

# Permaculture in Higher Education

By Joshua Shultz

Permaculture Program Coordinator  
Western Michigan University Office for  
Sustainability

# Table of Contents

- 1 What is permaculture
- 1 Techniques
- 1 Gibbs House Permaculture Demonstration Site
- 1 WMU East Campus, Parkview Campus, and Main Campus Permaculture
- 1 Cape Eleuthera Island School Permaculture
- 1 UMass Franklin Permaculture
- 1 Higher Ed. Permaculture Design Certificate
- 1 Permaculture Ideas for WMU (Discussion)

# What is Permaculture

Permaculture is an **ecological design science** drawing inspiration from natural ecosystems and permanent cultures from around the world.

The term permaculture originated in Australia in 1978 – originally a combination of the words permanent & agriculture. It has since been expanded to mean permanent-culture and includes all aspects of what makes a human culture successful, from where we obtain food, fuel, fiber, medicine, energy, water, building materials and even expands into the connection between people and how we organize our social interactions and rely on one another.

# *Permanent Culture*

- Permaculture = permanent-culture
- Bill Mollison wrote “Permaculture One” in 1978
- Everything that makes up a culture
  - Food, fuel, fiber, medicine, energy, buildings, water, people, nature, livestock
- Optimize rather than maximize
- Relationships between elements
- Observe before interacting
- Slow and steady
- Value the margin

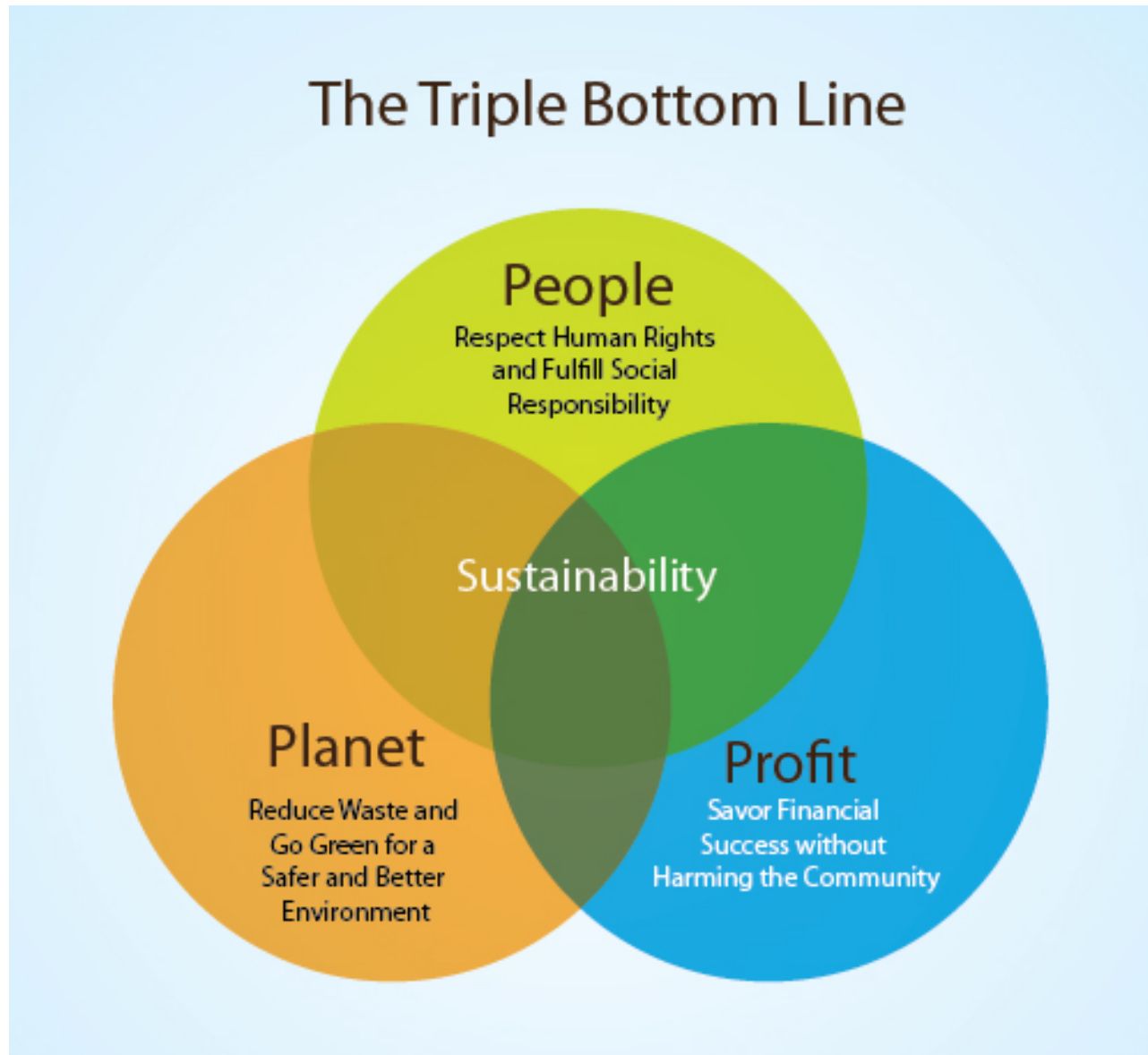


# Permaculture



Sustainability, when we arrive at the center where ethics inform actions in each of three spheres so that a decision in one considers and enhances the others.

# Triple Bottom Line of Sustainable Businesses



Creatively Use & Respond to Change  
(envision possibilities and  
intervene in effective ways)

Use Edges; Value the Marginal  
(important things happen  
at the intersections)

Observe and Interact  
(pay attention)

Use & Value Diversity  
(diversity leads to  
greater resilience)

Catch and Store Energy  
(harvest while it's abundant)

Use Small, Slow Solutions  
(local resources & responses,  
manageable scale)

Obtain a Yield  
(make sure you're  
getting valuable results)

Integrate  
(capitalize on how  
things work together)

Self-Regulate; Accept Feedback  
(be open to modify  
dysfunctional behaviours)

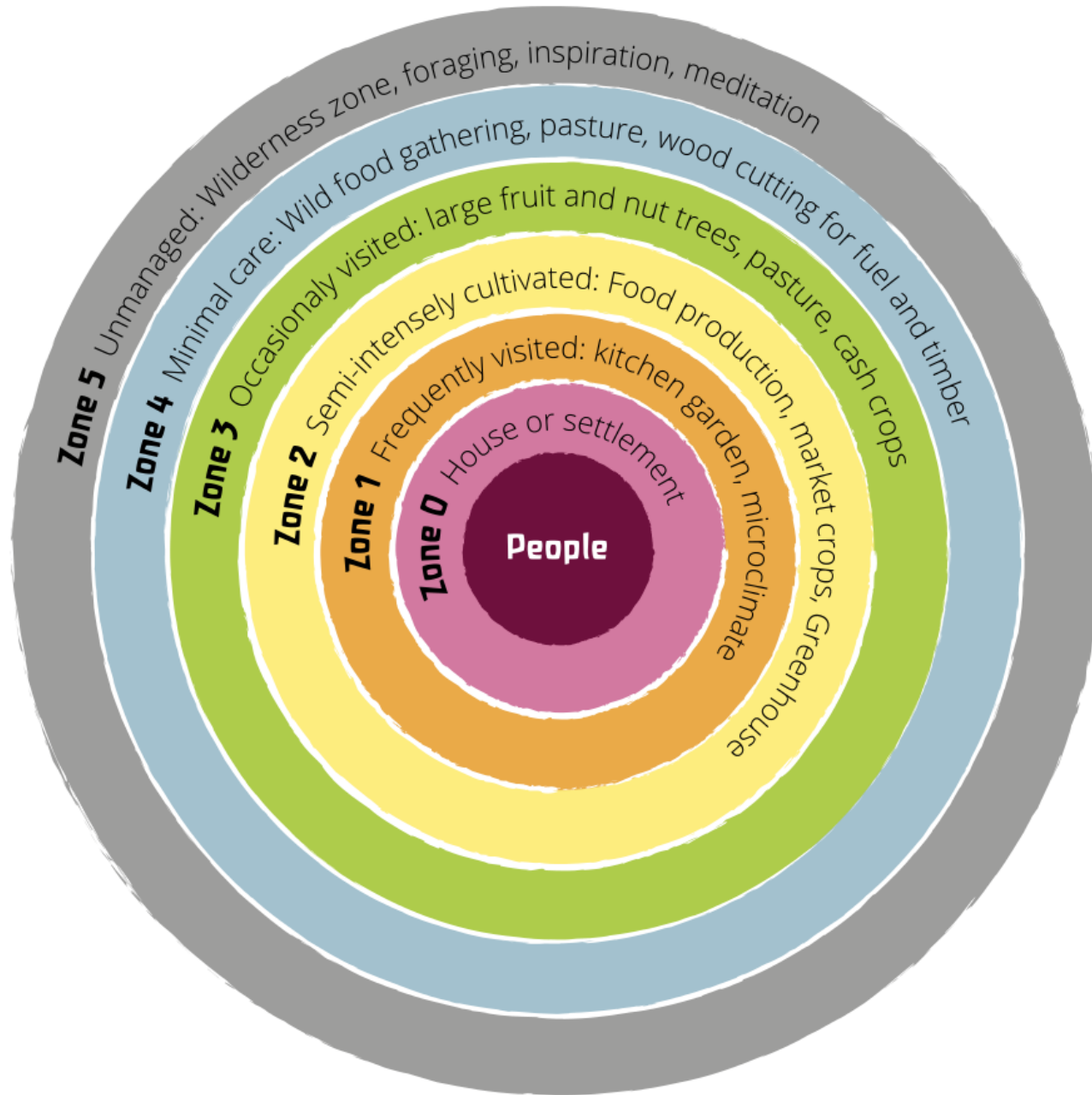
Design from Pattern to Detail  
(observe natural/social patterns  
and apply them to design)

Use & Value Renewables  
(reduce dependency  
on scarce resources)

Produce No Waste



# Zones

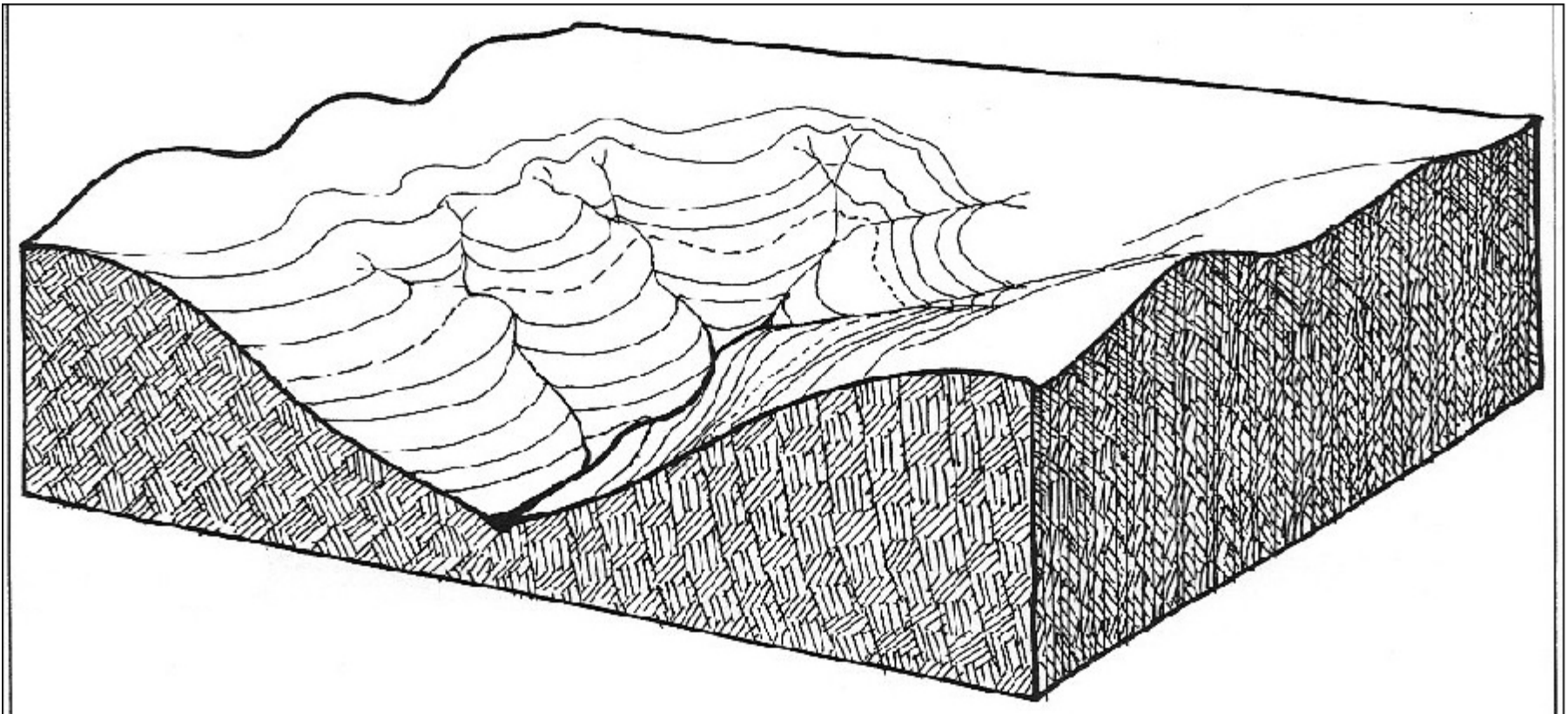
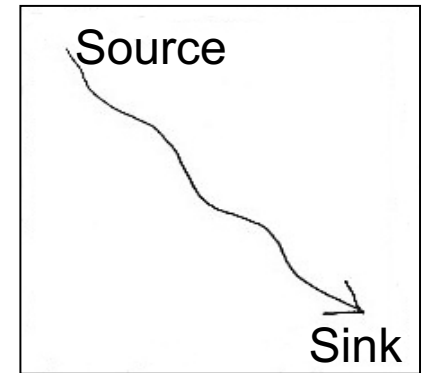




