

Report of the East Campus Subcommittee - November 20 2000

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The East Campus Subcommittee has compared the site maps of the proposed Student Recreation Center expansion and the Capstone Medical Center with the 1999 Campus Master Plan. In the following, we assume that the proposed "Game Day" project has been denied and that the proposed rugby field will be located in an area contiguous to the Recreation Center fields, perhaps adjacent to the intramural soccer fields at the west side of the area (see Figures 1 and 2).

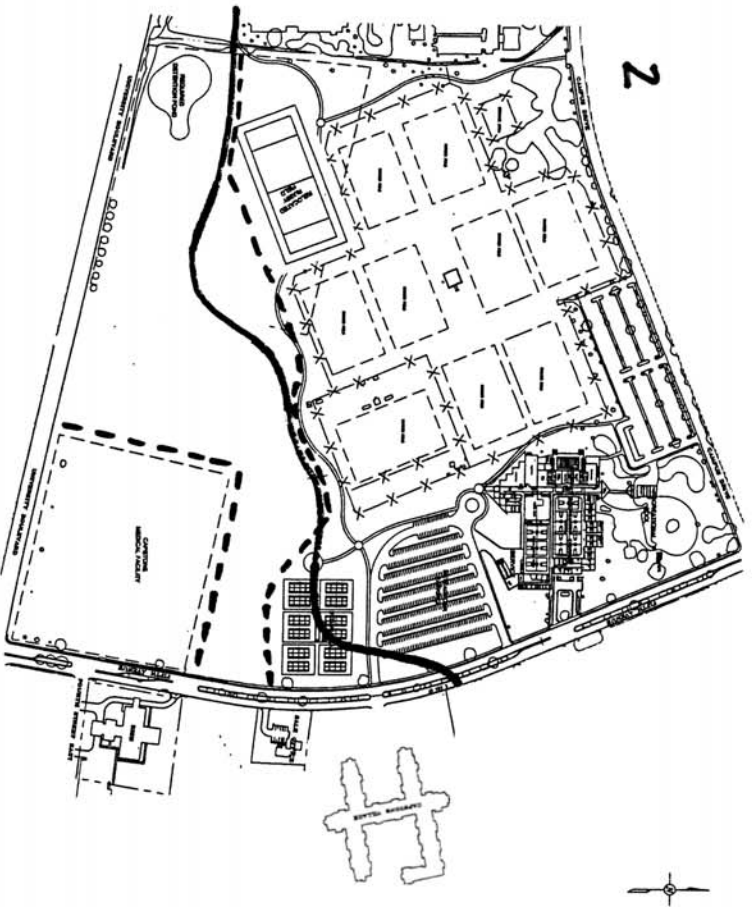
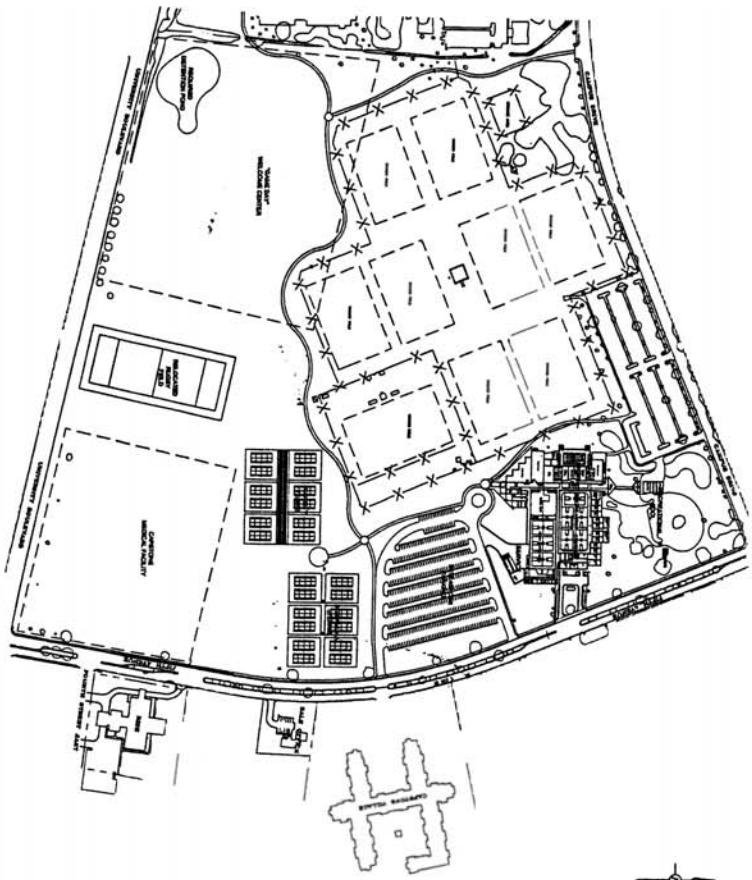
We find that the Recreation Center expansion respects the spirit of the 1999 CMP. Although the boundaries are not precisely those envisioned in the Master Plan, the total land area of the SRC expansion approximates that envisioned for developed areas in the 1999 Master Plan. The Capstone Medical Center intrudes significantly into the designated green space, but as this site has already been approved for the Capstone Medical Center and planning is well under way, there is not much that we can do about it.

Recommendations:

1. The University should preserve a continuous corridor of green space that runs from 5th Avenue (between the new Medical Center complex and the new intramural tennis courts) to the corner of Bryce Lawn Drive and University Blvd. The undeveloped, semi-natural status of the green space is unique on this campus and should be preserved as a high priority. Future development of this area, except as needed to preserve its semi-natural character, should be prohibited.
2. The University should undertake limited improvement of the green corridor, installing unpaved walking paths, but otherwise the corridor should be reserved as a minimally-maintained green space.
3. The University or City of Tuscaloosa should install paved and lighted sidewalks along the north side of University Blvd between 5th Avenue and Bryce Lawn Drive.
4. The University recognizes that the prohibition against further development within the green corridor means that Athletic Department facilities tentatively proposed for this area (a tennis complex in recent site maps and track and field facilities in the 1999 Campus Master Plan) must be located elsewhere.
5. In planning the Capstone Medical Center, the University should accommodate the continuity of the green corridor by minimizing the depth of the facility away from University Blvd, perhaps by increasing its frontage along University Blvd.
6. In planning the new Recreation Center parking lot and intramural tennis courts, the University should accommodate the continuity of the green corridor by siting these facilities as far north as practical.

Figure 1. Proposed site maps of Student Recreation Center expansion, Varsity Tennis Facility Relocate Rugby Field, Capstone Medical Center, Game Day Welcome Center.

Figure 2. Modified site map: remove Varsity Tennis Facility and Game Day Welcome Center Relocate Rugby Field.
 Heavy solid line - approximate perimeter of green space in 1999 Campus Master Plan.
 Heavy dotted line - approximate perimeter of modified green space.



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