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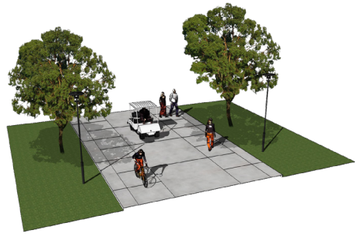
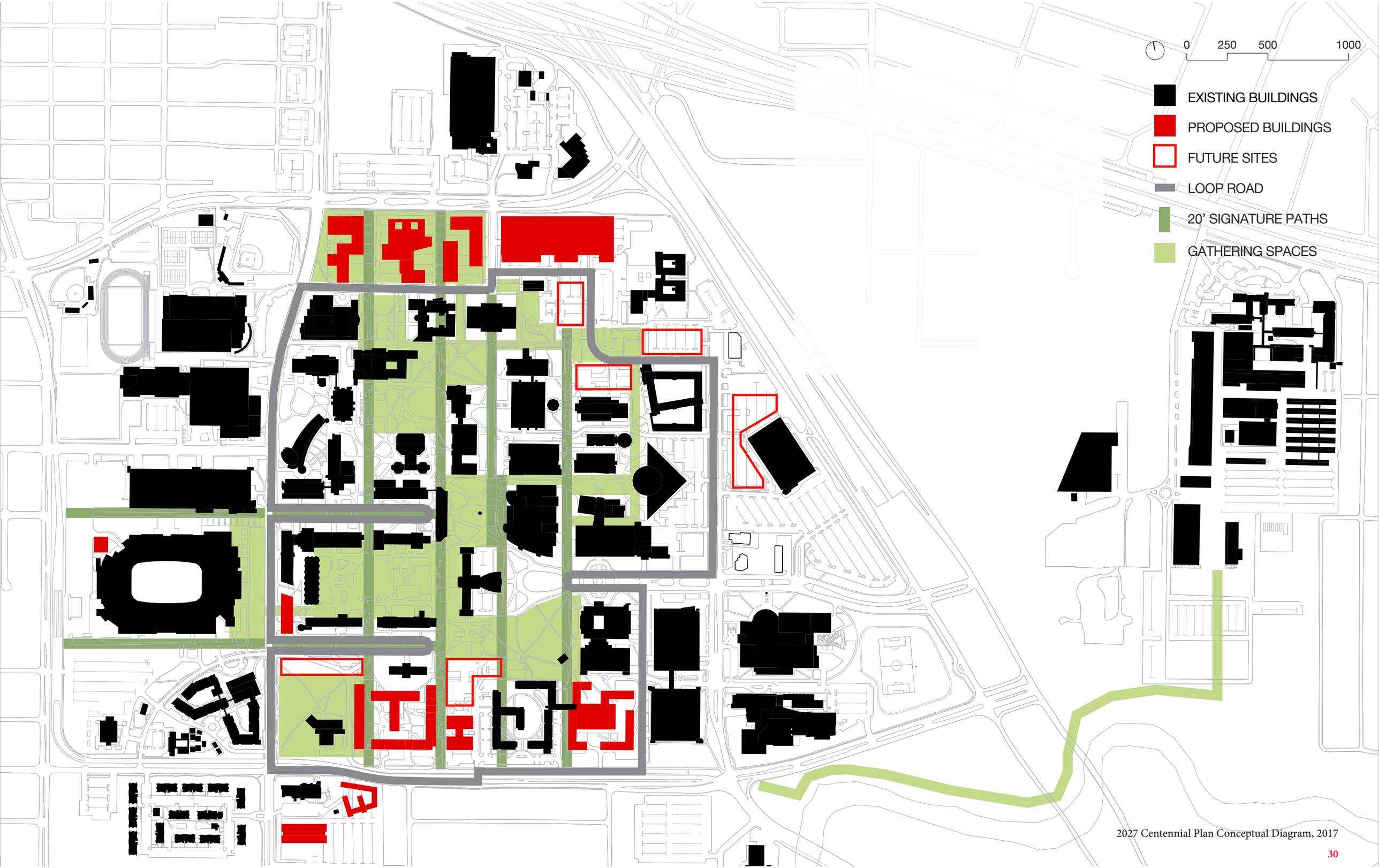
CENTENNIAL PLAN 2027 - conceptual diagram



20' Signature Path, designLAB, 2015

The Centennial Plan concept diagram captures in a single image the underlying campus order informed by the 1937 Hare & Hare plan and the strong constraints of exisitng features. As an explanation of how that 1937 plan can be extended, it illustrates an interconnected gridwork of continuous paths extending across campus. The orchestrated journeys outlined by these paths move through key courtyards, outdoor gathering spaces, urban forest fragments and along major campus walks. Along these journeys one encounters works of public art and landmarks buildings at the termination of view corridors. With enhancement, these paths become the signature pedestrian paths offering widened pavement and the added function of providing fire truck access. The signature pedestrian paths are concentrated within the campus loop road but also extend beyond to connect the athletics facilities to the campus core.



2027 Centennial Plan Conceptual Diagram, 2017

The Snake is Out, Tony Smith, 1962, on loan from The Menil Collection

CENTENNIAL PLAN 2027 Frameworks

The Centennial Plan 2027 is buit up from a series of frameworks informed by existing constraints, future growth and current univerity initiatives.