# *Non-sustainable Water Use*

## *Current Water Culture:*

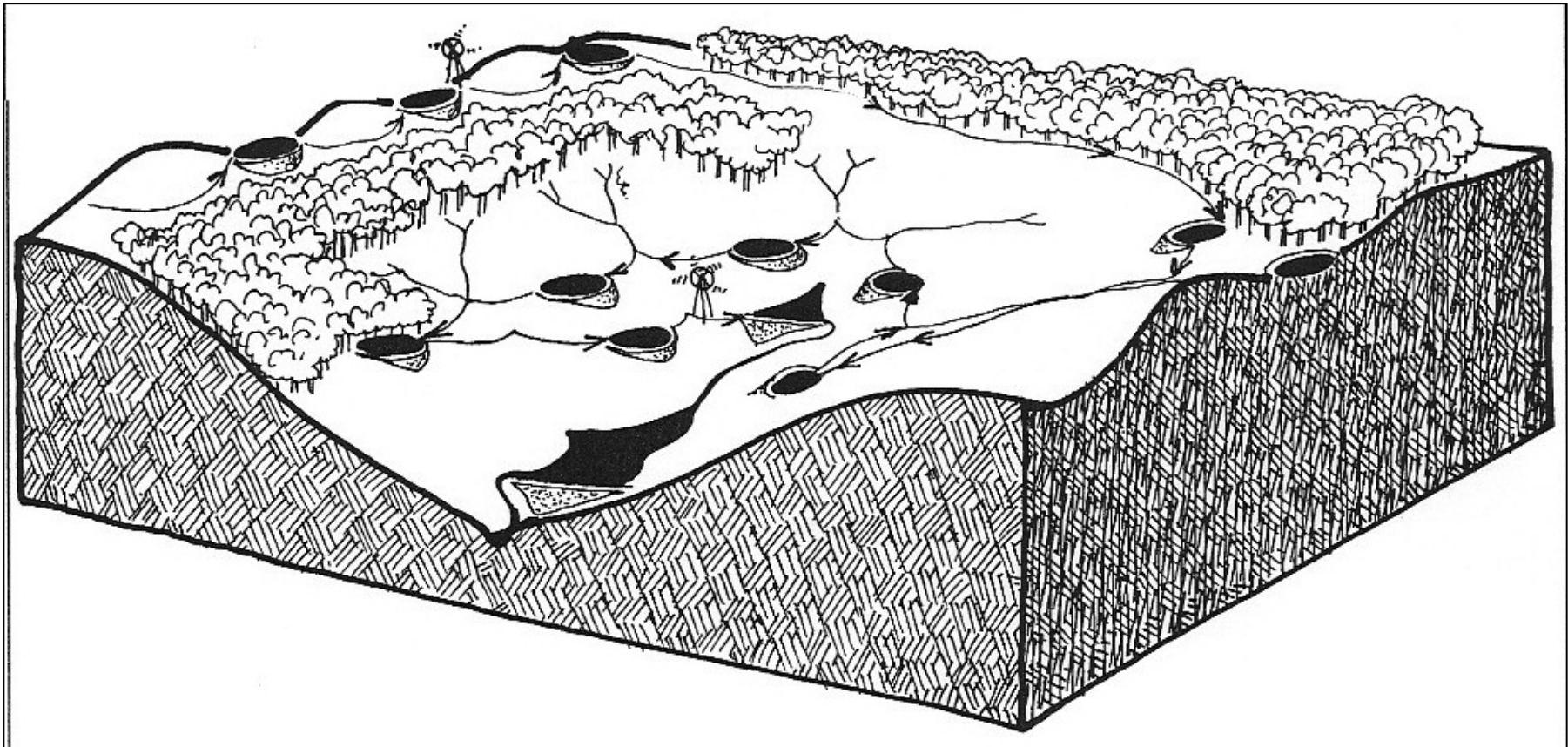
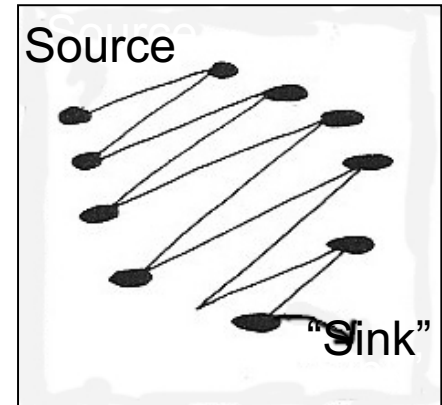
Channel water off landscape as quickly as possible  
Move polluted water away from area  
Disregard communities downstream



# *Sustainable Water Use*

## *A New Water Culture:*

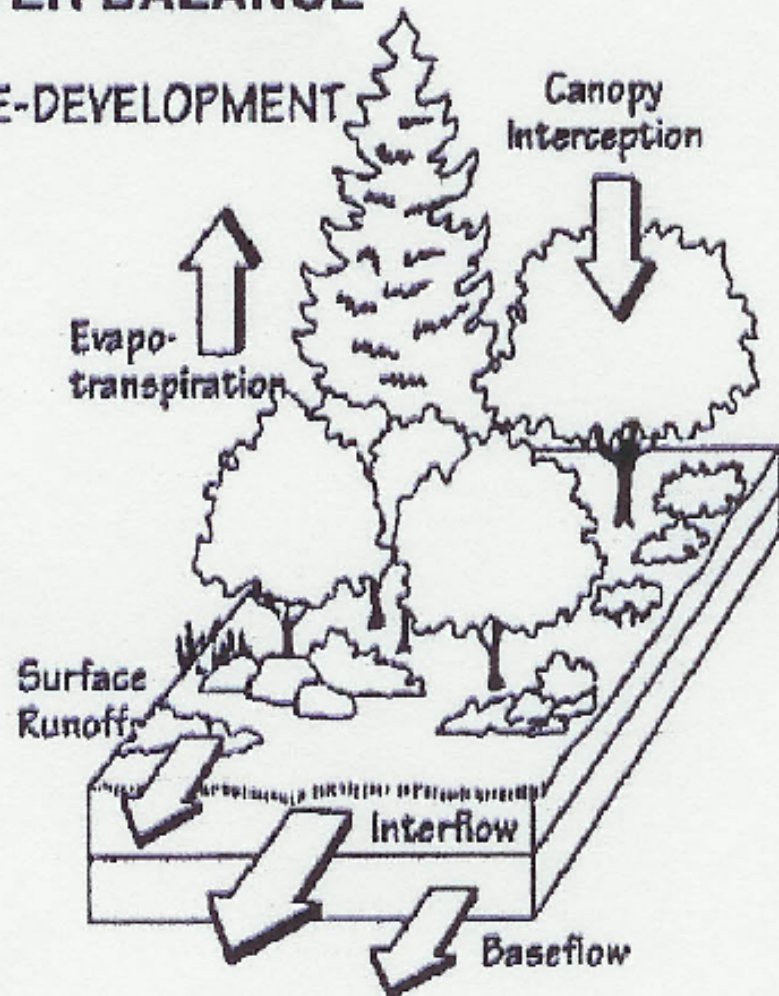
Landscape to collect and store precipitation  
Minimize water pollution  
Maximize Efficiency  
Eliminate Waste  
Maintain social and ecological integrity of the community



