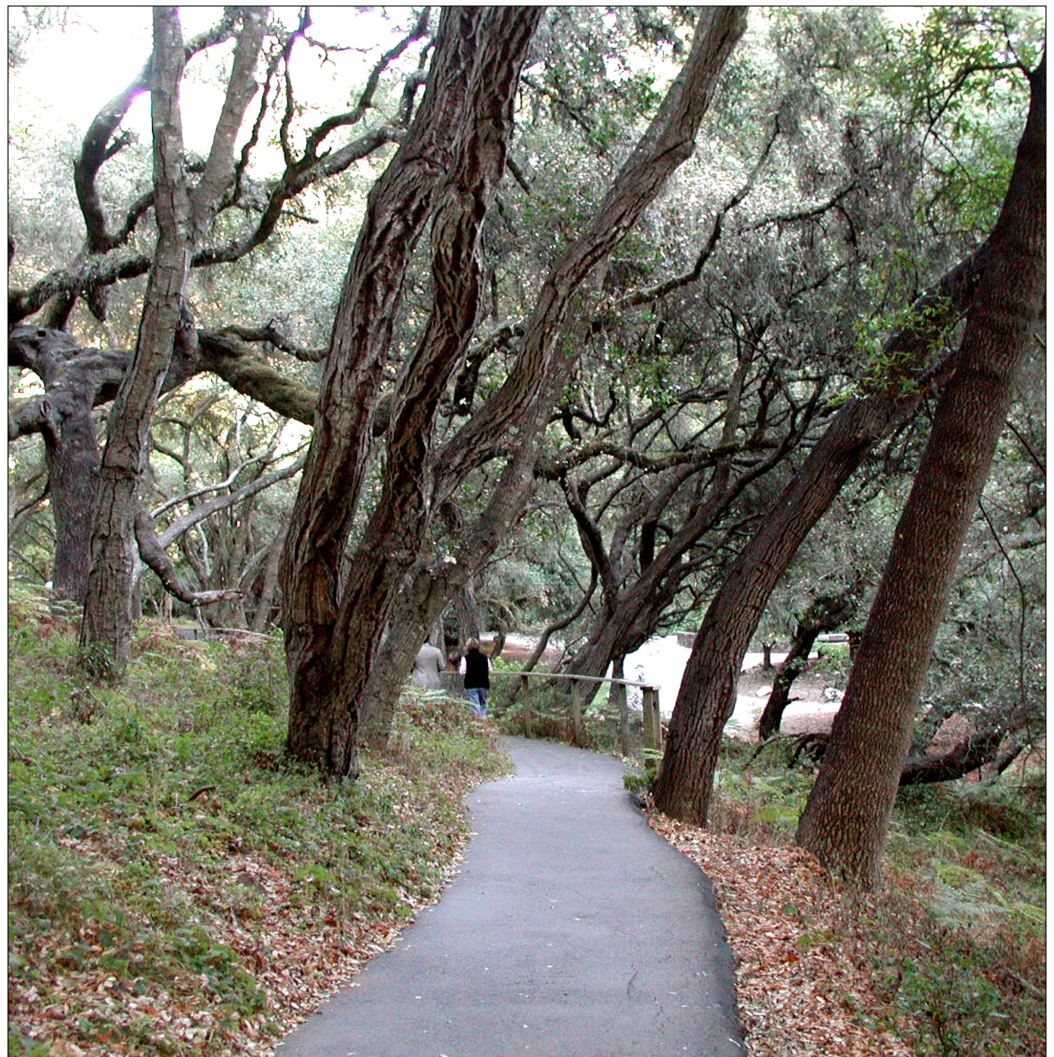


## 4. Physical Planning Principles and Guidelines

- a. Section Overview
- b. Sustainability
- c. Land-Use Patterns
- d. Natural and Cultural Resources
- e. Access and Transportation
- f. Campus Life
- g. The Santa Cruz Community





**a. Section Overview**

Throughout the history of UC Santa Cruz, the campus's physical planning approach has carefully balanced its academic, research, and service mission with a commitment to careful stewardship of the remarkable site entrusted to the campus. The 2005 LRDP will be guided by the planning principles outlined below. These principles are intended to protect the campus's extraordinary natural and cultural features, while at the same time incorporating those features into a built environment that, when taken as a whole, maintains UCSC's unique character, community, and quality of life. The principles in this section are not intended to serve as planning restrictions, but will guide future planning of individual projects whenever feasible.

At the heart of UCSC's approach to physical planning is a commitment to sustainable development. In its planning, design, construction, and operations, UCSC will strive to achieve more sustainable outcomes for the campus and community. It will incorporate sustainable design measures in new and existing buildings whenever economically feasible, and will actively explore and implement new technologies and strategies that promote resource sustainability for the campus and surrounding communities.



## b. Sustainability

Sustainability refers to principles of physical development, institutional operation, and organizational efficiency that meet the needs of present users without compromising the ability of future users to meet their needs—particularly with regard to the use of natural resources.

**Promote sustainable practices in campus development:** The campus will strive to balance concentrated development with sensitivity to the natural environment and will explore site design options that meet current needs without foreclosing future options. To the extent possible, buildings will incorporate flexibility to be adapted for other program uses in the future.

**Promote sustainable practices in campus operations:** The campus will continue to promote and explore sustainable practices including recycling, energy conservation, alternatives to single-occupant-vehicle transportation, and water conservation, among others.

**Encourage broad-based sustainability initiatives:** The campus will continue to develop campuswide sustainability awareness through education and outreach programs.<sup>17</sup> The campus will work to form partnerships with the City of Santa Cruz, the County of Santa Cruz, and other communities to identify shared strategies that address common goals.

