**



**PAVILION BUILDING
- ARCHITECTURALLY
INTERGRATED LUMINAIRES**



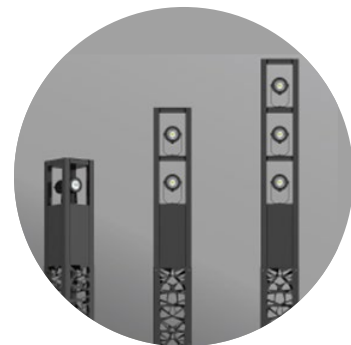
**SMART
COLUMNS**

**STANDARD POLE
LIGHTS**

**SCULPTURE
LIGHTING**

**CENTRAL GATHERING - CONCRETE
EMBEDDED IN-GRADE LUMINAIRES**

GAS FIRE PIT



7.4 From Planning Principles to Concept Plan: Translating a New Vision for South Quad

The following section outlines how the new Concept Plan responds to the **Planning Principles** and **Design Guidelines** presented in Section 5 of this planning study.

1. Energize the campus node:

The new concept transforms South Quad into a welcoming and vibrant campus threshold, where pedestrians, cyclists, and visitors converge. The space is anchored by a central plaza, edged by flexible gathering nodes and punctuated with features that invite pause and interaction.

A dedicated bike lane is introduced along 89 Avenue to separate cyclists from pedestrian and bus traffic along this busy corridor, improving movement and safety. However, rather than extending the bike lane directly through the plaza, shared-use “flow channels” emerge at the edge to facilitate safe, intuitive movement and introduce a speed change that preserves the plaza’s social function.

The open plaza beneath a tree bosque provides a flexible venue for events, student orientation, and seasonal programming such as food pop-ups. Adjacent to this space, a stage/amphitheater integrated into a grass berm works in tandem with the nearby pavilion building - positioned for shared use of sound and electrical infrastructure - supporting performing arts and other activities.

2. Champion access, community and belonging:

The plan prioritizes universal accessibility and clear visibility, with warm, layered lighting to enhance safety and comfort. A network of wide, well-lit paths and gathering spaces

accommodates different social dynamics—from solitude to small groups to large events. The plaza surface is flat and accessible, with seating berms incorporating accessible ramps. Interpretive features embedded in the site reflect the campus’ layered heritage. The four corners of the former Administration Building are preserved and used to tell the story of the evolution of the Quad and South Quad. In the northwest corner, a reflective garden complements the Sweetgrass Bear statue, which is transformed into a contemplative seating plaza framed by stone walls.

Programming avoids over-definition, ensuring spaces remain flexible and welcoming to all campus users, regardless of identity or ability.

3. Elevate quality of life and student experience:

The vision for South Quad offers a diverse range of informal gathering spaces, including planted berms, sunny seating zones with café tables, and shaded nooks. In the winter pond area, island-like planted zones with integrated seating offer both aesthetic and functional value.

At the northern center of the site, an architectural, sculptural pavilion building serves multiple purposes: a visual landmark, a warming hut, a resting place to put on skates, and a small locker/storage facility for pond users. Together with the natural gas fire pit and playful interactive features—such as in-ground trampolines and parkour-inspired elements—the design invites joy and spontaneity while fostering wellness and belonging. These design gestures reflect the university’s commitment to curiosity, play, and student-centered placemaking.

4.Orchestrate whole systems planning:

South Quad is reimagined as an integrated part of the larger campus and city network, offering seamless multimodal connectivity. A shared street allows for service and emergency access without disrupting the pedestrian-first character.

The skating pond is designed as a dual-function landscape—serving as both a winter recreation feature and a summer stormwater management system, with planted islands that operate as seasonal rain gardens. Glycol cooling is included below the ice surface to ensure consistent quality and usability throughout the winter season, while heating is proposed under key walkways to minimize snow and ice buildup and reduce winter maintenance demands. The concept embraces long-term flexibility and climate resilience, embedded within its infrastructure and spatial layout.

5. Ignite day/night and four seasons vitality:

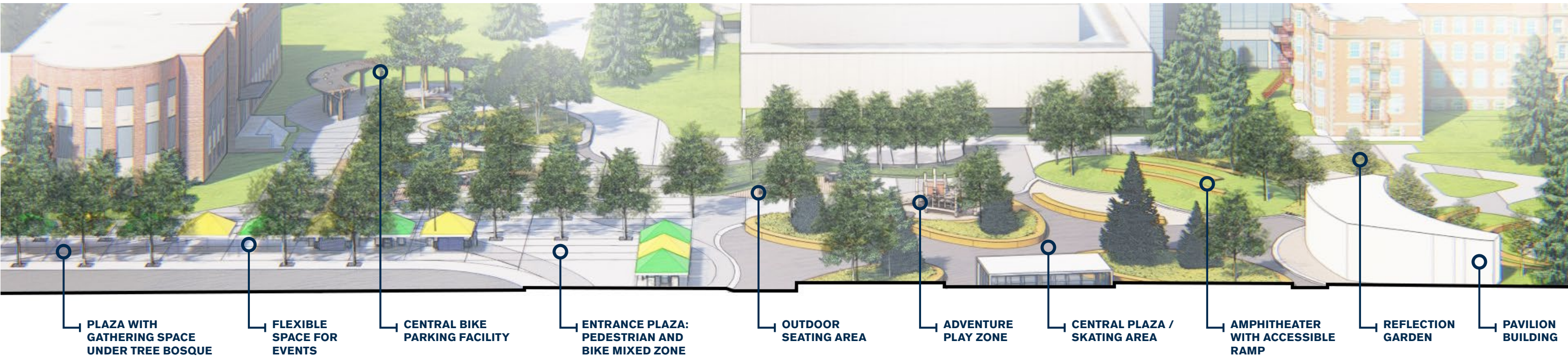
Lighting throughout the site is both functional and experiential—employing artistic, programmable fixtures to create zones of warmth and visibility after dark. Clear sightlines, glow zones, and wayfinding lights invite use in all hours and seasons. In winter, the central skating pond becomes the heart of the space, surrounded by seating, lighting, and temporary structures to encourage activity even in cold weather. In summer, the pond converts to a flexible plaza for rest, recreation, and events. The revised concept supports year-round vitality, from structured campus events to impromptu student gatherings.

6. Enrich open space and landscape:

The landscape strategy emphasizes ecological health and layered beauty, integrating native and ornamental plantings that reflect Edmonton’s parkland / prairie context. Planting design ensures seasonal interest and supports pollinators, while also contributing to stormwater management and microclimate comfort.

While some existing trees will be removed to improve sightlines and enable new uses, canopy cover is restored and enhanced through targeted replanting. Legacy trees are preserved and interpreted with signage to mark their presence and meaning.

The resulting landscape feels deeply rooted in place, reflecting the university’s environmental values and commitment to long-term sustainability.



Appendix A

Issues and Opportunities Summary Memo

Site Relationship with Surrounding Buildings and Spaces

Issues

Spatial Congestion and Organizational Challenges

South Quad feels overcrowded and poorly organized. Daily servicing of the Students' Union Building introduces noise and disrupts flow. Visually unappealing loading zones and narrow, obstructed corridors create safety concerns for pedestrians, making the space feel uncomfortable, chaotic, and difficult to navigate.

Limitations in Comfort, Functionality, and Campus Integration

The space lacks informal learning opportunities and year-round comfort. Limited weather protection, noise exposure, and few inviting features make it feel unwelcoming. Without amenities that encourage social interaction, the area feels disconnected from campus life and underutilized outside peak hours.

Deficiency in Identity, Imageability, and Cultural Meaning

Unlike areas with strong visual and historical anchors, South Quad lacks landmarks that support memory, wayfinding, or meaning. Generic views, minimal heritage presence, and no defining character contribute to a space that fails to evoke a sense of identity or belonging.

Inactive Public Realm and Limited Engagement Opportunities

While busy during class changes, the space lacks reasons for people to linger. Few seating areas, limited activation, and minimal visual or programmatic interest result in a quiet, static environment. The space misses opportunities to foster social engagement and everyday campus vibrancy.

Opportunities

Create Welcoming Social and Academic Interfaces

Designing casual gathering zones and outdoor study areas adjacent to key buildings can promote informal interaction and academic engagement. These spaces will act as social bridges, enhancing the functional relationship between buildings and encouraging students to linger, connect, and learn outside the classroom.

Enhance Comfort and Flexible Use

Introducing shaded seating, weather-protected nodes, and multi-use spaces will improve daily usability while supporting events and spontaneous gatherings. Locating quiet study areas away from active zones can create a balanced environment that accommodates both reflection and social vibrancy, addressing a broader range of student needs.

Improve Safety, Wayfinding, and Connectivity

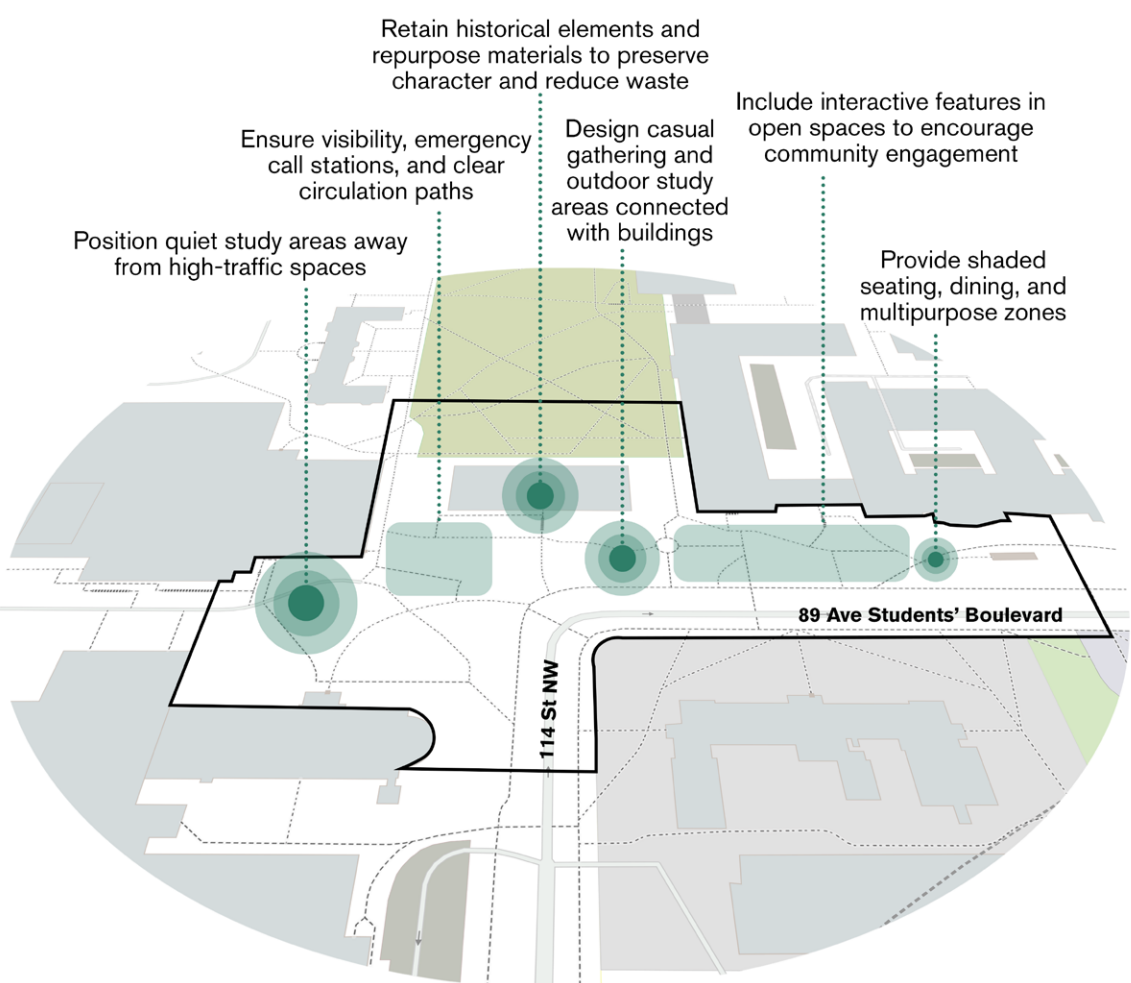
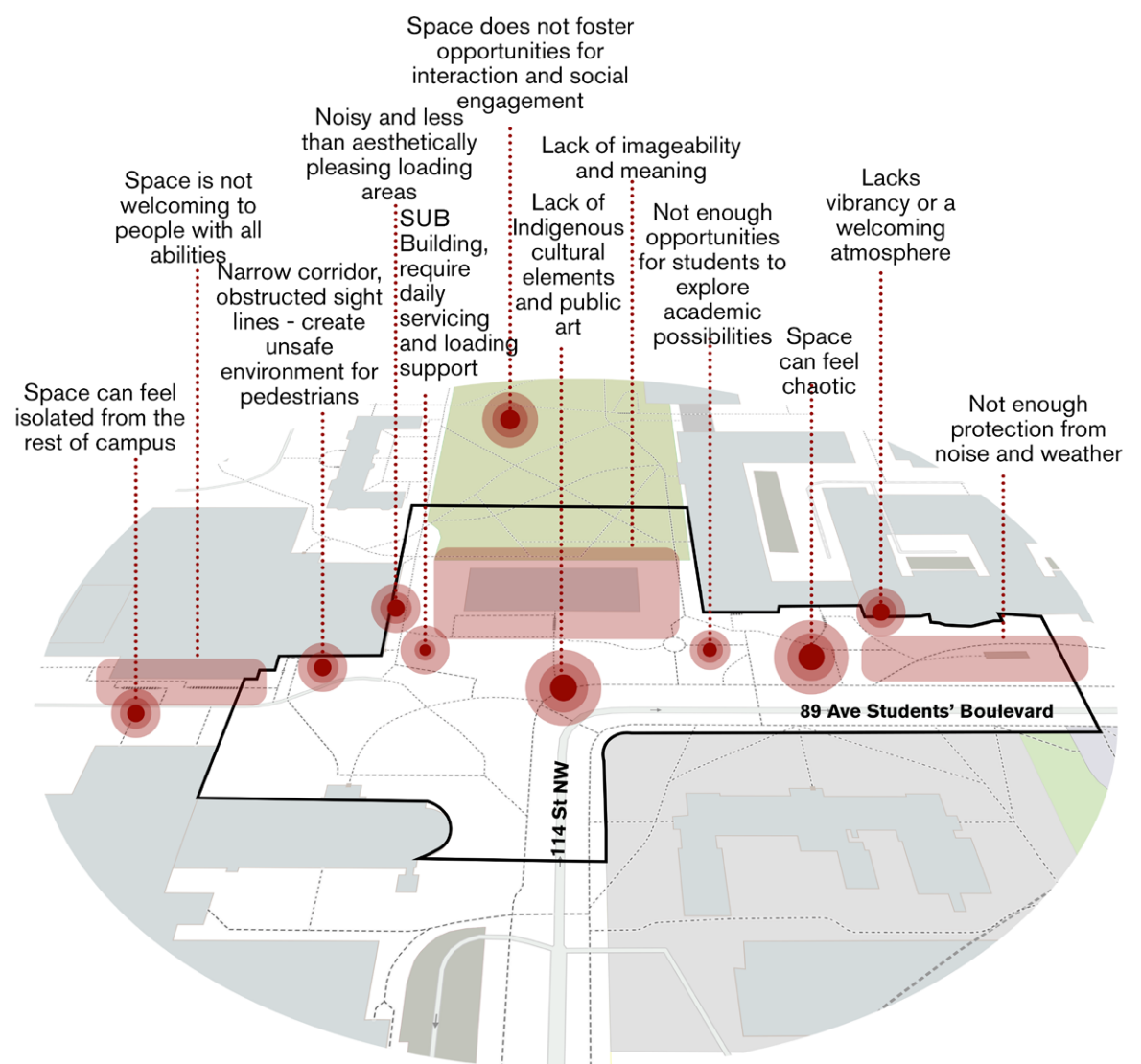
Enhancing visibility, circulation clarity, and lighting—along with installing emergency call stations—will foster a more secure and inclusive space. Improving sightlines and defining pedestrian routes can strengthen physical and perceptual connections between buildings, enhancing user experience and site legibility.

