



Hermiston • SCYP

2021-2022 Compilation Report



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Prepared by

Sustainable City Year Program for the City of Hermiston

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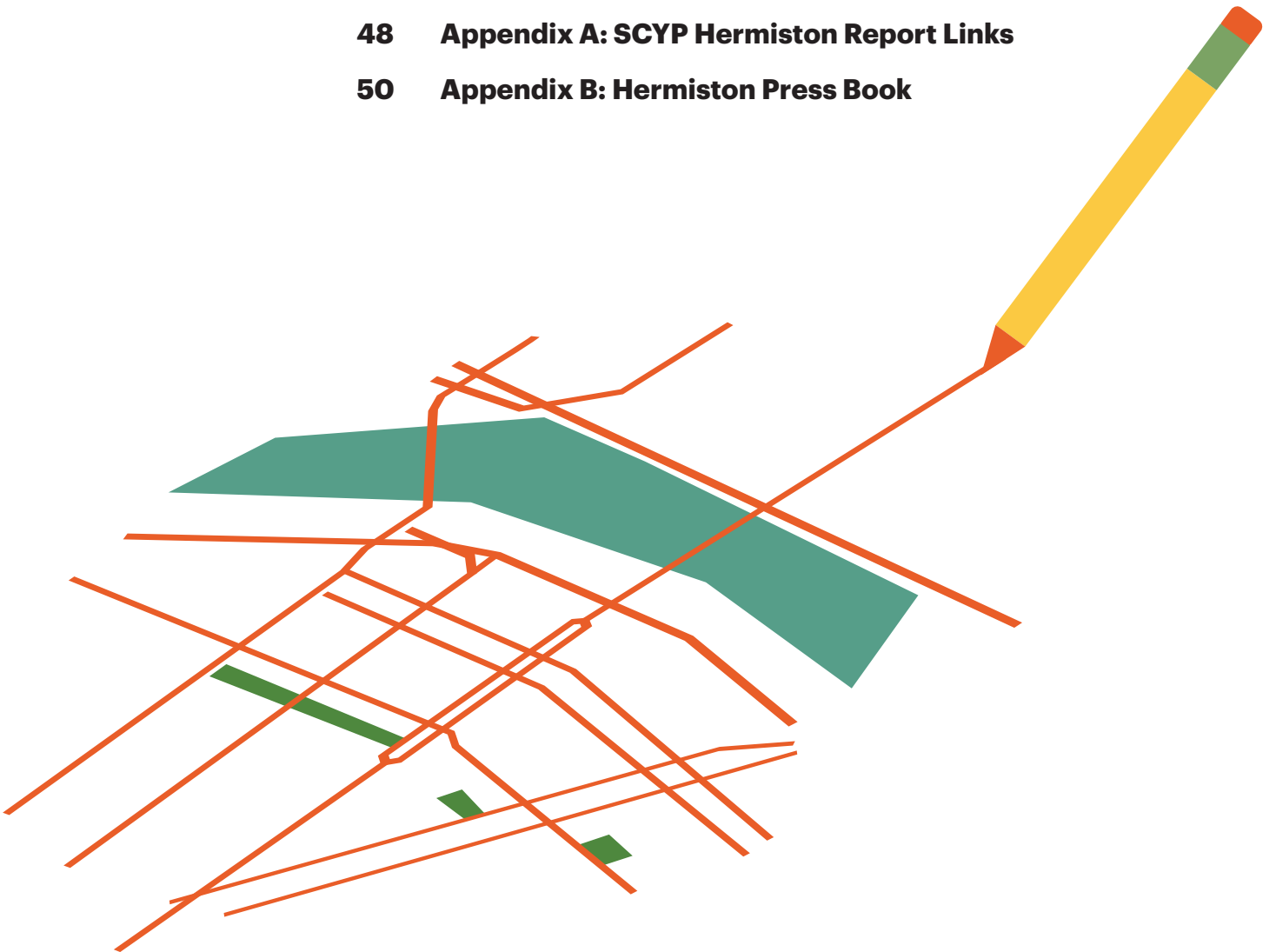
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About SCI

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 year-long 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

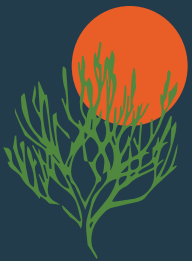
and service-learning courses to provide students with real-world projects to investigate. Students bring energy, enthusiasm, and innovative approaches to difficult, persistent problems. SCYP's primary value derives from collaborations that result in on-the-ground impact and expanded conversations for a community ready to transition to a more sustainable and livable future.



HERMISTON OREGON



DESERT CLIMATE = SWEET WATERMELONS



Hot days spur
watermelon plants
to produce more
sugar for energy.



Cool nights allow
for the watermelons
to retain their extra
sweetness.

**LAND
AREA:
7.81 mi²**

2020 POPULATION:

19,354



44%
HISPANIC

Hispanic Advisory
Committee

ESTABLISHED IN 2012



Annual Cinco
de Mayo Festival
SINCE 2013

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES
2013 City Cultural
Diversity Award



WASHINGTON

Columbia River

OREGON



TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS HUB

- Proximity of I-82 and I-84 interchanges.
- Central location between major Pacific Northwest metropolitan areas.

Introduction

Originally the land of the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla people, Hermiston lies just south of the Columbia River and the Washington border. In the 1860s Hermiston was known as a hotel called the “Six Mile House,” a stop for travelers in the Columbia River Basin. Following the establishment of railroads, the City was incorporated in 1907 and had a population of about 647 people. Currently, Hermiston has more than 19,000 residents and is the largest city in eastern Oregon.

Approximately eight square miles in area, Hermiston is located at the junction of Interstate 82 and Interstate 84 in Umatilla County. Renowned for its watermelons, Hermiston’s desert climate and proximity to the Umatilla River and the Columbia River have made agriculture a dominant industry since the early 1900s. In the 1970s potato processing plants and the introduction of center pivot irrigation firmly established agriculture as an economic asset to the City. At the same time, industrial businesses expanded into Hermiston, further stimulating the economy. Additional commercial development, such as large scale distribution centers followed in the 1990s and 2000s , which increased employment opportunities and diversified the City’s economic growth. The City’s economic base further diversified with new data centers constructed in nearby Boardman and Umatilla and additional centers proposed for Hermiston as well. The City is a regional trade hub and is central to a broader area serving over 76,000 people.

The City maintains a variety of parks and open spaces, and Hat Rock State Park is located nearby. In the summer, the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center hosts the Umatilla County Fair and Farm-City Pro Rodeo, among other events that highlight Hermiston’s rural culture.

