

What is a “Campus Plan” and why is Lake Forest College commencing one?

A campus plan is a roadmap that guides future change to the physical campus environment. One can think of a plan in a series of layers: land and building use, site and landscape, infrastructure, transportation/parking. At a strategic level, the campus plan provides direction for the institution to align with its strategic and mission-driven goals (e.g. improving academic success, expanding research, addressing holistic health). Finally, the campus plan identifies specific projects for implementation, and it includes prioritization and phasing so that the college is equipped to take action in the near-term while also planning for long range and aspirational goals.

The Role of User Groups in the Master Plan Process

User groups play a meaningful role in the creation of a campus plan. They provide insight into the current state of programs and facilities while also providing input on future goals and aspirations and discussing challenges. LFC is creating eight user groups to engage with during the planning process. Information provided by user groups is summarized and used to inform various parts of the master plan update including strategic goals, anticipated future program growth or decline, future space needs, identifying desired adjacencies, and potential partnerships.

Here is a list of the user groups:

- Academics
- Academic Support
- Administrative Services/Staff
- Athletics
- Facilities
- Performing Arts
- Student Life - Residential
- Student Life - Commuter
- Student Life - Student Center and Activities
- Sustainability

In addition to user groups, the planning process is convening a Steering Committee, and an Advisory Committee.

The planning consultant team will engage with user groups at two critical junctions: (1) during the “Discovery Phase” at the beginning of the project and (2) in the “Big Ideas” phase to share back a summary and results of input. Each meeting will last 50-60 minutes. A third and final plenary session will be held in late-Spring for the planning team to provide an update to user groups.