



The expansion project is well underway at Tampa General, with workers beginning to shape its structural frame.

Rising Columns Bring First Signs Of New Building

Tall concrete columns are starting to rise from the ground behind Tampa General's West Pavilion, providing just a hint of the magnificent new building to come.

On that spot, a six-story building offering state-of-the-art services in a beautiful, healing environment will soon begin to take shape. The goal is to have construction completed by spring 2007.

But a lot of work is to be done before that can happen.

The first to occur was construction of the building's foundation. This began earlier this year, when huge rigs began installing concrete columns nearly 40 feet below ground.

Now, columns are becoming visible above ground as construction workers begin to shape the project's structural frame. This is the building's skeleton, which will

ultimately include the structure's support columns and floor slabs.

The structural frame is expected to be finished by early 2006. But it will start to look like a building even before the frame is completed, according to Oslec Fernandez, TGH's director of facilities management.

"Once the majority of the frame is up, people will start seeing the building profile. Then,

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A Beautiful Promenade Along The Water

Imagine strolling along the riverfront down a paved promenade, your way shaded by leafy trees and interestingly shaped cable tension structures. Bushes and flowering plants add to the view.

Along the way, you might see joggers, mothers pushing strollers, or people relaxing on benches and enjoying the vista of the Tampa skyline across the water.

This is not an experience you'd expect to have at a hospital. But within the next year and a half, this promenade will be very much a part of Tampa General Hospital.

Extending 1,307 feet along Seddon Channel, this linear park will be named the Marjorie Merritt Davis Promenade in honor of the wife of D.P. Davis, the developer of Davis Islands.

When it opens sometime around November 2006, it will be available for everyone to enjoy.

"In essence, it will be an extension of Bayshore Boulevard, giving access to the waterfront for everyone," says TGH Facilities Management Director Oslec Fernandez.



"I can see that people will want to use it actively and enjoy the beautiful view."

The park will begin at the foot of Tampa General Park, next to the hospital's new garage extension, and meander along the water to Davis Islands' northern tip.

While the specific design plans have not yet been drawn, this much is known about the project:

- The ground will be a paved surface, either of concrete or tiles, that will be durable enough to withstand salt water. It will also be skid-proof for safety but smooth enough

for wheelchairs to traverse smoothly. The colors have not yet been determined.

- It will be bordered along the water by decorative light-gray handrails, similar in style to those used at the park next to the St. Pete Times Forum and Tampa Waterside Marriott Hotel.
- It will be beautifully landscaped with trees, bushes, and flowering plants, most of them in raised planters to provide seating that complements the promenade's numerous benches.
- Providing additional shade will be cable tension structures – consisting of fabric attached to steel and cable frameworks that can gracefully angle the material into interesting shapes. The fabrics' colors have not yet been determined.

The park's construction should begin in early 2006 and be completed in the fall – a perfect time for it to open, Fernandez says.

"It will be a nice time of the year; the heat breaks around that time and brings pleasant evenings. The park will be such a nice feature that people will want to use it."



Garage Expansion To Meet Parking Needs For Years To Come

By fall 2006, all TGH employees will once again park on the hospital campus, and visitors will easily find parking spots.

That's when expansion of the campus parking garage should be completed, adding another 1,400 spots to the existing 2,942 spaces.

"We'll have 4,400 garage parking spaces. That will be enough for a long time to come," says TGH Facilities Management Director Oslec Fernandez.

The garage addition will not only accommodate present hospital parkers, it will also provide space for additional motorists who come to the campus when Tampa General's expansion project and a new University of South Florida College of Medicine building open.

The garage expansion will not be a separate, stand-alone building. Instead, it will be an extension of the current garage, held up by columns and connected to each floor beginning on the third story.

Underneath it, buses and cars will still flow along Arbor Drive, and valet parkers will have a designated area for visitors' vehicles. It will be similar in concept to the section of Platt Street that flows under the Tampa Convention Center and garage.

Building the new garage while maintaining access to Arbor Drive requires careful planning. Arbor Drive will need to be rerouted for a while around the construction. The road will be moved back to its present location when the project is finished.

Parkers should find a much more attractive and more easily navigable garage in the very near future. In an agreement with the City of Tampa, Tampa General will take ownership of the current garage in August.

Hospital staff are now working on a plan to staff, maintain, and spruce up the facility, Fernandez says.