Hermiston’s employment rate is 62.1%, which is above Oregon’s employment rate of 59.3%, and has a mean household income of \$54,123. Seventy percent of the residents are between the ages of 18-64. Forty-four percent of Hermiston’s population is Hispanic and as the City grows, it has emphasized inclusion. The City created the Hispanic Advisory Committee in 2012, which proceeded to represent and integrate Hermiston’s Hispanic communities.¹

HERMISTON 2040 AND SCYP

The City’s most recent community visioning process, Hermiston 2040, concluded in January 2022. The purpose of this community vision was to set a shared, 20-year goal for the community and provide a vivid description of how the community wants to look, feel, and function over time. (Hermiston 2040 Community Vision + Action Plan) This was followed by more specific actions.

1. Sources: United States Census Bureau, City of Hermiston, Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, and Hermiston 2040

HERMISTON 2040 VISION

A community where friendliness and opportunity abound.

Welcome to Hermiston. Where life is sweet and our future is sweeter.

In 2040, Hermiston is a community where everyone is welcome – whether you’re visiting or looking for a place to call home, we provide a safe, beautiful, and close-knit community where neighbors help one another, and friendliness and opportunity abound. From a booming economy to recreational amenities, we have big city services rooted in small-town values.

Hermiston's 2040 Goals:

1. Growing + Prosperous Hermiston
2. Safe + Healthy Hermiston
3. Connected + Engaged Hermiston
4. Sustainable Hermiston

Hermiston, in working with SCYP, had the opportunity to leverage university student capacity and faculty expertise to address city-identified projects that will support the City's vision and goals.

FIG NUM. 1

Classes and Applicable City Goals

		GOALS			
		Growing + Prosperous Hermiston	Safe + Healthy Hermiston	Connected + Engaged Hermiston	Sustainable Hermiston
CLASSES	Building a Neighborhood: Community Development Strategies for North Hermiston	✓	✓		✓
	Financing an Aquatic Center: Health and Wellness in Hermiston		✓		
	Green Cities: Hermiston Visioning, Planning and Design	✓		✓	✓
	North Hermiston Local Circulation Plan (two terms)				✓
	Information Needs Assessment for the City of Hermiston			✓	
	Community Navigator Assessment		✓	✓	

HERMISTON AND SCYP: A YEAR OF COLLABORATION

The SCYP year involved a variety of Hermiston city staff, including city management, planning, the public library, and engineering. Additional staff and stakeholders also contributed technical and topic specific expertise. Seven total University of Oregon, Portland State University, and Eastern Oregon University classes worked on Hermiston projects. UO courses working in Hermiston were from the School of Planning, Public Policy and Management and the School of Journalism and Communication. Portland State University students were enrolled in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science, and Eastern Oregon University students were Politics, Policy, and Public Administration majors. Over 150 students were part of SCYP in Hermiston.

HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

This report highlights the key elements of each project/class as well as key takeaways and recommendations that resulted from student analysis. Appendix A includes links to each class final report.



ENTERING
HERMISTON



POPULATION



18 200

Sustainable City Year Program

2021-22 Hermiston Projects by College/School

College/School	Fall 2021	Winter 2022	Spring 2022
School of Planning, Public Policy and Management	Financing an Aquatic Center: Health and Wellness in Hermiston		
	Building a Neighborhood: Community Development Strategies for North Hermiston		
	Green Cities: City of Hermiston Visioning, Planning, and Design		
School of Journalism and Communication		Information Needs Assessment for the City of Hermiston	
Portland State University, College of Engineering		Engineering Capstone Designs	Engineering Capstone Designs
Eastern Oregon University, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences			Community Navigator Assessment

Building a Neighborhood: Community Development Strategies for North Hermiston

Classes: Introduction to Planning Practice (PPPM 611), Planning Analysis I (PPPM 613), Human Settlements (PPPM 617)

Faculty: John Arroyo, Anne Brown, Gerard Sandoval, Kaarin Knudson

PROJECT SUMMARY

Recent economic investment of some of the largest companies in the U.S. have made Hermiston the fastest growing city in Eastern Oregon. The City is also an established food manufacturing and transportation center for the agricultural producers in the area. As a result, Hermiston is experiencing rapid population growth and urbanization of rural land.

With commerce and transportation central to Hermiston's economy, traffic congestion is increasing, creating the busiest intersection in eastern Oregon (ODOT). It is the intersection of two regional highways, 395 and 207, in North Hermiston and primary boundaries to the project site that are under study. Recently the North Hermiston area has changed from a rural area into denser, residential development.

The project site is along North 1st Street (Highway 395), an important commercial and transit corridor for Hermiston and the region. The project site is bounded by two major streets; East Theater Lane and East 4th Street, in addition to stormwater infrastructure called the "Hermiston Ditch". Adjacent to the project site are several new market-rate single-family residential developments and some of the largest retailers in town. A car dealership within the project site along North 1st Street recently relocated, creating a vacant 12-acre property. This site is an opportunity to create a long-term growth

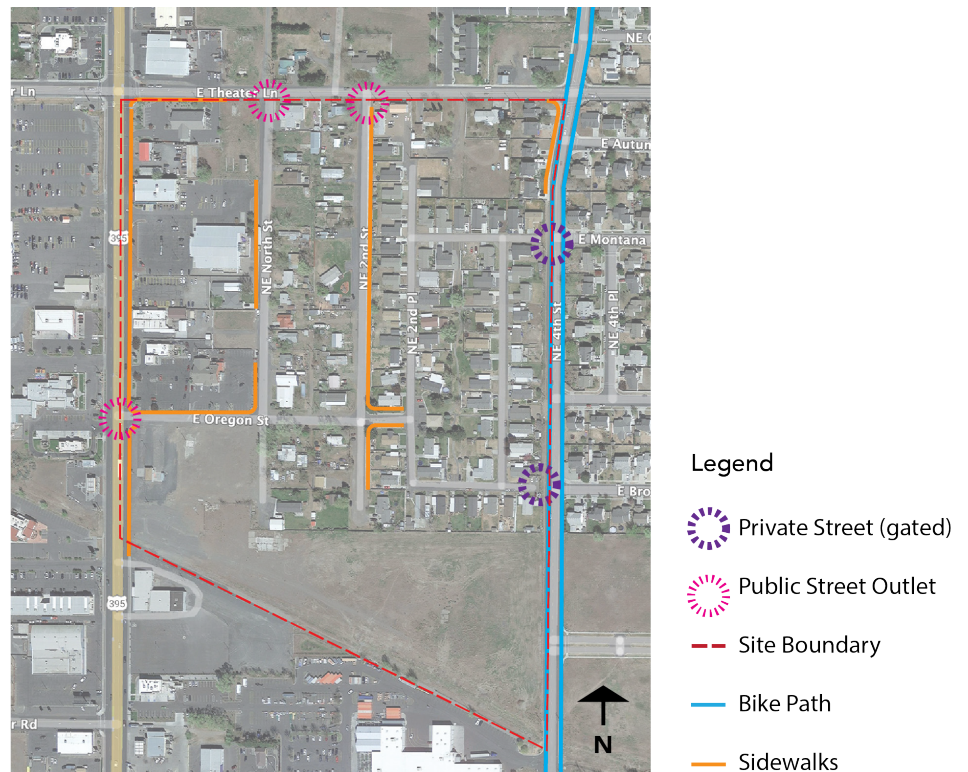


FIG NUM. 2

Diagram of project site conditions

strategy and catalyze cohesive development in this area.