These eight frameworks are:

Building Footprints

Hierarchy of Paths

Campus Greenbelt

Garages

Gateways

Gathering Spaces

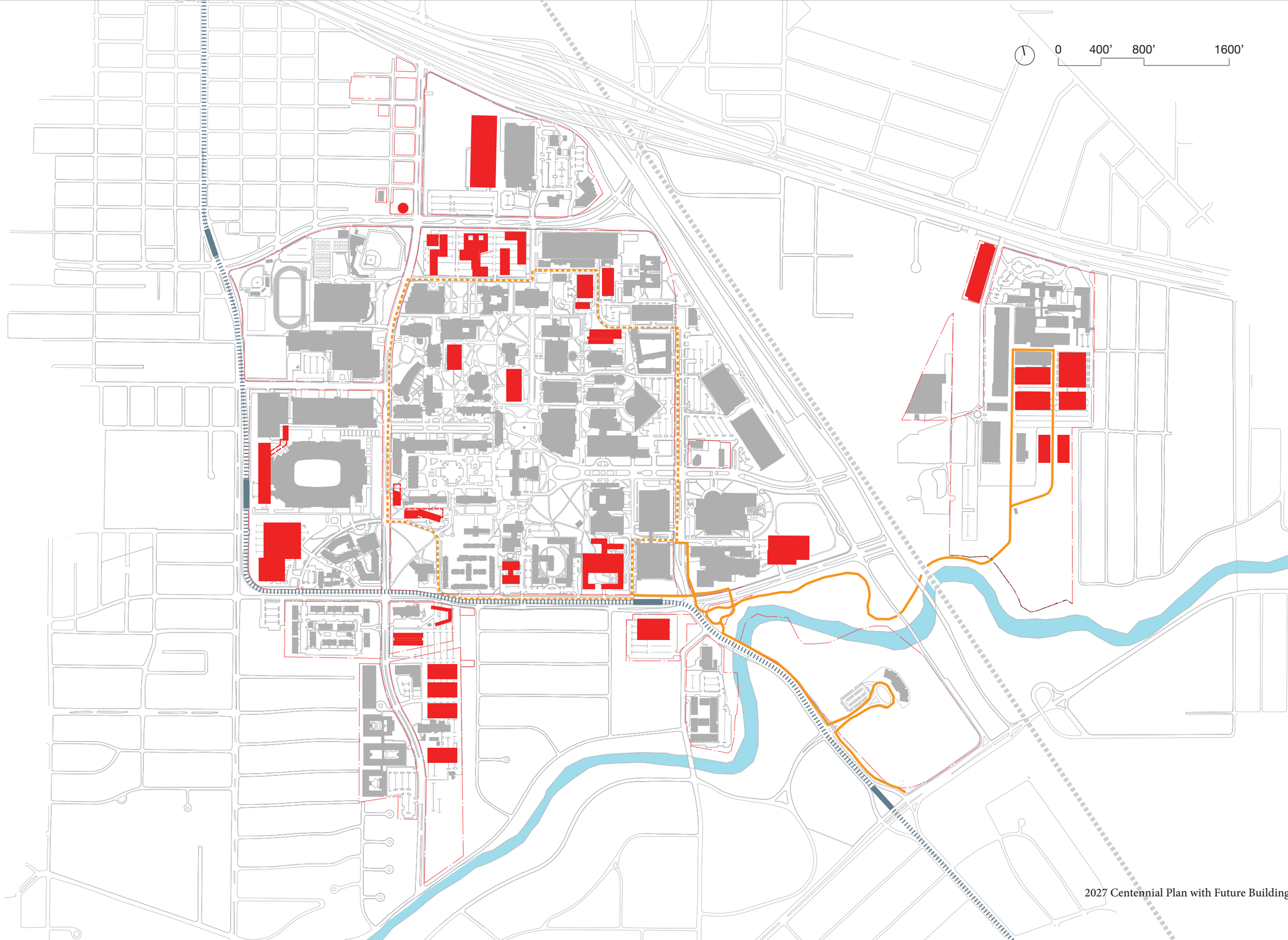
Streetscapes

Campus Walks

CENTENNIAL PLAN 2027 - Building Footprints

The 1937 Campus Plan by Hare & Hare positioned buildings so that their edges loosely defined outdoor spaces or quadrangles. Since the CRS Plan of 1966, buildings have been sited and designed as objects in a continuous spatial field, even while sometimes creating interior courtyards or courtyards between adjacent buildings. Often the continuous spatial field included large open spaces with surface parking lots.

The challenge today as the campus has become increasingly dense is to place and design buildings to form a fabric that establishes a network of outdoor spaces intentionally shaped by building faces. A key tool in this process is the establishment of building lines as a development guide provided to architects for the site planning and deisgn of each new buildings. As individual building projects enter pre-design, preliminary planning workshops reveal the strong influence of adjacent buildings, underground infrastructure, and important pathways on the establishment of build-to lines for each project. This process has successfully informed many of the recent buildings under design is serving to organically establish a pattern of building lines for the campus going forward.



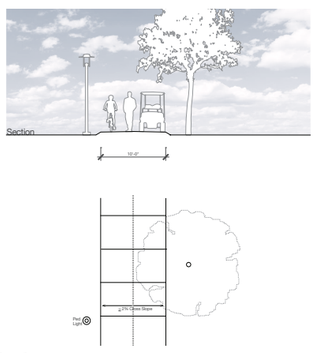
2027 Centennial Plan with Future Buildings in Red

8' Path, Lynn EusanPark, 2016

Conflict on 8' Paths, Entrance 14, 2015

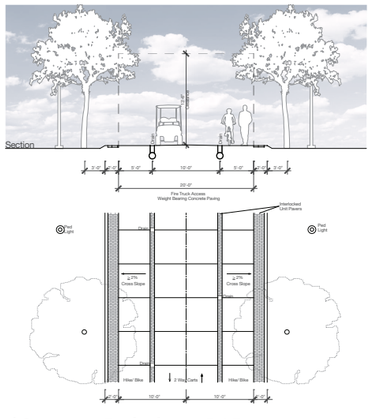
CENTENNIAL PLAN 2027 - Hierarchy of Paths

An analysis of the existing network of campus sidewalks reveals that a hierarchy of paths does exist. However, most sidewalks dating back to the 1970's are 6' and not wide enough to accommodate the current pedestrian volume imposed by a doubled student population. Sidewalks built to the campus minimum of 6' wide, while adequate for two people to pass do not allow for the common occurrence of two groups walking past each other. Neither do they accommodate bicyclists and the heavy load of service carts. A new campus minimum of 8' wide should be used for all secondary paths. Longer paths connecting destinations should be bult to 10' wide. Those 10' paths that exsit today are indicated in the plan (green).

