5

Precinct Frameworks
Vision 2050 identifies five distinct precincts within the campus north of Mount Hope Road. Recommendations within each precinct balance long-term aspirations with implementable goals, each with a unique vision that reflects each precinct’s programmatic mix and setting.

In addition to precinct-level planning frameworks, Design Guidelines for each precinct outline development capacity, building form, materiality, and public realm elements for each precinct.
North Campus serves as the historic heart of MSU’s East Lansing campus and supports a mix of academic, research, and student life facilities. Many of these buildings are some of the oldest on campus nestled within the precinct’s mature canopy and sprawling lawns.

The plan takes a context-sensitive approach to North Campus balancing incremental additions, and tactical new construction or replacement. Similarly, the public realm and open space recommendations are different to the existing campus fabric, preserving the historic landscape within West Circle, the Red Botanical Garden including Sleepy Hollow, and Benefactors Plaza. The only minor changes to the public realm are along the Red Cedar River, where tactical landscape interventions accommodate stormwater management strategies.
North Campus Opportunities

Academic + Research

In north addition to the Main Library to improve the main entry, accessibility and provide additional capacity for modern library.

Implementation of the north wing of Bessey Hall to address functional and programmatic needs and increase capacity and density.

Academic and research buildings provide a replacement strategy for the dated facilities in Bessey Hall.

Academic and research buildings will also replace the dated facilities in Baker Hall and.

Additional academic facility.

Student Experience

Renovations to the Student Union improve the quality of student collaboration and study space and repositions its programmatic role along the Abbott Road entry.

Parking + Mobility

Replacement parking structure for Ramp 3 on the correct side of Lot 9.

Open Space

The replacement of Ramp 2 provides for stormwater management along the Red Cedar River.

A site north of the auditorium provides additional stormwater management capacity.

Expanded open space proximal to Benefactors Plaza.

Vision 2050: An Integrated Facilities and Land Use Plan for Michigan State University
Building Function

Facility investments are incremental in nature and reinforce existing programmatic functions. The plan identifies opportunities for an addition at the Main Library on the north academic and research facilities to replace and/or consolidate Gillman Hall, Baker Hall and Geography building, and a new parking structure to replace the aging Keph".

Building Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing Use</th>
<th>Proposed Use</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic</td>
<td>Academic/Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberal</td>
<td>Liberal/Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Science/Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Health/Wellness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Housing/Residence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>Others/Support</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Open Space

This precinct is home to some of the most historic assets of the MSU campus. The oldest extant buildings on campus are Cowles House (1857) and Linton Hall (1881). The six buildings of "Laboratory Row" were built between 1886 and 1890. The "Sacred Circle" (western lands bounded by West Circle Drive) were protected from future development by the State Board of Agriculture in 1906.

Pedestrian and Micro-mobility

Adding shared bike stations and secure parking for personal bicycles throughout the North Campus area can encourage more bike use. Continued efforts to make crossings of Grand River Avenue safer for pedestrians and bicycles will enable many students and staff who live nearby to more easily access the North Campus without a vehicle. Additional protected bike lanes on roads (north of Grand River) should also be part of the improvement program. MSU should advocate for additional non-motorized investments north of Grand River and Michigan Avenue.

Vehicular and Public Transit

This plan recommends extending transit service north of Grand River Avenue to better serve the many students and staff who live here. Additionally, it recommends streamlining and simplifying service in the future to improve operational efficiencies.
The Red Cedar River defines the boundary between North Campus and Central Campus and serves as an important pedestrian mobility corridor for the campus and the surrounding areas. Vision 2050 recommends incremental improvements to expand stormwater management capacity along the river, while also enhancing opportunities for the campus community to access and circulate along the waterfront.
Central Campus is defined by the development corridors south of the Red Cedar River that follow Shaw Lane, Wilson Road, and Trowbridge Road. The precinct accommodates some of the university’s most notable programmatic functions, including its extensive teaching and learning, research and intercollegiate athletic facilities. The university developed most of this district in the years following World War II; as such, its density and urban form diverge from the park-like setting of North Campus. The precinct is dominated by broad roadways, large-scale development parcels, and abundant surface parking, reflecting its development era.

