Kenyon remains a small college and exemplifies deliberate limitation. What is included here is special, what is excluded is not necessary to our purposes. Focus is blurred when there is dispersion over large numbers or over a large body of interests. Kenyon remains comprehensible. Its dimensions are humane and not overpowering. Professors, knowing students over years, measure their growth. Students, knowing professors intimately, discover the harmony or conflict between what a teacher professes and his or her behavior.

— KENYON COLLEGE COURSE CATALOG 2014-2015
KENYON COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT
Introduction

Kenyon College has chosen to update the 2004 Campus Master Plan as part of a comprehensive strategic planning process. The goals of this Master Plan update are to reaffirm the guiding principles of the 2004 Plan, evaluate these principles in light of the campus initiatives that have been completed since 2004—including the recent Landscape Master Plan—and define physical planning recommendations to guide future campus development in support of the Strategic Plan.

The Campus Master Plan is an opportunity to reinforce what makes Kenyon unique. It aims to enhance the student experience, strengthen the College’s role in the local community as a cultural and economic resource and further Kenyon’s environmental stewardship. The Master Plan establishes a framework for future campus development in support of the academic mission as defined in the Strategic Plan. To that end, the Master Plan has been structured around broad objectives rather than specific initiatives. Areas of emphasis include the adaptive reuse of buildings that have been vacated by recent construction, addressing the needs of College Relations and Admissions, strengthening community through selective residential improvements and the creation of a comprehensive revitalization plan for the Village.
A Letter from the President

This document represents the committed work of numerous members of the Gund Partnership and the Kenyon and Gambier communities. While it is in some ways an elaboration and extension of portions of the College’s 2004 master plan, which was also prepared by the Gund Partnership, it includes several projects not imagined or thoroughly worked out in the earlier plan. It is, in fact, an essential part of the Kenyon 2020 strategic plan.

The Master Plan Steering Committee comprised members of the College’s board of trustees, its administration, faculty, and student body, and the village administration. The committee was charged with addressing needs that have arisen since 2004, especially with regard to student life, and revisiting previously identified problems, most of them related to the availability of appropriate academic and other facilities, for which solutions were not yet in place. The members were also encouraged to propose ways in which the master plan could not only maintain and preserve but also enhance the sense of community at Kenyon and in Gambier.

To those ends, the committee and the Gund Partnership directed much of their attention to areas north of Wiggin Street and the academic core. These included the student residence halls just north of Brooklyn Street and west of Chase Avenue known as the Freshman Quadrangle, which last accommodated the entire entering class in 1968. This master plan envisions remodeling of all the existing buildings in that area and constructing new ones in order to house the freshman class in a group of contiguous residence halls with designs reflective of the historic architecture elsewhere on campus. Such a group would foster both the sense of community within each new class and the bonding that produces strong class and collegiate loyalties.

The village center, long a source of concern for its dearth of attractions and lack of available commercial and professional space, and for its various architectural failings, was examined in detail from Wiggin Street to Brooklyn Street and west of Chase Avenue known as the Freshman Quadrangle, which last accommodated the entire entering class in 1968. This master plan envisions remodeling of all the existing buildings in that area and constructing new ones in order to house the freshman class in a group of contiguous residence halls with designs reflective of the historic architecture elsewhere on campus. Such a group would foster both the sense of community within each new class and the bonding that produces strong class and collegiate loyalties.

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I. Academics
Kenyon is institutionally committed to promoting a liberal arts education. Skills are promoted and developed that are not only useful to any career but essential for a fulfilling and valuable life. The academic program provides freedom within a common structure to promote balance and coherence, so students design truly liberal educations which are focused, expansive, and useful in the future.

II. Community
Fundamental to the Kenyon experience is that students and professors develop personal and long-term relationships. The personal contact between students and faculty that characterizes Kenyon stands as central to the Kenyon undergraduate experience. The consequence of student-faculty interaction is that student experience is not one of anonymity. The scale and rural location of the residential community heighten the importance of these relationships. Kenyon provides an environment that is aesthetically conducive to study.

III. Leadership and Success
The opportunity to participate in campus life and the ease and comfort of participation are characteristic of Kenyon. The atmosphere at Kenyon promotes student involvement. Discourse among students is frequent, on both academic and nonacademic issues, and that discourse is enriched by the diversity of the faculty and student body. Students are active in producing their own experience, rather than being primarily receivers or observers. Doing, by oneself and with others, is Kenyon’s recipe for learning.
The Kenyon Campus

The Kenyon Campus sits on a plateau above the Kokosing River in the rolling hills of rural Knox County. Often cited as one of the most beautiful campuses in the country, the verdant landscape and distinguished architecture create a powerful campus environment. The campus has an understandable and personal scale with expansive, breathtaking vistas all the while embracing the small village of Gambier. Its remote location enhances one’s sense of wonder upon arrival.