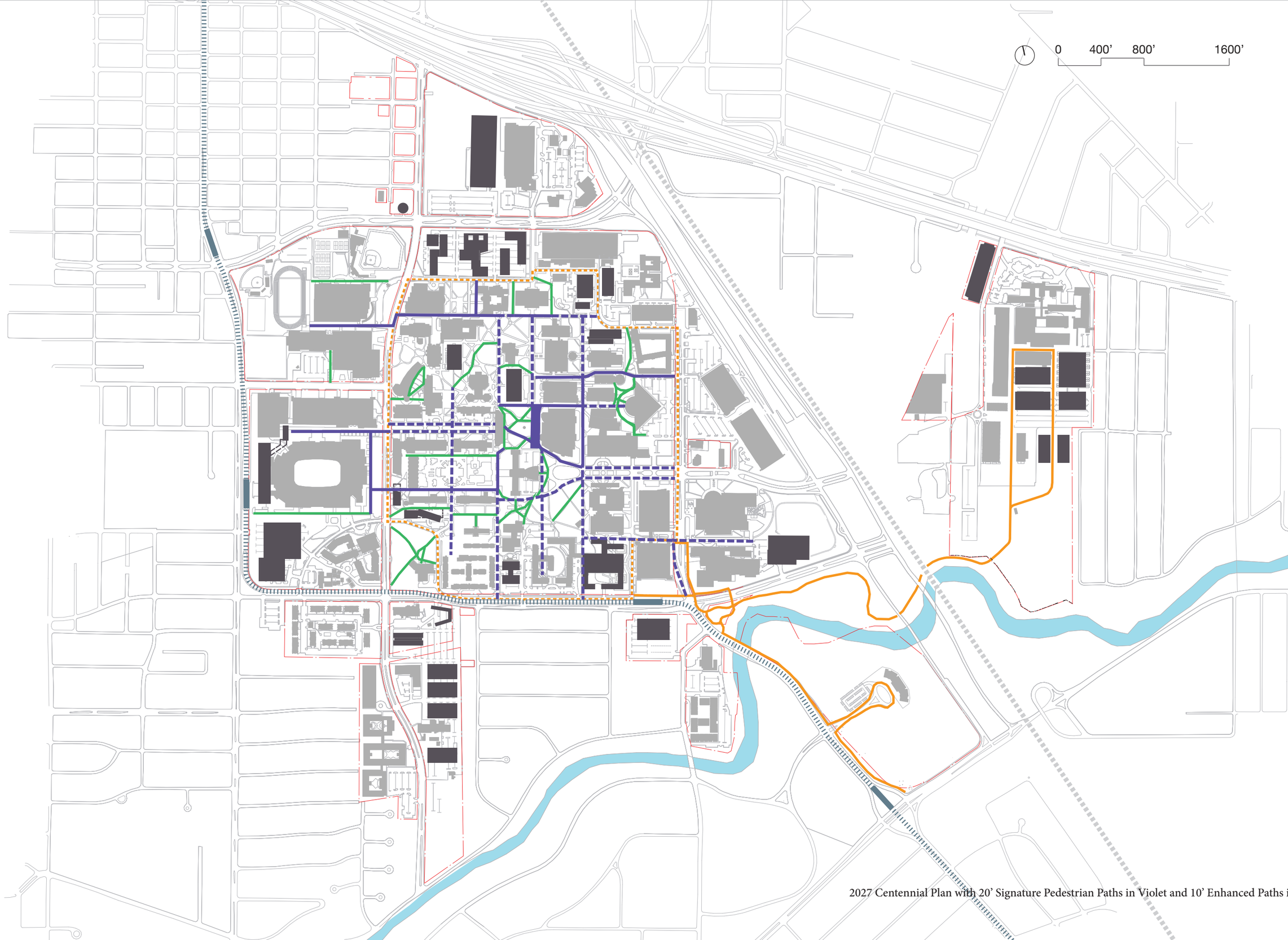


10' Path, designLAB, 2015

A select group of the most important cross-campus signature pedestrian paths linking destinations with the perimeter parking and transit facilities and should be built to a continuous miniumum width of 20' thereby allowing for the heaviest traffic of pedestrians, bicycles, and service carts while minimizing conflict. By following the alignments identified in the conceptual diagram, these create an armature of clear and memorable order within the campus. In some cases, these already exist and are indicated in the plan (solid violet). They tend to be follow what were once internal campus streets and have beneath them major campus utilities. In many cases, they do not yet exist at this width but may be rebuilt from small existing paths as infrastructure projects creates opportunities for sidewalk replacement. These opportunities are indicated in the plan (dashed violet).



