



5.0 Site & Campus Framework

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5.1 | The Site

Areas of proposed growth are strategically situated to integrate with existing buildings and frame key open spaces. The Campus Master Plan introduces new development to the north, adjacent to the Alberta Water and Environmental Science Building (AWESB) and Canadian Centre for Behavioural Neuroscience Building (CCBN). To the south of Valley Road West – still in close proximity to Innovation Place, additional academic buildings have been located, flanking Markin Hall to frame a central multi-use open space called the Prairie-quad.

The proposed academic building, running east from the Prairie-quad, towards the Oldman River, forms a direct connection with the north-end of University Hall. This proposed academic facility not only provides a physical link to University Hall but also frames the proposed vertical common named, Coulee-quad. There is a cantilevered, glazed North-extension to University Hall. It is envisioned that this addition will serve as a support space to the University's performance/cultural programs. Suggested uses include amenity space such as a cafe/bar that is used by the Lethbridge community for evening cultural events. As a brightly-lit, glazed addition, the north extension to University Hall will become a highly visible advertising beacon for the University -- reaching across the Oldman River to the City of Lethbridge.

Proposed residences are also being proposed on the southern plateau to meet a residential demand shortfall. These are physically and visually connected to the main campus – ensuring a pedestrian-oriented campus. The physical expansion of the campus will respect the surrounding natural landscape while maintaining the tight footprint of a compact campus. The

Consultant Team is recommending key renovations that will re-purpose and revitalize several existing buildings -- connecting buildings while creating a consistent architectural character campus wide.

5.2 | Built Form

Certain building sites on campus serve as significant place-making roles, with the potential to strengthen the overall campus character and legibility due to their prominent positions marking a gateway, a boundary, or other important campus outdoor places. Buildings and structures on these sites must mark the site as a welcoming entry point and achieve architectural design excellence. All campus buildings will frame and define the open space components of the Campus Master Plan. The design of new buildings and additions must reinforce the unique sense-of-place and never overpower the topographical beauty of the site. These are some of the recommended projects:

- Academic/Research Buildings framing the Coulee-Quad;
- Gateway Bridge Structure;
- North-extension to University Hall;
- Glazed Galleria renovation to LINC at the Coulee-Quad;
- Academic/Research Buildings framing the Prairie-Quad;
- Oldman River Vista Building (embedded into coulee at Aperture Drive);
- Residential Bridge Building;
- Residential Buildings;
- Research Buildings; and
- Assorted renovations

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5.3 | Open Space Components

The Campus Master Plan will ensure campus cohesiveness while addressing gateways, public access points, linkages and nodes, and a viable landscape framework. Special views of the coulees and of the Oldman River exist at a number of locations on campus. These views are particularly important for connecting the experience of being on campus within a dramatic natural context. This must be preserved.

The Campus Master Plan provides a open space framework that emphasizes and celebrates the University's unique natural setting. A variety of multi-functional open space typologies capitalize on the diversity of landscape that exists on campus. Six key initiatives were used to enhance the open space network on campus into iconic spaces for a multitude of uses.

The Coulee Quad

The Campus Master Plan revives the campus heart by transforming it into a central Coulee-quad. Proposed buildings will be sited around this space -- presenting the opportunity to frame outdoor public space as memorable 'outdoor rooms'. This creates a campus structure of pathways, corridors and commons coherent and legible to the University of Lethbridge community.

The Prairie Quad

The *Prairie Quad* is an outdoor common space, surrounded by Markin Hall and the proposed academic buildings. The *Prairie Quad* will provide a formal outdoor space that can be used for passive recreational activities.



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The Oldman River Vista

The *Oldman River Vista* provides a protected naturalized area in the South Coulee. This will provide a view of the coulees, the Oldman River and of the residential village beyond. One of the proposed 'coulee trails' will run alongside the Oldman River Vista – bringing students and visitors down from University Drive West into the south coulee towards the Oldman River.

