

FACILITIES CONNECTION

ISSUE: 9
MAR/APR 2024

NEWSLETTER



Dunbar Hall
re-opening

Campus
Master Plan

Student Employee
Appreciation
Week



DUNBAR HALL RE-OPENING

Dunbar Hall has re-opened! Classes began in the building the week after Spring Break, March 11-15. Included in the new building are state-of-the-art classrooms, advanced technology, student workspaces and a new dance studio. The official grand re-opening ceremony will take place on April 25 at 1:30 p.m., which will include a rededication ceremony. Read the whole article on WMU News, <https://wmich.edu/news/2024/02/74592>.



CAMPUS MASTER PLAN 2025 AND BEYOND

What is a "Campus Plan" and why is Western Michigan University commencing one?

A campus plan is a roadmap that guides future change to the physical campus environment. One can think of a plan in a series of layers: land and building use, site and landscape, infrastructure, transportation/parking. At a strategic level, the campus plan provides direction for the institution to align with its strategic and mission-driven goals (e.g. improving academic success, expanding research, addressing holistic health). Finally, the campus plan identifies specific projects for implementation, and it includes prioritization and phasing so that the college is equipped to act in the near-term while also planning for long range and aspirational goals.

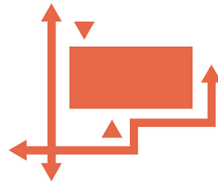
Why master plan?



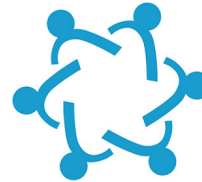
Alignment with strategic priorities of Western Michigan University



Think big and explore ideas



Improve efficiencies and ensure that proper infrastructure is in place

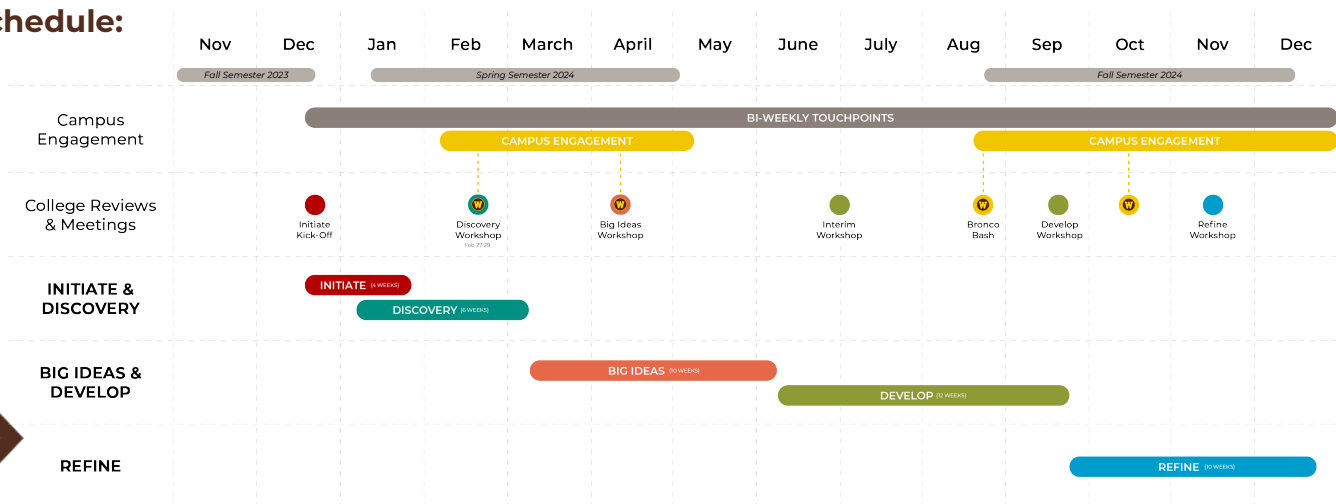


Enhance the sense of place and weave connections back to the community



Identify needs, develop cost effective solutions and prioritize investment

Schedule:



Your Voice Matters!

Take part in our faculty/staff survey to provide your input. Scan the QR code to the right or visit <https://wmich.edu/master-plan> for more information.



You can also join us for two open houses on Thursday, April 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Student Center's Gathering Stairs.

