Dear Friends,

Elon has one of the nation’s finest collegiate environments, a campus that supports collaboration and sparks bold ideas. Elon values planning, creating synchronized institutional strategic plans and facilities master plans that support the university’s mission. The 2017 Elon University Campus Master Plan builds on two prior campus master plans to envision a bold framework for the future development of our iconic environment for learning.

This plan will guide the next phase of campus growth, with new academic and residential quads, expanded business and science facilities, new residential facilities, and a renewed historic core of campus. Most importantly, the plan will undergird efforts to build the nation’s premier student-centered intellectual community that transforms mind, body, and spirit.

In the coming years, we will:

• Open a unique School of Communications campus with the new Dwight C. Schar Hall, Snow Grand Atrium, Steers Pavilion, and a renovated McEwen Building
• Build the 5400-seat Schar Center as a gathering place for our community, a venue for major events and the home arena for Phoenix basketball and volleyball
• Expand the Love School of Business with Richard W. Sankey Hall, with flexible classrooms and engagement spaces for students in all majors, and home to the Doherty Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, the Chandler Family Professional Sales Center, and new centers in financial education and analytics
• Provide new and updated facilities to support excellence in teaching, learning, and research in the sciences with a new facility for physics and engineering, and renovated McMichael Sciences Building housing biology, chemistry, biochemistry, and environmental sciences
• Deepen our commitment to living and learning at Elon by building additional first-year student residence halls along with sophomore, junior, and senior special-interest housing; completing $22 million in renovations to the Historic Neighborhood residence halls; increasing the number of campus dining venues, and adding a new Historic Neighborhood student commons building to ensure a stimulating 24/7 intellectual environment
• Continue planning for additional academic facilities and spaces as programs develop and the university grows
• Enhance and expand downtown Elon with new buildings and ventures
• Continue, as in past campus master plans, to move parking to the periphery of campus; and enhance the tight-knight and compact core of campus that is walkable and pedestrian-friendly.

We greatly appreciate the involvement and vision of the many students, faculty, staff, alumni, Trustees, neighbors, and parents who helped to shape this plan. I look forward to the future of our rich learning environment that fuels the transformation of students to become the leaders our world needs.

Best,

Leo M. Lambert
President
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Planning Process

The Campus Master Plan team engaged a variety of stakeholders to build a consensus regarding the future of Elon’s campus, set goals for campus development, and synthesize these into a final Master Plan. Guiding the process, a Steering Team met regularly to review progress and provide recommendations about the development of the Master Plan. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the University, the team met with student groups, the University’s Board of Trustees, and thematic focus groups such as student life, finance and administration, academic departments, facilities operations, admissions and outreach, and campus sustainability.
The planning process was structured through four overlapping phases that brought together people and information necessary to craft a plan for Elon’s future.

**Observations**

The first phase involved collecting quantitative data on existing campus conditions while observing its qualitative aspects. The analysis of this information provided a comprehensive picture of the campus and identified constraints and opportunities unique to Elon.

**Concepts**

The insights gained through the first phase were used to develop a set of guiding principles that reflect the culture, setting, and strategic goals of Elon University. These principles set the groundwork for conceptual planning. The conceptual framework diagrammatically conveyed broad planning ideas and strategies to guide campus development.

**Campus Improvements**

Working within the conceptual framework, multiple options for near-term priorities, mid-term projects, and long-term visions were tested. Future needs were identified in the following areas: campus renewal, new construction, parking solutions, and circulation improvements.

**Final Plan**

The Final Plan refines and builds upon ideas generated in previous phases, providing recommendations for campus transformations. The plan outlines a vision of the campus that supports the University’s unique mission and strategic plan, as well as a series of near-term projects to support immediate campus needs.
Planning Context

Elon University’s planning for physical growth benefits from a strong legacy of transformational strategic planning. The beauty of its campus lies in its elegant quadrangles, stately architecture, and the generations of students they have sustained through Elon’s commitment to a student-centered campus experience.
Campus History

Since its founding in 1889, Elon’s has forged a reputation based on the core values of close relationships between faculty and students, a culture that supports constant innovation, and a strong sense of community. These values are supported by the University’s elegant 636-acre campus.

When fire destroyed the University’s Main Building in 1923, it set the stage for the construction of the five buildings which operate today as the University’s symbolic and functional heart—Alamance Building, Duke Building, Mooney Building, Whitley Auditorium, and Carlton Library. Increasing enrollment following World War II prompted the construction of Alumni Memorial Gymnasium, the University’s first facility north of Haggard Avenue. This steady growth transformed Elon into an increasingly residential campus such that by 1966, the mixed-use campus core looked much as it does today, with the exception of noteworthy landscape improvements.

