

= Campus of Michigan State University =

The campus of Michigan State University is located in East Lansing on the banks of the Red Cedar River , and comprises a contiguous area of 5 @, @ 200 acres (21 km²) , 2 @, @ 000 acres (8 @. @ 1 km²) of which are developed . Built amid virgin forest , the campus opened in 1855 with three buildings , none of which remain . As an agricultural college , the campus was originally located several miles outside of the city of Lansing , but as the population of the college grew , the city of East Lansing developed just north of the area 's main avenue .

As the campus of a large university , MSU has many facilities that serve not only the school , but the entire metropolitan area . Public venues on campus include a football stadium , multipurpose arena , ice arena , concert hall , hotel , and golf course . The campus also has its own power plant , laundry service , incinerator , and Amtrak train station .

In terms of infrastructure , there are 556 buildings : 100 for academics , 131 for agriculture , 166 for housing and food service , and 42 for athletics . Overall , the university has 22 @, @ 763 @, @ 025 square feet (2 @, @ 114 @, @ 754 @. @ 2 m²) of total indoor space . MSU also owns 44 non @- @ campus properties , totaling 22 @, @ 000 acres (89 km²) in 28 different counties . However , the size of the campus , combined with its curving roads and lack of a centralized quadrangle , can make it difficult for newcomers to navigate .

= = History = =

Before the white settlement of the region , the area that is now East Lansing was a combination of dense virgin oak forest and tamarack swampland . In July 1855 a 677 @- @ acre site just north of the Red Cedar River was recommended to the State Board of Education , the report to the board noted that except for the occasional clearing the land was dense hardwood forest . It was in one of these " oak openings " that the school built its first three buildings in 1856 : a multipurpose building called College Hall , a dormitory building later known as " Saints ' Rest , " and a barn . College Hall contained classrooms , offices , laboratories , a library / museum , and a multifunctional lecture hall / chapel . It was also one of the first buildings in America to be used for the teaching of scientific agriculture .

Since the college was founded in a sparsely populated area with only a handful of nearby farmhouses , and it was an arduous stagecoach ride from Lansing , the College built four faculty houses in the first year of classes in 1857 . One of these original faculty houses , Cowles House , still exists as the President 's official residence , though only two walls and part of the foundation remain of the original construction . Ultimately , ten faculty homes were built on campus between 1857 and 1885 . Besides Cowles House , one other survived and was moved into the city of East Lansing ; the rest were demolished between 1922 and 1948 to make room for the north complex of residence halls and the Student Union , designed by Pond and Pond .

Michigan State 's campus was among the first to serve as a botanical laboratory for its faculty and students and is the site of what is , today , the oldest continuously operated botanical garden in the US . In December 1879 , Professor William J. Beal buried seeds of 23 common plants in 20 jars of sand (to prevent water accumulation) in various locations around campus . At certain fixed intervals , currently every 20 years , a jar is dug up to determine which seeds still germinate after their prolonged periods of unlit isolation . The most recent jar exhumation , April 2000 , found only a few specimens surviving to germinate , notably *Verbascum blattaria* (moth mullein) , after 120 years . Five buried jars remain , with the next unearthing scheduled for 2020 .

In 1871 , President Abbott proposed that the Board of Trustees " take steps to provide for the proper layout of the college grounds , planting of trees , location of buildings , etc . , by a competent landscape gardener , as soon as means can be spared . " In 1872 , Adam Oliver , a landscape gardener from Kalamazoo , was hired . During his tenure from 1872 ? 1887 , he was oversaw the layout of walks and drives and the placement of numerous buildings , including Linton Hall in 1881 . He was responsible for the closed roadway system , an altered form of which remains today as West Circle Drive , and was also responsible for the informal arrangement of campus buildings . The

character of the campus is described in President Abbott 's 1882 report to the Board as follows : " There are in the park no straight rows of buildings or of trees , but its ... buildings ... are separated by undulating lawns , shallow ravines , and groups of trees " .

