



CELEBRATING 15 YEARS Sustainable City Year Program

Annual Report 2025



Contents

3	About SCI
4	About SCYP
7	Courses by College/School
8	Partner Map
9	Partnership Overview
10	City of Oakridge
52	Parting Thoughts
53	Acknowledgments

Cover image credits:

Top, left image source: City of Oakridge

Middle, right image source: Salem Police Department

Bottom, right image credit: Brian Davies; Source: Rowell Brokaw Architects, Inc.

About SCI

The Sustainable Cities Institute (SCI) is an applied think tank focusing on sustainability and cities through applied research, teaching, and community partnerships. We work across disciplines that match the complexity of cities to address sustainability challenges, from regional planning to building design and from enhancing engagement of diverse communities to understanding the impacts on municipal budgets from disruptive technologies and many issues in between.

SCI focuses on sustainability-based research and teaching opportunities through two primary efforts:

1. Our Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP), a massively scaled university-community partnership program that matches the resources of the University with one Oregon community each year to help advance that community's sustainability goals; and
2. Our Urbanism Next Center, which focuses on how autonomous vehicles, e-commerce, and the sharing economy will impact the form and function of cities.

In all cases, we share our expertise and experiences with scholars, policymakers, community leaders, and project partners. We further extend our impact via an annual Expert-in-Residence Program, SCI China visiting scholars program, study abroad course on redesigning cities for people on bicycle, and through our co-leadership of the Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities Network (EPIC-N), which is transferring SCYP to universities and communities across the globe. Our work connects student passion, faculty experience, and community needs to produce innovative, tangible solutions for the creation of a sustainable society.





About SCYP

The Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) is a yearlong partnership between SCI and a partner in Oregon, in which students and faculty in courses from across the university collaborate with a public entity on sustainability and livability projects. SCYP faculty and students work in collaboration with staff from the partner agency through a variety of studio projects and service-learning courses to provide students with real-world projects to investigate. Students bring energy, enthusiasm, and innovative approaches

to difficult, persistent problems. SCYP's primary value derives from collaborations that result in on-the-ground impact and expanded conversations for a community ready to transition to a more sustainable and livable future.

Community partnerships are possible in part due to support from U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, as well as former Congressman Peter DeFazio, who secured federal funding for SCYP through Congressionally Directed Spending.



Mission

The Sustainable City Year Program is an innovative university partnership that harnesses the talent of educators, scholars, and students to strengthen Oregon communities.

Our work sparks curiosity, creativity, conversation, critical thinking, collaboration, and action to address the urgent challenges of today while pursuing a livable, equitable, and resilient future.

SCYP ASPIRES TO...



Transform Higher Education

- ★ We use a high impact, inclusive, project-based, issue-oriented educational approach to enhance learning outcomes of students while tangibly serving Oregon communities.
- ★ We use the unique perspective, energy, and skills of students and faculty mentorship to advance learning and community progress.
- ★ We serve as a leading, innovative pedagogical model adaptable to other institutions around the world.

Prepare Our Future Workforce

- ★ We empower the next generation of Oregon's workforce through hands-on project-based, experiential learning.
- ★ We develop the skills and resumes of young leaders through academic achievement, mentoring, networking, and employment opportunities.

Improve Quality of Life in Oregon

- ★ We elevate the existing work of Oregon community leaders and stakeholders to catalyze action through student passion, faculty expertise, and fresh ideas.
- ★ We align community-identified priorities with complementary disciplines, courses, and curricula to meet local needs and amplify impact.
- ★ We promote local resiliency through equitable opportunity, economic vitality, and sustainability in the natural and built environment.



SCYP 2024-2025

SIX Community Partnerships



25+

**CLASSES /
PROJECTS**



**College of
Business**



**School of
Journalism and
Communication**



**College of
Design**



18
Faculty



525
Students



Sustainable City Year Program

2024-25 Courses by College/School

College / School	Summer / Fall 2024	Winter 2025	Spring / Summer 2025
School of Planning, Public Policy and Management	Advanced GIS	Public Administration Capstone: Willamette Activity Center	Public Administration Capstone: Willamette Activity Center
	Policy & Planning Analysis, Phase 1	Policy & Planning Analysis, Phase 2	Topics in Bicycle Transportation
	Planning Principles and Analysis, Design Workshop, Human Settlements	Transportation Policy	
	Urban Transportation	Advanced GIS	
		Real World Lane County	
School of Architecture and Environment	Architectural Design Studio	Architectural Design Studio	
	Timber Tectonics in the Digital Age	Landscape Architecture Charrette	
School of Journalism and Communication	Public Relations Campaign	Public Relations Campaign	Public Relations Campaign
	Strategic Social Media	Public Relations Planning Process	
	Public Relations Planning Process	Engaged Journalism	
Lundquist College of Business	Marketing Management	Marketing Strategy	
	Oregon Consulting Group		
College of Arts and Sciences			Advanced Field Geology

 Oakridge

 Silverton

 Gresham

 Bend

 Salem Police Dept.

 Lane Transit District

WHO HAVE WE PARTNERED WITH TO DATE?



Oakridge 2024-26

9 PROJECTS

Bend 2024-25

★ SPECIAL PROJECT

Silverton 2019-20, 2024

8 PROJECTS TOTAL

Gresham 2009-10, 2024-25

15 PROJECTS TOTAL

LTD 2019-20, 2024-25

26 PROJECTS TOTAL

Salem 2010-11, 2023-24

36 PROJECTS TOTAL

Corvallis 2023

★ SPECIAL PROJECT

Sisters 2022-23

6 PROJECTS

Tigard 2022

★ SPECIAL PROJECT

Hermiston 2021-22

6 PROJECTS

Troutdale 2020-21

17 PROJECTS

Hood River 2020

★ SPECIAL PROJECT

Dunes City 2018-19

★ SPECIAL PROJECT

La Pine 2018

12 PROJECTS

TriMet 2017-18

24 PROJECTS

Albany 2016-17

22 PROJECTS

Redmond 2015-16

24 PROJECTS

Metro, Multnomah County,
Troutdale, Gresham 2014-15

★ SPECIAL PROJECT

Medford 2013-14

17 PROJECTS

Springfield 2011-12

22 PROJECTS

2024-25 Partnership Overview

The **City of Oakridge** and SCYP are partnering over two-years to match resources from existing university courses with priority city projects. In year one of the partnership, students and faculty undertook projects to include marketing and development for the Oakridge Industrial Park, operational and fundraising strategies for the Willamette Activity Center, promoting tourism with local businesses, middle housing planning and design, community service program options, affordable GIS alternatives for the city, a GIS-based environmental assessment, and geological field study of the TV Butte area.

The **City of Bend** partnered with Community and Regional Planning graduate students to apply contemporary land use planning and urban design concepts to help transition a traditional, auto-centric area on the east side of Bend to a mixed use and climate resilient area that is equitable and facilitates transportation options.

The **City of Silverton** partnered with Public Relations students to improve the city's communication efforts. SCYP also supported Silverton's Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) AmeriCorps Program staff to evaluate SCYP projects completed over the 2019-20 partnership year.

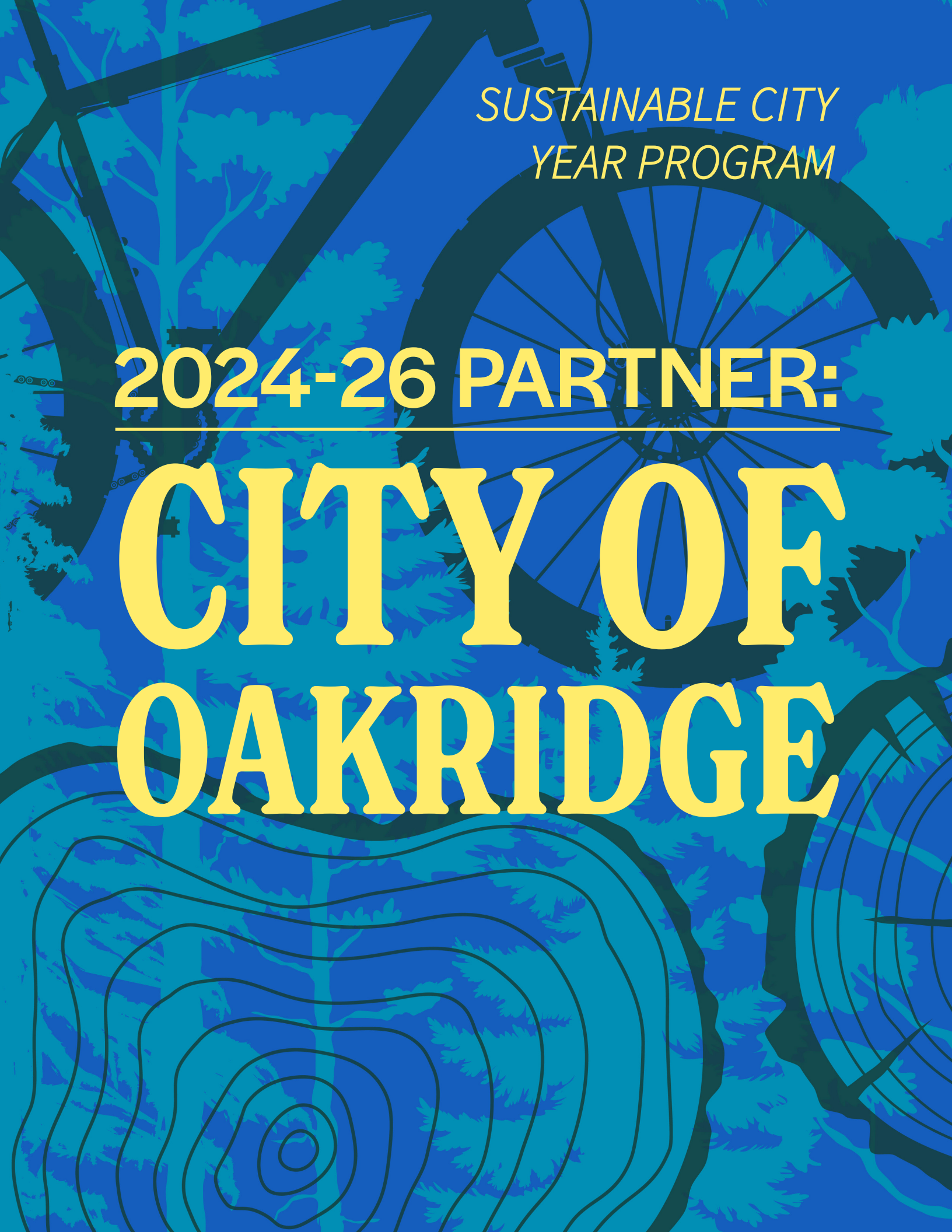
The **City of Salem Police Department** wanted to determine its level of trust with the Salem community. Students in multiple Public Relations courses investigated the various values that are important and specific to the work of the Police Department, while also gathering data to develop campaigns to guide recommendations around community engagement and traffic safety.