Reinforce Campus Identity and Cultural Expression

Preserving existing materials and referencing historical elements can root the space in campus identity. Introducing interpretive elements, placemaking features, and interactive installations will enrich the space's meaning, fostering cultural awareness, storytelling, and a stronger sense of community attachment.

Key Considerations:

- + Improve spatial legibility and pedestrian safety through clearer organization and better sightlines.
- + Balance social vibrancy with quieter study zones to support diverse student uses.
- + Strengthen physical and visual connections between buildings and open spaces.
- + Introduce landmarks and cultural features to enhance identity and wayfinding.
- + Create adaptable, inclusive spaces that encourage both informal use and programmed activities.
- + Reflect campus heritage while integrating contemporary, student-centered design.



HISTORIC BUILDINGS



CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE



HEIGHTS AND SPATIAL DEFINITION

2 Open Space, Art and Culture

Issues

Absence of Cultural Expression and Artistic Identity

The space lacks meaningful connection to the University's history, campus traditions, and cultural expression. Without public art, interpretive features, or visual landmarks, the area feels generic and uninspiring. This absence reduces its ability to foster engagement, storytelling, or a sense of place and belonging.

Underutilized Open Space and Limited Amenities

There are few designated open areas or seating options to support gathering, studying, or informal use. The lack of secure bike facilities and concerns about theft discourage extended stays. As a result, the space functions more as a transitional corridor than a purposeful or engaging destination.

Seasonal Incompatibility and Environmental Discomfort

The space is difficult to use year-round due to icy conditions in shaded pathways and minimal protection from weather. The lack of trees, shade, and greenery contributes to a harsh microclimate that reduces comfort and discourages use in both summer and winter conditions.

Deficiencies in Wayfinding, Safety, and Accessibility

Limited wayfinding elements make orientation difficult and reduce the site's connectivity with adjacent areas. Wide paved surfaces feel open and unstructured, while some planting areas obstruct sightlines, creating visibility and safety concerns. Accessibility limitations also reduce inclusivity and ease of use.

Opportunities

Activate the Space with Programming and Performance

Designing flexible areas for performances, art installations, and temporary events can transform the space into a vibrant cultural destination. Hosting seasonal markets, concerts, or student-led events will foster community engagement and create a stronger identity tied to creativity, dialogue, and shared experiences.

Improve Comfort, Cohesion, and Year-Round Usability

Reimagining the space as a unified plaza with covered seating, wind protection, and heated elements can improve comfort throughout the year. Power access and varied seating will support outdoor study, while improved lighting and accessible routes will encourage inclusive, everyday use.

Introduce Greenery for Comfort and Environmental Quality

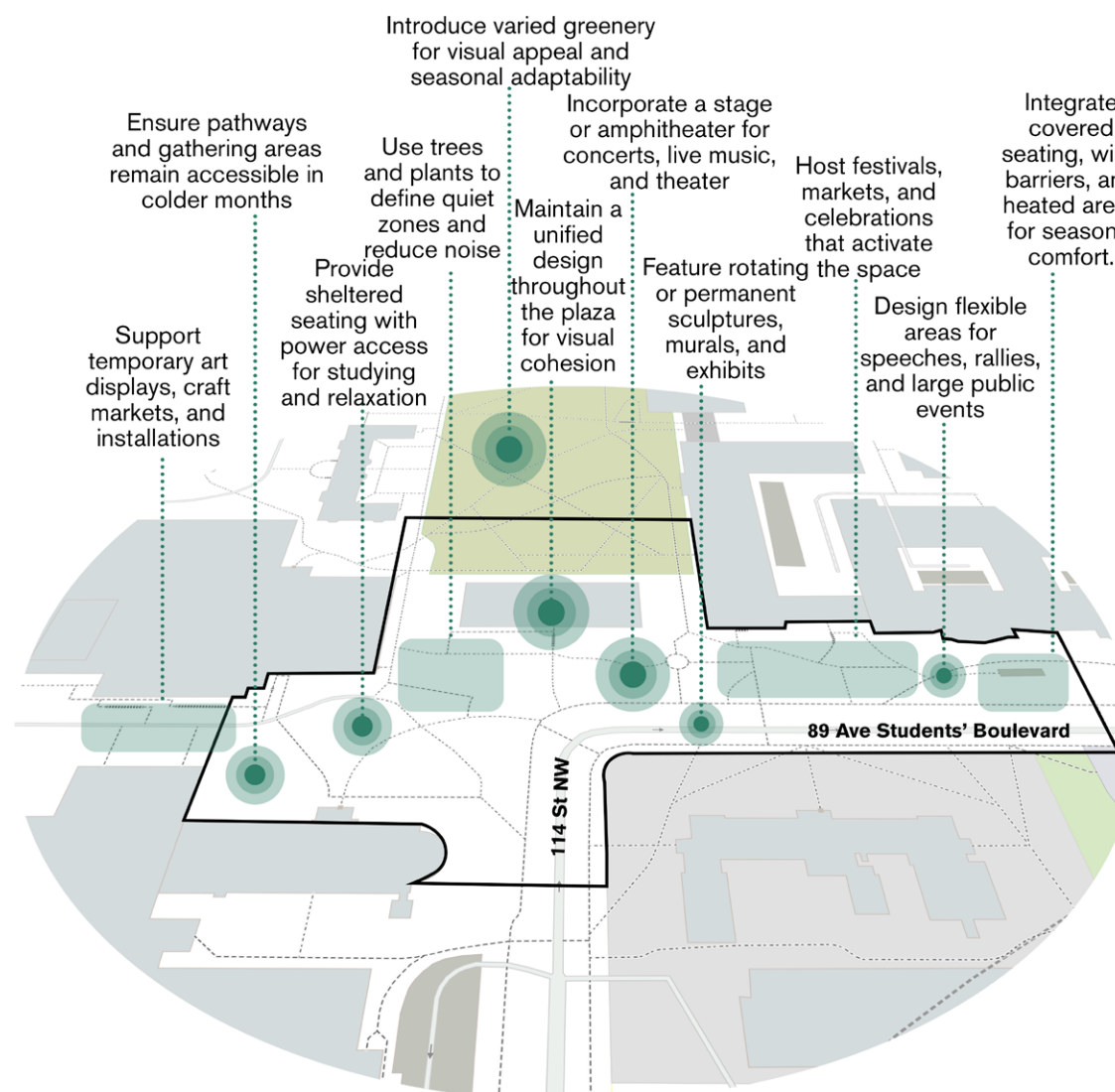
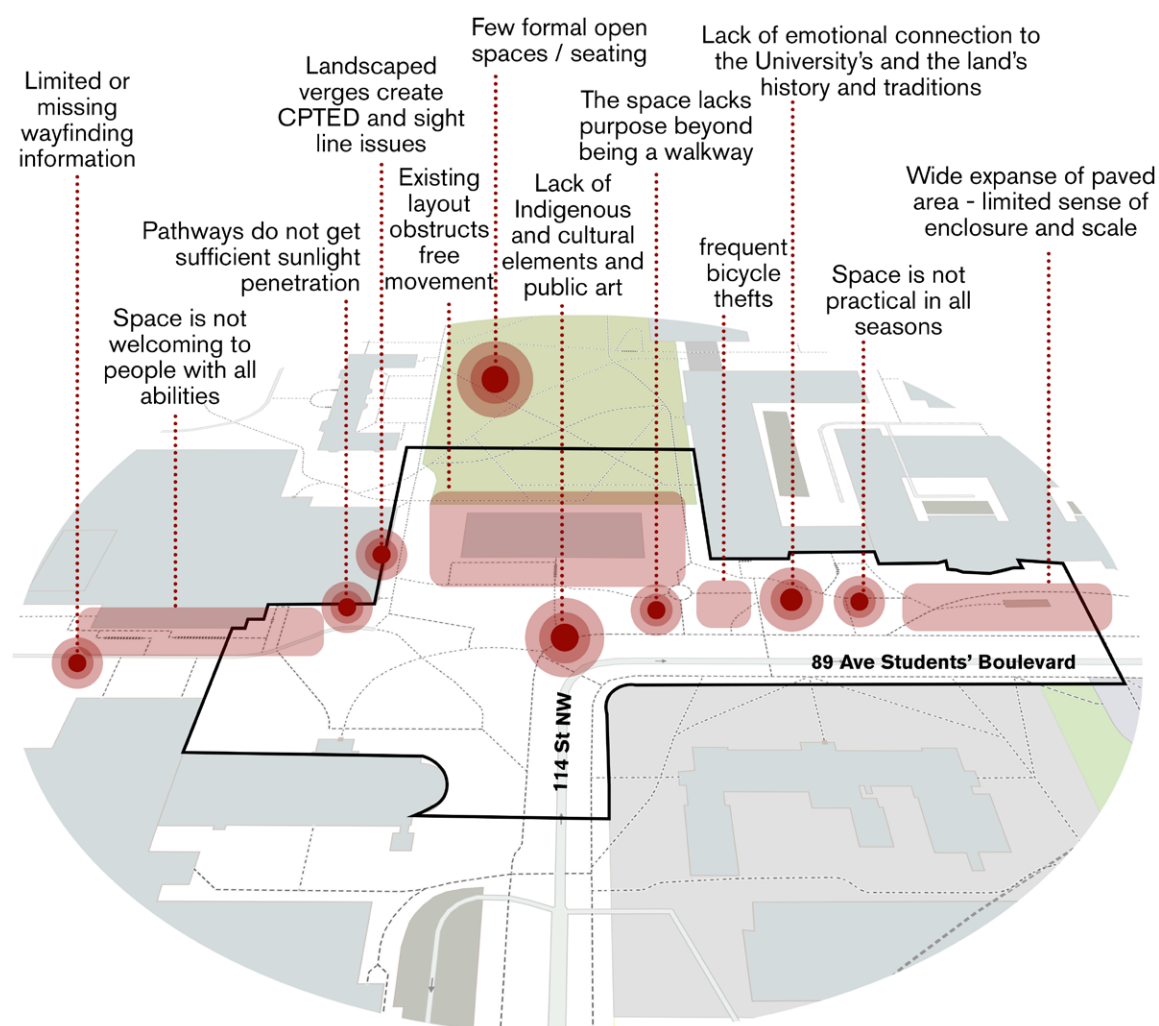
Integrating trees, seasonal planting, and green edges will soften the hardscape, provide visual interest, and support environmental comfort year-round. Greenery can reduce noise, define quiet and active zones, and improve the overall microclimate of the space.

Strengthen Visual Identity Through Cultural Features

Public art, murals, sculptures, and storytelling installations can enhance visual identity and provide a sense of continuity with campus history and traditions. These cultural elements will add depth and meaning, helping to create a memorable and engaging public realm.

Key Considerations:

- + Expanding seating and flexible open space supports gathering, studying, and daily campus life.
- + Creating spaces to host events and performances can activate the space and build community year-round.
- + Introducing varied greenery improves comfort, visual appeal, and seasonal adaptability.
- + Adding cultural features like murals, sculptures, and storytelling elements enhances identity and meaning.



3 Mobility and Connectivity

Issues

Conflicts Between Pedestrians, Cyclists, and Vehicles

The space prioritizes vehicle movement, resulting in frequent conflicts between service vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians. Poorly marked access routes and limited pedestrian protection compromise safety, while an unclear emergency circulation route creates further operational challenges in an already congested space.

Narrow Walkways and Obstructed Routes

Undersized sidewalks lead to congestion, especially during peak periods. T-bollards and other physical barriers obstruct pedestrian desire lines and reduce the permeability of the space. These obstructions interrupt intuitive movement patterns and diminish the space's capacity to support safe, efficient circulation.

Poor Pathway Conditions and Limited Connectivity

Existing pathway materials are not weather-resilient and pose challenges in winter months. The space lacks intuitive connections to key destinations and transit stops, reducing legibility and hindering efficient navigation across the site. The design does not support smooth, accessible movement for all users.

Weak Integration with Transit Infrastructure

Connections to nearby LRT and bus facilities are unclear and indirect, limiting accessibility for students and visitors using public transit. The absence of visual or physical cues makes transitions between transit and campus uncomfortable and confusing, reducing the site's effectiveness as a mobility hub.

Opportunities

Improve Bicycle Infrastructure and Support Facilities

Establishing a dedicated, uninterrupted cycling path—separated from pedestrians—will improve safety and promote active transportation. Secure, covered bike parking in highly visible, convenient areas can deter theft and encourage year-round cycling as a reliable, sustainable mobility option across campus.

Enhance Pedestrian Connectivity and Comfort

Widening walkways and removing unnecessary barriers will accommodate higher pedestrian volumes and improve accessibility. Incorporating seating, landscape buffers, and lighting into pedestrian routes will enhance safety and comfort. Shared service routes can be designed as pedestrian spaces that accommodate occasional vehicle use.

