HISTORY

+ East Lansing began to be settled the same year Lansing became the State capital in 1847.
+ Michigan State University was founded in 1855 in East Lansing as a Land-Grant College prior to the Morrill Act. It served as a national model for all following Land Grant Schools.
+ Everyone lived on-campus for 4 Decades.
  - That began to change in 1987 with William J. Buhl building ‘Collegewalk’, between the roads of Harrison and Beal.

PRESENT

‘CREATING COMMUNITY THROUGH, PEOPLE, PARKS, & PROGRAMS’

Mission Statement of the East Lansing Department of Parks, Recreation, & Arts

East Lansing, the bustling and active nightlife center for the student body of the historic Michigan State University is hoping to undergo a transformation in the coming decades to bring more mixed demographics to the city. This will help in the growth of new businesses and resident in order to expand the demographics of those who are attracted to the city. All of this is to happen while retaining and expanding the existing activities that bring the young demographic of MSU’s student body to the downtown area. While many developments have, and are taking place in small installations, the major initiative is the re-design and consequent re-development of the Park Planning District/City Center II.

East Lansing, a City of the Arts

INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

PEOPLE WANT TO SEE, AND BE SEEN

Successful downtown areas give priority to the people by giving them opportunity to:

- Enjoy Greenspace
- View Art
- Eat at Cafe
- Sit Outside

THE SITE

The site of the Park Planning District/City Center II of East Lansing is located to the northwest of the center of town. It’s within 5 minutes walking distance of the current center of the downtown area, however, it is also close to a number of other prominent buildings such as the State Capitol and the student union. This allows for new residents to expand the downtown area of East Lansing past Abbott Rd and provide added functions and amenities for the residents.

SUN PATTERNS

Sun patterns are an important factor in determining views and location of buildings. A naturally open site allows for views of major landmarks and sun exposure across the site. The changes in sunlight position can allow for a dynamic space that always seems to be changing with its environment.

ANNUAL DAYS OF SUN

Being a Midwestern town the weather is known to change from extremes or any given day. These environmental factors must be taken into account in designing the space to become so that no matter the conditions the area will function as it is intended and become the activity center of the downtown area. Reviewing the extremes from the charts and graphs, a key design philosophy is to be implemented will be transitional spaces. These that can be used by the public in order in keeping people engaged in the space. This allows them the opportunity to fully experience the space and its many programs without missing the main function as one can transition to a location where conditions are more favorable with ease.