The **City of Gresham** first partnered with SCYP in the program's inaugural year. SCYP returned to Gresham this year to explore the idea of turning part of Main Avenue into a pedestrian-only street, as well as architecture studio projects to develop a vision for a downtown opportunity project.

With a strong history of partnership with SCYP, **Lane Transit District** sought support with strategy, planning, and implementation for how to best engage transit users. SCYP classes developed public relation campaign ideas, community engagement workshops, survey and analysis work, and bicycle transportation integration to help support development of their long-range mobility plan.

HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

This report provides a high-level summary of the project/class as well as the key takeaways and recommendations that resulted from student analysis. Each project/class also produced a final report that is published on [UO Scholars Bank](#) and is made broadly available to the public.



*SUSTAINABLE CITY
YEAR PROGRAM*

2024-26 PARTNER:

**CITY OF
OAKRIDGE**



About Oakridge

The City of Oakridge, Oregon, is a vibrant community nestled in the foothills of the Western Cascade Mountains, with a population of approximately 3,500 residents within city limits (nearly 5,000 when including nearby Westfir and surrounding areas). Surrounded by the extensive Willamette National Forest, the city provides ample opportunities for activities such as hiking and mountain biking, with nearly 500 miles of trails and five rivers in its vicinity. Oakridge's elevation (1,200-1,700 ft.) results in a favorable climate, characterized by over 300 sunny days annually, while avoiding the fog of the valley and the heavy snowfalls of higher elevations.

Governed by a council-manager system since 1972, Oakridge residents benefit from a robust and supportive municipal administration. The City offers a comprehensive range of services, including street maintenance, water, wastewater, and park utilities, as well as police, fire, and emergency medical services. Additional municipal services include library access, economic development, planning and zoning, and general administrative support. Funding for city operations is derived from property taxes, franchise fees, and other revenue sources, with special projects financed through grants and loans. In the past decade, Oakridge has secured

nearly \$11 million in grants and loans for community projects and maintains an annual budget of approximately \$10 million.

The citizens of Oakridge cherish their history and cultural heritage, celebrating it through a variety of events and activities throughout the year. The long-standing Tree Planting Festival pays homage to Oakridge's timber town roots, while the Concerts in the Park series offers free performances at the Banner Bank Amphitheater in Greenwaters Park. Additionally, Oakridge features four art galleries, three nearby hot springs, and is conveniently located just 25 miles from Willamette Pass Ski Resort. The Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area, approximately 35 miles away, further enriches the community's cultural offerings with its vibrant arts scene, including music, theater, and access to the University of Oregon.

The City of Oakridge is committed to fostering a safe, livable, and sustainable environment for its residents while promoting economic development and community engagement. As part of its ongoing planning initiatives, Oakridge is exploring various strategies to enhance its sustainability and growth, ensuring that the community continues to thrive for generations to come.



SCYP & OAKRIDGE

YEAR IN REVIEW

253 STUDENTS

8 FACULTY

**9 COMMUNITY
PROJECTS**

2024-2026
SCYP's first
two-year-long
partnership!

TOPICS:

- ARCHITECTURE
- MARKETING
- JOURNALISM
- GEOGRAPHIC
INFORMATION SYSTEM
- PLANNING ANALYSIS
- POLICY ANALYSIS

Open-Source Oakridge: Exploring Open-Source Software and Creating a Buildable Lands Survey for the City of Oakridge

Class: Advanced GIS (PPPM 495/595)

Faculty: Yizhao Yang

PROJECT SUMMARY

In the realm of geographic information systems (GIS), open-source software has emerged as a valuable tool for smaller communities with limited funds. With a wide range of available options, the City of Oakridge sought to better understand which products would best meet their needs. Students researched and made recommendations on the ideal suite of GIS products that could 1) be used with basic GIS skills and understanding; 2) import, analyze, modify, and display commonly used vector and raster data; 3) incorporate and integrate data from the field; and 4) create understandable and visually appealing map products.



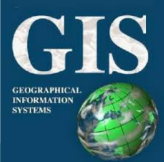
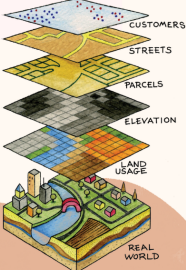
Calling all UO students!

Are YOU a user of free GIS (Geographic Information System) tools, such as QGIS, GRASS GIS, SAGA, and others?

We want to hear from you!

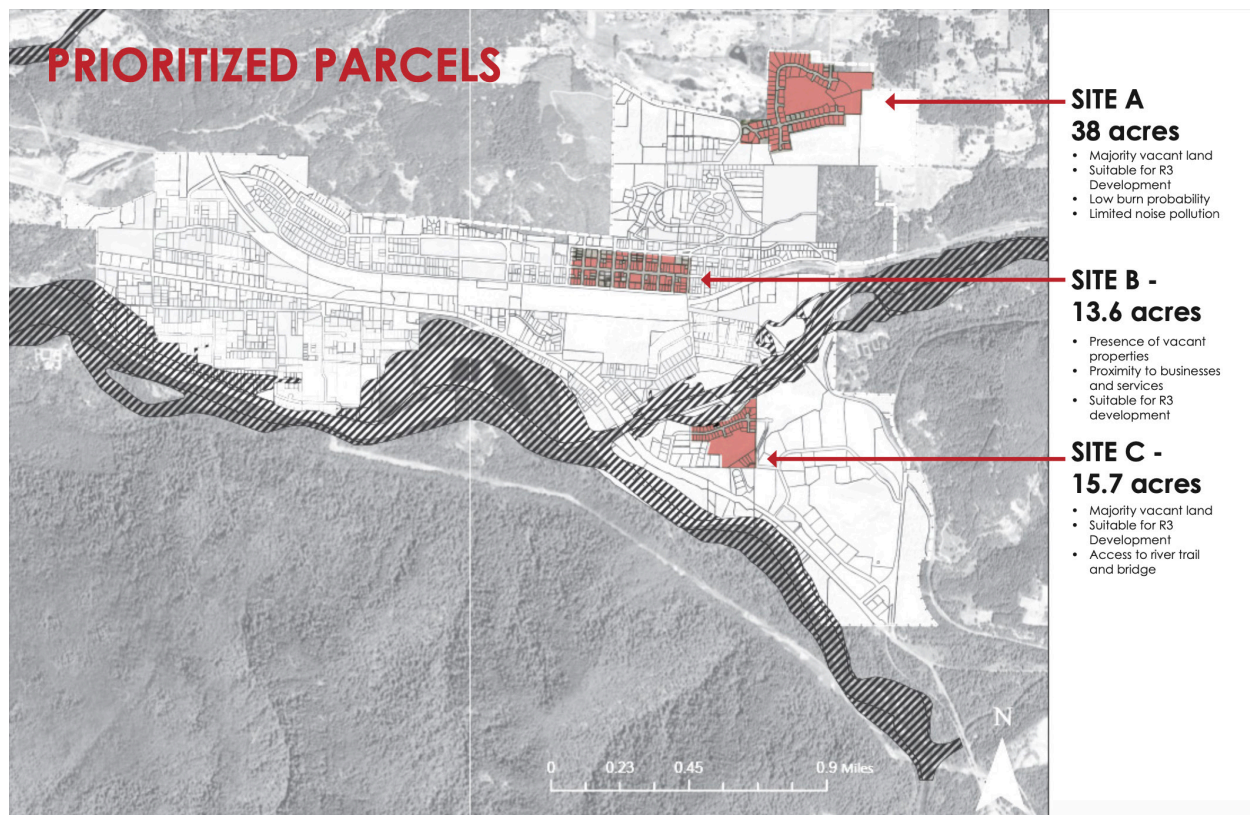
Share your experiences and insights by participating in our brief survey. You will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of five \$25 gift card to the UO Duck Store!

Click the link below to start the Open Source GIS Tools survey!

Promotional survey poster to assess University of Oregon student's experience with GIS software

Source: Finn Haefker



Prioritized parcels

Source: Finn Haefker

RECOMMENDATIONS

First, students conducted a comparative analysis of four leading open-source Geographic Information Systems (GIS) products. Given that Oakridge uses open-source GIS software for their planning work, staff sought clarification on what software would best suit their needs. During the research process, students created an evaluation framework based on literature review findings to score each software program. Students then created a Qualtrics survey targeting University of Oregon students who had experience with GIS software then scored the software again based on the survey results, which reaffirmed the initial software choice.

The second component of this project created a buildable lands survey, which could provide city staff insight on development-feasibility and assist with densification efforts in the future. The report included data on housing insecurity, which students researched before conducting their mapping analysis. Students then established a series of criteria based on their research, information provided by the City of Oakridge, and data that was manually created in Arc-GIS pro. Students applied these criteria as separate layers, which eventually yielded a final map showcasing parcels that could be suitable for various levels of densification. The total acreage of suitable parcels was very encouraging as it exceeded Oakridge staff's initial request of parcels that would be suitable for densification.

EXPLORING OPEN-SOURCE GIS:

INSIGHTS ON LEADING SOFTWARE



INTRODUCTION AND GOALS

In the realm of geographic information systems (GIS), open-source software has emerged as a valuable tool for smaller communities and NPO's with limited funds. Although there are a wide range of available options, navigating the open-source landscape can be a daunting task, and existing comparative literature surrounding open source softwares is often limited, hard to find, and/or dated. The goal of this report is to equip small and under-funded communities and NPO's with a better understanding of the available open source GIS softwares that can be used throughout planning processes. By examining existing literature, information retrieved through online forums, and conducting our own user survey, we hope to establish a better understanding of the costs and benefits of the leading open-source softwares.

METHODS

The survey was targeted towards University students in various fields, and consisted of 17 questions surrounding the following areas of analysis:

- "Interface user-friendliness"
- "Spatial Analysis Functionality"
- "Data Integration Capabilities"
- "Mapping and Aesthetics"

These areas were scored on a 5-point scale (1 being poor and 5 being excellent). To do this, we applied a 5-point scaling system for each individual survey question. We took the average score for each question in its respective area, and applied the average of those scores as the final performance score for each area of analysis.

RESEARCH RESULTS

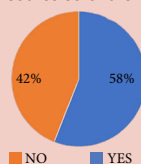
EVALUATION FRAMEWORK SCORING RANGE: 1-5

SOFTWARE NAME	INTERFACE USER FRIENDLINESS	SPATIAL ANALYSIS FUNCTIONALITY	DATA INTEGRATION CAPABILITIES	MAPPING PRESENTATION & AESTHETICS
GRASS GIS	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN
Q-GIS	3.64	3.42	3.76	3.67
gv-SIG	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN
SAGA GIS	3.64	3.5	3.6	2.9

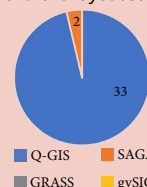
NOTABLE FINDINGS

- Q-GIS' is the most popular and considered to be the best overall open-source software amongst University of Oregon students.
- Survey participants have little to no experience with SAGA, GRASS, and or gvSIG, likely due to their specialized nature and lack of opportunities within their respective curriculum.
- Users feel as though a foundational understanding of ESRI products ie. Arc-map, is essential to efficiently navigating open source softwares such as Q-GIS.

