4.6 INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

4.6.1 VISION AND PRINCIPLES

4.6.2 PRIORITIES
4.6 Intercollegiate Athletics

Planning for Rutgers University Intercollegiate Athletics has occurred within the context of its entrance to the Big Ten conference, as well as the broader framework of the Rutgers University physical master plan. Also known as the Scarlet Knights, Rutgers Athletics competes at the NCAA Division I level and became the newest member of the Big Ten Conference in November of 2013. This move to the Big Ten has planning and facility implications. For Rutgers Athletics, the master plan proposes a vision focused on enhanced accommodation of each sport; rationalizing space relationships, adjacencies, and efficiencies; and improving the overall fan experience. The result is a proposed framework that can accommodate changing priorities, funding sources, and phasing.

**HISTORY AND TRADITION**

Rutgers University is known as the Birthplace of college football, having hosted and won the first ever collegiate football game in 1869, as “the Queensmen” of Queens College. Since then, Queens College has transformed into Rutgers University, and has continued to build an athletic program based in a tradition of excellence in the classroom and in competition. The bell that hangs in the cupola of Old Queens, originally rung to mark the change of classes, has now taken on a more symbolic meaning and is rung only on special occasions – including athletic achievements; the term “the bells must ring” has become a common phrase during home football games. Rutgers team have earned multiple championships, including six recent post-season bowl game victories.

**EXISTING RUTGERS ATHLETIC VENUES**

Currently, Athletics precincts are adjacent to the district cores at Busch and Livingston. As proposed in Rutgers 2030, Athletics will continue to occupy its current precincts, but will have improved pedestrian, vehicular, and Rutgers bus connections, to better link these areas to the campus. The master plan aims to provide easy vehicular access to competition venues for spectators and visitors from Route 18, as well as better pedestrian access for members of the Rutgers community.

Rutgers Athletics offers 24 men’s and women’s sports, including:

- Baseball
- Basketball (Men’s and Women’s)
- Cross Country (Men’s and Women’s)
- Field Hockey
- Football
- Golf (Men’s and Women’s)
- Gymnastics
- Lacrosse (Men’s and Women’s)
- Rowing
- Soccer (Men’s and Women’s)
- Softball
- Swimming & Diving
- Tennis
- Track and Field (Men’s and Women’s)
- Volleyball
- Wrestling
Scarlet Knight fans at a Rutgers University football home game.

IMAGE COURTESY OF BEN SOLOMON, RUTGERS ATHLETICS
4.6.1 Vision and Principles

Rutgers University has a variety of practice and performance venues that support each program. These facilities are primarily distributed between the Busch and Livingston districts of the Rutgers University—New Brunswick campus, with a small presence on College Avenue. Busch is currently home to High Point Solutions Stadium, the Hale Center, and the Rutgers Golf Course. Busch also hosts competition venues for soccer at Yurcak Field, and tennis at the Tennis Complex east of the stadium. Livingston is home to the Rutgers Athletic Center, the Bauer Track and Field/Field Hockey Complex, Bainton Field, and the Rutgers Softball Complex.

An initiative of the master plan at both Busch and Livingston is to eliminate overlaps between varsity space and recreational space. Currently, volleyball and wrestling have practice and competition facilities at the College Avenue Gym, while gymnastics has its practice facility at the Livingston Recreation Center. By creating dedicated practice facilities for all varsity teams, previously shared spaces can be available exclusively for recreational users. The master plan aims to improve and enhance athletic facilities both qualitatively and spatially by expanding and reorganizing existing programs to create the best experience for students, student-athletes, spectators and staff.

Specific to Intercollegiate Athletics at the Rutgers University—New Brunswick campus, Rutgers 2030 builds upon recent efforts completed by the University to enhance its facilities and grounds for the twenty-four Division I athletics teams and for Scarlet Knight fans, and provides an updated overview of priorities for Athletics, aligning these priorities with available funding streams. In conjunction with University Administration and the Athletics Department, the physical master plan identifies the following vision and principles to guide these priorities for Intercollegiate Athletics:

- **Address existing deficiencies** – Rutgers is committed to providing and enhancing facilities that support greater opportunities under Title IX and best practices under the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and Big Ten Conference. This plan provides a framework that allows a long term vision to be established, and for long term investments and fundraising efforts to be realigned or put in place.