Middle Path is the primary organizing element of the campus, extending two-thirds of a mile from Bexley Hall at the north to Old Kenyon at the south. Middle Path connects the campus’s three distinct zones—the historic and academic core, the village and north campus. Each zone has a unique character and function but they are united and made whole by the powerful gesture of Middle Path.

Wonderful examples of collegiate Gothic architecture line the campus core and dominate one’s perception of the campus. In addition to these landmark buildings, the campus contains a range of building types and architectural styles that work together harmoniously. From the Victorian Gothic Ascension Hall to the white cottages on College Park Street, the buildings are unique and distinguished yet share a similar spirit. Development north of the Village from the 1960s and 1970s is less successful but a cohesive campus landscape helps to knit these buildings into the fabric of the campus. Locally-quarried sandstone has been used at Kenyon since its earliest buildings, firmly rooting the buildings in this place and creating a sense of harmony that unites the campus.
Originally constructed from 1827 to 1829, the collegiate gothic Old Kenyon was the first permanent campus building and remains the iconic anchor of the campus. Construction of Rosse Hall commenced shortly after and began to define the academic green that is the heart of the college. Middle Path was laid out in 1842 by the third president of the college, David Bates Douglass, in an effort to organize the campus. Middle Path connected Old Kenyon to Wiggin Street, punctuating the entry with stone gates that flanked the entrance to College Park.

Bexley Hall seminary, which was begun in 1839, would define the northern limit of the Kenyon campus we know today. When Middle Path was extended to Bexley Hall in 1860 by Gregory Thurston Bedell, the third Bishop of Ohio, the powerful gesture of Middle Path was complete. Development at Kenyon over the next 150 years occurred along Middle Path. The core academic area was well defined by the end of the 1920s, which saw the addition of iconic buildings such as Leonard and Pierce.

The post war boom of the 1950s began to dilute this gesture in an effort to accommodate an increasing student population. Student residences were constructed north of the Village and buildings such as Phillip Mather Hall and Chalmers Library were added in the campus core interrupting the rhythm of buildings and green space.

The creation of the Coordinate College for Women in 1969 spurred a new round of development focused north of the village and saw the creation of Gund Commons, McBride, Mather and Caples. Although the women’s college was originally intended to remain a separate but related entity it was incorporated into Kenyon College in 1972.
The 2004 Master Plan

The 2004 Master Plan focused on the historic core campus, with the goal of bringing all of the academic programs into the core around Middle Path and south of the college gate at Wiggins Street. Specific goals for the plan included:

• Renovate historic Kenyon buildings to be accessible and address changing program and pedagogy needs.
• Develop academic clusters to strengthen program cohesion and identity and address need for contemporary medium-size classrooms and faculty office space.
• Develop planning strategies for the West Quadrangle to accommodate academic program growth and greater density in the core area.
• Develop the Library and Pierce Hall as centers of academic and social life in the context of the campus.
• Increase student housing opportunities in the south campus areas to balance populations throughout campus and village and eliminate off-campus housing.

• Respond to student housing desires by eliminating triple rooms, providing more single rooms and restoring commons areas in residence halls to create community.
• Relocate long-term student parking areas to the campus periphery and develop high-volume options in the core for faculty and staff day parking and to support event parking in evenings and weekends.
• Restore the scale and character of the Village of Gambier and create development opportunities for new retail and services in the village center’s high traffic areas while consolidating college functions and services nearby for student convenience.
• Relocate student program activities and Senior housing near the village center to restore residential areas in the village and create new faculty housing options.
The successful “We Are Kenyon” campaign allowed the College to support an unprecedented level of new construction at Kenyon. Since 2004, the college has completed several new buildings that offer updated, state-of-the-art services and spaces to the campus, help attract excellent students and leading faculty to join the college community, and support the goals of the 2004 Master Plan.

The initiatives undertaken in the last decade have focused on consolidating academic programs in the campus core; expanding housing opportunities; revitalizing Scott Lane; developing an Arts Quad, and creating a comprehensive parking plan that moves cars to the campus perimeter.

Current work underway includes the new Cox Health and Counseling Center on Scott Lane and the new Rothenberg House on West Brooklyn Street, opening in 2014.

The following projects have been completed since 2004:
- Horvitz Hall for studio art
- Gund Gallery
- North Campus Apartments
- Lentz House for English
- O’Connor House for interdisciplinary studies
- Wilson Apartments
- Pierce Hall
- Finn House
- Hoehn-Saric House for the Center for Global Engagement
- Mayer Center (Art Barn)
- Peirce Hall
- Reinvention and expansion of dormitories

Campus Development Since 2004

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THE 2004 MASTER PLAN

Horvitz Hall for studio art 2012

Renovation/Expansion of Peirce and Dempsey Halls 2008

Lentz House 2008

North Campus Housing 2012

Cox Health and Counseling Center 2014

Lentz House 2008