

NASA Facts

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

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Goddard Space Flight Center (Greenbelt) Facilities Master Plan

Goddard Space Flight Center Vision Statement

"We revolutionize knowledge of the Earth and the universe through scientific discovery from space to enhance life on Earth."

NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) located in Greenbelt, Md., is the Agency's Center of Excellence for scientific research. GSFC maintains this leadership position in space and Earth science through world-class researchers, cutting-edge facilities and equipment, and bolstered by a robust program in advanced technology. From astronomy to planetary geology, from biodiversity to oceanography, researchers use data from spacecraft, balloons, sounding rockets and comprehensive ground-based field campaigns to make new discoveries about the birth and evolution of the universe, the complex interactions between our Sun and the Earth, and the natural and human-induced causes of changes on the Earth's long-term climate.

Why is the Greenbelt Site important to Goddard and NASA?

GSFC conducts a broad range of activities in scientific research and development. Activities include engineering and technology development, the building, testing and operating of high-altitude balloons, sub-orbital rockets and orbiting spacecraft, and the sharing of scientific results with GSFC's customers such as the science community, educators and the public.

To successfully perform this mission, GSFC facilities must serve the scientists, engineers and professional staff who conduct Goddard's far-ranging activities. GSFC scientists and engineers require specialized facility resources in laboratories, cleanrooms, state-of-the-art computers, spacecraft testing, instrument building, laser ranging and

materials coating. Goddard-Greenbelt houses some of the world's fastest supercomputers, and is home to a unique combination of facilities such as optics, detector development, and nanosat technology laboratories essential to Goddard's science and technology mission.

What Do Goddard's Greenbelt Facilities include?

Goddard Space Flight Center facilities serve people who create, build, test, launch, operate, analyze and disseminate the findings from these science and technology research programs to a world-wide network of customers. GSFC facilities also provide institutional services including office work, meetings, libraries, food services, health services, childcare services and storage. GSFC also generates and distributes utilities to our buildings from onsite central plants.

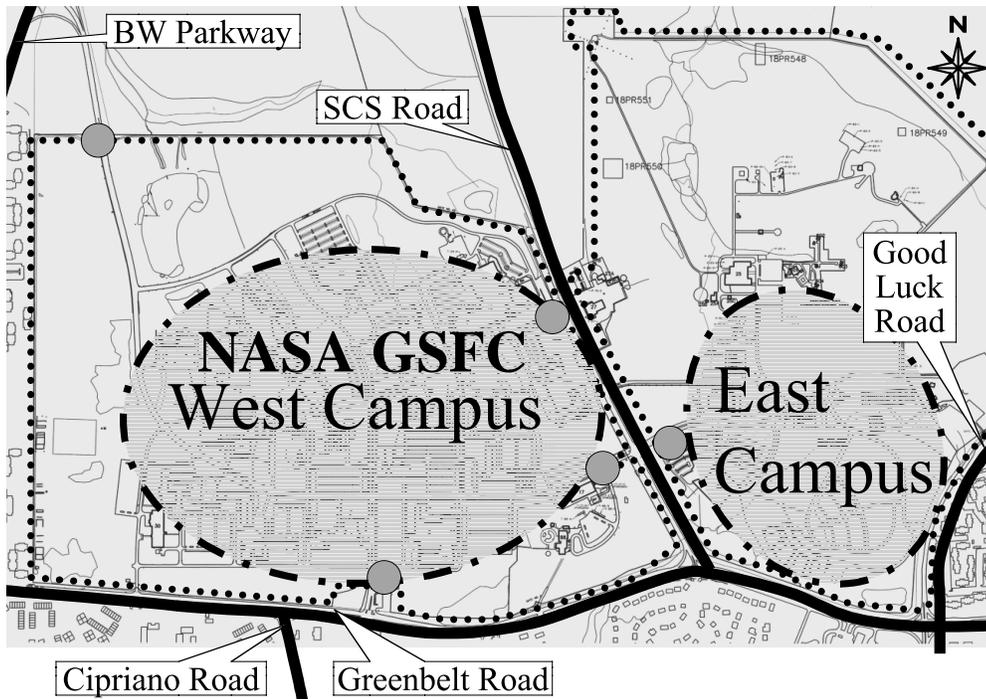
GSFC has two major sites: Greenbelt, Maryland, and Wallops Island, Virginia. The Greenbelt site serves about 7,600 civil servants and contractors in 33 major buildings and over 50 minor buildings totaling nearly 3.8 million square feet. The site, about 15 miles northeast of Washington D.C., includes about 2 square miles of property.