STUDENT EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION WEEK

Student Employee Appreciation week is coming up on April 8-12, so we want to take some time to recognize the amazing students who work in Facilities Management! We appreciate everything they do to help us serve the WMU community. We recognize the commitment and effort they put into their job while balancing studies. Thank you from all of us in FM!

Student Employee Shout-Outs:

Alex Heilmann is an absolute asset to our team. Her eagerness to learn, combined with her cheerful attitude and confidence in tackling challenges, makes her a joy to work with. Alex's sharp intellect allows her to grasp new concepts quickly, making her an invaluable student employee deserving of recognition during Student Appreciation Week.

- Monica Orsolini, FM Business Office

For Student Employee Appreciation Week, we want to acknowledge Tay DeShields, our newest member. Despite being new, Tay has quickly proven herself by completing every task with efficiency and thoughtfulness. Her quiet demeanor belies a sharp intellect that allows her to tackle assignments with ease.

- Monica Orsolini, FM Business Office

Kudos to Hosam Olimat for developing and managing the scheduling of AFSCME trades so vital to the success of construction projects.

- John Koestner, Projects and Construction

Kudos to Elie Mukanya for the very professional and personal way he comports himself with the construction clientele.

- John Koestner, Projects and Construction

Vignesh has only been here a few weeks, and he is already doing great work! I'm glad we have Vignesh as part of the FM team.

- Zach Richardson, Engineering

Joy, Alaina & Max - a.k.a. JAM - thank you for all of the technical support you provide. You are the JAM keeping our FM gears from grinding.

- Anonymous

Hosam Olimat has been a valuable asset to FM for three years now. I appreciate his continued efforts with project scheduling and coordination. His attention to detail, constructive communication and cooperative spirit have contributed to FM's teamwork and our ability to deliver good service on campus projects. His dedication to our success is evident, and I am very happy to continue working with Hosam as he pursues his next degree. Hosam, thank you for all that you do!

- Marcy Lynn, Maintenance Services



FM PRACTICES "LEAVE THEM BE" PHILOSOPHY FOR STRAY CATS

It isn't uncommon to see a stray cat wandering on campus. If you do, Landscape asks that you please "leave them be." Their inaction is intentional, as most kittens or cats that are living outdoors don't need to be "rescued." Only if a kitten or cat is stuck in a building, will action be taken. To learn more about this philosophy that Landscape Services has adopted, please visit <https://www.alleycat.org/take-action/leave-them-be>.

SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES



CONGRATUALIONS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO WMU!

Dustin Diamond, Custodial Services, 10 years

Bobbi Jo O'Neill, Custodial Services, 10 years

Eugene Thurmond, Custodial Services, 10 years

Cindy Beebe, Custodial Services, 15 years

Mark Robinson, Custodial Services, 15 years

Jeff Benton, Maintenance Services, 25 years

Kelly Duncan, Landscape Services, 25 years

NEW EMPLOYEES

Nathaniel White, Custodial Services

Shannon Sauer-Becker, Planning, Space Management and Capital Projects

Travis Taylor, Maintenance Services

Charles Ibbotson, Maintenance Services

Josefina Balboa, Custodial Services

Kristin Diamon, Architecture and Design

RETIREMENTS

Julie Lenczycki, Architecture & Design, 36.5 years at WMU

NOTE FROM THE AVP

Hello Facilities Management Team,

I hope everybody is doing well and that the cold weather is behind us. There are really only two seasons when you live in Michigan – winter and construction. It's an exciting time to be on campus as we get ready to move into the construction season. It's great to see all of the projects moving forward as you see in the projects list below. As we are preparing for our own renovations at the Physical Plant Building, I would like to announce the functions of Planning, Space Management, & Capital Projects, Architecture and Design, and Construction Services will all be moving from the Campus Services Building into the Physical Plant. This will require some renovations to the first and second floors. The project is in the initial stages of design, so it will be exciting to share the project details in an upcoming newsletter. Along with the move, the functions are all being combined into one consolidated group – Planning, Design, and Construction. The directors of all of these functions will now report to a new position – Sr. Director of Planning, Design, and Construction. The function of Records Management will also be moved to this group. This consolidation will help to improve our collaboration, expand our capacity and look to the future of how we manage projects at WMU. Along with this reorganization, we will be consolidating the functions of Landscape Services and Transportation Services. This move is intended to improve our flexibility and capabilities for maintaining our operational equipment. The function of Transportation Services will also undergo a name change to Fleet Management and Maintenance. This title is more reflective of the work that we do, and will help avoid confusion within the campus community. These changes are all intended to position us to continue serving campus with the highest level of quality and service. If you would like to discuss any of these topics in more detail, remember that I have office hours every month – dedicated time if you have questions, ideas, or would just like to chat about the campus in general. The campus looks great, the buildings look great, and the work that you do every day is greatly appreciated. Keep up the great work Facilities Team.

