

II. EXISTING CONDITIONS

Parking Supply

The University of South Florida at St. Petersburg (USFSP) has 1,064 parking spaces, all in surface parking lots. While there are fairly large lots in the heart of campus, there are also many lots at the edges of the clearly defined campus boundaries. Further, 162 of the spaces are on the peninsula serving the land uses there.

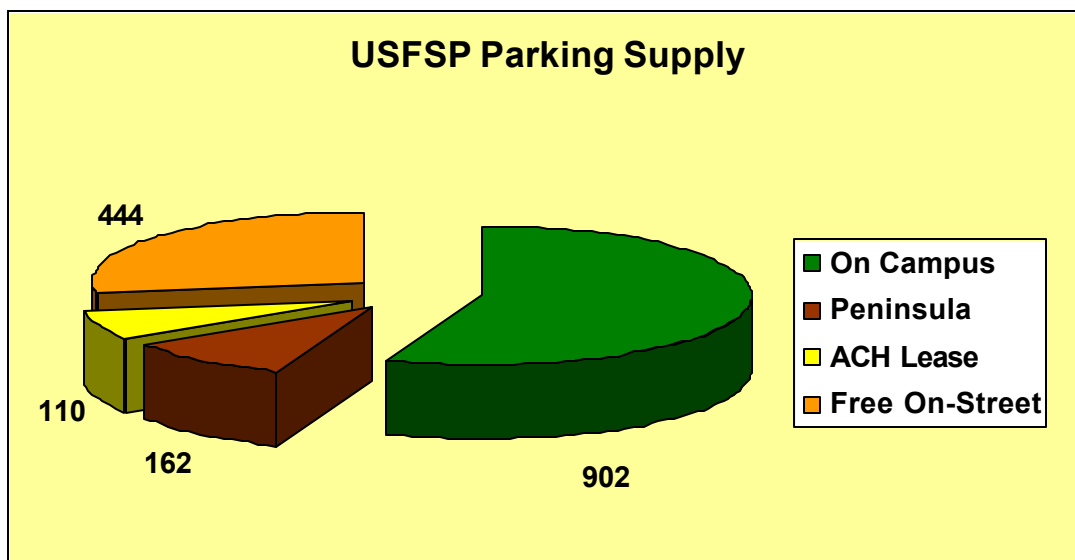
Even at peak times (morning peak and evening peak during the fall semester) there are anywhere from 148 to 480 spaces available to the campus community. The parking issue for students, faculty, and staff occurs when there are not ideal parking available, meaning desirable parking spaces in terms of convenience to destinations. Generally, anyone with a USF parking permit is able to park somewhere within three blocks of a destination. However, the convenient parking, those spaces concentrated in the academic core or along the peninsula (during the day), are occupied more than lots less convenient, although within three blocks.

In addition to the parking space provided on campus, there are approximately 444 on-street spaces located within the campus and at its edges. The spaces are free as currently designated by the City. Because they are convenient spaces, there is a great deal of competition for them by members of the campus community without parking permits.

The campus has an agreement with All Children's Hospital for the use of 110 spaces in one of its parking lots during the evening. This agreement has a 30-day cancellation notice, so this probably is not a long-term part of the campus parking supply.

University of South Florida, St. Petersburg COMPREHENSIVE PARKING MASTER PLAN

FIGURE II-1: USFSP Parking Supply



Parking Demand

Unlike most campuses, USFSP has both a morning peak and an evening peak. The morning peak is from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., based upon occupancy studies of the parking lots performed by the campus. The evening peak is the most difficult period, as the evening classes overlap with the end of work day for the daytime employees. The peak takes place during the turnover of classes from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., illustrated by additional occupancy counts. This brief time during the day generates the highest parking demand throughout the campus, but as illustrated through evening peak occupancy counts; there are still spaces available within the campus system.

The peak time examined for further analysis had the highest occupancy counts campus-wide, which was Wednesday morning 28 August 2002 at 10:30 a.m. As *MAP 1: Peak Occupancy* illustrates, many of the lots are have over 95 percent occupancy at this time; however, one lot, the lot at the Children's Research Institute only has 16 percent occupancy. Furthermore, there are other lots that have below 90 percent occupancy during this peak time. Thus spaces remain for use if individuals are willing to walk a little farther.