Clarify the Transition Between Vehicle and Pedestrian Zones

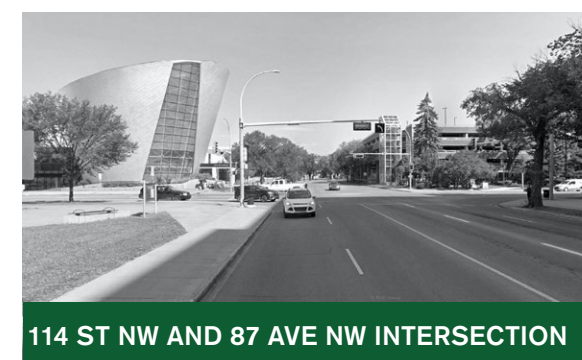
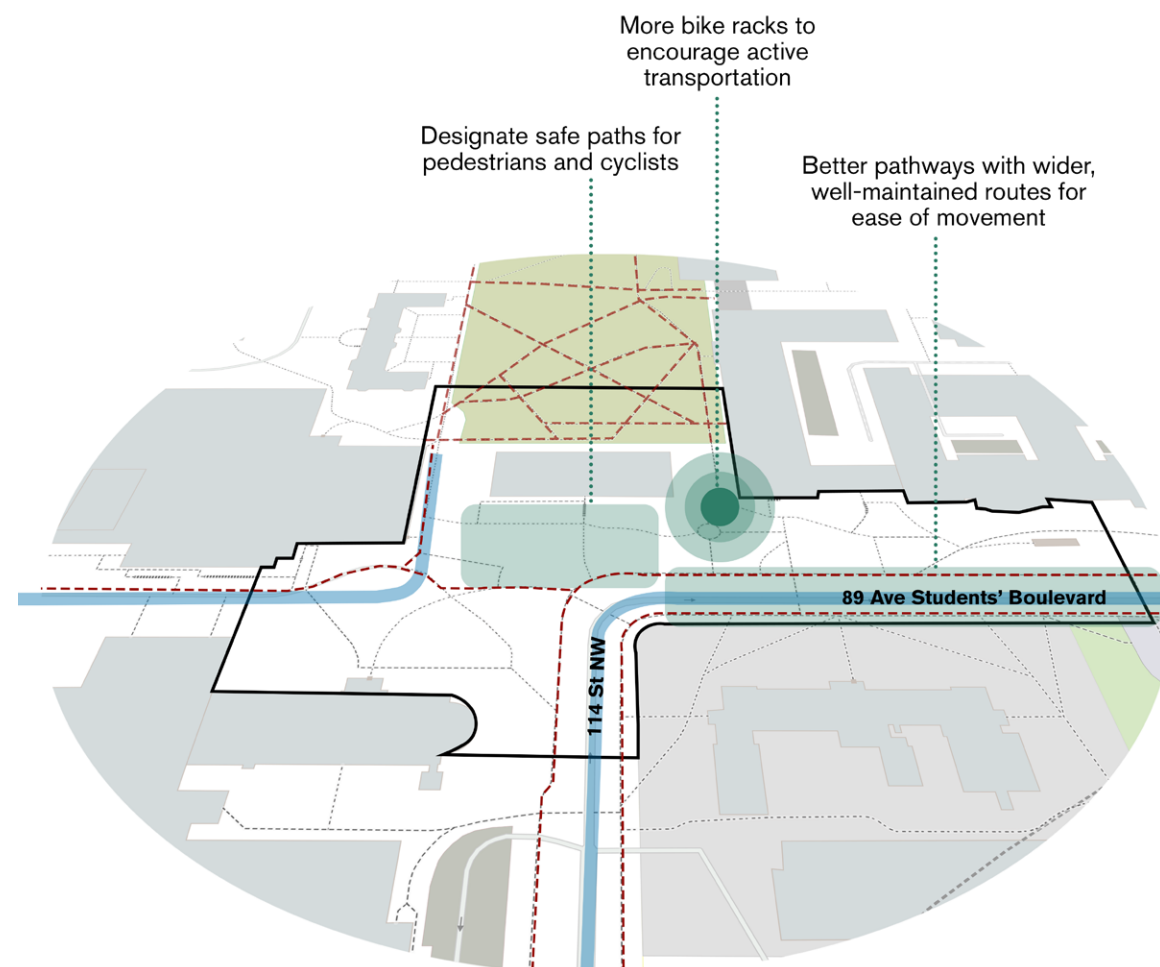
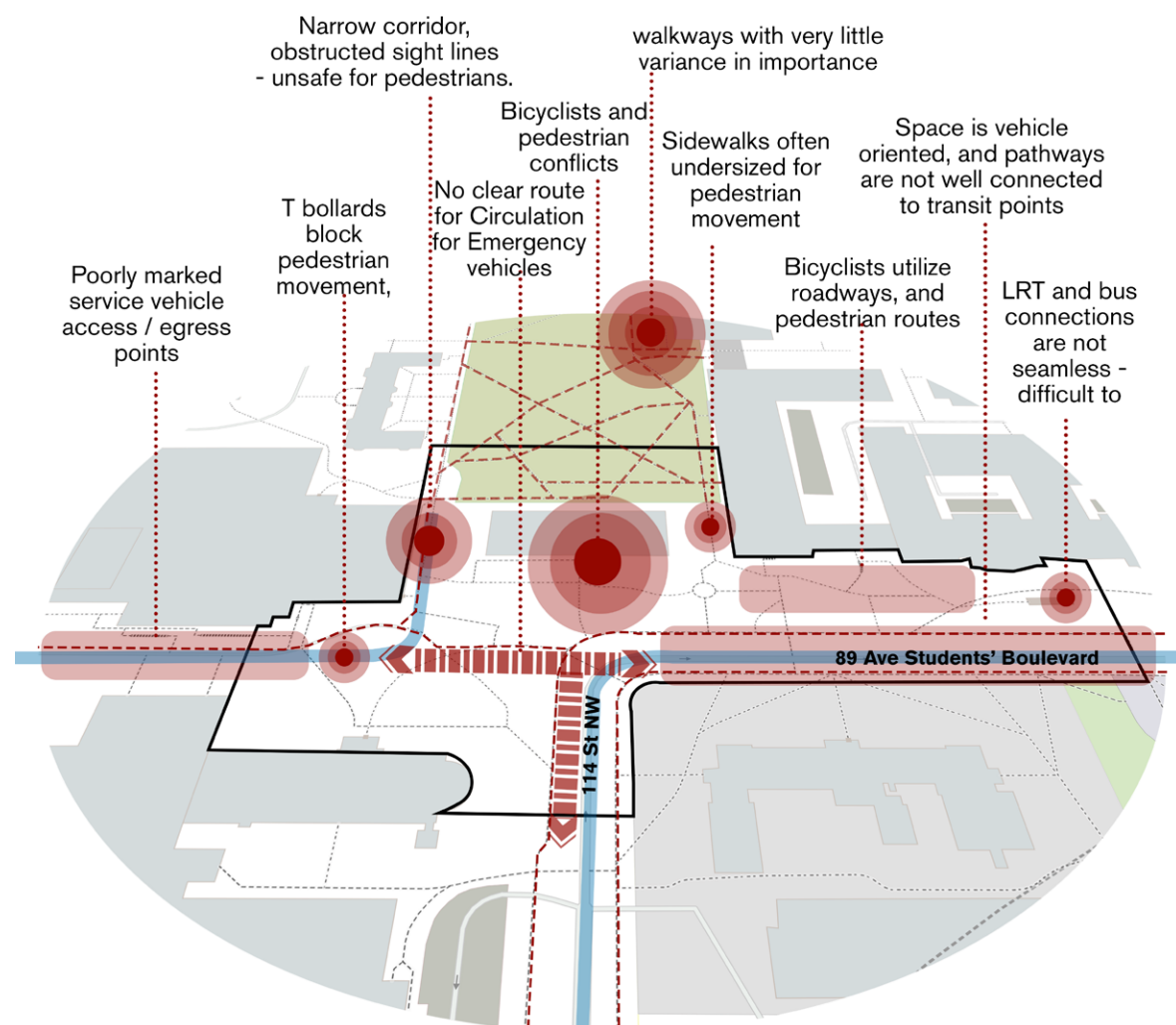
Establishing a clearly defined edge where vehicular access ends—particularly for public buses—will strengthen the pedestrian priority of the space. This distinction can reduce safety risks, minimize confusion, and support a more cohesive campus environment centered on walking and gathering.

Strengthen Linkages to Transit and Key Destinations

Improving wayfinding and aligning pathways with transit entries will help users navigate more easily between South Quad and bus or LRT stops. Enhancing direct connections and ensuring all-season comfort can improve the site's role as a central node in the campus mobility network.

Key Considerations:

- + Prioritizing pedestrian and cyclist movement improves safety, inclusivity, and campus livability.
- + Clear separation between service, transit, and active transportation routes reduces conflict points.
- + Enhancing walkability, widening sidewalks, and integrating transit connections will improve access and efficiency.
- + Delineating vehicle access boundaries supports a more pedestrian-focused and navigable space.



4 Lighting and Electrical

Issues

Inconsistent Lighting Distribution and Pole Heights

Lighting across the site, particularly along 89 Avenue and near the Administration Building, lacks uniformity. Pole heights vary, leading to irregular illumination. These inconsistencies result in bright and dark patches that reduce visibility and make the space feel fragmented and unsafe at night.

Discomfort from Light Color Variations

A mix of warm and cool color temperatures throughout the area causes visual discomfort and disorientation for pedestrians. The inconsistent tones diminish user comfort and detract from the cohesion of the space, making it feel less welcoming, especially during transitional periods of the day.

Visibility and Safety Challenges After Dark

Poor overall illumination, particularly in less trafficked zones, creates shadows and dark corners that make pedestrians feel unsafe. Limited visibility not only heightens security concerns but also discourages evening use of the space, undermining its potential as an active and inclusive environment.

Opportunities

Establish a Cohesive Lighting Strategy

Implementing consistent pole heights and warm-toned fixtures can improve visibility, user comfort, and nighttime safety. A unified lighting approach may serve as a model for broader campus upgrades and help establish a more cohesive and secure environment across South Quad and 89 Avenue

Use Lighting to Enhance Navigation and Identity

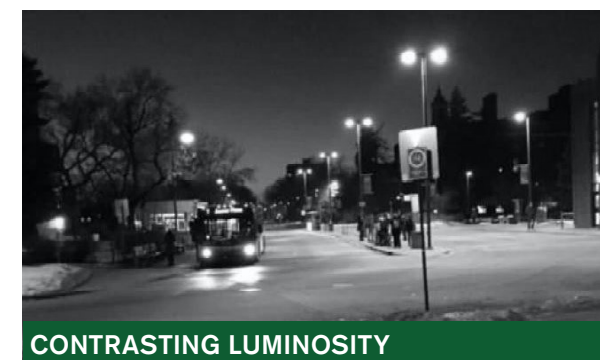
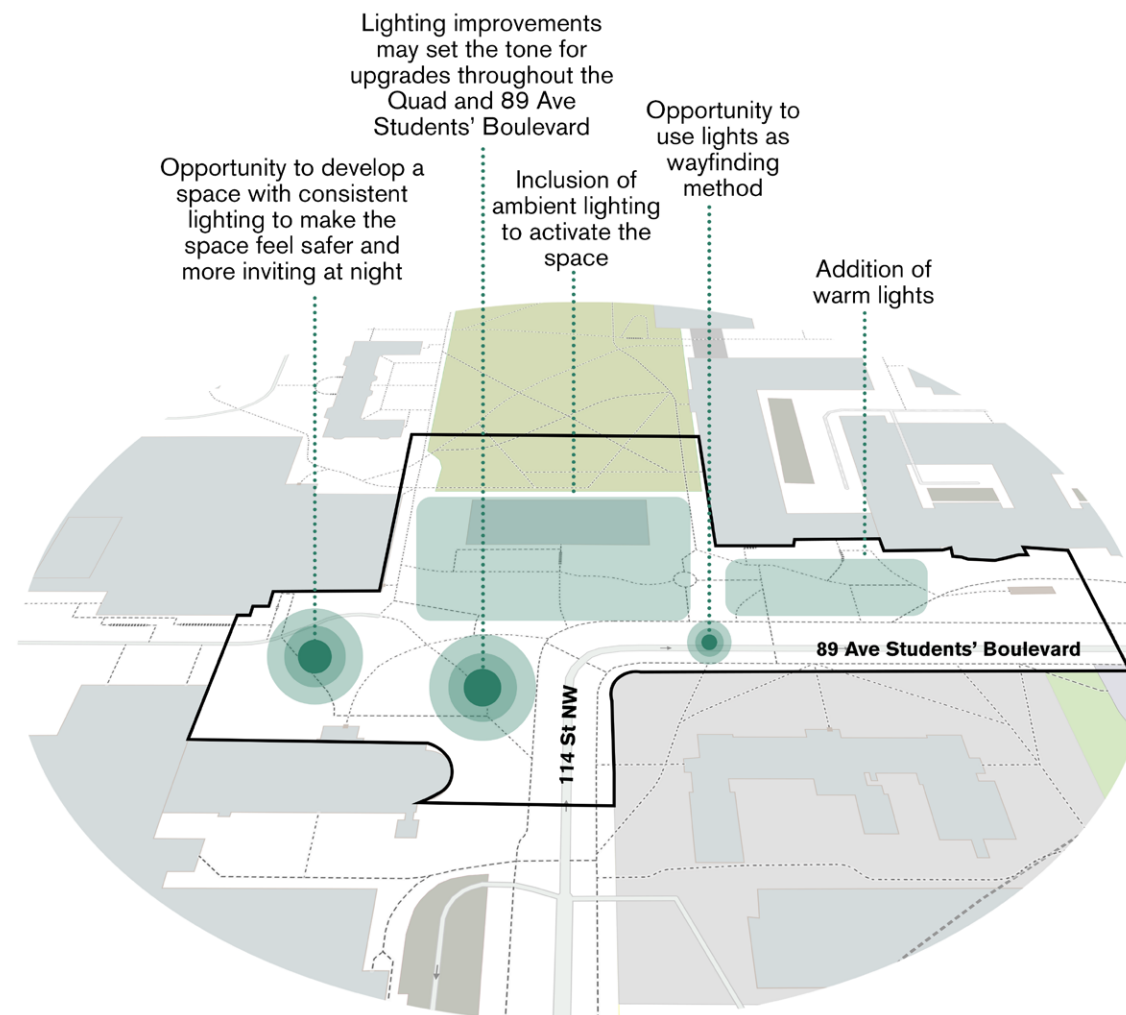
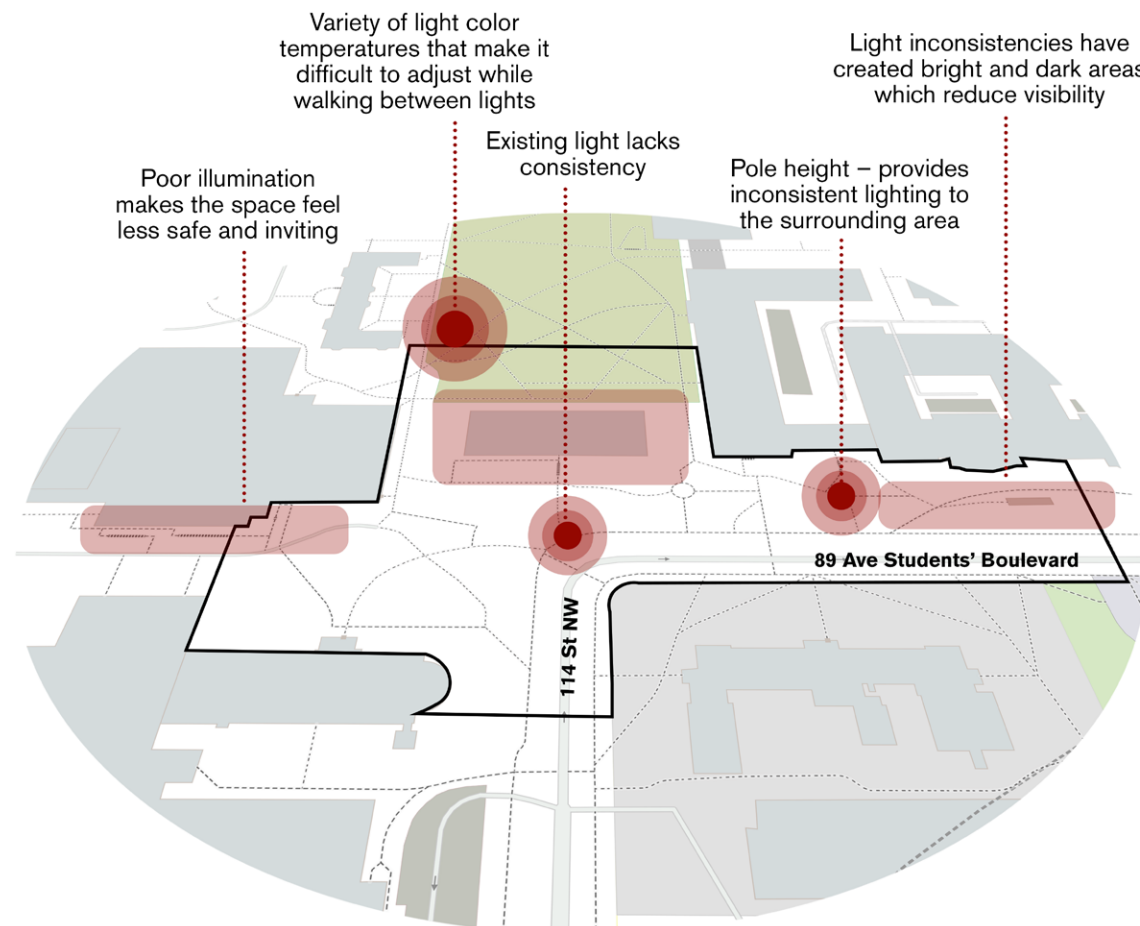
Strategically placed lighting can improve wayfinding by defining key pedestrian routes and highlighting entrances. Paired with aesthetically coordinated fixtures, lighting can help reinforce campus identity and create a more legible and welcoming nighttime environment.

