Building Community

Guiding Principle One

Cultivate a genuine sense of community

The University aims to provide a welcoming experience, accessible to all. On our campus, human connections which are the essence of a sense of community are nurtured by the physical environment. The physical campus is comfortable, yet stimulating, and evokes a sense of openness and belonging. Campus spaces provide venues for academic and artistic expression.

Guiding Principle Two

Strengthen connections to adjacent communities

The University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus is situated within the vibrant urban core of the metropolitan region. The entwining of the surrounding cities with the campus creates opportunities and connections for the campus community and adjacent communities. The goal of strengthening these ties will guide future efforts and development. As the campus and surrounding communities change, these connections will ensure they both flourish.

Creating a Model Campus

Guiding Principle Three

Create a cohesive, memorable system of public spaces

The public spaces of the Twin Cities Campus integrate it and provide diverse, attractive areas for all aspects of academic and community life. These public spaces contribute to the character of the Twin Cities campus and create a comfortable welcoming experience. From grand civic gathering spaces, to green and vibrant streets, to intimate courtyards, and indoor atria, these public spaces support and enrich this community of interactive human activity. These and other public spaces should be flexible, sustainable, and supportive of the academic mission of the University.
Guiding Principle **Four**

**Provide a compatible and distinctive built environment**

Our campus is an ensemble of buildings and landscapes that work in concert to create a collective experience of place. Individual buildings are understood as important elements within comprehensive building, landscape, and transportation systems. Every campus building has multiple roles to play, balancing the needs of interior function with the need for appropriate character and relationships. High quality architecture defines the campus and new buildings are flexibly designed to respond to the functional requirements of the current programs served, as well as future academic programming.

Guiding Principle **Five**

**Steward historic buildings and landscapes**

The University’s historic resources provide the residents of the State with a sense of history and identity. Adaptive reuse of these buildings and landscapes contributes to the image of the campus as an enduring institution and its sense of place. The promotion of a broad understanding, awareness, enjoyment and continued use of its historic resources is important to the stewardship of the University, and to the University’s commitment to sustainability.

Guiding Principle **Six**

**Foster a safe, secure and accessible campus environment**

The University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus ensures equal opportunities for access through the design and retrofit of its facilities. The real and perceived sense of safety is enhanced through a diversity of design and construction actions including the inclusion of a mix of land uses, landscaping, wayfinding, and the configuration and detailed design of individual buildings and open spaces. Nighttime use is supported with well designed lighting in the open spaces and along pathways. Corridors accommodating various modes of travel are preferred because they are safer and more vibrant. Pedestrian movement is given the highest priority.
Integrating Local and Regional Systems

Guiding Principle Seven

Preserve and enhance natural systems and features

The Twin Cities Campus has a number of important and in some cases spectacular natural features. The Mississippi River, native plant communities, and topographic features contribute to the quality of life on campus and in the surrounding communities. Stewardship of these natural features requires balancing conflicting needs and desires for recreation, research, and contemplation. Such balance can be achieved through development that preserves, enhances and respects the value of these features within the broader regional ecosystem.

Guiding Principle Eight

Develop integrated transportation systems emphasizing pedestrians, bicycles and transit

Integrated transportation systems that ensure pleasant and safe access and movement give priority to pedestrians and bicyclists, followed by mass transit and then automobiles. Such systems facilitate human interactions to promote a sense of community within the campus and between the campus and adjacent neighborhoods. They are integrated into the campus design and land use system in such a way that it enhances campus movement as well as the overall design of campus.

Guiding Principle Nine

Optimize the use of campus land and facilities and apply best practices

Campus facilities must be used efficiently and effectively in support of the academic mission. Assignment of space should encourage interdisciplinary use. Space needs are met first in ways other than building new facilities. Space is flexible and adaptable to ensure buildings can meet academic needs. The development and utilization of University facilities is guided by best practices as well as by the private sector.
Using Resources Wisely

Guiding Principle Ten

Develop a campus that is environmentally and operationally sustainable

A sustainable campus integrates ecological conservation, economic viability, and social equity through design, planning, and operational organization to meet current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The University strives to become a local, regional, and national leader in the application of sustainability practices, bringing appropriate methods and measures into all areas of our teaching, research, and outreach, and making sustainability a key component of our Master Planning efforts. Sustainability goals must inform campus decisions on energy, development and maintenance of buildings, protection of indoor and outdoor environments, and relationships with adjoining communities. Special attention is given to the University’s sensitive location on the Mississippi River.

Guiding Principle Eleven

Utilize the campus as a living laboratory to advance the university’s mission

The academic mission of the University is demonstrated through the use of the campus as a living laboratory. Open spaces and natural features become opportunities for research and discovery. Teaching is conducted through the use of on-campus examples and the application of knowledge. Operating units partner with academic leadership to bring the best research of the University to guide changes made to the campus environment.