This five-year campus master plan update is a required update pursuant to Subsection 1013.30 (9) F.S. The Supporting Inventory and Analysis and Final Master Plan documents make recommendations as to how improvements can be made as campus expansion continues. As of May 2005, the UNF 2005-2015 Master Plan Update is undergoing the DRAFT submittal process of the 90-day review period pursuant to 1013.30 (6) for host community and agency review and comment.

This update provides growth potential opportunities for the University of North Florida (UNF) for the next ten-year planning period (2005-2015). A summary of anticipated improvements is articulated below for the 18 required elements and planning options are discussed as they relate to the growth potential and are illustrated on the 2005-2015 Master Plan Update rendering.

Planned Campus Improvements:

**Academic Facilities:** The new Social Sciences Building footprint was illustrated on the Master Plan to create an additional entrance point into campus from the east. This building would create a bookend with the Science and Engineering Building to identify a gateway and act as a connection point with a new pedestrian corridor from the Eastern Ridge residential housing development. A new Computer Sciences Building would be located to replace the existing modular unit currently serving as this facility. The new College of Education Building will be located on the existing Parking Lot 3 and be architecturally integrated into the site so views into the campus core and to the proposed Student Union adjacent to this building will not be obscured. The College of Business addition will be located at the northern end of the existing building.

**Support Facilities:** The new Student Union would occupy a prominent location at the northern end of the campus core. Opportunities to visually link the Union to the internal campus would be maintained along UNF Drive and architecturally through the use of pedestrian corridors, plazas, open space and pond overlooks. An Alumni House is proposed to the north of the campus core adjacent to the Union.

A Welcome Center is proposed at UNF Drive to take advantage of the proximity to Lake Oneida and to existing facilities and infrastructure. This facility would be integrated into the existing nature center and information booth as a central facility for information, ticket sales and access to the nature trails. The John Golden Memorial Pavilion and a sanctuary would also serve as an amenity and tie into the existing nature trails adjacent to the lake.

Discussions are continuing for the placement of an Administration Building with two possible locations being proposed. With the construction of the Social Sciences and Education Buildings, space vacated in an existing academic building could be renovated for administrative offices. A preferred location for a new Administration Building would be at the perimeter of campus, leaving existing space available for expansion of academic programs. Recent land acquisition at the southern portion of the Eastern Ridge could accommodate a new administrative facility. Satellite physical facility plants were also proposed at perimeter locations to provide needed utilities and infrastructure for future expansion.

**Housing:** It was determined that all future student housing expansion will occur on the Eastern Ridge as indicated on the Conceptual Development Plan in order to create a denser development with this housing
consideration will be given to at least 6-story buildings. These facilities will be primarily for upperclass students and include apartment-style residences including kitchens. Amenities such as recreation fields, courts, parking and safe, well-lit pedestrian corridors into the campus will be provided.

Greek Housing was an important component with this master plan update and land was allocated for this use. The most appropriate area of campus was determined to be in the northwest portion of campus providing a sense of separation to the campus but in close proximity to recreational facilities. Land was also allocated for additional recreation fields and parking. The roadway connecting the outer loop road to this housing would terminate at the housing development and potentially connect to Central Parkway once this additional entrance was deemed necessary. Further discussions of the placement of Greek Housing as shown on the Final Conceptual Development Plan preferred that no Greek Housing be located to the west of the roadway. The road would act as an edge for development thus preserving the natural integrity of the remaining uplands and sensitive wetlands to the west.

Athletics/Recreation: Discussions for the expansion of the athletics and recreation facilities all indicated a need for separate facilities for each department and are as follows;

Athletics Department:
For this ten-year planning period, the immediate needs for the Athletics programs are the build out and completion of the Stadium interior, construction of the nine-lane, 400 meter track associated with the Soccer/Track Stadium complex and expansion of or addition to the Arena to alleviate space needs and scheduling conflicts arising from the joint use of the existing facility by both the Athletics and Recreation Departments. The issue concerning this joint-use facility is the inadequacy of space to provide both intercollegiate activities and intramural and recreational programs to run concurrently.

Recreation Department:
For this ten-year planning period, the immediate needs for the Recreation Department are the expansion of the existing Dottie Dorian Fitness Center into a Recreation SportsPlex. This would offer students unlimited access to fitness, basketball courts, volleyball courts and group fitness studios as well as a possible indoor track and spa area. Also needed are expanded dedicated recreational playing fields for softball, soccer and flag football. A combination storage, concession and restroom facility near the playing fields was also proposed. A Skate Park is illustrated at the northernmost portion of the campus.

