

Panama City Campus Master Plan Overview

The Panama City Campus is set on 26 acres along the shore of North Bay. In 1982, Florida State University accepted responsibility of the Panama City Campus, previously a University of West Florida Branch Campus. While traditionally this campus has been only a non-residential commuter campus, the campus's first housing facility, opened Fall semester 2021. The campus serves a headcount of approximately 1,000 students in Panama City, as well as about 1,500 online students. The campus provides a wide-range of academic programs with most of the focus on upper-level and undergraduate students. It was initially oriented around the 4-year, transfer student population in conjunction with Gulf Coast State College (located across the street from campus). In 2012, the campus started enrolling freshmen.

Campus facilities damaged from the October 2018 Hurricane Michael are still being addressed. It impacted campus operations, affected enrollment, and displaced families and students throughout the region. Panama City is very much still recovering from this storm, although FSU has remained a stable institution within the community and was able to recover relatively quickly and support its students, employees, and members of the community.

There is tremendous potential for the campus to grow and play a larger role in regional economic development through talent development. The campus is underutilized, so enrollment can grow without an expansion of land or Education and General spaces.

The number one priority on campus has been student housing. Creating a well-rounded student life experience with on campus housing enables the campus to recruit and retain more students.

In recent years, the campus expanded its engineering programs (Mechanical and Systems) and added hospitality and criminal justice programs.

Planning Themes and Big Ideas

1. Enhance the Student Experience

The university recently embarked on a project with third party developers to build student housing through a public-private partnership. This has been a goal for the campus and will go a long way to create a more complete student experience. The existing Barron Administration building is the current student life hub on campus, and activity among student organizations and clubs has been

growing in recent years. The university would like to add more offerings and create more of a reason for students to remain on campus during the day. Florida State University and Gulf Coast State College (GCSC) have a unique proximity and partnership opportunity when it comes to student life. FSU students currently participate with GCSC in recreation, and the institutions host programs and events; further opportunities to share resources and build community should be pursued. On the academic front, the Panama City Campus is seeking to expand its offerings, particularly within the sciences curriculum, Engineering, and College of Applied Sciences.

2. Partnership and Economic Development

Regionally, the campus is positioned to build partnerships in three important ways. First, with the public sector, the campus can play a role in rebuilding in post-Hurricane Michael recovery by leading resiliency planning efforts with local governments. Second, the university can continue to align its academic offerings with major industry sectors (both private corporations and public entities) including tourism and hospitality, aerospace, and defense. This is one way the campus can strengthen its value proposition in the region. Finally, continuing to partner with Gulf Coast State College will offer an affordable, four-year transfer experience for regional students.

3. Growth through Recruitment, Retention (and Faculty Hiring)

The current campus is under-utilized in terms of total enrollment capacity, and campus growth is important to regional economic strength as well as stewardship of existing resources. Three things will help the college grow. First, focusing on recruitment of first year students. Second, keeping the existing students in attendance through degree completion. Third, faculty hiring to provide more programs and through-put in alignment with the recruitment and retention of students. Today's student enrollment of around 1,000 students could more than double to nearly 2,500 students in the next several years with all three growth factors (recruitment, retention, hiring) acting in concert.

4. Resilience and Adaptation

Within its sensitive environmental context, it is incumbent upon Florida State University to ensure that the Panama City Campus is as resilient and adaptable as possible. In the wake of Hurricane Michael and with an understanding of the risks faced from an event like this, it is evident the university should continuously update and evaluate its building and site planning standards and emergency preparedness.

Capital Improvement Elements

For the Near-Term, there is only one project: the just recently completed Student Housing-Joint Mixed-use development. This project is a 300-bed apartment building with 125 suite-style apartments. This project may potentially include some retail and commercial space as well.

Mid-Term projects include creation of additional surface parking on the eastern half of the campus. This, in part, will help to mitigate parking consumed by the Student Housing project. During this same planning period, it is expected that the University will seek to create a more significant, primary entrance which will necessitate the relocation of North Bay Drive. This new entrance will facilitate vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle access to the campus and provide a more convenient and safer way to conduct deliveries. Additionally, in conjunction with the creation of the new campus entrance, a new campus green will be developed which will provide dedicated green space, possible stormwater attenuation, and enhanced landscaping for the campus.

Mid-Term projects also include a new conference center to replace the Bland Conference Center. It will include meeting and teaching space. A renovation of the 35-year old Bayside Building is also planned for the Mid-Term.

TABLE MP.4.1 Panama City Campus

New Construction and Remodeling/Renovations
 (* = completed, under construction, or previously funded)



Figure # PC.MP.2	New Construction	Remodeling/Renovations
Near-Term		
NC10*	Student Housing-Joint Mixed-Use Development	
Mid-Term		
Figure # PC.MP.3	New Construction	Remodeling/Renovations
NC52	Conference Center	
PC4		Bayside Building Renovation

The priorities, timing, and phasing for university projects on the Panama City Campus are also identified in Element 14 Capital Improvements.

