

U.O. Landscape Architecture 439, Fall 2021

Landscape Architectural Design and Process, 6 Credit Studio, Prof. Rob Ribe

This curricular emphasis of this studio is to learn design development strongly informed by intensive site and field analysis. The topic of this studio will depend on fall quarter travel restrictions. The class may split up into groups addressing different projects.

Travel-enabled Class Projects:

The city of Troutdale, Oregon has a few projects for us. The main one is Glenn Otto Park near the Sandy River. This is a small park enveloped by several acres of riparian forest currently owned by the State of Oregon. The city and state are negotiating a potential transfer of this property to Troutdale for an expansion of Glenn Otto Park. But the city needs to propose a strong design for the park that will provide new recreational amenities that Troutdale needs while protecting some valuable habitat and natural resource qualities of the forest. The park also needs a good pathway link to the new park Troutdale is to build on the Sandy River shore at their “Confluence” urban renewal district a short distance away.

Other potential Troutdale design projects include a bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad from the Old Town district to the new Confluence District; redesign of old town streets for micro-vehicles, ride sharing and autonomous vehicles, and rededication and redesign of the old train station for tourist trains leading to Multnomah Falls.

The city of Seaside is the most threatened Oregon city by sea level rise. One option by which much of the city might adapt would be to build a dike across the city’s bay entry between beaches and convert the estuarian water bodies within the city into polders, while pumping the river waters over the dike with power from windmills there. We would design this dike with windmills and new urban open spaces within the urban polder landscapes.

No-travel-enabled Class Projects:

There are extensive vacant or ecologically poor lands in greater Alton Baker around Autzen Stadium. One option to improve these and pay for them would be to create both a tailgating garden and an RV camping garden for use only on football weekends. People would pay substantial fees to use spots within these gardens. This would provide revenues to the University and for the gardens’ construction and upkeep. The designs would have to provide improved habitats and amenities that would resiliently function the rest of the year.

The Laurelwood Creek basin that drains into Amazon Creek just south of the UO district has a large stormwater outfall into the creek within Amazon Park. The creek is buried in storm sewers and produces large volumes of polluted storm water. The outfall is in a vacant area just south of Roosevelt Middle School. A wonderful new park area would be designed around a constructed wetland or other stormwater treatment system tailored to handle local stormwater volumes and pollution problems that the class would analyze.