The northern parcel development includes relocated tennis courts and clubhouse, a women’s softball triplex and a multipurpose field. Also, future athletic/recreation expansion is indicated when the tennis courts are relocated to the northern parcel.

Transportation/Parking: State Road 9A will impact traffic to the University from the west. Completion of the Western Ridge road should serve as a relief valve on UNF Drive loop road, diverting traffic accessing the northern campus from the internal loop road. This would reduce the congestion caused by special events conflicting with normal class schedules and University functions. The goal of the master plan is to create a safe, pedestrian-friendly campus environment and minimize vehicular and pedestrian conflicts within the loop road and campus core. The success of the Western Ridge road is contingent upon its sensitive design and construction to minimize impacts to the diversity of wildlife and flora found in the northwest portion of campus. An agreement is currently being negotiated to limit or prevent any further development on the Western Ridge after completion of the roadway. An additional parking garage is proposed beyond this ten-year planning period on Lot 14T to serve traffic diverted to the Western Ridge road and for overflow parking.

A 1,500-2,000 space parking garage is proposed in the northern parking lot for special events and overflow student parking. The northern access road from Central Parkway has created the opportunity to complete an outer loop road system with the Western Ridge road and Eastern Ridge road. Roundabouts are proposed to replace the traffic signals to improve circulation at the St. Johns Bluff Road entrance and Alumni Drive entrance. Additional roundabouts will be considered for the Eastern Ridge for traffic calming.
once a roadway design has been completed.

Safe, well-lit pedestrian corridors are illustrated to link the Eastern Ridge student housing development with the campus. These boardwalks will be designed to minimize wetland impacts and minimize the adverse effects of lighting on wildlife while creating a safe link to the campus core. Two separate access roads are being considered to the Eastern Ridge from the south; a two-lane road from Alumni Drive or a two-lane road from the existing Kernan Boulevard. Potential land acquisition and future development within the First Coast Technology Park will create the opportunity to re-direct traffic from the existing Kernan Boulevard to a relocated roadway to the east. This will assist UNF in creating a more efficient entrance into campus and allow a more internally controlled road.

Tram service is being considered for better campus circulation and connection to the host community services as well as from remote parking lots either on campus or from the development to the west of campus. The UNF campus will promote the creation of wider sidewalks and better internal pedestrian circulation. Bike lanes and sidewalks need to be separated but could be adjacent.

**Urban Design:** As illustrated in every master plan since the University's initial development, the “Village Street” concept of a pedestrian-friendly corridor through campus will be maintained and embellished. Infill and densification will continue within the campus core, however, outdoor spaces, courtyards, plazas and a Campus Green will remain and expanded as space allows. With the eventual demolition of Building 11, the existing Campus Green can be enlarged, with more seating and open space.

Additional open space will be created with the construction of the Student Union with an amphitheatre or an outdoor entertainment area extending from the northwest side of the facility. This feature will give the University opportunities to connect the activities of the Student Union to special events occurring in the northern athletic and recreation areas while allowing noise associated with those events to project away from the academic core. Underutilized areas adjacent to existing academic buildings will be embellished as feasible to provide additional seating and gathering areas. A Campus Landscape Master Plan has been initiated that will address priority areas on campus for landscape architectural improvements, including plants, connections, lighting and hardscape elements.

An addition to the existing Thomas Carpenter Library will create a more celebrated, grand entrance into campus from the west. This much-needed sense of arrival will anchor the buildings and re-direct vehicular circulation to a re-designed parking lot and drop off area and to the Fine Arts parking garage.

**SUMMARY**

The expansion of the University has been firmly established with the steady increase in student enrollment, the development of new academic programs, the growth of existing colleges and sensitive land development. The success of the conceptual development phase of the 2005-2015 Master Plan Update was achieved because many factions of the University played a vital role in consensus building.

From the students to the administration, faculty to staff, the planning process has ensured that all participants had an active role in the master planning process. The establishment of new policies, placement of new facilities, expansion of existing facilities and future development opportunities were all elements considered for the success of the 2005-2015 Master Plan Update and to realize the vision of the University of North Florida as an institution dedicated to the quality of life for its community.