The Coulee Trails and River Points

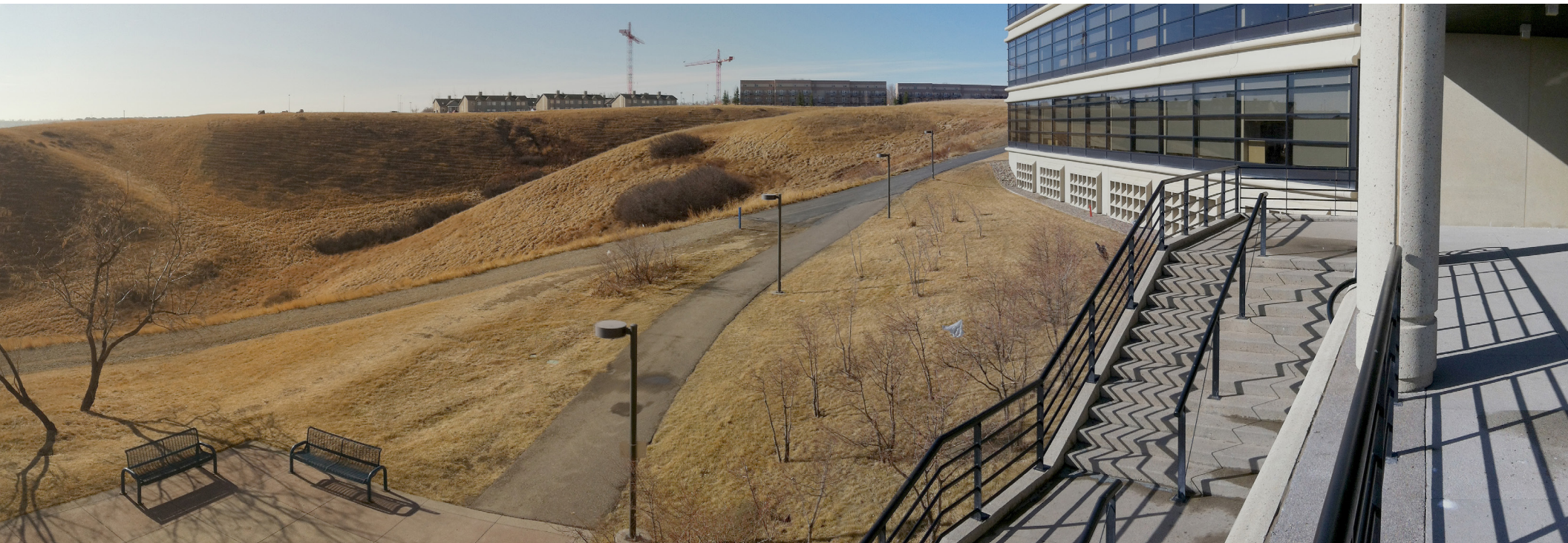
Conceived as unique discovery trails, the *Coulee Trails* provide the University of Lethbridge an opportunity to bring the Lethbridge community down through campus to experience the extraordinary natural setting that it is a part of.

The Parkland

The *Parkland*, located along University Drive West, creates a unified institutional presence along a major municipal roadway. Located on the plateau and surrounding the reservoir, *The Parkland* offers a dynamic and traditional park space for the community.

Treed Boulevards

Tree-lined pedestrian boulevards are proposed to serve as an integrated landscape strategy for linking primary pedestrian pathways. In addition to creating an aesthetically pleasing unified system, the treed boulevards offer protection from climatic elements by providing shade from the sun and buffering from the wind. All plantings should be consistent with the ecology of a naturalized prairie landscape



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5.4 | Access and Movement Systems

Gateways

The Campus Master Plan will reinforce Aperture Drive as the primary campus entrance and front door to the University of Lethbridge. Conceived as a campus gateway, Aperture Drive will provide access to the campus by means of the Students' Union Building, the Library and the proposed Residential Link Building. Passenger drop-off points, transit hubs and adjacent parking will make the gateway an accessible and vibrant entry to the University. The Campus Master Plan proposes two key features that create a unique arrival experience for students and visitors alike: the elevated Pedestrian ILink (between the Library and the Students' Union Building) and the Viewing Podium looking over the South Coulee.

The overhead pedestrian link frames a gateway -- providing views of University Hall and the 'coulee quad' beyond. This link strongly expresses the academic, learning and research strengths of the University and is anticipated as being highly transparent. Beside it is the viewing podium -- which is in actuality the rooftop of a building constructed into the sloped landscape. It is hoped this will become a feature attraction for both University and the greater Lethbridge community -- expressing the magnificence of the surrounding coulee landscape.

Pedestrian Circulation

The Campus Master Plan rationalizes the existing pedestrian network into a clear circulation system with logical connections between interior and exterior spaces. A well-defined primary pedestrian network provides access to all areas of the University and is designed to minimize walking distances. A secondary pedestrian network comprised of promenades, pathways, and walking trails provide full access to all campus landscape features and regional trail amenities along the Oldman River.

The Campus Master Plan also ensures that proposed buildings are in close proximity with each other and where possible, connected with glazed pedestrian links and minimal walking distances. Proposed buildings such as the (a) Gateway Building; (b) the University Hall North Link Building; and (c) the Building bridging the south coulee help facilitate pedestrian circulation during inclement weather.

Sustainable Alternatives to Vehicular Circulation

Public Transit

The existing transit loop will be augmented with a proposed shuttle route providing access to the north end of University Hall and the South Residences. Shuttle service will only be reserved for special events. The transit hub at Aperture Circle is designed to be the primary drop-off point and can accommodate a large number of waiting passengers.

Cycling Routes

A robust bicycle network provides full accessibility to the University's campus core.

Vehicular Circulation & Parking

Due to an increase in transit users, pedestrian and cycling improvements, and an increase in on-campus residences, vehicular access will be restricted from the campus heart. Larger parking lots are located at the campus periphery. Smaller parking lots are strategically scattered throughout campus for short-term parking needs providing convenient parking along main access points. Although vehicular traffic is restricted from the campus core, service and emergency vehicles have full access to all campus facilities. Access would be along specially widened pedestrian walkways also designed to accommodate service and emergency vehicles.