# *Changes in Our Water Budget*

## WATER BALANCE

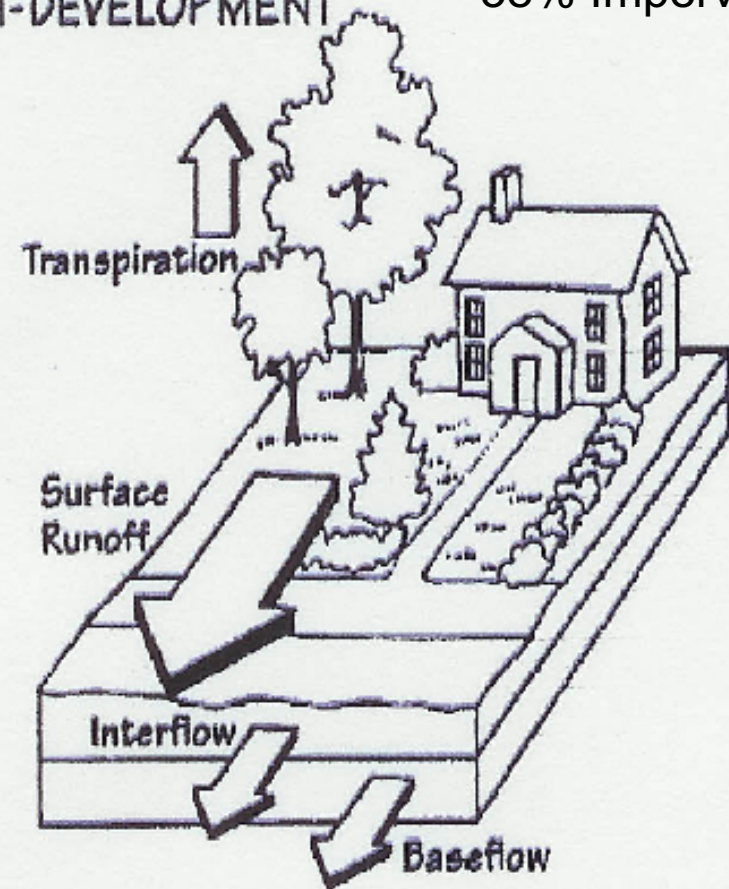
### PRE-DEVELOPMENT



### POST-DEVELOPMENT

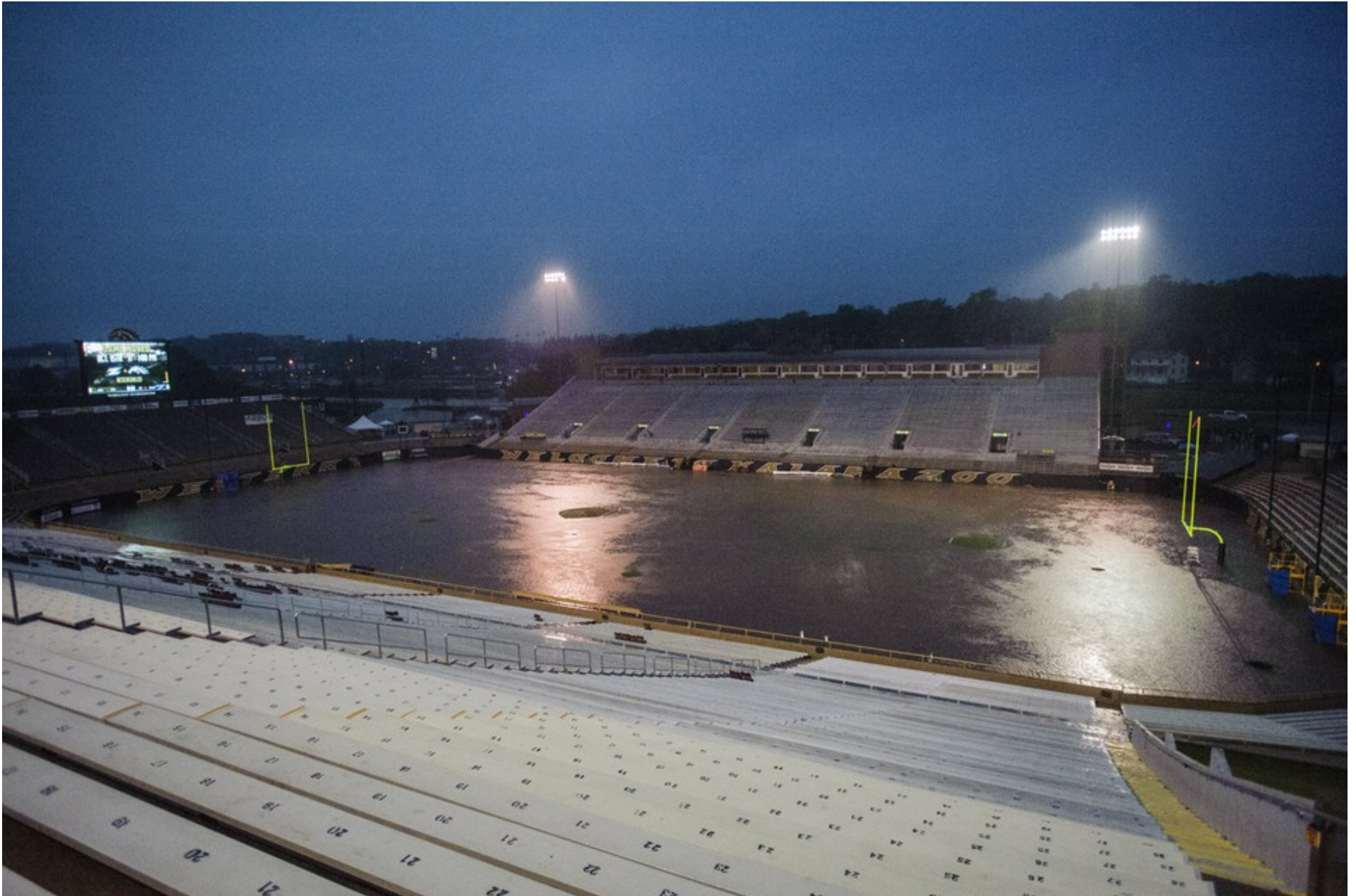
WMU

38% Impervious





# Problems?



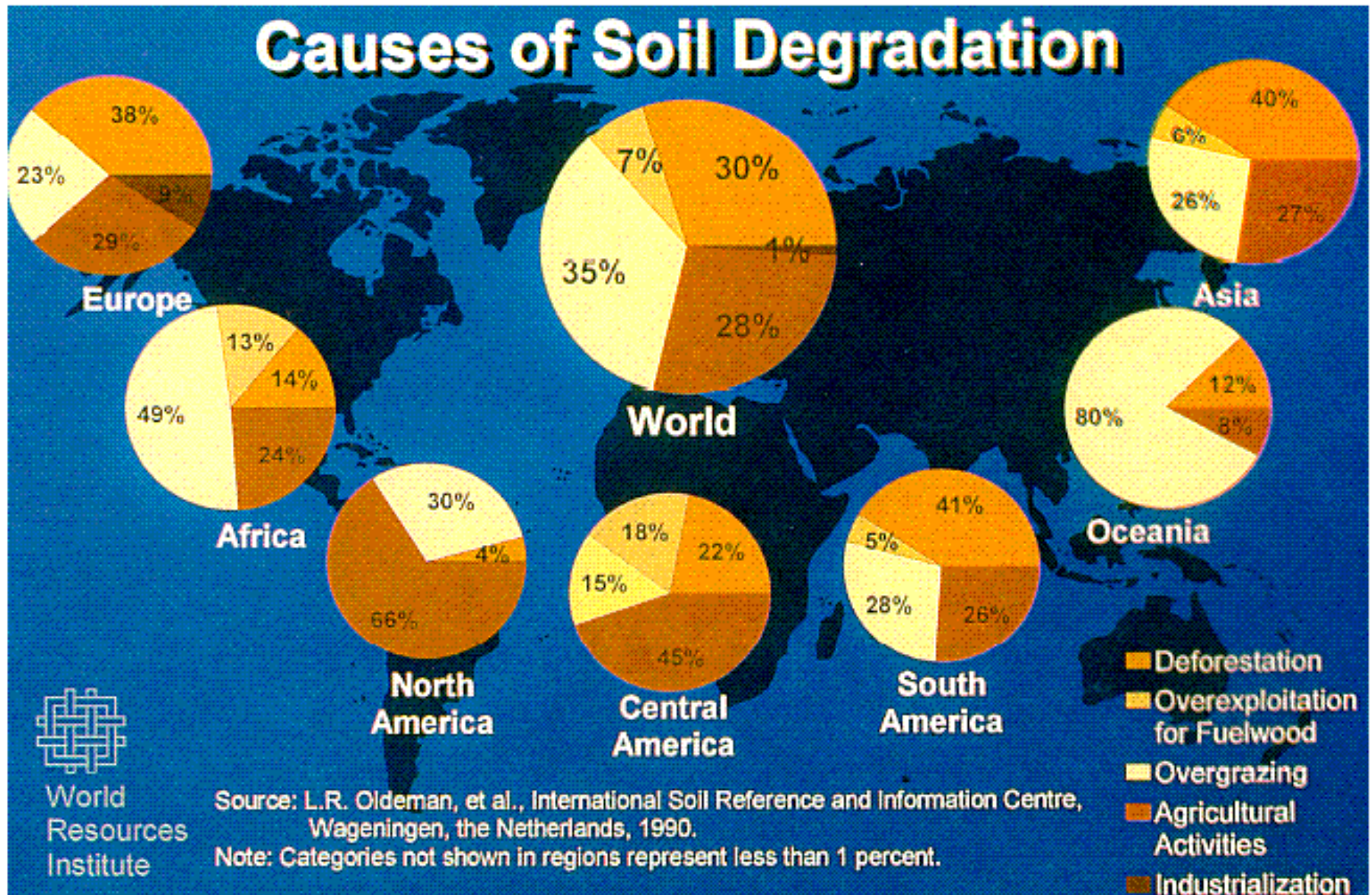


# Contaminants

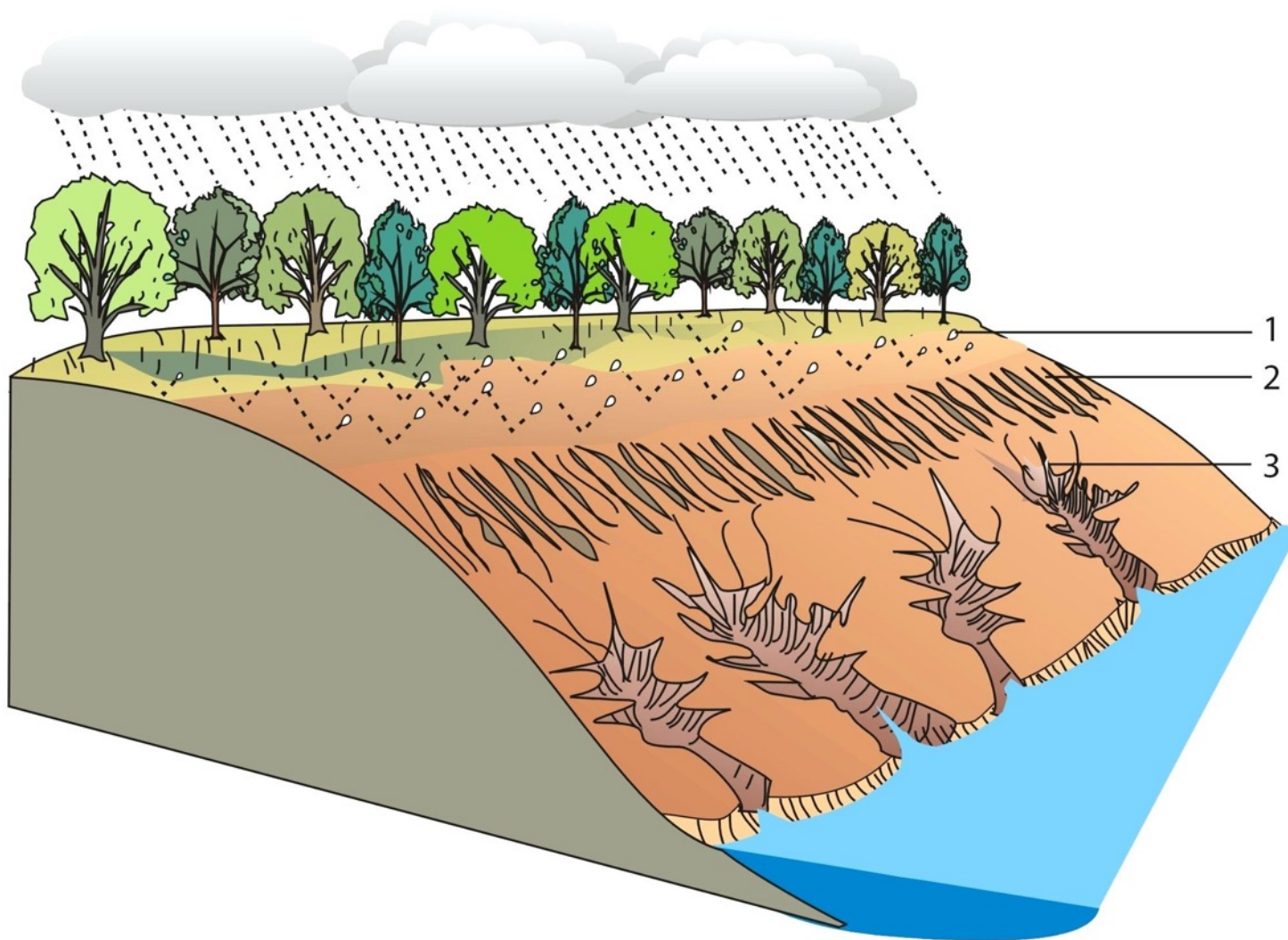




# Organic Material and Soil Loss



# Mechanical Loss



## 1. Sheet erosion

Raindrops that hit the ground can loosen soil. These loose grains are easily washed away. Sheet erosion removes the loose grains. It may go unnoticed until most of the productive **topsoil** has been lost. The field is gradually eroded in a more or less uniform way.

## 2. Rill erosion (channel)

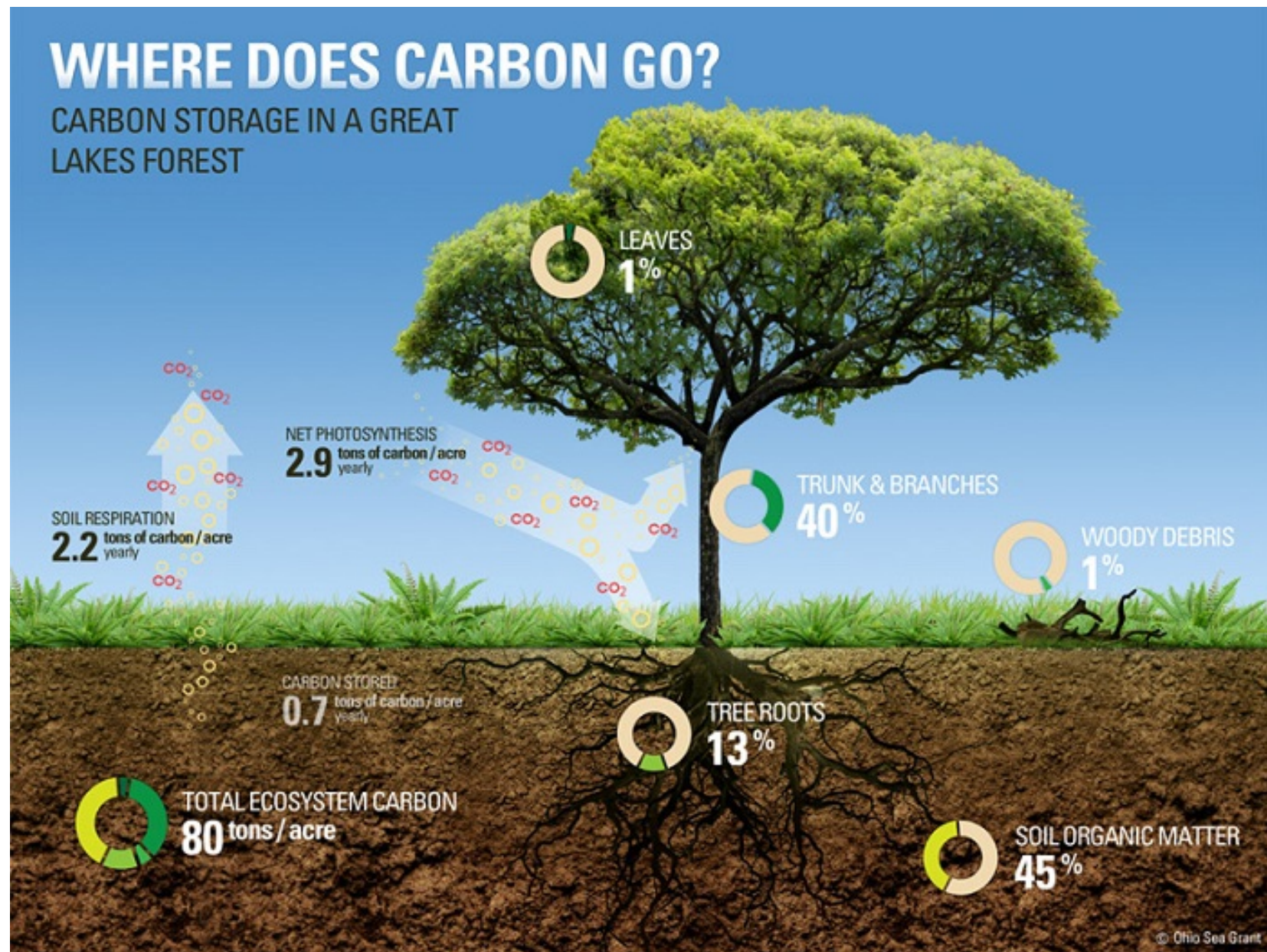
Water collects in small channels called rills. Each rill is like a mini-river. The rills carry soil down a slope. Rills can grow into gullies.

## 3. Gully erosion (dongas)

A gully is a deep trench with steep sides. In South Africa, a gully is called a donga. Dongas appear as deep scars on a slope. In some dongas all the soil and some of the loose bedrock have been washed away. Dongas usually occur near the bottom of slopes.



