

# Officials sign off on \$21M campus project

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CLEMSON — A project to transform the heart of Clemson University's main campus received its first approval earlier this week, and school trustees plan to meet Thursday to give final approval.

The university board of trustees' finance and facilities committee signed off on a \$21 million construction project financed with state institution bonds to demolish the University Union and Johnstone Hall, while



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**Clemson University officials approved early design work to potentially demolish Johnstone Hall and the University Union nearly two years ago. The move would create 6.7 acres of green space and open up around 450 gameday parking spots.**

moving various university departments elsewhere.

“The purpose of this project is to create a safer

environment for students in the middle of campus, while revitalizing the area with student-centered programs,” executive vice president of finance and operations Tony Wagner said. “Most maintenance, utility, custodial and associated staff for the university are located in deteriorating space in the heart of the student residential and recreation district.”

The project is estimated to be completed in summer 2023, pending full board

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**A photo of Johnstone Hall at Clemson University in 1957.**

## PROJECT: Would create green space

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approval on Thursday.

Various programs would be moved away from the core campus, along with 100 service vehicles and equipment, to a new facility at the Ravenel Center. Replacement facilities would be approximately 30,000 square feet of office space and approximately 35,000 square feet of shop, warehouse, storage and shed spaces, according to university officials.

The project would save the school \$1.6 million in annual utility maintenance and security costs by taking Johnstone down alone, according to Wagner. It would create 450 gameday parking spots and return 6.7 acres of core campus to student outdoor recreational space.

“This is a project that will allow us to move a lot of the facilities operations from that high-value core campus real estate,” Wagner said in April. “You’ve got almost 7 acres of green space that we could

create right in the core campus that would be very advantageous and close to Memorial Stadium.”

In the 2017 framework plan, officials identified a future demolition of Johnstone Hall and the University Union for campus life, academic and/or housing. Johnstone, one of Clemson's oldest residence halls, has been empty for more than three years. The total project would cost roughly \$21 million and would be paid for with state institution bonds.