"Have you used an open source software?"



"Which open source software have you used?"

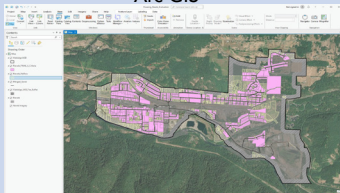


- 58% of respondents said they had used open-source GIS software, whereas 42% of respondents had not ever used open-source GIS software.
- Q-GIS had 33 respondents who had used the open-source software, whereas SAGA GIS had only 2 respondents, which heavily skewed the overall results for SAGA GIS. There were no reported users for GRASS or gvSIG.

COMPARING Q-GIS AND ARC-GIS THROUGH CONDUCTING A BUILDABLE LANDS ANALYSIS

For the other component of our terms project, we created a build-able lands analysis for the city of Oakridge in attempt to help the city locate parcels suitable for denser housing development. In order to gain a better understanding of the differences between Q-GIS and arc-GIS for ourselves, we conducted the analysis in both softwares. Below is a list of pro's and cons we experienced while doing our analysis.

Arc-GIS



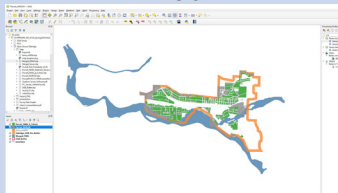
PROS

- Geo-processing tools are easily accessible.
- Multiple base layer options which are easily accessible.
- Adding data is quick and intuitive.

CONS

- Aesthetics such as colors and symbology feel dated.
- Found difficulty in editing shape file layer elements.

Q-GIS



PROS

- Interface is aesthetically pleasing.
- Clean and plentiful symbology options.
- Plentiful base-layer plug-in options.

CONS

- Difficultly locating certain functions.
- Geo-processing tools require multiple steps.
- Lack of search bar for navigating mapping tools.

"What is the most challenging Aspect of using Q-GIS?"

"Figuring out coded language and transferring spatial data to programs like rhino or auto-cad without losing information."

"Merging Layers"

"How slow it can be and figuring out new functions."

"Creating complex maps to help me with site analysis and context maps. Usually easier for me to look up data and create my own in an adobe suite."

"Knowing where to start."

"Lack of explanation of tools"

CONCLUSION

Given that it is overwhelmingly more popular than its open source counterparts, and is consistent across our analysis framework, Q-GIS should be seriously considered as an open-source option for small communities and NPO's.

The survey showcases students desire to adopt skills in open-source softwares and highlights the potential disconnect between courses being taught and what is desired within professional fields; many participants feel that understanding open source software would benefit their professional careers, but intimidation and lack of coursework restricts them.

The capacity of our research base cannot provide a fully accurate comparison of open source software, as it is solely focused on University of Oregon students and excludes professionals who are more likely to be familiar with such softwares. Continued research should include a broader study group, including professional users of open-source GIS, in order to gain a more comprehensive understanding.

EXPLORE THE FULL PROJECT ON OUR STORY MAP



NOAH SARY, FINN HAEFKER, ELLIOT NOPP



Summary poster of student project

Source: Finn Haefker

TV Butte Quarry: Environmental Impact Assessment

Class: Advanced GIS (PPPM 495/595)

Faculty: Yizhao Yang

PROJECT SUMMARY

The proposed Old Hazeldell Quarry by StoneBroke LLC, located on TV Butte near Oakridge, prompted concern from the local community regarding its potential environmental and social impacts. In response, the City of Oakridge partnered with SCYP to conduct a preliminary assessment of potential environmental risks associated with the quarry's development.

Using publicly available GIS datasets and informed by standard Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) practices, students conducted spatial analyses across six key areas: social, air quality, noise, hydrological, ecological, and natural disaster impacts. Key findings from the analysis included:

- **Visual Impacts:** The quarry site would likely be visible from much of Oakridge, potentially altering scenic views that define the community's character and appeal.
- **Noise Pollution:** Simulated modeling suggests that noise from quarrying operations—including blasting and truck traffic—could reach areas such as Mill River Park at levels comparable to a household vacuum cleaner.
- **Wildlife Disturbance:** The site overlaps with an elk grazing area, though it does not intersect major migratory routes.
- **Hydrologic Concerns:** The quarry is located near a historic landfill on a slope susceptible to landslides. Unmodeled scenarios suggest potential for increased surface water runoff and groundwater contamination, particularly in relation to Salmon Creek and nearby aquifers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The student project emphasized that while the GIS-based findings provide valuable insights, further site-specific investigation is necessary. This is especially true for concerns relating to contamination risk and slope stability, which were outside the scope of modeling in this project.

Based on the initial findings and limitations of the study, student recommendations included:

1. Commission a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

A full, third-party EIA should be conducted by qualified environmental professionals to build upon this preliminary analysis. Such a study should include field sampling, noise monitoring, and hydrological modeling.

2. Establish Long-Term Monitoring Programs

- > Air Quality: Implement air monitoring stations around residential and recreational zones to track fine particulate matter, especially silica dust.
- > Water Quality: Develop a monitoring program for both surface and groundwater, particularly downstream from the historic landfill and near Salmon Creek.
- > Noise Levels: Conduct baseline and ongoing monitoring to assess actual sound propagation and community exposure.

3. Conduct Geotechnical Assessments

A thorough geotechnical analysis is needed to assess slope stability and potential landslide risk, especially concerning the landfill area and drainage pathways that could be altered by excavation activities.

4. Enhance Community Engagement and Transparency

Foster trust between StoneBroke LLC and the Oakridge community by:

- > Sharing findings openly, including updates from professional assessments.
- > Holding public forums for feedback.
- > Considering community-led oversight or advisory groups to guide the development process.

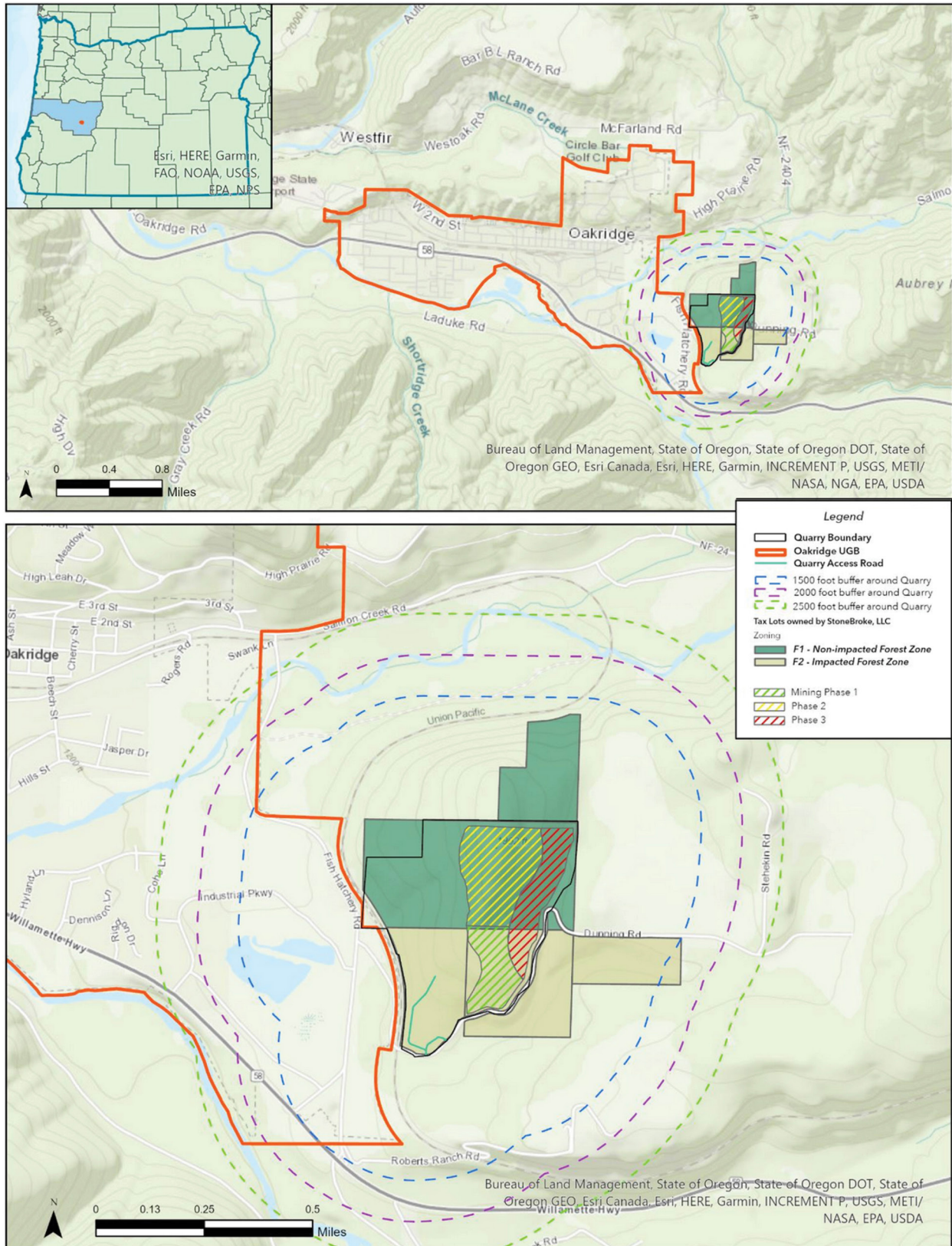
5. Evaluate Alternatives or Mitigation Strategies

Explore options to reduce or mitigate the most severe impacts identified:

- > Implementing visual buffers or reforestation.
- > Modifying operational hours to limit noise during sensitive times.
- > Establishing no-go zones to preserve critical habitats.

6. Collaborate with Regulatory Agencies

Engage early with state and federal regulatory bodies to ensure the quarry project aligns with Oregon's Land Use Planning Goal 5 and complies with environmental protection standards.



Quarry boundary, phases, and location

Source: Anika Hall



As an instructor, I enjoy learning alongside the students, rather than trying to be an expert about a place I haven't lived. Knowing that the government of Oakridge is on board with this project has given the students a sense of purpose and meaning.

Christina Bollo
Assistant Professor,
School of Architecture & Environment



Introducing Middle Housing in the City of Oakridge

Class: Architectural Design Studio (ARCH 484)

Faculty: Christina Bollo

PROJECT SUMMARY

Architecture students engaged in a comprehensive design studio to explore how the City of Oakridge could introduce middle-density housing to expand housing options and promote community sustainability. Oakridge currently consists primarily of single-family dwellings and lacks zoning support for middle- and high-density housing. The city aims to diversify its housing stock to retain current residents, attract newcomers, and improve economic prospects. Student designs were context-sensitive, focusing on architectural cohesion, privacy, and fostering community. Emphasis was placed on sustainability, daylight access, walkability, and blending new developments into existing urban fabric.