Explore Interactive and Artistic Lighting Features

Introducing interactive ground lighting or illuminated art installations can bring the space to life after dark. These features can respond to movement, events, or seasonal changes, transforming South Quad into an engaging and memorable nighttime destination. Such enhancements would also support placemaking and cultural programming.

Key Considerations:

- + A consistent lighting strategy can enhance safety, comfort, and night-time usability.
- + Warm, ambient, and strategically placed lighting can support wayfinding and visual cohesion.
- + Introducing interactive lighting or illuminated art can activate the space and create unique experiences.



Issues

Utility Constraints and Complexity

Shallow utilities, including power, streetlights, and telecommunications, are often poorly aligned, creating conflicts with the proposed development

The existing utility network is complex, with multiple utility crossings and unorganized alignments, which may require costly relocation and disruption to install new features.

Drainage and Stormwater Management

The site's current drainage system is not optimized for sustainable stormwater management. Water runoff may be poorly directed, leading to issues with flooding or erosion, particularly during high rainfall.

Site Flexibility for Future Development

The current utility and drainage network limits flexibility in future site modifications, making it challenging to introduce new features or grade changes. Site development may be constrained by the existing layout and its infrastructure, potentially delaying or complicating improvements.

Opportunities

Utility Optimization

Re-aligning power and streetlight conduits in conjunction with lighting upgrades can simplify the site's utility network, improving efficiency and reducing congestion.

Reusing existing building services where feasible could lead to cost savings if utilities are in good condition, reducing the need for full replacements.

Low Impact Development (LID)

Integrating LID strategies, such as soil cells and bioretention gardens, can significantly improve stormwater management and enhance site drainage while supporting sustainability.

Understanding and utilizing the existing natural landform for stormwater runoff management will allow for passive drainage solutions, directing water

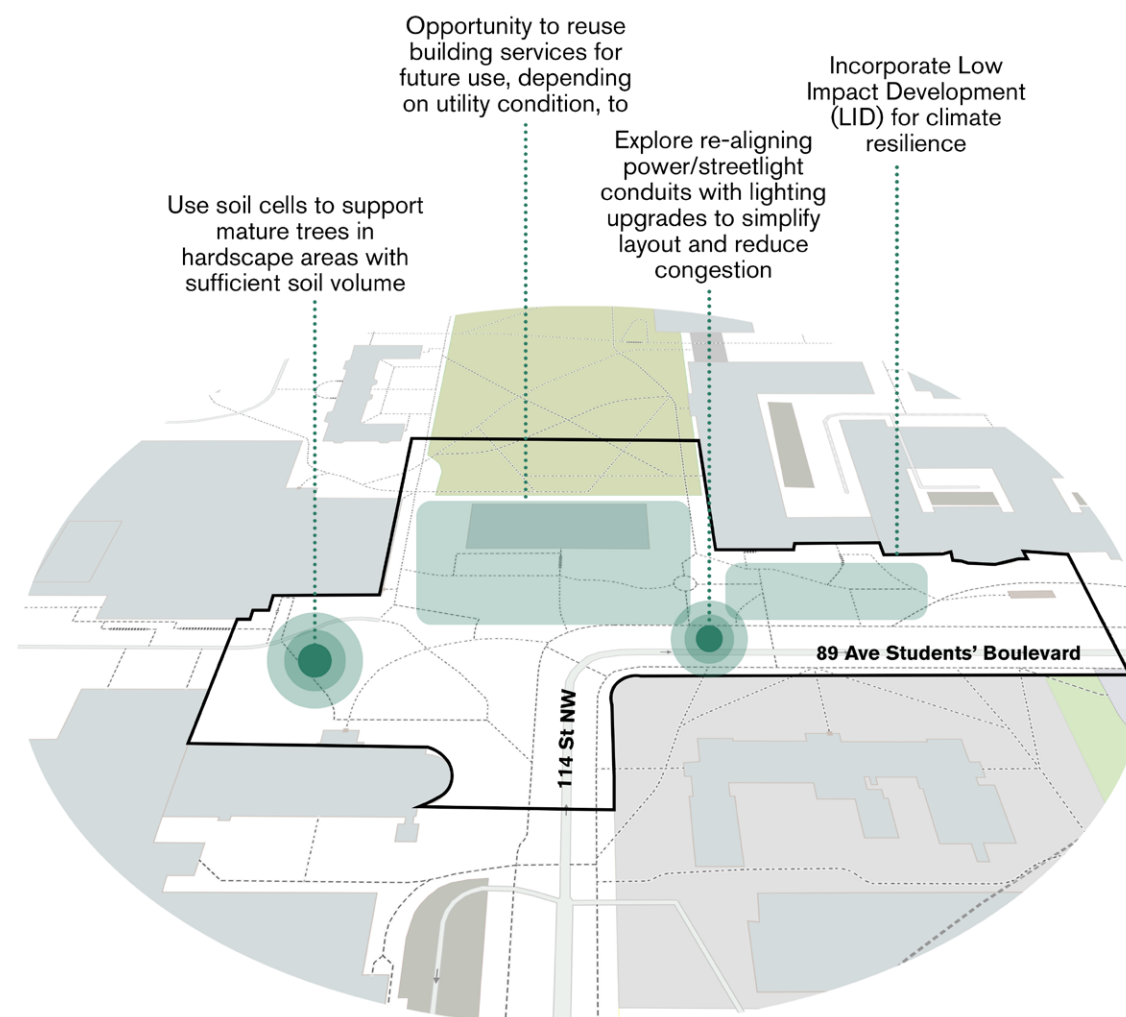
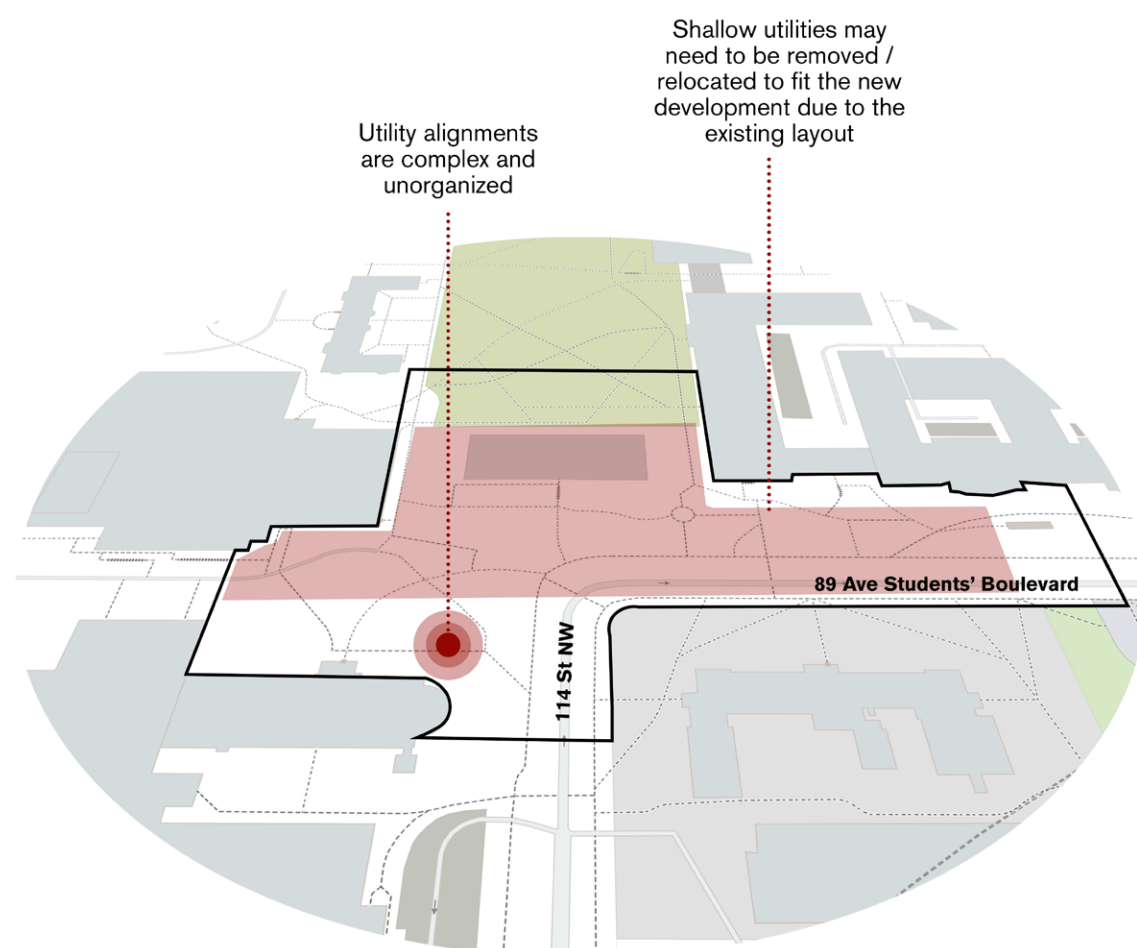
naturally to low points and reducing earthwork requirements. This approach will also support features like bioretention gardens and encourage sustainable practices.

Future features requiring changes in elevation, such as a sledding hill, can be planned by following the natural landform and minimizing earthwork.

This approach will reduce disturbances to the existing site and provide more cost-effective solutions for reshaping the landscape while maintaining sustainable drainage solutions.

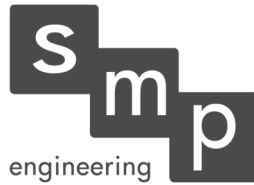
Key Considerations:

- + Simplifying utility alignments can reduce site congestion and support future flexibility.
- + Coordinating utility upgrades with lighting improvements offers efficiency and cost savings.
- + Integrating Low Impact Development strategies will support sustainable stormwater management.
- + Leveraging natural landforms and natural drainage patterns can improve drainage while reducing earthwork and disruption.
- + Enhancing site infrastructure will increase long-term adaptability and resilience.



