The concept behind the revitalized Carriage Hills Shopping Center is to create a sense of place that is welcoming to the individual, family, and community. Through the careful integration of retail opportunities, mixed-use development, abundant outdoor space, and space for community events, the 5-year plan for the shopping center allows members of the community to grow as individuals and as a whole.

The 65-acre core site shown to the right is strictly retail space. The stores (listed above) range from retail stores/restaurants and cafes to a specialty grocery store and a Walgreens, generating activity throughout the site.

A 15-mile network of walking and jogging paths through the core of the site also serves as fire and emergency vehicle access. The markings along the concourse path are designed both to ensure clear visibility and to add to the enjoyment of the path for varied users. Bike parking is designated outside each store.

Special areas for outdoor cafes and plazas are designed to bring pedestrians into the retail experience. The streetscape throughout the site is designed to feel like an old downtown, similar to the Center Township in South Carolina (see images below). The incorporation of places to sit and socialize, family-oriented, and unique parking patterns and materials provide an experience that feel special and personal.

The incorporation of soft green space into the streetscape through shade trees and perennials reinforces the hard surfaces for ecological and aesthetic reasons. The streets are well lit with creative, efficient lighting solutions and have high visibility to increase safety and curb appeal. A special on-and-off road gateway element has been added across Hagadorn Road to create a gateway to the site.

The amphitheater will be used as a public performance space for small concerts and theater productions. It would also be a great location for classes from the Darby or Whitetails Elementary Schools or for community gatherings and meetings. Sections of the amphitheater will be wheelchair accessible. The amphitheater includes porosity paving and minimally landscaped areas on site. The theater shell is modeled after the band shell that once existed on the campus of Michigan State University (see image.)

The green area to the north of the amphitheater will be a gradually sloped up from grade level to provide raised seating in the amphitheater. It will be planted with wildflowers and native vegetation. A section of the hill will be left clear of vegetation for children to play in the summer and use for sledding in the winter.

Sustainability is an important consideration in this world-class urban environment. Features such as porous pavement, storm retention basins, rain gardens, and green roofs can help reduce the negative effects that site development has on the natural environment.

Below ground parking (shown as a light gray shade) will provide convenient access to several locations throughout the site without affecting the pedestrian-focused streetscape within the site. There is an entrance to the underground parking from Lake Lansing and from Hagadorn Road.

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HEALTH: MIND, BODY, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY
LA 447 SPRING 2014