MiGBC MICHIGAN GREEN BUILDING COLLABORATIVE

Project Case Study



Western Michigan University

Pedestrian Green Space

Objective: Realize a 50-year campus vision by transforming a vehicular corridor and surface parking into an expanded Pedestrian Green Space that renews aging hardscape, advances sustainable stormwater management, and links open spaces and pathways into a cohesive, walkable campus core.

Details

- Kalamazoo, MI
- 4 acres
- Valuable central campus land was being devoted to vehicular movement rather than student-focused spaces, creating barriers to pedestrian connectivity, limiting opportunities for outdoor learning and engagement, and contributing to stormwater runoff.

Results

- Vehicular traffic will be replaced with a new Gateway entrance arch, pedestrian walking paths, seating areas, and reimagined landscaping encompassing the iconic Gathering Tree Fountain.
- Natural Landscaping
- Ecological Preservation
- Stormwater Management: reduce stormwater runoff by 100% (during 60th percentile precipitation events)

Certifications

In progress

- Sustainable SITES Certification (V2)

Project Highlights

A key innovation of the project is its integration of landscape performance, mobility, ecological preservation, and campus placemaking into a single cohesive vision.

Project Partners

- **Architect & Engineer:** Fishbeck
- **Landscape Architect:** OCBA
- **General Contractor:** Elite Companies





"Only when buildings, walkways, roads, and landscaping are built with a sympathetic understanding of the principles set forth herein, will the plan begin to be realized. The buildings will vary in shape, size and texture but the relationship with existing buildings and future buildings must be conceived and studied building by building fully utilizing the technique of urban design. The relationships among buildings and the spaces between them are as important as the structures themselves."

1970 WMU COMMUNITY MASTER PLAN

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY