The Ithaca campus of Cornell University is an extraordinary place to learn and teach, to live and work, to visit and explore. Embedded in a dramatic landscape, it is a place between town and country but rooted in both. Cornell recognizes its responsibility, to its founders, all Cornellians, its employees, the surrounding communities and the citizens of New York State, to manage its land carefully and grow wisely. To respect and maintain the campus’s town and country aspects and its built and natural heritage that together are fundamental to Cornell’s academic mission and unique identity.

The Comprehensive Master Plan will guide the ongoing planning, design and development of the campus. Its vision reflects six essential qualities of the future campus:

open • green • compact • integrated • engaged • connected
Cornell will support and cultivate academic growth and development, ensuring open, collaborative and adaptable environments for teaching, research, the exchange of ideas and the nurturing of innovation.

Cornell will respect and manage the physical environment of the campus and its broader landholdings for the health of the University, its constituencies, its neighbors and the larger regional eco-system.

Cornell will nurture inviting, accessible, safe and memorable places that contribute to personal, social and cultural well-being. It will maintain and enrich its legacy of memorable landscapes and become a more pedestrian-oriented campus.

Cornell will enhance the community-building aspects of campus. It will broaden housing options, expand the campus’s social and cultural infrastructure and promote a healthy, vital Greater Ithaca.

In the planning and design of the campus, Cornell will coordinate academic needs, development projects, landscape initiatives, infrastructure improvements and community objectives to achieve a unified and integrated campus.
Cornell’s research fields and natural areas should be thought of as outdoor classrooms and labs, as valuable to the academic mission as its built spaces.
The Physical Structure of the Campus

Re-establishing a threshold between town and country

Reinforcing the presence of the campus within its natural setting
The Physical Structure of the Campus

Extending the pattern of formal quads, walks, courts and avenues

‘Three-sided quads’ celebrate views between the campus and its context
The Functional Structure of the Campus

Unifying the campus with a series of centers

Expanding the campus’s essential social and cultural infrastructure

The Functional Structure of the Campus

COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN FOR THE ITHACA CAMPUS OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY
Providing accessible recreation and athletic complexes

The Functional Structure of the Campus
Building a more pedestrian-oriented campus

The Functional Structure of the Campus
Advancing the integration of uses and experiences

The Functional Structure of the Campus

academic and administration

athletics

residential

mixed-use centers

campus land use

academic/administration
administration
housing
athletics
mixed use centers
Assessing the long-term potential of the Campus
The Zones of Mutual Interest

Helping keep Downtown, Collegetown and the neighborhoods vital and healthy
Illustrating the long-term potential of the Campus
Illustrating the long-term potential of the Campus
Illustrating the long-term potential of the Campus
Illustrating the long-term potential of the Campus