

Updated as of October 10, 2007

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

George Mason University Arlington Campus

An expanded presence of a leading public university in Arlington County provides enhanced opportunities for education, economic and cultural development. The following highlight the community benefit offered in each phase of the George Mason University Campus (Mason) in Arlington County.

World Class campus facilities will enable Arlington County to market itself as the home of the Mason's nationally acclaimed and highly nationally ranked School of Law, the School of Public Policy and the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. (Phase I, II & III)

The master planned build-out of the campus will also enable Arlington residents to access the university's curricular offerings in business, economics, public administration, telecommunications and other academic programs at the graduate level. In addition, the community will benefit from access to the active programs of the Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute (Phase II, & III)

Existing and planned development of research centers related to the resident academic programs will bring national and international recognition to Arlington County. (Phase I, II & III)

The expanded campus will also bring increased access to specialized library collections, as well as to major information resources such as the combined collections of the Consortium of Washington Area University Libraries. (Phase I, II & III)

An expanded set of offerings from the Mason Office of Continued & Professional Education (OCPE) will complement credit-bearing academic programs with professional development opportunities for working professionals in Arlington and throughout the region. (Phase I, II, & III)

An expanded Mason Enterprise Center (including a Small Business Development Center on or near campus) will stimulate further the educational and economical development of the local business community. (Phase I, II, & III)

The enhanced telecommunications facilities will provide a medium for shared use of telecommunication resources to the residential and business community with strong educational and cultural linkages. (Existing & Phase II)

Increased public access to improved gallery and art exhibit space will foster and support local and regional artists, and the redesigned planned plaza will serve as a “campus quad” as well as a community gathering place which will also foster collaboration between university and community performing arts groups. (Existing & Phase II)

Significant meeting and conference space will be made available for government, business and community use at times that do not compromise the primary academic mission of the campus. (Phase I 300 seat lecture hall, Phase II 300 seat auditorium & Phase II multi-purpose room and conference facility)

Vastly improved landscaped and streetscape and a new open plaza will enhance considerably the surrounding neighborhood and foster community enjoyment. (Phase II)

Public access to an expanded bookstore, retail food and coffee shops and other vendors on site and at adjacent locations will benefit local commercial and social activity. (Phase I, II, & III)

Much of the nearly \$300 million capital investment in constructing the campus will be expended within Arlington County and Northern Virginia, which serves to stimulate the local economy. (Phase I, II, & III)

Additional students, faculty, staff and other campus users will provide increased economic impact in local spending and sales tax revenues within the county. (Phase I, II, & III)

The phase II project as originally designed had only 16 LEED points, Based on Arlington County staff input and through discussions with its consultant, Mason revised the project’s LEED scorecard to 30 points. Significant improvements were made from the original scorecard in the water efficiency section. In addition, appropriate for an institution of higher learning Mason is asking for an Innovation in Design point with a Green Education Program wherein Mason has committed to developing a program that will highlight the project’s unique sustainable characteristics. Numerous LEED point requirements have been included in the project specifications for Phase II.

A professionally facilitated plaza design charrette was conducted during the summer of 2007 on the Mason Arlington Campus with the participation by Mason and Arlington County staff and well as members of the surrounding community and other stakeholders. The discussion focused on 1) brainstorming a list of issues of concern, 2) identifying opportunities for uses, activities, amenities, and design features, and 3) management and operational considerations with regard to how partners and programming could be brought together to make the plaza function effectively. This effort included establishing two groups with membership jointly appointed by the county and university, a Plaza Design Group and a Plaza Operations Group, respectively, to evaluate and prioritize the opportunities and considerations raised during the charette process. The final design of

the plaza incorporates all of the recommendations of the Plaza Design Group and the Plaza Operations Group has met to begin the process developing oversight and usage guidelines and procedures for the Plaza upon projected opening in 2010.

Mason is creating a list of measures it will implement to lessen the Phase II project's construction impacts on the surrounding area. Mason is basing its response on comments received at the June 7, 2007 SPRC meeting and the receipt and review of the standard site plan conditions typically applicable to site plans, and June 25, 2007 Planning Commission meeting comments (which will be updated after additional meetings scheduled for October, 2007).

Currently "shared" parking would be available after 10pm M-F, after 2pm Sat, and all day Sunday. This or some variant will exist after Phase II opens, but the exact details have not been finalized at the time of development of this document. Certain community events coordinated in advance with the University would mostly like to have access to parking as planned.

Summary of Community Benefits:

1. Access to additional Mason graduate, and certificate programs
2. Community access to campus library, and retail (bookstore, café)
3. Community access to 300 seat auditorium, multi-purpose room, and TV studio
4. Mason Plaza – general daily access and mutually managed shared access for community uses
5. Opportunity for "shared" parking, after class hours M-F, Sat. afternoon and Sunday
6. Bike racks for 50 bikes & on site showers for bike riders (reduces traffic)
7. Metro-checks, shuttle service to encourage use of public transit, etc. (reduces traffic)
8. Art Programs – potential for Mason and local exhibitions and performances both internal and external to the Phase II facility.

Mason is committed to the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities and to continually improving the accessibility of our campus, programs and activities. Mason will comply with the applicable Commonwealth building codes/accessibility regulations and the determinations of the State Building Code official in the construction of this facility. We strive to incorporate universal design within the constraints of the site, seamless elevation integration of Arlington I plaza and floor plans is an example.

Phase III:

Upon approval of the Phase III project, Mason fully commits to engage Arlington County to begin the community review process in accordance with the MOU.