20' Signature Path, designLAB, 2015

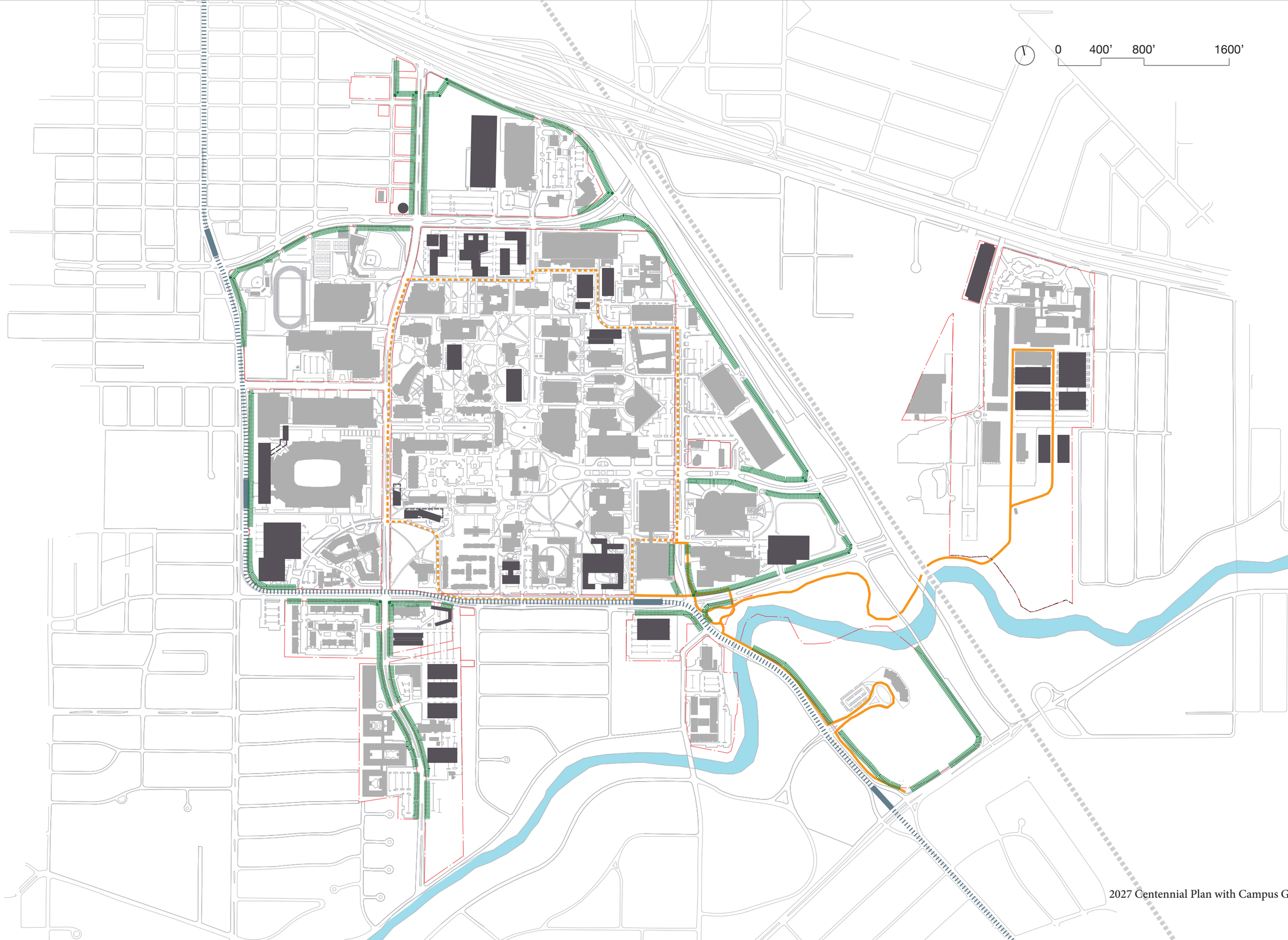


2027 Centennial Plan with 20’ Signature Pedestrian Paths in Violet and 10’ Enhanced Paths in Green

CENTENNIAL PLAN 2027 - Campus Greenbelt

Campus Greenbelt, designLAB, 2015

The campus greenbuilt establishes a consistent perimeter character that signals when one arrives at the University of Houston. Further, it contributes to the valuable goal of reforestation of the campus to achieve overall beautification, a more pedestrian-friendly pathway system, a reduction in the heat island effect, and an increase in greater storm water capture and carbon sequestration. As tree mitigation projects occur due to on-campus construction, the campus greenbelt can be extended from existing live oak trees, framing and shading a perimeter pedestian pathway as seen on the Gulf Freeway frontage road and the Spur 5 edge.

