

Longwood adds \$18M parking garage to prepare for visitors as new event building opens on campus

With the new Joan Perry Bock Center, Longwood is planning to receive even more visitors for events, and plan to build an eco-friendly Garage for students, staff, and visitors

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Longwood University is planning to open a seven-story parking garage on the connecting streets of Route 15 and Wynne Drive. There will be entrance and exit point off of Route 15 and the garage will hold a total of 1,400 parking spots. Construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2024 and continue to August 2027.

Parking spots on campus as of now come to 2,700 spaces available for students and staff combined. Longwood currently has, according to UnivStats there are 4,612 students including undergrad and graduate students. Along with the employees of Longwood coming in at 1,364. This becomes a problem when the new garage is set to replace pre-existing commuter areas that students were allowed to park in.

The new Garage is set to be built by Roadside and Harwell; the plan is to make the garage eco-friendly in the thought that natural lighting and keeping a longwood aesthetic would be worth the cost of the garage. Right now, the estimated price for the building will be \$18,000,000. This will not be coming from the student's tuition. The money will come from the reserve fund and Longwood donors.

When asking representative Ashley Schaeffer of Longwood University why the budget was so high for the parking garage it was stated that, "each space would cost around \$12,900 but when you think of the steel and all the concrete each space comes to \$13,000 which is not that bad."

The garage would bring new and improved parking for events that would have a massive influx on visitors, staff, and students that will attend, due to the new Joan Perry Brock Center which seats 3,000 people. Traffic will be rerouted by police to create a simple entrance and exit.

One concern was the safety of pedestrians at night that would use the garage, blue light systems will be placed inside and around the garage to insure a safe environment for everyone within town and the students of Longwood University.