

## KVCC HEALTHY LIVING CAMPUS KALAMAZOO, MI



Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC) has partnered with Bronson Healthcare and Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (KCMHSAS) to develop a new Healthy Living Campus in the heart of downtown Kalamazoo. This new campus is uniquely focused on food sustainability and wellness along with an innovative educational mix of health care and culinary programs. Bronson Healthcare donated 13.3 acres of land east of its hospital as part of the \$45 million project. As one of many project partners, Kieser & Associates, LLC (K&A) was part of the project team that developed all planning and design (from Schematic Design through Construction Documents phases of work) for the 4.1 acres of natural habitat, expanded floodplains, and created wetland areas along this highly urban corridor of Portage Creek. This project site development included on-site stormwater treatment, pervious asphalt pavement, scenic

boardwalk overlooks, relocation of Portage Creek and Michigan native vegetation along the riparian corridor. Public trailways adjacent to the creek will attract year-round users and visitors to the core commercial district and campus. Wildlife habitat, a restored, more-meandering stream corridor to maintain and protect more favorable cold water characteristics, the recreational access, and several environmental education stations provide unique public amenities within the core of this urbanized area.

As a follow-up to the project and in an effort to further generate additional funding for supplemental KVCC sustainability goals, K&A recently authored a successful \$55,000 grant application to harvest stormwater rooftop runoff from the new food innovation building. This rainwater harvesting will serve to generate a natural water source for the on-site greenhouse food production facilities that, among other things, will serve to supplement a farm-to-table restaurant adjacent to the creek with an outdoor seating experience for community dining.

The new campus is now home to three separate facilities: a culinary and health careers building, a food innovation building, and a mental health clinic. The site is currently complete and was successfully opened for winter semester in January 2016.

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*Project Costs:*  
\$16,935 (K&A)

*Project Duration:*  
2013-2014