City staff identified the following goals for this area: improve circulation and reduce growing congestion; create a cohesive neighborhood that is annexed by the City and served by city infrastructure; and develop a plan for the vacant site that increases connectivity and bolsters economic growth. Students considered these goals, in addition to the ideas proposed for the North Hermiston

Local Area Plan, to analyze potential opportunities and challenges of revitalizing this area.

Opportunities of the site include young families with children, growing local small businesses, and capitalizing on the Hermiston Ditch as a pedestrian and bike path. A critical question posed by the students is: **How can the City guide the development of a new neighborhood that is sustainable, equitable, and resilient?**

RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY OBSERVATIONS

The student teams identified four key strategies to transform the project site into a vibrant neighborhood: **increasing connectivity, focusing on affordable housing, placemaking**

opportunities, and community engagement and equity. These strategies embody the City's primary goals: maintaining economic stability and resilience, retaining the historic small town character and community identity, and ensuring the livability of Hermiston.

1. Increase Connectivity

- Increasing street connectivity by strategic extension of fragmented streets can greatly increase accessibility to the project site.
- Safe crossings for pedestrians and other non-vehicular travel



FIG NUM. 3
Student team work session



FIG NUM. 4
Highway 395 in Hermiston



FIG NUM. 5
Kayak transit bus

can increase the success of street connections. Investment in these critical connection points will stimulate community activity and neighborhood relations via walkability and bikability.

- Investments in infrastructure such as safe crossings, walking path networks, and access to transit stops and ticketing contribute to the safety and

build accessibility for the entire community.

- Connect and expand alternative transportation. For example, introducing a transit kiosk pilot program in North Hermiston could expand access to purchasing tickets, be a transfer node between transit options, and offer a safe and covered location to wait for a connection.

2. Affordable Housing

- Planning code updates: Student teams suggest extending this zone as a buffer along North 1st Street (Highway 395), and propose revising the residential development code per Oregon State House Bill 2001, to encourage incremental housing density within the urban growth boundary.
- Alternative housing development models, such as land banking, could present the City with opportunities to purchase

vacant and blighted properties in the project site. Another option includes shared equity homeownership as a method for investing in low-income housing.

3. Placemaking Opportunities

- Recreational and green space promotes physical activity, community connection, aquifer recharge with permeable development, and reduces the urban heat island affect. The Hermiston Ditch and future recreational trail is also

an opportunity to showcase native plants and grasses, and introduce an ecological corridor through the City.

- Community and cultural placemaking can include opportunities such as farmers markets, sites for permanent food trucks, and sponsoring community celebrations. A community center is an example of a culturally inclusive space for the Latinx population.

4. Community Engagement and Equity

- Explicit inclusion of the Latinx community in Hermiston by officially adopting bilingualism and provide consistent Spanish translation of public signage, city information, and the City website.
- Recognize the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)'s partnership with the City via the establishment of the first public transit system for Hermiston. This story can be communicated with imagery and names that commemorate the collaboration with the tribes and Kayak, the CTUIR transit system, and the Hermiston Area Regional Transit (HART).





FIG NUM. 8
 Racial Justice Team Master Plan



FIG NUM. 7
 Climate Resilience Team master plan
 Hermiston Ditch as recreational path
 connecting parks

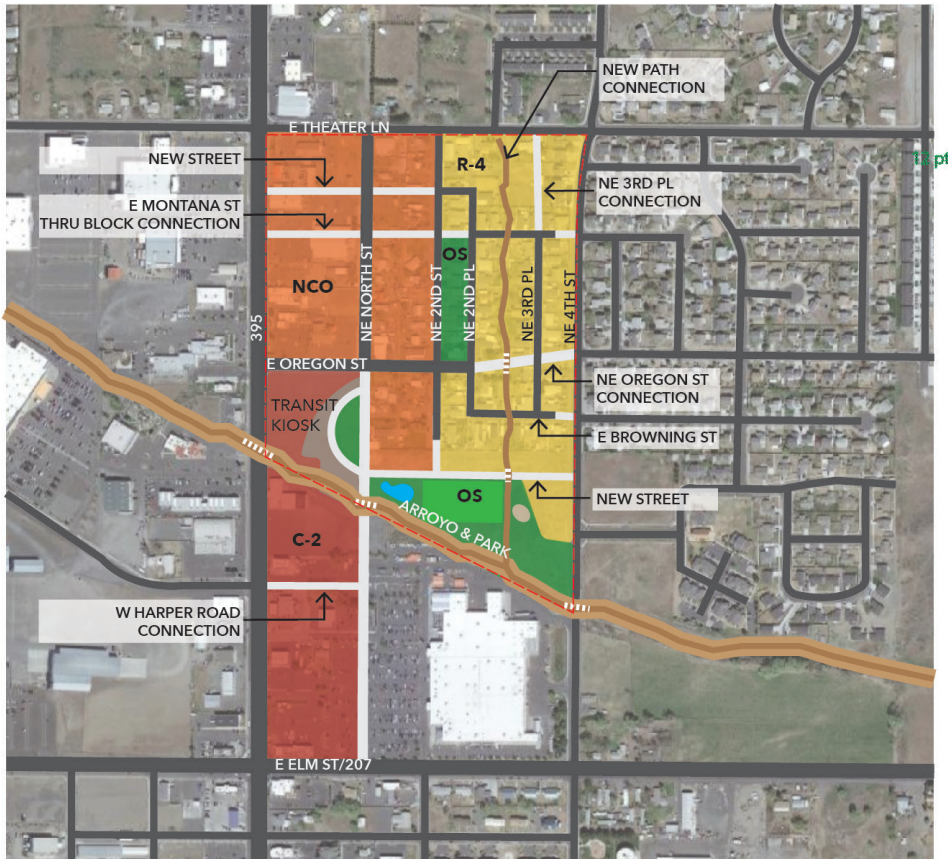


FIG NUM. 9
Sustainable Transportation Team master plan

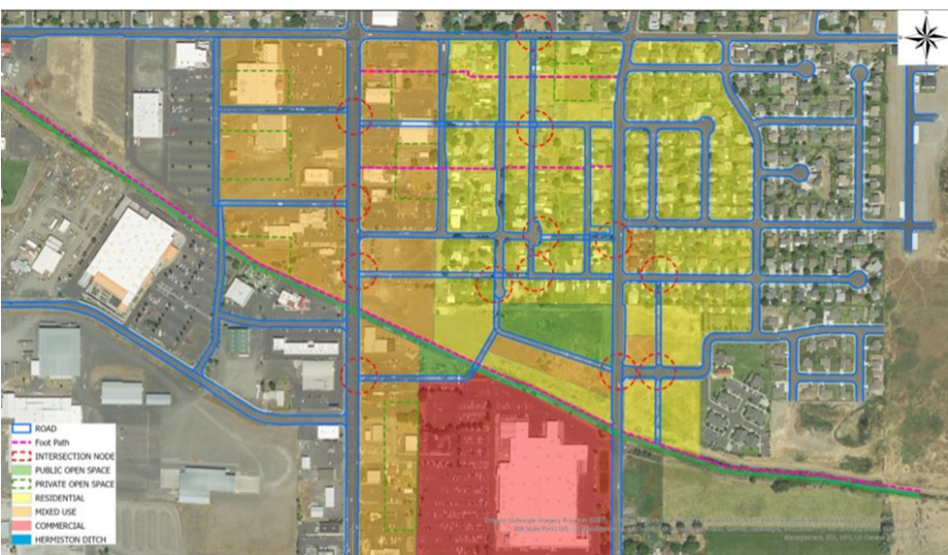


FIG NUM. 10
Affordable Housing Team Master Plan

City of Hermiston Visioning, Planning, and Design

Class: Green Cities (PPPM 445)

Faculty: Ric Stephens

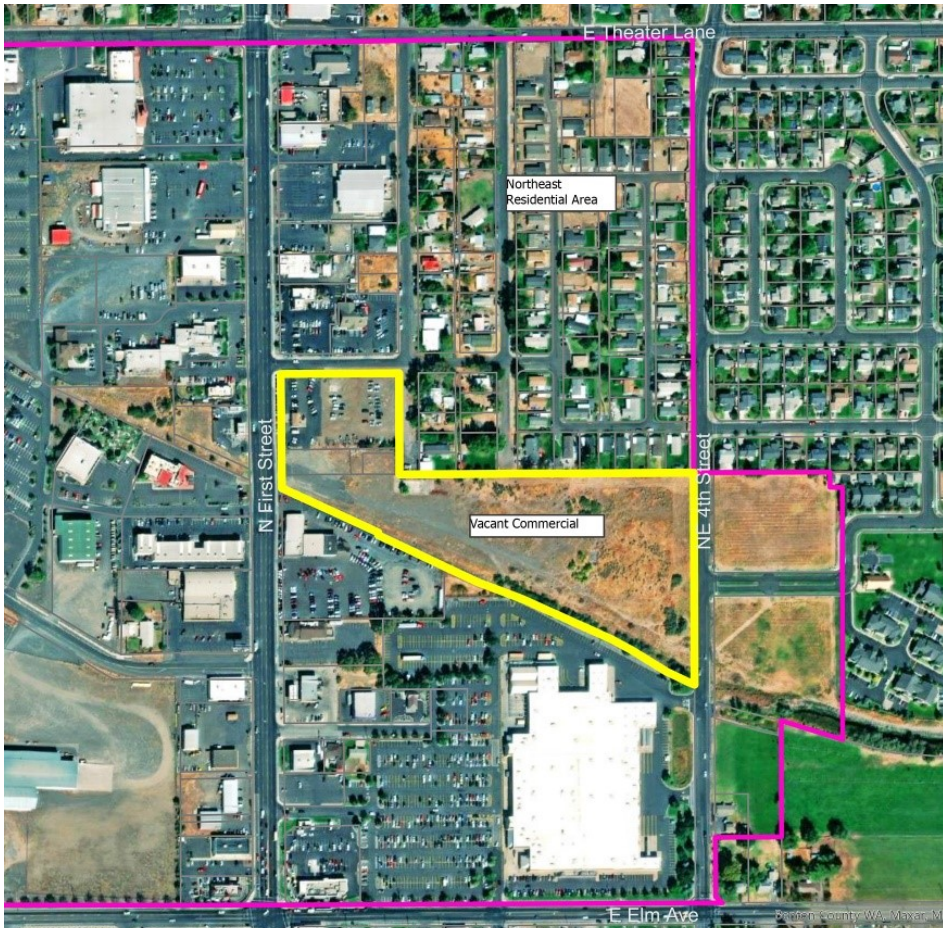


FIG NUM. 11

North Hermiston vacant commercial parcel

identify community values and aspirations. These focus groups typically consisted of community members that represent special interests such as neighborhoods, business sectors, and others. The Green Cities focus group provided a unique perspective from non-resident, third-year university students studying urban planning, environmental science, and other fields.

City staff prioritized the North Hermiston area for specific planning and design proposals from participants in the SCYP. Graduate students in the University of Oregon School of Planning, Public Policy and Management prepared scenario plans on a variety of topics along with physical plans and urban design. Green Cities students conducted design charrettes, researched independent subjects, prepared informational videos, and compiled implementation actions on urban planning and design topics for the North Hermiston study area and City.

The collaborative design and independent research efforts resulted in the compilation of more than 400 implementation actions/recommendations to answer the original question **“How can a city become more sustainable, resilient, and regenerative?”**

PROJECT SUMMARY

Students conducted visioning, planning and development activities for the City of Hermiston. These activities included focused groups, design charrettes, research papers, icon/font design, public art compilation, and informational videos. The theme for the class was “experiential planning,” environmental design corresponding to experience/

knowledge-based socioeconomics. Researchers focused on two separate projects: Community Visioning and North Hermiston Site Planning and Design.

The timing of this class coincided with the City of Hermiston’s visioning program to guide the City’s future: Hermiston 2040. One of the activities associated with this program was a series of focus groups that helped



FIG NUM. 13
Design charettes



FIG NUM. 12
Movies in the park

RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY OBSERVATIONS

Community Engagement

In this report community engagement encompasses local government public participation and the range of social interactions that comprise a sense of community. An objective of the recommendations is to broaden and deepen community engagement throughout the City.

- Examples: art competitions, an annual fair, community fridges, etc.

Green space

In this report, green space is contrasted with urban development, and it should be noted that the urban ecology element in this report represents a shift from this dualism to an ecological transect or greening of the City.

- Examples: a community garden, host a watermelon hunt, outdoor fitness park events, etc.



FIG NUM. 14
Umatilla County Fair

Infrastructure

Topics of specific interest include adequate housing (defined as: adequate privacy, adequate space, adequate security, adequate lighting and ventilation, adequate basic infrastructure and adequate location with regard to work and basic facilities-all at a reasonable cost), renewable energy, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

- Examples: low impact development, LEED certification, rainwater management, etc.

Public Art

Public art is often site-specific, meaning it is created in response to the place and community in which it resides (Public Art, n.d.). In this way, public art is essential to creating sense of place. This report includes not only traditional public art works of statues and murals, but the complete spectrum of art within the public realm such as music, performance art, and new types of media.

- Examples: create a graffiti wall, local artist commissions, Hermiston's version of "talking stones", etc.



FIG NUM. 15
Hermiston green space



FIG NUM. 16
Farm-City Pro Rodeo



FIG NUM. 18
Hermiston Funland and Aquatic Center



FIG NUM. 17
Valentine's Day pop-up market

Public Space

As both an overarching idea and a hands-on approach for improving a neighborhood, city, or region, placemaking inspires people to collectively reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the heart of every community (Project for Public Spaces, n.d.).

- Examples: recreational fields, musical venues, farmers' markets, etc.

Sense of Place

Cities that reflect a sense of place protect their natural and cultural assets; make historical and natural processes visible, designing with them not against them; restore and reflect the bioregional context

and linkages; and have strong cultural and artistic practices that celebrate and inform their sense of place (Newman, 2008). Sense of place is dependent on sensory experience, and an objective of the recommendations is to help with experiential design for the City.

- Examples: bilingual signage, decorative features, construct an information center, etc.

Transportation

This report considers not only the infrastructural aspect of transportation, but the social and environmental considerations associated with accessibility, connectivity, mobility, and location efficiency.

- Examples: implement bike-shares, include protected bike lanes, remove vehicle street parking, etc.

Urban Ecology

An objective of the Hermiston research and recommendations is to recognize the unique opportunities to adopt biophilic design, which merges natural and urban environments for a more sustainable, resilient and regenerative City.

- Examples: create an edible landscape, build more green spaces, add Green Roofs to buildings, etc.



FIG NUM. 19

Hermiston city hall rendering

Financing an Aquatic Center: Health and Wellness in Hermiston

Class: Public Budget Administration (PPPM 629)

Faculty: Rebecca Lewis

PROJECT SUMMARY

As Hermiston's population grows, the City identified the need for an additional multipurpose recreational center to serve current and future residents. The City generally refers to the proposed center as the aquatic center but hopes to include: lap pools for swim meets, therapy pools for medical use, a fitness center, two regulation-sized basketball courts that can host tournaments, an indoor walking track, and rentable rooms to teach things such as yoga, zumba, and other personal or group activities.

Following blueprints drafted by an architectural firm, the project cost is estimated at \$30 Million dollars. The City seeks a cost recovery of 75% operating expenses. Students reviewed financial assessments made by the City of Hermiston and the consulting firm Ballard*King & Associates (B*K) in order to develop proposals for the funding and maintenance of the aquatic center facility. To evaluate these alternatives and make a recommendation, students researched financing strategies and assessed the feasibility of their proposals.

Students researched financing strategies, reviewed relevant statutes, and analyzed GIS-based maps of Hermiston's existing city limits to determine the boundaries of a potential parks and recreation special district. Alternative funding options that students evaluated included:

- Create a special park and recreation district
- Create an intergovernmental entity
- Place construction and management of facility under the Hermiston Parks and Recreation Department

Some financial and political considerations included: capitalizing on revenue from neighboring cities, working within the City's existing framework or creating a new district, and factoring in current resident opinions on increasing taxes. At the conclusion of the report, recommendations were evaluated based on equity, neutrality, efficiency, and productivity.

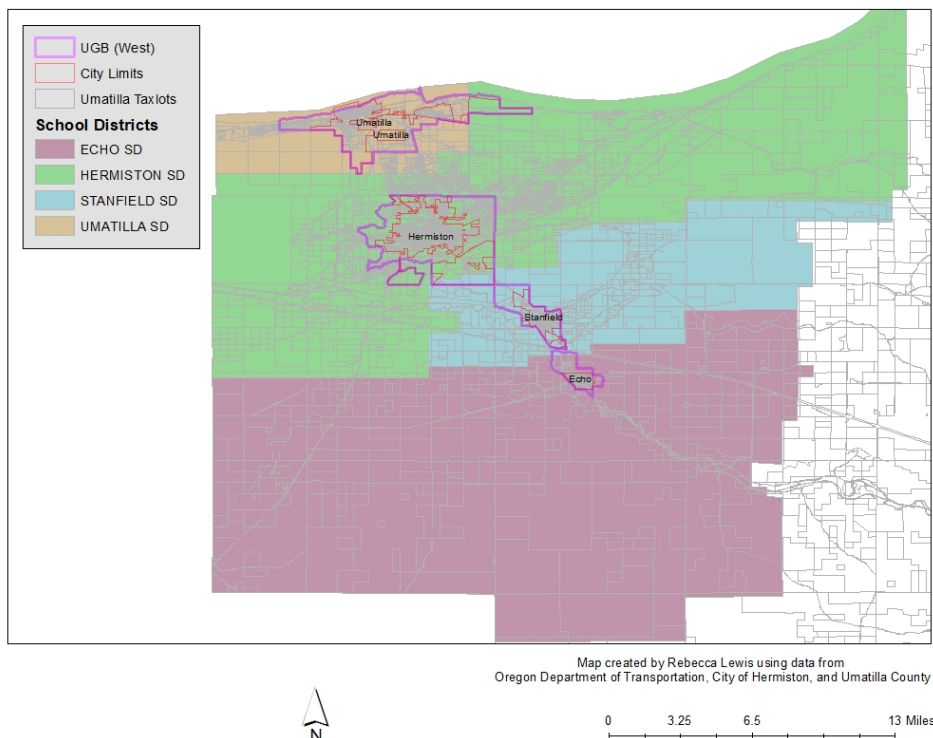


FIG NUM. 20

Existing School District Boundaries, Model of Hermiston School District to Form Geographic Extent of Special District for Aquatic Center

FIG NUM. 21

User Fee Estimates for Aquatic and Recreational Facility

Source: Ballard*King & Associates, Market Analysis,
Hermiston Health, Wellness and Aquatics Center Study,
2018

Ballard*King & Associates Estimates, 2018	
Total Expenses	\$2,471,205
Revenue	
Total User Fee	\$1,613,729
Day Passes	\$120,600
Month to Month Passes	\$985,127
Annual Passes	\$508,002
Other Revenue	\$380,576
Total Revenue	\$1,994,305
Operating Deficit	\$(476,900)

FIG NUM. 22

City of Hermiston, Adopted Budget, FY 2021-2022, Parks Department Funds

Source: Hermiston Adopted Budget 2021 - 2022

2021 - 2022 Hermiston Adopted Budget Parks Department Funds	
Revenue	
Park and Recreation Fee	\$80,000
Pool Income	\$160,000
Total Revenue	\$240,000
Expenditures	
Parks	\$692,811
Recreation	\$749,304
Parks Landscaping	\$61,002
Municipal Pool	\$591,328
Total Expenditures	\$2,094,445
Operating Deficit	\$(1,854,445)

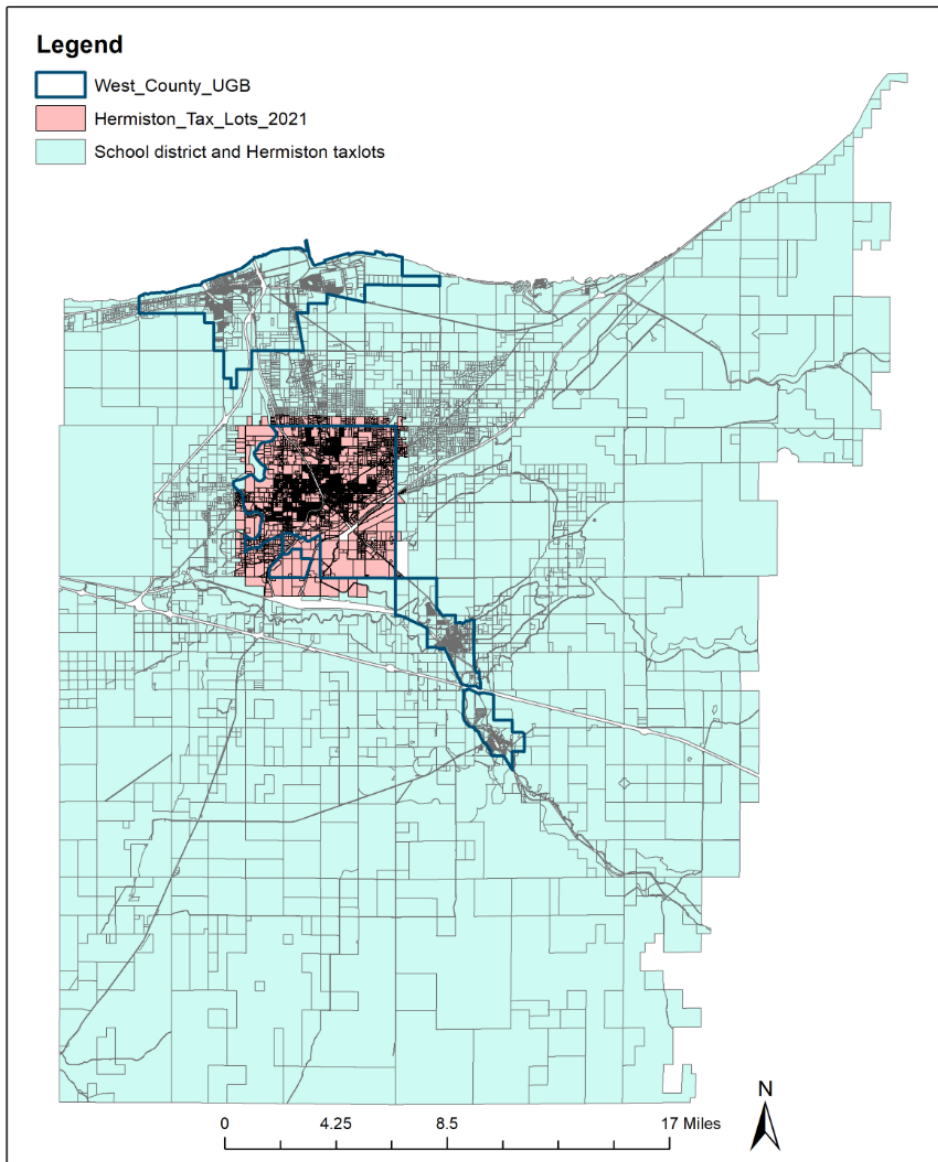


FIG NUM. 23

Taxlots within the Hermiston City Limits and the Hermiston School District

funding, either including non-residents (who may also utilize the aquatic center) or limiting fees to residents. One boundary proposal would incorporate the Hermiston, Stanfield, and Umatilla school districts in the proposed parks and recreation district, with funds from property taxes to fund the special district and aquatic center.

- Creation of an intergovernmental entity (IGA), which includes discussion of: revenue bonds, population thresholds, system development charges (SDCs), and the Greater Hermiston Enterprise Zone. Students recommend the projected revenue stream from the new aquatic center be tightly forecasted to ensure proper repayment of debt obligations.
- Place construction and management of facility under the Hermiston Parks and Recreation Department; student groups propose utilizing general obligation bonds and/or system development charges and operating costs for the facility.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY OBSERVATIONS

This report evaluates alternatives to fund a new area Health, Wellness, and Aquatic Center located in the City of Hermiston. Proposals leveraged mechanisms such as taxes, bonds, user fees, and system development charges to fund the construction and operations of Hermiston's Health, Wellness,

and Aquatic Center. Funding recommendations included:

- **Creation of a special park and recreation district;** each student group recommended a different boundary for the proposed special district, in addition to corresponding tax rates and bond measures. This determines the source of

Based on the evaluation of each funding mechanism, students suggested **Proposal Package 1, forming the Parks & Recreation Special District.** This funding mechanism provides the most flexibility for the city to pursue financing of the recreation center without relying solely on issuing a general obligation bond. Using property taxes along with user fees and system development charges

FIG NUM. 25

Estimated Parks Department Budget with
Aquatics Center for City of Hermiston,
2021 – 2022 Adopted Budget

2021 - 2022 Hermiston Adopted Budget, Parks Department Funds	
Revenue	
Park and Recreation Fee	\$80,000
Pool Income	\$160,000
General Fund Transfer	\$1,854,445
Aquatic Center Revenue (est.)	\$1,994,305
Total Revenue	\$4,088,750
Expenditures	
Parks	\$692,811
Recreation	\$749,304
Parks Landscaping	\$61,002
Municipal Pool	\$591,328
Aquatic Center Operating (est.)	\$2,471,205
Total Expenditures	\$4,565,650
Operating Deficit	\$(476,900)

FIG NUM. 24

Criteria resulting from issuing revenue
bonds for \$30 Million over 20 years

Revenue Bond Criteria	
Principal for Bond	\$30,000,000
Interest Rate	2.50%
Term to Maturity	20 years
Annual Debt Service	\$1,520,000

to finance those bonds available to the district provides benefits rated as good on equity, neutrality, and productivity and moderate/poor for efficiency.

A long-term finance consideration the students recommended was a pay-as-you-go capital reserve fund that could be very beneficial to offset future debt. This is done by implementing these funds directly into the budget each year and having dedicated funding. The idea of this fund is to have earmarked reserves for crucial maintenance needs, future capital projects, or

major reduction in revenue like in the case of the COVID-19 shutdown. These funds can be dedicated to finance various needs. The advantage of creating a separate fund for capital reserves is, once these funds are transferred in, it is difficult to spend them on other needs. This ensures that they have funding for major expenses and will limit the amount of debt needed to be taken on for ongoing maintenance of this facility over the life of bonds issued to finance its construction.

Category	Daily	Resident Annual	Non-resident Annual	Resident Monthly	Non-resident Monthly
Adults	\$8	\$500	\$625	\$45	\$55
Youth (2-17)	\$5	\$300	\$375	\$28	\$34
Senior (55+)	\$6	\$300	\$375	\$28	\$34
Senior Couple (55+)	N/A	\$500	\$625	\$45	\$55
Family	N/A	\$775	\$970	\$68	\$84
Category	Daily	Resident Annual	Non-resident Annual	Resident Monthly	Non-resident Monthly
Adults	\$15.20	\$950.0	\$1,187.50	\$85.50	\$104.50
Youth (2-17)	\$9.50	\$570.0	\$712.50	\$53.20	\$64.60
Senior (55+)	\$11.40	\$570.0	\$712.50	\$53.20	\$64.60
Senior Couple (55+)	N/A	\$950.0	\$1,187.50	\$85.50	\$104.50
Family	N/A	\$1,472.50	\$1,843.0	\$129.20	\$159.60

FIG NUM. 26

User Fees

190% Increase for IGA Revenue Bond Payment

Category	Daily	Resident Annual	Non-resident Annual	Resident Monthly	Non-resident Monthly
Adults	\$8	\$500	\$625	\$45	\$55
Youth (2-17)	\$5	\$300	\$375	\$28	\$34
Senior (55+)	\$6	\$300	\$375	\$28	\$34
Senior Couple (55+)	N/A	\$500	\$625	\$45	\$55
Family	N/A	\$775	\$970	\$68	\$84
Category	Daily	Resident Annual	Non-resident Annual	Resident Monthly	Non-resident Monthly
Adults	\$10	\$625	\$781	\$56	\$69
Youth (2-17)	\$6	\$375	\$469	\$35	\$43
Senior (55+)	\$8	\$375	\$469	\$35	\$43
Senior Couple (55+)	N/A	\$625	\$781	\$56	\$69
Family	N/A	\$969	\$1,213	\$85	\$105

FIG NUM. 27

User Fees

100% Cost Recovery

Parks and Rec Bond and Tax Projection with the School District

		Percent of Total Property Tax
School District #8 Hermiston	\$ 449.23	19.26%
Intermountain E.S.D	\$ 56.63	2.43%
BMCC	\$ 60.81	2.61%
Education Total	\$ 566.67	24.30%
General County	\$ 262.03	11.24%
City of Hermiston	\$ 559.80	24.01%
Port of Umatilla	\$ 14.16	0.61%
Umatilla County Fire Dist 1	\$ 160.97	6.90%
Umatilla Morrow Radio & Data Dis	\$ 15.64	0.67%
Cemetery Dist 8 Hermiston	\$ 8.49	0.36%
W. Umatilla Mosquito Control	\$ 18.59	0.80%
Hermiston Urban Renewal District	\$ 21.59	0.93%
New Parks and Rec District	\$ 137.00	5.87%
General Govt Total	\$ 1,198.27	51.39%
City of Hermiston Bond	\$ 25.25	1.08%
BMCC Bond	\$ 18.43	0.79%
Umatilla County Fire Dist Bond	\$ 14.89	0.64%
School District #8 Hermiston Bond	\$ 327.41	14.04%
Parks and Rec Bond	\$ 181.00	13.04%
Bonds - Other Total	\$ 566.98	24.31%
Total	\$ 2,331.92	100.00%

Current Total General Govt	Annual Rate for the new Parks and Rec District	New Total General Govt	Percent Change	Current Total Bond	Annual New Bond Payment	New Total General Govt	Percent Change
\$ 1,061.27	\$ 137.00	\$ 1,198.27	12.91%	\$ 385.98	\$ 181.00	\$ 566.98	46.89%

FIG NUM. 28

Hermiston Resident Tax Bill Special District Permanent Rate and Bond

City	Average Parks SDC
Hermiston	\$400
Irrigon	\$500
Hood River	\$3,517
St. Helens	\$2,720
The Dalles	\$1,747

FIG NUM. 29
SDC Comparison Table

Information Needs Assessment for the City of Hermiston

Class: Engaged Journalism (J 463)

Faculty: Andrew DeVigal

PROJECT SUMMARY

The distribution of local information has become more dispersed with the rise of traditional media alternatives, namely social media. The goal of this report is to understand the existing information ecosystem in Hermiston and Hermiston residents' information needs. An information ecosystem describes the presence and dispersal of viable information, the relationship between information systems, and how information systems influence the community. Specifically, the class set out to learn:

- **What information is consumed and shared in Hermiston and how it is consumed.**
- **Which media outlets reach the community and why.**
- **How the media and other local entities (including the Hermiston Public Library) can better serve Hermiston's information needs.**

Students distributed a survey to Hermiston residents that asked about their local media and information habits/needs. Following analysis of survey results, a team of students visited Hermiston.

Students met with residents, visited various community gathering places, and spoke with community leaders. The team also invited survey respondents to participate in virtual roundtables. These served as a venue for discussion and an opportunity to listen to how the city spreads information and where it can improve.

Students identified several options for traditional news media in Hermiston. The Hermiston Herald and East Oregonian cover local news in the city. Many radio stations broadcast throughout east Oregon, including KOHU/KQFM, a



FIG NUM. 30
Inside the Herald

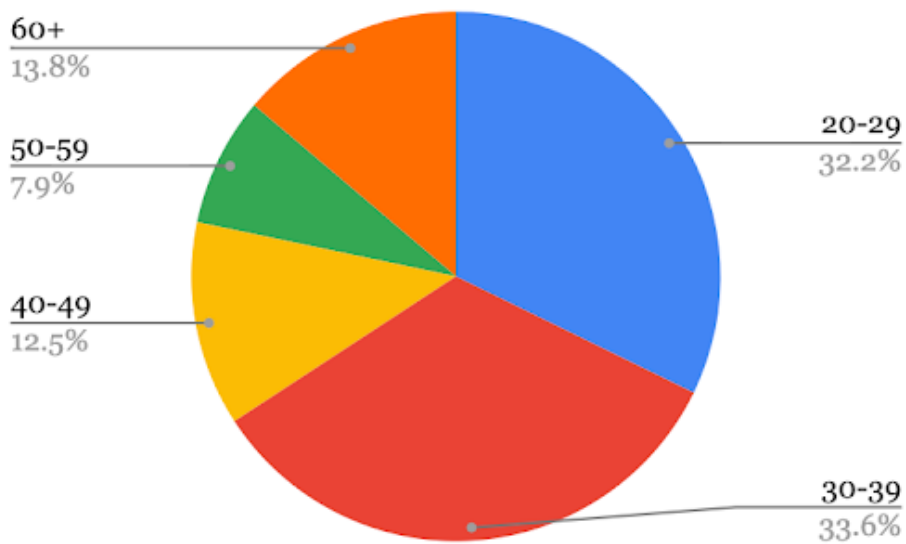


FIG NUM. 31
Survey respondent age categories

radio station based in Hermiston, as well as TV news outlets from the Tri-Cities in Washington. Residents also use Facebook groups, such as “What’s Happening Hermiston” and “The NEW What’s Happening Hermiston”, which have 17.6 thousand and 12.8 thousand members respectively, to find information on the city, plan events, and share news.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY OBSERVATIONS

Overall, residents report feeling well informed about their community, with an average rating of seven on a scale of one to 10. The local Facebook group “What’s Happening

Hermiston” is the first place many residents look to find information on the community, and some residents mentioned that the Facebook group posts important events faster than the local news outlets do. In regards to local news outlets, the Hermiston Herald is the most popular. More than half of all survey respondents said the newspaper is where they find local news. Finally, the Hermiston Public Library was not as popular among respondents. Less than 20% of respondents indicated that they found out about local events from the library, and less than 10% considered it a physical gathering space for community members.

