The state has appropriated $24.6 million in capital improvements funding to Truman State University over the last decade, but nearly $15 million, or approximately 61%, has been restricted or vetoed.
Capital Improvement & Facilities History

Just under $25 million has been appropriated to Truman State University for capital improvement projects over the past decade, but 61% (nearly $15 million) has been restricted or vetoed. Federal stimulus funds for the renovation and construction of the Pershing Building were restricted in fiscal year 2010, along with funding for several other capital improvements projects restricted due to substantial revenue shortfalls. In addition, Governor Nixon restricted $3 million and Governor Greitens restricted the remaining $1.5 million of a $4.5 million renovation to the Greenwood School for the Interprofessional Autism Clinic. Additional funds to continue the project were appropriated in fiscal year 2019; $233,333 of a $700,000 appropriation to continue the project was reduced in a line-item veto by Governor Parson. No single phase of the project can be completed with remaining funds, therefore the university is reassessing if and how it can spend the funds in a fiscally responsible manner. In fiscal year 2016, the university received over $9 million in Board of Public Buildings bond funding. The funds were used to renovate a major building with 20 classrooms and 80 offices.

Facility Challenges

Facility improvements at Truman during the past decade have continued to focus on renovation of existing structures and significant investments to maintain the integrity of buildings. At the same time, numerous academic departments and administrative functions have been relocated to spaces that are better suited to meet current needs. Multiple construction projects, including installation of high-efficiency boilers, have produced efficiencies that lower operating costs for utilities, and over 78,000 square feet of substandard facilities have been demolished in the last 10 years.

Truman has constructed only two new standalone facilities in the last three decades: the Student Recreation Center (funded by student-approved fees in 1996) and West Campus Suites (funded by auxiliary system bonds in 2006). All other facility improvements have focused on renovations and additions to existing structures, including several which were originally constructed in the 1920s and 1930s. This approach has been designed to minimize new construction by transforming existing structures to meet the needs of new academic programs and changes in instructional delivery patterns in the most cost-effective manner possible. Truman’s capital priorities for fiscal year 2020 reflect this approach.
Capital Priorities

Truman State University has identified the following as the university’s top three capital priorities for the future. The total state request for these projects is about $35 million.

1. Pershing Building- Phase 2

Funds were appropriated to renovate and expand Pershing in fiscal year 2009. Due to a shortfall in funds, only $11,335,919 was released of the $21,335,919 originally appropriated. The project was broken into two phases and rebid. The remaining work includes renovation of the original 1957 central structure and a wing built in 1965. Priorities include implementing life safety measures, including sprinklers and fire alarms; meeting ADA requirements; and upgrading electrical, technology, and HVAC systems. This project will serve students in several of Truman’s high-demand fields in the health sciences and does not add additional square footage. The focus is renovation to meet current instructional needs, including upgrading technology.

This facility illustrates a typical need in older structures at Truman: The hallways and classrooms are dated but well-maintained, but the infrastructure such as plumbing, HVAC, electrical, and technology supporting the building have deteriorated. This project will address these needs and maintain Truman’s high-quality instructional facilities.

2. Greenwood Center Renovation

Funds were appropriated in fiscal year 2017 for renovation of Greenwood School to create an Interprofessional Autism Clinic to serve northern Missouri. Due to state revenue issues, $5,182,000 of the $5.5 million appropriation was restricted. This project was near completion of the design phase when it was suspended, so with the requested funds, it could quickly be restarted.

The facility will be the only autism clinic north of Interstate 70 and will serve northern Missouri families by providing essential services for their children without enduring a 3-4 hour round trip drive and/or an extended time on a wait list. The facility will include multiple treatment rooms, areas for graduate students working with the clinicians, and other support space.

Truman plans to partner with the regional Federally Qualified Health Center (Northeast Missouri Health Council) to integrate services with an existing provider for billing and electronic medical records systems. A partnership with A.T. Still University, a local private health professions institution, will develop a Pre-Occupational Therapy program which will work synergistically with Truman’s existing programs in communication disorders, nursing, health and exercise sciences, education, psychology, music, and Truman’s new Master’s in Mental Health Counseling degree. The balance requested in state funding assumes that Truman will receive the $700,000 appropriated for the project in the fiscal year 2019 budget.
3. Kirk Building Renovation

Built in 1922, this facility is one of the oldest structures on the Truman campus. It is located on the southeast corner of the campus quadrangle and has served multiple purposes. Originally designed to house the campus multipurpose gymnasium/auditorium, this 95-year-old building is now used for student support services including academic advising and the writing center. It also houses Truman’s publications department. The most recent and significant renovations were over 30 years ago and the building requires life safety upgrades, ADA accommodations, electrical rewiring, and a new HVAC system.

Due to its historic nature and central location near student housing, it is an ideal location for student services functions. The campus master plan calls for renovation of this structure followed by demolition of a nearby 1940s era one-story building which currently houses several student services operations.

Click here for campus map.
Click here for Google view.
Click here for virtual tour.