How has the Greenbelt Site developed?

At present, GSFC's mission, facilities and workforce are divided. Running north from Greenbelt Road (Maryland Rt. 193), Soil Conservation Service (SCS) Road cuts across our site, dividing it into a

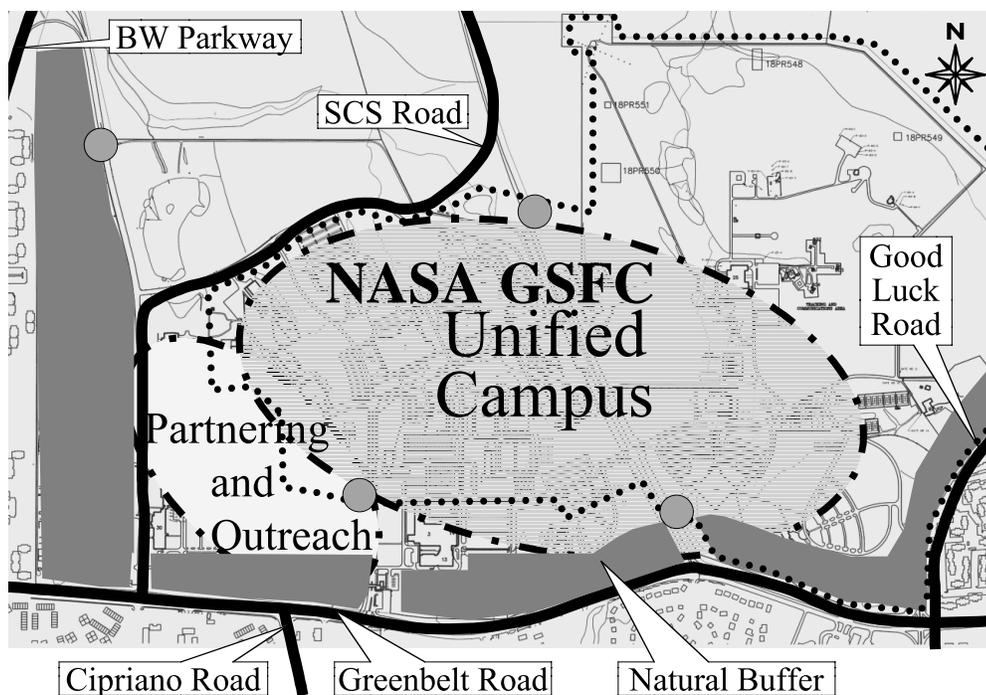
2000 Current Divided Campus

Figure 1



2020 Unified Campus

Figure 2



LEGEND

- Gate Access
- Security Perimeter
- Public Roadway

West Campus and an East Campus (see Figure 1). Until 1980, Goddard's mission and facilities fit mostly on the West Campus. But after the West Campus filled up, growth shifted to the East Campus.

This separation causes difficulties, including pedestrian safety across SCS Road, and an increased security risk to utilities supply lines and services.

Goddard's divided site make our mission more complex, costly and difficult. Changes to our facilities, roads and land use are critical to alleviating these risks.

What is a Facilities Master Plan?

A facilities master plan is a 20-year look-ahead at the anticipated needs and requirements of the

Center for the purpose of developing a comprehensive plan that can serve to guide an organization's ability to manage its buildings, roadways, utilities and land use. Goddard's last master plan, prepared in 1988, is out of step compared to the Center's expected needs. To remain efficient and effective in carrying out its scientific research, changes to GSFC's environment are necessary.

