A View to the Future

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

CAMPUS MASTER PLAN TECHNICAL REPORT
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IV.D.1  West Campus

Figure 4-D.1 West Campus Analysis
West Campus accommodates the majority of academic functions and on-campus student housing. This subcampus area is separated from East Campus and the Oakland Drive Campus by a major five-lane collector street (Stadium Drive) and a major regional rail corridor located in Arcadia Valley.

Initial analysis observations are presented for the entire West Campus area. In addition, analysis observations are presented for five West Campus districts, each with its own identity and specific character.

**Buildings**

**Building Placement.** Existing buildings are organized in three distinct grid patterns (see Figure 3-B.1). The variation in these grids results in a discontinuous building pattern. The siting of buildings as independent elements in the landscape, rather than as coordinated building clusters, increases this discontinuity. Nevertheless, future development can use the existing grids to strengthen the coherence of building patterns.

* The north-south grid that exists on most of West Campus has recently been reinforced by newer facilities such as the Student Recreation Center. In the Miller Plaza area, the
A north-south grid of buildings defines a clear open space focal point (Miller Plaza). The location of new buildings – for example, in the northwest quadrant where Schneider Hall and the Fetzer Center are located – could also create a building cluster framing a central open space.

- An axial pattern reflecting the West Michigan Avenue corridor has been established by the Bernhard Student Center, Sangren Hall, and Wood and Rood Halls, among others. Future development could significantly strengthen the spatial definition of this important east-west corridor to establish a primary open space/pedestrian spine of campus-wide significance. In the longer term, under-scaled buildings that have not been oriented to strengthen the definition of the corridor may be replaced as they reach the end of their useful life. These buildings include McCracken Hall and Seibert Administration Building. Like Sangren Hall, the Bernhard Student Center, and Wood Hall, new buildings located on the West Michigan Avenue corridor should not only reinforce its spatial definition, but also serve as intensively used campus-wide destinations. Other smaller buildings that have special historic and symbolic significance (for example, Kanley Chapel and The Oaklands) will remain in the long term.

- A radial grid follows the hilltop topography. Waldo Library, McCracken Hall, Sainte Genevieve Health Center, and a number of student housing units reflect this pattern. In combination with the axial pattern along the West Michigan Avenue corridor, this radial pattern could help to define a north-south open space/pedestrian spine connecting the Goldsworth Valley (and the residence halls to the north) to Waldo Library.

**Architectural Treatments and Building Placement.** A lack of cohesion results from inconsistency in building materials, scale (footprints and heights), fenestration, and rooflines.

West Campus has a number of significant, high quality open spaces; however, these areas are typically isolated from one another, rather than being connected in a continuous open space system. A special opportunity exists on West Campus to create
intersecting open space/pedestrian spines that function as the central image area of the entire campus. Secondary open spaces, that serve as the image and activity focal points of subcampus districts, are also needed. The creation of both primary and secondary open spaces will require the reconfiguration of roads and parking, as well as siting buildings in a spatially definitive manner.

**Campus-Wide (Primary) Open Spaces.** There are four open spaces of campus-wide significance on West Campus. These include Goldsworth Valley, the intersecting open space/pedestrian corridors along the West Michigan Avenue alignment (east-west) and the Valley Path (north-south), the area surrounding The Oaklands, and Arcadia Valley.

![Image of Goldsworth Valley Aerial](image.png)

**Figure 4-D.3 Goldsworth Valley Aerial**

**Goldsworth Valley.** Goldsworth Valley includes apartment housing units, roadways, and parking lots in addition to the athletic fields and open space features that connect along the valley floor to establish its pastoral image. As the single largest contiguous open space on campus, Goldsworth Valley plays a vital role in establishing a special visual character and meeting
needs for playing fields and other recreational facilities. Consideration should be given to relocating the existing apartment housing units and consolidating roadways and parking areas to make the majority of the valley floor an auto-free open space and recreational area. These modifications would reduce the number of pedestrian and bicycle conflicts with vehicular traffic as students move between the residence hall concentration to the north of the valley and the academic core to the south.

