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One of the primary goals of the Health System district is to create an environment that is welcoming and conducive to healing. This can be achieved by creating places for gathering, respite and recreation, while allowing more natural light into all areas; fostering connections between the buildings and neighboring landscapes; improving the circulation and clarity of the interior and exterior organization; upgrading the views and visual quality of the environment and promoting clear and inviting connections to the resources of the larger University of Virginia Grounds, the City of Charlottesville and County of Albemarle.

As a community of teaching and research, the UVA Health System focuses on translational medicine as a means for improving patient care. By fostering collaboration between the patient care and research facilities, doctors and nurses will bring medical innovations “from bench to bedside,” providing patients with the benefit of receiving care in a teaching community. Creating a healthy and healing environment is essential to the well-being of patients as well as the other daily inhabitants of this community: faculty, staff, researchers and students.

The following strategies will strengthen the Health System image by providing a unifying framework plan for the district. While continuing to expand the facilities that are needed to support the Health System at-large, this Plan recommends the following measures:

- Incorporate elements that promote wellness for patients, faculty, staff and students;
- Enhance visitor and daily user experience by improving safe pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular circulation;
- Improve connections and relationships to the larger UVA Grounds through landscape and connective elements, both at and above grade, to create a more campus-like environment;
- Incorporate planning and design standards that support sustainable development principles and the intentions of the UVA Environmental Footprint Reduction Plan (2010).

