Archways have served as architectural and engineering feature in designs since the beginning of time. Their initial intent was to span a distance while still supporting large amounts of weight. They also functioned as grand entrances into various types of sites and creating an inviting feeling among visitors. Each served as a gateway into new ideas and connected people from one space to another. This idea of an archway is being brought into East Lansing as new connections are being made between Michigan State University’s campus and East Lansing. The new Park District will bring people together and connect them to the rest of the community through a series of new modernistic structures with inviting entrances and plaza spaces. The idea of an archway will frame a new set of standards and raise the bar for future development throughout the city as it continues to transition and grow toward a more connective environment.

Being located in a transition area where Grand River splits with Michigan Ave., this area has vast potential to be an economic and social hub connecting Michigan State, East Lansing and Lansing together to make a greater community. A majority of the site’s buildings will be multi-use structures to maximize the opportunities presented by the location. The new Park District will be a destination point for many different functions. The site will consist of office spaces, eateries, shopping stores, a hotel, a farmers market, parking structures, transportation hubs, and several plaza areas. The site will also host a number of apartments and condos to give people the option of calling the Park District “home”. With so many different amenities, the Park District will be able to function as focal point of East Lansing and benefit all members of the surrounding communities.
EXISTING SITE
BUILDING USES

- ABANDONED BUILDING
- RESIDENTIAL
- MIXED USE
- FOOD
- SERVICE
- CONVENIENCE
- INSTITUTIONAL
Outdoor Uses

- OPEN GREEN SPACE
- PUBLIC PARKING
- OUTDOOR SEATING
- VACANT PARKING LOT
Soil Slope and Water-flow Analysis
TRAFFIC CIRCULATION
PEDESTRIAN PATHWAYS
Walking Times

Based on average walking speed:

Center of site up Evergreen
2 min 48 sec

Center of site to Valley Court Park
1 min 32 sec

Center of site to the MSU Union
2 min 33 sec
Synthesis
SITE LAYOUT

- DIRECTS PEDESTRIAN FLOW INTO CENTRAL SPACES, AND AWAY FROM ROADS
- GREEN SPACE ACTS AS AN EXTENTION OF MSU’S CAMPUS AND CREATES A GREENWAY TOWARDS VALLEY COURT PARK
- REWORKED ROAD LAYOUT TO IMPROVE MOTORIZED AND NON MOTORIZED TRAFFIC FLOW
- BIKE LANES ADDED
- REACCURING PLAZA ELEMENTS CONNECT SPACES
VEHICULAR & TRANSIT CIRCULATION

- TRANSPORT
- VEHICULAR
PEDESTRIAN PATHWAYS
• Continuing the historical Olmstead sidewalk pattern and green spaces across Grand River
• Plaza space with amphitheater
• Rapid transit stop to connect the park district to the surrounding communities
• Multi-use open space can be used for festivals, concerts, or other events
BUILDING A

- 9 floors
- Multi-Use
- Approximate Floor Size: 40,000 sq.ft.
BUILDING B

- 1 floor
- Commercial Use
- Approximate Floor Size: 11,200 sq.ft.
BUILDING C

- 2 floors
- Multi-Use
- Approximate Floor Size: 12,800 sq.ft.
BUILDING D1

- 11 floors
- Multi-Use
- Approximate Floor Size: 36,000 sq.ft.
BUILDING D2

- 9 floors
- Parking Structure
- Approximate Floor Size: 18,000 sq.ft.
BUILDING E1

- 2 floors
- Pharmaceutical Use
- Approximate Floor Size: 15,750 sq.ft.
1 floor
Commercial Use
Approximate Floor Size: 8,000 sq.ft.
GRAND ENTRANCE
ARCHWAYS

- Symbolize a gateway
- Provide sheltered pedestrian walk
- Unique characteristic for East Lansing
STREET SCAPE

• ADA ACCESSIBLE
• PLANTINGS
• BIKE LANES
• MOVABLE SEATING
• WIDE SIDEWALKS
AMPHITHEATER

- LOCATED IN GRAND RIVER PLAZA SPACE
- SEMI-COVERED VENUE
- ADA ACCESSIBLE
- EVENT SPACE
- SEATING ON STEPS
Solar panels could be placed on buildings E1 and D2. E1 is a pharmaceutical building which tend to use above average electricity so adding solar panel can help the building be more self-sufficient. Adding solar panels to building D2 could assist the city with the electricity bill by making the parking structure more efficient. The built up energy could power the structures lighting and cutting down on the cost of operation. Being a newly developed area that sets the standard for future development, the addition of alternative energies is a great idea to increase awareness on the subject and to further add support of going “green” to MSU and its surrounding community.
There are two different types of green roofs, extensive and intensive. Extensive roofs are the cheaper and more maintenance free roofs. These roofs consist mostly of different kinds of sedums which are drought tolerant and low maintenance but can still have rather attractive blooming seasons. This would be the ideal type of roof installed on top of the farmers market due to it being a smaller structure. For building D1, more advanced green roofs can be installed. These roofs can be intensive green roofs which are more complex and require greater structural support and maintenance. Intensive green roofs can have a wide variety of planting materials ranging from grasses to small trees which would be a great addition to the North West side of the apartments for residents to enjoy a nice walkout green patio.
The new location of the Farmer’s Market being adjacent to Dublin, and open towards Abbot Rd and the Grand River Plaza drastically increases visibility.

The new facility features a 2,000 square foot enclosed space with retractable glass walls that can be raised up when the weather is nice as well as over 2,000 square feet of covered plaza space.