

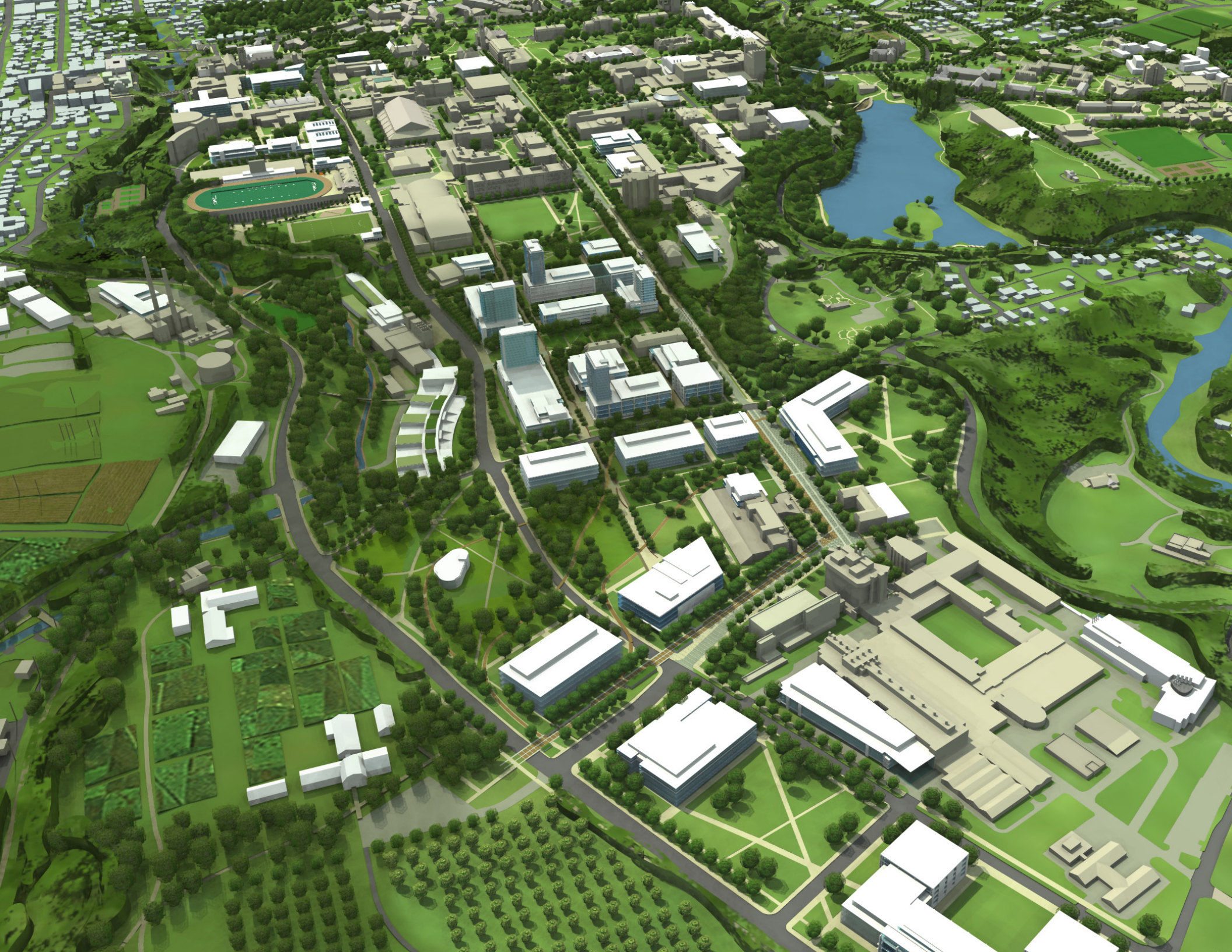


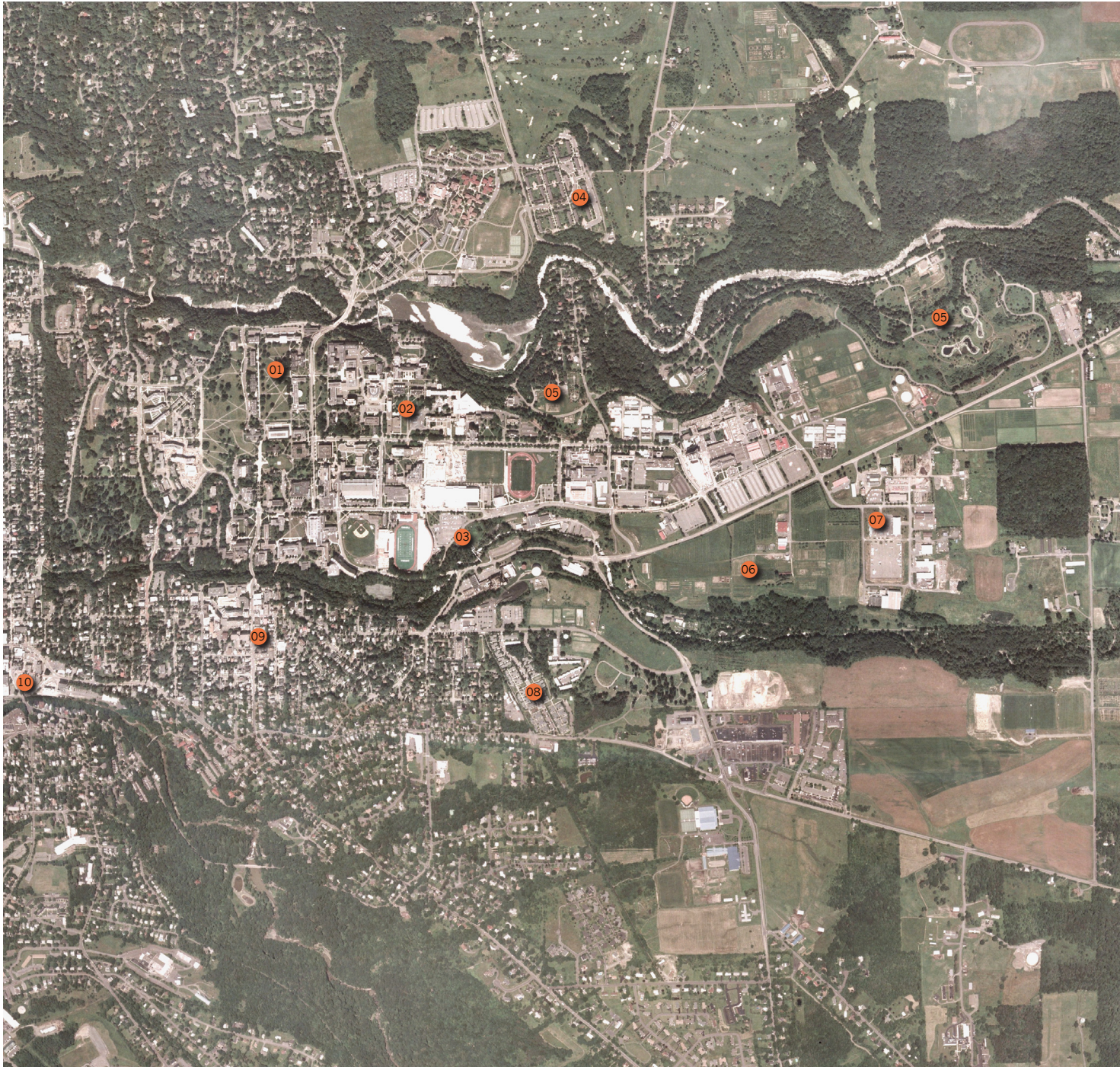
# 3 Vision

The campus master plan is based on a long-term vision of what the Ithaca campus can become – how it might look and feel in 30-60 years and how it can promote sustainability. True to the spirit of Cornell, the vision respects tradition and encourages innovation. One vision is illustrated, but within the physical and land use frameworks derived from the vision, any one of many development scenarios is possible.

In the vision for Cornell’s campus a landscape like no other is extended to provide the setting for modern facilities in buildings old and new. Together, bold new open spaces and remarkable buildings link town to country, public to private, gorge to gorge. Most important, they link people—to the land, to each other, to Cornell.

Rendered view west over Core  
Campus from above the Orchards.





The campus in 2007

The images on the following pages were created for the purpose of illustrating the long-term vision for the campus, with the white buildings conceptually representing potential development.