Appendix B

Lighting and Electrical Systems Pre-Design Report



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA SOUTH QUAD PLANNING STUDY

11487 89 Avenue NW
Edmonton, Alberta

Lighting and Electrical Systems Pre-Design Report

Prepared For:
Al-Terra Landscape Architecture

July 2025

Prepared By:

SMP Engineering & lightSPACE

Geoff Bouckley – BFA, Design IALD, LC
Associate, lightSPACE Studio Lead

Richard Carlsson
Electrical Designer

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	Pg 3
2.	GENERAL DESIGN INTENT AND CRITERIA	Pg 3
3.	GENERAL DESIGN STANDARDS	Pg 3
4.	EXISTING LIGHTING AND ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS	Pg 4
5.	EXISTING ADMINISTRATION BUILDING DEMOLITION	Pg 4
6.	SITE POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM	Pg 4
7.	EMERGENCY POWER SYSTEM	Pg 5
8.	GROUNDING SYSTEM	Pg 5
9.	LIGHTING	Pg 5
	a. General	Pg 5
	b. Core Approach and Products	Pg 6
	c. Campus Pathways and Bike Path	Pg 11
	d. Central Gathering / Skating Loops	Pg 11
	e. Pavilion and Stage	Pg 12
	f. Amphitheatre	Pg 13
	g. Sundeck / Heated Shelter	Pg 13
	h. Fire Pit	Pg 14
	i. Adventure Zone	Pg 15
	j. Secure Bike Parking	Pg 15
	k. Existing Monuments	Pg 16
	l. Administration Building Corners	Pg 17
10.	LIGHTING CONTROLS	Pg 17
	a. Exterior	Pg 17
	b. Interior	Pg 18
11.	PAVILION BUILDING	Pg 18
	a. General	Pg 18
	b. Fire Alarm	Pg 18
	c. Communication System	Pg 18
	d. Audio Visual (AV) Systems	Pg 19
	e. Security System	Pg 19
12.	SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES	Pg 19
	a. Controllability	Pg 19
	b. Energy	Pg 19
13.	MECHANICAL SYSTEMS	Pg 20
14.	COMMISSIONING	Pg 20

1. INTRODUCTION

This narrative is to serve as an outline for the basic electrical and low voltage systems that will be provided within the University of Alberta (UA) South Quad redevelopment. This is not meant to be a complete specification or a system description outlining all features. However, it is meant to provide an outline of the basic systems for design intent and discussion.

2. GENERAL DESIGN INTENT AND CRITERIA:

The intent of the Planning Study is to consider the redevelopment of the central campus area currently occupied by the Administration Building which is slated for demolition. In its place, a signature public gathering space that transforms into a skating rink in winter, anchored by an amenities Pavilion, and surrounded by new connective pathways shall support student and staff activities that foster connections to the university's physical spaces and spirited culture.

Overarching lighting and electrical systems design goals considered:

- Energy Efficient Lighting and Controls
- Enhanced Aesthetic Value
- Campus Technology Integration
- Safety and Security
- Future Needs
- Minimization of Future Operating & Maintenance Costs
- Budget

3. GENERAL DESIGN STANDARDS

Lighting and electrical systems shall be designed to the following standards:

- National Building Code – 2023 Alberta Edition.
- Canadian Electrical Code Part 1 2024.
- National Fire Code of Canada 2020.
- National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings 2020.
- CAN/ULC standards for the installation and verification of fire alarm systems.
- CAN/ULS standards for the installation of elevating devices
- Illuminating Engineering Society (IES)
- Local Requirements from:
 - Authority Having Jurisdiction
 - Municipal and provincial regulations
 - Electrical utilities regulations
 - CSA-C282 Emergency Power Supply for Commercial Buildings
- University of Alberta (UA) Standards

4. EXISTING LIGHTING AND ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

The existing electrical power system for the University of Alberta Main Quad consists of a 120/208 Volt distribution panel mounted to a light standard on the west side of the space, and receptacles and junction boxes mounted to light standards which are fed by underground Teck cable independently from lighting power. Several of these receptacles also supply lighting in nearby trees through 'free-air' cabling from light standard to tree.

At the time of report writing the ultimate source of the Main Quad's power had not been located. Likely it traces back to one of the surrounding buildings. Future project team should include this detailed circuit tracing as part of their scope.

Existing campus lighting consists of standard pole mounted luminaires at two heights depending on whether they are illuminating pathways (lower) or roadways (higher). Currently there are a mix of lamp technologies (HID & LED) in existence as well as colour temperatures. Further, there is a sense of uneven illumination where some areas feel over illuminated while others are too dark. Glare is also a concern as the campus standard luminaires do not possess the best optical control and can be perceived as visually uncomfortable from certain angles.

5. EXISTING ADMINISTRATION BUILDING DEMOLITION

The existing Administration Building will be demolished as a separate scope. The electrical services for this building are supplied from the utility corridor located to the south of the building and will be capped and abandoned at the utility corridor.

6. SITE POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

The new electrical power distribution system will be designed to meet the future project's programming requirements including permanent and event power, permanent site and event lighting, and mechanical equipment such as irrigation controls, water-features, and snow-melt system, as well as future loads.

A new metered 200 Amp 347/600 Volt main distribution will be installed at the new pavilion building, with a 120/208 Volt transformer and sub-distribution panels strategically located throughout the project area.

New power will be supplied from the existing main distribution in or near the CAB building, routed through the utility corridor and underground as required.

Responsibility/ownership of the new electrical service will be determined by the project.

The existing pole-mounted distribution panel and receptacles in the Main Quad can be replaced or refed from new distribution panels installed as part of this project. Existing general power equipment located in the project area and fed from differing sources can be consolidated onto the new South Quad distribution system.

Power will be provided for mobile equipment such as food trucks to reduce the need for mobile generators.

General purpose receptacles accessible by the public will be installed in the picnic tables near new the gas fire pit and the gathering space. These receptacles should be installed in such a manner as to be inherently weather-proof and vandal resistant.

Event power receptacles will be incorporated into new 'smart' light poles installed throughout the proposed South Quad. These can include both standard 120 Volt convenience receptacles and 120/208 Volt 30- or 50-Amp receptacles to allow for connection of temporary distribution panels. Event power receptacles will be hidden behind locking covers and will not be accessible to the general public.

Receptacles for e-bike charging will be incorporated into the protected bike parking area.

7. EMERGENCY POWER SYSTEM

Should the pavilion building use or size require emergency or exit lighting, it will be provided through the use of battery packs connected to the normal power distribution system.

8. GROUNDING SYSTEM

A grounding and bonding system for all electrical equipment and IT systems in the project area will be provided for the safety of people and for protection against damage to equipment or property in the case of a fault occurring in any of the equipment or systems and for electrical noise reduction on signaling equipment. Grounding will be installed as required by all applicable Canadian Electrical Codes Standards, including EIA/TIA standards for communications and security equipment and systems and UA standards.

9. LIGHTING

a. GENERAL

The lighting will be designed based on the requirements set forth by UA and recommendations from the American National Standards Institute / Illuminating Engineering Society (ANSI/IES) documents. As the majority of illumination is for exterior spaces, the IES Lighting Zone (LZ) of LZ3 is being applied. Final designed lighting levels may exceed the below IES listings where safety/ security concerns, campus standards, or client preference exist.

Description	Average Illuminance Level / Uniformity Ratio Target
Pathways – Adjacent to Softscape	5 – 15 lux (Horizontal Surface) / 10:1 Avg to Min
Pathways – Adjacent to Buildings/Hardscape	10 – 30 lux (Horizontal Surface) / 10:1 Avg to Min
Mixed Used Pedestrian & Cycling Path	15 – 30 lux (Horizontal Surface) / 5:1 Avg to Min
Playground	40 – 80 lux (Horizontal Surface) / 5:1 Avg to Min
Plazas	10 – 30 lux (Horizontal Surface) / 10:1 Avg to Min
Building Entries	20 – 40 lux (Horizontal Surface) / 5:1 Avg to Min
Patio / Deck	16 – 32 lux (Horizontal Surface) / 8:1 Avg to Min
Drop-off / Pick-up Curbside	20 – 40 lux (Horizontal Surface) / 5:1 Avg to Min
Sculptures & Monuments	2 – 20 lux (Vertical Surface) / 3:1 Avg to Min

The exterior lighting will be designed to create a secure environment, enhance the campus night appearance, support a unified campus aesthetic, assist with wayfinding, discourage vandalism, use energy efficient products.

To meet UA's exterior lighting standards, most broad area illuminating luminaires shall be "full cutoff" meaning no light is directly emitted above 90° from nadir. It is possible that some luminaires supportive of aesthetics and wayfinding may possess an up light component (e.g. – aimable flood lights).

Correlated Colour Temperature (CCT) shall generally be 3000K with exceptions provided for locations requiring different CCT or dynamic colour changing (RGBW) technology to support aesthetic needs.

b. LIGHTING – CORE APPROACH & PRODUCTS

The South Quad redevelopment is the new heart to the University of Alberta's North Campus. It seeks to provide spaces encouraging students and faculty gathering around the clock and calendar. To achieve this, significant investment in intentional placemaking design and technology are needed to ensure the space utilization is maximized.

From a lighting perspective, the design engages five luminaire product layers to create after-dark spaces that people want to be in year-round. Spaces that are safe, functional, unique, magical, and romantic. Spaces that communicate and resonate.

Luminaire Product Layers:

- 1) Smart Columns
- 2) UA Standard Pole Lights
- 3) Bench Integrated Luminaires
- 4) Concrete Embedded In-grade Luminaires (Two Types)
- 5) Architecturally Integrated Luminaires

Proposed Schematic Luminaire Layout:



Campus Standard Pole Lights

-  New
-  Existing to Remain
-  New "Smart" Columns c/w Area Lights, Aimable Flood Lights, Cameras, PA, Receptacles, Etc.



- Custom Bench Integrated Luminaires -
Designed to be vandal proof by placing lights inside bench forms accessible only via tools & multi-person labour.
- Ingrade Linear Uplight on Admin Building Corner Blocks
-  Concrete Embedded Ingrade RGBW Marker Lights (Possibly Fiber Optic)
-  Aimable Flood Light for Stage / Sculpture

-  Architecturally Integrated Linear Light
-  Architecturally Integrated Linear Light

Layer 1: Smart Columns

- These are the core luminaires and spread throughout the South Quad interior spaces.
- They are called “smart” because multiple functions and technology are housed within a singular product to minimize site clutter and maximize opportunities.
- General Area light is emitted from a post-top source, providing broad pools of illumination around the columns for safety and security.
- Decorative colour changing (RGBW) accent light glows from within the column through decorative steel lattice shapes, enabling cultural communications, enhanced aesthetic opportunities, and supporting wayfinding.
- Aimable flood lights can be integrated within some columns to provide functional support (e.g. – amphitheater stage) or aesthetic enhancement (e.g. – sculptures).
- Other technologies such as audio speakers, convenience receptacles, security cameras, and banner arms are also possible to integrate within the “smart” column.



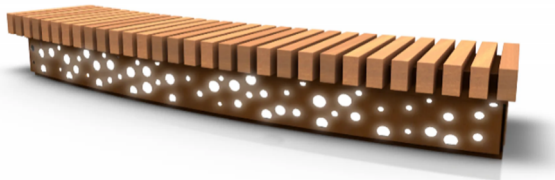
Layer 2: UA Standard Pole Lights

- These basic but functional luminaires are intended to surround the South Quad along perimeter pathways.
- This is in part due to many existing locations being perfectly suitable where they are today, meaning this layer is already planned for use.
- New lights will be installed as needed to support safety, security, and wayfinding with special attention paid to pathway intersections.
- The use of campus standard luminaires is intentionally kept to the perimeter areas to ensure the Quad interior spaces, and their specialized illumination are given prominence.



Layer 3: Bench Integrated Luminaires

- The South Quad design contains many customized bench forms to encourage people to sit, discuss, linger.
- At night, luminaires mounted inside the benches glow outwards through slots or patterns to become enlivened in a manner not possible during daylight.
- These glowing benches help visually ground the South Quad by anchoring illumination low to the ground.
- Additionally, colour changing technology could be employed to further enhance a sense of magic and cultural communication.
- As all the benches are custom designed and built, it is possible to develop a form that ensures luminaires are protected from vandalism or casual damage. Ideally, the lights would be inaccessible without specific tool sets and multiple people's efforts.



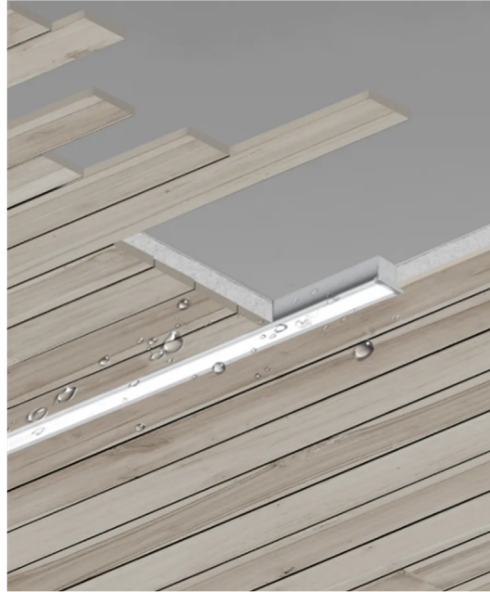
Layer 4: Concrete Embedded In-grade Luminaires (Two Versions)

- Version 1
 - o Small round “pucks” embedded within the gathering space / skating loop concrete surface are colour changing lights emblematic of the night sky reflecting off a lake.
 - o In winter, these glow through the skating ice, creating a soft, magic effect that is sure to draw people to the space.
- Version 2
 - o Small round “pucks” embedded at the concrete or paver bases of the remaining Administration Building corners graze the brickwork to showcase the material.
 - o Luminaires have a ½ shield to mitigate glare.
- To ensure longevity, both of these luminaire versions are:
 - o IP68 (fully submersible)
 - o -40°C operable
 - o Drive-over weight rated to 4,400 kg (9,700 lbs)



Layer 5: Architecturally Integrated Luminaires

- The Pavilion Building, Heated Shelter, and Central Bike Parking all require luminaires integrated within their structures.
- Lights shall be supportive of the form and functions.
- Lights shall provide brighter nighttime destinations to support wayfinding.
- More specific luminaire options will be developed as design progresses.



c. LIGHTING – CAMPUS PATHWAYS & BIKE PATH

The design separates the South Quad pathways into perimeter and interior categories.

Perimeter pathways remain mostly unchanged by the proposed redevelopment. As such, much of the existing campus pathway lighting can remain in place. This approach not only reduces redevelopment costs and time but intentionally creates a visually distinct border around the new central destinations and amenities.

Interior pathways within the South Quad shall be illuminated via the proposed “smart” column luminaires that provide pools illumination, aesthetic enhancement, and enable multiple functions and technology housed within a singular product.

d. LIGHTING - CENTRAL GATHERING / SKATING LOOPS

The heart of South Quad is the center gathering space that transforms into a broad skating loop/trail in colder seasons. To support after-dark usage, UA campus activity, and Edmonton's Winter City goals, lighting plays a pivotal role in defining what the space becomes when the sun goes down.

During the day, the sunlit space carries a bucolic environment encouraging people to linger and enjoy the scene. At night, the space needs to transform into something completely different. Pools of light and shadow create visual interest, destinations, and romanticism. Colour changing illumination stimulates a sense of magic and communicates cultural information.

