The Medical University of South Carolina 2007 Master Plan Update is a comprehensive study intended to guide the future growth of the campus.

Following the goals set forth in Vision 2020 of beautifying the campus, improving current space, and creating new space, the Update furthers these ideals and provides for the changes and updates that have been made since its publication. The Master Plan Update will enable the Medical University to continue to grow to become the preeminent medical institution in South Carolina, with facilities that support a vision for excellence. It identifies locations for projects that respond to immediate needs, as well as those many years in the future. The Update responds to programmatic relationships, creates open spaces and pedestrian connections, incorporates landscape features, and addresses parking and transit needs.

With an extensive list of projects planned for the near future, the purpose of the Update is to provide the Medical University with a clear vision of spatial planning and campus organization. The specific goals of the Update are to:

- create a strong campus identity
- design a more pedestrian-friendly environment
- provide adequate and responsible parking on campus
- promote growth for academic, research, and clinical operations.

Campus Design Guidelines

Grounds
- The beautification of the campus grounds will be accomplished by establishing a pedestrian-friendly environment, removing surface parking, creating open spaces, and defining campus boundaries. Establish a Pedestrian-Friendly Campus A network of tree-lined, brick paths will connect open spaces, buildings, and perimeter parking. Brick crosswalks will bound intersections improving visibility and safety for all users.
- The creation of a sequence of centrally located, landscaped open spaces will provide gathering spaces for the MUSC community. These spaces, linked together by pedestrian pathways, will create a strong sense of place.
- A permeable system of gates and walls will define the edges and major entrances to the Medical University, while welcoming visitors and the community. The campus-wide implementation of these gates and walls, along with a consistent palette of street furniture, lighting, planting, and signage will give the physical campus a strong identity.

Buildings
- Buildings are placed to define a sequence of open spaces. Interior spaces have a strong relationship with exterior spaces, forming a coherent, cohesive campus.
- Buildings define street edges. Careful consideration is given to the transition of scale between MUSC and surrounding neighborhoods. The identity of the campus is strengthened and its impact on surrounding communities is reduced by focusing growth within a defined, limited area.
- Growth is directed within a fifteen-minute walking radius of central campus. Buildings facilitate connections to each other and open spaces. Ground-level arcades provide shaded walkways and gathering spaces for the MUSC community.
Elements of the Plan

Bee Street Buildings
While the programming for these building sites continues to evolve, the planned buildings' presence, stature, and meaning as defined by Vision 2020. Once built these structures will work together to define MUSC’s boundary along Bee Street. These buildings fill the gap between the Children's Research Institute and the Thurmond Gatsby Building, and will be connected to one another by a loggia and an elevated, enclosed walkway that expands the campus network of buildings and bridges.

Campus Core
Changes identified in the Update for other areas of campus have opened up new possibilities for redesigning the Campus Core, including the opportunity to create a pedestrian-friendly environment in the area that connects many of the Medical University’s academic buildings. To make the most of this opportunity, the area will be reserved for three new buildings in the future. Two of the buildings will front President Street, creating an urban campus edge in line with the setbacks respecting the existing streetwall and circulation paths. The third building will be parallel to those that front on President Street and will be opposite the Basic Science Building to define a garden that accommodates a major pedestrian spine between the two buildings. This area will become a vibrant space in the center of campus and will boost a public function at the south end of the building and a plaza, possibly raised.

Parking
MUSC has an existing need for additional parking on campus. It is proposed to site an additional parking structure on Courtenay Drive between U.S. 17 and Bee Street. With an active University use on the first level, this building could serve not only some of the parking need, but also function as a key building to mark one of the entrance points to campus. Conveniently located near the Campus Core, buildings would continue to decant parking from the campus core to the edges, allowing for a more conducive pedestrian environment and ‘collegiate campus’ feel. Additional parking structures are proposed in the Upper Lockwood area, north of the campus and to be served effectively by campus shuttle system. This location allows the parking to be removed from the core, yet remain convenient to the campus.

Gardens
The Update was intentional in retaining the idea of a system of garden spaces, including mid-block gardens, to link the campus. These gardens will be a series of landscaped spaces that connect all of the campus precincts, just as the gardens throughout Charleston connect the City’s neighborhoods.

Goals of the Update:

Improve the Current Space
Upgrade facilities to meet the functional and efficiency demands of current and developing practices in research, education, and patient care. Bring the campus infrastructure and built systems to a sustainable standard for the future.

Create New Space
Project space requirements to support expanding and new programs. Determine whether facilities will be more cost-effective to replace or upgrade; identify building sites for future facilities.

Create Open Spaces
Site buildings to define a sequence of open spaces. Form a coherent, cohesive campus by establishing strong relationships between interior and exterior spaces.

Clariy Campus Boundaries
Site buildings to define street edges. Consider carefully the transition of scale between MUSC and surrounding properties. Limit growth to a defined area to strengthen the identity of the campus and reduce the impact on surrounding communities.

Pedestrian-Friendly Campus
Focus growth within a fifteen minute walking radius of central campus. Orient new buildings to facilitate physical connections between open spaces and other buildings. Incorporate ground-level arcades to provide shaded walkways and gathering spaces for the MUSC community.

Remove Surface Parking
Locate additional parking in decks at the perimeter of campus to free land for additional open spaces and buildings.

The Master Plan Update incorporates all of these ideas into the existing campus organization and responds to the recent construction throughout the campus grounds.