- 1 Arts Quad
- 2 Ag Quad
- 3 Kite Hill
- 4 Hasbrouck Community
- 5 Cornell Plantations
- 6 Orchards
- 7 Palm Road Complex
- 8 Maplewood Park Community
- 9 Collegetown
- 10 Downtown
- 11 Founders' Greenway
- 12 Alumni Quad
- 13 East Center
- 14 Judd Falls Greenway
- 15 Game Farm Road Complex
- 16 Ellis Hollow Athletics Complex\*
- 17 Cornell Park
- 18 East Hill Village
- 19 Pine Tree Road Athletics Complex\*

\*The athletics complexes shown in South Campus include alternative locations for outdoor facilities.

# The Vision Plan

In addition to the illustrations, six words best capture the essential qualities of the future campus: open, green, compact, integrated, connected and engaged.



An illustration of the long-term potential of Cornell Ithaca

## Open and green



Artist's rendering of a view down Wee Stinky Glen.

Openness defines Cornell academically, physically and as a community, and the campus's magnificent landscapes are treasured. The legacy spaces, breathtaking panoramic views and natural features shall be maintained and will inspire a pattern of new legacies.

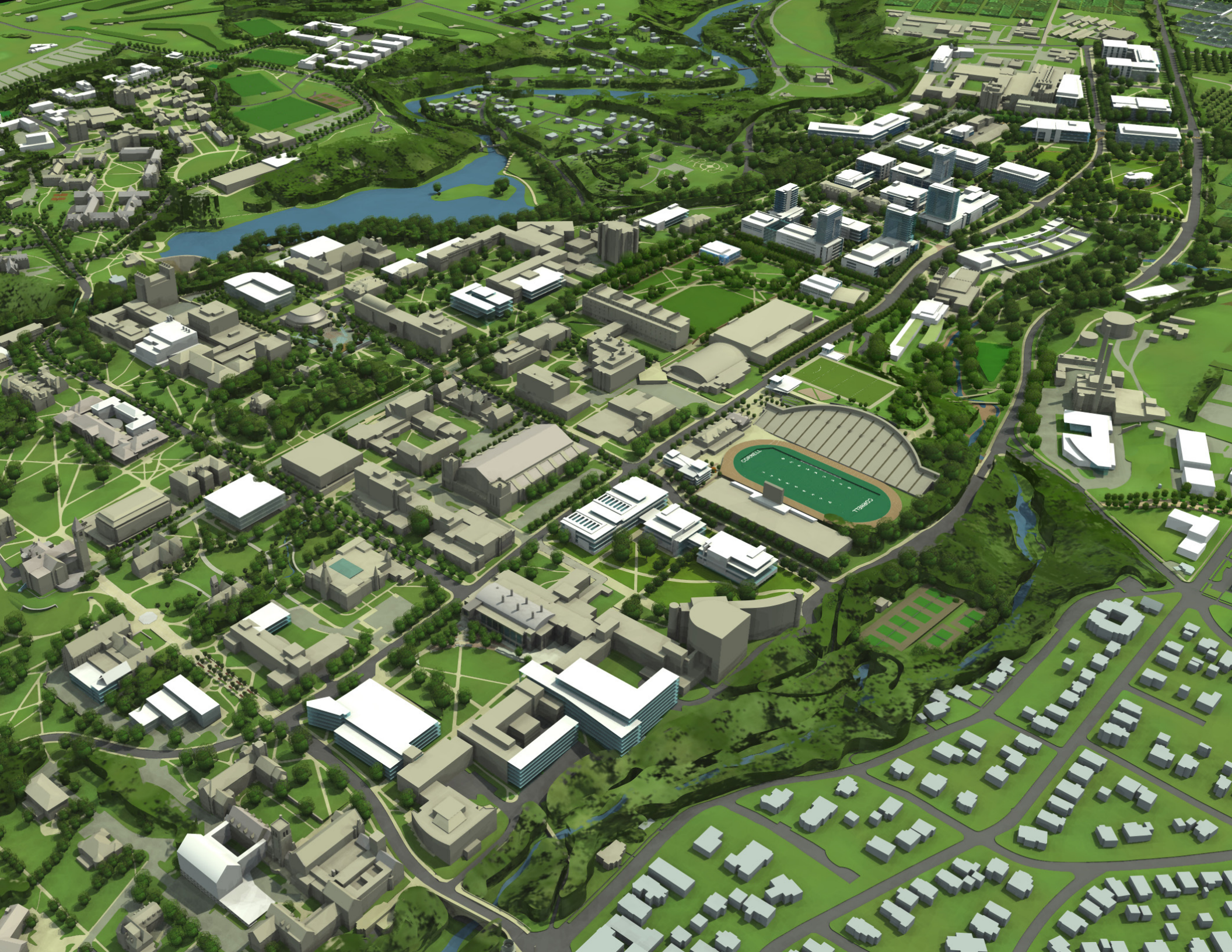
A **grand new central quad** on the Alumni Fields will unite the two halves of the core. A **major greenway** east of Judd Falls Road will link the two valleys and provide a lush setting for development in East Campus. In the spirit of the Plantations, **Cornell Park** will emerge in South Campus as a place for recreation, athletics, community enjoyment and ecological restoration. These big new spaces will be complemented by smaller **quads, plazas and courtyards** and linked by streets and pathways.