To sustain steady growth and a rising commitment to the residential student experience, Elon continued to expand northward, constructing residence life facilities at Harper Center, Story Center, and on the current site of The Oaks. Alumni Gym was expanded to provide additional athletic and recreational facilities. During this period, Elon also completed numerous landscape improvement projects, including the iconic Fonville Fountain that anchors the quad north of Alamance Hall.

During the final decade and a half of the twentieth century, Elon completed four significant construction projects immediately north of Haggard Avenue: Moseley Student Center, Belk Library, Koury Athletics Center, and a major addition to Alumni Gym. These four facilities frame an extended central quad which physically and symbolically roots the University’s expansion in its historic core.

Since the beginning of the twenty-first century, campus development has focused on redeveloping and improving connectivity to the campus periphery and strategically acquiring facilities near the campus edge to support measured growth. Through thoughtful, deliberate growth, the campus retains the feeling of a tightly-knit community while providing the advantages of a larger university community.
The Campus Today

Elon’s campus reflects the forethought of its leaders who, nearly a decade ago, approved an ambitious, 10-year, $586-million strategic plan. The recently completed Global Neighborhood, Lakeside Dining Hall, and Colonnades residence halls represent significant investments in Elon’s innovative living-learning mission. These initiatives seek to foster inclusivity by unifying diverse populations of students through communal social and learning spaces.

In addition to improving social and residential spaces, the University has pursued strategic expansions of its academic facilities. The Gerald L. Francis Center, opened in 2012, houses the University’s Health Science programs while providing an eastern gateway to campus along Haggard Avenue. Schar Hall and Steer Pavilion, opened in Fall 2016, support an expansion of Elon’s Communications programs and strengthen the University’s presence along Williamson Avenue in downtown Elon.

By extending its architectural legacy, Elon has managed to expand and improve its campus while retaining its intimate, collegiate and historic character. Through balancing growth and creating living-learning communities, Elon has added capacity without diminishing the qualities of the student experience.
Principles for Future Development

Four foundational principles drive the comprehensive vision of the Master Plan. These ideas were identified through the campus analysis, clarified through a process of consensus-building with the University community and Steering Committee, and are embodied by the conceptual framework. Future development should strive to reinforce and promote these four ideas:

Incremental Growth
Elon will continue to grow slowly. It will seek to acquire strategically located property and provide additional teaching, activity, and living space to accommodate a slightly larger institution.

Intimate Residential Campus
By maintaining an intimate atmosphere, students and learning will remain the focus of the university. The residential nature of the campus is a key component of the Elon experience and supports the powerful relationships that advance student learning. New facilities must provide a scale and design that blends with the campus architectural aesthetic.

Academic Excellence
Elon will have a nationally distinctive academic mission and the campus will enjoy a broadly-based national reputation.

Connected and Coherent Campus
Elon will remain committed to extending campus green spaces, expanding the pedestrian nature of the campus, and locating parking at the campus periphery. The university and the town will develop a common approach for vehicle and pedestrian traffic, signage, landscaping, and community aesthetics.
Campus Strategies

Six core strategies define the Campus Master Plan conceptual framework. These strategies build on the campus’ history, advance the guiding principles and provide a coherent structure for future landscape, building, and infrastructure projects.

1. Preserve Ecological Assets
2. Expand Mix-Use Campus Core
3. Clarify Road Network
4. Extend Network of Open Space
5. Strengthen and Connect Edge Neighborhoods
6. Support a Vibrant Downtown Elon
1 Preserve Ecological Assets

This master plan affirms the University’s 2015 Sustainability Master Plan by supporting a multi-modal, pedestrian-centered campus. Key drivers include maintaining green strategies around land use, landscaping, tree cover, irrigation, and habitat preservation. Elon is committed to protecting campus riparian systems, continuing to capture and reuse stormwater runoff for campus irrigation, and identifying opportunities to preserve woodlands and other natural ecosystems.

In addition to guarding local ecological resources, this master plan supports Elon’s commitment to global sustainability, preserving Loy Farm as a laboratory for local energy and food production as the campus seeks to decrease its contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.