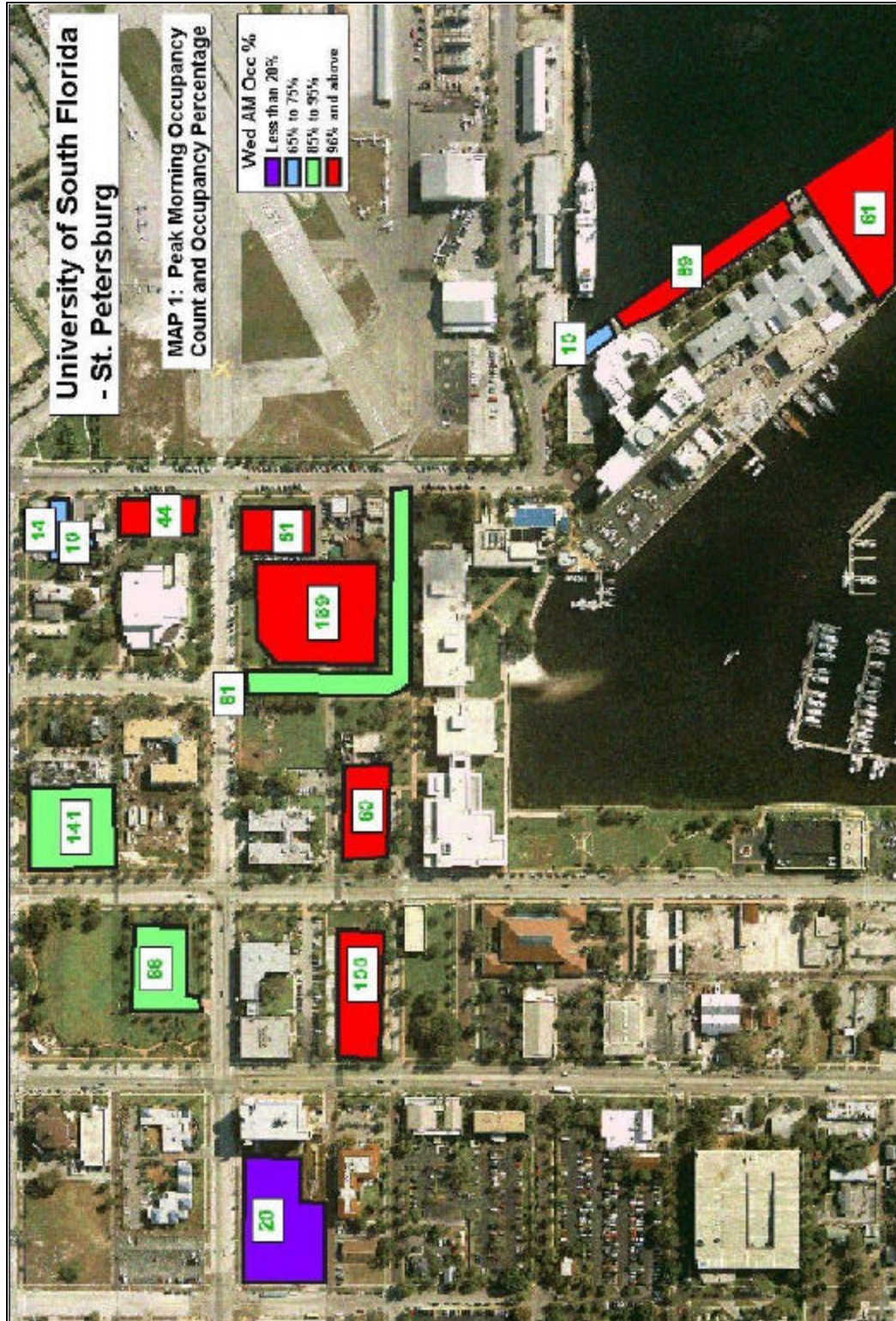
Unlike the remainder of campus, parking spaces along the peninsula do not serve an evening peak. There are some spaces utilized, but generally there are spaces available. During the day these spaces are utilized by the College of Marine Science and the Florida Institute of Oceanography (FIO). The Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI) cannot park in USF spaces on the peninsula, but park elsewhere on the campus with a USF parking decal. Further, FMRI has reserved spaces for FMRI users on the peninsula that the USFSP Campus does not control. Some vehicles need to stay for days or weeks at a time due to off-shore research voyages. Further, staging for boats is necessary for days at a time for CMS, FIO, and FMRI. These essential activities utilize parking spaces and need to be considered in the parking demand because they displace parking and will continue to do so.