![Figure 4-D.4 Goldsworth Valley Pond](image)

- The student survey, conducted in spring 2000 (see Volume II), identified Goldsworth Pond, including its bridge and gazebo, as one of the campus' most treasured open spaces. The pond, and the wooded slopes enclosing the valley, add to the quality of its natural environment; these should be protected.
- The existing athletic fields are heavily used and will become an increasingly important resource as campus enrollment grows. The softball field located at the western end of the valley is often unusable because of a high water table and could be relocated.
- Scattered parking lots, the four roads that cut through the valley (Rankin Avenue, Goldsworth Drive, Gilkison Avenue, and North Dormitory Road), and the use of these roads to reach non-valley destinations bring significant
numbers of vehicles into conflict with pedestrians and bicyclists. Modifications in the alignment of the existing segments of the West Campus Loop Road system could substantially reduce these conflicts and clarify West Campus circulation.

**West Michigan Avenue and Valley Path.** The West Michigan Avenue corridor (from Haenicke Hall to Bernhard Student Center and The Oaklands) and the Valley Path (from Sincere Health Center to Waldo Library) present unique opportunities to create intersecting open space/pedestrian corridors that can clarify the structure of West Campus and provide a high level of amenity. Many key elements of these intersecting open space corridors are already in place, but important modifications to the existing roadway system and parking approach on West Campus will be needed to capitalize on this special opportunity.
- Along the West Michigan Avenue corridor, the space between Haenicke Hall and the Sundial/Tent Plaza is distinguished by tall canopy trees and meandering walkways. This is one area on campus that exemplifies what students view as a traditional collegiate open space.

- Sundial/Tent Plaza is a popular place for students to congregate throughout the year. Located at the crossovers of campus activity, the plaza is bisected by heavily used north-south with east-west pedestrian corridors.

![Figure 4-D.6 Kruglak Sundial](image)

- The area between the Sundial/Tent Plaza and The Oaklands is dominated by asphalt, including roads, driveways, and parking lots. It is quite common to see students squeezing between vehicles to get from Sangren Hall to Waldo Library. In this critical area of campus, priority should be given to the pedestrian and the quality of the campus open space image.

- The Valley Path is the most important north-south open space/pedestrian corridor on West Campus, linking the Goldsworthy Valley (and the residence halls to the north) to...
The area between the Sundial/Tent Plaza and Goldsworth Valley has the potential to be a wonderful open space linkage, with tall trees already defining its edges. To capitalize on this potential, however, it will be necessary to abandon Gilkison Avenue south of North Dormitory Road and reconsider the location and/or screening of adjacent parking lots.

- The character of the open space south of Sundial/Tent Plaza, in front of Waldo Library, will be enhanced as its landscaping matures. The numerous pedestrian paths in this area could be consolidated to further define and give character to the open space.

**The Oaklands.** The expanse of lawn and tall trees surrounding the former historic President’s House make this area an important open space to preserve. This area is highly valued by students, faculty, and staff as a symbol of Western Michigan University.

**Arcadia Valley.** Arcadia Valley establishes the eastern edge of the West Campus. Like Goldsworth Valley, the wooded slopes, open valley floor, and presence of water (Arcadia Creek) in Arcadia Valley are assets that play a special role in defining the unique open space character of the campus. Nevertheless, Stadium Drive and the regional rail corridor that runs to the west of this five-lane collector road impact the valley landscape and create barriers to movement between West Campus and the Oaklawn Drive and East Campuses. The athletic facilities located north of Oliver Street (including Kanley Running Track, Hyames Field, and Waldo Stadium) create a collegiate image compatible with the form and landscape character of the valley. Other development on the valley floor (for example, remnant coal storage piles at the Power Plant, the car impound lot, and the Stadium Drive Apartments) detracts from its visual appeal. The removal of these uses over time, in combination with upgraded landscaping and maintenance, will make it possible to capitalize more effectively on Arcadia Valley as a primary campus open space.
District (Secondary) Open Spaces. West Campus provides several examples of successful secondary, or district, open space focal points, as well as opportunities to establish additional ones. For example, Miller Plaza, the Schneider Hall courtyard, and Waldo Library Plaza are highly valued by students, faculty, and staff and serve as models for open space development in other West Campus districts.

