The West Campus District Plan will inform development to provide additional resources to advance UW-Madison’s mission and enhance the overall campus experience. The added resources will support research and academic growth and strengthen relations with community and industry partners.

This plan, as with all campus efforts, presents an opportunity to celebrate the Ho-Chunk people and identify opportunities to create a better future together, in ways that positively impact student well-being, research and overall enhanced social interaction and cultural exchange. Visit here to read a recent story that highlights this great connection.

General Updates
The West Campus District Plan team has been gathering feedback from campus and surrounding community members, and other campus partners since summer 2022 through interactive online tools and events.

In February, the West Campus District Project team hosted three open house events on West Campus and at Gordon Commons. The goal was to share updates with the community and gather feedback from campus and community members alike. In addition, both an online survey and interactive mapping tool are continually assessible online to collect your feedback.

Community Feedback
Campus and community members expressed excitement about a holistic plan that incorporates all aspects of west campus. West campus is already highly valued with essential elements such as the hospital, lake, nature preserve and academic spaces. The concept maps for the West Campus District Plan are designed to enhance the sense of place and connection to this side of campus.
For example, participants said they were excited to see the following elements shared on the concept maps at the February events:

- Increased dining options such as coffee shops and restaurants
- Emphasis on pedestrian and bike access into and across west campus while also connecting to the rest of campus.
- Additional hotels, especially for individuals who need to be close to the hospital and as temporary housing for visiting faculty and staff.
- Collaborative spaces to spark innovation.
- New areas to socialize and meet up with colleagues and friends
- Additional affordable and market-rate housing for the community

*Note: This is not a comprehensive list of all the ideas shared, but rather a summary of the most common topics mentioned.*

Specific participant feedback included:

- "Making the West side of campus feel like it’s more a part of UW-Madison instead of just a hospital campus"
- "I think the idea of using the available land in a denser manner is fantastic!"
- "The green space looks nice and more cohesive, seems to fit with the rest of campus better."

All of these elements could contribute to a more vibrant feel in West Campus and provide an atmosphere where people would be able to spend more time there.

Incorporating Feedback

The planning team heard questions from campus and community members about overall accessibility throughout the west campus and will be incorporating this feedback into the design concepts.

Parking Questions

We were also glad to hear constructive feedback about what is missing from the plan. Parking continues to be one of the largest challenges in the district, even before embarking on the planning process. Improving parking is a priority for the planning team, and we will keep the community informed along the way.

We received questions both at and after the February open houses from individuals interested in the future of Lot 60. We understand the importance of Lot 60 as an affordable parking option and will continue to prioritize affordability and accessibility in this project. Any future redevelopment of Lot 60 is anticipated to happen in a later phase of development. Adequate parking options will be provided before that time. The planning team is also considering opportunities for and impacts of other modes of transportation including mass transit, biking, and walking throughout the district.

Upcoming Events

The community will have an opportunity to share more feedback at additional open houses in May. We will send an email once more information is available.

In the meantime, you can visit the interactive tools below to share your thoughts about the West Campus District.