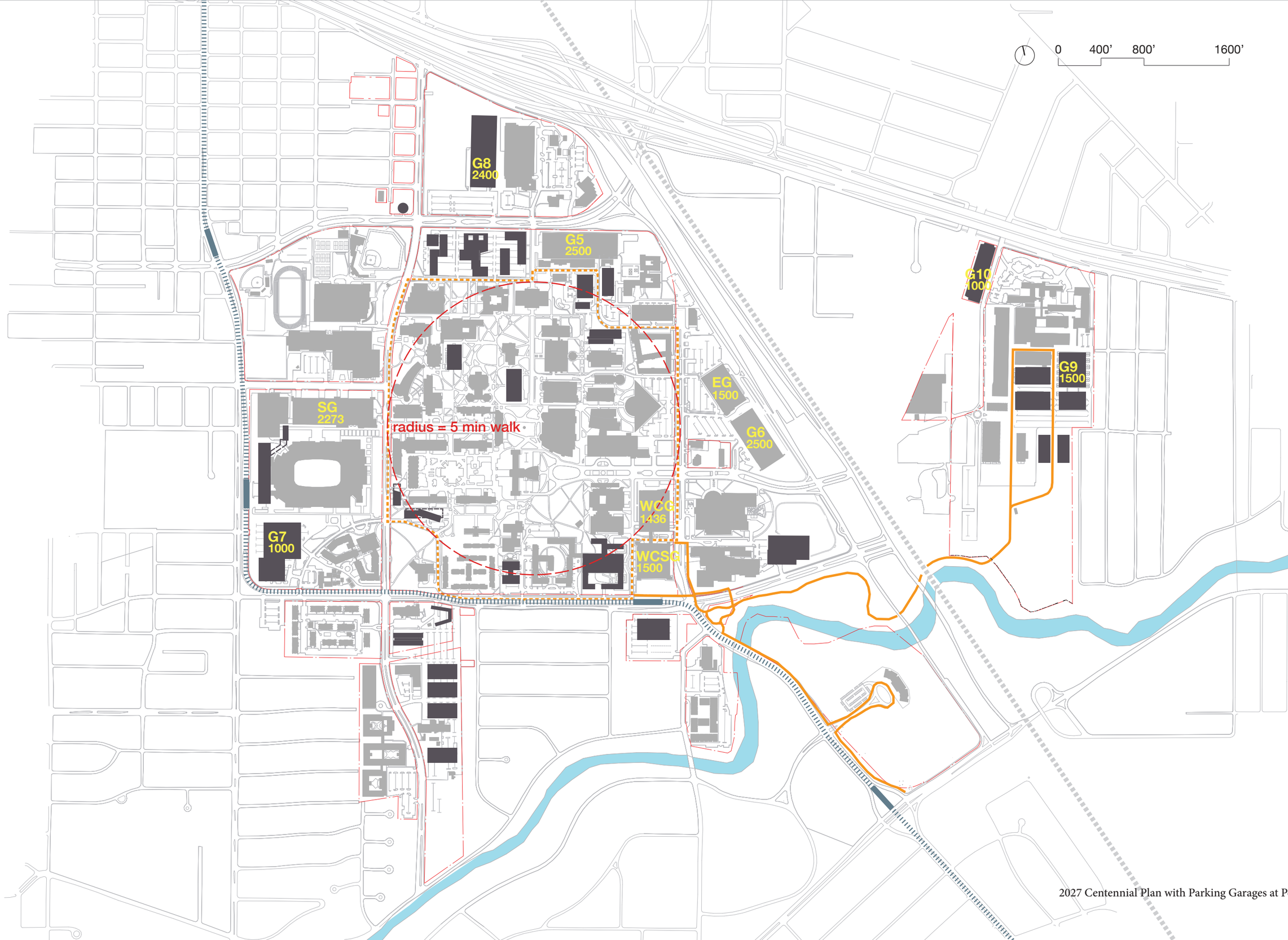


2027 Centennial Plan with Campus Greenbelt

CENTENNIAL PLAN 2027 - Garages

In 2015, the university conducted a comprehensive examination of its parking space inventory (20,100 in 2015) and current and projected parking demands to be placed on campus assets (23,000 needed by 2020). With the current 2.5% rate of growth in student population expected to continue and assuming current ratios of priviate vehicle usage, predicted rates of garage constuction, and allowable levels of debt-service, models indicate that an existing parking space deficit will likely increase over the next decade. Garage construction, including two new 2500-space facilities, the recently-opened Garage 5 and the currently-under-construction Garage 6, will extend the recent pattern of replacing surface parking lots with structured parking facilities. Sites have been designated for at least three additional garages, all on the perimeter of the campus to shift vehicle use outward to the edges of campus.

Construction to increase the parking supply is a complement to methods to close the space deficit by reducing demand such as through COAST initiatives. Future technologies such as automous vehicles may further drive demand downward.