The university’s development since World War II has shifted its center of gravity from North Campus towards the intersection of Shaw Lane and Farm Lane, representing some of the institution’s most valuable yet underutilized land. Vision 2050 recommends investment within Central Campus to expand capacity for MSU’s academic and research mission. Simultaneously, these recommendations advance open space and circulation systems that support non-motorized mobility and provide landscape typologies not found within the historic North Campus.
Central Campus Opportunities

**Academic + Research**
- Incentives and research growth within the surface parking (next to East and West Lanes)
- Currently under construction, the Engineering and Digital Innovation Center. A second site, main campus, provides future growth for academic and research with an engineering focus.
- A comprehensive plan for a new Plant and Environmental Science building.
- Currently under planning, new and renovated greenhouse.
- A potential new facility could replace some or all of W. Russell Agricultural Engineering Building.
- Parking building expansions.
- Facility for rare historic buildings expansion.
- Campus Wide Facility adjacent to the Wharton.

**Student Experience**
- Currently under construction, a new Student Resting, Multicultural Center.
- Currently under construction, a new Student Recreation and Wellness Center. In the future, a new Student Wellness Center.
- The IM Hall expansion.
- Residence facility north of Shaw Hall.
- While completing a new Health Science Education Facility (Southwest Campus) positions for dual-use and redevelopment for additional student housing. Central Hall redevelopment is another opportunity.

**Athletics + Academic + Partnership**
- Future partnership opportunities with Dow, hotel on Lot 13.
- New business development at the Trowbridge Road gateway. Potential uses include of the football practice complex include housing, research or future academic growth space.
- Expanding East Lansing Athletic Facilities.
- New waterfront on the site of the historic stadium with the potential to serve athletes, academic and student populations.

**Parking + Mobility**
- Structured parking in the north side of Lot 51.
- Structured parking at Stadium Road.
- Structural parking at Lot 13.
- Structured parking south of Wilson Road near the Red Cedar Promenade.
- Structured parking on the site of Lot 11.
- The Southern portion of South Lane is closed to public vehicles and South Shaw Lane is transformed into a bi-directional street.

**Open Space**
- A future park and farm near Trowbridge Gateway.
- While still supporting special events parking, Lot 29 is reimagined as a more family-oriented, multi-use open space.
- Connectivity of part of Red Cedar Road into a pedestrian promenade with outdoor learning and gathering spaces.
- Agriculture and rare trees in the southwest side of Field Lane connect Central Campus to the Red Cedar River.

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In Chapter 5, the Vision 2050: An Integrated Facilities and Land Use Plan for Michigan State University is discussed.
Open Space

The primary open space intervention extends the energy of the open space network north of the Red Cedar River southwest to Central Campus. The open space network provides green connections toward the southeast and southwest to enhance connectivity as well as anchor future building development.

Building Function

The Central Campus provides opportunities for facility expansion primarily for academic and research functions, particularly the area anchored by Farm and Shaw Lanes. Athletics and residential expansion opportunities occur within or adjacent to existing use districts.

Pedestrian and Micro-mobility

As parking moves more to the periphery and the Central Campus, facilitating movement by walking and bicycling will be important for both on-campus mobility as well as access to and from campus. A shared bike network would serve Central Campus and as growth continues, provision of secure bike parking can enhance mobility and release parking demand. Improved and additional crossings of Harrison and Hagadorn Roads on the campus perimeter will enable safer and more comfortable travel for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Vehicular and Public Transit

The plan recommends streamlining and extending services into nearby neighborhoods, allowing for pedestrian to more efficiently use its primary campus transit hub at Swamp. Additionally, embedding the surface bike and pedestrian network in Central Campus will increase density and improve pedestrian and bicycle movement.

[Map and diagrams showing various roadways and land use planning]
Shaw/Farm Plaza

Distinct from the university’s existing open spaces, a new plaza anchors existing and future development around the intersection of Shaw and Farm Lanes. This outdoor venue can be programmed for a wide variety of academic, social, and cultural events. It will be a place to connect the arts and culture, to further facilitate teaching and learning, to support health and wellbeing as well as a place for social gatherings. As the open space extends northward, it transitions to a grassy quad that provides sloped seating, space for informal recreational activities, and visual connectivity to the Red Cedar River.
The development of a plaza at the intersection of Shaw and Farm provides an opportunity to celebrate MSU’s distinct seasonality and rich cultural diversity. Regardless of the time of year, careful programming in coordination with the adjacent student life functions should enhance the university’s identity and reflect the diversity of people who make up the MSU community.
Red Cedar Promenade