# Carbon Loss





# Food Forest



# Hugelkultur

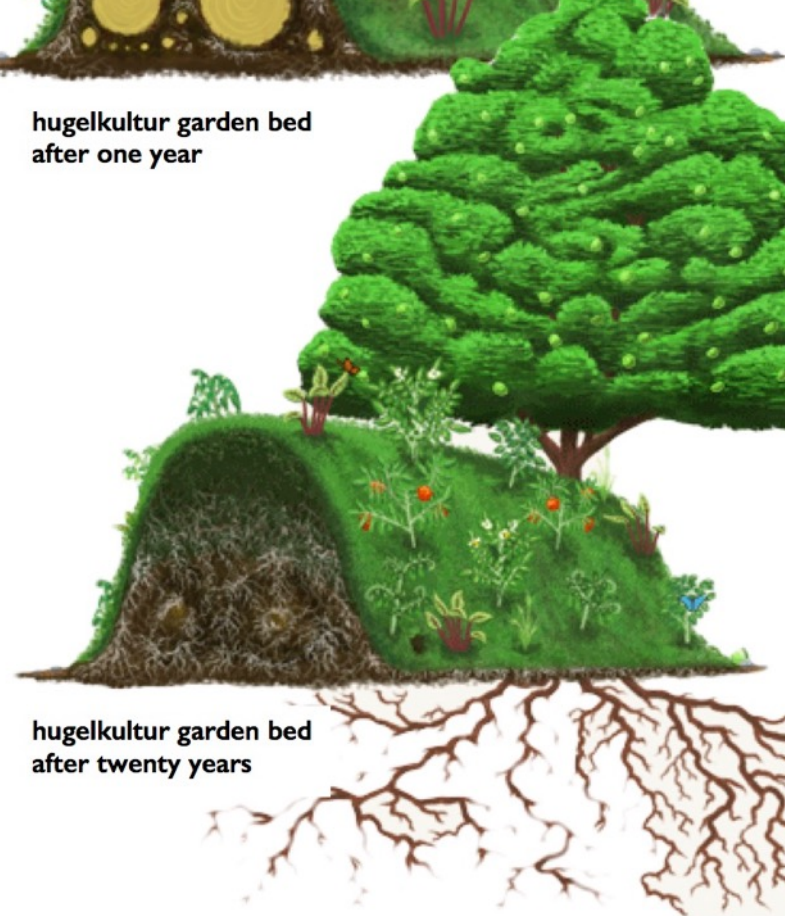


hugelkultur garden bed  
after one month

hugelkultur garden bed  
after one year



hugelkultur garden bed  
after two years



hugelkultur garden bed  
after twenty years



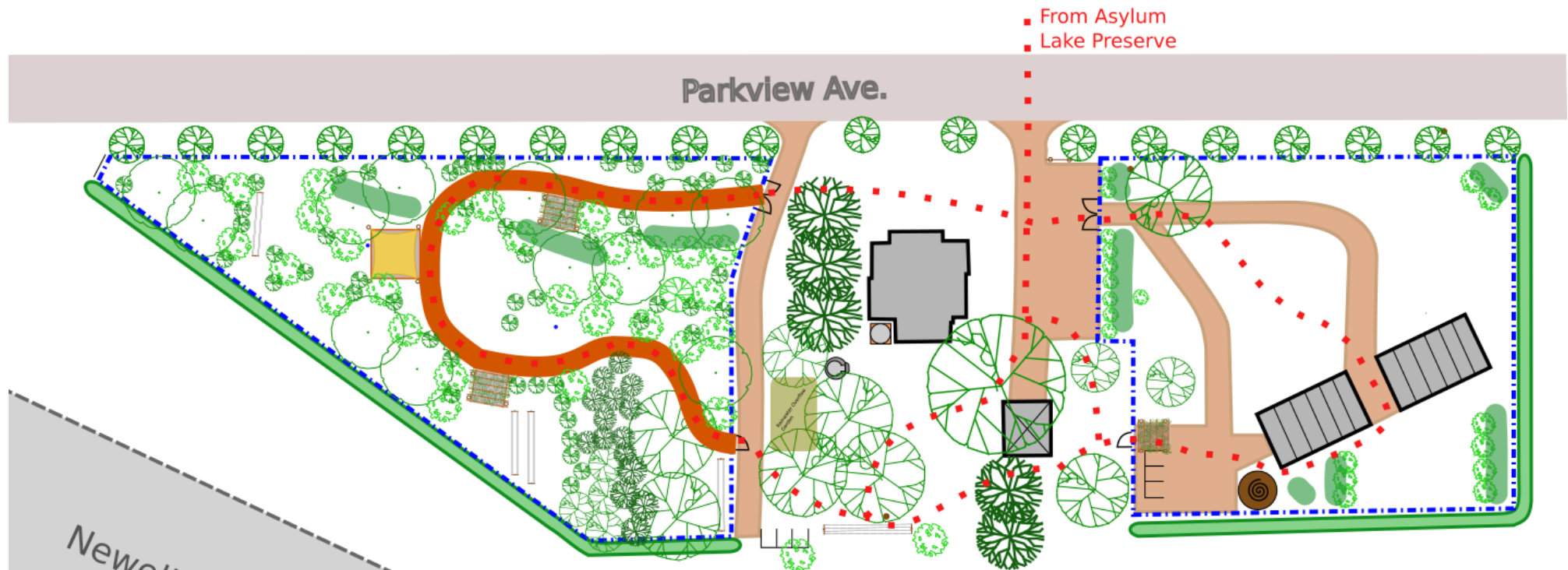


Prepared for the Office for Sustainability By:  
Cedar Creek Permaculture Design  
Joshkhan2001@gmail.com  
269.331.0461

# Western Michigan University

## Gibbs House

### Property Master Plan



# Gibbs Hugelkultur 2014 & 2017

2014



2017



# Gibbs Rainwater Cistern





# Gibbs Compost Hot Water Heater



2015

2017





# Gibbs Vermicomposting





# Black Soldier Fly Larvae





# Gibbs Food Forest

2017



2015



# Gibbs Food Forest





# Vegetable Garden







# WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

## PARKVIEW CAMPUS



WMU FACILITIES MANAGEMENT  
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION  
AUGUST 2017

WMU Interactive Map  
<http://www.wmich.edu/maps>

WMU Campus Map  
<http://www.wmich.edu/maps/print>



# CEAS Zone Overview





# Prescribed Burn at Asylum Lake Preserve



# Lawnscaping

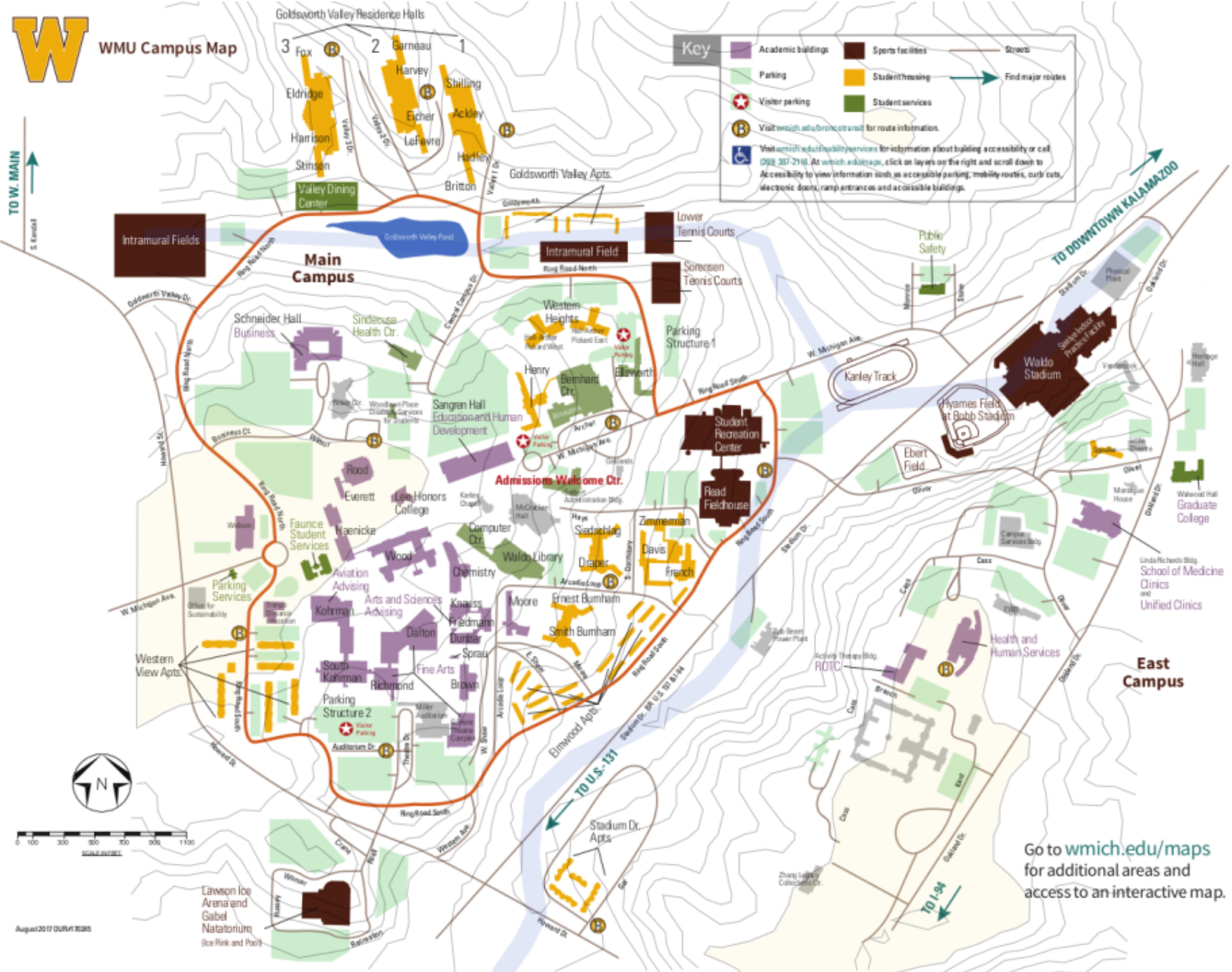
## Turf Management

Managing the turf on East and CEAS campuses requires keen observation as the team follows nature's lead. Soil testing along with low impact practices such as aeration and topdressing using compost helps to return the soil back to a biologically active state.