2027 Centennial Plan with Parking Garages at Perimeter

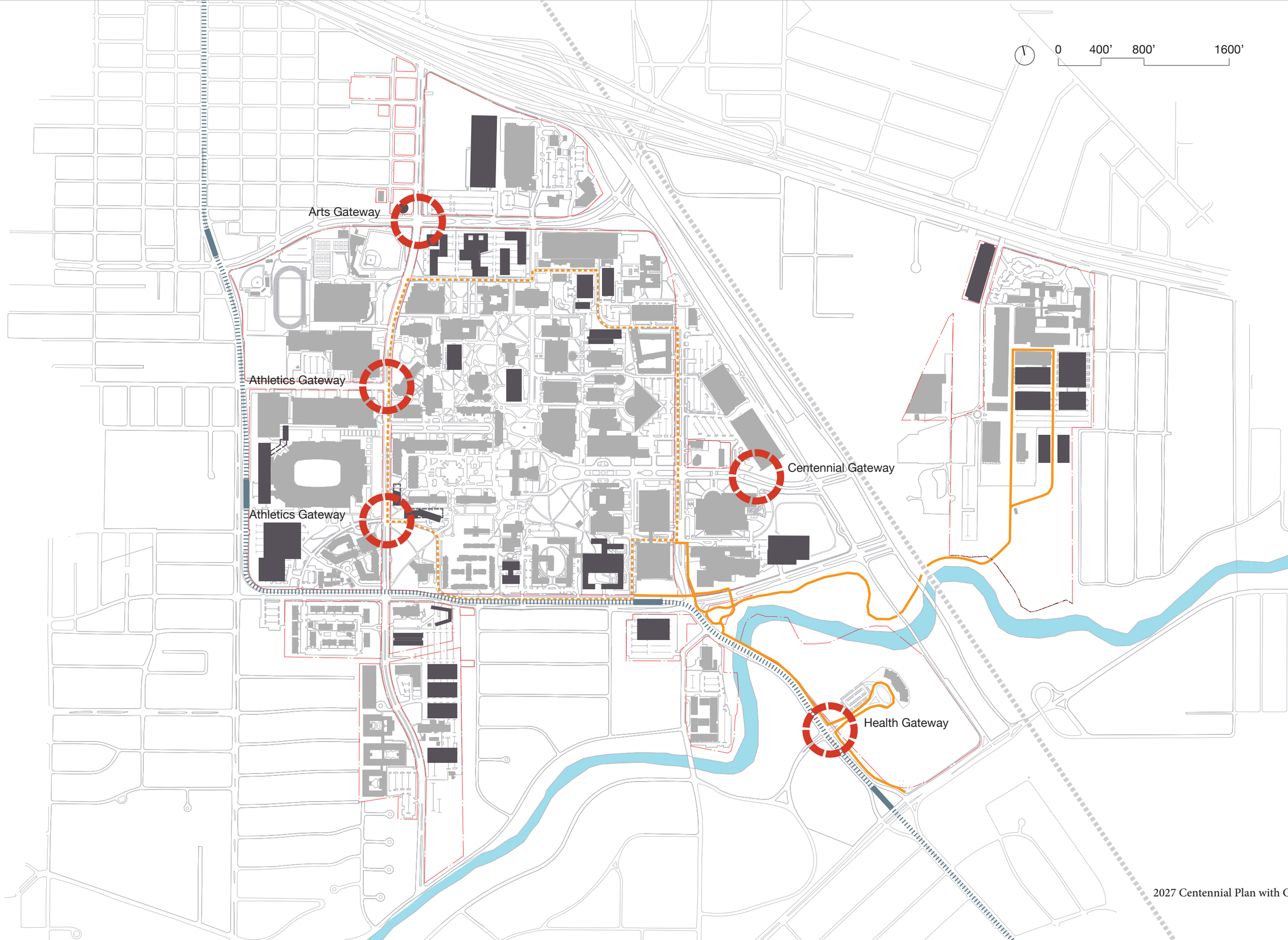
CENTENNIAL PLAN 2027 - Gateways

Athletics Gateway, designLAB, 2019

The University of Houston campus expanded incrementally from its original 110 acres in 1937 to its more than 668 acres in 2019. The campus now comprises eight districts but is served by 23 numbered entries.

To better signal arrival and to mark the most important among these entries, enhancements will create four new campus gateways. Each new gateway will celebrate one of the university's leading initiatives -- Arts, Athletics, Centennial (Student Success), and Health. The gateways can be implemented over time, either independently or with related capital projects (e.g., the Health Gateway in conjunction with the new College of Medicine).

Rather than merely markers, these gateways serve as *extended thresholds* that bring one deeper into the campus from its greenbelt perimeter.