Spaces are typically available in the lot west of Children's Research Institute.

University of South Florida, St. Petersburg
COMPREHENSIVE PARKING MASTER PLAN

MAP 1: Peak Morning Parking Occupancy Count and Occupancy Percentage



Parking Allocation

The Campus supports an egalitarian type of parking system. There are no specific areas or lots designated for faculty, staff, or students. The campus parking spaces are open to all with a USF parking permit. There are a minimal number of reserved parking spaces for campus administrators, but they are the extent of spaces allocated for specific users.

The peninsula, home to the College of Marine Science, FMRI, and FIO, has limited parking due to its geography and land use. Any USFSP parking permit holder may park in the USFSP peninsula spaces unless they are employed by FMRI. However, as mentioned, FMRI has control of a portion of spaces that are reserved for their employees adjacent to the FMRI building.

Parking Permits

Parking permits for the USFSP parking system are very reasonably priced. Students pay \$84 a year and faculty and staff pay \$116 a year for a parking permit. In the 2002-2003 academic year, there were approximately 1,900 student permits holders per semester and approximately 437 staff permit holders per semester. The staff permit holders are not limited to USF St. Petersburg; they also include those permit holders from Children's Research Institute (CRI), FMRI, and USGS.

Of the total student body, only 50 percent of students participate in the parking permit program. Of the total faculty and staff (including non-university staff), approximately 38 percent participate in the parking permit program on campus. This is not to say that only 35-50 percent of the campus community drives, but that the campus community does take advantage of the 444 free city on-street spaces located throughout the campus in lieu of paying for a parking permit. Due to the presence of these free spaces, the permit system on campus does not reflect the parking demand as it does on most campuses.

Special Events and Visitor Parking

The Campus makes every effort to schedule as many non-university events that are held on campus during weekends; however there are some that are conducted during the week. Generally, state and city meetings are held on campus during the week. Although the reservation policy is relatively new for outsiders using on-campus space, most scheduled events using campus space are coordinated with parking services. However, events scheduled by on-campus organizations may or may not be coordinated with parking. If they occur during peak periods on campus, they make it even more difficult for individuals – either campus members or guests – to find parking spaces.

Coordination between parking services and space reservations is very positive, but it is not foolproof. Recently an off-campus group rented space for an event anticipating 1,000 people, and only about two hundred came to the event. They occupied only 45 parking spaces. For this event, the campus leased spaces that were not utilized and thus incurred an expense that was not needed. Generally, the campus tries to accommodate parking at the Bayfront Center garage for larger events. There are anywhere from 200-300 participants in any given event and there are generally two events held a month.

There are also large non-campus events that take place off-campus but use the campus parking spaces. A prime example of this is the Grand Prix. Although this event occupied much of the campus parking supply (City on-street spaces and campus surface lots), there was no reimbursement to the parking system for use of the spaces or the inconvenience to campus permit holders.

The campus must also accommodate large events that are held by its own departments and organizations. These events include the career exposition, admissions events, and campus orientation events.

