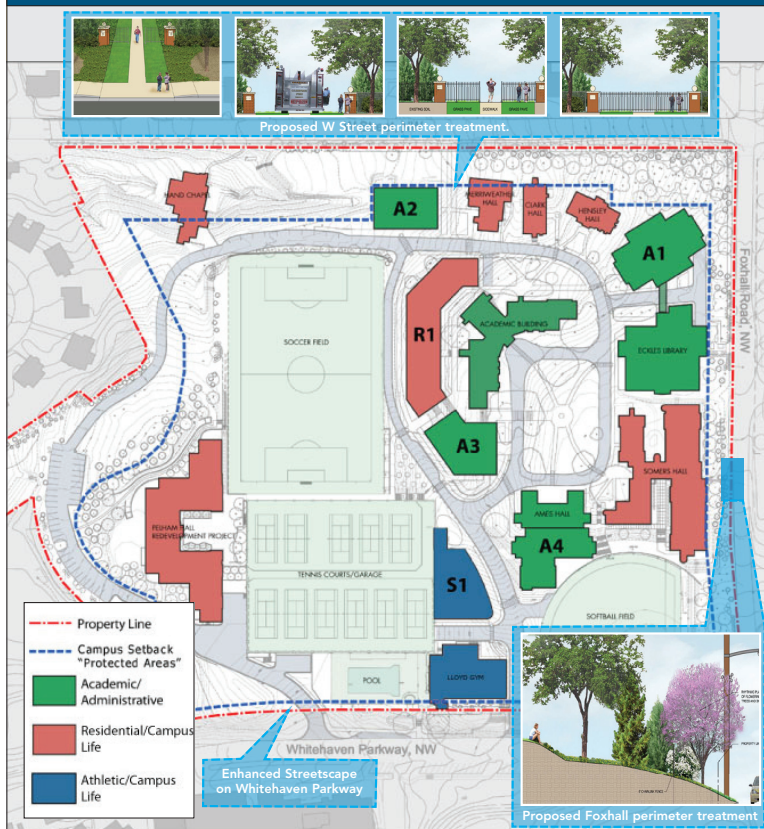


# THE FUTURE OF GW'S MOUNT VERNON CAMPUS IMPLEMENTING THE 2010 MOUNT VERNON CAMPUS PLAN

## GW MOUNT VERNON CAMPUS—PROPOSED FUTURE DEVELOPMENT SITES



**The University commenced a dialogue in 2009 with the surrounding community** for nearly a year prior to the filing of the *2010 Mount Vernon Campus Plan*. Each of the monthly community meetings were focused on a key issue determined early in the planning process based on input from members of the community, including:

- Future campus development and reallocation of currently proposed building uses;
- Balance of residential and academic space to enhance the living and learning community;
- Sustainable practices such as green building, stormwater management, campus landscaping, open spaces; and
- Improvements to public amenities and pedestrian pathways.

GW invited participation from various neighborhood groups, through communication to Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, the Palisades Listserv, Foxhall Citizens Association, and GW's own neighborhood listserv. Outreach within the GW community included forums for students, faculty, staff, alumni and parents to ensure the proposed Campus Plan addresses both academic initiatives and operational concerns. This comprehensive effort enlisted land use planners, architects, landscape architects, civil engineers, traffic consultants, acoustical engineers, environmental consultants, lighting specialists, archaeologists and historic preservation experts.

## The George Washington University's Mount Vernon Campus

integrates the resources of a major urban research university with the unique experience and focus of a more traditional, residentially-oriented campus. As a campus with its own sense of place and geography as well as a unique set of academic and extracurricular program offerings, the Mount Vernon Campus, while complementary to its Foggy Bottom counterpart, represents a unique living and learning experience and is governed by a separate and distinct campus plan.

## The first Campus Plan for GW's Mount Vernon Campus

was developed in 1967 when it operated as Mount Vernon College. The plan was updated in 1986 and, after merging with GW in 1999, the University and its neighbors adopted a new campus plan which included expansion of residential, academic and athletic facilities as well as measures to mitigate potential light, noise, and parking impacts.