Everywhere one turns layers of luminaires will be visible, assisting with placemaking and an immersive sensation.

Layers Used:

- Smart columns
- Bench Integrated Luminaires
- Concrete Embedded RGBW Lights



e. LIGHTING - PAVILION & STAGE

The pavilion building and associated stage space act as a beacon. Lighting will draw people to an architecturally enhanced destination glimpsed through the trees and pathways.

The stage acts as a front porch, a space to both linger and take-in the surroundings. It also becomes a focal point when activated for performance or messaging activities. To support both opportunities, the lighting shall generally match the ambient smart columns and bench motif utilized throughout. When engaged for performance aimable flood lighting integrated into the smart columns ensure the stage is a bright focal point.

At all times the Pavilion provides an architectural backdrop and frame for the South Quad space. At night, the building emanates illumination from interior luminaires, softly glowing outwards across the stage while acting as a jewel box when viewed from the exterior.

Layers Used:

- Smart columns (with Aimable Flood Lights)
- Bench Integrated Luminaires
- Architecturally Integrated Luminaires



f. LIGHTING - AMPHITHEATRE

Students want to gather. They want to be heard. The amphitheater space supports this both day and night. Smart columns softly illuminate both the stage and seating, intentionally enabling speakers or performers to be seen and to see their audience. This engenders commonality and communication. Aimable flood lights and audio speakers integrated into the smart columns enhance the amphitheater's capabilities to showcase and communicate.

Layers Used:

- Smart Columns (with Aimable Flood Lights)
- Bench Integrated Luminaires

g. LIGHTING - SUN DECK / HEATED SHELTER

Very popular during warm afternoons, at night this space can shift to cool and uninviting, especially during the core school year. Introducing heating helps combat temperature, and lighting is required to extend this into the evenings.

Lights integrated into the heated shelter create a destination and provide enough illumination to support relaxed activities like reading, writing, and studying. Colour changing accent lights and audio-speaker locations provide opportunities to link the space to the overall South Quad aesthetics. The shelter will shine light outwards in all directions, allowing the area design to avoid pole lights or smart columns, assisting with a clean and open visual experience.

A curved bench with integrated luminaires help define the spatial borders between this area and the adjacent firepit.

Layers Used:

- Architecturally Integrated Luminaires
- Bench Integrated Luminaires



h. LIGHTING - FIRE PIT

Next to the sundeck the firepit calls people in a primal way to gather and build community. Year round, people find connectivity around fire and this feature seems primed to be a meeting spot of choice.

Lighting firepits is tricky as you need to provide enough for safety, yet not too much lest the fire visual and experience be diminished. People are seeking organic flickering light on their faces which over illumination can destroy.

Therefore, a singular smart pole is positioned where the firepit area and pathway meet. The column's light will be directed onto the pathway only, ensuring the firepit is not illuminated from above at night. Luminaires integrated into the bench form and base of the firepit itself will glow outwards onto the decking, keeping all illumination from a low source angle, delineating the space for safety, and preserving the fire as key nighttime illuminator.

Layers Used:

- Smart Column
- Bench & Firepit Integrated Luminaires



i. LIGHTING – ADVENTURE ZONE

University students are still very young at heart; not long removed from times of recess and group play. The adventure zone supports the transition from adolescence to adulthood by encouraging people to hold onto more carefree vestiges of youth as a break from the new daily stressors. But the student's schedule often doesn't afford playtime during daylight, so the playground needs to be illuminated to always ensure safe use.

A key lighting strategy is to provide uniform illumination on the equipment and area to a level enabling run, jump, climb at night. Trip hazards should be seen, not shadowed, and people need to be able to quickly see and assess each other as play intensifies.

Fairly dense clustering of smart columns support this uniformity of illumination, while also connecting the playground to the broader South Quad through colour changing accents and audio opportunities. The brighter illumination shall also set the adventure zone up as a destination, easily discerned from a distance.

Layers Used:

- Smart Columns
- Bench Integrated Luminaires

j. LIGHTING - SECURE BIKE PARKING

To encourage cycling to and from the South Quad, secured parking is being provided to give users peace of mind that their transport is safe. Lighting can be a major supporter of people's sense of safety by ensuring activities can be clearly seen.

Broad general illumination will be integrated into the bike parking structure. It will provide uniform shadow free light allowing everyone to see details as they utilize the amenity. Depending on structure design, the lighting may operate during some daylight periods as an added layer of security.

Layers Used:

- Smart Columns (along approach paths)
- Architectural Integrated Luminaires

k. LIGHTING - EXISTING MONUMENTS & SCULPTURES

There are several existing monuments located throughout the South Quad space. The design intends to not only leave them in place but enhance them for improved student and faculty connection to their meanings, messages, and beauty.

Lighting is a key piece to ensuring these locations are properly celebrated at night, given some gravitas and visibility to discourage vandalism. Using smart columns with integrate aimable flood lights ensures that the monuments and sculptures are not just casual illuminated by accident but intentionally focused upon for enhancement.

Layers Used:

- Smart Columns (with Aimable Flood Lights)



I. LIGHTING – ADMINISTRATION BUILDING CORNERS

Although the Administration Building will be removed for the South Quad redevelopment, the design has the opportunity to ensure it is not forgotten. The four corners are proposed to be kept as historic markers, signifying campus past, change, and growth.

The corners' distinct rough red brick, weathered for almost seventy years, provides a textured surface perfect for illumination via grazing technique which intentionally highlights protruding surfaces and deepens the shadows of recessed pockets. In-grade luminaires will be placed at the base of each corner to shine upwards across the brick face, revealing its material and coarseness in a celebratory manner.

Dramatic and distinctive illumination will ensure the four corners are not a forgotten piece of history, but a showcased memory.

Layers Used:

- Concrete Embedded ½ Shielded Lights



10. LIGHTING CONTROLS

a. LIGHTING CONTROLS - EXTERIOR

Exterior lighting will be controlled via astronomical time schedule combined with photocell to ensure usage only when dark.

Potential dynamic colour changing luminaires will utilize an addressable digital control system called DMX to enable programmable scenes and settings connected to calendar scheduling with override opportunities.

b. LIGHTING CONTROLS - INTERIOR

Static white colour temperature interior lighting will be controlled via a distributed 0-10V dimming system inclusive of occupancy/vacancy sensors, daylight sensors, and localized dimmers.

Potential dynamic colour changing luminaires will utilize an addressable digital control system called DMX to enable programmable scenes and settings connected to calendar scheduling with override opportunities.

11. PAVILION BUILDING

a. PAVILION - GENERAL

The heart of the development is the proposed Pavilion building which is imagined as a touch point amenity for students, staff, and visitors alike. Although not fully defined at this time, it may contain enough resources and complexity to warrant core electrical systems typical of larger structures while also functioning as the technology hub for the entire South Quad amenities.

The following sections list many of the potential electrical systems.

b. PAVILION - FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

Life safety systems will be designed to comply with the requirements of CAN/ULC standards, relevant building codes and UA standards.

Should the pavilion building size or use require the installation of a local fire alarm system, the system shall interconnect with the existing Simplex UA Campus system and shall be visible through the main campus network. Fiber optic cabling and 2C#18 shielded will be used to tie into the campus network. Exact details of this interconnection will be determined in future stages of design.

c. PAVILION - COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

A Telecommunications Demarcation Room will be provided within the new pavilion building complete with:

- Head end equipment, data racks, fire alarm control panel if required, and security head end equipment.
- UA to confirm whether campus-managed fiber service is available and/or required.

Structured Cabling and Wireless Access:

- Wireless access points will be deployed throughout the project area and will be the primary network connection method for users. One (1) Cat 6A cable will be provided to each specific wireless location

- Exact locations or quantities of wireless access points will not be known until UA IST completes a detailed RF study.
- Wireless access points should be installed on the pavilion building and be incorporated into project-specific light standards.
- Help phones and emergency phones will be provided on site.

d. PAVILION - AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEM

The Pavilion shall house various “head-end” AV equipment such as the digital lighting controls (DMX), audio for potential distributed exterior speakers (inside Smart Columns). Additionally, AV infrastructure for the proposed Pavilion stage will be installed to support performances and gatherings such as live music, speeches, etc.

e. PAVILION - SECURITY SYSTEM

i. Access Control System

If it is determined to be a requirement for the Pavilion building, card access will be installed to allow access to the electrical/telecom room and other areas of the building.

ii. Video Surveillance System

Video Surveillance will reinforce public safety and real-time awareness. Video surveillance provides enhanced situational awareness for Protective Services.

Head end equipment will be installed in the electrical/telecom room of the pavilion building. Cameras will be connected via Category 6A cabling providing both communications and power-over-ethernet.

Cameras will be incorporated into new project-specific light poles installed throughout the project area. Specific areas requiring increased surveillance such as the bicycle parking area will have additional cameras installed.

12. SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES

a. Controllability

All lighting systems will be controlled to ensure use only when required at night, eliminating day-burn waste.

b. Energy

All lighting systems will utilize energy efficient LED lighting technology to minimize energy consumption.

13. MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

Various mechanical systems will require coordination with electrical systems for operation. Likely examples expected are:

- Irrigation control system
- Water feature / bioretention pond pumps and controls
- Glycol sidewalk heating
- Space / Area heating at the Pavilion building

14. COMMISSIONING

A full commissioning process will be implemented for the redevelopment. This is the process of ensuring that systems such as power distribution, lighting control, air-handling equipment, security, and AV are designed, installed, functionally tested and capable of being operated and maintained per the University of Alberta's operational needs.

Appendix C

Campus Engagement Outcomes: What We Heard Report

South Quad Open Space Planning Study

What We Heard Report

CONTENTS

Project Overview	2
Engagement	3
How We Engaged	4
How We Communicated	5
What We Heard – Round 1	6
What We Heard – Round 2	9
What Happens Next	15



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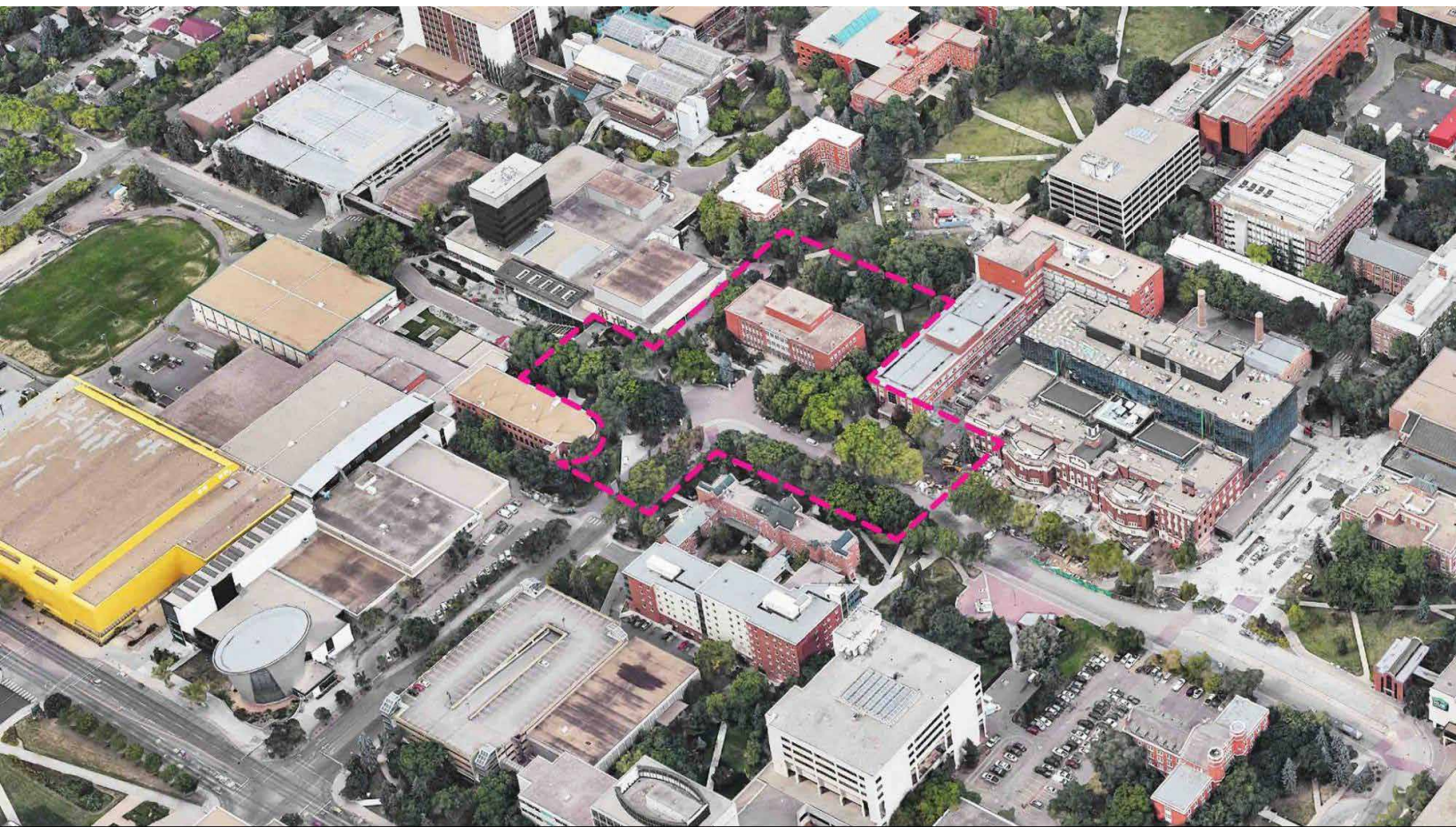


