C. A Holistic Approach

This Facilities Master Plan takes a holistic approach, looking at the campus as a fixed space (the main campus) that supports concurrently four layers of use.

1. The first layer considers the space in terms of the land, a tangible resource, which is home to the University of Maryland Arboretum and Botanical Garden (ABG). From this perspective, the Plan takes into account the ecological context of the setting, regional streams, waterways, urban forest canopy connections, etc. It considers the types of conservation, stewardship, tree collections, placement of gardens, and sustainability measures that will protect, preserve, and enhance this invaluable natural resource.

2. The second layer considers the campus as the base for a transportation network and system of roads, paths, and trails that permit pedestrian and vehicular circulation. Transportation issues focus on the routes of shuttle busses, internal circulation of commercial vehicles such as busses and the proposed Purple Line, pedestrian links and pathways, and bicycle paths. From this perspective, the Plan looks at ways to link more effectively campus systems to surrounding transportation and circulation systems.

3. The third layer considers use of the land for other than academic or residential purposes and includes plans for recreational spaces and intercollegiate athletics fields. Concerns at this level are the creative use of spaces that can accommodate formal or informal recreational and sports activities.

4. The fourth layer looks at the land in terms of its use for buildings that house research laboratories, classrooms, residence halls, event centers (performing arts, athletic, alumni center), and administrative offices and buildings. Concerns at this level are the projected placement of buildings over a two-decade term for effective land use.

A LAYERED APPROACH ● planning for a holistic community