- **Prioritize flexibility in sequencing** – The process of upgrading existing facilities or providing new facilities should involve careful planning to avoid temporary construction and minimize disruption to teams and their operations.

- **Optimize access** – Projects are proposed to have functions that support athletics operations and the larger campus community, for example, providing easily accessible parking or event spaces that will be used by both Athletics and other campus groups, including visitors and academic departments. Rutgers 2030 identifies opportunities to take advantage of spaces readily available to be repurposed for Athletics use, in many instances identifying areas to be renovated in lieu of building new facilities for Athletics use.

Rutgers 2030 recommends consolidating the majority of varsity sports to Busch and Livingston, in order to enhance the athletics experience for both athletes and fans and to maximize operational efficiencies. The planning framework maintains optimal adjacencies currently in place and proposes to relocate several teams when funding becomes available. Specific projects are described in the following pages.
1 Multi-use facility and integrated parking
2 Scarlet Knight Park
3 Rutgers Tennis Complex
4 Bainton Field / Gruninger Baseball Complex
5 Rutgers Softball complex
6 Baseball/Softball Practice Facility
7 Bauer Track and Field Complex
8 RAC renovation and expansion
9 Gathering/event space
10 Major pedestrian path
11 Expanded wetland
12 Hotel and Conference Center
13 Livingston Recreation Center
4.6.2 Priorities

LIVINGSTON ATHLETICS DISTRICT

The area west of the Livingston academic core, bounded by Avenue E to the south, Metlars Lane to the west, Suttons Lane to the north and Hospital Road to the east is the athletics precinct, named the Scarlet Knight Park in the Athletics Master Plan completed in 2008. It is home to baseball, softball, field hockey, track and field teams. The Louis Brown Athletic Center, also known as the RAC, is home to the men’s and women’s basketball teams. This park is bordered to the north by large parking lots, and are separated from other activities occurring at the Livingston core.

Rutgers 2030 proposes to strengthen connections between the Scarlet Knight Park and the rest of Livingston through the introduction of facilities that will develop land between the park and Rockefeller Road, and by establishing clear pedestrian paths and landscape elements connecting the park to the academic quadrangle, student center and dining commons.

A new lawn is proposed directly west of the RAC, providing a central location for informal gatherings, as well as staging for athletics competitions and events. Specific to Athletics, the following projects are identified as priorities:

- **Louis Brown Athletic Center (RAC) Multi-Use Facility and Integrated Parking Facility** – The proposed RAC Multi-Use Facility will satisfy program needs for Rutgers basketball program, and other varsity teams currently accommodated in recreation facilities. The new Multi-Use Facility, attached to the RAC, will be home to men’s and women’s basketball, gymnastics, wrestling and volleyball. These programs will have state-of-the-art locker rooms, practice venues, strength and conditioning and sport medicine suites, coaches’ offices and meeting rooms. Wrestling and volleyball are proposed to be relocated from the College Avenue Gymnasium, while gymnastics will be relocated from the Livingston Recreation Center. The multi-use facility will be embedded within a four-story parking structure, with a direct connection from parking to the existing RAC at the second floor level. This multi-use facility will also house administrative offices for the Athletics Department.

- **Scarlet Knight Park** – The master plan proposes a reorganization of the facilities in the northern part of Livingston athletics district. Currently comprised of two multi-purpose fields, a softball complex, Bainton Field Baseball Complex and Bauer Track & Field/Field Hockey Complex, some of the facilities are partially located in environmentally sensitive areas. The new design proposes the implementation, over time, of high quality practice and competition venues with optimal orientation for competition, connected by a central pedestrian spine and adjacent access from on Hospital Road. The newly configured complex will provide a distinctive and unique experience for student athletes, staff and spectators, with close proximity to surface parking. Tennis and soccer venues will be relocated from Busch to Livingston, to consolidate programs and provide dedicated practice and competition facilities. Specific upgrades are proposed for these venues, as listed in the following pages.