Openness is not only fundamental to the experience of the campus. The **orchards, fields and woods** that border

the built campus are vital to the teaching and research mission. They will comprise the **country campus**, and remain an integral part of the Main Campus, protected and connected.

Green means much more than green space. It also connotes less energy, less waste, less driving, more renewables, more re-use, more walking. The buildings, landscapes and infrastructure of campus will demonstrate **environmental sustainability**. Life cycle costs and triple-bottom-line thinking will guide planning, design and construction decisions. Cornell will be actively involved in broadening the **affordable housing options** close to campus for students and employees, reducing car trips to campus. **Cycling** will be more common, most months of the year, thanks to improved bicycle infrastructure. **Fewer cars** on campus will mean more room for green spaces and green buildings.

The rendering to the right is a view looking northeast over the campus from above Collegetown. It illustrates the potential to accommodate a significant amount of new development in the core in a manner that expands Cornell's beloved open space network and promotes community.



## Compact and integrated

Creativity and innovation thrive in a compact built environment, where interaction and collaboration are promoted. In Central Campus, the clustering of colleges and schools has enabled interdisciplinary teaching and research. The opportunities for physical growth there, however, are limited. **East Center**, a new academic hub at the pinch-point of the gorges, will complement the existing hub of undergraduate life in Central Campus, accommodating large buildings and becoming a distinct, vibrant place of learning and living.

The gradual **transformation of East Campus**, which in time will involve the relocation of research greenhouses and animal barns to the nearby countryside, will unite the endowed and contract components of the campus physically and academically. High-frequency **campus circulator** buses will effectively close the distance between East Campus and Central Campus and facilitate academic collaborations across the core. Not least important,



Artist's rendering of the new central Alumni Quad from Tower Road.

concentrating new development in East Campus will allow the university to grow without significantly increasing its ecological footprint.

**A greater mix of uses in the core** will support academic integration, enhance the quality of life for students, faculty and staff, and bring more life to the campus throughout the day and week. The addition of apartments for graduate students, post-docs and visiting faculty will add to the urbanity of East Center. Student services, a book store, dining options and amenities like child care will have a place there, too, as will other **social hubs and performance venues**. While East Center becomes a focus for graduate student life and employee amenities, the heart of **Central Campus** will be reinforced with relocation of the Cornell Store, redevelopment of Day Hall and renovation of the Straight. More undergrads will live on **North Campus** in new and renovated housing.

The rendering to the right is a view looking south over the proposed East Center, a new academic hub linking the two halves of the core. Mixed-use buildings with active ground floors and potentially apartments on upper floors will straddle a major new green space connecting the two gorges.





## Connected and engaged



Artist's rendering of the new East Center Green.

The academic heart of Cornell will continue to grow and thrive on the hill, at the threshold of town and country. The university has a vital presence, however, across the **greater Ithaca region**, and the health and character of the communities Cornell rests within are essential to the image and livability of the campus. In **Downtown Ithaca**, there are opportunities for residential, administrative, cultural and other initiatives to be pursued through partnerships. **Collegetown** will be a focus for housing programs and other strategies aimed at attracting employees and strengthening the retail environment.

On campus, strong physical, visual and transit connections will be increasingly important to facilitating teaching and research and maintaining a sense of one campus, one community. As the core intensifies in the east, **Tower Road** and **Campus Road** will be re-designed as iconic streetscapes that encourage walking, cycling and transit use. A parallel **Mid-Campus Walk**, between Tower Road

and Campus Road, will provide a quiet route across campus, linking green spaces, social spaces and other amenities on the ground floors of buildings.