2 Expand Mixed-Use Campus Core

Through incremental growth, Elon has expanded its campus core from the roughly 25 acres adjacent to Alamance Hall to approximately 65 acres stretching north to Moseley Center and east to the Academic Village. In coming decades, Elon should seek out unique opportunities to grow adjacent to the campus core. Elon Elementary School, East Gym, and adjacent sites represent up to 40 acres which, through acquisitions and integrated planning, will help sustain Elon’s growth. A balanced mixture of academic buildings, student residence halls, and student life facilities extends the atmosphere of the historic core and ensures that future development continues to support a vibrant student-centered identity.
Pedestrian safety, campus connectivity, and pedestrian accessibility are key to sustaining Elon’s growth. This master plan unifies Phoenix Drive with portions of Williamson Avenue, Lebanon Avenue, and Oak Avenue as an inner campus loop road to reduce through-traffic on Haggard Avenue as it crosses the campus core. In the long-term, a connector to University Drive at either the eastern or western edge of Danieley Center could provide an outer campus loop road and further remove vehicles from the campus core.

Potential streetscape improvements across campus promote pedestrian connectivity within the campus core and adjacent campus neighborhoods while extending Elon’s identity along key gateway routes.

Elon’s quads serve as the foundation of its residential campus. New open spaces have anchored successive campus expansions and contribute to a sense of connectivity and identity. The pedestrian paths, street networks, and bike infrastructure that link these spaces are equally important to building a cohesive campus. This Master Plan strengthens and integrates circulation across campus, extends and connects quads and open spaces, and leverages pedestrian crossroads to facilitate informal activity.
5 Strengthen and Connect Edge Neighborhoods

While this master plan leverages sites on and adjacent to the campus core for growth, it simultaneously extends connectivity between the campus core and the campus perimeter precincts. Pedestrian spines link the iconic landscapes of Elon’s central quads to Danieley Center, Arts West, and South Campus. New or enhanced green spaces within each of these edge neighborhoods provide a hierarchy of gathering spaces across campus and opportunities for external identity.

6 Support a Vibrant Downtown Elon

The master plan affirms the relationship between Elon University and Downtown Elon, capitalizing on Downtown’s proximity to the University’s performing arts and athletics facilities to sustain a broad mixture of year-round activity. Amenities should support the University’s student population and the wide variety of people who have made Elon their home.
Implementation Plan

The master plan consists of four sets of projects:

Near-Term Priorities:
Projects that the University should aim to complete within the next 5 to 8 years to meet existing needs.

Elon Elementary Site
A unique opportunity to transform Elon by building immediately adjacent to Elon’s Campus Core.

Medium-term Projects
Projects which the University can complete within the next 8 to 15 years for measured growth.

Long-term Projects
Opportunities for long-range growth through targeted redevelopment in the campus core and new facilities in perimeter precincts.
Parking Strategy

Elon currently has approximately 5,100 parking spaces spread out in 40 lots. In order to support projected growth, the master plan accommodates approximately 6,200 parking spaces across campus.

The master plan recommends relocating large parking lots at the campus core to support future growth and promote pedestrian connectivity. New and existing parking lots near the campus core provide adequate parking for faculty and staff commuters and visitors. Where possible, student parking is provided within its residential neighborhoods. The master plan also recommends larger satellite parking lots near the campus periphery for student residents who do not regularly require vehicular access.
Campus Neighborhood Plans

Elon’s campus is composed of unique and interconnected neighborhoods. The master plan characterizes defining elements of each neighborhood, identifies key issues, and outlines key projects for future development.
Elon’s campus core dates back to 1923, when fire destroyed the University’s Main Building. The Alamance, Duke, Mooney, and Carlton Buildings along with Whitley Auditorium serve as the symbolic and functional heart of campus. Buildings have been incrementally added at the campus core, resulting in an intimate setting of stately brick buildings and open spaces lined with a mature tree canopy.

The master plan recommends preserving the campus core much as it is today. Sites are targeted where modest building projects can support student and academic life without impacting the qualities of the environment. Most importantly, Sankey Hall, a new Science building, and an addition to Belk Library extend Elon’s open space across O’Kelly Avenue, tying the campus core to a potential expansion site at Elon Elementary school.
Near-Term Priorities

Belk Library Addition Phase I
A 12,000 square foot addition to Belk Library provides expanded study space, academic advising, and an Interactive Design Thinking classroom.

LaRose Student Commons
The master plan reserves a site for a 10,000 square foot student commons. When complete, LaRose Student Commons will house gathering and event spaces as well as offices for Residence Life staff.

Sankey Hall
A 30,000 square foot facility houses classrooms, collaboration spaces, and cross-disciplinary research centers for the Love School of Business.

Haggard Avenue Streetscape
This master plan recommends improvements to Haggard Avenue’s streetscape to address vehicle-pedestrian conflicts, reduce crossing distances, and calm vehicular traffic as it traverses the campus core.

