

PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION



ADA Challenges - Tisch LC



Case Green Paths



Crosswalks

Because Skidmore's double loop system separates vehicular and pedestrian traffic, the core campus has an excellent pedestrian circulation system. The designers even covered some key walkways to protect that system in inclement weather. Yet, over time, four things have happened which require improvement.

First is the passage of the 1990 law requiring equal access for persons with disabilities. Over time the college has added elevators and ramps at key locations, but more opportunities exist to expand and improve access and convenience for all members of the community.

Second is the addition of new buildings which changed local circulation patterns. The pathways across Case Green no longer truly reflect pedestrian "desire lines."

Third is the change in the orientation of the inner-loop, the Saratoga Race Track. In 1962, the loop was laid out in an East-West direction and the circulation system worked that way for decades. The Sports Center and the Tang Museum created a strong pull to the South. The Northwoods Village created circulation to the Northwest, and the proposed Crescent Green will create a similar pull to the Northeast. Clearly a multi-directional system must be implemented to work with the original east-west loop. For example, we propose covering a major north-south walkway in Crescent Green.

Fourth, growth has jumped the Loop Road and we have pedestrian/vehicular conflicts where none existed before. Speed bumps have helped at the Sports Center and other areas, but more intrusive devices and accommodations (like medians, curbing, and raised walks) would improve safety at these locations. One-way traffic has improved access to and from the Northwoods Village on an interim basis; further enhancements and opportunities when Scribner Village is replaced should be pursued for greater access for Northwoods Village. Relocating the Admissions Office to Harder Hall will solve not only circulation problems, but other issues as well.

We suggest further study for improvements to address issues discussed here. Our recommendation would be to have these improvements in place by 2012, the Golden anniversary of the Jonsson Campus. What began as an excellent circulation system will be even better, and the whole college community will benefit.