

Gampel Pavilion’s \$99.4 million renovations enter phase one

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The Basketball Capital of the World will be seeing a complete overhaul of upgrades during this off-season with the stated intention of enhancing the fan experience.

Phase one of these renovations will include a complete roof replacement, the creation of a gameday suite, a recruiting lounge, sports medicine space, new team and coaches’ locker rooms, a coaches’ lounge and conference room. There will also be upgrades to the basketball official’s locker room and a fully dedicated space to post-game press conferences, as stated in the UConn Athletics press release.

“Gampel Pavilion is one of the most electric atmospheres in all of college basketball, and our student-athletes and fans deserve a facility that matches the standard we hold ourselves to every day,” said Director of Athletics David Benedict in a press release. “UConn is the Basketball Capital of the World, and this investment ensures that when you walk through those doors, you feel it. We are incredibly excited about what this project means for the future of our programs.”

The funding comes directly

from a \$99.4 million non-tax revenue through the sale of state bonds.

These “UConn 2000” bonds finance the university’s infrastructure improvements to each regional campus and the UConn Health Center, as stated on CT.gov.

“The bonds are general obligations of the University and are additionally secured by the State’s commitment to pay the debt service on the bonds,” the website states. “Up to \$4.3 billion of bonds will be issued under a 28-year capital program to rebuild and refurbish the University.”

Established and enacted in 1995, the UConn 2000 bonding program has continued to expand.

“The program has been expanded and extended three times and altogether will provide funding for \$5.7 billion of capital improvements at the University of Connecticut over a 36-year period,” according to a press release by Connecticut State Treasurer Erick Russell.

The sports venue had one major refurbishment back in 2024 to its lower bowl seating and videoboard displays but has yet to see one of this magnitude since its opening.

Previous work done includes a \$10 million roof repair back in 2017 and two separate seating expansions in 2001 and 1995.

This initial phase is set to be completed in November 2026, in time for the start of the regular basketball season.

Changes will also be coming to the concession stands located at each corner of the pavilion.

According to documents that were obtained through a FOIA request by UConn student Julia Sasso, the concessions will feature a grab-and-go style to alleviate congestion and provide ease for fans.

The Athletics Master Plan, dated September 2023, includes a facilities assessment that rated Gampel Pavilion as fair.

Starting with the roof, the weather stripping needs replacement; the hydrotherapy room is suggested to be decommissioned to prevent corrosion and the cleaning of the precast gutter drains, as stated in the plan.

The existing electrical equipment is more than 32 years old that is nearing its end of term as well as the air handling unit coils and heat exchangers.

“The local steam distribution and condensate piping is original to the building and beyond its useful service life,” the assessment said. “The local chilled water piping distribution to air handling unit coils is original to the building and beyond its useful service life. The air handling units, return fans, and exhaust fans serving the fa-

cility are original to the building and beyond their useful service life.”

The plan also displays an assessment that rates the quality of various programs utilized by each team that practices at the pavilion.

The assessment shows that both the men’s and women’s basketball teams are highly rated, with concerns surrounding their gameday locker rooms, need to expand the arena to welcome a higher volume of fans and the need to replace the floor.

In comparison, the men’s golf team is rated poor due to their lack of a training facility.

The team has been practicing with a turf tee box that cannot be accessed on basketball game days and doesn’t allow ball flight. Another space that has been difficult for the team to utilize is the locker room, according to the master plan.

“The dedicated locker room for golf is underutilized as much of the team uses the practice space at the top of Gampel’s seating bowl also as a locker room. Significant improvements to the locker room are needed for the team to desire to use it,” the master plan document states.

The document also noted that the team does not have a dedicated space for meals and has had scheduling issues with strength and conditioning spaces.

The second part of this up-

grade is expected to begin in March 2027, according to the press release.

Phase two will involve the inclusion of premium gameday spaces and “philanthropy-focused spaces designed to generate new income streams as well as student-athlete training table/nutrition,” according to the press release.

Details related to this second phase will be released at a later date.



LEFT: Harry A. Gampel Pavilion on September 23, 2025. Gampel Pavilion serves as the home court for University of Connecticut’s men’s and women’s basketball teams.
PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS.

RIGHT: Generated image of Gampel Pavilion’s refurbished exterior. Gampel’s renovations are set to begin in the basketball off-season and projected to be finished by November 2026.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNHUSKIES ON INSTAGRAM.



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