Arrival Areas and Entries. Open space treatments play an important role in defining visually attractive campus arrival areas and entries. As noted in IV.B.2.a and b, West Campus arrival areas and entries vary in character and open space quality.

- Stadium Drive at Howard Street and Oakland Drive. Improved open space treatments at both of these campus arrival areas could have a significant positive impact on the University’s image. These improvements will require the eventual removal of existing buildings (for example, the Stadium Valley Apartments on the Oakland Drive Campus near Howard Street; the Physical Plant building and Brink Printing Services at the intersection of West Michigan Avenue and Oakland Drive), as well as enhanced landscaping, lighting, and signage.

- Valley Drive, West Michigan Avenue, Oliver Street Entries. While the Valley Drive and Oliver Street entries provide positive entry experiences, much work is needed to improve the quality of the West Michigan Avenue entrance to West Campus.

Campus Edges. Campus edges are ignored and/or used for parking. More attention needs to be focused on the image the University wishes to convey to the contiguous community. This is particularly true on the west side of campus where views are directed to unsightly parking lots.

Large volumes of pedestrians cross the campus every day on a web of walkway segments that follow irregular and undistinguished routes. A clear hierarchy of walkway treatments is needed to enhance the quality of the pedestrian experience in
Bicycle Circulation

Vehicular Circulation

terms of safety, wayfinding, and amenity. Reducing conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles is a particularly important issue. This will require the re-conceptualization of the roadway and parking systems on West Campus to place greater emphasis on the perimeter loop road, and to begin to consolidate parking in lots and decks accessed by the loop road. This will make it possible to eliminate roadways and parking lots in the heart of the subcampus to increase its pedestrian orientation.

No bicycle system currently exists on campus. Bicyclists ride indiscriminately in the streets and along the walks, and minimal bicycle storage is available.

The vehicular circulation system should be considered (in combination with parking lot locations) the number one physical problem on West Campus. The subcampus is served by a complex and discontinuous network of internal roads that lead to loops and dead-ends, and sometimes cut through parking lots. These internal roads segment pedestrian, bicycle, and open space systems. If the perimeter loop road system serving West Campus could be completed, many of the indirect routes that crisscross the campus could be eliminated, traffic congestion reduced, and wayfinding improved.

There are five primary conflict points impeding the flow of traffic on the partially completed loop road.

- The most problematic is the intersection of Rankin and Knollwood Avenues with West Michigan Avenue, just east of the West Michigan Avenue and Howard Street intersection. If Rankin and Knollwood Avenues could be realigned, and their intersection with West Michigan Avenue redesigned, traffic backups that now block the West Michigan/Howard intersection could be avoided.
- Because Knollwood Avenue and Auditorium Drive intersect at 90 degrees, vehicles are forced to slow down before completing the turn.
- The Western Avenue and Vande Giessen Road intersection is a point of conflict because of the topography.
At West Michigan Avenue, on both sides of the Student Recreation Center, traffic must stop twice and turn twice before proceeding along the loop road. The confusing alignment of the Bernhard Center drop-off further complicates circulation in this area.

- The North Dormitory Road, Gilkison Avenue, and Goldsworthy Drive intersections in Goldsworthy Valley disrupt the flow of traffic and bring large volumes of pedestrians, bicycles, and automobiles into conflict.

Surface parking consumes approximately 22% of the land area on West Campus. Numerous small and independently accessed lots complicate and confuse the vehicular circulation pattern. Parking lots often disrupt open space and pedestrian systems, creating the perception that the automobile has the highest priority. Frequently, major pedestrian corridors direct students toward large parking lots, contributing to vehicular/pedestrian conflicts.

A disproportionate portion of the West Campus parking inventory is located on the west side of the subcampus; this contributes to heavy traffic demands at the Howard Street exits.

