Facilities Planning and Management Department Spotlight

Facilities Planning and Management (FPM) is a service organization working to enrich, support, and preserve the Iowa State University campus. Kerry Dixon, Facilities Sustainable Design and Accessibility Coordinator, is going to highlight services provided by FPM and how they help accommodate students with disabilities through their partnership with SAS. More information about FPM, contact information, and other resources can be found on their website.

1. How do you collaborate with Student Accessibility Services to assist students with disabilities?
I work with SAS to provide changes to the physical campus to make it more accessible for students. They are a great conduit of barriers that students see in their day to day experience on campus. Let the SAS staff when you see something and they know to contact me to work on a solution. This could be fixing a problem with a door or sidewalk that has heaved creating a tripping hazard.

2. What are some of the accommodations that facilities coordinate?
We've added ramps, corrected sidewalks, installed power door operators, added accessible restrooms in buildings, added tactile signage.

3. If I found that a pushbutton on campus is not working, who should I contact?
Please call 294-5100 if you find anything that isn’t working. It’s most helpful if you can identify the building and the door. Many of our doors have a number on the upper frame that is the ID number of that door. It helps us track it. If you don’t find one if you can say what door it is – like it’s the east door of Marston facing Beardshear. That makes our staff’s jobs much easier to get someone out to fix it! If it’s a bigger issue feel free to email me and I can see what we can do.

4. Where are the accessible restrooms on campus?
From the ISU campus map (www.fpm.iastate.edu/maps/ ) you can turn on the layer “Accessibility” and it will indicate those building with accessible restrooms. We are working on a map that will be available of the single user restrooms on campus that indicates those by accessible and not and hope to have that available before the end of the year. Any building that was built after 1996 will have accessible restrooms and many of the rest of the buildings do have them, it’s just finding them. I wish it was easier so you could actually pull up the floor plan of the building and know from looking at it what the accessible route is and where the restrooms are. My goal is that we can get to that technology! We are working to get all restrooms accessible, but it takes time.

5. What is an accessible facilities project that you have worked on that you are proud of?
I am proudest of the projects that don’t look like they were projects. At Science Hall, Kildee Hall, and the Memorial Union we eliminated a ramped entry off to the side of the primary entrance that had steps at the entrances. We removed the steps, made the entire sidewalk the accessible route to the building so you can’t even tell that there were ever steps there. At Science we took the granite steps and used them to make the planting bed that is along the sidewalk in the plaza. My work is best if it looks like it was always open and inclusive.