17. Examples: Blueprint for a Sustainable Campus and Chancellor's Sustainability Action Council.



**c. Land-Use Patterns**

**Respect the natural environment and preserve open space as much as possible:**

Development will rely on careful infill and clustering of new facilities to promote efficient land use, retain valuable visual and environmental features, and encourage a pedestrian-friendly campus. Within the overall context of infill and clustering, sites will include a reasonable "buffer" between new buildings and major roads where possible.

**Integrate the natural and built environment:** New development will respond to the aesthetic qualities of UCSC's unique natural environment through siting, development patterns and architecture that are sensitive to the natural setting. In forested areas, buildings generally should not protrude above the surrounding tree canopy; in visually sensitive areas, interruption of prime viewsheds and viewpoints will be minimized.

**Maintain UCSC's core configuration:** Development will follow UCSC's traditional land-use pattern, which is a core of academic and administrative buildings surrounded by the residential colleges and other housing and support facilities. This pattern facilitates pedestrian and bicycle travel and maximizes interaction among members of the campus community. New colleges will be located as close to the core as possible without compromising sites for future academic and research facilities.

**Encourage sustainability and efficiency in building layouts:** Buildings shall be configured simply, to balance programmatic goals with sensitivity to the natural and/or built context. Efforts will be made to reduce building footprints and increase building height, where feasible.



**d. Natural and Cultural Resources**

**Respect major landscape and vegetation features:** Development will be sensitive to preservation of UCSC's distinctive physical features, including ravines, major grasslands, chaparral, and areas of redwood and mixed evergreen forests.

**Maintain continuity of wildlife habitats:** To the extent possible, development will minimize interruption of wildlife movement and fragmentation of habitats.

**Design exterior landscaping to be compatible with surrounding native plant communities:** As much as possible, landscaping will favor the use of native plants, as well as non-invasive, drought-tolerant, and fire-resistant species.

**Maintain natural surface drainage flows as much as possible:** UCSC will use financially viable sustainable design strategies to manage storm water, thereby preserving groundwater supplies, major springs, seep zones, year round springs, and major drainage channels, while at the same time preventing slope erosion.

**Protect historic and prehistoric cultural resources:** UCSC will protect recorded archaeological sites from development and protect historic resources through reuse or adaptation of structures in the Cowell Ranch Historic District.



**e. Access and Transportation**

**Promote a walkable campus:** To the extent possible, the campus will provide new pathways and improvements to existing pathways to enhance the “walkability” of the campus. Improvements for bicycles and transit, combined with frequent internal shuttles and connecting off-campus bus service, will facilitate campus pedestrian circulation.

**Discourage automobile use to and on the campus:** UCSC will continue to expand its comprehensive program of Travel Demand Management strategies to encourage alternatives to single-occupant vehicle use. New bike routes and bike parking will be developed to encourage bike travel around campus.

**Consolidate parking facilities at perimeter campus locations:** To promote non-automobile transportation options in the core, the campus will continue to encourage the use of peripheral parking facilities with frequent shuttle service.

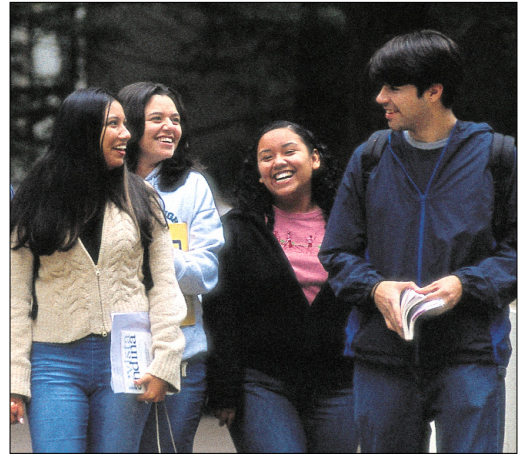


**f. Campus Life**

**Enrich the academic experience for all students:** Enrich the campus experience through the development of campus life facilities that support a variety of intellectual, educational, social, and recreational programs. UCSC's residential colleges will continue to provide supportive living/learning communities with a range of student services within the context of a major research university.

**Offer university housing opportunities for students and employees:** In addition to the housing offered in residential colleges, UCSC will provide a diversity of housing options for students and university employees. Housing will be developed to support the academic mission and to increase the regional housing supply.

**Create an array of facilities that enrich the quality of campus life:** The campus will develop academic support facilities to provide programs, services, and activities for all members of the university community. The campus will develop student services facilities and academic support facilities which enhance the academic experience, support the well-being of the academic community, support student success, and complement the residential colleges.



### **g. The Santa Cruz Community**

**Communicate and collaborate with the surrounding community:** Ongoing communication and collaborative planning will enable UCSC and the surrounding communities (especially the City of Santa Cruz) to anticipate and address particular challenges and work together toward common goals. UCSC will continue its commitment to the annual Chancellor-Mayor public meeting to report on progress toward mutual goals and participate in joint efforts to address issues that concern the community.

**Encourage the economic health of the surrounding community:** Identify joint opportunities for encouraging business activities that generate local employment and expand the local tax base. Work closely with UCSC's neighboring communities to seek practical solutions to the challenges of growth and change.

**Provide an accessible and welcoming public-service environment:** UCSC will continue to welcome public participation and continue to provide opportunities for the public to enjoy performing arts and lecture programs and make use of the University Library, physical education and recreation amenities, and other campus resources.



