Campus Next
Enhancing the east end of the Danforth Campus
In 2017, Washington University in St. Louis will begin the largest capital project in the recent history of the Danforth Campus, transforming the east end to align with the university’s core academic mission of groundbreaking discovery, research, and teaching.

The east end is the last major area of the Danforth Campus available for significant development. This project will create two new academic buildings, two multi-use pavilions, an underground parking garage, and a transformative landscape.

These enhancements will give the university capacity to expand key academic programs; create opportunities for greater interdisciplinary interaction; and transform the entrance to campus, fostering a deeper programmatic and physical link with the rest of the campus and Forest Park.

The design will be thoughtful and beautiful — reflecting how people in the 21st century work and connect locally and internationally, while inviting the St. Louis community onto campus.

The Danforth Campus is integral to our 162-year history and intertwined with the history of St. Louis. Since 1905, its east end, topped by iconic Brookings Hall, has been the university’s front door.

When ground is broken in May 2017, a comprehensive landscape and architectural plan springs into action, with particular focus on academic expansion and the overall campus experience.

NEW FEATURES

ACADEMICS
The east end of the Danforth Campus will include new major buildings for the School of Engineering & Applied Science and the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts. The buildings will provide the two schools with the capacity to meet evolving programmatic needs, and will cultivate more interaction and collaboration between disciplines.

OVERALL CAMPUS EXPERIENCE
The east end of the Danforth Campus will bring people together, whether they are working on an academic project or attending a public event. The Central Green space, with its view of Brookings and easy connections to the Engineering and Sam Fox Schools, will be the heart of life on the east end of the Danforth Campus. The Welcome Center, the Hub, the Clark-Fox Forum in Hillman Hall, and the Kemper Museum, supported by a new underground parking garage, will draw visitors and help foster an active public space.
The Plan for Enhancing the East End of the Danforth Campus

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History

In an 1895 plan, Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot envisioned a landscape-based setting for Washington University’s new location. The Olmsted Brothers’ plan included a park-like eastern portion, which connected visually and physically to the tree-lined Skinker and Lindell Boulevards.

The building plan chosen for implementation was the “Block Plan” prepared by Cope & Stewardson in 1900. It has defined and continues to govern the location of buildings on the Danforth Campus.

The Block Plan created a flexible structure for the university’s growth but did not account for the expansion of the academic campus east of Hoyt Drive, at the foot of Brookings Hall. Over the years, numerous other plans, studies, and buildings have shaped the east end of the Danforth Campus. Plans include Jamieson and Spearl (1933), Maki & Associates (1998), and Kallman, McKinnell & Wood (2001).
TODAY, THE EAST END IS REIMAGINED WITH ITS PLANNING HISTORY AS A FOUNDATION. THE ENHANCEMENTS TO THE EAST END OF THE DANFORTH CAMPUS WILL INCLUDE A FOCUS ON IMPROVED PHYSICAL CONNECTIONS TO FOREST PARK, INSPIRED BY THE 1895 OLMS TED PLAN. THIS EAST END PLAN MAINTAINS THE CEREMONIAL ENTRY OF THE BROOKINGS ALLÉE CREATED BY THE COPE & STEWARDSON PLAN.
Background

The east end is the primary public entrance to the Danforth Campus. It terminates Lindell Boulevard, one of the city’s grand streets and the northern boundary of Forest Park, and sits adjacent to the regional thoroughfares Forsyth Boulevard, Skinker Boulevard, and Forest Park Parkway.

Four schools are located in the east end: Arts & Sciences; the School of Engineering & Applied Science; the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, including the Kemper Art Museum; and the Brown School. Other occupants include Admissions, Student Financial Services, and the university’s Central Administration in Brookings Hall.

Surface parking lots currently cover a large portion of the east end of the Danforth Campus. By replacing these parking spaces with an underground parking garage, we will be able to utilize this valuable space for academic pursuits. The development of the east end also allows the university to improve connections between the schools and the rest of the Danforth Campus, and to create a safer pedestrian and bicycle experience.
Current Conditions

While the east end of the Danforth Campus has many strong attributes, it also currently faces significant challenges. Strengths include several architecturally strong buildings and an easy connection to the Skinker MetroLink station.

Notable challenges include an over-emphasis on surface parking, limited space for academic programs, pedestrian safety issues, and poor connections to Forest Park. The enhancements to the east end of the Danforth Campus seek to build on existing strengths while directly addressing current challenges.
RECENTLY OPENED HILLMAN HALL

GREEN HALL ENTRANCE NEAR SKINKER METROLINK STATION

TRAFFIC ON HOYT DRIVE
HENRY A. AND ELVIRA H. JUBEL HALL:  

A New Building for the School of Engineering & Applied Science

Set to house the School of Engineering & Applied Science’s Department of Mechanical Engineering & Materials Science (MEMS), Jubel Hall will offer infrastructure and research facilities that are key to fostering the interdisciplinary nature of engineering. At Washington University, engineering faculty and students collaborate across converging disciplines to focus on medicine and health, energy and the environment, and security. In this building, mechanical engineers will work closely with physicists, chemists, biologists, and chemical and biomedical engineers to promote the convergence of mechanics, materials science, and nanotechnology.

Jubel Hall will link the existing engineering complex to other parts of the Danforth Campus and will strengthen collaboration among the Department of Mechanical Engineering & Materials Science and other SEAS departments.

