

**The University of the District of Columbia
Lamond-Riggs Campus Master Plan
2023-2033
Overview and General Fact Sheet**

Executive Summary:

The Lamond-Riggs Campus Master Plan 2023-2033 (the “Plan”) seeks to advance the mission of the University to transform the Lamond-Riggs Campus (formerly the Bertie Backus Campus) into a flagship community college that will meet the educational needs of the residents of the District and region. The Plan features five primary changes to the campus that are key to the transformation:

1. Modernize and upgrade the existing academic building and facilities
2. Strengthen enrollment opportunities and welcome a modest increase in students, faculty, and staff
3. Promote the University’s distinct identity and wayfinding for public use of the campus
4. Implement on-site urban design improvements along the campus frontages on South Dakota Avenue NE, Hamilton Street NE, and Galloway Street NE
5. Construct a new wing to increase programs and provide an open space courtyard for improved green landscaping and sustainable features

Objectives:

The Plan aims to bring the University closer to its goal of being a public higher education model of urban student success through distinct Plan objectives:

- Establish the Lamond-Riggs Campus as a landmark community college hub emerging as an important economic engine for the District of Columbia and the region;
- Accommodate future growth and implementation of new technologies while maintaining a commitment to the environment;
- Design new lab space for flexible use to accommodate the interdisciplinary nature of education;
- Establish efficient space layouts within the campus to provide better access and circulation for students and improve operational effectiveness;
- Strengthen the campus’ image and character by promoting the University’s distinct identity through wayfinding and placemaking;
- Create opportunities to enhance the student experience by creating a courtyard environment that will engage the students from both classroom wings and provide an outdoor place for activities;
- Reduce parking, recognizing that the University is in an urban setting with direct access to mass transit and may be accessed by multiple modes of transportation; and
- Improve the urban campus to effectively maximize the utilization of open areas with the aim to provide much needed green space and better pedestrian circulation through the new courtyard design.

Plan Content:

The Plan contains five sections (“elements”) which articulate strategies that should be implemented at the Lamond-Riggs Campus to more holistically plan for the University’s growth:

1. Campus Development Element
 - Outlines the renovation and modernization strategy for the existing academic building and describes a new built addition to provide more office space, academic space, and new student-oriented amenities such as a coffee station, student center, and media center
 - The new addition would create a new student entrance and connect to Wing A to accommodate the anticipated increase in students based on an enrollment goal of 3,000 community college students by 2030
2. Transportation Element
 - Seeks to enhance pedestrian safety, leverage the campus’ adjacency to the Fort Totten Metrorail Station, reduce automobile dependency, and improve circulation and connectivity in and around campus
 - Proposes a Transportation Demand Management (“TDM”) plan for the campus intended to decrease reliance on vehicular use and encourage multimodal transportation
3. Sustainability Element
 - Strategizes ways for the University to provide additional green roof space and develop more sustainable stormwater management practices, install additional solar panels, and build upon existing sustainability initiatives such as the community garden and the AGPods
4. Community Relations Element
 - Establishes a communications plan with the neighboring community and District at large to more effectively address any campus growth-related concerns
 - Describes opportunities for the University to partner with local programs and organizations
5. Campus Character Element
 - Describes strategies to improve the campus appearance and identity through distinct campus signage, streetscape improvements to activate South Dakota Avenue NW, and architectural features across campus that will express the flagship identity of the University as a Historically Black College or University

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Proposed Campus Development Plan:

The Lamond-Riggs Campus Master Plan 2023-2033 (the “Plan”) identifies a two-phased approach to the development of the campus, summarized below.

Phase I

- Renovate and modernize the existing academic building (Wings A, B, and C) and facilities – exterior construction in this phase is limited to façade and parking lot improvements.
- Upgrade mechanical spaces and HVAC facilities for more efficient heating, cooling, and overall energy use
- Upgrade the building’s structural elements to have the rooftop become solar-ready for the future installation of solar panels
- Improve and repair the building façade
- Improve the public realm along South Dakota Avenue NE to provide public seating, planters, and public art
- Develop a new green space between the three wings next to the Galloway Street NE parking area
- Provide student-oriented amenities such as a coffee and food service station
- Fully renovate the interior and unused space in Wing C to provide additional lab space, classrooms and other academic capabilities
- Renovate the parking areas to provide efficient stormwater management facilities such as bioretention areas and vegetation
- Provide new trees in the Galloway Street NE parking lot
- Provide additional pedestrian pathways with direct access to the public sidewalk
- Remove the existing chain-link fence along South Dakota Avenue NE and Galloway Street NE
- Replace the existing chain-link fence along the public alley with decorative fencing
- Enhance the auditorium’s blank wall along South Dakota Avenue NE with a mural or other public art
- Upgrade signage and wayfinding in and around the campus
- Update parking facilities - the Hamilton Street NE parking area will provide 18 parking spaces, and the Galloway Street NE parking area will provide approximately 160 parking spaces

Phase II

- Construct the new Wing D, which will facilitate an open courtyard condition by encircling and expanding the new green space provided in Phase I
- Provide additional academic and administrative space in the new Wing D, as well as modern mechanical, electrical, and plumbing equipment intended to support the University’s sustainability goals
- Provide additional amenity space, including a new student forum
- Provide pedestrian-oriented landscaping, seating areas, stormwater management facilities, and open grass areas for rest and relaxation in the expanded courtyard
- Construct a green roof on the new Wing D to support the University and the District’s sustainability goals
- Modify the Hamilton Street NE parking lot with additional landscaping, including new trees

- Provide curb extensions at the intersections of Galloway Street NE & South Dakota Avenue NE, and Hamilton Street NE & South Dakota Avenue NE to improve pedestrian circulation and traffic safety
- Update parking facilities - the Hamilton Street NE parking area will maintain the 18 parking spaces, and the Galloway Street NE parking area will be modified to provide approximately 100 parking spaces

Next Steps & Milestones

The Plan was filed with the Office of Zoning in June 2023. The applicant and development team will provide an informational presentation and seek a resolution in support of the Campus Plan application at the ANC5A's September 2023 meeting. The Zoning Commission hearing for the Plan is anticipated to be held in October 2023.