

2022 Campus Master Plan



JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Acknowledgments

Thanks to all the faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of the University who provided their valued input into developing this plan.

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Introduction



Pre-1930

Purpose

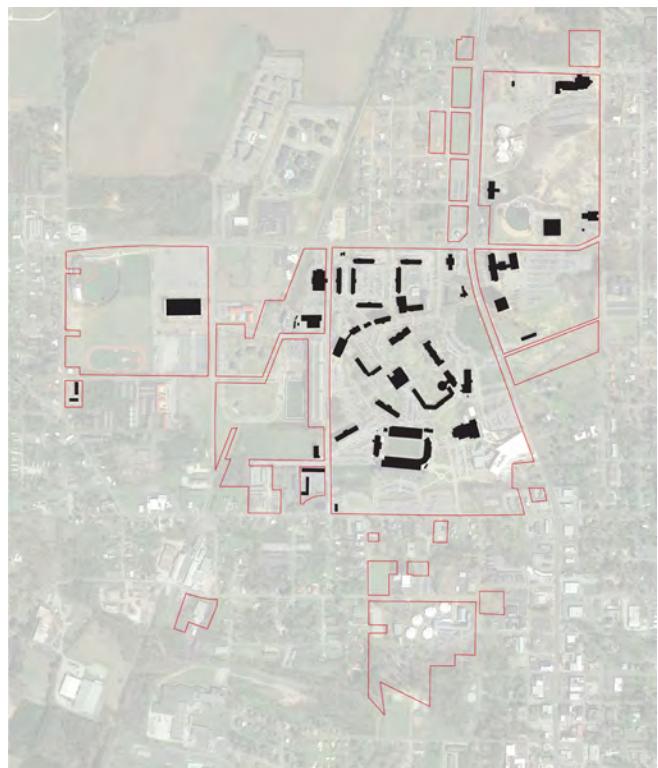
The Campus Master Plan is intended as a guide to the ongoing development, enhancement and preservation of the Jacksonville State University campus. It describes a long-term vision for the campus as a supportive environment for instruction, research and service. The campus plan sets out policies, strategies and priorities to inform investment in the campus over the next ten years to improve the character, function and efficiency of the campus and move the University ever closer to achieving its long-range vision for the campus.

Campus Evolution

Jacksonville State University began as the Jacksonville State Normal School in 1883 on a 12-acre plot just south of today's main campus. When it became the Jacksonville State Teachers College in 1930, the school transitioned to its current main campus centered around Bibb Graves Hall. Several other buildings were built during the 1930s, forming a quadrangle to serve as the school's primary open space. As the school continued to grow in its academic offerings, the campus expanded physically as well. New buildings for student housing, academic and auxiliary functions were built around the new core campus.

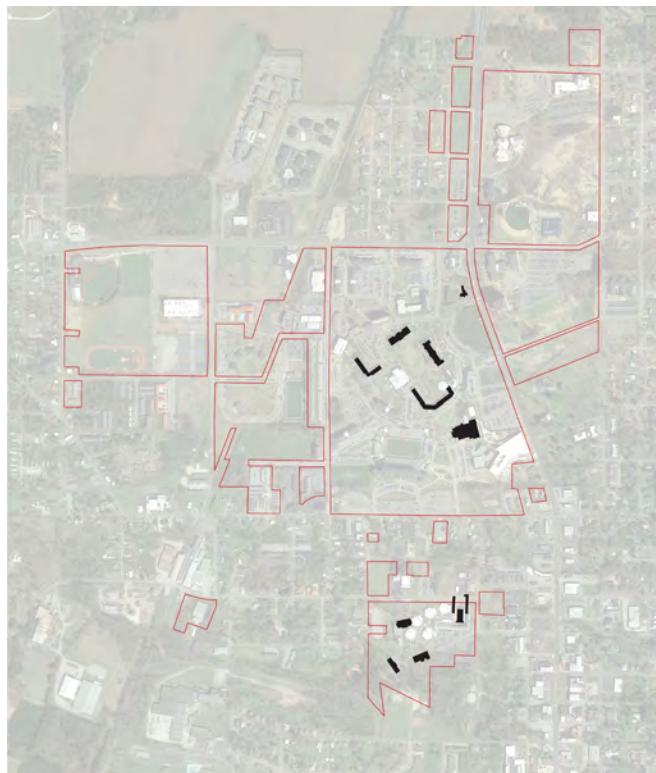
Soon after becoming Jacksonville State University in 1966, the campus expanded east across Pelham Road with the construction of Martin Hall. This was followed with the construction of other academic spaces on the east side of the highway – the Houston Cole Library, Brewer Hall, Merrill Hall, the McGee Science Center and the Stone Performing Arts Center. In the 1970s the University began acquiring several off-campus apartments including Penn House, which stretched the campus westward.