NASA recognizes that it must become more efficient and effective. Just as the technologies and workforce skills must keep pace with these changes, so must our facilities. We must rethink how our buildings are built, operated, maintained, and renewed or closed over time.

GSFC has drafted a new, up-to-date facilities master plan which will enable the Center to meet changing goals and resources in the future. The new master plan will help GSFC compete for and win challenging work, attract a highly skilled workforce and provide an up-to-date workplace to carry out its critical research and ensure mission success.

What does the Master Plan propose?

Addressing the West Campus/East Campus separation is a major reason for the changes proposed in Goddard's master plan. GSFC proposes joining these separate campuses. Land along the current path of Soil Conservation Service Road, which separates the campuses, will be used for key mission and support activities. Non-NASA traffic will have a new route around the heart of Goddard's activities, ensuring that our neighbors have continued access across our land (see Figure 2).

The buffer zone of trees surrounding the campus will be preserved, maintaining a safe, quiet and pleasant environment for our neighbors. Behind the natural buffer, GSFC also proposes redeveloping a part of the West Campus that does not currently fit our changing needs. This partnering and outreach zone will contain a variety of activities compatible with GSFC's work, such as housing our public and private sector partners, holding conferences and helping develop new science and technology businesses.

Overall, the number of people who work on Goddard land, including both the secured unified campus and the partnering and outreach zone, should remain about as it is today.

How is the Facilities Master Plan being developed?

- **Development:** The Center used a step-by-step process to define needs, study today's conditions, and propose changes to buildings, utility systems, and land use.
- **Documentation:** Decisions are recorded and available for those interested in learning about and helping refine the plan. The documents include studies of how proposals affect the environment and area roadway conditions.
- **Goal:** To develop a plan that considers and responds to the needs of all interested parties, including our neighbors, workforce, partners, and customers.

What goals does the Master Plan help GSFC achieve?

The proposed master plan changes will help Goddard achieve its goals:

Safety

Avoid unnecessary risk to people and mission

Quality

Ensure that facilities are the best fit for activities

Efficiency

Use buildings and services to the fullest

Unified Campus

Enable workforce to work more effectively

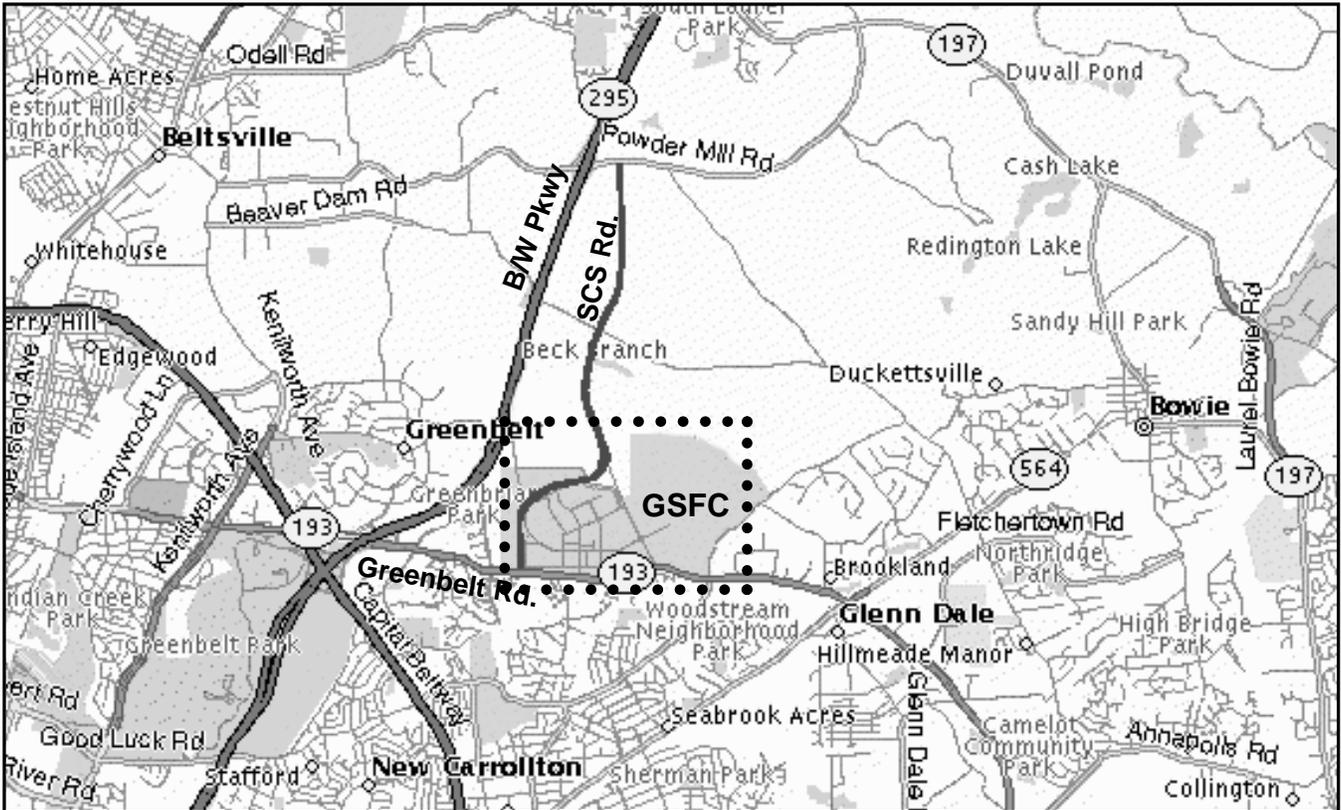
Partners

Enable GSFC to work closely with our partners

What does the Master Plan mean to the community?

As part of the Greenbelt community, GSFC seeks to maintain relationships with its neighbors that benefit all. GSFC brings the community many stable, well-paid jobs and important business opportunities, and we are sharing our knowledge and values with area schools, civic institutions and community groups. The master plan is, first and foremost, a commitment by GSFC to remain a vital workplace and a vital participant in our community.

That vitality affects our neighbors in other ways as well. Because much of our property is woodland, the community benefits from a natural enclave in an increasingly crowded area. The Unified Campus strategy focuses facilities changes in the middle, developed parts of GSFC property, helping us to preserve these natural areas. Perhaps the most evident effect for many neighbors is rerouting Soil Conservation Service Road (shown in Figure 2).



Regional Map Figure 3

See enlargement of area, Figure 2

For some, the change will make automobile trips longer. Figure 3 puts the change in a regional perspective, showing current and future road alignments. The change to the length of a typical trip including the new alignment would be modest.

How will the external community be involved?

GSFC is interested in receiving community input about its facilities master plan, and intends to use it to refine the plan. GSFC will solicit public comments via electronic mail, direct mail and will hold public meetings so that its neighbors can learn more about the plan and have an opportunity to provide comments, and hear directly from GSFC's facilities planners. GSFC is compiling a mailing list of those interested in the facilities master plan. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send an electronic mail message with your name and address to:

fmp1an@pop100.gsfc.nasa.gov

GSFC welcomes public comment on its new facilities master plan and will use input from the local community and its neighbors to refine the plan. GSFC is collecting this informal community input

prior to entering into a formal community review process with the National Capital Planning Commission.

What is the schedule?

- Complete: Defining Center needs, study of current condition
- Complete: Initial proposal of changes to buildings, utility systems, land use
- In Progress: Documentation of plans and early community input
- 2001: Formal community review process with the National Capital Planning Commission

How can I learn more?

For further information regarding GSFC's facilities master plan, please write

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
 Office of Public Affairs
 Attention: Master Plan, Code 130
 Greenbelt, MD 20771

or send electronic mail to **fmp1an@pop100.gsfc.nasa.gov**