

Key Site Issues

Based on the preceding analysis of the range of site and contextual conditions affecting Seattle University, certain key issues stand out as needing resolution under this master plan. These include:

1. Pedestrian Access to Campus:

Though much of the Seattle University main campus is closed to private vehicles, the structure of campus still hangs on the former public street grid of the surrounding city. The scale and appearance of these streets can be improved to minimize service vehicle access and create formal pedestrian-oriented corridors linking key campus buildings. Walking distances on campus are reasonable and most facilities are within a normal 5-minute walk but surrounding streetscapes can be improved for pedestrian comfort and to better link facilities like the Connolly Sports Complex with the main campus.

2. Campus Edges:

Where Seattle University once ‘turned its back’ on surrounding streets and neighborhoods, there is now an opportunity and a willingness to design new buildings to engage Broadway, Madison Street, 12th Avenue, James and Jefferson Streets and present a friendlier public face to the institution. The recently built School of Law and Lee Center for the Arts are two buildings that exemplify this new approach to the surrounding community, with ample windows and entries along the street and ground floor uses that invite participation in university activities. New buildings identified for this master plan can continue this trend. To the east of 12th Avenue, the campus occupies

several blocks within an area approved for future expansion. This plan offers an opportunity to formalize this area as part of the Seattle University campus and connect it physically and visually.

3. Campus Gateways:

The key gateways to the main campus (East Marion Street, East Columbia Street, Broadway and East James Street) can be improved with new signs, lighting and paving as well as landscape elements scaled to reflect the importance of the gateways. There may be a concurrent way to orchestrate arrival on campus to improve the initial impression of guests and visitors arriving from out of town.

4. Campus Parking

New conveniently located parking needs to be provided to accommodate students taking evening classes who drive to campus from their jobs and short-term visitors such as lecturers, professionals, and prospective students and their families. Surface lots such as the one adjacent to the Chapel of St. Ignatius represent an inefficient land use with significant aesthetic impacts, and should be replaced with well-designed structured parking with open space and buildings above. Creative ways to provide parking with a limited land base can be explored, such as building a garage under a refurbished Logan Field south of East James Street.



Improve campus edges.



Improve pedestrian paths.



Green over parking lots.

