

CSI unveils its plan for Willowbrook site

By JULIE MACK
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The College of Staten Island yesterday unveiled its master plan for its new campus in Willowbrook, and the biggest surprise was that the college is proposing to use 220 acres of the soon-to-be-vacated Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC).

The college had originally wanted 187 acres of the 300 acres that SIDC is vacating. As recently as March, officials at the state Office of General Services, which handles disposition of state-owned property, said the college would probably receive less rather than more acreage than requested.

Whether the Office of General Services will grant the college's latest request is still uncertain — CSI President Edmond L. Volpe admits that negotiations for the property are incomplete and it is possible the college's acquisition will be smaller than 220 acres. But most of the master plan has been approved by the state, he said; only the southeast and eastern boundaries are still being negotiated.

The extra acreage is mainly woodlands bordering the main campus, according to Peter Capone, president of Edward Durell Stone Associates, which drafted the master plan for the Willowbrook campus. Capone

termed the extra land as "buffer and transition" areas. He said the woodlands would remain as natural areas, adding that an estimated 25 percent of the 220 acres would not be developed.

The master plan calls for retaining 15 of the two dozen brick buildings now standing on the site. The buildings would be "completely gutted," Capone said during a press conference to unveil the plan at the school's St. George campus. "We would use only the foundation, the outer wall, the floor and the roof.

"We are not talking about renovated buildings," Capone