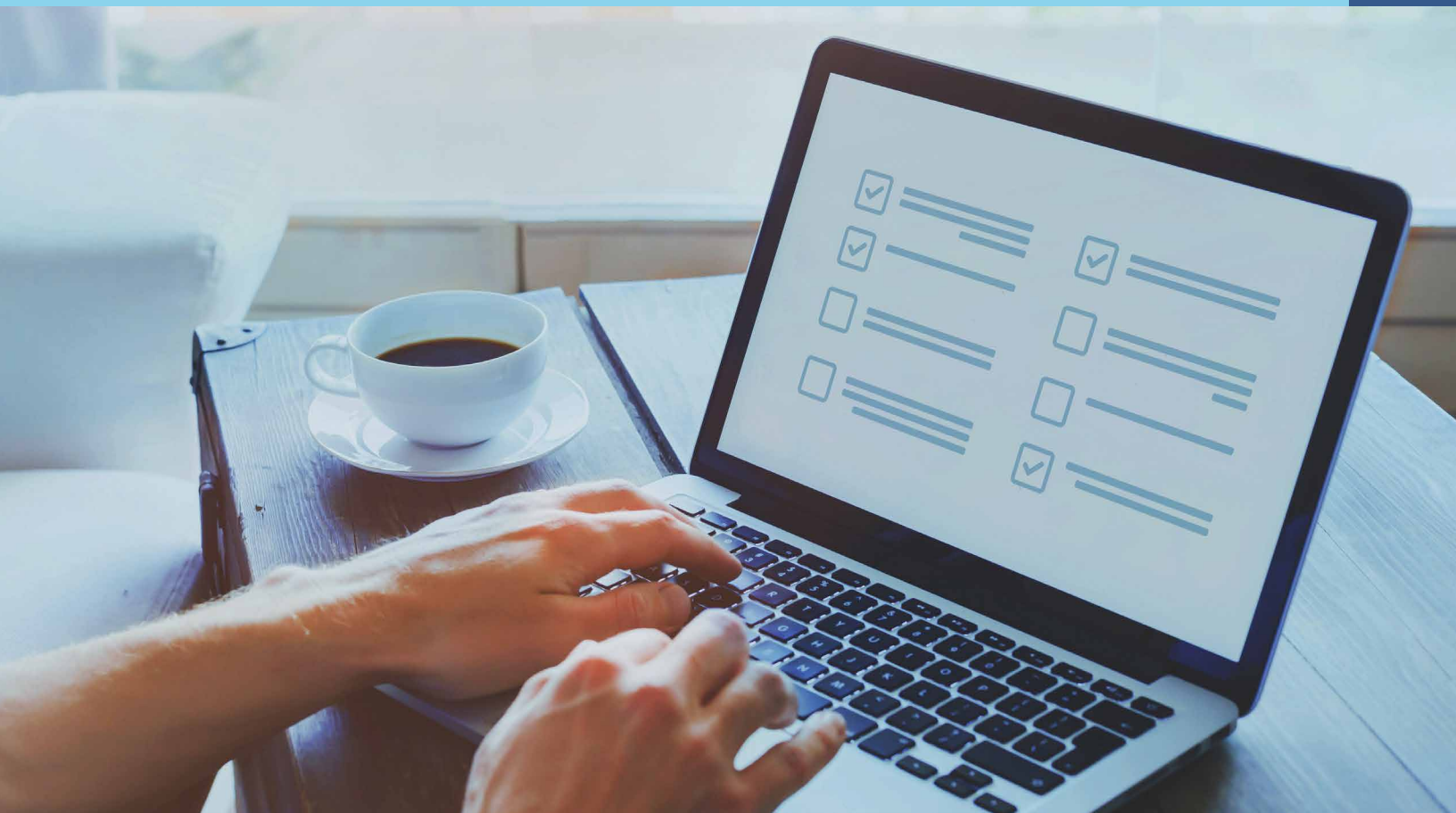
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PROJECT OVERVIEW

The South Quad Open Space Planning Study is an exciting initiative of the University of Alberta aimed at transforming a key location on North Campus into a vibrant, inclusive and dynamic outdoor space that reflects the university's diverse culture and history.

The proposed redevelopment area will incorporate the current Celebration Plaza and adjacent open spaces near the intersection of 114 Street and 89 Avenue Students' Boulevard, as well as the south end of Main Quad. The south side of Quad is currently occupied by the Administration Building, which is nearing the end of its lifespan and has been identified for removal. This planning study asks the university community to consider the future potential of the south side of Quad without the Administration Building, including its purpose, meaning and functions.





ENGAGEMENT

A two-round engagement process was designed to create opportunities for the campus community—students, faculty/staff and alumni—to learn about the planning study objectives and scope and provide input to inform the development of conceptual designs.

Engagement took place in two phases:

Round 1 (January 2025) – to gather input to inform the vision for and future programming of the South Quad outdoor space

Round 2 (April 2025) – to gather input on two draft concept options to inform a future refined concept

This document reports on both rounds of engagement.

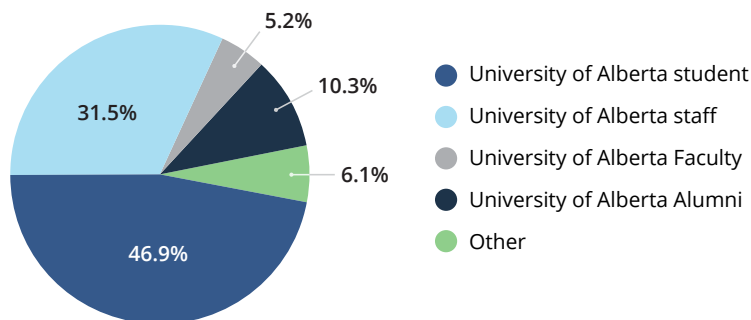
HOW WE ENGAGED

Similar engagement activities took place in each phase as outlined below:

ROUND 1

Online Survey

An online survey was available on the project webpage on the University of Alberta website from January 16 to 27, 2025. There were 216 responses to the survey.



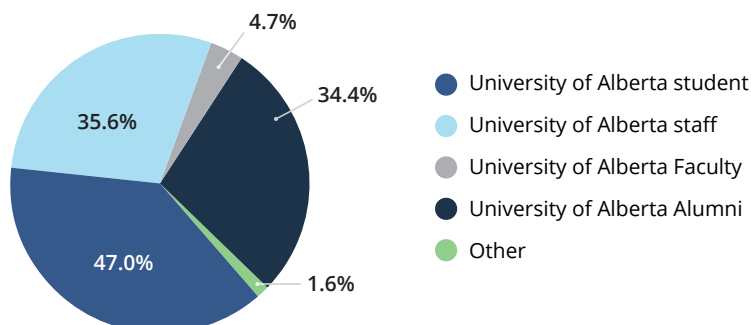
Pop-up Engagement

A pop-up event was held at the Student's Union Building (SUB) on January 22, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Display panels explained the project and prompted feedback. Participants were invited to leave comments and drawings to share their vision for the future site, as well as programming ideas. Nearly 200 comments were received along with 23 drawings.

ROUND 2

Online Survey

An online survey was available on the project webpage on the University of Alberta website from March 25 to April 8, 2025. There were 253 responses to the survey.



Pop-up Engagement

A pop-up event was held on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at the Student's Union Building (SUB) from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and at the Central Academic Building (CAB) from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Display panels explained the planning study and the concept options and prompted participants to provide feedback. Nearly 120 comments were received.

HOW WE COMMUNICATED

To create awareness for the project and the engagement opportunities, the following communication tools and tactics were used during each round:

Project webpage

A webpage on the university's website provided a project overview and details of the engagement opportunities.

University communications

Project information and links to the project survey were shared via the following university communications tools: YouAlberta newsletter, The Quad newsletter, email digests and Events Hub page.

Project postcard

500 postcards were distributed during the Round 1 pop-up engagement event encouraging participation in the online survey and 1000 postcards were distributed during Round 2.

Outdoor signs

Ten A-frame signs and ten lawn signs were placed on the project site, as well as elsewhere on campus.

WHAT WE HEARD

The following provides a summary of what we heard during each round of engagement.

ROUND 1

1. What word or feeling comes to mind when you experience the South Quad open space in its current state?

Respondents provided both positive and negative feelings about the current state of South Quad.

Positive

- Historical/traditional
- Natural beauty
- Peaceful/calming
- Functional thoroughfare

Negative

- Boring/average/bland
- Underutilized
- Empty
- Uninviting
- Disjointed
- Dated
- Busy/loud/congested
- Vehicle-oriented

2. How do you want to feel when you spend time in the new South Quad open space? (e.g., relaxed, inspired, energized, connected)

Relaxation and Comfort - Respondents indicate a desire for a calm and peaceful space that promotes relaxation; a serene atmosphere where people feel at ease and sheltered from the busyness and chaos of the campus. Respondents also desire physical comfort noting the need for protection from noise and weather.

Inspiration and Energy - Also important to respondents is a dynamic, vibrant space that inspires, motivates and encourages learning, creativity and engagement.

Meaningful Connections - A sense of connection is desired; emotionally to the university's history and tradition, to traditional lands and nature, and the campus community, as well as physically to other areas on campus. The design should foster interaction and social engagement. It should be more than a walkway, rather a place to stay and experience campus life.

Welcoming - A welcoming transition to campus is desired, suggesting that South Quad should serve as an inviting entrance point.

All-season Functionality - Respondents also noted the need for a space that is practical in all seasons, as well as welcoming and usable for people of all abilities.

3. What specific elements or features would help create this feeling for you? (e.g., seating areas, green spaces)

Landscaping and Greenery - There is an overwhelming desire to preserve and enhance natural spaces. Integrating additional trees, plants and flowers, as well as rocks, ponds or other features is highly supported.

Seating and Study Spaces - There is a strong desire for more seating, including picnic areas, sheltered benches, communal and individual seating, as well as relaxed outdoor study spaces.

Aesthetics and Art - Respondents suggest enhancing the space with Indigenous and cultural elements and public art. There is a desire to preserve the university's historical elements. While modernizing the area, it should remain connected to the institution's legacy and culture.

Social Gathering and Event Spaces - Respondents suggest informal spaces that promote socialization and formal spaces to host indoor and outdoor events. Ideas include multi-purpose venues, amphitheatres and performance stages.

Campus Connectivity - Respondents would like to see improved pathways and new pedways to enhance connectivity within the campus.

4. What types of activities or events would you like to be able to experience/enjoy in the South Quad open space in each season? (e.g., socializing, fitness activities, events, food trucks, outdoor classrooms)

Respondents desire a multifunctional space, one that brings people together to create a sense of community and supports a mix of structured and casual activities in all seasons.

Most often mentioned are

- Food trucks
- Student events and activities, markets, celebrations
- Performances and concerts
- Exercise equipment/fitness activities
- Outdoor classrooms

5. Is there anything that would make the space more comfortable or inviting for you to spend time in the South Quad open space? (e.g., shade, Wi-Fi, lighting, accessibility)

The vision of respondents is for a space that is comfortable, accessible, enhanced by nature, connected and inclusive.

Suggestions to make this possible are strong desires for windbreaks and other weather protection shelters and multiple seating options including picnic tables. In addition, appropriate lighting for safety, available Wifi, enhanced greenery and art are suggested.

Respondents reiterate the need for both all-season use and accessibility for all abilities.

6. Share your thoughts on the project planning principles. Did we get them right? What's missing?

When responding to the proposed planning principles the vast majority feel that the principles are well-guided, on the right track and comprehensive.

7. Is there anything additional that you would like to share?

When asked if there is anything additional to add, responses varied, but no key themes emerged.

ROUND 2

CONCEPT A

1. What do you like most and why?

Gathering, event spaces and amenities – There is strong support for the flat central plaza as a multi-use space that can accommodate events, performances and gatherings which are seen as essential to creating a lively and inclusive campus hub. Many respondents highlight the outdoor skating rink as a valuable winter amenity that encourages social interaction.

Cycling and active transportation – Dedicated bike lanes are supported for improving safety, reducing conflicts with pedestrians and providing a more efficient way to navigate the campus. Covered bike racks are a desired addition, though several respondents request increased visibility to deter theft.

Seating, accessibility and relaxation – Respondents appreciate the emphasis on varied, well-integrated seating—ranging from social stairs to eating areas to quiet, shaded nooks—highlighting how these address current campus shortages.

Green space, gardens and environmental features – Some respondents support the bioretention garden as both a sustainable stormwater solution and a beautiful, nature-integrated feature on campus. The integration of green spaces, including trees and shaded areas is appreciated for providing wind protection and creating calming retreats.

2. Are there any features/areas you feel are not necessary or would not be used/enjoyed?

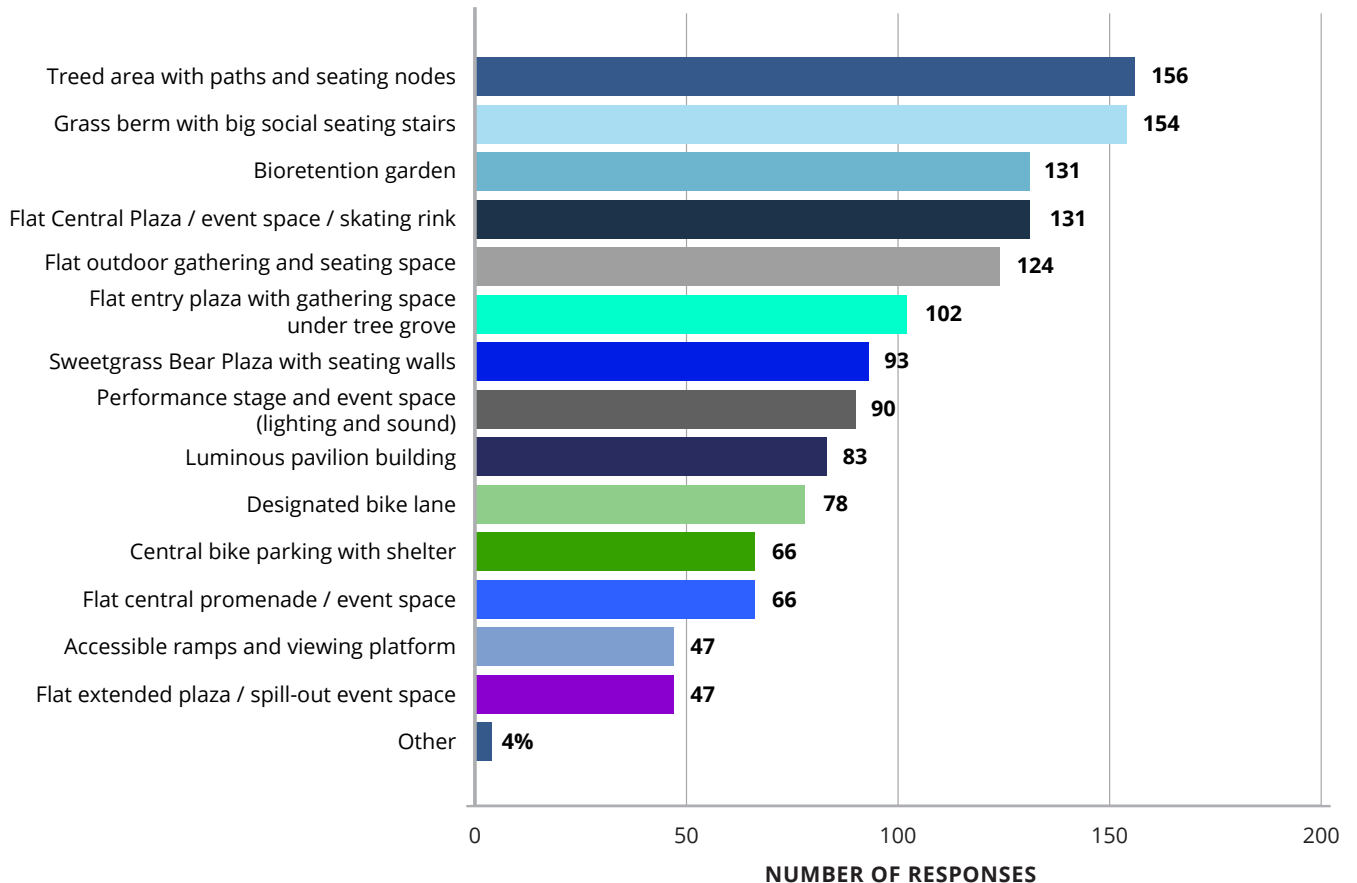
Gathering, event spaces and amenities – The flat central plaza and stage area draws some concern for its extensive use of Concrete. The general feeling is that it may become a hot, uninviting area that is underused outside of events and may be noisy/disruptive to the campus when in use. Some respondents feel the skating rink would be underused and costly to maintain.

