



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY PHYSICAL MASTER PLAN

RUTGERS 2030

VOLUME 3: CAMDEN

JUNE 18, 2015

PREFACE

Rutgers University embarked on Rutgers 2030 in May 2013, the first comprehensive master plan in over a decade, and the first to incorporate Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS), created from the integration of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) with Rutgers University in July 2013. The physical master plan complements the Rutgers University Strategic Plan, prepared in conjunction with the Boston Consulting Group, and approved by the Board of Governors in February 2014, and the strategic plans of each of Rutgers' component institutions.

Rutgers 2030 envisions development at Rutgers over a 15-year time frame, 2015 to 2030, and is comprehensive in its scope; taking into account buildings, the natural and constructed landscape, transportation, and infrastructure. The report consists of three volumes:

- Volume 1: Rutgers University–New Brunswick
- Volume 2: Rutgers University–Newark
- Volume 3: Rutgers University–Camden

RBHS is considered primarily within Volume 1 although constituent elements are found across Rutgers.

The scope of input was broad, involving survey responses from approximately 8,000 members of the community, over 30 presentations and town hall meetings, and meetings with many administrators, faculty, and student groups.

This study would not have been possible without the leadership of Rutgers University President Robert L. Barchi and support of Chancellors Nancy Cantor, Richard Edwards, Phoebe Haddon, and Brian Strom. In addition, the Physical Master Plan Executive Steering Committee, Rutgers University Facilities and Capital Planning members, deans, staff, faculty, and students contributed invaluable insight to the development of the project.

The master plan consulting team included Robert A.M. Stern Architects, Sasaki Associates, VHB, Buro Happold, and Toscano Clements Taylor.

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1 Taking Rutgers University–Camden Forward

An integral part of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Rutgers University–Camden has a well-established role as an anchor institution for the southern part of the state. Rutgers–Camden is currently home to more than 6,500 students and in recent years has undergone significant enrollment growth which is expected to continue.

As stated in its recently completed Strategic Plan, Rutgers–Camden is committed to core values of:

- **Prestige:** being part of Rutgers University and its 250-year history of world-class quality education at a research university
- **Access:** building upon a record of diversity and access for many first generation college families from a wide spectrum of geographic and economic backgrounds
- **Innovation:** providing opportunities for creative approaches to research, teaching, curricular development, and all other aspects of institutional life
- **Impact:** implementing strategies leading to mea-

asurable successful outcomes and connections with the community and region

To guide Rutgers–Camden in these core values, the Strategic Plan endorses the following strategic goals:

- **Providing a first rate-undergraduate education grounded in research and providing experiential learning**
- **Enhancing high-quality and interdisciplinary graduate and professional programs**
- **Advancing faculty research excellence**
- **Playing a leadership role in revitalizing Camden and in the greater Delaware Valley**
- **Increasing enrollment to support strategic goals**

To support the Strategic Plan in the area of facilities, Rutgers University set out in 2013 to update its University-wide Physical Master Plan, last completed in 2003. While many of the recommendations of the previous plans have either been accomplished or are incorporated in the current update, there are also new ideas and projects growing out of the evolution of the

campus and of higher education generally.

The updated Physical Master Plan, Rutgers 2030, addresses the University's current and future needs for a 15-year time frame from 2015 to 2030. The plan provides a framework to enhance the campus' current ability to provide a first-rate educational environment for its current and growing student population while maintaining the positive attributes of an intimate campus quality with a "liberal arts feel".

By reaching beyond the current physical boundaries of the current campus, this master plan also enables Rutgers University to be an agent of positive change in the region. The master plan's vision and goals align closely with those of the University and will support the implementation of its strategic plan.



330 Cooper, new residence hall

WHAT SETS RUTGERS–CAMDEN APART

Strong center of campus

The Quad offers an iconic place at Rutgers–Camden like none other in the Rutgers University system, providing a quiet but vibrant center for the campus, surrounded by academic and student services – a respite in an urban environment.

Intimate scale that promotes “liberal arts feel”

Aligned with the structure of class sizes and student-faculty ratios that Rutgers–Camden has maintained, the majority of the campus buildings range between two to four stories in height, promoting an intimate, personal, and accessible campus environment.

Recently renovated classrooms and teaching spaces offer opportunities for academic achievement

Renovated classrooms in the Business and Science Building and the Law School, the relocation of the Honors College to a more expansive space, renovated study space in the Paul Robeson Library, and a new

Law School facility create an environment where students are active participants in learning, and can develop themselves independently and collaborate in ways that support the learning efforts of others. The renovated classrooms aim to utilize technology to support cutting-edge learning in the classroom and foster experimentation with technology-enhanced pedagogy.

New housing supports near-term growth

In 2012, a new 12-story residence hall was completed. The new living space can accommodate up to 350 students and is currently 80% occupied. With retail spaces on the ground floor, this new residence hall includes student gathering spaces, a fitness center, a mail room, a business center, and a roof deck. Combined with existing residence halls, which accommodate 470 undergraduate students, Rutgers–Camden will be able to support some degree of growth in its resident population in line with its five-year strategic plan as Rutgers University–Camden determines the appropriate numbers of full-time students and transfer students, and mix of commuter and residential students.



Renovated Athletic and Fitness Center

A renovated Athletic and Fitness Center serves the Rutgers community well

Originally built in 1973, the Athletic and Fitness Center was renovated in 2009 to provide new cardio machines and circuit strength training equipment. The renovation project also included a resistance pool, new locker rooms, offices for coaches and administrators, a training room, and courts for basketball and volleyball programs. The facility is well-used and positively viewed by students, faculty and staff. Plans for growth must take into account the need for a schedule of equipment upgrades and replacement due to advances in equipment technology and the normal wear-and-tear that comes from frequent use. This is

true across all usage areas where students require and expect state-of-the-art, functional equipment as part of their Rutgers experience.

Cooper Street redevelopment is starting to transform the street

In addition to the new residence hall, an ongoing effort to reduce vacancies and refurbish properties owned by Rutgers–Camden along Cooper Street is a priority. Previously housed in the Paul Robeson Library, the Honors College was relocated to 319 Cooper Street. The Early Learning Research Academy also moved to 501 Cooper Street in 2011. The Writers House at 305 Cooper and Alumni House at 312 Cooper are under renovation.

Cooper Street is one of the major thoroughfares of Camden since it connects Rutgers–Camden with Camden County College, Rowan University and the rest of the city. Efforts to transform Cooper Street into a gateway serve to provide good first impressions for those visiting the campus and for those considering investment in the campus' neighborhood, and must continue.

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