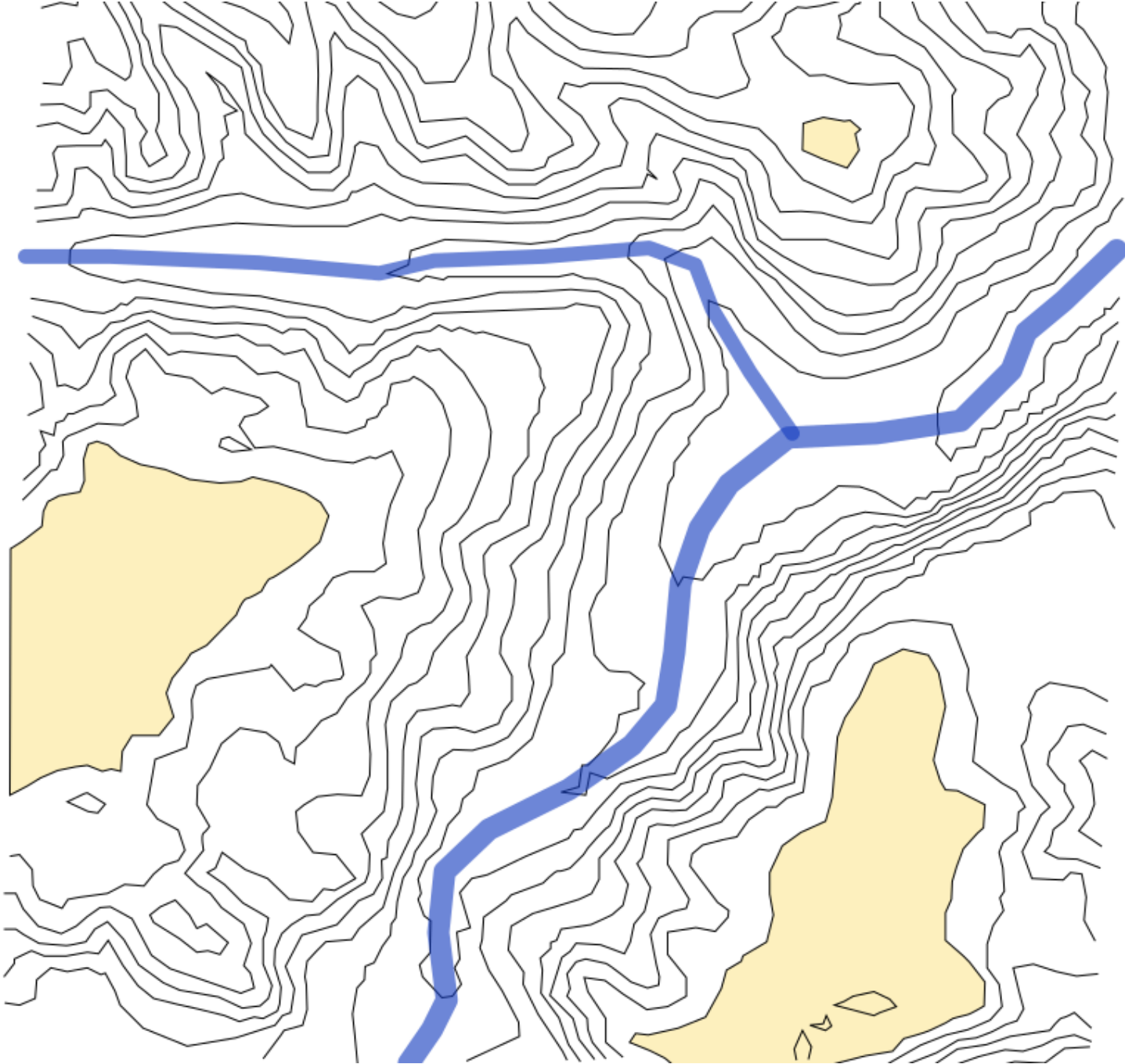




# WMU Main Campus

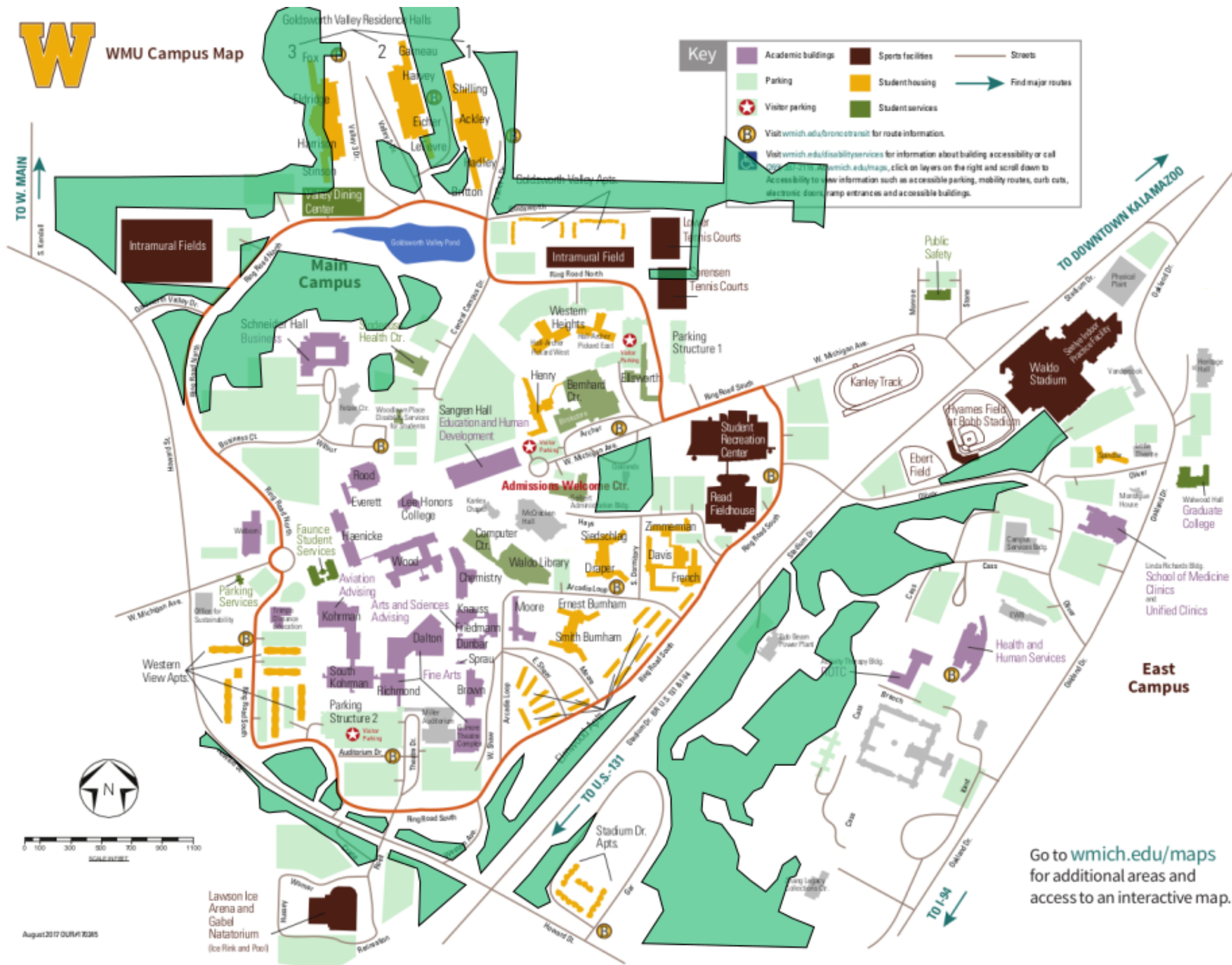


# WMU Hills and Valleys



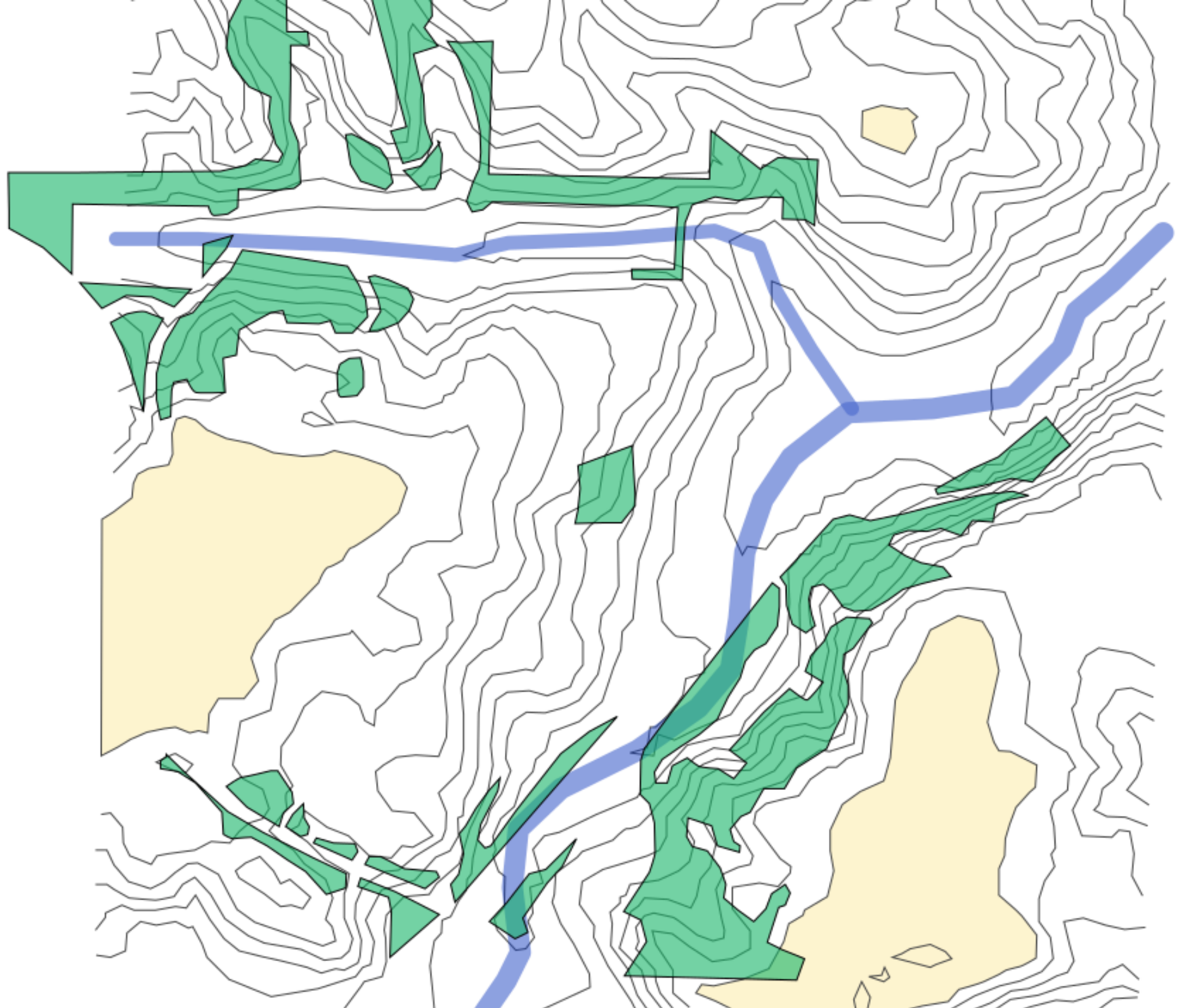


# WMU Campus Map



Go to [wmich.edu/maps](http://wmich.edu/maps) for additional areas and access to an interactive map.





# WMU Campus Storm Water

## 1. Sangran Hall

- 1 Underground Detention
- 1 Porous Pavement
- 1 Green Roof
- 1 Solar PV Array

## 2. Chemistry Building

- # Surface Detention

### 3. S. Kohrman Hall

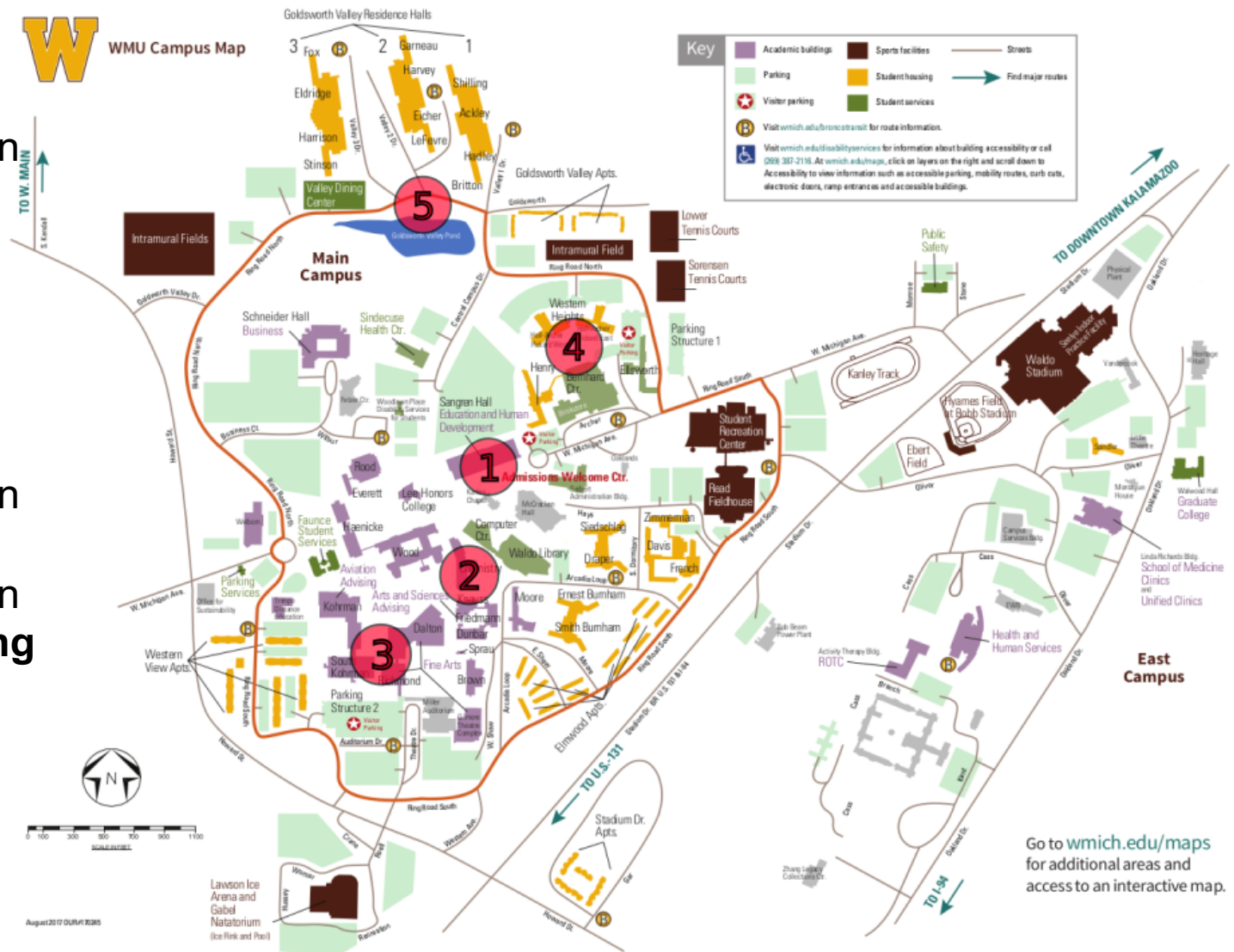
- ## Underground Detention

## 4. Western Heights

- ## Underground Detention

## 5. Goldworth Valley Dining Facility and Detention Pond

- Underground Storm
- Rain Gardens
- Surface Detention





# Native Planting

“Native Plantings aid in the restoration of the ecological systems on East campus” May 31, 2018

Inventory: 45 Flats

- Columbine
- C. Cristata
- C. Lanceolata
- “Family Jewels” Milkweed
- Eupatorium Maculatum
- Tradescantia Pallida “Spiderwort”
- Ascepias Syriaca
- Cassia herbacarpa
- Smooth Penstemon
- Eupatorium
- Whorled Milkweed
- Veronica “Stricta”
- Elymus hystrix
- Helianthus
- Smooth Aster
- Rosin Weed
- Butterfly Weed
- Elymus “Canadian Wild Rye”
- Iron Weed
- Cup Plant

\*Seeds were harvested from WMU prairies and landscapes. Plants were grown on at the WMU Finch greenhouse.