In 1906 O. C. Simonds a well @-@ known prairie school landscape architect was hired , he simplified the road system , planned walks and planting areas . It was Sidmons who first described this area around West Circle Drive as a " sacred space " and who reaffirmed the idea of as area of campus as a park to be protected from development . In a 1906 letter to the Board for Trustee 's " This area is , I am sure , that feature of the College which is most pleasantly and affectionately remembered by the students after they leave their Alma Mater , and I doubt if any instruction given has a greater effect upon their lives . "

In 1914 the college hired noted landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted , Jr. with bigger buildings like Olds and Agriculture Halls being built Olmsted faced the challenge of maintaining the informal character of campus while minimizing walking distance . In 1915 , the Olmsted Brothers firm issued a report its solution was a dramatic redesign of campus around quadrangles However , the plan was unpopular with students and alumni who wished to maintain the informal parklike feel of campus . After eight years of consulting and little in way of changes the school ended its relationship with Olmsted in 1922 .

The college in 1923 hired T. Glenn Phillips , Phillips ' 1926 plan for campus kept Simonds ' " sacred space " and it continued the curvilinear road system to the east , with buildings placed in an informal manner . His plan called for campus north of the river to be dedicated to academic purposes while all agriculture and athletic facilities were to be placed south of the river . Phillips ' plan would set the tone for campus development for the next 25 years .

Post WWII the large number of GI 's returning , President John A. Hannah 's push to expand resulting in a large increase in enrollment quickened in the pace of development south of the river . The driving factor in campus development of was the automobile this the south featuring buildings and streets generally laid out in a grid system with more land dedicated to parking lots . This growth resulted in the largest residence hall system in the United States . 16 @,@ 000 students live in MSU 's 23 undergraduate halls , one graduate hall , and three apartment villages . Though MSU has not built a new resident hall since 1967 , it has modernized several of its dormitories . In 2007 , MSU opened the Residential College in Arts & Humanities in a newly renovated Snyder @-@ Phillips Hall , the location of MSU 's first residential college , Justin Morrill College .

In 2001 a new master plan called 2020 Vision : A Community Concept for the MSU Campus was developed to guide future campus development . Amongst the recommendations it called for the removing of central campus parking to parking garages replacing it with green space , the removal of head @-@ in parking around West and East Circle Drives , adding more bike lanes and planting more trees on south campus in order to give it the look and feel of north campus .

= = Areas = =

= = = North campus = = =

The oldest part of campus is north of the Red Cedar River and south of Grand River Avenue and Michigan Avenue . Its buildings are an eclectic collection of architectural styles including Collegiate Gothic , Beaux Arts , and Richardsonian Romanesque . The north campus has plentiful trees and curving roads with few straight lines . In the center of the north campus lies the " Sacred Space " , which is surrounded on all sides by West Circle Drive . It was in this area that the College erected its first three buildings . None of these three buildings are still standing , but there are still some important historical buildings on and near the Sacred Space . These include Cowles House , the President 's official residence , and Beaumont Tower , a carillon clock tower marking the site of College Hall . To the east of the Sacred Space lies Laboratory Row , a group of laboratory buildings constructed during the late 19th and early 20th centuries . These include Eustace @-@ Cole Hall and Marshall @-@ Adams Hall , America 's first freestanding laboratories for horticulture and

bacteriology , respectively .

= = = South campus = = =

The campus south of the Red Cedar River consists mostly of buildings built after World War II . Many of them are built in the International and Brutalist styles , with relatively straight roadways and fewer trees than the north campus . South campus also has more surface parking lots , due partly to the sporting and performing arts venues . The " 2020 Vision " Master Plan proposes replacing these parking lots with parking ramps and green space , in order to replicate the park like feel of North Campus but these plans will take many years to reach fruition . Notable academic and research buildings on the South Campus include the Cyclotron and the College of Law .

= = = Service campus and beyond = = =

The majority of Michigan State 's academic and residential buildings are north of the Canadian National Railway . South of the CN line are service buildings such as the T. B. Simon Power Plant , laundry services , and the campus incinerator . Nevertheless , there are a growing number of academic buildings south of the railroad . The MSU Clinical Center and the Life Sciences Building are both in this part of campus , as is a nature preserve known as the Baker Woodlot . South still of the university service buildings and the CSX railroad lie thousands of acres of university @-@ owned farmland and agricultural research related facilities such the MSU Pavilion . The proximity of the farmland to campus helps MSU retain a rural feel in keeping with its roots as an agricultural college that mixes with the more urban atmosphere of East Lansing just a mile north . Recently , The Demmer Center has been added to Michigan State University 's campus . The Demmer Center is an educational place for students , faculty , and community members to learn to safely handle firearms .

