



2024

Town Gown Report

Lesley
UNIVERSITY

Planning Board

February 4, 2025

2024 Town Gown

- Context & Campus Overview
- Key Partnerships
- Strategic Framework
- Sustainability
- Transportation
- Community Engagement



Campus Overview

Lesley Profile – 2024

Students

Undergraduate	1,137
Graduate	1,497
Non-degree	666
Dormitory Beds	479

Faculty & Staff

Faculty	390
Staff	281



Campus Overview

Lesley Profile – 2024

- 41 buildings on 3 campuses
- 10.61 acres
- 817,966 GSF total space
 - 78,209 GSF = Commercial
 - 37415 GSF = Taxable Residential
- 22 off-site locations
 - 18 within MA
 - 4 outside MA





Cambridge properties sold

- 27 Mellen St
- 29 Mellen St
- 16-18 Wendell St
- 3 Phillips St
- 5 Phillips St
- 1828 and 1840 Massachusetts Avenue

- 16-18 Wendell St was sold to CHA in support of affordable housing
- 1828 and 1840 Massachusetts Avenue were sold to the nonprofit Just A Start for affordable housing

Campus Projects

- Renovated and opened Historical Reed and Burnham Hall
- Includes Support Hub Annex to serve students, and Student Affinity Space
- Created an accessible and charming South Campus
- St Johns Chapel undergoing restoration work
- Commuter Pantry at White Hall supports more than 60 students



Reed and Burnham

- A fully restored historic Cambridge landmark
- Accessible for the first time in its history
- Spaces for students, administration, and a new support desk
- Historic spaces, like the Tyler Room, preserved



A Beautiful Quad for All

- Re-imagined grounds
- Green Spaces with thousands of new flower bulbs waiting for spring
- Activities for students like a basketball court, a bocce court, and swings



An Active Campus

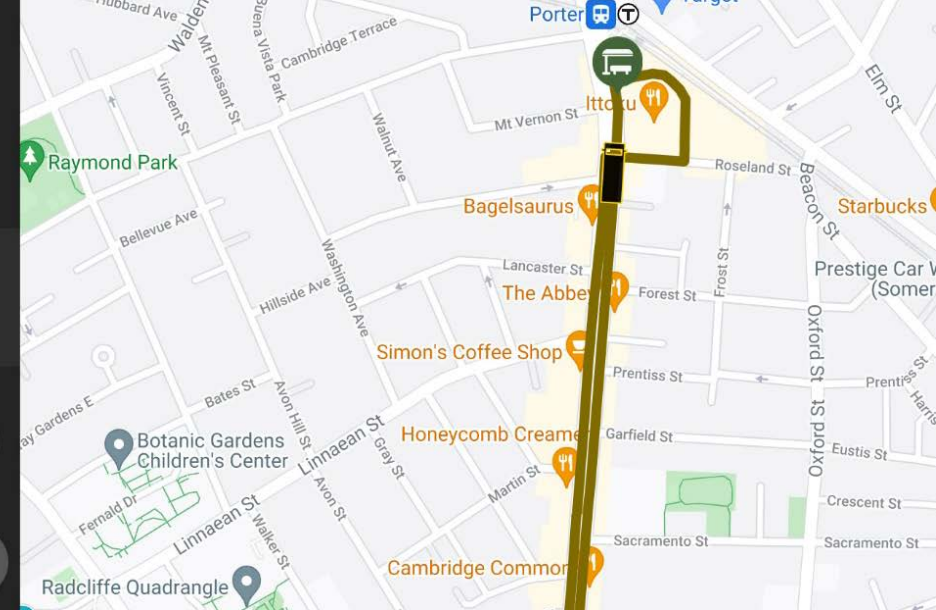
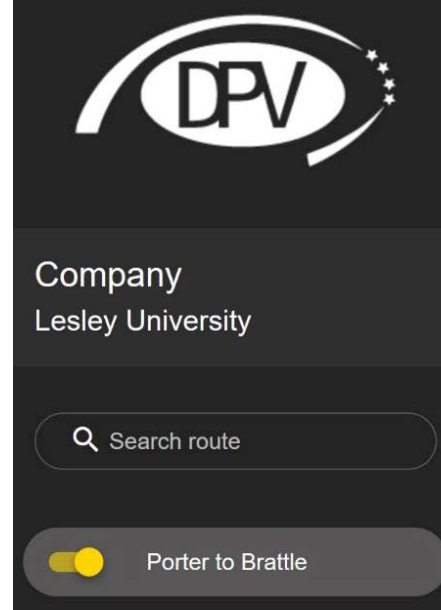
All Year Round

- Walking
- Gathering
- Outdoor Games and Classes
- Three Architecturally District Campuses



Transportation

- Recent real estate sales reduced parking inventory by 32 spaces; currently have 471 in Cambridge
- Shuttle buses run between each campus at 10-min. intervals
- Real-time tracking via app
- 358 bicycle racks, repair stand, and tire pumps on each campus
- Considering adding a bikeshare at South and Doble campuses



Sustainability

Fossil Fuel Divestment

- Installed a Utility Loop on South Campus, to balance energy use across the campus
- Hybrid equipment to position for full electrification
- Divested from direct holdings in fossil fuels in 2015
- 100% green energy purchased
- Native plantings
- Sustainable container program a success



An aerial photograph of the Lesley University campus in Boston, Massachusetts. The image shows a mix of brick and modern buildings, green trees, and a prominent church steeple. The city skyline is visible in the background. The text is overlaid on the image in various colors and styles.

