



More than 3,300 jobs are being created in the construction and opening of the new \$1.3 billion, 2.8-million-square-foot hospital and campus for Parkland Health & Hospital System in downtown Dallas. This includes about 3,000 construction jobs and 338 new positions with Parkland, according to Kris Gaw, executive vice president and chief administrative officer for Hospital Operations at Parkland.

It is the largest hospital construction project in the U.S., according to several publications. Built on about 65 acres, Parkland rivals AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys in nearby Arlington. The hospital itself is 17 stories and 1.9-million-square-feet with 862 patient rooms.

“During the course of building the new campus, which includes the new Parkland hospital, an estimated 3,000 construction-related jobs were created by companies working on the project,” says Gaw. “With the expanded physical space and services that the new Parkland hospital will provide when we open for patient care on August 20, we are now increasing our healthcare workforce by approximately 338 new positions.”

“These will include people with a wide variety of skills – from lab technicians, nurses, and respiratory therapists to police officers, environmental services and engineering personnel, pharmacy and radiology techs.”

According to its website, Parkland first opened its doors in 1894 and is now one of the largest public hospital systems in the country, licensed for 861 adult patient beds and 107 neonatal patient beds and more than 10,000 employees. The hospital averages more than one million patient visits annually.

“The importance of the new Parkland hospital to Dallas County goes beyond the size of the hospital, which is the largest hospital construction project in the nation,” Gaw adds. “It reflects a commitment to the residents of Dallas County to provide a state-of-the-art patient-centered environment for our community and a medical facility that will employ and train healthcare providers for generations to come.”

A garden honoring the late President John F. Kennedy is planned for Parkland, where in 1963 doctors fought unsuccessfully to save his life. After being shot by a sniper in nearby Dealey Plaza, President Kennedy was rushed to Parkland Trauma Room No. 1, where he was pronounced dead.

Parkland has two artifacts commemorating the Kennedy assassination. A bronze bust of the president is displayed near the administrative offices. A plaque with the words “Trauma 1” is on the wall where the room was located. (The actual Trauma Room No. 1 was dismantled in 1973 and is in an underground government storage facility in Kansas.)

BARA was the construction manager for the new Parkland. The BARA joint venture team consisted of Balfour Beatty Construction, Austin Commercial, H.J. Russell & Company and Azteca Enterprises. Architectural firms HDR, Inc. and Corgan partnered to design the hospital and Cri+igen provided project controls.

The complex is designed to be visitor and staff-friendly, with clear pathways, multi-level parking, private patient rooms, and a wellness park accessible through the hospital itself, according to the Parkland website. The hospital and attached Women's and Infants Specialty Hospital incorporate evidenced-based design.

The HDR and Corgan team earned four awards for design and architecture. Award categories included excellence in architecture, engineering, healthcare consulting, master planning, and site design.

Hank Adams, AIA, ACHA, EDAC, director of healthcare and senior vice president at HDR, served as design manager for the Parkland project team.

“Since the new Parkland hospital will serve as the centerpiece for the advancement of public health in Dallas County and employ

more than 9,000 people, treat upward of 140,000 patients in the emergency department and welcome more than 30,000 visitors each day, we had to ensure that we planned accordingly,” says Adams. “We had an enormous responsibility to create a state-of-the-art healthcare campus to meet the needs of the community for generations to come.”

“With these drivers in mind, we took a smart, methodical approach to the planning and construction of the new Parkland hospital— what was to become the largest public hospital construction project in the country. Site visits to other leading healthcare facilities, peer review by healthcare designers, collaboration with nurse liaison teams, visioning sessions, mock-up rooms, walking distance studies, and clinical simulations were among many steps taken to understand the full picture of Parkland's design.”

Adams added that the team worked in an on-site, co-located space, using Lean construction strategies like prefabrication and expedited project delivery to help them remain good stewards of their client's resources, operating efficiently and staying within budget.

Funding the massive project comes from a variety of sources. In 2008, 82 percent of Dallas County voters approved a \$747 million bond program to build the new facility. Parkland is using some cash reserves while public funds have contributed nearly \$100 million toward a \$150 million capital campaign.

The new Parkland replaces the aging Parkland Memorial Hospital that opened in 1954. The transition of patients to the new facility is planned over a three-day period beginning August 20. Current forecasting projects that more than 500 patients will be moved from the current hospital to the new Parkland.

### Dick Davis



Veteran writer of more than 30 years with passion for the business of healthcare and hospital expansion. Dick possesses an extensive background in journalism, media relations and healthcare communications and marketing.