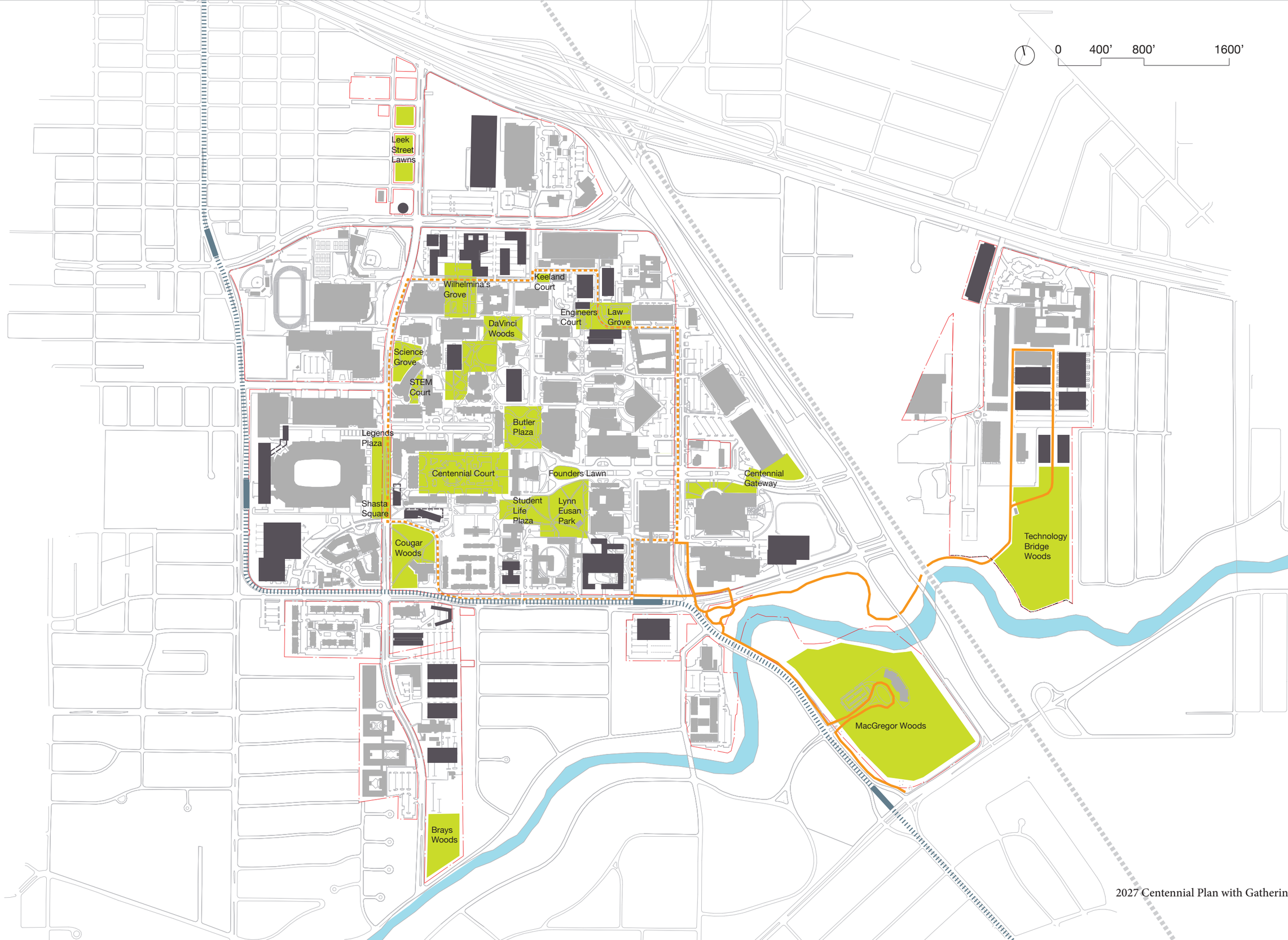


2027 Centennial Plan with Gateways

CENTENNIAL PLAN 2027 - Gathering Spaces

Well-designed gathering spaces within the campus support student success, collaborative learning, and innovation. In addition to aesthetic cohesion and accommodations for sitting, a well-designed gathering space should provide three key ingredients: generous shade for human comfort, robust wifi, and ready access to coffee/food service.

The campus has locations offering a number of these ingredients but very few locations where all of them coexist together with aesthetic cohesion. Creating these gathering spaces merits capital projects that stand apart from their adjacent buildings but often work best when the two are carefully integrated. Individual spaces are especially attractive to philanthropic gifts and can be coupled with others to make up the elements of a broader campaign.

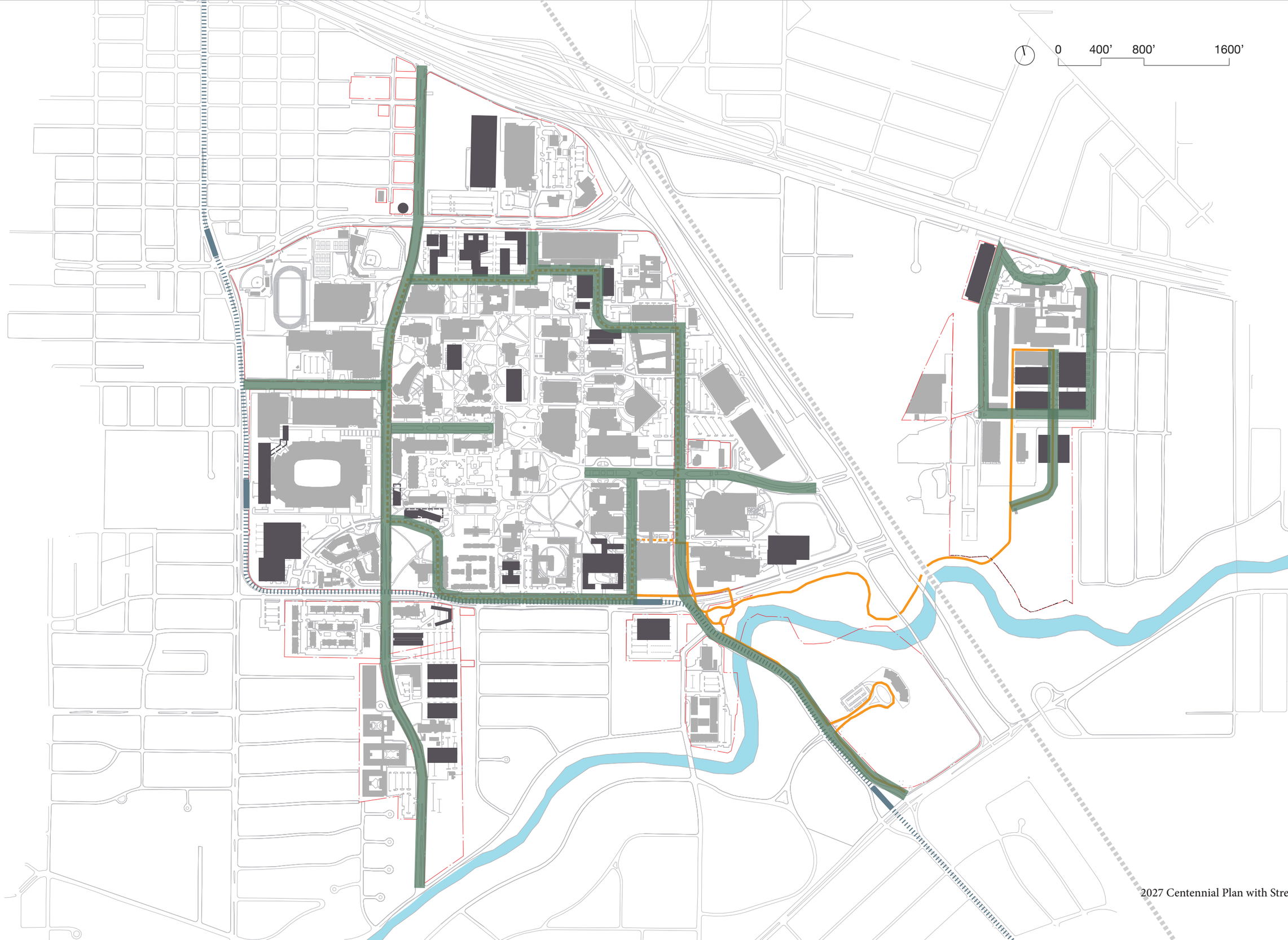


2027 Centennial Plan with Gathering Spaces

CENTENNIAL PLAN 2027 - Streetscapes

Enhanced streetscapes with pedestrian lighting, accessible sidewalks with curbcuts, and consistent tree canopy for shade encourage increased pedestrian activity and safer bicycling connectivity. Currently, partnerships between the University of Houston, Harris County Precinct One, the City of Houston, and METRO are yielding enhanced streetscapes along Cullen Boulevard from the Gulf Freeway to North MacGregor Way through the Cullen Boulevard Rebuild Project and along Wheeler Avenue from east of Scott Street to Martin Luther King Jr. Drive through the Wheeler Avenue Shared-Use Path Project. These efforts leverage multi-agency cooperation to build instructure in the city right of way that benefits campus mobility as well as neighborhood quality of life.

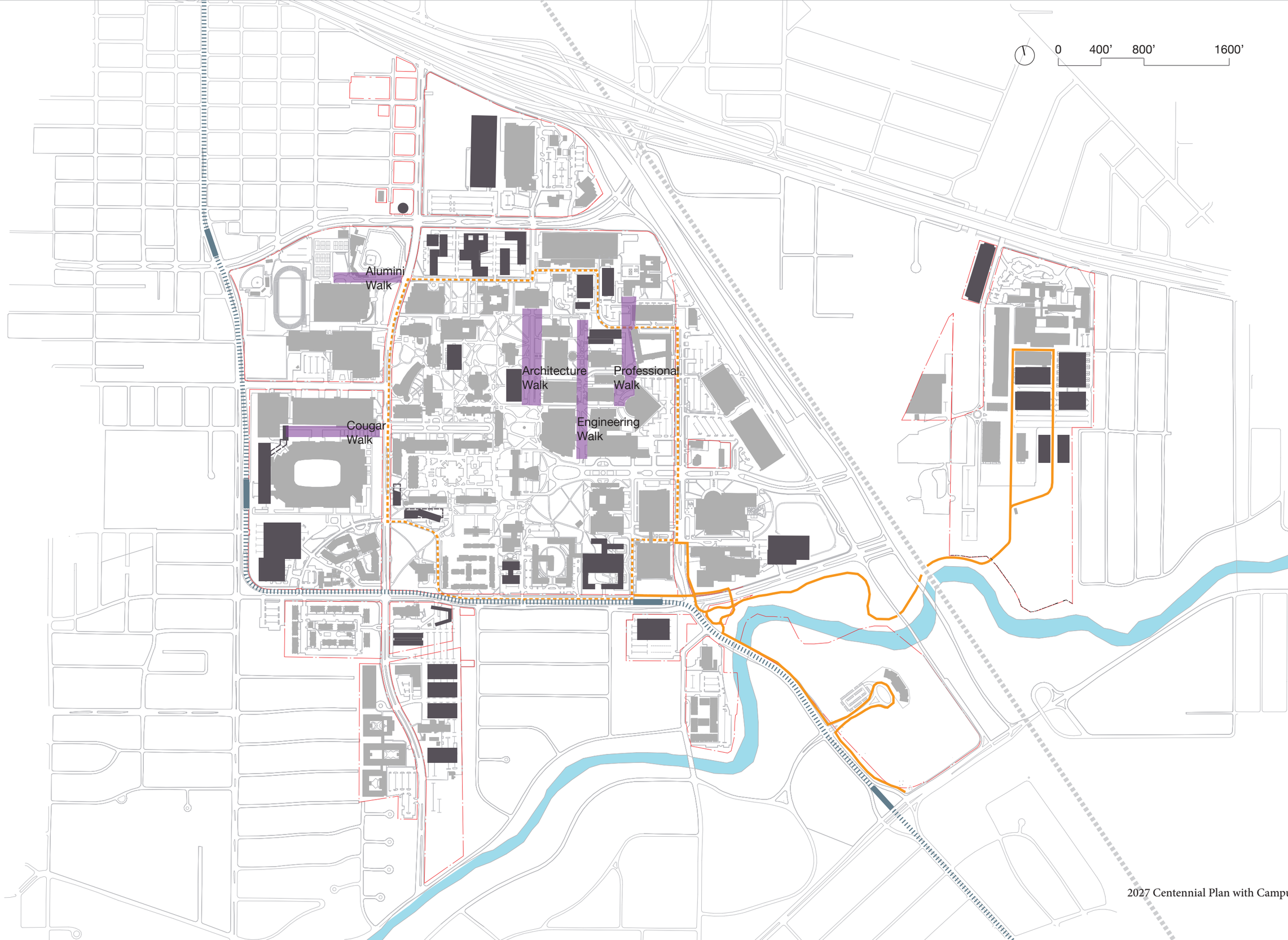
When completed, these streetscapes will become especially valuable assets in linking the public transportation options of METRORail stations and METRO bus stops with the public event destinations on campus as well as the many academic resources. Further, enhanced streetscapes complement the campus greenbelt initiative by providing a consistent tree canopy linking the perimeter of the campus to its interior.



2027 Centennial Plan with Streetscapes

CENTENNIAL PLAN 2027 - Campus Walks

North/south walks lie along corridors that were at one time campus vehicular streets. These also are those corridors where utilities lie underground meaning that they remain “no-build” zones. East/west walks link the Athletics District across Cullen Boulevard to the central campus core. In both cases, these campus walks widen from the broad pathways to become a collection of places and outdoor rooms collectively creating identity based on disciplines connected and facilities that they gather together.



2027 Centennial Plan with Campus Walks