The interactive floor lighting and decorative concrete walkways were mentioned by some as non-essential, expensive, high-maintenance and easily damaged.

The luminous pavilion building drew concerns by some due to its potential cost, maintenance requirements and that its placement would disrupt the natural movement through Quad.

Cycling and active transportation – The designated bike lanes are seen as unnecessary by some, noting that bike use is low especially during the winter months and there is the potential for them to become extensions of pedestrian walkways, leading to safety issues and conflicts.

3. What specific features/elements/areas do you see yourself enjoying/using most often? (choose all that apply)



4. Multifunctional space: What other ways can you envision this space being used?

- Respondents envision the space as a flexible, year-round venue for diverse uses including concerts, cultural performances, art displays, markets, food trucks and wellness activities like yoga or meditation.
- Many also hope it would support informal gatherings, studying, club events, outdoor classes and recreation.
- Some suggest the addition of features like community gardens or pop-up installations to promote engagement and make the space vibrant and inclusive.

5. Is there anything else you would like the Planning Study Team to consider adding? (think about how and when you would use the space, lighting, security, etc.)

Safety, security and accessibility consider:

- Lighting: for safety, wayfinding, ambiance, sidewalks, winter, events
- Security: CPTED principles, cameras, call buttons, building access, event security, bollards
- Safety concerns: open sightlines, blind spots, pedestrian/bike conflicts, protest controls, noise disturbance
- Accessibility and movement: direct routes, slip-resistant materials, ramps, wayfinding signage, pedestrian/cyclist navigation, clear winter accessibility and drainage planning

Gathering, comfort and year-round use consider:

- Seating and study: inclusive, cozy, winter-friendly seating, shaded areas, back supports, study spaces with power/WiFi
- Shelter and comfort: covered structures, heated areas, retractable roofs
- Plazas and quiet zones: quiet areas, noise barriers, windbreaks and noise buffers near the bus loop
- Winter use: heaters, snow/ice maintenance, wind/fume barriers, Sweetgrass Bear site buffered/enclosed

Green space and sustainability consider:

- Green design: more trees, less concrete, native landscaping, community gardens, bird houses
- Sustainability features: permeable pavement, bioretention, low impact development (LID), concrete heat concerns, tree health/preservation

Amenities and infrastructure consider:

- Functional infrastructure: washrooms, charging stations, water drinking fountains
- Skating rink: needs infrastructure support like skate rentals, heated changing areas
- Food and social: food trucks, café, market tables, running water
- Technology and miscellaneous: WiFi, campus wayfinding maps, garbage bins, dog stations, accessible/unmovable tables

Cultural identity, maintenance and cost consider:

- Culture and programming: Indigenous art, ceremonies, land acknowledgments
- Cost and maintenance: misuse, vandalism, deterioration, construction timing/expense

CONCEPT B

1. What do you like most and why?

Gathering, event spaces and amenities – Respondents appreciate the addition of a water feature for its calming, aesthetically pleasing presence and its winter transition to an ice sculpture, making it both functional and visually engaging throughout the seasons.

The amphitheatre and stage area are supported for their potential to host events like concerts and performances, creating an inviting space for campus gatherings. The transformation of the lawn gathering area into a skating rink in winter is seen to support activity in all seasons.

Cycling and active transportation – Respondents appreciate the natural flow and layout of the pathways, which some feel align with existing movement patterns. The design is seen to improve connections between key areas and encourage a calm, shared use of space for both pedestrians and cyclists.

Seating, accessibility and relaxation – Respondents like the seating proposed in this natural, green setting as it provides a calm, welcoming atmosphere. The amphitheatre, main lawn and shaded seating areas are seen as versatile and inviting for studying, relaxing and casual gatherings.

Green space, gardens and environmental features – The design is widely supported for its emphasis on greenery and natural landscaping, offering a calming, park-like atmosphere that has less concrete than Concept A. Respondents appreciate the inclusion of lawns, gardens, trees and biodiversity-friendly features, which contribute to a sustainable, visually appealing and peaceful environment.

2. Are there any features/areas you feel are not necessary or would not be used/enjoyed?

Gathering, event spaces and amenities – Some respondents are concerned the water feature/ice displays displaces green opportunities and would be costly to maintain and vulnerable to vandalism.

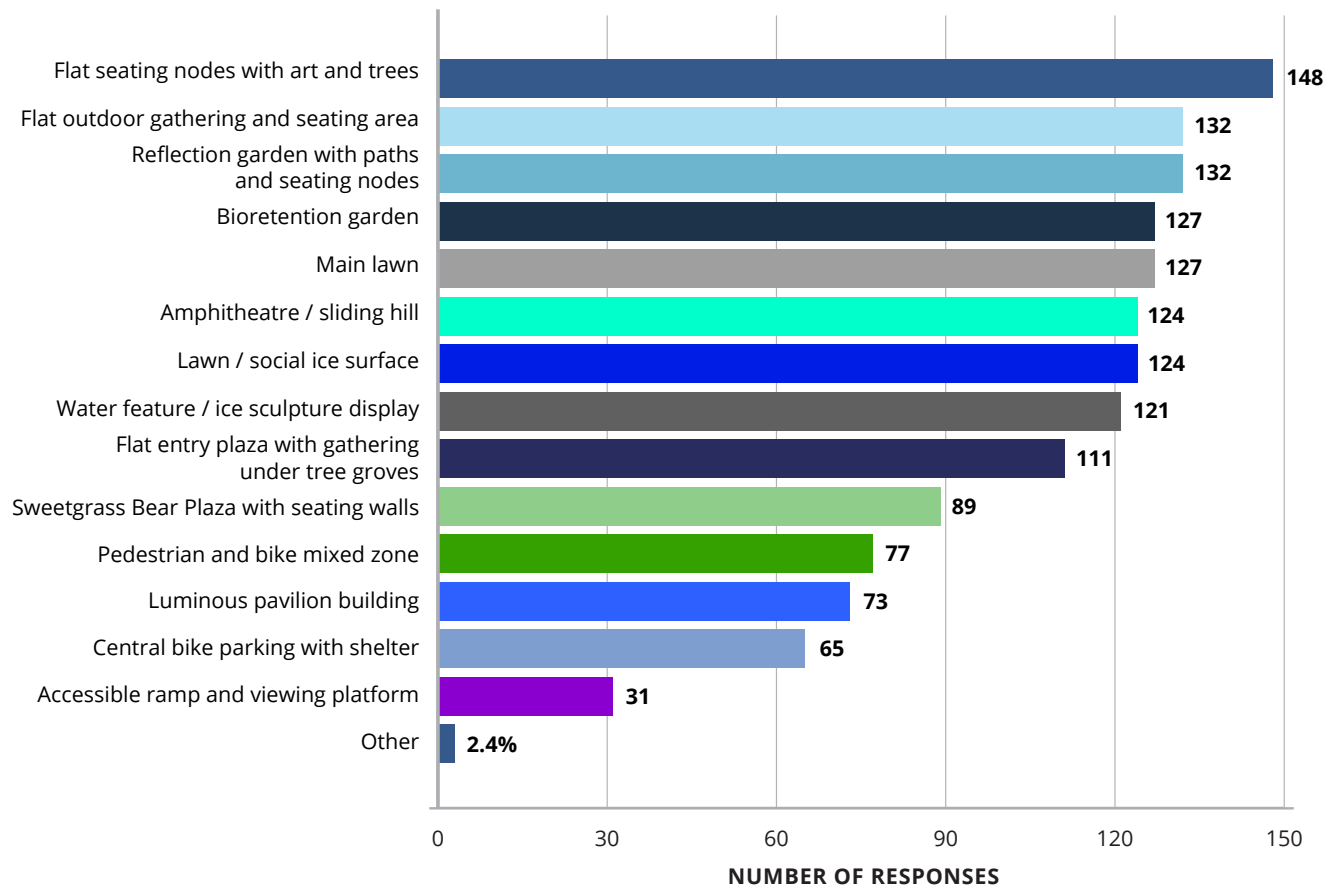
The social ice surface is described by some as too small, awkwardly shaped and unlikely to be useful; high maintenance costs are also a concern.

The interactive floor lighting, pavilion and sliding hill are seen by a few as not necessary, impractical and/or costly.

Cycling and active transportation – A few respondents express concern over shared-use spaces increasing bike/pedestrian conflicts and frustration over having indirect routes that slow movement, particularly for students navigating campus between classes.

Outdoor seating and furniture – Some respondents are concerned that much of the seating would be underused during colder months, becoming wet, snow-covered, and uncomfortable. Others note that movable furniture could be stolen, damaged and that placing tables and chairs on grass could damage the turf and complicate maintenance.

3. What specific features/elements/areas do you see yourself enjoying/using most often? (choose all that apply)



4. Multifunctional space: What types of programming or features would you like to see in this plaza to keep it vibrant and active year-round, even during colder seasons?

- Respondents suggest a wide range of year-round programming and features to keep the plaza vibrant, including concerts, student performances, art installations, food trucks, pop-up markets and cultural events in warmer months.
- For winter, many emphasize the need for skating rinks, warming shelters, hot drink kiosks, outdoor fire pits, light displays and interactive winter programming like snow sculpture contests, sledding or small festivals.

5. Is there anything else you would like the Planning Study Team to consider adding? (think about how and when you would use the space, lighting, security, etc.)

Safety, security and accessibility consider:

- Lighting: for safety
- Security: cameras, sight lines/blind spots, use Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, pavilion access control
- Pathways and circulation: directness, conflict points, wayfinding, pedway, pedestrian/bike conflicts, choke points/high traffic areas
- Accessibility needs: Students' Union Building (SUB) access, ramps, sidewalk type, bike access
- Bike movement and storage: cell activated storage, storage locations – visibility

Gathering, comfort and year-round use consider:

- Seating: quantity (more), tiered, shaded, unmovable
- Study spaces: with WiFi, power, covered
- Sheltered/covered spaces

Amenities, culture and seasonal use consider:

- General amenities: washrooms, fire pits, café, food trucks, map, skate rentals
- Winter readiness: heaters, windbreaks, protection
- Recreation: adult playground
- Cultural elements: Indigenous art/ceremonies, protest space, sculptures
- Unique features (pet-friendly, solar power, water feature design)

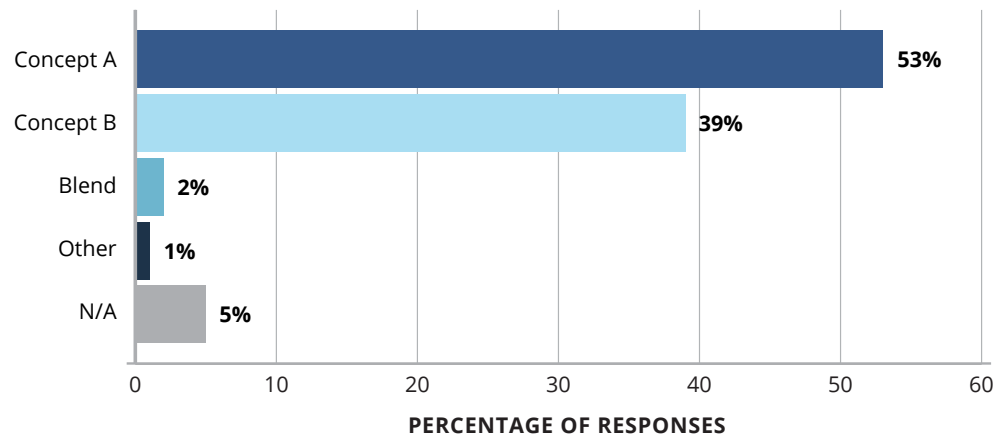
Environmental design, green space and sustainability consider:

- More greenery and nature: trees, native plants, bird houses, lawns
- Reduce concrete: increase permeable materials, reuse Administration Building bricks
- Community gardens and low impact development (LID)
- Sustainability concerns: allergies/pests, moss, save mature trees

Maintenance and lighting design consider:

- Lighting: ambience, aesthetics, warm/cool, ground, to bus stops, light pollution, rink lighting
- Maintenance issues: sidewalks, water feature, concrete

6. Considering users of both the pathways and the nearby open spaces, tell us which active transportation approach you prefer and why?



Respondents who prefer Concept A overwhelmingly value direct, separated pathways that support faster, safer and more efficient movement for both cyclists and pedestrians, particularly given the high volume of traffic between campus destinations. They feel dedicated bike lanes reduce conflict, prevent unsafe mixing of modes and reflect realistic student behavior (e.g., desire lines, rushing between classes), making Concept A the more practical, functional choice for a campus setting.

Respondents who prefer Concept B emphasize a slower, more relaxed pace that prioritizes pedestrian comfort, social interaction and a natural, green atmosphere. They feel a shared path approach reflects how the space is actually used—since pedestrians often ignore dedicated lanes—and avoids unnecessary infrastructure for cyclists, who they perceive as fewer in number. Many also appreciate that Concept B feels more inviting, park-like and conducive to gathering, rather than serving primarily as a transportation corridor.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Based on the feedback received and presented within this What We Heard report, a refined Concept Plan will be prepared and included within the final South Quad Planning Study report, expected to be completed in summer 2025.



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