



LA 489/589 Fall 2021

# Learning Landscape

Monday Wednesday Friday 1:00-4:50pm

Instructor: Anita Van Asperdt, MLA, [anita@landcurrent.com](mailto:anita@landcurrent.com)



Ventura Park Portland Oregon  
NNA Landscape Architects & LandCurrent  
Photo courtesy of Portland Parks & Recreation

The Eugene Waldorf school is located on a 5-acre sloping site, in a residential neighborhood in SW Eugene. Over the decades the school has made many incremental changes to make the buildings and the site more suitable to their needs. As a result, the site lacks coherency. In addition, after many decades of heavy use the site has deteriorated. While the site is primarily used by the Waldorf school, it is also identified as neighborhood green space and open to the general public outside of school hours.

During the first half of the studio students will work in small groups to create a first draft of an integrated master plan for the entire site. This work then transitions into an individual master plan and a detailed schematic design for one focus area.

The initial goals for the master plan include:

- Create a spatial configuration that is welcoming and provides a strong sense of place and identity. The Waldorf is a special place which should be emphasized through a great design for the overall school grounds.
- Create a landscape that provides implicit and explicit learning opportunities throughout.
- Hold justice, diversity and equity as strong values. This will be expressed in the design by creating spaces with learning, play and enjoyment opportunities for everyone. Inclusivity goes beyond creating ADA access, it integrates people with developmental differences, including cognitive, mental and physical differences.



**Landscape Architecture Department**  
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- Create an integrated landscape by for example developing areas where play, learning and stormwater management can come together.
- Develop a plan that can evolve and be adapted over time.
- Develop a landscape that is net-zero carbon within five years. This means that the carbon footprint of the materials, transportation of materials and construction will be off-set by plants, soils and trees within five years. This goal will help to identify low-carbon materials and construction methods.

Learning objectives include:

- How to be responsive to a unique client with a unique philosophy and wishes;
- How to design from the left and right side of the brain;
- How to integrate various design objectives and goals that are sometimes in conflict with each other.
- How to plan for net-zero carbon landscapes;
- How to create inclusive learning and play landscapes that are developmentally appropriate.
- How to design inclusive, natural and safe play environments that inspire children.
- How to integrate stormwater management.

Studio progression:

Week 1	Introduction & Site Impression: engaging the creative mind. Creating and documenting land art. Individual rapid design sketch workshop.
Week 2	Investigations in groups and through Lectures: Site analysis, Survey check, Program analysis, Learning about inclusive play and nature play, Public playground safety standards and advanced stormwater management.
Week 3	Design goals and identifying synergies and conflicts. Precedent studies in groups. Master planning in groups.
Week 4	Master planning in groups.
Week 5:	Transition group Master planning to individual plan and start individual schematic plan for a selected area. Design telescoping.
Week 6:	Preparing for end of week Mid-Term review
Week 7:	Lesson learned, Net-zero carbon goal. Design revisions and development.
Week 8:	Design development
Week 9:	Design development and presentation development
Week 10:	Final review week



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## Studio Organization:

The studio will be offered in-person and online in order to keep everyone safe and healthy to the largest extent possible and to accommodate each student's comfort level. We will at all times adhere to mask requirements as required by the University of Oregon. Do not attend class if you feel unwell. If you are well enough to attend class online provisions will be made for that. Notify the instructor before the start of the studio by email: [anita@landcurent.com](mailto:anita@landcurent.com)

In-person teaching will include lectures and discussions outdoors in the newly created Tykeson Lawn outdoor classroom area. Lecture presentation visuals will be provided ahead of time for download or printing before studio.

Students will need to be available during regular studio hours, Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 1pm and 4:50pm PST. This is also true for students attending online including from a different time zone. When working remotely students will need to ensure that they have good internet access during studio times. We will be using ZOOM as a tool for online instruction. Students need to ensure that they have access to this tool and have a camera and microphone so they can partake in the video conferencing. It will be required to show your face during video conferencing as this helps build good social community while we are online. It is highly recommended to use a headset during video conferencing as this greatly improves sound quality.

Students will use the following digital tools during the studio:

Zoom for video conferencing: studio instruction, online desk crits, group work, online design presentations etc. Canvass will be used by the instructor to post this syllabus, assignments and for students to post any work as requested by the instructor.

Besides Zoom and Canvas students will need to ensure they have access to the following digital tools: Sketchup or other digital 3D modeling program, Digital camera, Photoshop, PowerPoint.

The instructor will not be able to provide tech support on the use of digital tools.

For students needing IT Support on Zoom, please use the services provided by the Technology Service Desk.

The link to access their hours and contact information is here:

<https://service.uoregon.edu/TDCClient/2030/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=31704>

Resources for other online tools that are available for use (including Zoom):

<https://is.uoregon.edu/remote>

All students need to make sure that they receive at least one desk critique (in-person or online) each week. Please notify your instructor if you did not receive a desk critique during one entire week. Students are allowed to miss no more than two excused studio session. Notify your instructor through email as soon as you know you are unable to attend class. Missing more than two studio sessions may result in a failed or incomplete studio.

The instructor will answer any questions regarding the studio during normal studio hours M-W-F 1pm to 4:50pm. Each class section will start with announcements and Q&A at 1pm and concluding remarks and Q&A at 4:30 pm.



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