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Update: Stanford Hospital's \$5B project moves forward

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Anyone navigating around Stanford University Medical Center can see the extensive construction going on around the hospitals and medical school. The work is part of a massive \$5 billion project that includes a significant modernization and expansion of the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, the rebuilding and expansion of Stanford Hospital & Clinics, the replacement of outdated School of Medicine facilities and the renovation of the Hoover Pavilion, the original Palo Alto Hospital. All will be renovated to meet state seismic requirements.

When complete, Stanford Hospital will include a new 820,000-square-foot building as well as a reconfigured building, totaling 2.2 million square feet. The Lucile Packard Children's Hospital will grow with the addition of a new 521,000-square-foot building.

Construction workers are busy preparing the site in a number of ways.

"We're spending an awful lot of time just getting ready to start construction," said Mark Tortorich, vice president of planning, design and construction at Stanford University Medical Center.

The Palo Alto City Council approved entitlements in early June 2011. But then some residents expressed concerns about the location of a Stanford-run day care – Arboretum Day Care – at the Hoover Pavilion and asked that it be moved before construction nearby began, Tortorich said. That move took place in April.

The university has made significant progress on renovations to the Hoover Pavilion – as of mid-June, construction there was about 65 percent complete. The pavilion's facelift is due to be finished by year-end, paving the way for the university to tear down three old single-story buildings on Welch Road. The occupants of those buildings – largely community physicians – will then move into the renovated Hoover Pavilion. While the buildings in total only comprise 40,000 square feet, they are "right in the bulls-eye of construction," Tortorich said.

Once completed, the improved facility will house community physicians and Stanford Hospital clinics. It will also serve as the new home of the Stanford Health Library.

Also under construction on the Hoover site is a new 1,000-car parking structure that will replace some of the parking currently in the way of the new Stanford Hospital. That garage should be done sometime in the summer of 2013.



VICKI THOMPSON

Hard hats required: Construction crews work on the grounds of Stanford Hospital and Lucile Packard in Palo Alto.

The architect for the new Stanford Hospital facility is Rafael Viñoly of Rafael Viñoly Architects (RVA), in association with Lee, Burkhardt, Liu, Inc.. The general contractor for the new Stanford Hospital pre-construction work is Clark/McCarthy, a joint venture between Clark Construction Group and McCarthy Building Companies. Stanford is currently in negotiations with the joint venture regarding the general contractor role for the new Stanford Hospital construction. Officials for Clark/McCarthy declined to comment.

Welch Road re-do

Welch Road connects the campus's two hospitals — Stanford and Lucile Packard. One of the most time-consuming aspects of the project is the rebuilding of the road "in its entirety" and replacing every underground utility. Work began on the road last August. New utilities should be complete this August, with the final Welch work finished in fall 2013.

"Because of the size of the new buildings, we have had to increase the capacity of the power lines underneath the road and to upgrade the sewer, water and telecommunications conduit," Tortorich said.

Preston Pipelines and Top Grade Construction Inc. have teamed up to serve as the general contractor on the make-ready and Welch Road utilities project portion of the Stanford Hospital expansion. Both companies declined to comment.

The Stanford Hospital project will be finished by mid-2017 with occupancy targeted for early 2018.

The construction project is the largest of its kind in Palo Alto history, said Mayor Yiaway Yeh.

The renewal project will allow Stanford to "solidify its leading position in providing health care, education and medical training for the next generation," said Mayor Yeh.

Mary Ann Azevedo is a freelance writer.