The two existing parking structures function properly and are well used. These structures are located near the Bernhard Student Center (Parking Structure #1) and adjacent to Miller Auditorium (Parking Structure #2).
West Campus has been divided into five districts based on natural features and open space patterns, building patterns, and general building uses. The five West Campus districts evaluated below and illustrated in Figure 4-D.7 include:

A. West Michigan Entrance District
B. Schneider Hall District
C. Bernhard Center District
D. Waldo Library District
E. Miller Plaza District
a. West Michigan Entrance District

Figure 4-D.8 West Michigan Entrance District Orientation

Figure 4-D.9 West Michigan Entrance District Aerial
Recently constructed, Haenike Hall is a new gateway to campus, creating a strong architectural impression and an opportunity to structure a clear entry/arrival sequence. The building’s clean lines are inviting and set a precedent for district architecture.

Faunce Student Services is an architectural landmark, nicknamed the “birdcage” by students. Because it services the general student population, its location at a campus front door, with accessible parking, is appropriate.

Because of their size, appearance, and isolated locations, Welborn Hall, the Trimpe Building, and the Public Safety Annex do not contribute to the institutional image that is critical for this important campus entry.

Although now owned by the University, the Howard Street/West Michigan Avenue entry area still retains pre-acquisition land use patterns. As a result, the visual character of the area does not convey a sense of arrival or institutional presence. No attempt has yet been made to establish a prominent campus entry experience. Open space treatments, including landscaping, lighting, signs, and parking lot screening, are needed to create an appropriate image.

Figure 4.D-10 Howard Street/West Michigan Avenue Entry
Pedestrian Circulation

Pedestrians currently use sidewalks along both sides of West Michigan Avenue and must cross numerous streets and driveways on their way to campus. These traditional sidewalks, and the lack of an attractive open space setting, create an unappealing pedestrian experience.

Vehicular Circulation

Road patterns are confusing and poorly defined. In particular, the discontinuous alignment of the loop road segments north and south of West Michigan Avenue cause backups and congestion which contribute to the poor operation of the Howard Street/West Michigan Avenue intersection during peak hours.

Parking

Unorganized, poorly defined parking areas and the lack of even minimal screening or other open space treatments create an overwhelmingly automobile-dominated image. The location and treatment of parking lots also contribute to a confusing traffic circulation pattern, complicated by numerous curb cuts.
b. Schneider Hall District

Figure 4-D.11 Schneider Hall District Orientation

Figure 4-D.12 Schneider Hall District Aerial
Schneider Hall and the Fetzer Center are key district buildings. Together they define a strong architectural relationship due to their similar style, massing, detailing, and siting on a north-south grid. Other district buildings are located on axial or radial grids and have less impact in defining an organizing structure for the future development of the district.

The Children's Center and the Wesley Foundation are small buildings located at a considerable distance from existing access roads. Their small size contrasts with the other buildings in the district. The Wesley Foundation owns their parcel of land, which is an island within the Western Michigan University campus.

The district’s most important open space features are located on its edges. They include the attractive open space in the West Michigan Avenue corridor, south of Rood Hall, and the wooded slopes framing Goldsworth Valley. These open spaces provide distinguishable edges and special views. The Fetzer Center patio and Schneider Hall courtyard are important secondary open spaces that foster interaction and emphasize a special valley relationship. However, the district lacks a shared open space focal point.

The partially completed perimeter loop road serves this portion of West Campus, but its alignment is easily lost in a maze of surface parking lots. As a result, this area does not seem to be well connected to other areas of the campus.

The district drop-off at Fetzer Center and Schneider Hall is appropriately designed and conveniently located to accommodate off-campus traffic.

Surface parking dominates the district and creates an undesirable first impression for campus visitors.

Parking at the Fetzer Center is conveniently located for its many off-campus visitors. The layout of the lots and access routes, however, is often confusing.
c. Bernhard Center District

Figure 4-D.13 Bernhard Center District Orientation

Figure 4-D.14 Bernhard Center District Aerial
This district contains facilities that are significant to the entire campus, including Sangren Hall and the Bernhard Student Center.

- Sangren Hall is a major classroom building which helps to define the West Michigan Avenue axis and draws large numbers of students to this area of campus on a daily basis.
- The Bernhard Student Center is also a major campus destination that defines the east-west West Michigan Avenue axis. The architectural design of this building does not establish a strong visual focal point.

