I. Executive Summary

The Facilities Master Plan of 2011-2030 builds on the transformative and successful 2001-2020 Facilities Master Plan. Its vision of a “First Class Campus for a World Class University” and the advances that flowed from that plan are the foundation for this plan. This plan presents the guidelines for build-out of the districts, the implementation of sustainability and environmental stewardship initiatives, and the improvement of landscape and transportation elements to bind the large, sprawling campus into a cohesive whole. It refines the original vision and lifts the campus to a new level of beauty and function.

As the Flagship Campus, the University of Maryland is a major asset for the State of Maryland, educating the leaders, researchers, and entrepreneurs of tomorrow, providing a first-class education to generations of the most talented Maryland high school graduates, supporting key Maryland industries, and strengthening the State’s competitive capacity. The 2011-2030 Facilities Master Plan projects a future for the campus to realize fully its mission and meet the mandates of three key University documents: the Environmental Stewardship Guidelines (2005); the University Strategic Plan (2008); and the University of Maryland Climate Action Plan (2009).

Vision. The vision of this plan rests on an appreciation of the fact that the land on which the campus sits is an amazing resource of great value and potential as an educational tool. The Plan proposes corridors of connection, green corridors that invite easy pedestrian movement and link to open spaces and academic neighborhoods throughout campus, rational corridors of transportation that minimize vehicular congestion and emphasize multi-modal opportunities for access to and across campus, corridors of connection to surrounding communities, and environmental projects that emphasize our links to ecological corridors of importance to the quality of life in the State and region. The strategies in the 2011-2030 Facilities Master Plan are designed to conserve, preserve, develop and restore land in the best interests of the environment, the University community and the citizens of the region. The campus will be a home for a major research university and an oasis of green in an increasingly developed metropolitan area.

Inventory and Projections of Future Growth. The University of Maryland is located in the City of College Park, within Prince George’s County. The University of Maryland’s main campus consists of approximately 13.5 million gross square feet (GSF) in 263 buildings on approximately 1,250 acres. With the inclusion of off-campus facilities, including leased facilities, the building inventory totals nearly 14.7 million GSF in 460 buildings on approximately 5,100 acres.

In accord with the USM Strategic Plan and the State’s goals to increase degree production and expand the economic base, the University System of Maryland intends to grow its student body and its research production significantly over the next decade. Consistent with the availability of funding, enrollment is projected to increase by 7% from 2010-2020, from a total of 37,641 to 40,145 over the decade. Faculty headcount from 2010-2020 is projected to increase by 6%, from 4,123 to 4,357. Staff headcount increases are projected to rise during the same time period by 15%, from 9,034 to 10,369.

Continued strength in our research program is vital to ensure the State’s continued economic growth and international competitiveness, but meeting the needs of expanded research activity is a challenge given the current space deficits and deferred maintenance problems. Based on the 1999 Maryland Four-Year Public College and University Space Planning Guidelines, the base year (Fall 2010) inventory reflects a total space deficit of 1.7 million net assignable square feet (NASF) in all major room use categories (classroom, class laboratory, research laboratory, office, and study space). The deficits are projected to increase during the 10-year period totaling more than 2.7 million NASF, equal to approximately 24 buildings. The research laboratory deficit is more than 40% of the campus-wide space deficit.

Facilities renewal and deferred maintenance requirements continue to have a major impact on our ability to meet our teaching and research mission and achieve University goals. Twenty seven percent (1,443,130 NASF) of the University’s state-supported space has not had major renovation for more than 40 years, and 16% (850,627 NASF) has not had major renovation for more than 50 years.