"Tampa General employees and visitors expect a very high level of service, because that's the way we run the hospital. When we take over the garage, that will be the same expectation," he says.

"The facility's physical structure will not change," he adds. "But we are studying what we need to do in terms of lighting, signage, upgrading the elevators, and other maintenance issues."

A USF Base On Tampa General's Campus

Tampa General's expansion plans include an important project that will further strengthen the hospital's ties to the University of South Florida College of Medicine.

USF is now making plans for a new 126,000-square-foot medical office building on TGH's campus. The university-owned building will have physicians' offices, faculty offices, and clinical areas.

The building will be constructed in front of the West Pavilion entrance on the space currently used for valet parking. In place of that lot, valet parking will continue to be provided, according to Joey Resnick, vice president of support services.

Hard Hats Not Required At This Construction Viewing Site

You now can watch construction of Tampa General's expansion project just by logging on to your computer.

A website set up at <http://expansioncam.tgh.org> runs a new picture of the construction site at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m., every day.

The pictures are taken from a camera on top of the LifeLink Building along Bayshore Boulevard and transmitted to a server in the hospital.

The thrice-daily snapshots are being archived into a file on the server. When construction is finished, the thousands of archived pictures will be fashioned into a time-lapse video documenting the new building's development.

The site also contains links to Tampa General's website and to the hospital's hurricam, which provides live streaming video of the Davis Islands bridges and a partial view of the construction site.

USF currently leases space in Harbour Side Medical Tower and 17 Davis Boulevard. A university-owned building on the hospital campus would be an important milestone in the two organizations' relationship, says TGH President Ron Hytoff.

"Having its own building on campus will allow the university the capability of expanding clinical services, education and research at Tampa General Hospital," he says.

The medical office building is still in its very earliest stages, according to Michael Hoad, USF's associate vice president of health sciences. The project is expected to take about two years, he says.

Foundation Launches Community Campaign

The Tampa General Hospital Foundation is now turning to the community for support as it continues its Building On Excellence campaign to raise money for the hospital's expansion project.

With popular Tampa Bay Buccaneer Shelton Quarles as the Community Campaign's honorary chairperson, the Foundation will soon be sending letters to local residents inviting them to contribute to the campaign.

The letters will be mailed primarily to people who live in the South Tampa area, where the hospital is located. But residents and grateful patients from surrounding counties will also be given the opportunity to support the campaign.

The Building on Excellence capital campaign is aimed at raising \$10 million toward the project's \$130 million construction costs.

Even before this campaign begins, the Foundation is well on its way toward reaching that goal. Over \$9 million has been raised so far from individual and

corporate donors, employees, physicians, and members of the hospital's and Foundation's boards of directors.

However, the Foundation would be happy to exceed the \$10 million goal, says Brett Breen, the Foundation's director of development.

"That's our goal, but it's certainly not limited to that. If we can bring in more, that's all the better," he says.

For more information on the Building on Excellence campaign, please contact Brett Breen, (813) 844-7560.

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it will really start taking shape; you'll see it take form as the exterior walls and windows are installed through May of 2006. Then we'll shift our efforts into the interior work," Fernandez says.

Site Ready

Motorists driving across the bridge to Davis Islands may have noticed three large white areas on the West Pavilion's exterior. These areas mark the locations where staircases once climbed down the side of the building.

The staircases were removed several months ago and their entry points into the West Pavilion closed up to make way for the new building.

Eventually, those entry points will be reopened and become part of connecting corridors between the West Pavilion and the new facility.

This is just one of the many tasks that had to be completed before the actual groundbreaking could begin.

A myriad of utility lines, originally located where the columns now stand, were moved off of the site. And a road and loading dock, also in the building's way, had to be relocated.

A new, temporary road now goes around the construction zone. Eventually, it will be replaced by a permanent road in approximately the same location. And a new loading dock is expected to open by the end of June.

With most of the site preparation work now completed, construction workers can focus on actual construction of the new building. It's about time, say the project's many eager observers.

"People kept saying to me, 'You're out there, and when you dig a hole, you fill it with dirt. Then you dig another hole and fill it with dirt,'" Fernandez says.

"But there was plenty of work going on below ground," he says. "It just takes a lot of prep work before you can see a building go up."

New Building Edition is published by the Strategic Services Department at Tampa General Hospital to provide information to employees, physicians, volunteers, and the community about the hospital's expansion project.

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