

East Ridgeline Open Space

Natural Area Parks Planning and Design Studio

Spring 2020 • 6 Credits • Mon/Wed/Fri from 1:00 – 4:50 pm • Location: Lawrence Hall, Room 312

Instructor: Jeff Krueger, PLA • UO Landscape Architecture Instructor • JK Environments LLC • www.jkenvironments.com

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Site Background

The City of Eugene has long envisioned a 20-mile string of interconnected parks and natural areas spanning the ridgeline to the south of Eugene and has been successful in acquiring a number of large natural area parks along this corridor over the past decade. This studio will focus on the eastern end of this corridor which includes a 277-acre cluster of City-owned park properties (Moon Mountain, Coryell Ridge, Black Oak Basin, and Bloomberg Park).

These natural area parks, collectively known as “East Ridgeline Open Space”, currently contain no facilities and have very limited formal public access. High value native habitats are present on the site including patches of upland prairie, oak savanna, oak woodland, and wetlands. There are significant opportunities for habitat restoration and enhancement.



Camas in bloom atop Coryell Ridge with views toward Mount Pisgah and the Willamette River confluence.

Studio Focus

Students will begin the studio by evaluating existing site conditions and opportunities through site visits and review of available spatial data. Students will work in teams during the first two weeks to develop relevant site background and analysis materials to be shared by the studio and at midterm. Students will then work individually for the remainder of the studio to develop individual products including:

- Opportunities and constraints map
- A vision for East Ridgeline Open Space and high-level goals for site improvements
- Desired Future Conditions (DFC) Vegetation Map
- Master Plan Diagram showing spatial orientation of proposed trails and park facilities (early draft for midterm)
- Design details for between two and four proposed facilities or habitat enhancements to be chosen by each student (design work will occur after midterm)

Proposed facilities and trail types will be determined by each individual student, but should be consistent with the student's stated vision and goals and be compatible with the site's habitat values. Potential facilities could include:

- Recreational trails for a range of users (mountain bike, pedestrian trails, barrier free, explorer, etc.)
- Mountain bike skills park
- Nature play area or trail
- Disc golf course
- Canopy walk
- Pavilion for events and educational activities
- Interpretive signage or interventions
- Viewing platform
- Art installations

Software: We will primarily use Adobe Illustrator and PhotoShop, Google Earth, PowerPoint, the free Avenza Maps App., and the Oregon Wildflowers App. (optional \$10). Opportunities to use ArcGIS for students who have some background and training in the software. Hand drawn maps and illustrations or other design software may be substituted if desired.