The traditional residence halls located north of the Bernhard Student Center no longer meet student housing preferences; these buildings are reaching the end of their useful lives and may be considered as candidates for replacement. Their location overlooking the valley is central, offers wonderful views, and should always be considered a potential location for housing.

The most valuable open space assets in this district are along its edges. Here, dramatic unobstructed vistas of Goldsworthy Valley and the grounds surrounding The Oaklands are provided. The foreground to these views is dominated by surface parking lots or vehicular drop-offs. Roads and parking also dominate the West Michigan Avenue corridor, which could become an east-west open space spine of campus-wide significance.

Between buildings, irregularly shaped spaces have been treated as leftover areas, instead of being designed as activity spaces with an identifiable character.

Behind the Bernhard Student Center, a small network of enclosed walkways exists. The walkways are well used throughout the year. In contrast, other pedestrian routes in the area appear to have evolved over time and do not reflect a planned approach. Numerous pedestrian/vehicular conflict points exist.
When approaching the campus westbound on West Michigan Avenue, access to the loop road is partially hidden behind a non-University building, the Lutheran Center, and is easily confused with the access road that leads to the nearby parking structure. This portion of the loop road alignment needs to be improved to enhance its functioning. Tight corners, multiple intersections, confusing alignments, and high vehicle volumes compromise its usability and traffic carrying capacity.

Access to the parking areas serving the Bernhard Student Center is confusing. This area can be upgraded by separating moving vehicles from parked cars and service vehicles.

Surface parking lots dominate this district. They are highly visible and often appear as the foreground for major buildings. Behind the Bernhard Student Center, parking lots occupy the space between the buildings and the valley edge, compromising the quality of otherwise dramatic views.

The existing parking deck, located to the east of North Dormitory Road, is often full. Expansion of deck parking capacity in this area is likely to be needed in the future.
d. Waldo Library District

Figure 4-D.15 Waldo Library District Orientation

Figure 4-D.16 Waldo Library District Aerial
Waldo Library and the Computer Center are major campus destinations that anchor the western end of this district. In addition, The Oaklands and Kanley Chapel, important campus landmarks, are located here. The Student Recreation Center and Read Fieldhouse anchor the eastern end of the district, which also includes Kanley Running Track. Read Fieldhouse has a long history and tradition at the University and, in combination with the new Student Recreation Center, creates an appropriate gateway to the campus. The Kanley Running Track has recently been resurfaced and is in compliance with NCAA intercollegiate athletic standards. This area, because it falls within the flood plane, should not become a building site.

The Student Recreation Center is a popular campus destination. Because of its strategic location, this building shapes the image of campus for motorists entering at the Oliver Street intersection.

Approximately 35% of the existing on-campus student housing is located within this district. This housing includes traditional residence halls (French Hall, Burnham Hall, etc.) with long hallways and shared bathroom facilities, as well as two-story apartment facilities (Elmwood Apartments). This housing, particularly the Elmwood Apartments, does not meet contemporary housing standards or student expectations, nor does it contribute to a positive district or campus image.

Arcadia Valley defines the southeastern edge of this district. Dramatic topographic changes within the district are absorbed by the design of the existing residence halls. The open space and tall trees surrounding The Oaklands and other mature trees located throughout the district are its most important open space assets.

Waldo Library Plaza ranked as one of the students' favorite campus spaces in the student survey conducted in spring 2000 (see Volume II). The fountain is a favorite meeting place.
A small plaza adds interest for those walking between the Bernhard Student Center and the Student Recreation Center. This facility is nicely designed and serves to make the walk more enjoyable and visually distinctive.

In this district, walkways are typically located along the existing roads.

Western Avenue is the loop road segment serving this district; however, multiple roadways (South Hays, Arcadia and South Dormitory Roads) are located within its interior. The district includes the well-defined campus entry at Stadium Drive and Oliver Street. Less well-defined district entrances are located on Western Avenue at Arcadia and Vande Giessen Roads.