View of the corner of Oak Street and East First Street in Uptown Oakridge; one possible infill site

Photo Credit: Madison Coultrap

RECOMMENDATIONS

Student research culminated in two key development areas: Urban Infill Proposals along East First Street in Uptown Oakridge and Elk Meadows residential neighborhood development. Students' final projects recommended the City of Oakridge:

1. Adopt Zoning Code Reforms

Update Oakridge's zoning code to allow middle-density housing types (duplexes, triplexes, rowhouses, walk-up apartments) across appropriate areas of the city.

2. Encourage Infill Development

Prioritize redevelopment of underutilized lots along East First Street, incorporating mixed-use spaces that reinforce community traditions while increasing housing stock.

3. Support Public Engagement

Use visual proposals and community-oriented designs to foster public understanding and support for middle housing through town halls, workshops, and open houses.

4. Implement Design Guidelines

Create design standards that promote a shared architectural language while allowing for individuality. Guidelines should address massing, materials, color, and roof forms.

5. Utilize Elk Meadows as a Pilot Site

Move forward with Elk Meadows as a model neighborhood for middle-density housing. Incorporate feedback from residents, city staff, and future occupants into phased development plans.

6. Incentivize Developer Participation

Provide incentives such as density bonuses, fee reductions, or expedited permitting to encourage the private sector to build middle housing.



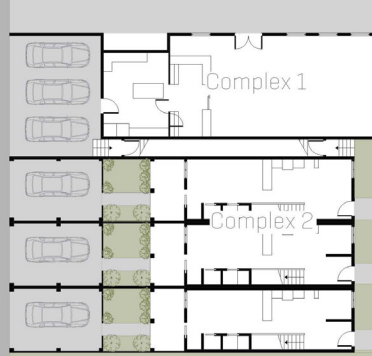
Site Size:
~5000 sqft

Complex 1:
3 ROWHOUSES
2 STORIES
2 BED 2.5 BATH
1 CARPORT EACH
~1200 SQFT EACH

Complex 2:
1 FLAT ABOVE A STORE
1 STORY
2 BED 2 BATH
1 CARPORT
~800 SQFT

SITE 3: CEDAR & 1ST

Site Plan 16'-1.0" ⌚



Floor Plans 16'-1.0" ⌚



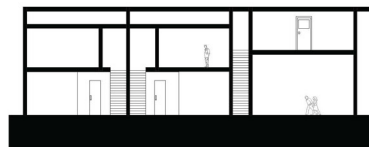
Floor 2



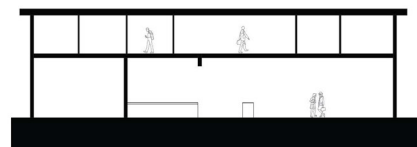
Floor 1



North/South Facade and Section



East/West Facade and Section

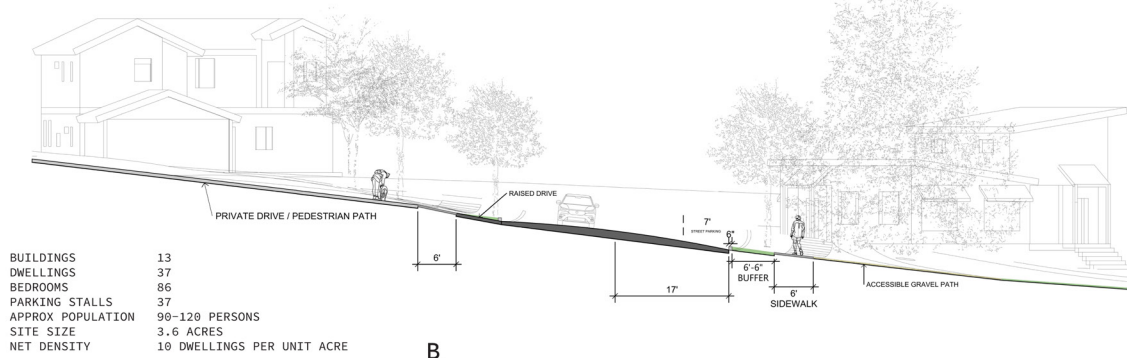


Drawings of a combination of rowhouses and 'living above the store' from Group 2 on the Southwest corner of East First Street and Cedar Street

Credit: Maryclare Lane, Georgia Manning

STREET SECTION

1" = 10'



SITE PLAN



SITE SECTION

1" = 20'

Site map, site section, and street section from Group 5

Credit: Ben Keigwin, Leyton Richards

Wastewater Treatment Facility Analysis and Capital Improvement Plan Development

Classes: Policy and Planning Analysis (PPPM 415/515) and Public Policy Analysis (PPPM 636)

Faculty: Joel Hicks

PROJECT SUMMARY

This project addresses the City of Oakridge's capital improvement planning and potential funding sources for the city's aging infrastructure, focusing primarily on the wastewater treatment facility (WWTF). Throughout the term students and faculty toured the WWTF and produced a Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Threats (SWOT) analysis. After aggregating and organizing best practices research from comparable communities (e.g. similar geographic and demographic characteristics), and discussing operational and resiliency needs at the facility, a complete policy analysis was conducted. Existing equipment upgrades as well as additional capabilities were evaluated and integrated into a consolidated WWTF Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).



From left to right: Robin Henry, Guen DiGioia, Robeart Chrisman, and Rick Zylstra

Image credit: Joel Hicks

BASIC SWOT MATRIX FOR CITY OF OAKRIDGE WWTF UPGRADE

	STRENGTHS +	WEAKNESSES -
INTERNAL FACTORS	+ SIMPLICITY OF REACTOR DESIGN + LOW SERVICE GROWTH ESTIMATES + STRUCTURAL FOUNDATION OF WWTF LIKELY TO SUPPORT LONG-TERM UPGRADE + Distance from urban area + Strong reliance and trust from community	— RELATIVELY SMALL TRAINED WORKFORCE — CAN ONLY ESTIMATE COSTS OF LAND PURCHASE BY U.S. FOREST SERVICE — STORMWATER INFILTRATION "MASKING" PLANT EFFICIENCY — Climate change effecting water and stormwater
EXTERNAL FACTORS	+ SMALL MUNICIPALITIES OFTEN ELIGIBLE FOR MORE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES + COSTS OF GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR/ENERGY STORAGE RAPIDLY DECLINING + CURRENT WWTF ACREAGE MAY BE "TRADEABLE" FOR CAPABILITY + POTENTIAL MARKET FOR BIOSOLID PRODUCTS + Possible electrical savings for eliminating ground water intrusion	— VULNERABLE TO POWER DISRUPTIONS — VULNERABLE TO FIRE/FLOODING — Large stormwater Intrusion can cause exceeding effluent requirements — SHORT-TERM CONCERN FOR FEDERAL SUBSIDIES FOR POLLUTION REDUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — NEW EFFLUENT REQUIREMENTS LIKELY (E.G. PFAS, MICROPLASTICS)

Slide Deck Student Final Presentation

Source: Joel Hicks

RECOMMENDATIONS

Students analyzed each of the following scenarios and proposed two to three policy alternatives. Students then proposed recommendations based on what would likely be the most appropriate solution for the city of Oakridge:

1. It is expected that in the coming years, the EPA will release new restrictions on spreading solid waste due to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) chemicals present in most processed waste. What is the recommended solution to the disposal of solid waste if these recommendations are implemented, and at what cost to the city?
2. Wildfires in Oregon are becoming more frequent and deadly. Due to the location of the wastewater treatment facility, what additional measures can be taken to reduce the risk of fire danger?
3. The age of the wastewater treatment facility backup generator is such that it should be replaced in order to ensure backup power is available when needed. What replacement plan should the city pursue to ensure backup power is available for the site?
4. The wastewater treatment facility is a significant contributor to climate change. What technology can be adopted to help reduce the impact of the facility and provide revenue for its operation?

These policy recommendations were then combined with capital expenses for normal wastewater treatment facility operation to generate a capital improvement plan:

Solid Waste Disposal: We recommend continuing with business as usual. Due to the high cost of adopting biochar technology and the highly cost-effective current disposal technique it was determined not to be fiscally responsible to update the facility for the removal of solid waste PFAS. There is no set timeline for the implementation of PFAS requirements by the EPA, and the current federal administration has made clear that environmental protections are not a priority. Once new guidelines are set or a definitive timeline is created, we would recommend re-reviewing the cost of biochar implementation against the cost of solid waste transportation to a processing facility. If the cost of biochar technology decreases as more facilities adopt it, it may become an economically efficient model.

Onsite Resiliency: We recommend construction of a 36,000 gallon water tower on site to be filled with treated wastewater. This will provide two hours of firefighting water at the wastewater facility to prevent significant damage from wildfires while the city awaits response from County and State firefighting agencies.

Backup Power: We recommend replacing the diesel generator. We also recommend that the new generator be updated to a 175 kW exterior model and in space available in the electrical room used to install a second transfer switch that would power the pumps and blowers for the reactor tanks. This will provide higher operational capabilities and will provide the power needed to treat an influx of water from an extended rain event.

On-Site Power Generation: We recommend the construction of a 40 kW photovoltaic solar array at the wastewater treatment facility. This will provide approximately 12% of the power used at the wastewater treatment facility annually without needing to benefit from a net metering or power buyback agreement.

Legacy Recommendations: Students also included costs to replace legacy equipment including pumps, blowers, updating lab equipment, and addressing inflow and infiltration into the wastewater collection system as part of the proposed capital improvement plan.



During Fall 2024, I had the incredible opportunity to partner with small businesses in the charming City of Oakridge through my Marketing 311 class. Our class immersed ourselves in the local community, learning how each unique business contributes to Oakridge's vibrant character. Through conversations with passionate business owners, we gained valuable insights into their dedication to serving local residents and visitors alike. In return, my class developed tailored marketing strategies to help these businesses thrive and expand their reach, while preserving the authentic small-town spirit that makes Oakridge special.

Sara Langford
Marketing '25



A Marketing Blueprint to Enhance Local Businesses in Oakridge

Class: Marketing Management (MKG 311)

Faculty: Connor Henderson

PROJECT SUMMARY

Students undertook detailed analyses of four local small businesses integral to the City of Oakridge's identity: Brock's Wood Lot, Mill Pond Station, The Campfire (Cowgirl Cook'n), and Trans Cascadia Excursions. Each project examined these businesses' unique challenges and opportunities, culminating in tailored marketing strategies and operational insights to help support Oakridge's economic development. The four businesses offer a wide variety of services to Oakridge and student recommendations focused on highlighting and enhancing the offerings to support year-round success. The student teams provided recommendations centered on digital marketing, brand development, and community partnerships to help increase visibility, attract customers, and strengthen long-term resilience. This collaboration highlights how local engagement and strategic marketing can drive sustainable growth in small communities.