The 2011-2030 Facilities Master Plan. The 2011-2030 Master Plan incorporates and exploits new opportunities, such as the designation of the campus as an Arboretum and Botanical Garden, the establishment of the Purple Line Light Rail, and the East Campus Development Initiative. It also responds to challenges, including new state and federal regulations regarding stormwater and wastewater, demands for increased space based on specific mandates for expanded research activity, and the need for an increase in recreational space for students.
Strategic Priorities: This Plan is built on four strategic priorities: excellence, connectivity, sustainability, stewardship. The commitment to excellence is the basis for planning at the University over the past two decades and remains the impetus behind the current document. Connectivity -- within the campus between its districts and communities, with the regional ecology, and to the neighboring communities -- is a priority. Stewardship, the valuing and nourishment of the architectural, cultural, and environmental heritage that have determined the special character and sense of place of the University, is an underlying theme and goal. Leadership in sustainability, both as a laboratory and model for best practices, is a campus-wide goal and a significant component of every section of the Plan.

Physical Planning Principles. Strategies, recommended actions to meet the goals, and proposed development projects are guided by twelve planning principles, listed in abbreviated form below, that were established in the 2001 Facilities Master Plan, embraced, and updated in this plan.

1. Support the Institutional Mission
2. Practice Environmental Stewardship in Landscape Design and Maintenance
3. Enhance Environmental Performance of Buildings and Utilities on Campus
4. Encourage the Use of Transportation other than Personal Vehicles
5. Increase the Access and Appeal of the Campus for Pedestrians
6. Strengthen Community Relations
7. Create an Attractive, Coherent Design for the Campus
8. Achieve Appropriate Development Patterns
9. Emphasize the Importance of Open Spaces
10. Improve the Quality and Attractiveness of the Campus Landscape
11. Enhance Campus Security
12. Embrace Campus Traditions and Heritage

The Plan. The heart of the Plan is the build-out of districts to accommodate the growing needs of a thriving research university of international stature. Three issues receive special emphasis in the 2011-2030 Facilities Master Plan: Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability, Landscape Design and Land Use, and Vehicular and Pedestrian Circulation Systems, with goals and recommendations for each.

1. Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability. For the past decade the University of Maryland has been recognized for its leadership in environmental stewardship and sustainability. Its goal is to meet and exceed pertinent regulations governing the environment and to aim for the strategic goal of carbon neutrality. Projects and activities are designed to educate students, faculty, and staff and encourage a paradigm shift in the behavior and attitudes of members of the University family. The goals and recommended actions promote sustainability in all facets of University life, emphasize control of carbon emissions, and fully support regional efforts to maintain low levels of pollutants in the water and air.

2. Landscape Design and Land Use. The campus was designated as an Arboretum and Botanical Garden in 2008, and the University has used this special opportunity to create a comprehensive design for the entire campus. The campus has a welcome, attractive abundance of green corridors, botanic gardens, and outstanding variety of tree collections. The aim of this plan is to organize landscape and open space, together with campus architecture, in ways that promote community and social interaction, facilitate outdoor learning, contribute to the regional environment, and provide spaces for recreation. The existing and proposed gardens, urban forest canopy, natural forest stands, protected streams, and pedestrian walkways will increase the aesthetic appeal of the campus and preserve the campus as an oasis of green in a densely and increasingly urbanized environment.

3. Vehicular and Pedestrian Circulation Systems. The University of Maryland is an urban campus with students, faculty, and staff who live both on campus and throughout a large metropolitan area. As a result, the University requires a multi-modal system of vehicle and personal circulation systems for those who need to access the campus and to move around the campus are a priority. Equally important is the integration of campus systems with the transportation systems that serve the neighborhood and surrounding communities. This plan calls for universally accessible walkways, campus roads, campus and transportation systems that create a positive experience for pedestrians, bicyclists, and those using scooters, motorcycles or other motorized vehicles.

District Build-out. All capital improvement projects are organized within eight districts. The development of the individual districts is the core of the plan, with build-out scheduled to follow the pattern set forth in the 2001-2020 Facilities Master Plan: academic and residual buildings surrounding open spaces and linked to the campus core by pedestrian corridors. Future development sites have been identified that could accommodate an additional 7.1 million GSF of new construction on the main campus.