In the 2000s JSU added two satellite campuses-Little River Canyon Center, a facility shared with the National Park Service, and the McClellan Center (located on the former Ft. McClellan army base), which houses continuing education and other specialized instructional programs. JSU recently re-acquired the original site of the Normal School, which will become the new home of the College of Education and the nearby regional medical center, which will become the new home of Nursing.

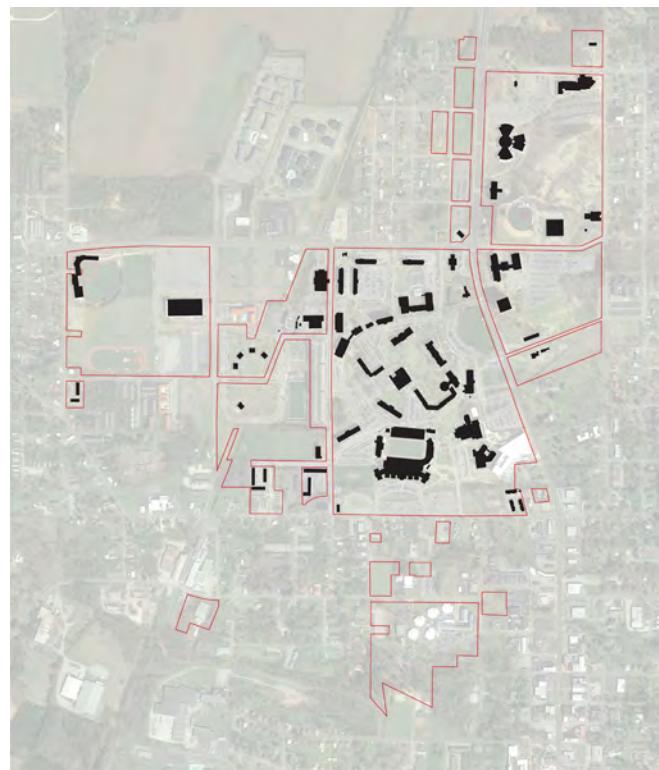
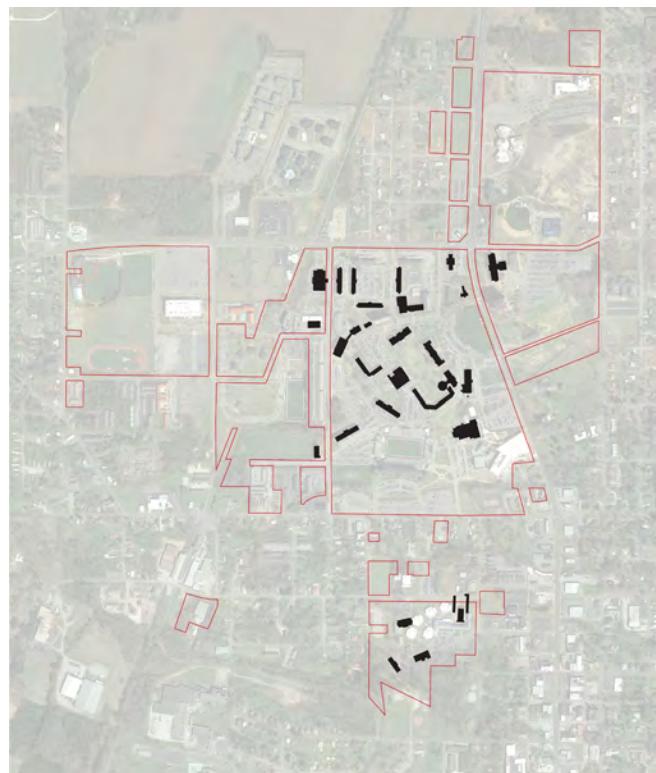


1970-1989

1930-1949



1950-1969



1990-2009



2010-Present

2018 Tornado

In 2018 the campus was hit by an EF3 tornado, which caused damage to approximately two-thirds of campus buildings. Due to the severity of tornado damage, the Alumni House and Merrill Hall were demolished; and Wallace Hall is also slated for demolition. As a result of the loss of these facilities, the functions housed within them have been temporarily located in existing buildings. Alumni Relations moved into the Kitty Stone complex. The College of Business and Industry moved there as well, but with the completion of the new Merrill Hall, is moving back into its own new facility. The nursing program took over two floors in the Cole Library but is moving into the former Regional Medical Center hospital. Major renovations to fully move the nursing program into the facility, which will become JSU's South Campus, are projected to be complete in 2023.

