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Hamlin Hall circle to be redesigned

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

A redesigned circle in front of Hamlin Hall will be developed this spring as part of the second stage of improvements made to on-campus housing at Oakland University.

The current circular drive, which serves mostly as a parking and drop-off/pick-up point between Hamlin Hall, Hill House, VanWagoner House and Vandenberg Hall, will be redesigned as a more visually pleasing, park-like gathering place for pedestrians. In the first stage, completed in 1999, landscaping improvements were made at the loading dock area of Vandenberg Hall.

"We considered safety, manageability, noise level and aesthetic issues," said Mary Beth Snyder, vice president of student affairs. "After careful consideration, we came up with a student-endorsed way to make a more attractive front door to those buildings."

A grassy area with additional landscaping, brick sidewalks, park benches and a reduced, semi-circular drive for vehicles will replace the current drive and central gravel island. The decorative rocks currently in the circle will remain.

"It's a minor change, but it will have a big impact by creating a more inviting nature to these buildings," Snyder said.

Residence hall reserves will fund the improvement costs, which are expected to be \$180,000. Construction will begin this spring and be completed by fall.

SUMMARY

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