

Background

This chapter provides background information on Boston College's history and mission, as well as a profile of the University as it exists today. Additionally, the chapter describes the University's strategic plan, its master planning principals, the public planning process, and the team responsible for preparing the IMP.

History of Boston College

Boston College was founded by the Society of Jesus in 1863 and, with 3 teachers and 22 students, opened its doors on September 5, 1864. Through its first seven decades, it remained an exclusively undergraduate liberal arts institution with emphasis on the Greek and Latin classics, English and modern languages, philosophy and religion.

and Sciences first offered doctoral programs in 1952, followed by the graduate schools of Education, Nursing, Management, and Social Work.

In 1927 Boston College conferred one earned bachelor's degree and 15 master's degrees on women through its Extension Division. By 1970 all undergraduate programs had become coeducational, and today women comprise more than half of enrolled students. In 1996 the Evening College became the College of Advancing Studies, offering master's as well as bachelor's degrees. That same year, the University's longest presidency, 24 years, came to an end when J. Donald Monan, S.J., became chancellor and was succeeded by William P. Leahy, S.J.

In recent decades, the university completed several major construction projects, including the expansion and renovation of Higgins Hall, the updating of residence halls on the Upper and Newton campuses, and the construction of a new office building for faculty and administration on the Lower Campus. Most recently, the University acquired 65 acres of land in Brighton previously owned by the Archdiocese of Boston.

Boston College Mission

The following mission statement is derived from the University's 1977 Mission Statement.

- y Commit Boston College to becoming the leader in liberal arts education among American universities.
- y Develop and implement a student formation program that will be a contemporary model for colleges and universities committed to student formation.
- y Identify and support selected research commitments that will achieve excellence and distinction in addressing urgent societal problems.
- y Commit targeted resources to selected natural sciences emphases that will establish Boston College as a National Leader in these areas.
- y Build on the strengths and reputations of Boston College's professional schools to establish leadership in critical professional areas.
- y Become a significant intellectual and cultural crossroads by leveraging Boston College's international resources and partnerships and its Jesuit and Catholic networks.
- y Become the world's leading Catholic university and theological center.

Long-Term Planning/Master Plan Principles

To support the seven strategic directions, Boston College embarked on a planning process with Sasaki Associates to develop a set of master plan principals that would guide the physical development of the University during the next ten years and in to the future. These principals described below set the framework for the development of all future projects and provide Boston College with an opportunity to achieve excellence by using the strength and distinctiveness of its campus to reinforce its mission and strategic objectives:

- y **Create One Campus** -- The long-term vision unifies the rich and diverse parts of the campus, providing a notable setting for the learning experience while enhancing and distinguishing the role that each area of the campus plays in the life of the University.
- y **Emulate Gothic Middle Campus Character and Linked Quadrangles** -- The

- y **Develop Mixed Campus Uses** -- Integrate academic, civic, spiritual, recreational, and residential uses to create a vital, engaged community and a lively campus.
- y **Celebrate Gateways** -- Celebrate and strengthen the University's gateways on Commonwealth Avenue to its host communities with uses that represent the diversity of the institution.

Long-term planning concentrates on physical improvements that strengthen the identity and vitality of the University, respect the neighboring community, and incorporate the newly acquired properties on the Brighton Campus into the overall plan. Building upon the historic legacy of the campus, historically significant spaces will be preserved; existing resources upgraded; outdated facilities replaced, and new buildings built in support of the Boston College Mission and Strategic Plan.

Urban Design Framework

The long-term planning includes an urban design framework that will:

- y Create a series of memorable open spaces that enhance the image of the campus, transforming some areas.
- y Build strong pedestrian connections that link the open spaces throughout the campus, especially across Commonwealth Avenue to the Brighton Campus.
- y Respect historic structures by building at a scale comparable with surrounding buildings while making the core campus denser to provide more efficient use of the land.
- y Create strong visual links to the surrounding landscape such as the Chestnut Hill Reservoir, Evergreen Cemetery and Pine Tree Preserve, and to the cities of Boston and Newton.
- y Promote environmentally conscious urban design through density and connectivity to public transportation.

The urban design elements will establish parameters for proposed buildings, open space, and pedestrian and vehicular circulation.

Open Space and Landscape Framework The open space and landscape framework establishes a basis for siting

Figure 2-1 for a map of the existing Chestnut Hill, Brighton and Newton campuses and their surrounding context.

The Brighton Campus sits north of Commonwealth Avenue from the main campus and is bounded on the east by Foster Street, on the west by Lake Street and on the north by Glenmont Road. It is surrounded on three sides (north, east and west) by residential and institutional neighborhoods. The Brighton Campus consists of property formerly owned by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, which was bought by Boston College in three transactions in 2004, 2006 and 2007. The Boston College Master Plan for the Brigh.4012 TD0 8-nau,d0.2(te6.1(es12)ow80pus).4(e).7(4or)6one l3.7(g

Table 2-1

Name	Location	Current Primary Use	Date Constructed or Acquired by Boston College	Building Gross Square Footage ¹
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Date	Event/Activity	Subject
May 10, 2007	Brighton Allston Improvement Association (BAIA)	Presentation of Long-Term Vision Plan
April 25, 2007	Allston Brighton Boston College Taskforce Sub-committee Meeting	Athletic Fields, Tennis Center and Parking Garage
April 17, 2007	T	

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Date	Event/Activity	Subject
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Date	Event/Activity	Subject
September 21, 2004	Allston Brighton Task Force Meeting	
August 17, 2004	Allston Brighton Task Force Only Meeting	Worked on position letter to Boston College
July 20, 2004	Allston Brighton Task Force Only Meeting	Worked on position letter to Boston College
June 8, 2004	Meeting with Boston College Employees who are Allston Brighton Residents	
June 5, 2004	Allston Brighton Task Force Meeting	Worked on position letter to Boston College
May 18, 2004	Allston Brighton Task Force Meeting	
May 12, 2004	Neighborhood/Abutter Meetings Following Brighton Campus	