Through various roadway modifications, the plan accommodates the closure of Red Cedar Road between Shaw Lane and Wilson Road. The road corridor is transformed into a pedestrian promenade connecting the growing engineering neighborhood and providing outdoor teaching and learning resources. The promenade will also serve as a multi-modal pathway connecting north and south from the STEM building to Communication Arts and Science. The outdoor spaces accommodates student research and seasonal events.
Southeast Campus supports most of the East Lansing campus’s biomedical and bioengineering academic and research functions as well as some engineering research facilities, Baker Woodlot, a 73-acre patch of old-growth forest used for research and education, comprises most of the western third of the precinct. The eastern third, along Hagadorn Road, currently supports AgBioResearch with recommendations to transition land use to active academic, research, and partnership opportunities.

Vision 2050 opportunities include the expansion of Baker Woodlot to the east, south of the Engineering Research Complex. This expansion would allow faculty and students to engage in research and learning in successional meadows and woodlands as the existing woodlot has already begun to encroach on adjacent fields.

Elsewhere in the district, the Plan recommends redevelopment to support a mix of academic, research, and potential partnerships to create a significant mixed-use district that better connects the campus with the adjacent Meridian Township. This activity is focused primarily just to the west of Hagadorn Road as well as on the existing site of the Engineering Research Complex and MSU buildings on the east side of Hagadorn Road.

**SOUTHEAST CAMPUS**
Southeast Campus Opportunities

Academic + Research
1. In early planning, a new health sciences education building will support multiple colleges academic space needs.
2. Mixed-use solar arrays, rainwater development, Lot 98 and streets along Hagadorn Road will provide future space for academic and student use.

Existing
1. A phased redevelopment of the Engineering Research Complex improves density and adresses the outdated building conditions.

Student Experience
1. South of the Health Sciences education building, a district hall would provide dining, meeting, and gathering spaces to improve social life within the precinct.

Mixed Use / Partnership
1. The southeastern corner of the district provides four sites for potential partnerships, these could support a mix of research, retail, and or housing for faculty, graduate students, and staff.

Parking + Mobility
1. Extension of Bogue Street to Hagadorn Road.
2. A parking garage to expand capacity within the district on the existing site of Lot 97.
3. In the future, a parking garage with potential development capacity along Service Road on the site of Lot 92.

Open Space
1. Pedestrian bridge connects Lot 92 to the College of Veterinary Medicine to improve pedestrian movement across campus.
2. A primary open space provides a spine for new development along the district’s east side.

Vision 2050: An Integrated Facilities and Land Use Plan for Michigan State University
Open Space

Vision 2050 recommends preserving and expanding the existing 72-acre Baker Woodlot to the east to support learning and research. Within the development area of the Southeast Campus, a major north-south open space provides outdoor connectivity. This plan imagines a cultivated extension of the Baker Woodlot, allowing some of the same native tree species to eventually mature into an established tree canopy, providing a unique identity to the precinct.

Building Function

With the exception of the medical education building and the Clinical Center A wing, adaptive reuse, the remaining development of the Southeast Campus is anticipated to be well into the future. The district is planned to support academic and research activities that complement the existing functions. Additionally, there are opportunities for partnership spaces to support research, retail, office, and residential through potential development partnerships.

Pedestrian and Micro-mobility

Extending the shared bike network to Southeast Campus and providing secure bike parking will provide a useful travel option for the MSU community. Improved and additional crossings of Hagadorn Road for pedestrians and bicyclists can facilitate travel to and from the Southeast Campus without a vehicle.

Vehicular and Public Transit

The plan recommends incremental expansions to CATA service and MSU’s autonomous shuttle as Southeast Campus is built out. As the district’s capacity expands, additional parking infrastructure will likely be needed alongside micromobility and pedestrian connections.
Innovation Plaza

The plan recommends an outdoor plaza where the existing biomedical facilities and proposed health science education building meet the district’s major open space. In contrast with the cultivated canopy of trees that connect the major spine to Baker Woodlot, the plaza provides opportunities for community gathering, extending programmatic functions into the public realm, and supporting general health and well-being. The plaza and adjacent open space supports collaboration amongst MSU and MSU-supported research partnerships.
Existing MSU Buildings
Potential New Building

At the time of Vision 2050, Southwest Campus predominantly accommodates MSU’s support services and residence life facilities at the former Spartan Village. The university’s intention to end operations of the former Spartan Village’s dated residential facilities provides a unique opportunity to rethink the programmatic mix across all of Southwest Campus, as well as the strategic acquisition of USDA Avian Disease and Oncology Laboratory.

