

# CSI plans for 216-acre campus

## Shift to Willowbrook to take 5 years

The map below shows the proposed building plan for the College of Staten Island campus site in Willowbrook.

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The College of Staten Island will inherit 216 acres of the Staten Island Development Center campus next year when that state institution in Willowbrook finally closes its doors and moves its remaining clients to nearby group houses.

Within five years of this land transfer, CSI plans to abandon both its St. George and Sunnyside campuses and move into its long-sought-after unified campus.

In doing so, CSI will become the main occupant of that 346-acre site; the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD), which now has jurisdiction of that land, will keep 130 acres for its group homes, some of which are still under construction, the Karl D. Warner Complex, to be renovated and used as a multi-purpose community-treatment center, and the Institute of Basic Research, said Lou Ganim, an OMRDD spokesman.

Technically, the state's Office of General Services owns state land and gives agencies permission to use the land. OMRDD now has the right to the Willowbrook land. The rights to 216 acres will be transferred to the state Dormitory Authority, which is responsible for campus construction for the City University of New York.

The next immediate step, however, in the school's move is for the state to accept a final environmental impact statement (EIS), a draft of which was recently sub-

mitted to the state Dormitory Authority. (The EIS draft says the Willowbrook site has 330 acres. This figure does not include the land the Institute of Basic Research (IBR) now occupies, said Kenneth Klindworth, CSI's director of facilities.)

CSI president Edmond L. Volpe, City University of New York officials and state officials say the draft EIS raised no serious questions about the proposed move. A public hearing on the statement will be held at 3 p.m. on Tuesday in the Sunnyside campus' Williamson Theater.

Donald Farley, CUNY's vice chancellor for facilities planning and management, said when the final EIS is accepted, which he thought was highly probable, the plan will be "on its way ... We're ready to move."

Theodore A. Holmes, the state Dormitory Authority's general counsel, said his agency was "satisfied" with the draft EIS. "As far as we're concerned we have an acceptable EIS," he said.

The EIS was prepared by consultants hired by the College of Staten Island.

Once the public hearing is held, the consultants have 45 days to respond to comments raised at the hearing and submit a final statement to the Dormitory Authority, which in turn has 10 days to look at the "bottom line" of the environmental impact of the move before accepting or rejecting it, Holmes said.

In this case, Holmes anticipates acceptance on the state Dormitory Authority

will release \$20 million it recently raised through bond sales for the design of the new campus, Farley said.

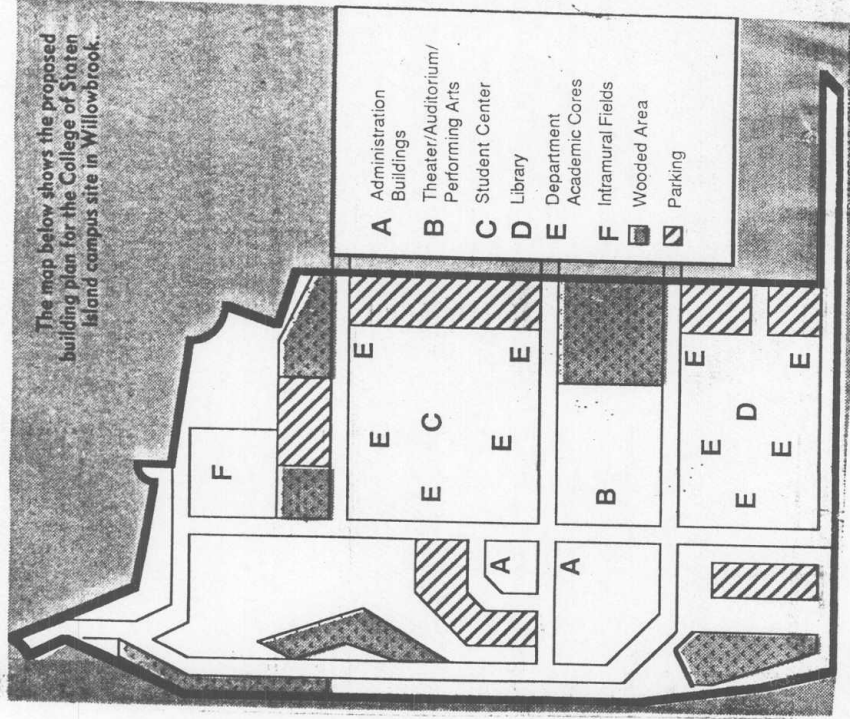
In all, construction will cost \$220 million. When completed in the early 1990s, the campus will be a showpiece within CUNY and offer numerous educational opportunities to Islanders, CUNY officials say.

"I'm not sure the community has yet recognized the importance of the project, its size, its economic value to Staten Island, and the overall impact this is going to have on the educational and cultural opportunities on the island," Volpe said.

With the most "up-to-date laboratories and modern theater, the new campus will be the kind of institution that people will be bringing visitors to see," Volpe said.

The campus will have an "Ivy League look" — like a New England college campus — with its primarily two-story red-brick buildings spread over 216 acres of wooded land and lawns. "It's so rare in the City University that you don't have megalithic structures," he said.

CSI will get about 20 buildings plus a dozen or more temporary structures, CSI's Klindworth said. The temporary structures and several of the buildings will be demolished as will the enormous and outdated heating plant. (The heating plant is



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