Parking in the area is limited. The largest parking lots are located adjacent to Kanley Running Track and to the west of Read Fieldhouse.
e. Miller Plaza District

Figure 4-D.17 Miller Plaza District Orientation

Figure 4-D.18 Miller Plaza District Aerial
Three buildings in this district, Miller Auditorium, Shaw Theatre, and Lawson Ice Arena, accommodate activities and events that are well attended by community residents and attract many visitors to the area. The balance of the district is made up of office and classroom buildings. A multi-million dollar renovation of Wood Hall was recently completed. This will remain an important campus-wide building for many years. Kohrman Hall will be vacated when the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences moves to the new Parkview Campus. Alternative programs that can be accommodated in this building are being investigated.

Architectural treatments in this district are notable for a high level of continuity both in scale and treatment. Sprau Tower is the tallest element on the campus skyline and is visible from many areas on and off campus. The cafe on the ground floor is well used, and students have expressed an interest in having similar cafes in other locations across campus.

The Miller Auditorium quadrangle is one of the best examples of a formal open space on campus today. The space is intensively used by students and meets their needs very well. Unfortunately, the fountain, which is the focal point and symbol of this space, is empty during the winter.

A former parking lot behind the Dalton Center has recently been successfully converted into a secondary open space. Additional landscaping and higher maintenance levels are needed to complete the transformation of the area.

The small patio located between Kohrman Hall and Faunce Student Services is a successful space that could be used as a model for developing other similar spaces around campus. The area south of Kohrman Hall, contiguous to the parking deck, conveys a utilitarian service area appearance.

The amphitheater courtyard between Dunbar, Friedmann, and Knauss Halls is a district asset. Future use of this space should be encouraged.
District pedestrian entrances vary in quality. The entry located between the Dalton Center and Dunbar/Knauss Halls functions as a gateway to Miller Plaza. The district entrance west of Faunce Student Services needs to be upgraded.

The Howard Street pedestrian bridge allows students in the Knollwood and Arcadia neighborhoods to cross the four-lane roadway safely.

The Miller Auditorium drop-off functions well as a district entry and is easily accessible to off-campus visitors. However, visitors to special events at Miller Auditorium and Lawson Ice Arena have a significant impact on Howard Street. (In addition, when two events are scheduled simultaneously, the parking system is challenged.) Vehicles entering or exiting the auditorium or ice arena currently use South Vande Giessen Road or Crane Lane (in conjunction with the Roell Drive bridge). These intersections operate at acceptable levels of service during both morning and evening peak periods. However, when events are occurring at one or both of the venues, traffic backs up on southbound Howard Street from Crane Lane to the Stadium Drive intersection and along northbound Howard Street from Crane Lane to the West Michigan Avenue intersection. As a result, both north- and southbound right turning vehicles from Crane Lane to Howard Street are restricted. In addition, the Recreation Drive exit southbound Howard Street becomes unusable due to the high through volumes on southbound Howard Street blocking the drive.
Parking

The surface parking lots south of Miller Auditorium and Parking Structure #2 function well. They are easily accessible to campus visitors and well used by students during the day. Ample parking is available within the district. Parking Structure #2 contains 1,138 spaces.
IV.D.2 East Campus

Figure 4-D.20 East Campus Analysis
The 75-acre East Campus contains the original site of Western State Normal School and includes historic buildings, athletic fields, and open space areas. It is defined by Oliver Street to the south, Stadium Drive to the west, Bellevue Place to the north, and Davis Street to the east. Oakland Drive passes through the East Campus.

Figure 4-D.21 East Campus Aerial

Over the years, the 19th century buildings located on East Campus have been defining elements at the University and in the city of Kalamazoo. The entire East Campus is designated as a national historic district. East Hall, located to the east of Oakland Drive, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. East Hall is primarily occupied by the Art Department and Athletic Program offices, but also accommodates the campus archives and a student art gallery. North and West Halls are used as surge space and accommodate a wide range of uses. These buildings are in need of significant repair. The Speech and Hearing Center is the home of the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology (SPPA). The recently renovated
Walwood Union is the most heavily used building on East Campus. Occupants include University administrative and alumni services, as well as meeting and conference rooms.