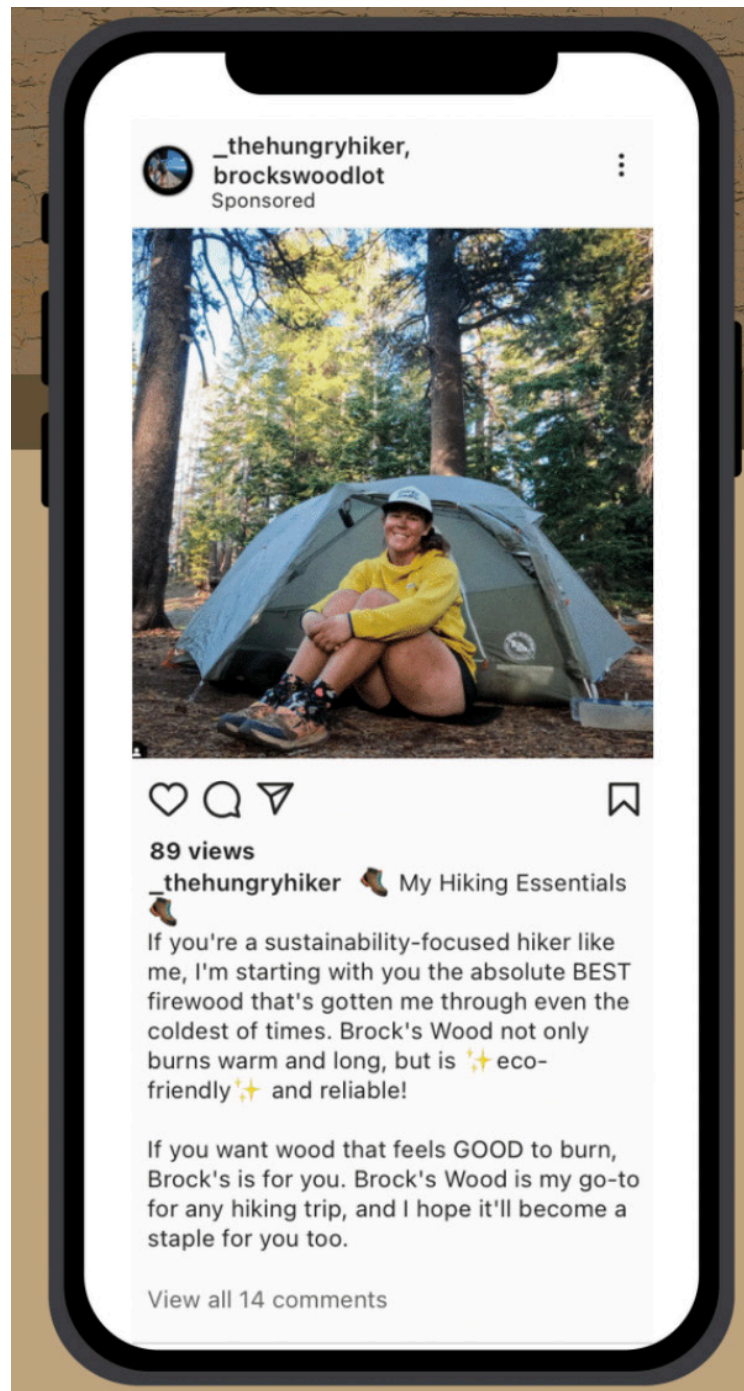


Class site visit to tour future Mill Pond Station winery and meet owner Don Grant

Source: Sara Langford

Potential BWL and
Instagram influencer
collaboration post

Source: Sara Langford



RECOMMENDATIONS

Brock's Wood Lot

Students recommend Brock's Wood Lot introduce 5% donation tags on firewood bundles to support local firefighters, with distribution in Oakridge, Bend, Portland, Eugene, and key highway stops. Social media and influencer partnerships will increase visibility, while the price will rise to \$5.50 per bundle. Kiln-dried firewood in eco-friendly packaging, emphasizing sustainability, sold locally and along strategic routes was also recommended.

Mill Pond Station

Recommendations for Mill Pond Station include the provision and promotion of tiny homes on Airbnb with high-quality photos and wine tasting packages. Social media, regional tourism boards, and a dedicated website could enhance visibility and engagement, supported by Google Maps and search optimization. A DIY charcuterie board workshop would provide guests with a personalized experience and branded keepsakes, strengthening customer engagement and brand awareness. Strategic partnerships with the 3-Legged Crane Pub & Brewhouse and Sundance Wine Cellars would expand reach. Regular social media posts on Instagram and Facebook could boost visibility.



AI generated mockup of Airbnb tiny homes recycled from train cabooses

Source: Sara Langford



Mock ads to market paint nights at the restaurant

Source: Sara Langford

The Campfire

Students recommended The Campfire introduce two new offerings to enhance its brand and appeal. Monthly instructor-led paint nights could create a fun, social dining experience that fosters community, with food, drink, and guided painting included. Strategic promotion through social media, consistent scheduling, and local partnerships could help drive attendance. Additionally, launching “Cowgirl Quick Eats”—a line of convenient, prepackaged meals—could attract busy customers and tourists. With influencer marketing, a user-friendly website, and flexible meal options, this initiative has the potential to broaden The Campfire’s reach and reinforce its connection to local lifestyle and convenience.

Mock ads to market
paint nights at the
restaurant

Source: Sara Langford



evergreen.rides · Follow
Oakridge, OR



liked by **uo_outdoorprogram** and 3,242 others

evergreen.rides Calling all Mountain Bikers and Outdoor Enthusiasts! Want a chance to win a FREE YEAR of Shuttle Rides? Click the link in bio for a chance to win! ... more

View all 16 comments



Add a comment...

2 days ago

Trans Cascadia Excursions

Trans Cascadia Excursions recommendations included enhancing their social media presence, particularly through Instagram reels, to increase visibility and engagement. This strategy could broaden reach and attract new customers by showcasing offerings and leveraging trends. Expanding trip options to include beginner-friendly routes and establishing a mountain bike school at Willamette Pass could help make the brand more accessible and diversify revenue. A strong placement plan—including an updated website, strategic pamphlet distribution, and social media content—could further boost awareness. Additionally, targeted promotions, influencer partnerships, and customer loyalty incentives are suggested to attract, convert, and retain a dedicated customer base.



This exceptional program has been a transformative asset to our small rural community, providing our limited city staff with access to the expertise, creativity, and innovation of students.

Bryan Cutchen
Mayor, City of Oakridge



Elevating Oakridge: A Marketing Initiative for Tourism

Class: Marketing Strategy (MGKT 490)

Faculty: Conor Henderson

PROJECT SUMMARY

This project was designed to support Oakridge's long-term economic development by enhancing tourism and promoting the town's outdoor assets. Students conducted extensive research using both qualitative and quantitative methods, including over 50 interviews, focus groups, benchmarking analyses, secret shopping, and analysis of over 500 survey responses. Student findings revealed that while Oakridge is positively perceived by visitors, general awareness remains limited. Drawing from segmentation analysis, students identified six distinct audience profiles and created targeted, low-cost marketing action plans. Additionally, students developed three overarching strategies: a refreshed brand identity, an influencer marketing campaign, and a community coupon book initiative. Together, these strategies form a practical, data-informed marketing roadmap to increase visibility, strengthen local business engagement, and support sustainable tourism growth.



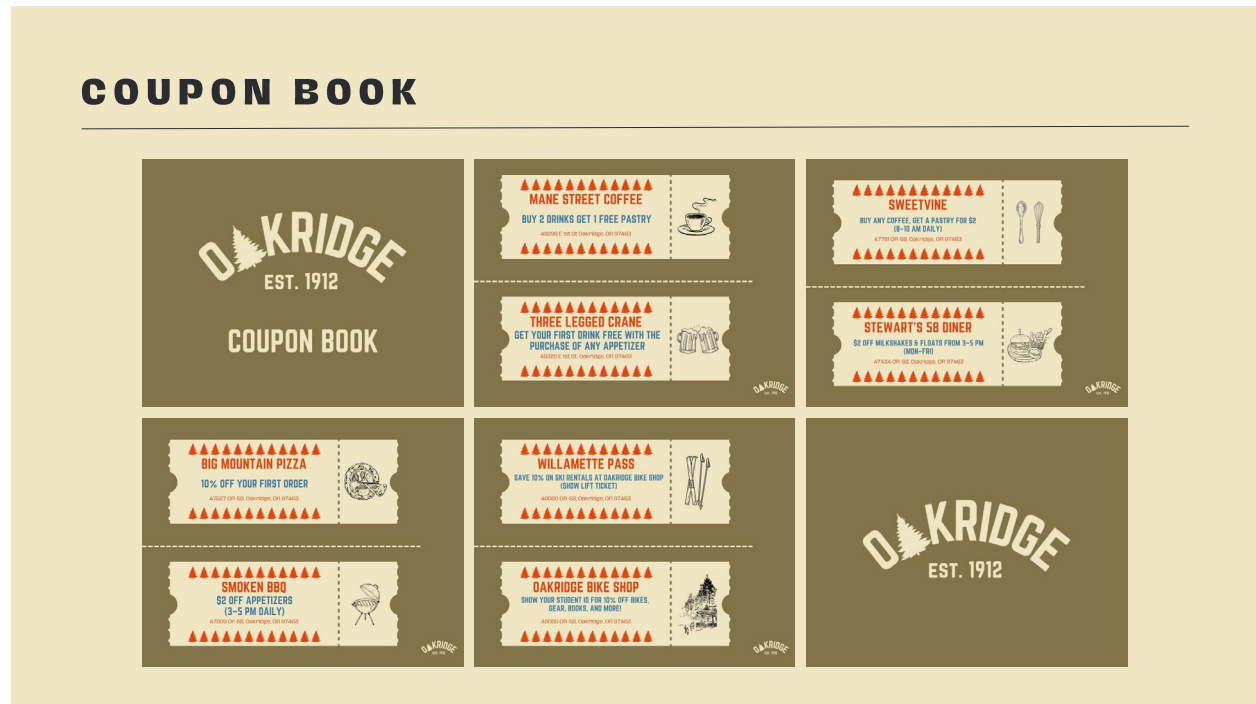
Concepts for a new Oakridge logo and taglines

Source: Alexander Huegel

RECOMMENDATIONS

To support tourism and economic vitality goals, students recommended the following to help Oakridge enhance its regional visibility, draw more visitors, and create lasting economic benefits for the community:

- 1. Implement a Unified Brand Identity:** Adopt the proposed logos, taglines, and design guidelines to create a consistent and recognizable image for Oakridge.
- 2. Launch an Influencer Marketing Campaign:** Partner with regional influencers to highlight Oakridge's natural beauty and recreational opportunities, expanding its digital presence and reaching new audiences.
- 3. Distribute a Community Coupon Book:** Promote local businesses through a print and digital coupon initiative that incentivizes spending from both residents and tourists.
- 4. Activate Segment-Specific Marketing Plans:** Use the six developed consumer profiles to guide targeted outreach efforts that align with audience preferences and media habits.
- 5. Continue Fostering Community Engagement:** Maintain open collaboration with local stakeholders to refine and implement strategies that reflect the evolving needs of Oakridge.