Chad Stirrett
Associate Vice President

MOVING FROM RADIOS TO IPADS

We're thrilled to announce a major upgrade in our communication devices for our AFSCME staff. In the upcoming months, we will be transitioning from radios to iPads, which marks a significant leap forward in efficiency and effectiveness for our team. With iPads in hand, we're empowering employees with cutting-edge tools to streamline communication, enhance productivity, and deliver top-notch service across the board. More information about the transition will be coming soon!

PROJECTS ON CAMPUS

- West Hills - Pickleball Court Facility
- Faunce - 2nd Floor Lobby carpet replacement
- Amphitheatre - Resurfacing amphitheatre between Dunbar, Knauss and Friedmann
- Floyd Hall - Replacing eleven overhead doors
- MGRRE Core Lab Building - Design and construction of new building for Michigan Geological Repository for Research and Education Core Lab
- Bernhard Center - Demolition set to begin in May
- Valley 3 Residence Hall - Request for proposal to go out for bid in March

EMPLOYEE THANK YOU'S

Brian (Kirby) and Randy (Brininger) were very professional. Their willingness to complete the task (of hanging a white board in my office) immediately is very much appreciated.

- Anand Sankey, Engineering Division

I'd like to pass along an interaction I had with one of my instructors this morning.

The floors are just so clean and polished, the wood doorstop does not keep the door open...we need a rubber one or something. Both start laughing... to which I replied what a problem to have! She now has a rubber door stop. We love our (Custodial) team and love to shout their praises when we can.

- Casey White, Family and Consumer Sciences

Hi Greg (Stewart), Glen (Brigham), Dennis (Moore) and Nick (Laske) - thank you (for changing the lights)! The W Club will be presentable again!

- Marcy Lynn, Maintenance Services

I wanted to share that Colleen and I met Johnny Thompson last week. Fingers crossed he has solved our issue. But what a really nice guy. We really enjoyed chatting with him.

- Stacy Thinnis, Business and Finance

Much appreciation to Travis Taylor for coordinating remediation equipment mobilization (at Spindler Hall).

- Jake Woods, Environmental Health and Safety

AVP OPEN OFFICE HOURS

Our AVP, Chad Stirrett, is sharing open office hours from 1-4 p.m. on the last Wednesday of every month. For the month of March, it has been rescheduled for April 3. Other meeting times can also be made available on request. To schedule a meeting, please contact Laura Cornish at 269-387-8556 or laura.cornish@wmich.edu.

FOLLOW FM ON SOCIAL MEDIA

I want to sincerely thank everyone from the Service Center to all the Maintenance, Custodial and EHS workers who responded so quickly in order to help avert a more disastrous situation than we were able to keep it contained to! A special thanks to our custodian Mary who upon running back downstairs for more equipment to help with the flood upstairs, noticed the water coming from under the computer room door! This all could have been so much more of a disaster without everyone's speedy response! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

- Missy Scarf, Public Safety

The person (Roy Middlebrooks) was very nice and he even showed me the proper way to reset the breaker.

- Samantha, Resident at Western View

Joe (Baxter) is fantastic! He is always thorough and sees the job through to satisfactory resolution. He even follows up to make sure his work lasts.

- Gregory Macleery, Dining Services

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 11 - Campus Master Plan open houses

Apr 18 - Parkview campus hydrant flushing

Apr 20 - Main/East campus hydrant flushing

Apr 27 - Commencement

May 27 - Memorial Day

LINKS OF INTEREST

wmich.edu/wmutoday

wmich.edu/wellness

wmich.edu/news/2024/02/74592

wmich.edu/master-plan

alleycat.org/take-action/leave-them-be



@facilities_wmu / WMU Facilities

If you are interested in submitting information for the next Facilities Connection newsletter, please contact Laura Kirkendall at laura.l.kirkendall@wmich.edu.