FIGURE PC.MP.1

PANAMA CITY CAMPUS 10-YEAR MASTER PLAN (YEARS 1-10)

LEGEND:

-  EXISTING BUILDINGS
-  FUTURE BUILDINGS

SOURCE:
FSU FACILITIES PLANNING
BAY COUNTY GIS

**FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
PANAMA CITY**

24 SEPTEMBER 2021

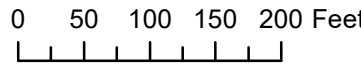
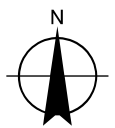


FIGURE PC.MP.2

PANAMA CITY CAMPUS MASTER PLAN NEAR-TERM (YEARS 1-5)

LEGEND:

 PROPOSED
RENOVATION/REMODEL

 PROPOSED NEW
CONSTRUCTION

* NEWLY BUILT

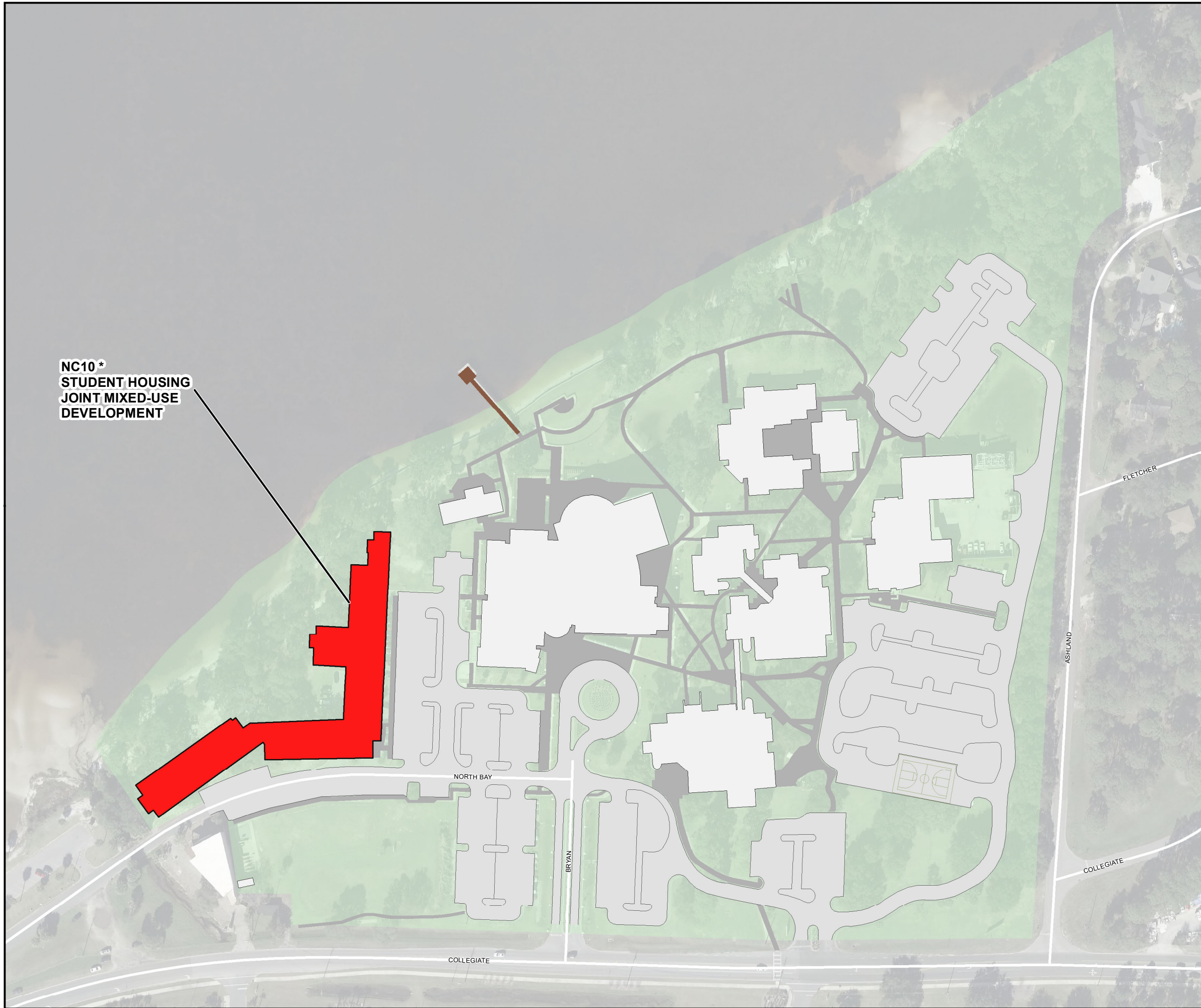
SOURCE:
FSU FACILITIES PLANNING
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NC10*
STUDENT HOUSING
JOINT MIXED-USE
DEVELOPMENT

FIGURE PC.MP.3

PANAMA CITY CAMPUS MASTER PLAN MID-TERM (YEARS 6-10)

LEGEND:

-  PROPOSED RENOVATION/REMODEL
-  PROPOSED NEW CONSTRUCTION

SOURCE:
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