3. Planning Strategies and Facilities Implications

3.1 Planning Overview

Planning for the next 10 years at HPL will be flexible and adaptable to future needs while addressing the current issues that interfere with the success of the lab’s operations, from research and education to administration and service to the community.

HPL operates on a site rich of history and physical attributes that are currently not used to their fullest advantage. Most of the marshes and river views are hidden from the main campus roads, including DuPont lane, an elegant tree lined road that runs through the site connecting major research clusters at HPL and Center Administration. (Image 1 & 2)

The HPL campus is presently so spread out that requires use of vehicles to move from one building to the other. When planning for future development, an important goal should be to decrease daily travel distances. As mentioned in UMCES overall Goals and Planning Principles in Section II-4, research collaboration is greatly improved by physical connections among the different laboratories on all UMCES campuses.

There is strong potential for DuPont lane to be furthered developed into a connective corridor, enriched by state of the art research facilities, outdoor recreational and research areas, and walking paths to create a greater sense of community within the site. Illustration 3.1 shows a planning framework for the HPL campus where DuPont lane is featured as the spine of the campus where all current and future development connects. By increasing its visual prominence on campus, it also creates a sense of arrival and orients visitors throughout the site. It also creates the opportunity for interaction and collaboration among HPL community members by shortening walking distances to and from labs, as well as adding parking and open recreational space in between them. A walking path that loops around the site connects all major laboratories and residential areas, while increasing visual connections with the river and outdoor research activities. In addition, by locating development along one central spine, the need to extend building services for future development is minimized, therefore lowering infrastructure costs.
HPL 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.
- Increase collaboration among researchers, students and staff.
- Create a greater sense of community at the HPL site.
- Increase the delivery of environmental information to all communities (local and visiting research scientists, the media, students of all ages, legislators, tourists, etc)
- Maintain and celebrate the diverse ecosystems at HPL.

HPL Campus Planning Principles

- Protect natural and esthetic features of the site.
- Limit vehicular conflict with pedestrian circulation. Encourage walking on a daily basis by creating safe and pleasant walkways throughout the campus. Provide better outdoor lighting for these areas.
- Construct bike stations to encourage alternative ways of transportation within the campus as well as to help promote an environmentally friendly image throughout campus. They could serve as information centers at crucial locations for visitors.
- When planning new development, previously occupied sites should be considered to avoid disturbing the natural features of the site.
- The interface between public programs and research activities should be organized in such a way that neither interferes with the other.
- Continue to support the growth of the Environmental Education Program by the maintenance of the current EE buildings and the surrounding areas.
• Scale and design of building should be similar to the rest of the campus while in keeping with the character of the Eastern Shore. Design style should be contemporary and follow green building principles.

• Provide accessibility for all individuals with disabilities.