

Section 3

VISION, GUIDING PRINCIPLES, AND GOALS

3.1 PLANNING PROCESS AND DECISION-MAKING FRAMEWORK

The decision-making framework for this Specific Plan was determined by a Master Plan Committee which met together for a period of two years to formulate the principles, goals and objectives that will guide the next two decades of APU's campus development. The committee was composed of representatives from APU's Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, staff, students, and a representative from the City of Azusa's Economic and Community Development Department. Vital input was provided by community meetings with Azusa residents, numerous meetings with City officials, and questionnaires and surveys of APU students, faculty, and staff. Planning, engineering, and technical guidance was provided by the consultant team of AC Martin Partners, EIP Associates, Kaku Associates, and G&W Consulting Electrical Engineers.

The planning process for the Specific Plan began with the University Mission:

Azusa Pacific University is an evangelical Christian community of disciples and scholars who seek to advance the work of God in the world through academic excellence in liberal arts and professional programs of higher education that encourage students to develop a Christian perspective of truth and life.

The University also developed a Vision for the future of the APU campus that served as the major overarching campus design goals for the Planning process:

- The East and West campuses will support a balanced allocation of students between the two sites. Classrooms, libraries, research and study areas, chapel facilities, student housing, dining, recreational opportunities, athletics, and parking will be developed on each site.
- As an important institution in the Azusa community, APU seeks to strengthen its ties with the community as facilitated through the campus physical plan.
- Seventy percent of the undergraduate student population will be accommodated in University-sponsored housing; eighty

percent of the freshmen shall live in traditional dormitory-style residences. This policy remains a critical component of the APU experience and is significant in developing campus community.

- Student-oriented open spaces are a necessary balance to buildings. A significant component of both the East and West campuses will be both indoor and outdoor informal gathering spaces and areas for intramural athletics.
- APU aspires to develop a physical campus with an aesthetic quality that includes significant open spaces and mature landscaping commensurate with the nation's finest institutions of higher learning.

The consultant team, in conjunction with the Master Plan Committee, articulated a series of Planning Principles to guide the development of the Master Plan. Utilizing the Planning Principles (detailed below), and after analysis of a number of alternative plans, it was determined that the current 105.46-acre campus, can support an undergraduate population of approximately 5,260 undergraduate students and a graduate population of 3,224 students, when developed with a full complement of academic, administrative, student housing, sports, recreational circulation, and parking facilities.

3.2 PLANNING PRINCIPLES

The Planning Principles articulated below represent the essential directions used to create the APU campus Specific Plan 2003. These Principles were used to guide the functional and aesthetic form for the APU campus. The Principles focus on the physical design of the campus, including the arrangement, distribution, and association of land uses, circulation systems, buildings, open spaces, and facilities upon the APU sites.

Principle 1: The APU Campus is designed to reinforce the University's educational mission.

APU aspires to the highest standards of academic excellence. The physical campus can express the University's status in the educational community and serve as the symbol of excellence for its students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

Equally important, the physical campus is a potent instrument of the educational process. The University recognizes that the essential and integrative university experiences take place not only in classrooms but at meals, in spiritual settings, in residential areas, through informal and chance encounters, and in the course of recreational activities. The physical campus provides the setting for these experiences to be shared by students, faculty, staff, and campus guests. The design of the APU campus allows for the full expression of these integral experiences.

OBJECTIVES FOR THE REINFORCEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL MISSION

- Develop a campus land use plan that allows flexibility to respond to changing educational needs and programs over the life of the plan.
- Create campus precincts that incorporate similar and compatible uses.

- Create a balanced campus environment by distributing the primary land uses (Academic/Administrative; Student Housing/Recreation; Athletics; Campus Open Space; and Parking/Circulation/Service) between both East and West Campuses.
- Incorporate a hierarchy of pedestrian circulation and generous open space areas that encourages opportunities for interaction among faculty, staff, students, and guests.

Principle 2: APU's connection to the surrounding community will be expressed in its design.

Community is one of the four cornerstones of the University and is a significant component of APU's institutional culture. APU's Mission Statement defines the University as a "community of disciples and scholars." Included in that community are the City and citizens of Azusa with whom the University has had a time-honored relationship. The University wishes to continue serving as a resource to the community, and an important focus of this Specific Plan is the physical expression of the link between APU and the Azusa community. This link is reinforced by the development of an integrated and open campus that invites APU's neighbors in; encourages students, faculty, and staff to actively engage with the community; and supports the entire community to develop a lifelong love of learning. These physical and programmatic connections to the community also provide students with opportunities to fulfill their mission of Service, a second cornerstone of the University.

