

scattered trees. This lack of cover is an issue during the often hot Tennessee weather when shade is necessary to maintain comfort while engaging in outdoor social, recreational or academic activities. The most prominent symbol of this area is the ‘TSU Olympian’ sculpture highlighting the numerous Olympic medals won by previous TSU alumni.

2. PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION

The campus appears to be adequately serviced by its pedestrian pattern of sidewalks and paths with the majority of the parking and roadways along the perimeter of the campus limiting the conflicts between pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

With the exception of student apartments, most all of the campus academic and student residencies are within a ten-minute walk of the Campus Center. The compact size of most of the campus means that automobile use is not as essential for most of the students. The only exception to this would be those student commuters living ‘off-campus’ or in the northeast apartment-style residents.

The link between the campus core and student apartment housing within the northeast corner of the campus should be improved. Currently, the apartments are detached due to the long walking distance and the Ed Temple Boulevard crossing. A safer more pedestrian friendly connection between the apartments and campus will better help unite these two disconnected campus zones. While pedestrian/vehicular crossings are generally safe throughout most of the main campus, safer pedestrian conditions along John A. Merritt Boulevard should be addressed.

3. STUDENT GATHERING SPACES

The most active student gathering spaces on campus are the two plazas located just west of the Campus Center and north of the Brown-Daniel Library. Although these plazas are not very large, they seem to be the center of student outdoor gathering and interaction. Outdoor seatwalls and geometrically placed shade trees have encouraged both contemplative individual moments, as well as the location for more active gatherings of student gatherings.

Each housing courtyard contains a fairly underutilized wooden gazebo gathering space. Each housing courtyard should be enhanced to encourage a greater variety of exterior experiences and social interactions.

4. OPEN SPACE QUALITY

Although the overall campus open space is attractive and very clean, the landscape elements are generally simple and monotone. Besides trees and grass lawns, there are only a few landscape flower beds on campus.

The addition of more garden spaces filled with stone outcroppings, sculpture, art, trellises, benches, flowers and ornamental grasses would provide a more pleasurable contrast to the dominant lawn open spaces.

This is especially critical as most of the lawn spaces do not look as good as they should. Unfortunately, these lawn areas are currently not irrigated and suffer through the dry seasons and do not appear as healthy and green as desired.

5. ADA COMPLIANCE

TSU utilizes the ‘American with Disabilities Act’ to guide all campus construction. The accessibility of campus buildings is addressed in Part 3.1.3.1 Building Use and Condition.