The College of Engineering is located on land that is assigned to Florida State University. For this reason the College's future planning must appear in Florida State University's Master Plan. The following information is the Executive Summaries of the Florida State University Campus Master Plan for the Southwest Campus, which includes the College of Engineering site. Where possible, information pertaining to the College has been highlighted, as well as some alteration to the maps to show the site and buildings. Also, some pages have been reformatted and edited to fit within this document so the layout may differ from the original. However, regardless of the adjustments made, the information within has remained the same.
Master Plan Overview

The Southwest Campus (SWC) of Florida State University (FSU) is located in Tallahassee about a mile to the southwest of the Main Campus (see Figure MC.MP.5) on approximately 740 acres remaining out of a large parcel often called “The Farm”, a nickname derived from a dairy farm that once operated on the site. Over the years portions of The Farm have been converted to other uses, such as: Alumni Village --housing; Innovation Park --research; Seminole Golf Course --golf; FAMU/FSU College of Engineering--academics. The perception has long been that there is a lot of land still available in what is now being called the Southwest Campus. Actually, there is less available than expected. This Master Plan promotes an orderly allocation of land uses and proposes several projects to support the continuing development of FSU’s research, academic, and support capabilities.

Figure SWC.1 Ownership map of the Southwest Campus. Dotted line shows approximate boundary of original Farm property.
The Future Land Uses map shows the parcels currently owned by FSU and denotes the principal activities proposed for each segment. To the east and northwest, the SWC abuts residential neighborhoods. The north side adjoins and intermingles with Innovation Park, the research park of which FSU is a participant and within which FSU owns the property on which the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory is located. To the south are several parcels (formerly part of “the Farm”) owned mostly by other governmental entities.
Within the SWC boundaries there are several significant environmental areas that reduce the usable area as well as need careful monitoring. Some are sensitive drainage ways others are sink holes or karst areas and wetlands. Some areas have thick mixed pine and hardwood forest, some areas like the former FDOT property (shown in tan) located between the creek bed and Eisenhower Road have been used for construction material dumping or disturbed by other activities.
Figure SWC. 4 The green blocks are the remaining areas suitable for buildings at the SWC.

Large parcels of the SWC are occupied by venerable Alumni Village on the east side, a student housing complex, FSU’s Seminole Golf Course in the middle, and the new Intramural Fields complex currently under construction in the northwest corner. On the accompanying map (see Figure SWC.4) the areas depicted in green are the only remaining undeveloped sites suitable for building. This is considerably less acreage than most people assume to be the case.
Innovation Park was carved out of the original “Farm” property. FSU retains ownership of the parcels for the prestigious National High Magnetic Field Laboratory. Along Levy Street, FSU has begun development of a series of academic-oriented research facilities to house both pure research and related centers, institutes, and technology transfer organizations. Two newly acquired parcels in the southwest corner at the intersection of Orange Avenue and Rankin Avenue and in the center between Eisenhower Street and the creek ravine along Paul Dirac Drive (combination of the former “trailer park” site and the FDOT property) are proposed for initial developments within the 10-year planning horizon. Altogether these parcels could ultimately support upwards of 2 million square feet of research-related facilities. These developments would significantly improve the image of the southwest corner of Tallahassee as well as provide close access to the airport, FSU, and downtown Tallahassee. They are close to the Capitol Circle loop leading to the Interstate 10 corridor and the residential neighborhoods to the north of town. These research enclaves may offer FSU opportunities to explore and demonstrate a new paradigm for environmental stewardship while providing needed facilities for research that fuels economic development.
The joint FAMU-FSU College of Engineering located in the middle of the SWC is accessed by Pottsdamer Street. Contemplated in the Capital Improvements Element are a third and eventually a fourth phase expansion. Other academic programs at the SWC include the golf management program, science activities related to the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory and other research offices.
Joining a trend that other large universities are pursuing to move large land allocations required for sports and recreation programs off their Main Campuses, FSU is building a major Intramural Sports Complex in the northwest corner along Rankin Avenue. The new Intramural Sports Complex is being constructed in two phases as funding is developed. This new facility will allow some activities to be off-loaded from the Main Campus to yield room there for more intense academic development while at the same time greatly expanding the overall scope and capability for student-related recreation, intramural and club sports.

Many Tallahassee residents and visitors alike know the Southwest Campus as the location of the FSU golf course, enjoyed by the general public as well as being the home course of the varsity men’s and women’s golf teams. A new clubhouse also houses the Professional Golf Management program, one of only a few in the country. Part of the golf course area is an underused nursery in the southeast corner along Orange Avenue. This parcel is targeted for a future tennis complex once the land on which the existing facilities are located on the Main Campus are needed for higher-and-best use academic functions. A new combined tennis stadium and College of Education teaching facility is proposed adjacent to the new Marine Diving facility located along Pottsdamer Street.

Figure SWC.7 The Seminole Golf Course is joined by the new 110-acre Intramural Sports Complex.
Figure SWC. 8 The large area in yellow depicts the long-range expansion target for the SWC.

Although many see the open ground or forested tracts along Orange Avenue or the undeveloped parcels in Innovation Park, there is far less land at the Southwest Campus for future growth than most people think. This is an opportune time to acquire the underutilized properties shown in yellow as land bank for the future.