

The Master Plan mentions building on existing parking lots on campus, proposing better transit, better cycle links, and better pedestrian systems to lessen the dependence of students and staff on vehicles. Though this is preferable to building over landscaped or walking areas, there are only so many parking lots on campus.



Open space should not be hastily labeled wasted, or even vacant. Apart from providing comfortable walking and meeting spaces, campus landscapes can be treated as resources for learning and recreation, as well as prototypical recycling and land management practices.

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This ebook will discuss how the changes UW has made and continues to make on campus space affect the experience of users of the campus. All numbers and facts about the University's intentions are taken from the University of Waterloo Master Plan for campus development, still in effect.

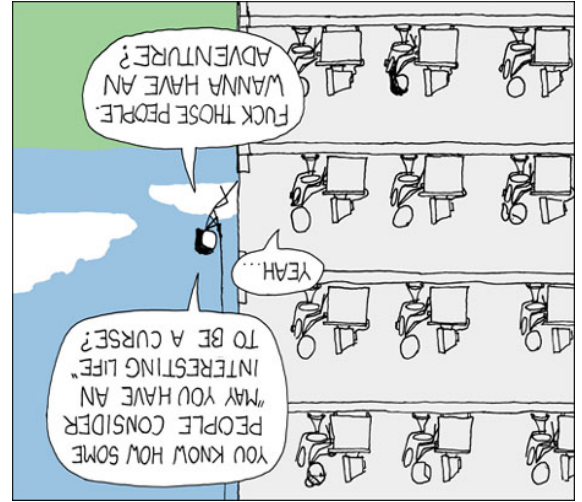
Campus Space

Jen Stanfel

UWs existing campus space will continue be used to fit an increasing number of people and activities, and buildings to house these. The University intends to maintain qualities and academic mission of the campus and claims the location and design of future buildings and landscaping could even enhance these.

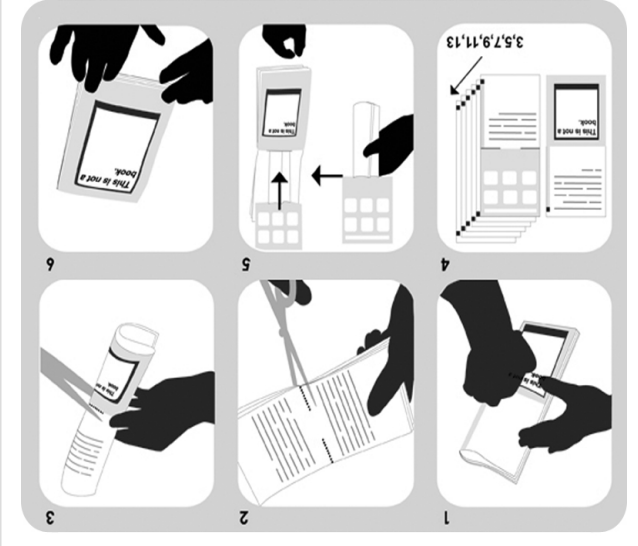


White shapes indicate the buildings which had/have not been built yet but are planned in green spaces.



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The University of Waterloo is growing. In the first stage of campus expansion, between 1961 and 1973, the University surpassed its initial enrolment target of 10,000 students, and growth has since stabilized. Current enrolment is approximately 16,600 full-time and 8,800 part-time students, complemented by approximately 890 full-time faculty, 75 part-time, and 2,050 administrative staff (440 part-time). Beyond this basic population, members of the local community use the campus regularly for cultural and recreational events, and there is a significant influx of visitors to the campus through the year. Undergraduate enrolment is anticipated to remain stable, while some growth is expected in graduate intake.

For details about the University's expansion plan and the future of campus space, I encourage you to consult the University's Master Plan document, at www.uwaterloo.ca/documents/masterplan/.

My ebook has focused on the south campus, as it is the campus most students at the Waterloo campus are the most familiar with, but the document contains extensive plans for the development of the North Campus as well.



Space must be sacrificed for University growth. With more buildings, the University will be able to house more people, and the learning and research opportunities that come with them. This progress, however, will come at the cost of increased visual clutter and less comfortable personal space. The students' campus experience will in this way change: as the University grows, future students will have more and potentially better learning opportunities than current and past students, but their experiences of the campus itself will be different as campus landscape will become tighter and tighter as more and more buildings are erected.



As the university continues to build on open areas, comfortable space will be diminished and people will become more crowded on campus.



Walkers have at present, mostly, a comfortable amount of space between buildings, with lots of open, flattish areas as opposed to being claustrophobically walled in between buildings. Walkers are crowded at very few points on campus paths. The open and park-like atmosphere of the campus is pleasant, but this could be compromised by new buildings and landscapes.