Cup Plant

# Heritage Hall No-Mow/Reforestation/Natives

2018



East Campus Heritage Hall Site



# Little Theater No-Mow/Natives





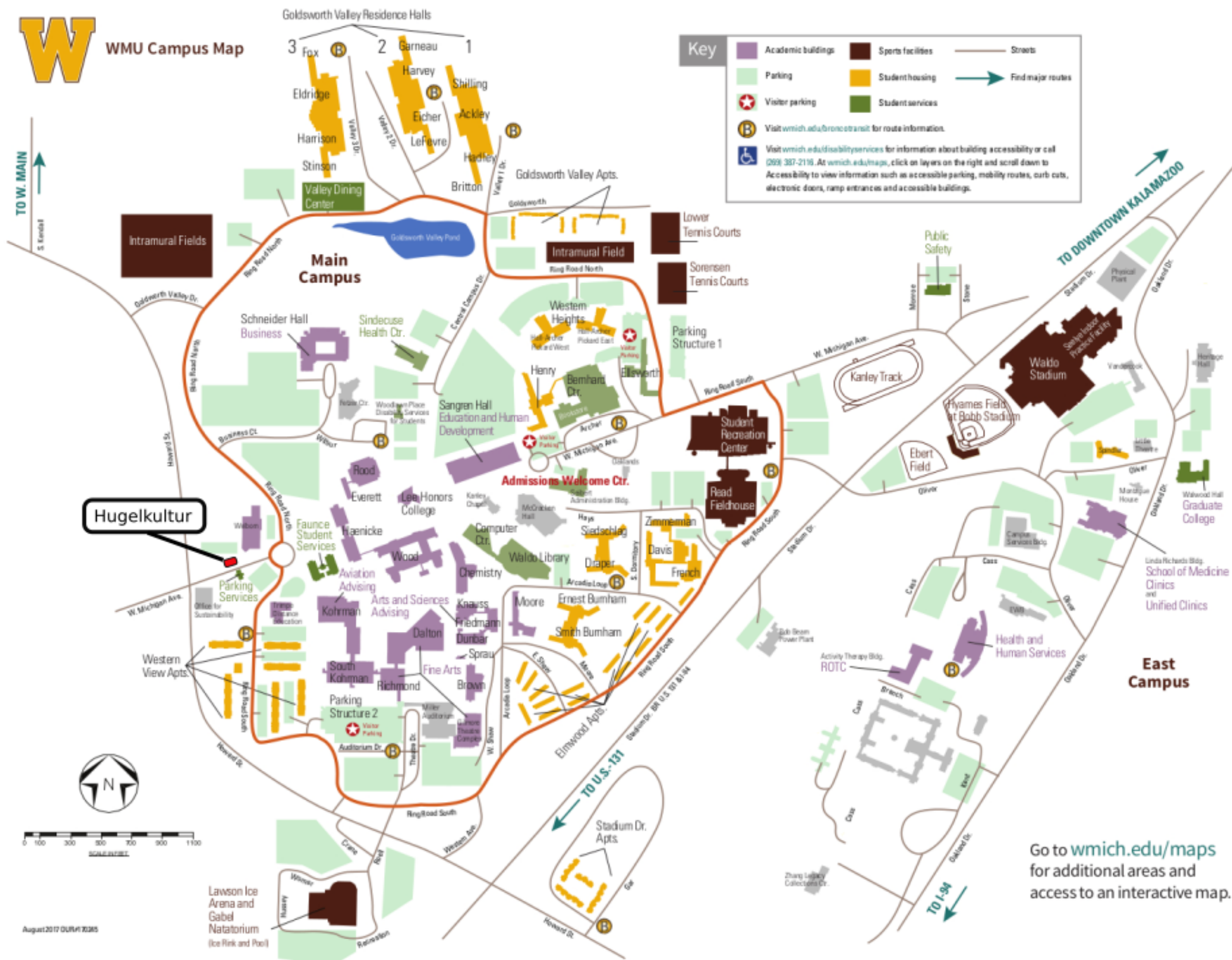
# WMU Hugelkultur







# WMU Campus Map





# CHHS Forest Garden



Located within the beautiful grounds of CHHS, the Forest Garden provides a multitude of educational and passive recreation opportunities. Elderberries, Paw Paw, and Serviceberry are the beginnings of a dynamic forest garden that will provide food/medicine/habitat/ and many other ecological services.