Physical Science Building Phase I
A 30,000 to 45,000 square foot academic building accommodates growth in Elon’s science programs, demand for smart classrooms, and specialized teaching labs.

McEwen Dining Hall
Demand for student dining options at the campus core is likely to follow growth of academic programs. A 10,000 to 15,000 square foot addition to McEwen Dining not only adds capacity but also connects the campus edge with downtown Elon.
### Medium-Term Projects

**Belk Library Addition Phase II**
The Master Plan recommends reserving a site east of the Phase I addition to further expand Belk Library.

**Physical Sciences Building Phase II**
The Master Plan recommends reserving a site for expansion of the proposed Physical Science building to sustain program growth for future generations.

### Long-Term Projects

**Historic Core Infill**
The long-term master plan targets strategic sites within the campus core for measured infill development. A site just north of the Carlton Building provides a unique opportunity to clarify the University’s central open space and improve connectivity between the northern and southern halves of the campus core.
East Campus accommodates a mixture of administrative, support, and recreational uses as well as non-university owned housing. Powell Tennis Center, Sklut Hillel Center, and Powell House are well suited to the precinct’s proximity to the Campus Core. Through strategic investments, much of the twenty-acre precinct can be transformed to integrate with Elon’s vibrant campus core. In the near-term, East Gym is slated to be replaced with residence halls serving 300 to 400 underclass students. This initial phase supports long-term plans for a larger quad of student housing along Oak and Haggard Avenues. Finally, the long-term vision defines a site at the southwest edge of the precinct for an academic building, taking advantage of adjacencies to the Campus Core and South Campus.
Near-Term Priorities

East Campus Residence Halls Phase I
As part of its strategic plan, Elon has built upon its reputation for deeply integrated academic, residential, and social experiences. The master plan targets the East Gym site for redevelopment to house 300 underclass students.

East College Avenue Pedestrianization
As East Campus absorbs more University-related activity, this master plan recommends converting East College Avenue into a pedestrian path capable of handling service vehicles.

Medium-Term Projects

East Campus Academic Building
The site at the southwest corner of the precinct is an important node between the Campus Core, East Campus, and South Campus. The long-term master plan reserves this site for an academic building, providing a meaningful gateway between these three precincts and accommodating academic expansion at the Campus Core.

East Campus Residence Halls Phase II
The master plan recommends additional housing investments within East Campus to build capacity at the Campus Core.
The site of Elon Elementary School represents a major strategic expansion site for the University. In its current form, the Elementary Site acts as a barrier to north-south circulation. By acquiring the site, relocating the Elementary School, and developing a mixture of academic and residence life facilities on the 20 acre site, Elon can accommodate a new precinct roughly the size and composition of the existing Historic Neighborhood.

The master plan proposes a major east-west quad linking existing and proposed buildings on the Campus Core to the heart of the Elementary Site. A major north-south quad provides connections from the Colonnades, through the Elementary Site and to East Campus. Together, these open spaces greatly enhance pedestrian circulation across campus. A dining hall and student commons anchor these two quads, supporting two major academic buildings and a significant residential neighborhood.
Over the past 15 years, Elon has gradually acquired properties on South Campus, many of which were formerly occupied by Elon Homes for Children. A railroad underpass, which opened in 2010, provides safe pedestrian access to the campus core, making this a desirable precinct for future growth. The precinct houses a dynamic mixture of athletic and recreation facilities, administrative offices, and academic facilities but lacks the strong sense of identity found elsewhere on campus.

The master plan preserves many of the precinct’s existing facilities while focusing new student housing development along Trollinger Avenue and Antioch Avenue to enhance connectivity and outward identity. Student support spaces such as a gym and long-term expanded Health and Wellness Center physically and programmatically align the precinct with the broader campus context and amplify its existing assets.

1. South Campus Neighborhood
2. Ellington Health and Wellness Expansion
3. South Campus Gym
Near-Term Priorities

South Campus Neighborhood Phase I
The master plan recommends a precinct of townhouses providing up to 200 upperclass students with an independent living community. Four buildings with twenty-two townhouse-style units front Trollinger and Antioch Avenue, taking advantage of the site’s proximity to the campus core. Proximity to adjacent athletics and recreation facilities suggests a recreation-themed housing community.

South Campus Gym
The South Campus Recreation Center provides recreation space to replace those on the site of the East Campus Residence Halls. Its location not only anchors proposed housing on South Campus but also provides amenity space that would build synergies between East Campus, Historic Neighborhoods, South Campus, and the Station at Mill Point.

Mid-Term Projects

South Campus Neighborhood Phase II
The mid-term master plan recommends the eventual replacement of Truitt Hall with up to twenty-six additional upperclass housing units in six additional buildings.