Other affected buildings received a variety of repairs and renovations after the tornado. Notable building renovations included extensive interior renovations of the Pete Mathews Coliseum and an addition to Mason Hall. And, in the midst of recovering from the tornado damage, the University built a new 100,000 sf Recreation and Fitness Center adjacent to Kennamer Hall. The center opened in early 2019.



Campus Vision

To guide the development of the campus master plan, the university community—faculty, staff, students and alumni—was asked to consider and describe a desired future for the campus. This was done through an online survey, interviews and small group meetings with university stakeholders and a visioning session with the campus master plan committee. The following is a summary of the visioning process. The elements of the vision are aspirational, describing an ideal future condition of the university campus.

Survey

The online survey was conducted in August and September 2021. The university invited students, faculty, staff, alumni and parents of current students to participate. The survey asked a range of questions to help understand how the campus is perceived today,

how it could be improved upon and how it should be in the future. 926 responses were received and evaluated—65% of the responses were from current undergraduate and graduate students, 32% from faculty and staff and the remainder from alumni and parents.

Asked to describe their vision for the campus, responses indicated a desire for growth, better and more on-campus housing, strong and expanded academic offerings, improvements and updates to academic and other buildings, better parking conditions, modernization and technology—which ranged from classroom technology to outdoor WiFi accessibility. Below is a graphic representation of the vision responses with the size of words and phrases increased based on their frequency among the responses.



More from the Survey

Asked to grade campus conditions, students rated academic and educational facilities similarly to on-campus housing—about 7 out of 10. Students rated on-campus dining somewhat lower at 6 out of 10 indicating a desire for a greater variety of food options.

Favorite spaces

Students and faculty named the library, the new recreation and fitness center and the Theron Montgomery Building as their favorite campus buildings. The central quad, Burgess Snow Stadium and the library terrace are the top outdoor spaces according to survey respondents.

How students get around campus

Both students living on- and off-campus indicated that they mostly drive to class. Only about 20% of on-campus students said they typically walk to class. A slightly higher percentage of out-of-town students who attend classes on campus mostly walk from class to class compared to in-town students living off-campus. Some out-of-town students explained that they tend to park in one or two relatively central locations during the day and walk to classes from that point. The high rate of driving to class explains the student body's interest in greater parking accommodations.

What needs improvement

Asked what aspects of campus need improvement, responses from faculty, staff and students were similar. The most common responses included:

- buildings need updating
- parking
- on-campus housing
- walkability
- open space
- dining
- library

How do you typically get to class?

	on-campus students	in-town students	out-of-town students
driving	69.7%	87.5%	75.4%
walking	20.2%	7.6%	7.7%
bicycle	0%	0%	0%
remote classes	6.1%	4.2%	13.1%
other	4.0%	0.7%	3.9%

My vision for the campus is...



Campus Development Principles

The following principles are intended to guide the development of the campus. They represent policies and best practices to guide physical investment in the campus to help achieve and maintain consistency with the campus vision.

The campus is planned and designed as an immersive environment that supports the holistic development of students.

Campus functions are arranged to enable synergy and collaboration, optimize walkability and support efficiency in continued growth.

The campus projects a beautiful, welcoming image through historic and sensitively designed buildings and lush, well maintained open space.

Primary academic functions are located together to create a walkable, vibrant academic hub.

Buildings are designed to form and activate usable, legible open spaces.

A variety of indoor and outdoor spaces are provided for students to study, collaborate and enjoy their time on the campus.

The campus is designed to meet the needs of residential and commuter students equitably.

Parking is provided economically and located at the perimeter to limit vehicular traffic in the campus core.

The campus is interconnected by a comprehensive network of walkways and bicycle facilities.

Technology and supporting infrastructure is provided throughout the campus to support instruction, learning and collaboration.