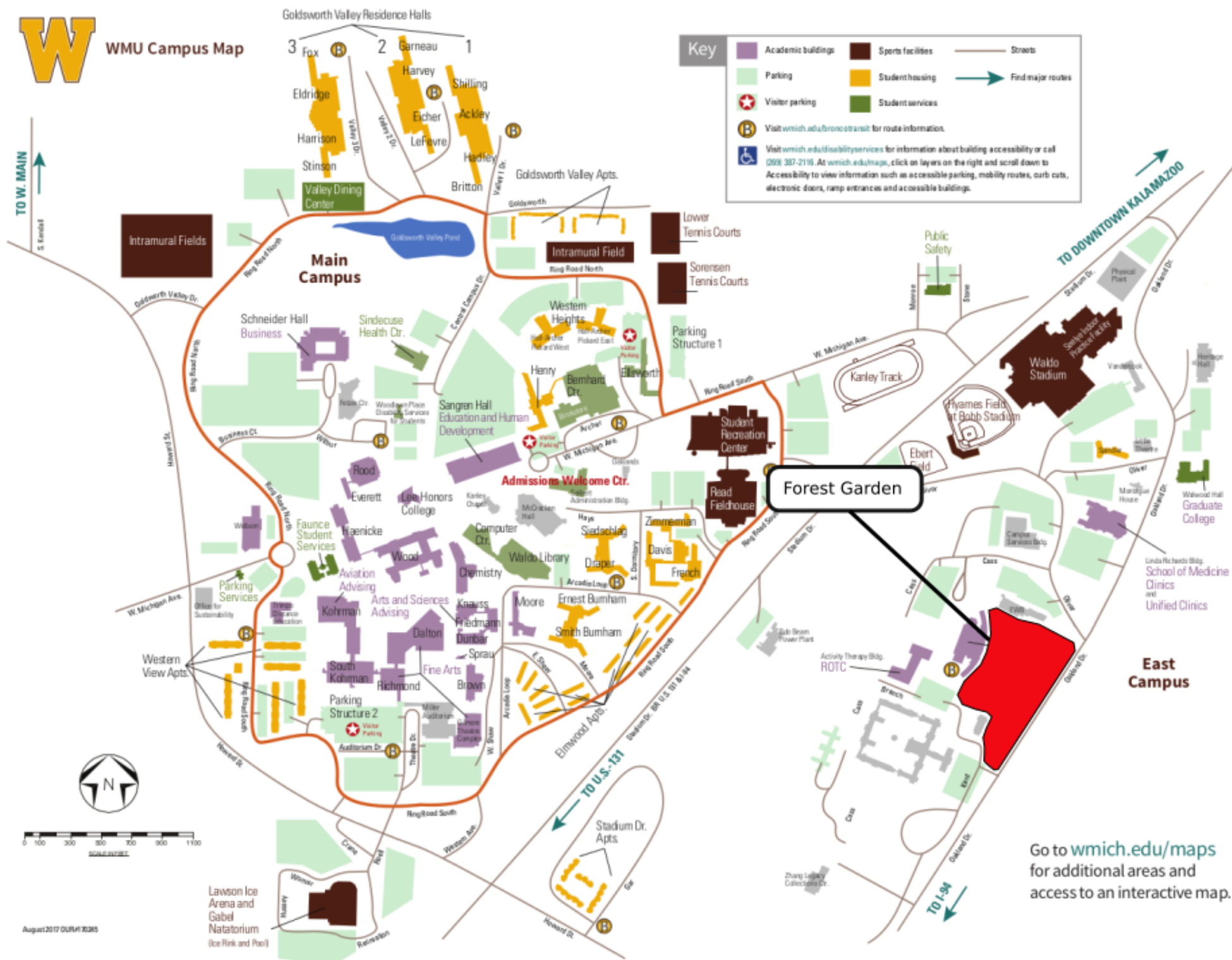
# CHHS Forest Garden





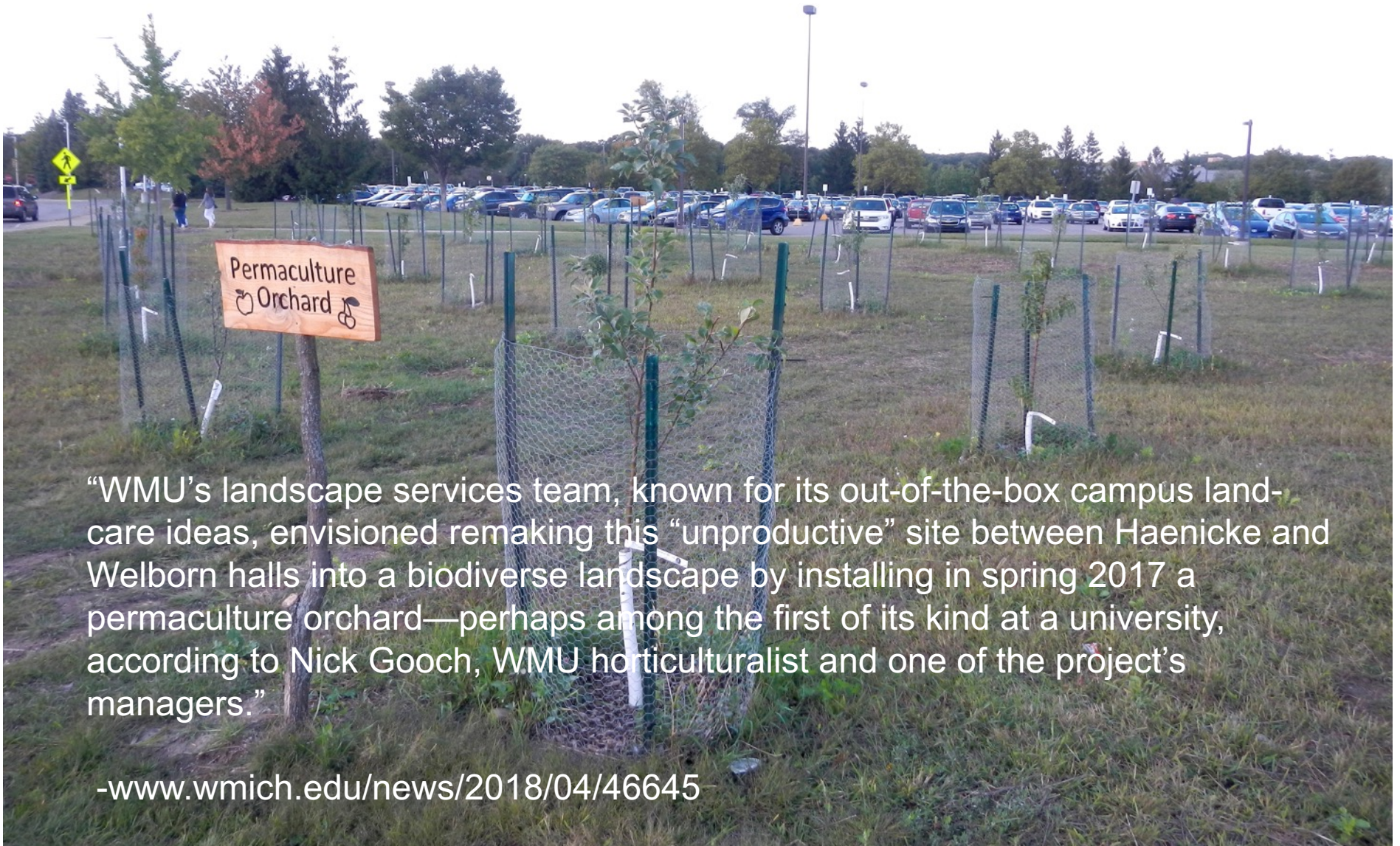


# WMU Campus Map





# Permaculture Orchard



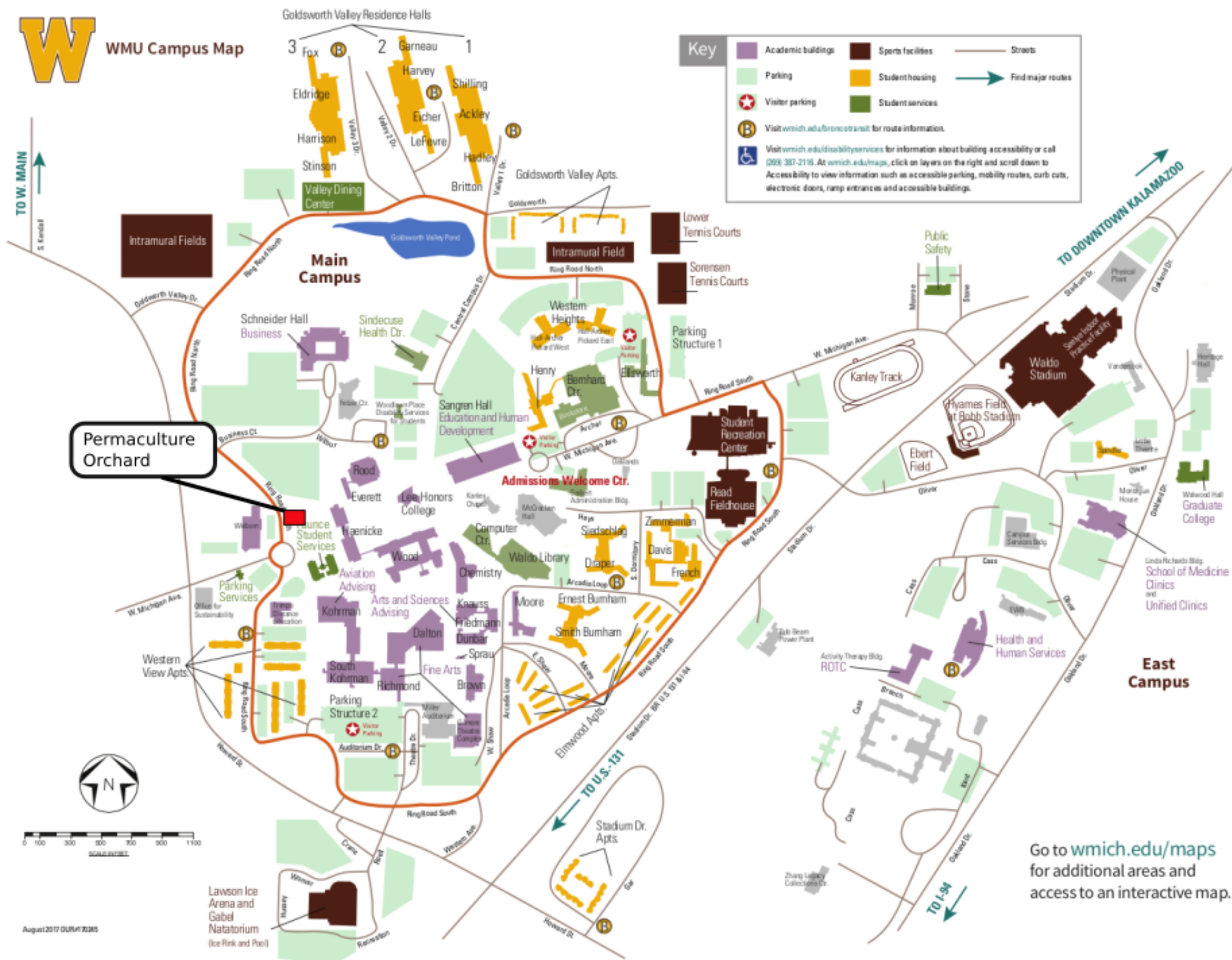
“WMU’s landscape services team, known for its out-of-the-box campus landscape ideas, envisioned remaking this “unproductive” site between Haenicke and Welborn halls into a biodiverse landscape by installing in spring 2017 a permaculture orchard—perhaps among the first of its kind at a university, according to Nick Gooch, WMU horticulturalist and one of the project’s managers.”

-[www.wmich.edu/news/2018/04/46645](http://www.wmich.edu/news/2018/04/46645)





# WMU Campus Map



# WMU Goats

**This pilot project began with Nick Gooch, WMU horticulturist, who proposed bringing goats to campus to test their viability for helping to control invasive plant species infesting campus woodlots, particularly buckthorn, honeysuckle, oriental bittersweet and poison ivy.**



**"The current management practice to combat these species using labor, machinery and chemical herbicides is labor- and capital-intensive and fails to improve the site to allow the native community to achieve balance and restore the ecosystem"**



# The Island School and Cape Eleuthera Institute





# Tilapia Aquaponics





# Black Water Waste Garden

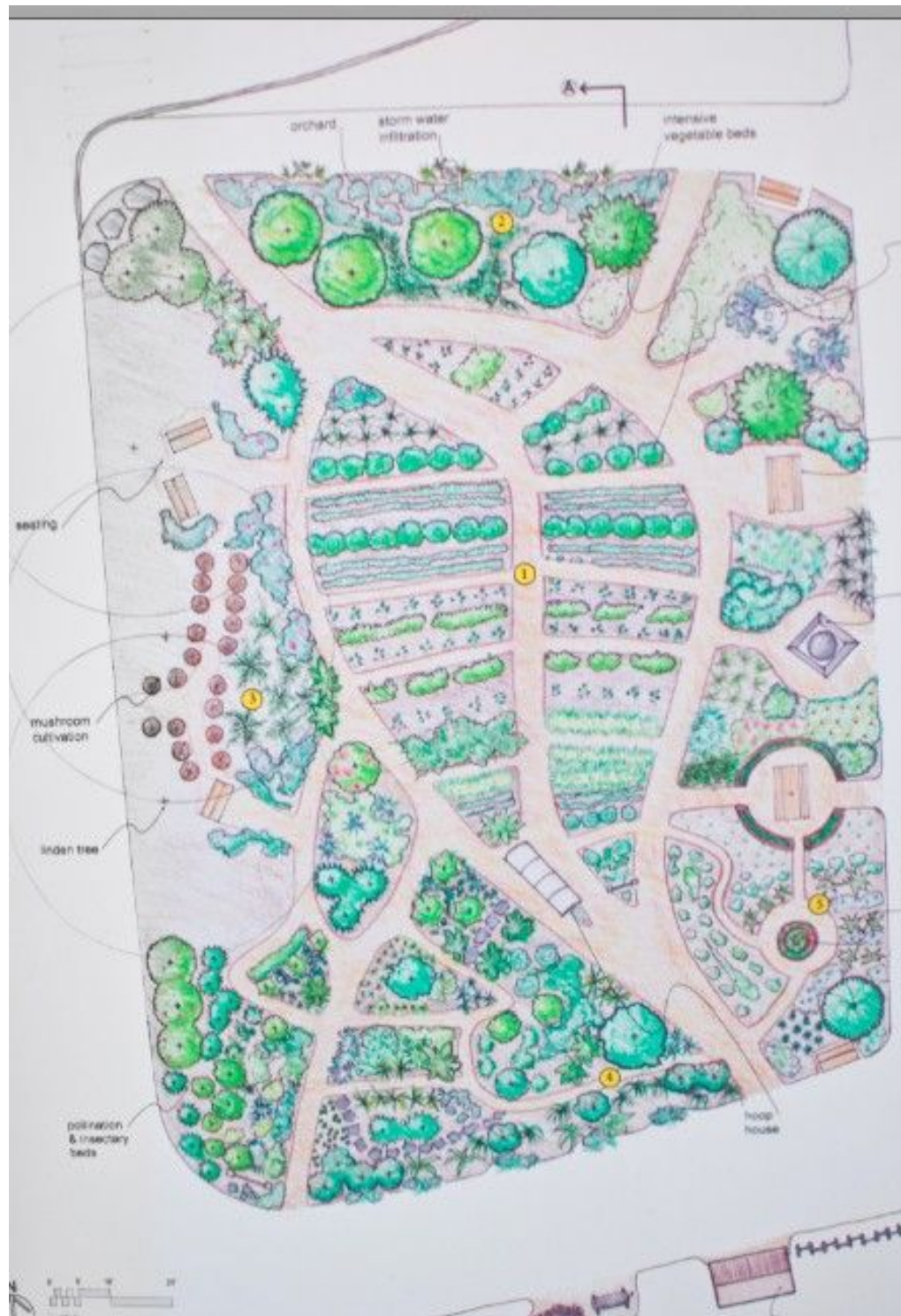


# University of Massachusetts

## **Facts and benefits of Umass Permaculture**

- Converted a 12,000 s.f. grass lawn to permaculture garden
- Moved over 500,000 pounds of organic matter by hand, using 250 volunteers
- Hands-on education for campus and local community
- Involved Big Brothers Big Sisters organization, numerous schools and summer campus
- Producing food for Umass Dining Services
- Featured in dozens of print, TV, radio, online publications
- Receiving international media attention
- Nominated for a Real Food Challenge Award





# University of Massachusetts Amherst Franklin Permaculture Garden



# Franklin Garden





**Want cool housemates?**

We might want you, too!

# Amherst. House! Permaculture.

**9 month lease**

**9.1.13 - 5.31.14**



**E-mail: Ryan Harb**

**AmherstPermacultureHouse@Gmail.com**

**1 bedroom avail.. 3 already full  
@ \$450 + utils**

**APPLY IF YOU'RE ALL ABOUT:**

- \* Growing your own food
- \* Living cooperatively

- \* Cooking / eating good food with cool folks
- \* Working to live, rather than living to work!

**MORE GREATNESS!**

- \*Swimming hole next door
- \*Bike trail, bus stop, and walking trails all nearby

# University of Michigan Permaculture Garden

## Zone 1—North

### Raised Keyhole Gardens:

A keyhole garden is a circular garden with a small central path that allows the gardener access to every inch of growing space without walking on the soil or trampling smaller plants. They are useful ways to illustrate the permaculture principles of "Using Edges" and "Obtaining a Yield". A raised keyhole garden can be made simply using mulch materials and landscaping stones as a retaining wall. Raised beds offer their own advantages as well, such as making gardening more accessible to older gardeners that might not want to bend over for hours each day.

Keyhole beds often include a compost pile in the center which can be easily watered from the center path. This design adds "make no waste" and "integrate rather than segregate" to the list of permaculture principles illustrated.

### Entrance Pergola

Maypop—*Passiflora incarnata*

Hardy Kiwi—*Actinidia arguta*

### Flower Tower

Nasturtiums—*Tropaeolum* spp.

Beans—*Phaseolus vulgaris*

### Raised Keyhole Gardens

### Signage



Figure 7

### Flower Tower:

A flower tower is simply a 6' column of chicken wire, lined with burlap, with a 8.5' PVC pipe running through the center. This column is filled with soil and holes are cut into the wire/burlap so that flowers can be planted within. This creates additional growing space and provides a trellis for climbing plants. The visual aesthetic of seeing trailing nasturtiums falling from the upper holes while lower-planted beans climb up is a compelling argument for why interplanting systems are preferable to monocultures. The PVC pipe has holes drilled into it, so that watering the tower is simple process of leaving a hose in the central PVC pipe for a couple minutes each day.

### Fruit Tree Guild (Paw Paw tree)

### Nut Tree Guild (Hickory tree)

### Kitchen Garden

### Swale (on contour)

### Rose/Seaberry Hedge

### Wildflower Buffer

### Perennial N-Fixing Cover Crop

### Mulch Paths

### Annual N-Fixing Cover Crop

### Fence Guild

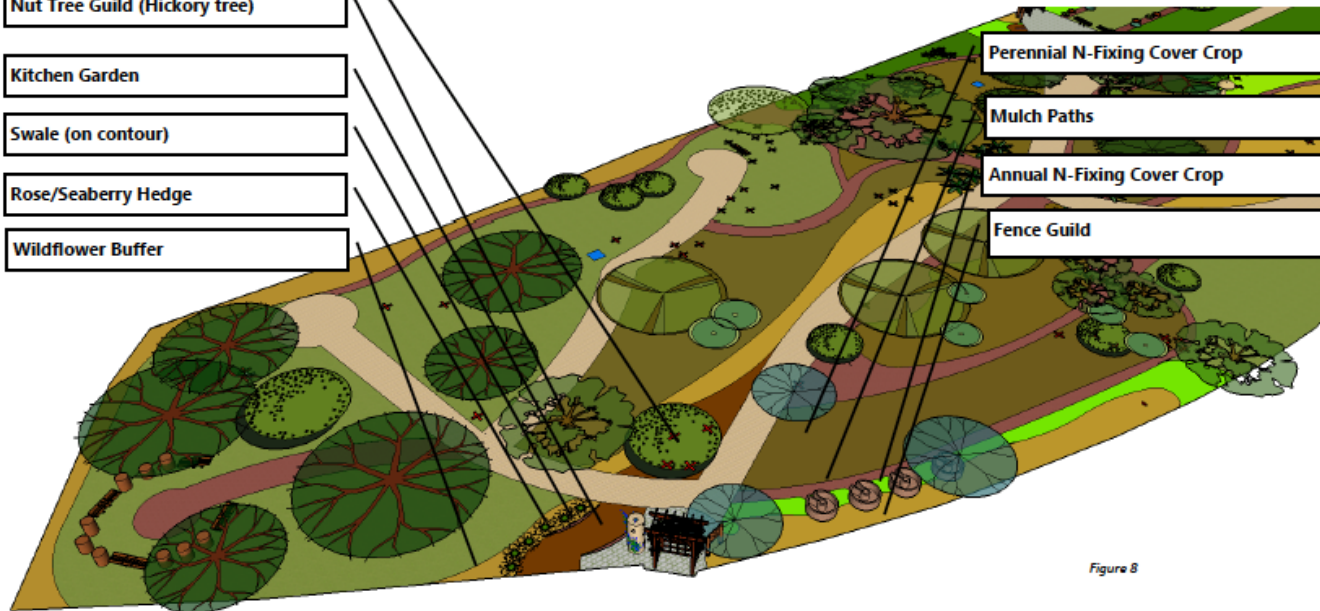


Figure 8



# UoM Permaculture Food Forest







# Grand Valley State University Sustainable Agriculture Project (SAP)





# Schools with PDC's - Intensive

## THE INTENSIVE

Most common way to fit PDC into 1 academic course.