**The 2010 Plan** accommodates GW's forecasted academic and student housing needs, carries out objectives of the DC Comprehensive Plan, reinforces existing campus development patterns and reflects the various planning principles and design concepts developed through the inclusive and collaborative community-based planning process. The University filed the *2010 Mount Vernon Campus Plan* and a proposal to expand Ames Hall (including a request for further processing approval of a change in use/addition to Ames Hall and a request for relief from the roof structure requirements to accommodate the proposed addition) in March 2010. Leading up to the summer 2010 DC Zoning Commission hearing, the university continued to discuss these proposals with the community, ANC 3D, the DC Office of Planning and other District government agencies. Since the Zoning Commission's April 2010 approval, the university has completed the proposed Ames Hall renovation.

# THE FUTURE OF GW'S MOUNT VERNON CAMPUS IMPLEMENTING THE 2010 MOUNT VERNON CAMPUS PLAN

## The 2010 Mount Vernon Campus Plan commits to...

- Same amount of new development on campus as was approved in the existing campus plan
- Locating the majority of new development focused away from the residential neighborhoods
- Closing the W Street entrance except to emergency vehicles, removing the parking lot and landscaping that area (in design)
- Campus perimeter to benefit from relocated fencing to limit visual impact and new plantings, specifically along Foxhall Road (completed)
- No lighting of the soccer field
- Enhanced controls on tennis court lighting to minimize lighting when courts not in use (completed)
- Construction of 10' wall on northern side of soccer field to assist in noise mitigation (completed)
- Mitigation of noise from mechanical units along Foxhall Road (completed)
- Increase in base student enrollment to the equivalent of 15% on a headcount basis and 10% on an FTE basis, on any given day
- Continued use of the Vern Express shuttle to transport students, faculty and staff between the Mount Vernon and Foggy Bottom campuses
- Physical enhancements to the Whitehaven entrance to the campus and surrounding streetscape (in design)
- GW commitment to achieve equivalent of LEED NC certification for all new projects
- Comprehensive stormwater management system to be implemented with new campus developments

## BACKGROUND ON GW'S MOUNT VERNON CAMPUS

The George Washington University's Mount Vernon Campus is located in Northwest DC adjacent to the Foxhall and Palisades neighborhoods. It consists of approximately 23 acres bounded by W Street (north) and Whitehaven Parkway (south), Foxhall Road (east) and Berkeley Terrace (west).

The Campus was originally home to the Mount Vernon Seminary and later Mount Vernon College, which merged with GW in 1999. The campus is now a fully integrated co-educational campus that complements GW's Foggy Bottom Campus. The Mount Vernon Campus offers a unique living and learning community providing the benefits of a smaller "campus feel," yet easily accessible to DC's downtown environment and all that DC has to offer.

The campus is home to undergraduate students—largely freshmen and sophomores—and offers a wide variety of academic and student life opportunities. The Women's Leadership Program for first-year women students is based on the Mount Vernon Campus as a signature legacy of the Mount Vernon Seminary and College's commitment to women's education.



## The renovated and expanded Ames Hall

contains a blend of academic classrooms, informal student gathering space, faculty offices, and other academic and administrative support space. Ames Hall was previously used for campus life and student support space, including the campus dining hall.

However, with the completion of West Hall (Pelham Hall Redevelopment project) in fall 2010, most of these activities were relocated to the new building, allowing for a complete renovation/expansion of Ames Hall to create a blend of



academic classrooms, informal student gathering space, faculty offices, and other academic and administrative support space. This is consistent with the 2010 Mount Vernon Campus Plan's goal of creating additional academic space to serve the campus population.

## THE NEW AMES HALL:

- Maintains the architectural character of the existing campus;
- Integrates modern sustainable design principles and practices; and
- Responds to site topography in order to enhance pedestrian circulation and reinforce the Whitehaven Parkway entrance to the Mount Vernon Campus.

**VISIT:** [www.neighborhood.gwu.edu/cd](http://www.neighborhood.gwu.edu/cd) for more details on the Mount Vernon Campus Plan or Ames Hall Redevelopment project.  
**EMAIL:** [talktogw@gwu.edu](mailto:talktogw@gwu.edu) to participate in upcoming community meetings regarding these projects