![Image of East Hall](image)

*Figure 4-D.22 East Hall*

On the west side of Oakland Drive, the Oakland Recital Hall is actively used by the campus theater program, the School of Music, and for public presentations. Spindler and Vandercook Halls are used for offices and student housing, while the Oakland Gymnasium accommodates the ROTC Program.

The University needs to identify programs that can be effectively accommodated in older East Campus buildings. Adaptively reusing and integrating these buildings into campus life remains a considerable challenge.

Over the last decade, intercollegiate athletics and student recreation programs have grown significantly. Many activities require facilities with exceptionally large building footprints. The scale of these facilities is in direct contrast to the older and more historic buildings found on East Campus. Nevertheless, the football stadium is a major campus landmark and one that strongly defines the Stadium Drive edge.
Many of the University's athletic fields have been sited in the Arcadia Valley, adjacent to Stadium Drive. As a result, East Campus athletic facilities convey an image of institutional integrity and athletic pride. Unfortunately, the Stadium Drive and Oakland Drive intersection does not match the visual quality of the athletic areas. Utilitarian structures (Physical Plant and Brink Printing Services) and related parking dominate this important arrival area. These facilities may be relocated in the future to create a more appropriate open space statement at this location. A new University identification sign has recently been installed here.

Along Oakland Drive, East Campus architecture, dramatic topography, and wooded slopes create a positive campus image. Indeed, the most distinctive open space assets on East Campus are the wooded hillsides along Oakland Drive, Oliver Street, and Davis Street. The landscape character of these hillsides varies; some are densely wooded while others have a combination of lawn and canopy trees.

The narrow hilltop to the east of Oakland Drive accommodates buildings, drives, and parking areas. Although little space is available in the quadrangle formed by East, North, and West Halls, open space improvements can be incorporated to create a better balance between pedestrian and vehicular uses.
The football team practices on the Davis Street fields. Chain link fences control access and ensure sanctioned use. This open space edge to the Vine Street residential area provides an attractive buffer between campus and neighborhood.

Pedestrian access to historic East Campus is impacted by four specific challenges: distance, land use, topography, and traffic.

- The center of the West Campus academic core is more than a 20-minute walk from East Campus – a distance greater than the time allotted between classes. This makes it difficult to identify academic uses that can appropriately be located on East Campus.
- The large athletic fields on the floor of Arcadia Valley reinforce the separation between East Campus and West Campus. Functional connections are difficult to achieve.
- Significant grades are encountered when moving from the valley floor to the hilltop portion of East Campus. Oliver Street has a 6% slope and rises to a height approximately 75 feet above the valley floor. A 20-foot rise and a 10% slope...
are encountered as one approaches the East Hall area from Oakland Drive. This steep topography creates difficult ADA compliance issues.

- The need to cross busy roads is the most significant pedestrian issue for East Campus. Crossings at the Stadium Drive intersections with Oliver Street and West Michigan Avenue are particularly dangerous, though these are preferred crossing points. Crossing Oakland Drive can also be dangerous.

**Vehicular Circulation**

Access to East Campus facilities is provided from Stadium Drive (Hyames Field, Waldo Stadium, Physical Plant, Brink Printing Services), Oakland Drive (the East Hall area, Oakland Gymnasium), or Oliver Street (Vandercook and Spindler Halls and the Oakland Recital Hall). As a result, this subcampus is primarily dependent on community roadways.

The intersection of Oliver Street and Oakland Drive is located at the top of a hill and on the inside bend of the road. The limited sight distance at this intersection has proven to be a problem. As a result, its relocation and redesign should be considered.

**Parking**

Parking facilities on East Campus are limited. The majority of parking is located adjacent to Waldo Stadium, both on the valley floor and above the stadium, near Vandercook Hall. Parking capacity can be a problem, especially if both the Read Fieldhouse and Waldo Stadium are hosting events. At these times, shuttle service is provided from other parking lots (for example, at Lawson Ice Arena) to accommodate parking demand.