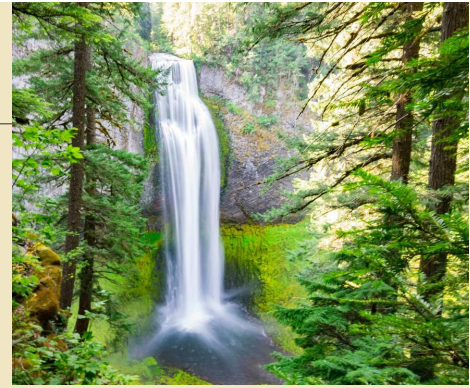


Examples of potential coupons the town could employ using the rebranded logos, fonts, and colors

Source: Alexander Huegel

BRAND STRATEGY - TAGLINE

“Follow the Forest”



Messaging Pillars:

1. Outdoor Adventure Capital – Premier trails, rivers, and mountains.
2. Vibrant Community – Small-town charm with rich history and events.
3. Sustainable & Authentic – Rooted in nature, thriving for the future.

A new tagline idea as well as the core focuses that inspired its creation

Source: Alexander Huegel

INFLUENCER OUTREACH - POTENTIAL INFLUENCERS



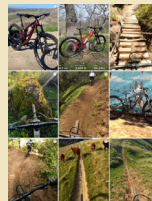
Nathaniel Cutshall

- 16.2k followers on IG
- Photographer who photographs lakes and evergreen forests from Washington



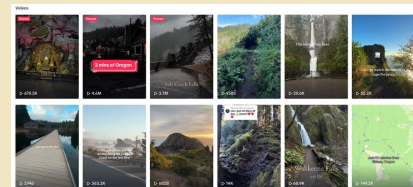
Tom (@mymtbbuild)

- 42.7k followers on IG
- Mountain biker from northern California, posts photos and videos about mountain biking trails



@oregons_best

- 321k followers on TikTok
- Oregon Traveler that visits new and fun places and hiking destinations



Different influencer profiles recommended for the campaign ideas, with content from their profiles and respective follower counts

Source: Alexander Huegel

Oakridge Industrial Park Marketing Strategy

Class: Oregon Consulting Group

Faculty: Scott Day

PROJECT SUMMARY

Acquired by the city in the mid-1990s, the Oakridge Industrial Park (OIP) has attracted a few successful businesses. The City of Oakridge still owns 13 parcels that are available for sale or lease and wanted to develop a strategic marketing program for the OIP, leveraging industrial and commercial market trends to target specific industrial sectors. Oregon Consulting Group students conducted research and developed a strategic marketing plan to target companies that align with Oakridge's economic vision. The project involved analyzing industry trends, evaluating prospective businesses, and crafting a tailored recruitment strategy to position Oakridge as a competitive location for business expansion. Key deliverables included: a list of target companies, a scoring system for evaluating future businesses, and a customizable sales pitch and marketing plan.



Class site visit to tour the Oakridge Industrial Park and meet with the City of Oakridge staff

Source: Riley Bader

RECOMMENDATIONS

Students proposed the following strategic recommendations to recruit businesses to the OIP and for the City of Oakridge to position itself as an attractive destination for industrial and commercial growth, driving sustainable economic development.

1. Enhance Marketing Efforts

- Improve Oakridge's online presence with a dedicated OIP website update, including a drone-filmed virtual tour.
- Create real estate flyers and updated marketing materials.
- Strengthen social media and digital outreach.

2. Leverage Financial Incentives

- Promote tax benefits of Oakridge's Enterprise Zone status.
- Highlight available state and federal grants for infrastructure development.
- Provide clear cost estimates for business relocation timelines.

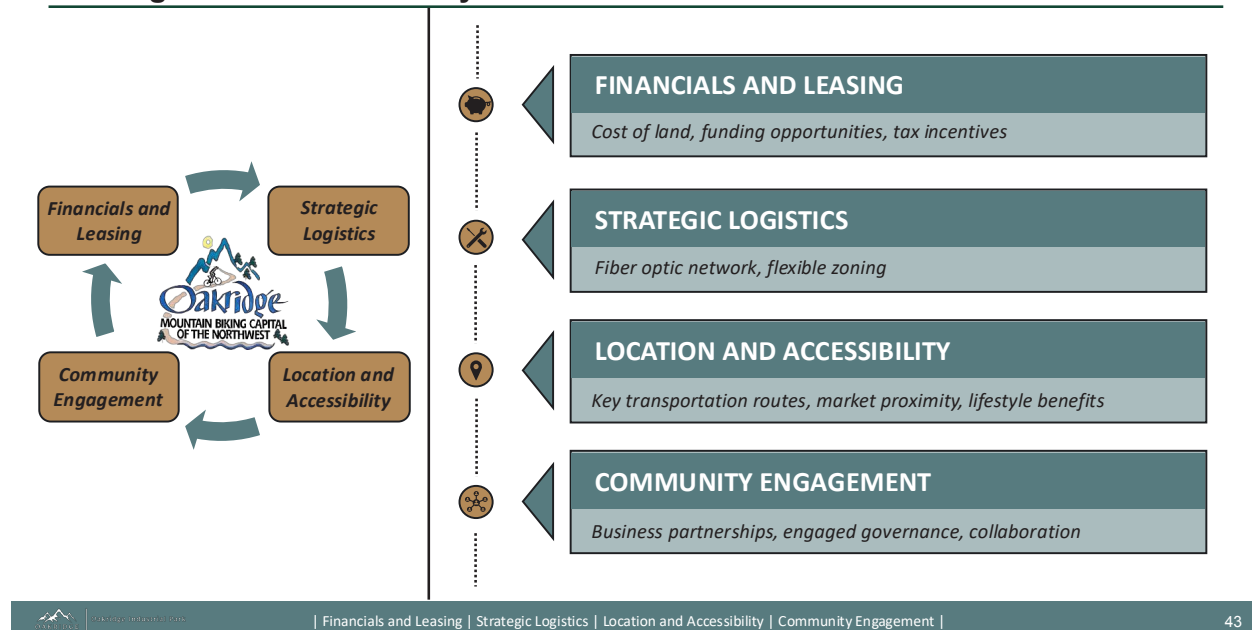
3. Target High-Scoring Companies

- Focus initial recruitment on pre-identified companies like Bi-Mart, Dutch Bros, and PAPE Machinery, which scored high on economic impact and sustainability.
- Use the adaptable scoring system to evaluate future business prospects.

4. Strengthen Business Recruitment Process

- Attend networking events and trade shows to connect with potential investors.
- Develop a business-friendly sales pitch using data-driven insights.
- Streamline the proposal and approval process for prospective businesses.

Oakridge Industrial Park Key Benefits



Presentation slide on key benefits of Oakridge Industrial Park

Source: Nick Batchelder, Dayton Walker, Kamran Farboud, Nayan Murthy, Grace Clark, Riley Bader, and Gabe Kaufman

City of Oakridge Industrial Park



The Oakridge Industrial Park, located on **Highway 58** in east Oakridge, features a mix of **industrial, mixed used/flex, and commercially zoned** parcels, proximity to major transportation routes, and **250 acres** of undeveloped, **city-owned property** tucked away in a beautiful mountain setting.



Flexible and affordable land,
13 open lots for sale/lease



Fiber optic network access
for high-speed internet



Proximity to I-5 corridor,
Eugene airport, and Portland

DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES



STATE

Oregon offers a favorable climate for thriving businesses through **financial incentives** and renowned **quality of life**.



REGIONAL

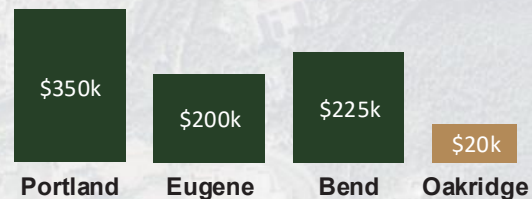
With a strong connection to **Business Oregon**, administrators are experienced helping companies **obtain funds**.



LOCAL

Oakridge is a designated **enterprise zone**, opening doors for **property tax abatements** and existing business **partnerships**.

Per Acre Land Cost Comparison



Parcels for sale or lease are **flexible**. Lots are zoned industrial, mixed, or commercial use respectively, but similar parcels **can be combined to adapt** to company needs.

“Oakridge is a tight-knit community, people are here to support you!”

- Don Grant, Current OIP Tenant

INTERESTED? CONTACT:

James Cleavenger, City Administrator
cityadministrator@ci.oakridge.or.us
(541) 782 - 2258
<https://www.ci.oakridge.or.us/>



Oakridge Industrial Park



Student developed promotional one-pager to utilize for Oakridge Industrial Park recruitment efforts

Source: Nick Batchelder, Dayton Walker, Kamran Farboud, Nayan Murthy, Grace Clark, Riley Bader, and Gabe Kaufman



The City of Oakridge is incredibly grateful for the two-year partnership with SCYP. The expertise and assistance from UO faculty and students will allow us to take-on far more projects and endeavors benefiting the city than we would otherwise be able to accomplish due to understaffing and limited funds. As a UO Law School graduate myself, it is especially exciting to be able to work with my alma mater to find solutions to a myriad of complex issues facing the city.

James Cleavenger
City Administrator, City of Oakridge



Oakridge Municipal Court Program Policy Report

Faculty: Aniko Drlik-Muehleck and Amanda Ferguson

Class: Real World Lane County (PPPM 410)

PROJECT SUMMARY

The City of Oakridge operates a Municipal Court dealing with various violations and misdemeanors. However, many citizens can't afford fines, which leads to a lack of justice implementation. To address this, students explored a proposed "community service program", allowing defendants to fulfill their fines through volunteer work. Students researched legal statutes and conducted interviews with nonprofits and city governments to develop the program. The interviews with nonprofit agencies helped to gauge program interest and defendant service restrictions. Students also compared active Community Service Programs in Lane County, Roseburg, and Coburg.



Real World Showcase Event featuring the Community Service Team

Image credit: Megan Banks

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on research conducted, students developed the steps, guidelines, and forms that the Court staff could use to administer the program in partnership with agencies to work with defendants during their service.

Students recommended the following steps to implement a program:

- The judge will present defendants with the option to complete volunteer work for either a nonprofit or public agency as an alternative to paying a fine.
- The judge will provide the defendant with an agreement form to be eligible for the Community Service Program and a time sheet to track their volunteer hours.
- The defendant will be presented with a list of currently eligible partners with the partner's preferred contact information.
- Organizations will supervise defendants during community service and sign off on the timesheet brought by the defendant.
- The defendant will report back to the court and deliver the timesheet with their supervisor's signature once they have completed their hours.



Oakridge Community Service Program brochure (inside)

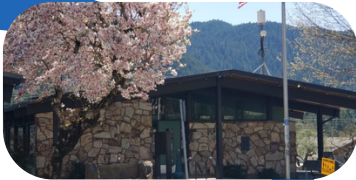
Source: Bryson Petterborg, Claire Fritock, Jacque Velasco, Madeline Powell

About Program

The Oakridge Municipal Court Community Service Program provides an alternative to paying court-ordered fines. defendants may elect to participate in this program and volunteer for the hours assigned at sentencing.

A list of currently partnered nonprofit organizations is provided and defendants can choose an organization, provided they meet the organization's requirements.