OBJECTIVES FOR COMMUNITY CONNECTION

- Provide views into the campus that are open and welcoming to the Azusa community.
- Provide visual corridors and openings into the campus from the public edge and ensure that entrances to the University are significant, safe, and functional.
- Place campus land use areas and zones to maximize compatibility with adjacent and abutting land uses of surrounding properties.
- Use landscaped edges and open space vistas into the campus from the community, particularly from Foothill Boulevard and Citrus and Alostia Avenues.
- Develop visual and pedestrian access into the campus that facilitates connections with surrounding neighborhoods and community access to APU.
- Sensitively deploy building design, heights, and setbacks at the public edges of the campus to "fit," complement, and be compatible with the adjacent neighborhoods in the City.
- Design and manage parking facilities, internal circulation systems, and access to the campus in ways that encourage pedestrian and transit modes of transportation and access.
- Create a safe campus environment for students, faculty, staff, and guests.
- Make efforts to conserve natural resources and protect the environment.
- Minimize adverse impacts upon the surrounding neighborhood that are related to the use of the APU campus.

- Where appropriate, integrate APU's facility needs with those of the neighboring community, fostering opportunities for joint usage, such as community oriented retail uses on campus.

Principle 3: Open space is used as one of the primary tools for organizing the APU Campus.

Open space is traditionally used to define and plan a university campus. Open space is as integral and essential a component of the APU campus as are the buildings, and the designation and articulation of open space is the primary framework that determines the use of land on the campus. The Plan incorporates a linked series of "outdoor rooms" that support the University's Mission by providing spaces for academic, recreational, spiritual, social, and other campus activities, and that serve everyday life on the campus.

Open space areas, through their landscape and hardscape elements and their site furnishings, provide perceptual continuity and unity within and between campuses. Open space also serves to orient users and visitors to the campus and, in conjunction with identity markers, demarcates clear entry points and gateways to the University.



OBJECTIVES FOR THE DESIGN OF OPEN SPACE

- Develop a series of interconnected pedestrian-oriented open spaces that include quadrangles, courtyards, open lawns, and pedestrian malls and walkways formed and framed by existing and planned buildings and by landscape.
- Provide a variety of spatial experiences by way of variations in size, programmed use of open spaces, architectural treatment of building facades, and landscape.
- Create a range of decentralized open space areas throughout the campus that promote individual and group study; reflection, meditation and worship; large and small gatherings; individual encounters; and active and passive recreation.
- Establish open spaces that are well connected to compatible adjacent indoor spaces.
- Use open space areas to create and define vistas and view windows within the campus and views into the campus from the community.
- Create open spaces and related features such as landscape that form visual and functional transitions between the campus and the community.

Principle 4: The APU Campus character is defined by landscape.

The hallmark of a university campus is the harmonious interconnection among buildings, open space, and landscape. The quality of the landscape and its component parts contributes significantly to the aesthetic character of the campus by reinforcing the integrative role of open space, creating connections between landscape and structures, and producing a comfortable and human-scaled setting for educational activities.

OBJECTIVES FOR THE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF LANDSCAPE

- Use landscaping throughout the campus as visual and connective elements that serve to modulate building scale, create a continuous sequence of outdoor rooms, and provide summer shade.
- Make use of consistent landscape materials to provide integration and visual connection between East and West Campuses and to harmonize varying architectural styles.
- Preserve and encourage mature landscape, where appropriate, to reinforce APU’s historic role as an integral part of the Azusa community.
- Support the creation of an aesthetically pleasing and functional pedestrian environment through the use of enhanced paving and hardscape materials, a well-conceived “way finding” system including signs and other visual clues, landscaping, focal points, and building features.
- Develop landscape areas to include lighting, seating, and site furniture to reinforce programmed and informal uses.
- Create a consistent landscape theme and character (plant palette, paving materials, light fixtures, site furniture) to emphasize the design of open-space areas and to reinforce key pedestrian connections and gathering areas.
- Establish an inviting, pleasant public edge by setting buildings back from major public streets and providing ample landscaping in these setback areas.



3.3 OTHER DEFINING CRITERIA FOR THE SPECIFIC PLAN

Other defining criteria are included and elaborated within this Specific Plan in Section 4 (Development Plan), Section 5 (Development Standards), and Section 6 (Design Guidelines). These sections provide further information regarding land use, circulation, parking, infrastructure, design guidelines, and City of Azusa-related goals and requirements.



Public input into the Specific Plan