Small parking lots serve Oakland Recital Hall and Spindler Hall. To the east of Oakland Drive, parking is also provided in numerous small lots that are located adjacent to buildings and service areas. A larger parking lot is located between Walwood Union and East Hall. This parking area isolates Walwood Union from the rest of the hilltop buildings. At the same time, it is one of the reasons why the facility functions well.
IV.D.3 Oakland Drive Campus

Figure 4-D.24 Oakland Drive Campus Analysis
The Oakland Drive Campus is bounded on the east by Oakland Drive and on the west by Stadium Drive. Its northern edge is formed by Oliver Street and its southern edge by Howard Street. The Oakland Drive Campus, home of the Kalamazoo Regional Psychiatric Hospital, has recently been acquired by the University, although some facilities continue to be leased to the State of Michigan. The old buildings, historic Water Tower, and park-like appearance lend a special character and a sense of quality to this entire section of the city. Although the Oakland Drive Campus presents significant opportunities for accommodating future campus growth, the University will also need to balance change with stewardship in view of the special affinity many residents feel for this property and the distinctive image it conveys.

*Figure 4-D.25 Oakland Drive Campus Aerial*

**Buildings**

*Architecturally Significant Buildings.* The majority of existing buildings on the Oakland Drive Campus are part of the Kalamazoo Regional Psychiatric Hospital (KRPH). The Water Tower (1895), the Gatehouse (1874), and Montague House are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These facilities, as well as the Central Building (1869) and Inter-Faith Chapel (1965), are special resources that should be preserved.
and woven into the fabric of the new campus. Several support buildings do not share this special architectural character and can be considered for removal. (The 1940 Building Plan appears as Figure 3-B.7 in Section III.)

Montague House is currently home to the faculty union. The integrity of Montague House has been compromised by the addition on the back.

Uses. Noble Lodge, located at the corner of Howard Street and Oakland Drive, is currently owned and operated by the State Department of Corrections. Pheasant Ridge Center, the former KRPH Children’s Hospital, is in good condition.

The original Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies (KCMS) structure, and the new addition, are attractive buildings in scale and treatment. Western Michigan University leases the third and fourth floors for the Unified Clinics Program of the College of Health and Human Services, maintaining a healthcare orientation on this subcampus. Because these buildings are located close to Oakland Drive, they establish a highly visible modern presence.
The more recently constructed Campus Services Building (1987), with its corrugated metal façade, appropriately expresses its utilitarian function. It will not, however, contribute to the future development of an academic environment.

Large trees and expanses of rolling lawn establish an open space setback between Oakland Drive and existing buildings on the Oakland Drive Campus. This open space edge is the most significant visual component of the subcampus and, in combination with the historic buildings, creates a special image.

Over the years, numerous buildings have been constructed and demolished on this site. The open grass areas visible today serve as reminders of where buildings once stood. Mature canopy trees edge former building sites and highlight open spaces. Because the size and quality of these trees are significant assets, future development should be located to protect them to the greatest extent possible.

In the area immediately south of Oliver Street, walkway development is minimal, connecting parking areas to immediate destinations.

In the KRPH complex, existing walks define historic travel patterns; they are typically narrow and often lead to destinations that are not heavily used today. As a result, the existing pattern of walks in this area need not influence future development patterns.

There are no dedicated bicycle paths or lanes.

Other than Oliver Street, existing roads are remnants of the pattern developed to serve the original needs of the KRPH. Although this pattern need not limit the development of the improved system needed to serve a new campus, some existing road alignments can be re-used to reduce development impacts. Today, the Oliver Street entry to the Oakland Drive Campus leads to Campus Services and the KCMS parking areas and does not effectively serve the balance of the subcampus. The
treatment of this entry route is deficient in terms of curb and gutter, signage, landscaping, and buffering of the contiguous parking lots.

Parking

The parking lot located between Campus Services and KCMS is expansive, with little landscaping or accommodation for pedestrians. The KCMS facility leases parking from the University to supplement its limited parking capacity. Parking patterns in the area surrounding KRPH are located to support current hospital functions. Existing parking lots around the hospital support buildings have evolved whenever necessary and do not appear to be well coordinated. Lack of appropriate setbacks and landscape islands emphasize that this is a service drive rather than a public road. Because of the modest number of existing spaces, these patterns are not likely to have a significant impact on future development patterns.