Connecting to Our Future

*Transforming physical space to enhance
Lesley University student learning and
experience*

Three Campuses
ONE VISION

About Lesley – Who We Are

- Lesley University is a creative and caring community of educators, mental health counselors, artists and designers, social workers, expressive therapists, and more. Lesley is operating as one university with four core areas of focus:
 - Education (from undergraduate through Ph.D)
 - Mental Health and Well-Being (from undergraduate through Ph.D)
 - Art and Design (which remains a college)
 - Liberal Arts and Business
- Threshold Program: a residential program for students with learning differences
- Threshold Lifelong Support Program: a program to provide neurodiverse individuals with support they need to live and work independently.

University Vision & Strategic Growth

- Develop and nurture strategic partnerships
- Expand our reach & impact
- Leverage our unique strengths in education, counseling and expressive arts therapies
- Broaden access to all Lesley degrees and certifications
- Raise visibility & reach of our programs
- Invest to create state-of-the-art facilities

Partnerships

On Campus:

- Riverside Community Care
- Urban Scholars
- Public Art

Off Campus:

- Athletics
- Cambridge Public Schools
- Perkins School for The Blind
- Dimock Center
- Home for Little Wanderers
- Vinfen



Riverside Outpatient Center at Cambridge

A historic partnership

- Housed in 23 Mellen St.
- Professional therapeutic setting
- Suicide prevention training
- Student field placement / training opportunities
- Serving the Cambridge community and students





Riverside Scholars@Lesley

- A novel university-employer collaboration
- Helping to bridge the mental health crisis
- Riverside Scholars@Lesley receive significant support to complete their masters, and then train at Riverside Community Care, offering services to both the campus and Greater Cambridge community



Lesley
UNIVERSITY



Professional licensure partnerships Increasing opportunity while diversifying the teaching field

- Paraprofessionals earn master's of education
- Second cohort from Cambridge Rindge & Latin
- Launched in Framingham Public Schools
- Discounted tuition
- Increased access to teaching field for BIPOC

Strategic Framework and Transformation

A Better Lesley

- Supports our unique educational vision
- Revitalizes historic buildings & grounds
- Improves sustainability & accessibility
- Strengthens community connections



Athletic facilities at Minuteman High School

A new era for Lesley University 'home games'

- Soccer
- Softball and baseball
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Lynx 'home games' at Minuteman High School in Lexington, with no impact on Cambridge neighbors



Strategic Framework Approach

- Continue to invest significantly in capital improvements
- Improve facilities to align and connect all 3 campuses to meet student and community needs
- Continue to redesign footprint to yield space aligned with Lesley's future



A Connected Campus to foster human connections



South

Connecting with Each Other
Welcoming
Academic Grounding



Doble

Connecting with Partners
Learning by Doing
Career Labs



Porter

Connecting with the Community
Academic Intensity
Close Collaboration

South Campus

Major Progress

1. Reed and Burnham:
Complete
2. Quad & Landscape:
Complete -*more than 6000 bulbs in spring*
3. St. John's Chapel:
Underway- permit in progress
5. Existing Residence Halls:
Complete
6. Sherrill Hall:
2nd and 3rd floor interior
renovations- final due end of
February 2025



PROPOSED AND ONGOING ACTION: Identify Locations for Active Social Activities



Doble Campus

Initial Projects

1. Landscape:
Augment & Invigorate
2. Identity & Wayfinding:
Clarify & Augment

SOLD:
The buildings in orange.

Landmark study underway at 1627
Mass Ave.

Pavement Coffee tenant at former HiRise
space opening soon



1627 Mass Ave

Porter Campus

Initial Projects

1. Landscape, including at Lunder Center:
Augment & Invigorate
2. Identity & Wayfinding:
Clarify & Augment
3. University Hall Interior Renovations – *phased*:
Opened Student Lounge, Lesley Shoppe, Ittoku and YumeGa Opening, PSB and Page and Leaf Cafe
4. University Hall Rooftop Renovations:
Replaced main roof and skylights



University Wide Ongoing Projects

- Connective fabric
 - Indoor and outdoor art
 - Landscaping
 - Wayfinding
- "Art Everywhere"
 - Buses
 - Banners
 - Alumni artwork



• Community Engagement

- Partner with multiple school districts, including Cambridge, enriching student experiences and classrooms
- Working with Cambridge students to offer a pathways to higher education
- Lesley A+D's Community Animation Studio created a short to celebrate Community Arts Center
- Community art opportunities through events at Lunder Art Center
- Focusing on local tenants when it comes to retail, enriching our vibrant neighborhood



2018 file photos

Thank You!



Images Courtesy of Bruner/Cott,
Photo by Robert Benson

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