In addition to offering a substitute for paying a fine, this program allows defendants to build lasting connections to their community.



Contact Us



+1 (541) 782-2258 ext 7



municipalcourt@ci.oakridge.or.us



ci.oakridge.or.us



48318 E 1st Street
Oakridge, OR 97463



**Oakridge
Municipal Court**

**Community
Service
Program**

Oakridge, OR

Oakridge Community Service Program brochure (front)

Source: Bryson Petterborg, Claire Fritock, Jacque Velasco, Madeline Powell

Engaged Journalism: Assessing the Information Needs of Oakridge

Class: Engaged Journalism (JCOM 463/563)

Faculty: Andrew DeVigal

PROJECT SUMMARY

In collaboration with the Agora Journalism Center, Highway 58 Herald, and local non-profits, the class focused on identifying the health of Oakridge's local news and civic information of Oakridge residents. Students engaged directly with the community to evaluate the availability, accessibility, and quality of local news and information, ensuring residents' information needs are met, and empowering them to participate fully in civic life.

What are your biggest challenges in getting news and information about your community?

■ N/A ■ Under 18 ■ 18-24 ■ 25-34 ■ 35-44 ■ 45-54 ■ 55-64 ■ 65+ ■ Total

	N/A	Under 18	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
News feels biased, untrustworthy or unreliable	2	0	0	2	4	4	6	11	29
Lack of internet access	0		0	0	1	2	2	1	6
Local news doesn't represent my community	1	0	0	1	1	3	5	10	21
Local news is behind a paywall or too expensive	1	0	0	1	1	3	5	10	21
I don't know where to look for local news		0	1	1	4	4	1	7	18
There are none	0	1	0	2	3	0	2	5	13

Survey results of the biggest challenges in accessing news and information

Source: Becca Weinberg



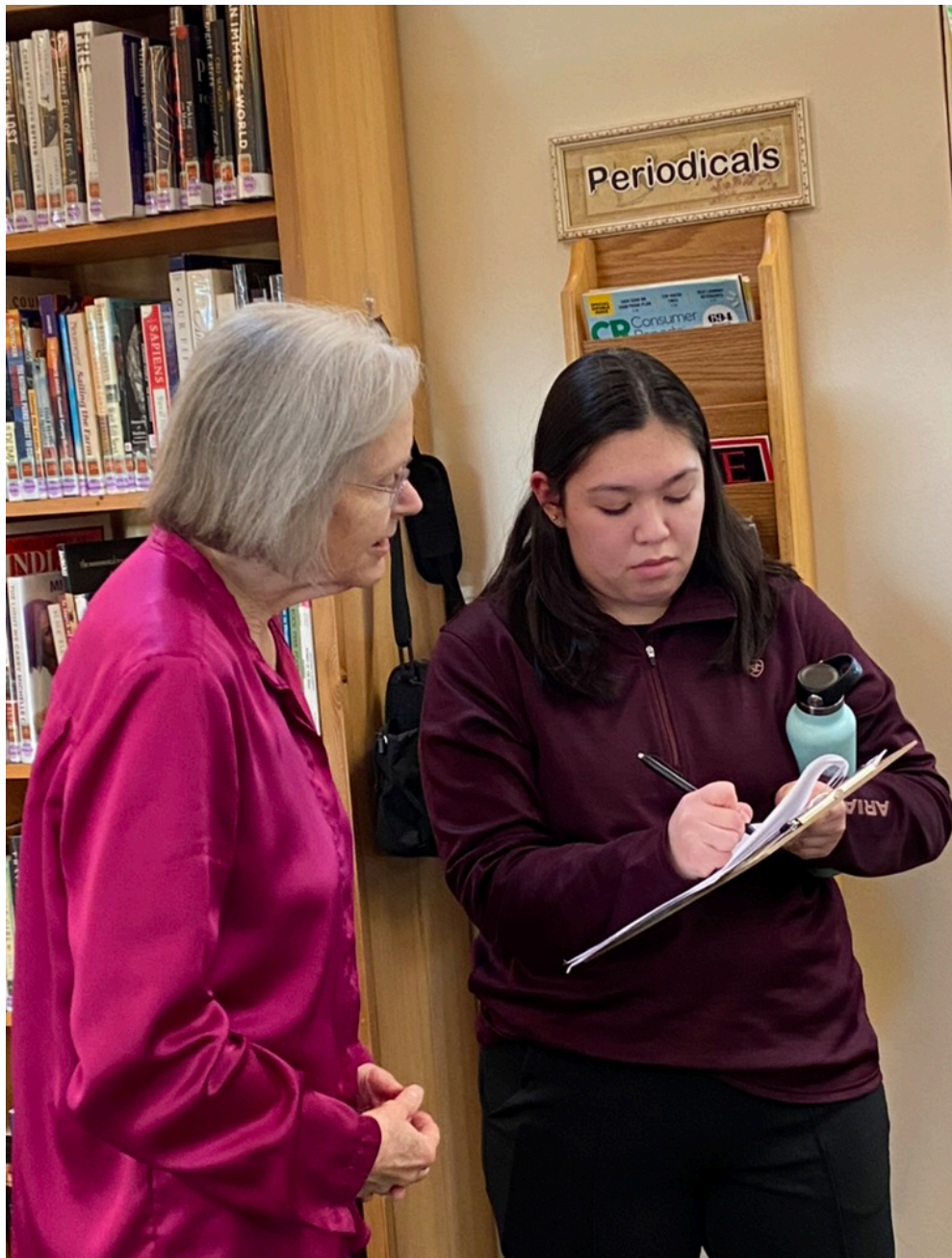
Students participating in class discussion surrounding recommendations for Oakridge

Image Credit: Andrew DeVigal

RECOMMENDATIONS

Students created a survey based on the Listening Post Collective Playbook to understand the information needs of Oakridge and how they align with the broader scope of small-town news accessibility. Students then spent significant time outside of the classroom engaging with the Oakridge community. Through analysis of the survey findings collected, students compiled the following recommendations to better support the information needs of Oakridge:

- Media literacy through trust building and civic engagement
- Community engagement through office hours and listening sessions
- Digital distribution methods through SMS and newsletters
- Civic hub collaboration to foster local partnerships



Students engaged with residents at the Oakridge Public Library during a Community Listening session

Image credit: Megan Banks

Willamette Activity Center: Operational & Expense Framework

Classes: MPA Capstone Applied Research Project
and Research Methods (PPPM 638 & PPPM 639)

Faculty: Aniko Drlik-Muehleck

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Willamette Activity Center (WAC), once a hub for public services and community gatherings prior to its closure in 2022, is planning to reopen as a Resilience Hub for various community services. Master of Public Administration capstone students conducted a six-month applied research project to guide its redevelopment. Their work included a comprehensive user needs assessment, a scalable operational model and budget, and a grassroots fundraising strategy. Stakeholder interviews identified key needs such as ADA accessibility, flexible space, strong technology infrastructure, and varied rental options. The City of Oakridge will continue to own and operate the facility, ensuring public stewardship, compliance, and long-term viability.

The WAC Transitions



The WAC operating as a social service hub for the community (1980 – 2020)

Current conditions of the WAC from student site visit

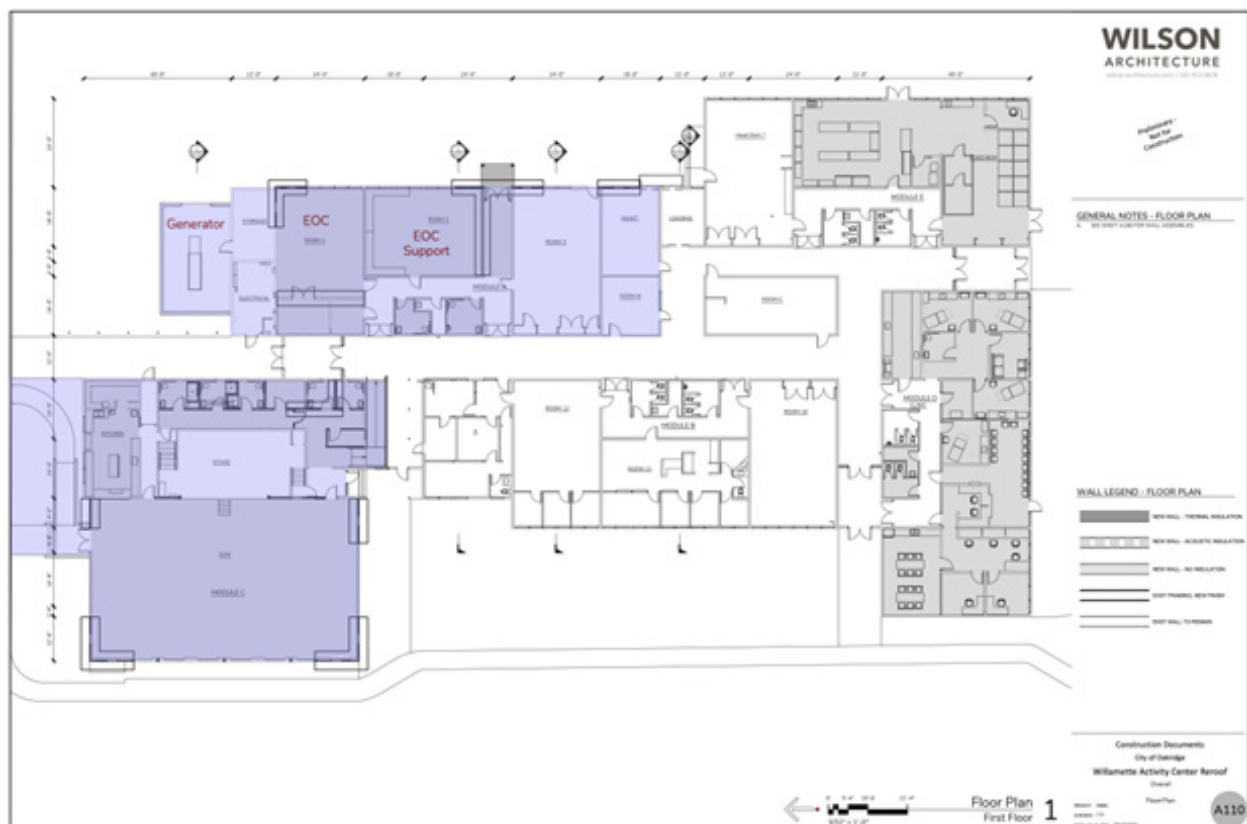
Source: Beatriz Naranjo, Elizabeth Quintanilla, and Gavin Grant

RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure successful redevelopment and sustainable operation of the WAC, students recommend:

- **Flexible Leasing:** Offer tiered rental structures (hourly, short-term, long-term) to accommodate varied tenant capacities.
- **Early ADA and Technology Investments:** Prioritize accessibility improvements and robust Wi-Fi infrastructure to meet baseline tenant expectations.
- **Dedicated Staffing:** Employ a full-time Building Coordinator and a part-time Maintenance Technician, funded by tenant revenue.
- **Financial Sustainability:** Operate under a revenue-based budget model with three occupancy scenarios (low, medium, high), ensuring core expenses are covered by rental income.
- **Grassroots Fundraising:** Implement low-barrier strategies such as community sports concession stands, monthly “Give What You Can” campaigns, and a community-built Legacy Wall to cultivate local investment and support operational costs.
- **Ongoing Engagement:** Continue outreach to additional stakeholders, host open houses, and create an online expression-of-interest form to confirm tenant interest and refine space planning.