- **Rutgers Tennis Complex** – A new home for the tennis team with twelve outdoor courts is proposed to be located at Livingston. The
Rutgers Scarlet Knights men’s basketball take on Wisconsin Badgers at the RAC, January 11, 2015.

IMAGE COURTESY OF BEN SOLOMON
tennis complex facility is anticipated to have exterior lighting and spectator seating.

- **Bainton Field / Gruninger Baseball Complex** – The baseball complex is proposed to be relocated and will allow for the reclamation and expansion of the existing wetland. A new facility and stadium will accommodate 2,000-3,000 seats, team rooms, press areas, suites and concessions, and a club house; a practice infield is located adjacent to the complex. The proximity of the new complex to parking provides convenient logistics for competitions.

- **Rutgers Softball Complex** – A new stadium is proposed to replace the existing softball complex, along with team rooms, press area and suites, club house and concessions area. The proposed improvements and enhancements to softball and baseball will allow these sports to host NCAA events.

- **Baseball/Softball Indoor Practice Facility** – An indoor practice facility is proposed, adjacent to the baseball and softball outdoor facilities, and will be shared by both teams. This facility will allow for indoor practice and training for hitting, pitching, and infield play. This facility and the baseball and softball complexes take advantage of their proximity to the RAC, where team locker rooms will be located.

- **Bauer Complex** – track and field and field hockey share a relocated facility towards the south side of Scarlet Knight Park. The area is protected by adjacent growth of trees to the west. Additional seating, press boxes, locker rooms are planned for this complex, along with upgrades to the exterior lighting system enabling night competitions and practice.

- **Louis Brown Athletic Center (RAC) renovation and addition** – The Rutgers Athletic Center (RAC) is an 8,000 seat venue, home to the men’s and women’s basketball teams. The master plan proposes to renovate the RAC to accommodate evolving program needs and to address qualitative concerns within the facility. Upgrades to the existing RAC include plans to expand the concourse level of the RAC, increase seating capacity and club space, improve lighting and restroom facilities. The fan and visitor experience is also enhanced by an addition of new ticketing area and lobby and a spirit ware retail shop. The realignment of the drop-off road in front of the RAC building will accommodate walkways routes from the campus core to the RAC and into Scarlet Knight Park. By relocating training functions to the proposed new basketball facility, the RAC can be optimized for the fan experience.
MULTI-USE FACILITY

A new multi-use facility for men’s and women’s basketball, volleyball, wrestling and gymnastics is proposed to the south of the Louis Brown Athletic Center (RAC), with a connection between the two buildings. This facility also includes an integrated four-story parking structure accessed from Hospital Road, which will provide parking for events at the RAC, the adjacent Rutgers Business School and future hotel and conference center directly south of the training facility.

Existing view of proposed site for Basketball Training Facility with Louis Brown Athletics Center (RAC) at right, and Rutgers Business School at left.
CHAPTER 4

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

PLAN OF BUSCH ATHLETICS COMPLEX

1. High Point Solutions Stadium South End
2. Hale Center
3. Yurcak Field
4. Rutgers Golf Training Complex
5. Multi-purpose Field House
6. Werblin Recreation Center
7. Stadium west upgrades
8. Future Practice Fields
9. Major pedestrian way
10. Game day pedestrian way
11. Football Practice (existing)
12. Tennis Complex (existing)

SCALE 1" = 600'

RIVER ROAD
ROUTE 18
JOHNSON PARK
HOES LANE WEST
FRELINGHUYSEN ROAD
ALLISON ROAD
BARTHOLOMEW ROAD
CAMPUS ROAD
FITCH ROAD
SCARLET KNIGHT WAY
SUTPHEN ROAD
Since 1938, the southeast sector of Busch has been home to the Rutgers football team. The original Rutgers Stadium was the first Rutgers facility to be built north of the Raritan River. Today, Busch is home to golf, soccer, lacrosse and tennis as well as football. Athletics projects proposed at Busch are as follows:

- **High Point Solutions Stadium South End** – High Point Solutions Stadium is the largest athletic venue on campus, with a seating capacity of 52,454, and is considered a key venue of Rutgers athletic facilities. The 2009 renovations to the stadium created seating at the south end of the field and created a large unfinished area below the seats. This area is proposed to be fitted out as locker rooms and athletics support space. Visiting team locker space will improve game operations management. Preliminary studies include a connection between the Hale Center and the south end.

- **Hale Center Renovations** – Directly adjacent and connected to High Point Solutions Stadium is the Hale Center, home to administrative and academic services, as well as training facilities for football, soccer, lacrosse, golf and tennis programs. The master plan proposes renovating the Hale Center to become a dedicated football training facility and shared academic center for all athletes. Working in conjunction with the south end fit-out at the High Point Solutions Stadium, the Hale Center will provide updated support spaces including an enhanced football locker room and student lounge, expanded sport medicine, a new training and hydro therapy suite, additional coaches’ offices, meeting rooms, and an expanded academic center. The Hale Center will have a new entry, allowing for a more spacious Hall of Fame and entry for students; and will be easily accessible from the stadium. Rutgers 2030 also looks to improve spectator circulation to the stadium by creating continuous sidewalks along Sutphen Road, lined with red maples to enhance the Rutgers tradition and atmosphere along the approach to the stadium.

- **Yurcak Field Improvements** – A proposed addition to the existing facility will provide enhanced locker rooms, a training room, and general office space with meeting and administrative space.

- **Rutgers Golf Training Complex** – Busch is home to the Rutgers University Golf Course, a PGA sanctioned, par 71 course that is the competition and practice facility for the Rutgers University Golf team; it and also serves members of the public for nine months of the year. The master plan proposes a new team training center, additional course practice areas and parking, while minimizing disruption to existing wetlands.

- **Multi-purpose Field House** – the plan calls for a field house for field hockey, soccer, lacrosse, and track and field use, which will include locker rooms and restrooms.

- **Werblin Recreation Center** – The Sonny Werblin Recreation Center is home to the Rutgers Swimming and Diving teams. The master plan proposes an addition and renovation of the recreation center to expand recreational activity; however, the reoriented building entry will improve access to the facility from the north, for both athletics teams and recreational users.
Rutgers Scarlet Knights take on Penn State Nittany Lions at High Point Solutions Stadium, September 13, 2014.
High Point Solutions Stadium and Practice Field Upgrades - the west side of the stadium is proposed to be renovated for press boxes. Other enhancements include upgrading existing restroom facilities and fitting out of an elevator tower at the east end of the stadium. Just north of the football stadium, four proposed practice fields will provide additional future practice space for football and lacrosse, as well as other programs. They will be linked and organized by a central pedestrian corridor that connects the athletics precinct to Busch academic core.

While the majority of athletics is located in Busch and Livingston, the rowing program is located at Douglass, at the Rutgers Class of 1914 Boathouse. A potential expansion is an addition to the boathouse that will provide locker rooms, team rooms, administrative office space and support spaces, boat storage, a repair shop and a rowing tank. The expanded boathouse will not only support athletics but allow for recreational use, improving access to the Raritan River.

As Rutgers continues in the Big Ten Conference and evaluates its needs for athletics, in-depth programming and feasibility studies should be prepared to identify critical needs and maximum efficiencies. This master plan provides an integrated view of athletics within the context of the larger district and campus and offers a framework for implementation as funding becomes available. A separate phasing and implementation strategy has been developed for these athletics projects.
HALE CENTER REIMAGINED

The Hale Center is proposed to be renovated to provide upgraded facilities for student athletes. Its east entry is redefined to create a welcoming entry into a lobby and Hall of Fame, using high-quality building materials and clear glass.