East Hill Plaza and the lands around it, part of South Campus precinct, will become **East Hill Village**, a mixed-use node serving Cornell and the nearby neighborhoods. Administrative and other academic support uses will be framed by a grid of streets. In time, the Plaza will be replaced by buildings with stores, restaurants and services on the ground floor and apartments above. A **new neighborhood** for faculty, staff and graduate students will emerge in the Village, next to Cornell Park. As an integral part of the Main Campus, the Village will be linked to the core with convenient transit service and multiple trails. To feel and function like one community, engaged with others, the campus will become more **accessible and interconnected** as it evolves.

The rendering to the right is a view looking north over East Hill Village toward Core Campus. Supporting both the academic campus and surrounding neighborhoods, the Village will contain a mix of administrative uses, housing, stores and services for both the Cornell and greater Ithaca communities.





## A vision of sustainability

### Cornell is constantly working toward the goals of sustainability for the campus, the region and the planet.

The concept of sustainability is embedded in the campus master plan, which supports and builds upon recent initiatives. The most significant of these include: President Skorton's commitment to make the campus climate neutral; the Combined Heat and Power Project and the Lake Source Cooling Project; the nationally-recognized transportation demand management program; the establishment of an Office of Environmental Compliance and Sustainability; and the adoption of Cornell Green Building Guidelines and the pursuit of LEED™ ratings for new buildings. Sustainability begins at the scale of the region and affects all aspects of campus planning as described further in the applicable chapters of the campus master plan.

#### Regional Stewardship

As steward of a vast and diverse land resource, Cornell will use its land to support the academic mission while helping to sustain the health and vitality of its surroundings. Appropriate measures include conserving agricultural land and natural areas, adding new uses and density as developed areas grow, protecting and enhancing valued communities, and reducing automobile use. The campus master plan provides a comprehensive framework to guide the use and management of all of Cornell's lands in the county. Since university land uses and those that surround the campus are highly interrelated, the framework promotes coordination to help achieve a larger regional pattern of sustainable development.

#### Physical Structure

To promote sustainability, the physical structure of campus recognizes and protects the agricultural and natural lands that support Cornell's broad mission and the health of the region. The intricate network of landscapes organizing

much of the built campus today responds to the natural qualities of Cornell's surroundings. Extending this pattern where a coherent structure is lacking and much of the land is paved will enhance connections to the natural setting and provide opportunities to re-naturalize parts of the campus. As it protects and enhances agricultural and ecological functions, the structure of open spaces and streets promote efficient use of development lands.

#### Land Use

A sustainable campus seeks to be a complete community, ensuring easy access to a range of daily amenities and recreational opportunities within or close to academic, administrative and residential areas. Mixed-use development facilitates academic interaction, place-making, community-building and walking, and can improve the quality of life for students and employees. Housing on campus for students is important, but a sustainable campus also provides students and employees access to attractive, affordable housing close to campus.



### **Campus Landscapes**

Environmental health, personal wellbeing and community-building are promoted through a well-designed and interconnected network of open spaces. These places support informal interaction and meetings and provide opportunities for recreation and enjoyment of the natural environment. On a campus where hard work is celebrated, they offer respite. Cornell's landscapes are fundamental to the image and experience of the campus, so maintaining, enhancing and extending them is important to the sustainability of the campus as a whole.

### **Transportation and Circulation**

Cornell recognizes the need for a balanced movement system, one that strongly encourages walking, transit use and cycling but also accommodates cars and trucks in ways that do not detract from the campus experience. The campus master plan can facilitate a sustainable transportation system with a land use pattern that promotes compact development and a mixing of uses.

It identifies a movement network that gives priority to pedestrians, transit users and cyclists, helping to make alternatives to the automobile attractive. A convenient, easy-to-use transit system is especially important given the campus's size, topography and climate.

### **Utilities**

The reliability and efficiency of utilities, and the resources they use, have a big role to play in achieving sustainability. Cornell continues to explore and implement measures to reduce energy consumption. The campus master plan supports these efforts by promoting contemporary infrastructure technologies applicable to buildings, precincts and campus-wide systems. These should include stormwater management features integrated with the landscape. A rational network of utility corridors, planned well in advance of development, is critical to distributing services efficiently and achieving economies of scale.

### **Implementation**

A sustainable campus can only be achieved through collaboration and coordination among planners within the university and consultation with the local community. Planning and design processes should integrate academic programming with landscape, infrastructure, built form and other land use and place-making objectives of the plan. Embedded in these processes, the campus master plan will become a critical tool for achieving sustainability.

With the vision articulated and general directions toward sustainability established, the next section comprehensively describes the multiple layers of the campus master plan.