Ellington Health Expansion
A site is reserved to expand Ellington Center for Health and Wellness to accommodate increased demands that may accompany enrollment growth.

Long-Term Projects
Since the first buildings opened in 1989, Danieley Center has grown to accommodate approximately 800 students. The recently opened PARC and an addition to the student commons building has helped add vibrancy to the neighborhood. Though the precinct is relatively close to the Campus Core, the Colonnades parking lot makes Danieley center feel separate and isolated.

The master plan proposes redeveloping the Colonnades parking lot to provide a direct pedestrian connection between Danieley and the Campus Core. Throughout the precinct, new residence halls and an expanded Daniel Commons create more defined open spaces. Along with a residential village for upper-class housing on the southeast side of Lake Verona, these projects help create a stronger neighborhood identity and a stronger University presence along Haggard Avenue.

- New Residence Halls
- Expanded Daniel Commons
- New Residential Village
Elon University Campus Master Plan

Danieley Residence Halls
This master plan targets the Colonnades parking lot as a critical site for expanding and diversifying on-campus housing options. Not only does this site take advantage of the many amenities at Danieley Center, it also strengthens connectivity between Danieley Center and the Colonnades.

Daniel Commons Expansion
In order to sustain growth at Danieley Center, the master plan reserves a site for the expansion on Daniel Commons for student activity and dining. Its location activates the precinct’s new quad and re-orients the facility to the dominant pedestrian spine between Danieley Center and the Colonnades.

Medium-Term Projects

Long-Term Projects

Danieley Center
Upperclass Housing
The long-term master plan reserves the site between Lake Verona and Haggard Avenue for the construction of a new village for upper-class students.

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Medium-Term Projects

Long-Term Projects

Danieley Center
Upperclass Housing
The long-term master plan reserves the site between Lake Verona and Haggard Avenue for the construction of a new village for upper-class students.
The West Haggard corridor and Downtown Elon provide natural campus gateways when arriving from the south and west. The cluster of shops and restaurants along North Williamson and West Lebanon contribute to a vibrant campus experience. Though Elon University and Downtown Elon are related to one another, the master plan supports initiatives that support year-round activity. Development downtown should be mixed-use in nature with retail and dining on the ground floors and housing and offices on the upper levels. A broad mixture of housing typologies should attract not only upper-class students but also young professionals to ensure Downtown Elon can sustain a wide variety of amenities.
Near-Term Priorities

Town Green
The master plan reserves the site between Park Place and the Guesthouse, creating a park with programs and amenities to serve students and residents alike.

Connection to Schar Center
A pathway provides a direct pedestrian connection between Schar Convocation Center, the Oaks, and Downtown Elon.

Near-Term Priorities (cont)

Park Place at Elon II
A second mixed use development along Haggard Avenue features 120-140 beds for upper-class students. Ground floor retail and dining spaces support a diverse and active downtown.

Lighthouse Mixed-Use Development
This approximately 30,000 square foot mixed-use development includes ground floor retail, two floors of offices, and fourth floor condos.
Francis Center supports Elon’s School of Health Sciences as well as certain University recreation functions. The LEED certified facility establishes a recognizable presence at the far eastern edge of campus. The master plan targets Haggard Avenue for streetscape upgrades to enhance university identity along the entirety of this corridor. Additionally, as Elon strategically redevelops parking lots near the Campus Core, Francis Center presents a unique opportunity to provide satellite parking connected to campus by shuttle bus.
The recent redevelopment of Story and Harper Center for the 600-student Global Neighborhood represents a significant pilot initiative for expanding Elon’s residential campus. This living-learning community integrates teaching and community spaces with highly sought after first-year and sophomore housing. The adjacent Loy Center houses 192 students in Greek Organizations. The long-term master plan recommends redeveloping Loy Center to increase either academic or housing capacity at the campus core. A central quad anchors five building sites which not only connect the precinct to the Moseley Center but also provide a meaningful gateway presence along O’Kelly Avenue.
In recent years, Elon has invested significantly to provide world-class facilities to support its athletic programs. As these programs flourish, athletics events have become increasingly important to campus life. The current Alumni Gym, located within the Koury Athletic Center, is constrained with a capacity of 1,600. The proposed Schar Convocation Center provides a 5,400 seat event space that will soon become the school’s home for basketball. The venue, long an ambition of the University, will also support graduations, concerts, and other major events and relieve capacity constraints on the busy training facilities at Alumni Field House. Finally, the facility provides a memorable gateway element along North Williamson Avenue.
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