

Northern Knollcrest Campus Transportation Connections: Creating sustainable improvements to Calvin's north most property

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Background

Transportation and connection issues facing the north end of campus:

1. The North end of the Knollcrest campus is relatively isolated from the broader community
2. The only reasonable campus access requires the use of an automobile
3. Joggers and other pedestrians are currently accessing the campus using illegal and dangerous means due to a lack of pedestrian pathways

Proposal

We are proposing four phases of improvements that Calvin might consider in order to improve access to the North end of campus. * It should be noted that these phases correspond with other Lake Drive proposal projects.

Phase 1: Create an eight foot pathway connecting along the Ravenswood property between Calvin's current network of paths and the entrance at Lake Drive, this will include sidewalks and additional stop signs to create a three way stop. A new campus safety pole and a street light will be added along the path for safety.

Phase 2: Create additional rain gardens and native landscaping on the Ravenswood property to account for runoff created by the new path connection and improve overall aesthetic quality.

Phase 3: Extend the new pathway westbound along the south side of Lake Drive up to the sidewalk and first available pedestrian crossing joining to the East Grand Rapids Network of sidewalks and path system.

Phase 4: Consider a dirt path system, for scenic viewing and access to both Ravenswood and President's Ponds, which will connect from the new path on the South side of Lake Drive to the current Calvin path system.

Benefits

Completing these phases will create a number of important benefits:

1. The new pathway will ensure safe access to and from campus along Lake Drive including groups of joggers who have traditionally used the roadway.
2. This new connection to the neighborhoods surrounding the Knollcrest campus on the north will foster greater community interaction including access to the Reed's Lake pathway system.
3. The new path system will encourage alternative and more sustainable modes of transportation for commuters traveling to and from Calvin's Campus by reducing dependence on automobiles.
4. The new pathway access to Lake Drive increases the likelihood of adding an additional bus route on Calvin's north side.
5. Improved aesthetics through the use of carefully planned landscaping will improve runoff and water retention as well as boost Calvin's visual image within the surrounding community.

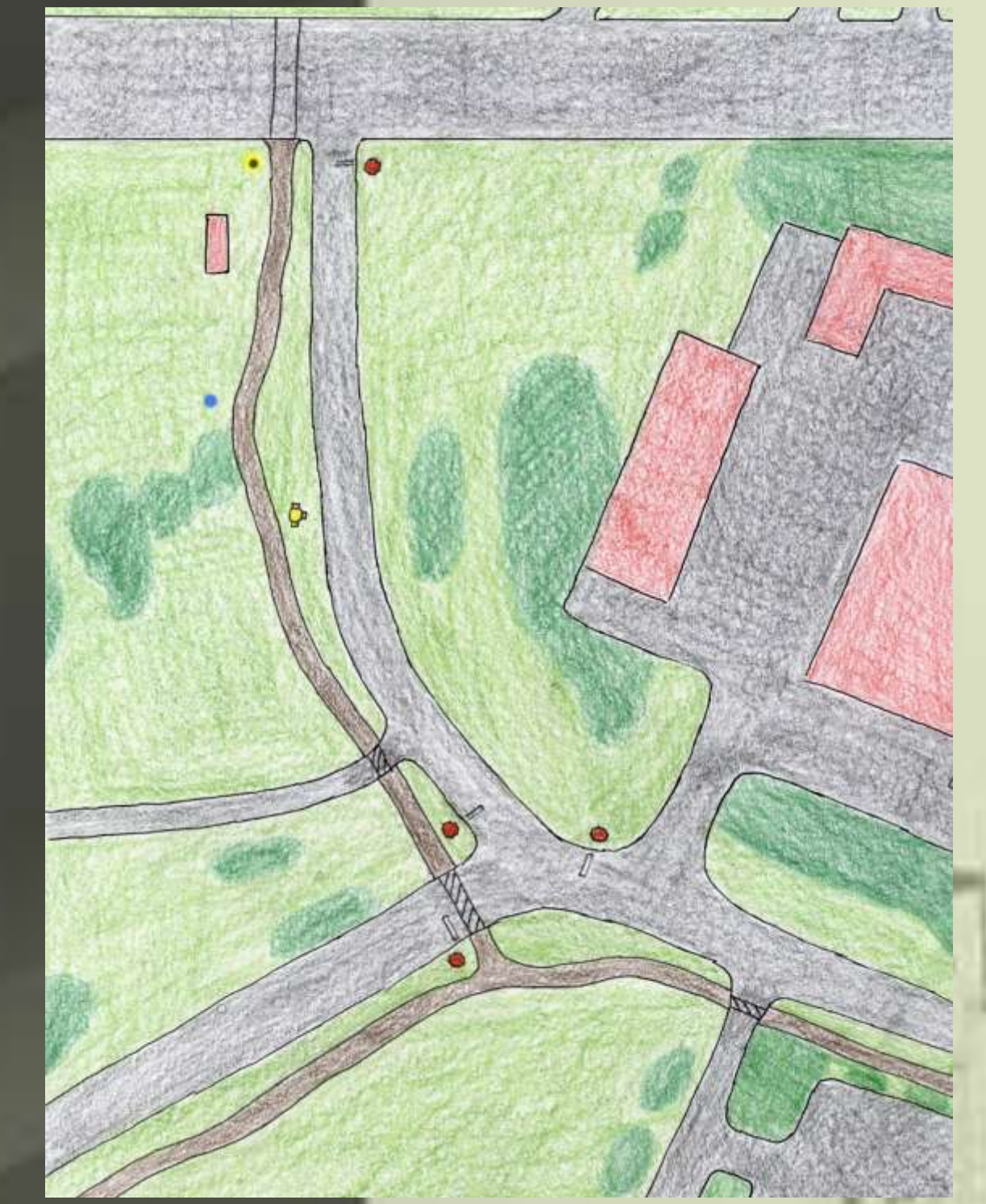
Before

Phase 1 & 2



After

Phase 1 & 2



Phase 3 & 4



Phase 3 & 4



Conclusions

While the investment in all four phases of this project will be relatively small, the returns on such a project are proportionately much greater. Improved access to Lake Drive and nearby pedestrian pathways will create sustainable access for students and neighbors utilizing Calvin's north entrance. The new pathways will also provide a safe alternative for pedestrians and bikers, who would otherwise access Calvin on a high traffic roadway. These results will ultimately improve Calvin's reputation as an institution concerned with equality through accessibility and environmental stewardship.