

Antis Oaks

Natural Area Parks Planning and Design Studio

Spring 2022 • 6 Credits • Mon/Wed/Fri from 1:00 – 4:50 pm • Location: Lawrence Hall, Room TBA

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

Instructor Contact: jkruege2@uoregon.edu, 541-579-0241

** This is a 439-level studio, but we will accommodate 1-2 graduate students with instructor approval.*

Site Background

Antis is the Kalapuyan word meaning “small woodpecker.” The Kalapuyan people have lived in the upper Willamette Valley for nearly 10,000 years and regularly managed the land with fire to maintain an open landscape that favored hunting and gathering practices up until Euroamerican settlement began in the mid-1800s. The 10-acre Antis Oaks property sits in the heart of several hundred acres of adjacent prairie and oak habitats that have been permanently conserved by the City of Eugene and The Nature Conservancy. Antis Oaks was purchased by the City in 2021 with the intent of preserving and managing remnants of this native Kalapuyan landscape and the associated native plant and wildlife species. In addition to managing the area for its conservation values, the City will utilize the site as an educational resource, a trailhead parking hub, and for compatible recreation uses for a range of users including those with disabilities.



Photo: Cary Kerst

The Acorn Woodpecker, along with many other native plant and animal species that were once common in the Willamette Valley, have declined significantly over the past 150 years due to loss of suitable oak and prairie habitat.

Studio Focus

Our studio will focus on the 10-acre Antis Oaks site within the context of the adjacent conserved lands and nearby regional network of recreational trails and paths. Our project partners including The Nature Conservancy, the Eugene Parks Foundation, and the City of Eugene will look to our studio to develop habitat restoration and management prescriptions, propose regional trail connections including links to the Fern Ridge Path and Ridgeline Trail, and to design on-site features such as universally accessible trails, interpretation, and trailhead parking and related facilities. All facilities must be designed to be highly compatible with the natural setting.

Students will begin the studio by evaluating existing site conditions and opportunities through review of available spatial data and site visits. 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 the following:

- Opportunities and constraints map
- A vision for Antis Oaks and high-level goals for site improvements
- Proposed trails map showing regional connections to and from Antis Oaks
- List of target plant and animal species (our design clients)
- 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 three proposed facilities or habitat enhancements to be chosen by each student (design work will occur after midterm)

Proposed facilities, trail types, and habitat enhancement interventions 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
- Highly accessible universal access trail
- Trailhead with parking and related features
- Themed art installations
- Interpretive signage or interventions
- Species-specific habitat features
- Pollinator garden



Willow Creek Preserve adjacent to Antis Oaks



Anise Swallowtail on camas at Willow Creek



Nearby Ridgeline Trail at Wild Iris Ridge Park

Studio Software and Media: 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 and AutoCAD for students who have some background and training in the software. Hand drawn maps and illustrations or other design software is always welcomed may be substituted if desired.

Site Context Perspective



Antis Oaks is located in west Eugene at the junction of the Ridgeline Park system and West Eugene Wetlands.

Instructor

Jeff Krueger is a licensed landscape architect in the state of Oregon and has thirty years of experience providing planning, design, and project management for local governments and non-profit organizations in the Pacific Northwest. He founded JK Environments in 2013. He has previously worked for Lane Council of Governments, the U.S. National Park Service, Massachusetts State Parks, and two private landscape design firms. Jeff has extensive experience in the areas of ecology, natural resources, habitat restoration, parks and open space master planning, recreational trails, land use, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Jeff holds a degree in Environmental Design from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst (1987) and a BLA and MLA from the University of Oregon (1991/92) and has been an Instructor with the Department of Landscape Architecture since 2014. Jeff brings local open space and ecological knowledge and real-world experience to the studio.

Learning Outcomes

During this studio, students will have the opportunity to develop an appreciation and understanding for native habitats and local ecology while master planning a natural area site and developing design details for habitat restoration, trails, and compatible recreational facilities.

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Conduct site analysis and mapping of a natural area and identify issues and opportunities.
- Identify native plant species common to oak and prairie habitat.
- Document and interpret site history and changes in vegetation patterns.
- Use guidance from local, State, and Federal plans including the Oregon Conservation Strategy (ODFW, 2016) to determine appropriate target habitats and plant/wildlife species for our site.
- Develop a vision and goals to direct habitat management and site planning.
- Propose “Desired Future Conditions” for future habitat types and map.
- Design and site’s recreational facilities in a way that minimizes habitat impacts and maximizes user experience.
- Design a trail network to serve a range of user groups, calculate running grades of the trail, apply sustainable trail design principles, and estimate cost.
- Use a clinometer (provided by instructor) to calculate running grades of trails.
- Use Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop to create thematic maps, plans, photo imaging products, and details.

Guidelines for Studio Participation

- Scheduled Class Time: Students must be present or available during the regularly scheduled studio time. If a student is not able to attend or participate, they should notify the instructor in advance to request an excused absence. We will have a regular class meeting at 1:00 and a class check-in at about 4:50 on most days. This will be an in-person class and you are required to work in our assigned studio space unless you are not feeling well or have another excused absence. We will also be conducting several field trips to the site and adjacent area and may meet remotely on occasion if needed or desired.
- Individual Site Visits: In addition to the scheduled class field trips, students are encouraged to visit the site to gain a better appreciation and understanding of on-the-ground conditions. It is highly recommended that students partner up for site visits for general safety. Please coordinate site visits with Jeff so we can get permission to access the site. Please stay on public or TNC land and respect private property rights. The Avneza map app will be a useful tool for verifying your location in the field. If desired, students may visit the site during scheduled studio time upon request.
- Consolidating Questions and Requests: Questions or requests for data or information from City and TNC staff should be coordinated through the instructor.
- Grading Standards: This course is graded on a pass/no pass basis. To pass the course, students must attend class (in person or online) on a regular basis (a minimum of 90% attendance), actively participate in group discussions, adequately complete all assignments, and make presentations at the midterm and final review. Two or more unexcused absences are grounds for a marginal pass. Preliminary assignments are given at the beginning of the term, but modifications and additions may be made following the midterm review. All final work must be submitted to the instructor in electronic format (PDF) before a final grade will be submitted.
- Sick Leave: If you are not feeling well, you are encouraged to work from home to prevent transmission to classmates. Please notify the instructor prior to the beginning of class and this will count as an excused absence. We will be following UO COVID guidance in studio and on field trips.
- Exit Interviews: Exit interviews are required and will be conducted either Thursday or Friday of review week or early in exam week. Students MUST be available to meet during these times.
- Campus Emergencies: In the event of a campus emergency that disrupts academic activities, course requirements, deadlines, and grading are subject to change. Information about changes in this course will be communicated as soon as possible by email, and on Canvas. Students are also encouraged to continue the readings and other assignments as outlined on this syllabus or subsequent syllabi.