The Facility and Land Use Plan recommends the long-term redevelopment of the former Spartan Village and the adjacent Harrison Road corridor. This redevelopment balances potential research, industry partnerships, and residential facilities while preserving buffers to the north and west for health and wellness and integrated outdoor research plots. To the east, Service Road and Crescent Road support a consolidated corridor of parking and support facilities between Harrison Road and Farm Lane. Extension of Crescent Road from Harrison Road to Farm Lane would improve campus connectivity and mobility.
The framework development strategy for Southwest Campus requires a certain degree of flexibility as the overall framework is designed to accommodate a broad range of potential needs. Vision 2050 identifies the following potential opportunities:

1. Within the former Spartan Village, the plan identifies a number of sites to support potential residential development. The desired unit type mix shall be identified through future planning studies.
2. Within the former Spartan Village, the plan provides sites to support strategic research and business partnerships.
3. Along the east side of Harrison Road, the plan identifies several long-term redevelopment and strategic partnership opportunities.
4. The plan identifies three parking garages within the redevelopment of Spartan Village to incrementally support added density within the district.
5. To the west of Farm Lane, the plan provides facilities for the expansion of storage, materials handling, and recycling as well as future relocation facility for Infrastructure Planning and Facilities functions currently located in the Central Campus.
6. Consolidation of athletics/recreation facilities and fields along the railroad provides appropriate land transition and buffer for higher density development to the south.
7. Western lands provide opportunities for unique field-based research and buffering from the busy interstate.
Open Space
A major spine of open space connects the southern and western edges of the former Spartan Village with its northeastern corner. Its purpose is to provide a large-scale civic space, which connects the district with the multi-modal transportation hub along Harrison Road and the gateway to Central Campus at Trowbridge Road.

The northern and western edges of the site support larger outdoor land uses, including recreation fields and courts, stormwater management facilities, and outdoor research plots. These types of facilities not only expand the campus’s capacity for important outdoor functions but could also be tailored to support potential development partners.

Building Function
As much of the development within Southwest Campus provides long-term future development opportunities, the plan identifies a range of functions within the precinct. Potential functions include housing, office and research space, most of which would likely be developed through strategic public/private collaborations.

Pedestrian and Micro-mobility
As this area of campus gets built out, the campus shared bicycle network should be extended first. Improved and additional crossings of the railroad tracks and of Harrison Road will help as well. Providing secure bicycle parking on the Southwest Campus can attract new bike users and reduce parking demand.

Vehicular and Public Transit
Public transit serves the southernmost surface parking lots along Farm Lane through frequent and efficient service. Over time, as the former Spartan Village develops, a transit corridor should also extend to this district.
Spartan Research and Test Plots

MSU’s teaching and research missions uniquely benefit from the contiguous agricultural precinct south of Mount Hope Road. Redevelopment of the former Spartan Village parcel provides both an area for innovative partnerships with private industry, but also incremental expansion for research in agricultural and natural resources. Vision 2050 envisions a greenbelt buffer from the interstate highway for research, recreation, and natural resources management that link the precinct to the university’s teaching, research and outreach mission.
Located to the south of Mount Hope Road, the Agricultural Campus is a unique asset, representing approximately 40% of the East Lansing campus’s land holdings. The majority of this land is dedicated to agricultural teaching and research, and supporting services such as grazing and feed crop production. As such, it is vital to the colleges of agriculture and natural resources, natural sciences, and veterinary medicine.

The district is home to seven farms dedicated to teaching, research, and outreach. The farms house centers for dairy and beef cattle, swine, sheep, poultry, horses, and horticulture. MSU is unique among its land grant peers in the proximity and ease of access to these resources. All seven of the farms are located within three miles of the center of the Central Campus. This adjacency has proven to be a tremendous asset to MSU, a perspective that is shared among a breadth of campus stakeholders.
Agricultural Campus Opportunities

As a vital asset to MSU’s land grant identity, the land in the Agricultural Campus should be preserved to ensure the continuity of the university’s agricultural mission. Any new facilities considered for the Agricultural Campus should serve to advance this mission, and they should be thoughtfully located in areas adjacent to like uses. A strategic, contained approach to the location of facilities and programs will allow MSU to preserve the various woodlots which presently dot the landscape. Land holdings west of Collins Road present an opportunity for future non-agricultural development in partnership with the MSU Foundation.