Span from 12 full days to 7 weeks in academia; 15 days over 2-3 weeks is most common

Historically how PDCs usually taught

On campus or involves travel/ residential immersion on a farm

**Prescott College**

Env. Studies

**University of Vermont**

Env. Studies

**Indiana University**

Collins Living-Learning Centre

**Maharishi University**

Sustainable Living

**University of British Columbia**

Land & Food Systems

**CU Boulder**

Env. Studies

**Paul Smith's College**

Env. Studies

**St. Michael's College**

Env. Studies

**Sterling College**

Applied Sciences



# Schools with PDC's – One Semester

## **ONE SEMESTER-BASED COURSE**

Full PDC fit into one course on campus

**Oregon State University**

Horticulture

**Pacific University**

Art & Env. Studies

**UC Santa Cruz**

Kresge College

**Cornell University**

Horticulture

**Colby-Sawyer College**

Env. Studies

**Greenfield Community College**

Science

# Schools with PDC's – Two Semester

## **TWO COURSE SERIES**

PDC spread over two semester-long courses on campus

**Naropa University**

Env. Studies

**Santa Barbara City College**

Env. Horticulture

**North Carolina State University**

Horticulture

**University of Vermont**

Env. Studies

**UMass Amherst**

Agriculture



# Schools with PDC's - Hybrid

## **HYBRID**

Often involves a semester-long course plus a 5-7 day intensive course

**University of Victoria**

Env. Studies

**Plymouth State University**

Env. Planning

**Appalachian State University**

Sustainable Development

# Schools with PDC's - Certificate

## **ACADEMIC CERTIFICATE**

PDC earned through accumulation  
of several courses

**Bastyr University**

Holistic Landscape Design

**Merritt College**

Landscape Horticulture

**UMass Amherst**

Agriculture

**Lorain County Community College**

Sustainable Agriculture



# Schools with PDC's - Distance

## **DISTANCE COURSE**

Courses taken at a distance, usually online

Often offered via Extension/  
Continuing Studies

**Goddard College**

**Oregon State University**

**UMass Amherst**

**Prescott College**

**Cornell University**

**North Carolina State University**

**Gaia University (UK)**

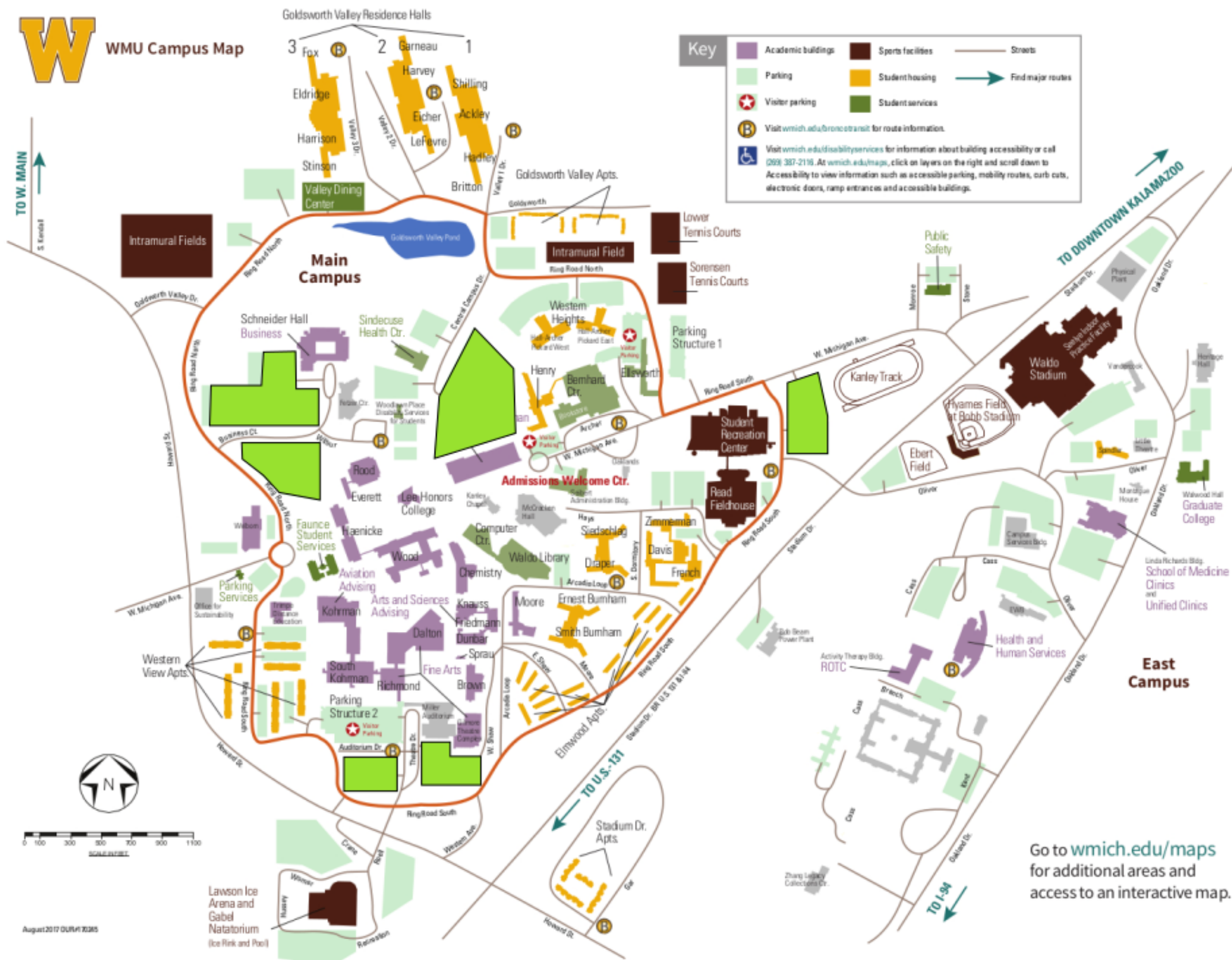
# Permaculture Ideas for WMU

- 1Food waste recycling for compost for landscaping and food
- 1Rainwater cisterns for water management and freshwater security (PFAS, lead, PCB's)
- 1PDC for Landscape Services and students
- 1Edible landscaping near dormitories and main walking paths
- 1No/low mow landscaping with native flowers and grasses
- 1Goats and sheep for managing forested areas and sloping landscapes
- 1Gardens for students and staff
- 1Separation of gray water to biodigester to power plant
- 1Less energy intensive storm water management (swales, ponds, terraces)
- 1All slopes over 15 degrees returned to forest (goats) or terraced



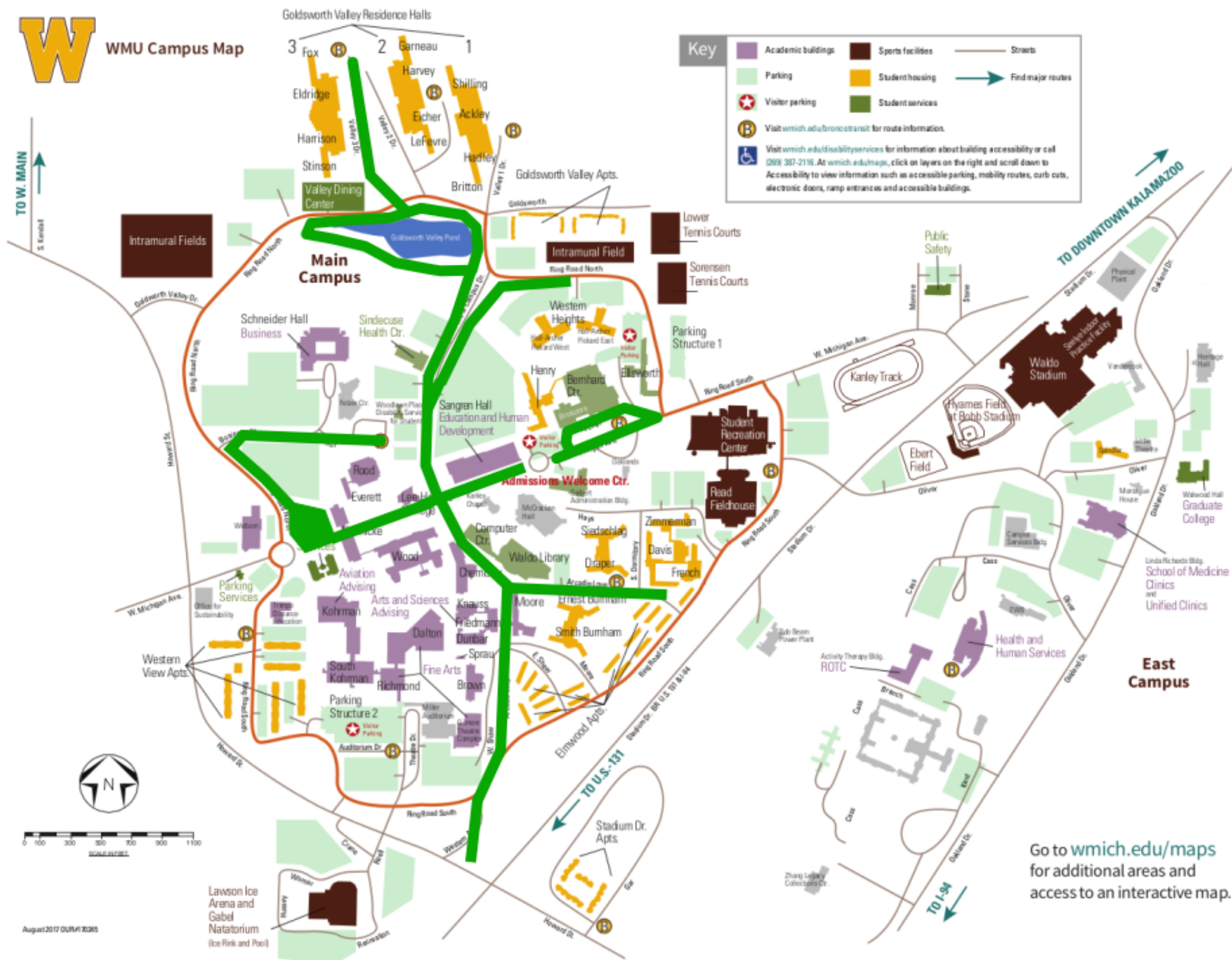


# WMU Campus Map





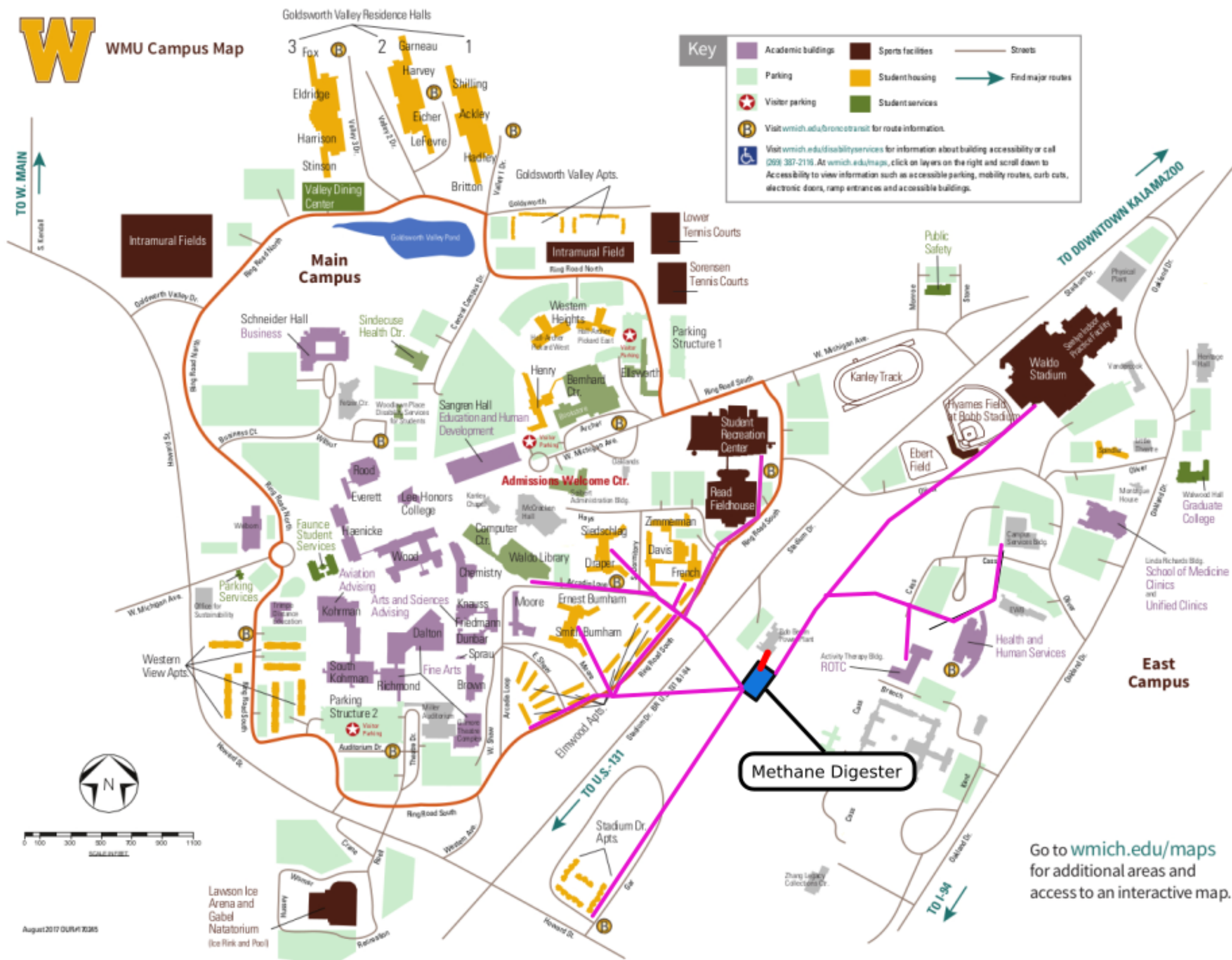
# WMU Campus Map







# WMU Campus Map



# Questions?