= = Landmarks = =

Michigan State is home to three bronze statues , two of which were erected in 2005 and one in 2003 . On the entrance plaza of the Administration Building that bears his name is the statue of former president John A. Hannah . Downstream on the south bank of the Red Cedar River is the new bronze statue of " The Spartan " . This 2005 replica replaced the original terra cotta statue , which can still be seen in the west concourse of Spartan Stadium . The third statue , erected in 2003 , is a 12 @-@ foot likeness of famed Spartan Basketball star and Los Angeles Laker , Earvin " Magic " Johnson .

Another landmark is the spray painted boulder known as " The Rock " . Lying east of Farm Lane just north of the river , it is a popular spot for campus events such as outdoor summer theatre , Greek house tailgating , and candlelight vigils . It was once used by Michigan Agricultural College (forerunner to MSU) students to study mineral contents . MSU has several botanical gardens , including the W. J. Beal Botanical Garden just across the river from the stadium , the Old Horticulture Gardens next to the building of the same name , the MSU Horticulture Gardens , and the adjoining 4 @-@ H Children 's Garden .

The university has several buildings for public gatherings and events . Spartan Stadium serves as the university 's football stadium . The Breslin Center is a multi @-@ purpose basketball arena . The Munn Ice Arena is used for ice hockey . The MSU Pavilion serves as a venue for agricultural expositions and other types of events . Michigan State has two separate buildings for theatre . The MSU Auditorium / Fairchild Theatre is used for the MSU Theatre Department 's shows , concerts , and public speakers . The Auditorium is on Farm Lane and the north bank of the river , in the heart of campus . To the southeast lies the main theatre for the Lansing metropolitan area , the Wharton Center for Performing Arts . The Wharton Center features Broadway plays and other performances , and was the site the 1992 U.S. presidential election debates . The university also has its own hotel / convention center , the Kellogg Center .

= = Transportation = =

MSU 's campus has a network of sidewalks , bike paths , roads (often with bike lanes) , and unpaved trails . Its transportation network consists of 27 miles (43 km) of roads and 100 miles (160 km) of sidewalks . Common , non @-@ motor vehicle methods of campus navigation used are : Walking , bicycling , rollerblading and skateboarding . Motorscooters and mopeds are also not uncommon . A few skywalks and public underground tunnels link some buildings on campus . The non @-@ motorized Lansing River Trail 's eastern trailhead is located on campus , extending west to downtown Lansing and then north towards the airport . The non @-@ motorized River Corridor runs across campus along the south side of the Red Cedar River , and is the primary east @-@ west route for non @-@ motorized traffic on campus .

The main roads that go through MSU 's campus are West Circle Drive , East Circle Drive , Shaw Lane , Farm Lane , Wilson Road , Bogue Road , and Red Cedar Road . Passing through crowded areas of campus , these roads receive high volumes of pedestrian and vehicle traffic . Another popular mode of transportation is the Capital Area Transportation Authority bus service , which has many routes across campus in addition to regular service outside campus in the Lansing , East Lansing , and Okemos areas . Many routes through campus are designated as " Spartan Service " , meaning they only operate during MSU fall and spring semesters . The MSU @-@ CTC (MSU CATA Transportation Center) is the hub of bus service on campus , and many local destinations both on- and off @-@ campus may be reached from there . Buses are used especially frequently during the winter .

With two railroads crossing campus , MSU students have easy access to rail travel . The East Lansing Amtrak station is located on campus , offering daily direct service to and from Chicago , Kalamazoo , Flint , Port Huron , and several other cities throughout Michigan via the Blue Water line . Cities such as Detroit , Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids can be reached by transferring onto a different line . The station is also serviced by several Greyhound bus routes . Two airports are accessible from campus : Lansing Capital Region International Airport (LAN) in DeWitt Township and the Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) outside Detroit . Bus service to and from DTW is offered eight times daily by Michigan Flyer .