- MEMS faculty will expand thanks to planned space for 20 MEMS faculty labs and offices.
- To strengthen collaboration among MEMS and other SEAS departments, Jubel Hall will have nearly 3,000 square feet of shared laboratory space and will house three labs for biomedical engineering.
- Three pooled classrooms will be available for use by all schools.
- High-performance tools and technologies will be resources in a new maker space where students from all disciplines can design, build, and learn.
- Jubel’s facilities will accelerate progress toward cleaner energy, better health care, and a more secure nation through research in biomechanics, energy, aerospace, and advanced materials.
ANABETH AND JOHN WEIL HALL:
A New Building for the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts

Weil Hall will be a symbol of the university’s commitment to creativity in the 21st century and identify the Sam Fox School as a leader in design practice and education. This new front door to the Sam Fox School will express the important roles for art and architecture in a research university and will help guide the future of these disciplines. Beautifully crafted and fundamentally sustainable, Weil Hall will be an inspiring place for advanced scholarship, creative activity, innovative research, and bold experimentation as faculty and students seek solutions to critical social and environmental challenges.

Landscape will be integral to the building design and will support Weil Hall as an interdisciplinary hub and home to a vibrant and diverse academic community. Weil Hall, its landscape, and its systems will be distinctive teaching tools and will distinguish the Sam Fox School among its peers.

- Weil Hall will support and consolidate the school’s growing graduate programs, including the relocation of the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program to the Danforth Campus.
- Exceptional spaces for the generation, experience, and dissemination of art and design will include:
  - Studios for graduate architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, graduate art and design, and interdisciplinary programs
  - Exhibition, critique, and review spaces
  - Digital fabrication and technology spaces
  - Experimental media, research, and collaborative spaces
Welcome Center and the Hub: Two New Interdisciplinary Pavilions Framing Brookings Hall

The Welcome Center and the Hub multi-use pavilions will allow people to get to know Washington University and make important connections, whether on a first visit to campus or at lunch with classmates and colleagues. Both facilities will welcome visitors throughout the day.

The Welcome Center will offer all visitors a home base for their campus experience and will house Undergraduate Admissions.

The Hub, open to the campus and broader communities, will bring together dining, alternative transportation support, and academic programming, which will likely include the Environmental Studies program and the Office of Sustainability.
Conceptual View

BROOKINGS HALL FLANKED BY THE WELCOME CENTER (LEFT) AND THE HUB (RIGHT)
Campus Experience

A new intentional landscape will support a more connected campus experience, linking both people and place.

A Welcoming Entrance

- Landscaping will honor the historical design of the Danforth Campus and reflect the character of Forest Park, offering an enhanced, tree-lined frame of Brookings Hall.

- Pedestrian access will be improved into and across the Danforth Campus. The landscape design will bring nearly all of the east end to the same elevation, limiting the need for stairs and ramps and offering a more accessible entrance to the university. It also will offer enhanced visibility of the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum and public programs at the Brown School and other campus venues.

- A nearly 800-space underground parking garage will include two circulator campus shuttle stops. This garage, which will allow for the removal of surface parking and vehicular traffic from the east end of the Danforth Campus, will make it possible for the building and landscaping projects to proceed and will ensure a safer and more pleasant pedestrian experience across campus. Vehicles will be able to enter the new underground garage from Forsyth Boulevard and Forest Park Parkway. A vehicular dropoff area also will be accessible from Skinker Boulevard.

Places to Gather and Celebrate

- At the heart of the development of the east end of the Danforth Campus is a beautiful and inviting new campus gathering place, the Central Green.

- New terraces near the School of Engineering & Applied Science and the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts will connect to the Central Green. This expanded green space will offer a tree-framed view of Brookings Hall and easy connections between the School of Engineering & Applied Science and the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts.

- Buildings facing the Central Green will have “active edges,” blurring the line between indoor and outdoor spaces through window-filled, ground-level floors and the placement of shade trees and moveable furniture.

- Art and sculpture will be thoughtfully integrated into the landscape design.
1 CENTRAL GREEN
2 LOWER LEVEL COURTYARD
3 BROOKINGS SLOPE PLANTING IMPROVEMENTS
4 CENTRAL COURT
5 KEMPER PAVILION
6 VEHICULAR DROP-OFF
7 GARAGE RAMP
8 GARAGE STAIR
9 GARAGE ELEVATOR
10 IMPROVED INTERSECTION
11 NEW STREETSCAPE AND PLANTING
12 NEW BROOKINGS ALLEE
13 ENTRY TERRACE
14 FLORENCE STEINBERG WEIL SCULPTURE PLAZA
15 GIVENS DOCK IMPROVEMENTS
Conceptual Views
VIEW FROM CENTRAL GREEN
VIEW FROM THE NORTH WALK OF CENTRAL GREEN
The enhancements to the east end of Danforth Campus are designed to strengthen connections within the university and beyond. Plans for renovating the east end of Danforth Campus take into account sustainable design, the creation of vibrant and social places, and the university’s growing academic programs.

The university will finalize designs for the transformation of the east end of campus by 2017 and will begin construction in May 2017 with completion in May 2019.

**Sustainability**

The east end of the Danforth Campus offers a unique opportunity to reinforce the university’s commitment to sustainability through the incorporation of built systems and structures.

All buildings on the east end will be designed to meet at least LEED Gold standards. We are currently investigating the viability of other sustainability efforts, including a hybrid geothermal energy system, combined heat and power systems, and rainwater and graywater reuse.

**KEY PROJECTS INCLUDE:**
- ROOFTOP SOLAR PANELS
- DIVERSE TREE CANOPY
- VEGETATED ROOFTOPS
- STORMWATER CISTERNs
- BIOINFILTRATION PLANTERS
- TRANSIT STOP ACCESS
- ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION CENTER
- COMPOST AND RECYCLING NODES