Together, these recommendations aim to create a resilient, inclusive, and community-centered space that reflects Oakridge’s needs and values.



Resilience Hub grant renovation sections remodeled renderings

Source: Wilson Architecture

Key Findings



Space Needs

- Classroom or office
- Kitchen
- ADA accessible restrooms
- Storage room



Operational Needs

- Safety & security measures
- Coordinated logistics
- Wi-Fi provided



Rent Allocations

- Short-term and flexible leases
- Long-term lease
- Full-time access at higher rates



Key findings from user needs assessment research

Source: Beatriz Naranjo, Elizabeth Quintanilla, and Gavin Grant

Acknowledgments

CITY OF OAKRIDGE STAFF

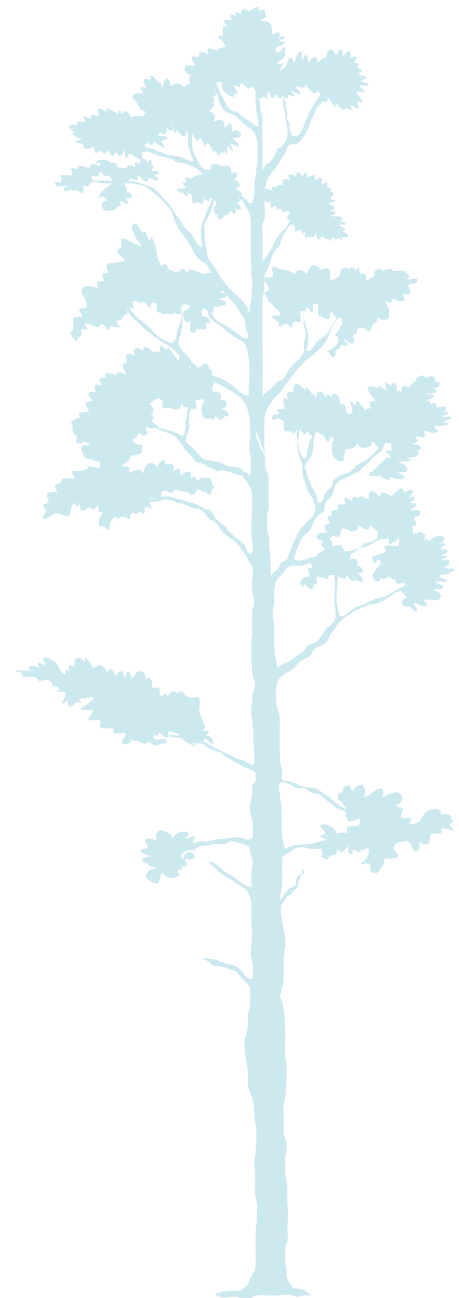
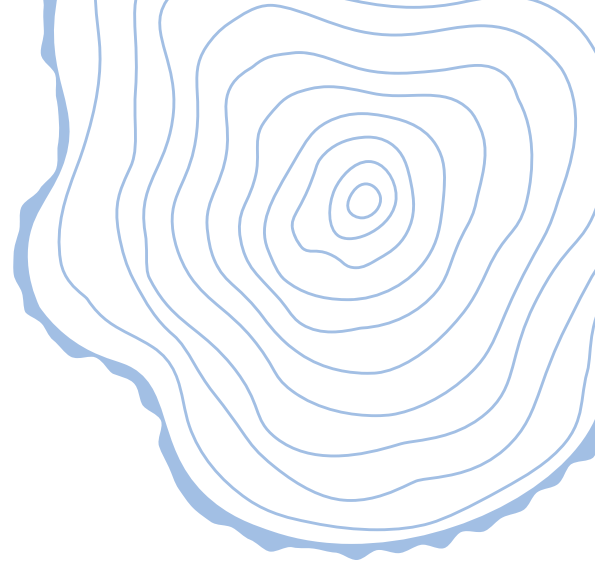
James Cleavenger, City Administrator
Rick Zylstra, Community Development Director
Robeart Chrisman, Public Works Supervisor, City of Oakridge
Mikal Mcphearson, Court Clerk
Frank Segarra, Municipal Court Judge

MAYOR AND OAKRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Bryan Cutchen, Mayor
Dirk “Poncho” Tarman, Council President
Michelle Coker, Council Member
Kelly Brewer, Council Member
Aaron Davis, Council Member
Marty Scott, Council Member
Thaddeus Carter, Council Member

STAKEHOLDERS

Georgi Samuelson, Oakridge Public Library
George Custer, Highway 58 Herald
Bev McCulley, Oakridge Food Box
Chrissy Hollett, Oakridge Chat Forum
Rachael Keys, Oakridge High School
Angelica Mountainspring-Wood, Oakridge High School
Cailey Sokolowski, Oakridge High School
Larry Black, Lane County Deputy
Laura Luther, Lane County Talent Acquisition Strategist
Nancy Berge, Families Connected Program Manager



STAKEHOLDERS CONT.

Guen DiGioia, Community & Climate Resiliency Coordinator, Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative

Don Grant, Founder of Mill Pond Station

Brock Buckmeier, Owner, Brock's Wood Lot

Marissa Lopez, Owner, Cowgirl Cook'n

Nick and Jessi Gibson, Founders of Trans Cascadia Excursions

Jude Anderson, Oakridge RAIN Catalyst; President, Oakridge Chamber of Commerce

Nat Andreini, Keller Williams Government Services

Josh Cooley, Keller Williams Realty

Professor Qusheng Jin, University of Earth Sciences Professor

Nancy Evanson, Property Owner

Steve Ness, Property Owner

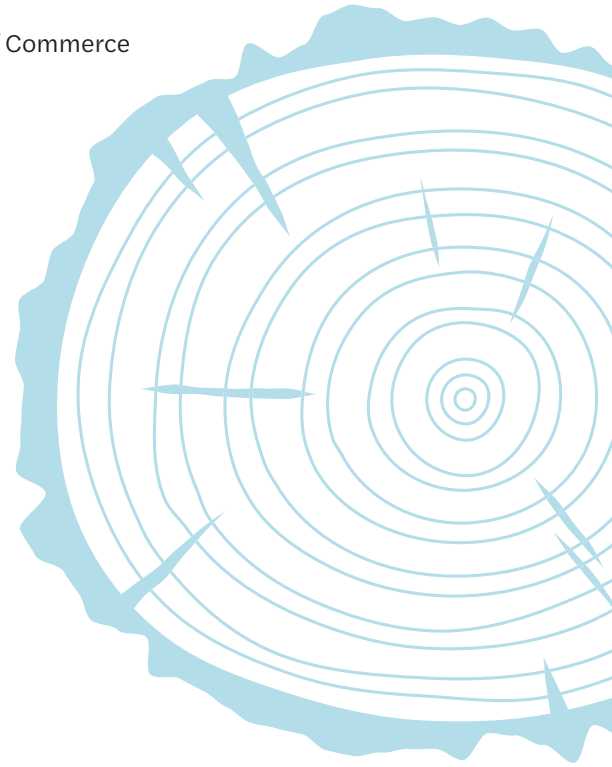
Jennifer Lloyd, Realtor

Dianna Wellman-Hadley, Oakridge Museum Volunteer

Bud Rice, Oakridge Museum Volunteer

Lori Shafer, Oakridge Museum Volunteer

Curt Wilson, Architect for Wilson Architecture



Parting Thoughts

We often hear that one must focus on an end goal and outcomes; however, in practice it is often the journey that provides the opportunities to discover and contemplate a different, more robust future. SCYP allows students to explore, create, and think critically while community partners engage with students and faculty to strengthen their vitality and resilience.

Over fifteen years, the tenets of SCYP have remained the same: focus on engaging varied academic disciplines to elevate partners and their priority projects in creative and new ways. For the first time over the 2024-25 year, SCYP expanded its impact by working with partners of diverse sizes, scope, interests, and geographies at the same time. The results have yielded strategic, tactical, and visionary tools – along with designs and policy recommendations – that SCYP partners can apply today and adapt for the future. The continued success of SCYP and its desire to improve Oregon communities will depend on bold ideas, collaboration, and the shared belief in meaningful change.

FUNDING ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Community partnerships are possible in part due to support from U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, as well as former Congressman Peter DeFazio, who secured federal funding for SCYP through Congressionally Directed Spending.

Acknowledgments

Over the 2024-2025 school year, community partner staff and stakeholders and the Sustainable City Year Program staff, students, and faculty worked together to create viable recommendations and outcomes that will move Oregon communities forward towards a more sustainable and responsive future.

University of Oregon Faculty



Megan Banks

Instructor, Planning, Public Policy and Management



Scott Day

Instructor of Management, Lundquist College of Business



Robert Binder

Visiting Assistant Professor, Planning, Public Policy and Management



Andrew DeVigal

Professor of Practice, Journalism and Communications



Anne Brown

Associate Professor, Planning, Public Policy and Management



Aniko Drlik-Muehleck

IPRE Applied Research Director, Planning, Public Policy and Management



Nancy Cheng

Associate Professor, Architecture and Environment



Amanda Ferguson

IPRE Project Manager, Planning, Public Policy and Management



Alaa Hamid

Visiting Assistant Professor,
Architecture and Environment



Dean Mundy

Associate Professor, Journalism
and Communications



Joel Hicks

Visiting Assistant Professor,
Planning, Public Policy and
Management



Attila Schillinger

Professor of Practice, Journalism
and Communications



Conor Henderson

Associate Professor of
Marketing, Lundquist College
of Business



Marc Schlossberg

Professor, Planning, Public Policy
and Management



Kaarin Knudson

Pro Tem Instructor, Planning,
Public Policy and Management



Yizhao Yang

Professor, Planning, Public Policy
and Management

Oregon State University Faculty



Mariapaola Riggio

Associate Professor, Wood
Science & Engineering

Sustainable Cities Institute Staff



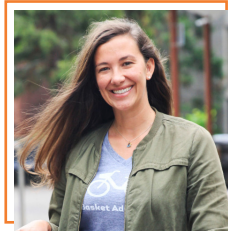
Marc Schlossberg
SCI Co-Director, and Professor
of Planning, Public Policy and
Management



Nico Larco
SCI Co-Director, and Professor
of Architecture



Megan Banks
SCYP Director



Lindsey Hayward
SCYP Assistant Program
Manager



Marsha Gravesen
SCI Fiscal and Office Manager



Danielle Lewis
SCI Graphic Designer



Grace Craven
SCYP Report Coordinator



Denali Herrick
SCYP Communication and Visual
Media Assistant

This report represents original student work and recommendations prepared by students in the University of Oregon's Sustainable City Year Program. Text and images contained in this report may not be used without permission from the University of Oregon.