

3. Planning Strategies and Facilities Implications

3.1 Planning Overview

Land

Land still remains the limiting growth factor at CBL. Without the acquisition of additional privately owned properties surrounding the campus, expansion potential is limited. A recent land acquisition has opened up an opportunity for some much needed expansion near the center of the campus.

Core Growth in Lab and Education Spaces

It is the desire of CBL to expand and grow facilities that support the core research and education mission of the lab. The CBL campus is planning for expansion related to research themes that include water security and restoration ecology. The required facilities to support this research expansion include lab space, office space for faculty, staff and students, state-of-art computing and library facilities, classrooms and conference rooms. CBL also needs lab space that promotes collaboration within and among disciplinary groups as well as external colleagues. Current lab space is very cellular and does not provide the space necessary for cross disciplinary work underway at CBL.

Library and Information Technology Needs

CBL has an extensive current and historical library collection. The campus library facilities occupy an inadequate space in the original administration building at CBL (Beaven Hall) and the campus is unable to provide the quality space needed for the exciting new directions in the organization, format, and constituencies of informational services. Current space is entirely taken up for book and manuscript storage leaving little to no space for researchers or students to work in. Just as important is the need for adequate additional space to expand innovative informational and computerized services to include a wider and more varied user group. Existing IT space on campus is in basement space in Nice Hall. It is inadequate and vulnerable to flooding and so must be relocated and expanded. Computer labs in this same facility are undersized for the campus population and not in the same location as the library thereby reducing their research capabilities.

Improving the Overall Campus Environment

The campus suffers from the lack of a “front door” and sense of clear “arrival.” The approach along Charles Street leads to a view of the Bay beyond with the main part of the campus off to the right. The intersection of Charles and Williams Street, the heart of the campus, is not well marked nor does it provide a sense of arrival to the campus. There is an opportunity to locate a new facility to provide this sense of arrival as well as meet many of the campuses needs for a new Library/Information Commons and IT space. Meeting rooms and other collaboration spaces would fulfill a campus-wide need as well as compliment the IT and Library functions. This building could also become the central-hub for CBL visitors and an important component of CBL’s education and service mission.

Other ways to improve campus inter-connectivity could include new and improved pathways among buildings, housing and office space for visiting researchers, and providing dorm space for students and interns.

Site and Landscape

CBL seeks to improve the pedestrian and vehicular access, and other aging infrastructure. CBL desires to effectively communicate the scientific and social history of the campus. A consistent, theme-based signage program which includes descriptions of the history and research activities at each building would begin to tell the CBL story to visitors of Solomon Island. Signage should be integrated with walking paths throughout the campus. Additionally, information kiosks within the campus footprint containing current and relevant CBL information would be beneficial for visitors touring the Island and would be a method of relaying the CBL story.

Sustainable Design

As an environmental laboratory, CBL desires to lead the way in sustainable practices. CBL desires to have an eco-friendly campus that actively displays and promotes energy efficiency and is a place where others visit to see how complex issues related to sustainability and environment problems are solved. Reduction in storm water run-off, reduced nutrient inputs and low-emissions are key components. Integration within the campus physical plant systems to reduce stand-alone systems, and renovation vs. replacement of buildings are key component to this effort. Parking areas with designated areas for low-emission vehicles and bicycles, solar powered areas and interior furnishings made entirely of recycled products are examples of ways to demonstrate a commitment to sustainability.

CBL will focus on the following particular goals as they relate to facility growth and change over the next 10 years. Refer to UMCES overall Goals and Planning Principles for additional information. (Section II-4)

Goals

- Reinforce campus identity throughout the site.
- Maintain and celebrate cultural heritage on campus.
- Make interdisciplinary research a core strength at CBL to facilitate new and expanded themes.
- Increase the efforts for sustainable practices.
- Improve environmental education outreach to local community and citizens throughout Maryland.
- Increase collaboration with local institutions.
- Increase infrastructure connectivity to avoid single point of failure issues with IT, emergency power and HVAC.

CBL Campus Planning Principles

- Maintain and enhance the “small town campus” scale, atmosphere, and appearance. Show sensitivity to the adjacent residential properties.
- All buildings will be designed with LEED standards, minimum Silver level, with a goal of achieving GOLD level.
- Better define the CBL campus boundaries and image.
- A campus map showing the location of the buildings/functions and designated visitor parking areas should be installed near, or integrated with, the Campus identification sign on Charles Street.

- Explore the possibilities of acquiring properties adjacent to the campus that will provide contiguous land for academic and research space.
- Continue cooperation with the local governmental agencies of the town, county, and regional planning districts in capital developments of mutual interest, which includes roadway and pedestrian way traffic flow and access.
- Maintain the “simpler” landscaping principles that require less maintenance and be more sustainable, promote attractive development, to protect and preserve the appearance and character of the surrounding area.