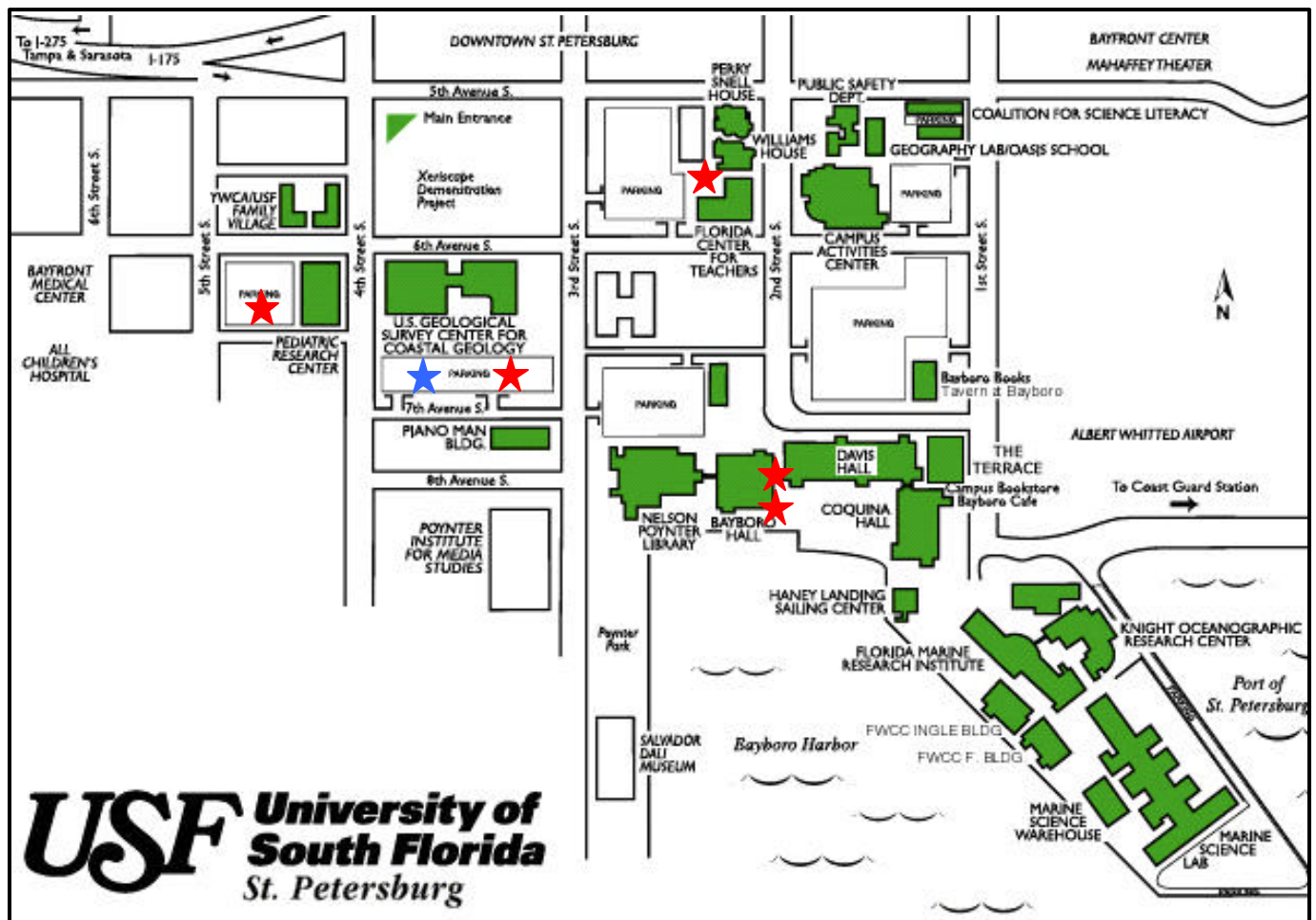
Similar to any institution, there are always unexpected visitors at any given time, such as guest lecturers, high school students using the Campus' library, consultants, and so on. These visitors are able to park in visitor-designated spaces until 5:00 p.m. in the evening; however these spaces are limited to a certain amount of time. There are 44 visitor spaces located in the academic core. Visitors must purchase visitor passes to park in any campus designated space for an extended time. The pass costs two dollars and is good for one day.

Safety and Security

Since perceived safety can affect how parking is used and the willingness of individuals to use parking in certain locations, safety records of campus during the last academic year were reviewed. MAP 2 illustrates the incidents last year, showing that the campus is very safe, with no crimes against persons during this period.

University of South Florida, St. Petersburg COMPREHENSIVE PARKING MASTER PLAN

MAP 2: Crime on Campus Last Academic Year



★ = Petty Theft

★ = Grand Auto