

Business, Technology and Research Park Site Design Standards

BUILDING SITING AND OPEN SPACES

The Western Michigan University Business, Technology and Research Park Development has committed to the City of Kalamazoo and to the immediate neighborhood to preserve an open, natural character and maintain a rate of stormwater runoff onto adjacent property that is not greater than currently exists as agricultural land.

Buildings shall be sited to respect the existing land forms and drainage patterns.

Existing individual and grouped trees are important features and shall be preserved and maintained in all building placement. No existing tree shall be removed without the written approval of the review committee.

LANDSCAPING

For many decades this site has been in agricultural use. Two prominent tree lines crossed the former farm from north to south. One, in the approximate center of the Park, is a remnant of a fence row along a farm lane. The other is along what once was the extension fo 12th Street to Parkview Avenue at Drake Road. These two tree lines, as well as the tree line along Parkview Avenue, are significant historic vegetation feature that have been retained in the Park.

Plants within the loop of the Central Parkway consist of trees and shrubs native to Michigan. Prairie grasses, with mixtures of native wildflowers, are the predominant ground covers. A free flowing strip of varying width has been planted with low maintenance ornamental grasses (fescue) and will be mowed on a regular basis.

The vision fo the development of the individual and collective sites is to utilize natural systems in the landscape as much as possible, such as native trees, shrubs, and low maintenance turf grasses. Plants near a building shall be selected for low water and fertilizer requirements as well as their ornamental value.

DRAINAGE

To the greatest extent possible all drainage over impervious surfaces should be directed into vegetated swales, temporary storage basins, and surface catch basins. The stormwater management system is designed to store surface runoff equal to a 100-year frequency storm after fullsite build-out and to release the peak discharge from a 5-year pre-development condition. Grass filter strips shall be used whenever possible to treat the sotrmwater. Grass strips used for parking lot runoff are to be planted with seed mixtures that are salt tolerant.