Based on these findings, students compiled several categories of suggestions that could help Hermiston better meet its residents’ information needs:

1. Physical Upgrades to the Hermiston Library Spaces

The roundtable discussions and survey responses suggested that the library was not being used to its full potential. For example, less than 10% of the survey respondents considered it a physical gathering space for community members, while several roundtable participants felt distanced from the library and hadn’t visited the space in many years. To maximize library



FIG NUM. 32

Hermiston public library

as a community-oriented space, a makerspace can occupy the basement level to provide an area for hosting labs, workshops, and camps that teach specialized trade skills. Additionally, the first floor of the library be dedicated to a “living room” style space that welcomes families and community groups to gather.

2. Host and Advertise More Events at the Library

Survey results also indicate that many residents would be attracted to the library if it hosted and advertised more events. More awareness of events happening at other libraries was one reason why our focus group participants said they didn’t visit the Hermiston

Public Library as often. Some recommendations include: connecting with residents by promoting activities highlighted on social media, allow community members to book conference rooms for local events, and host events tailored to children and homeschooling families.

FIG NUM. 33
Information source chart

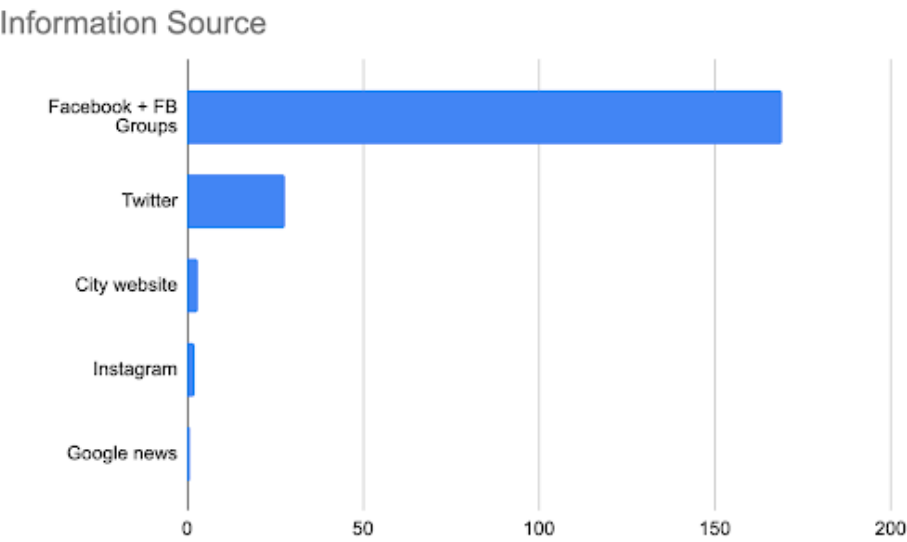
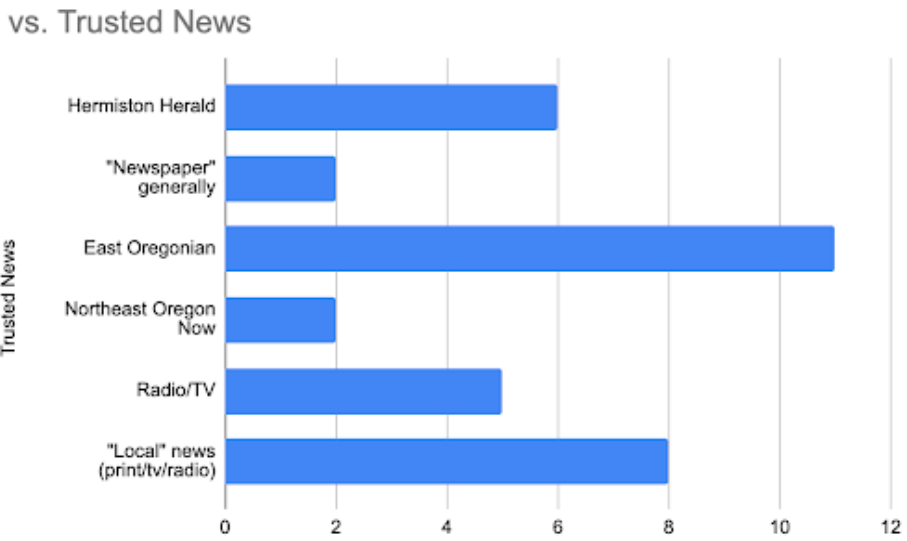


FIG NUM. 34
Trusted news chart



Traditional news sources

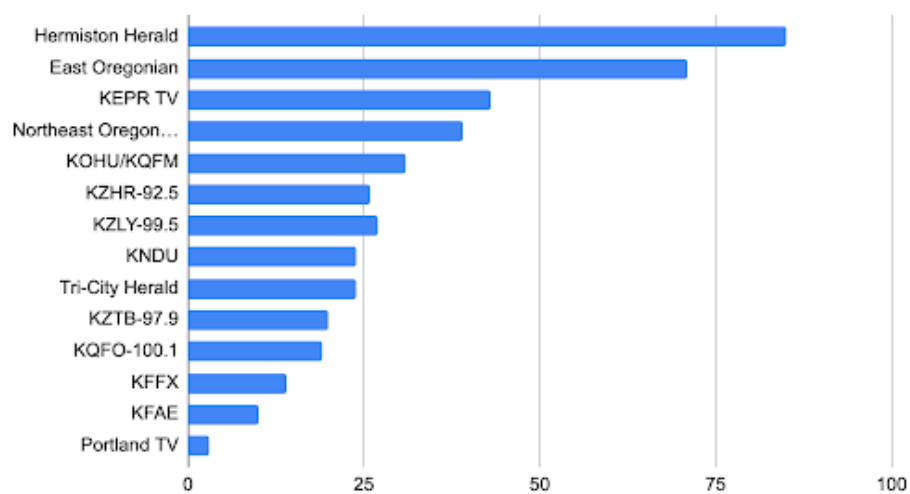


FIG NUM. 35

Traditional news source chart

Type of Info

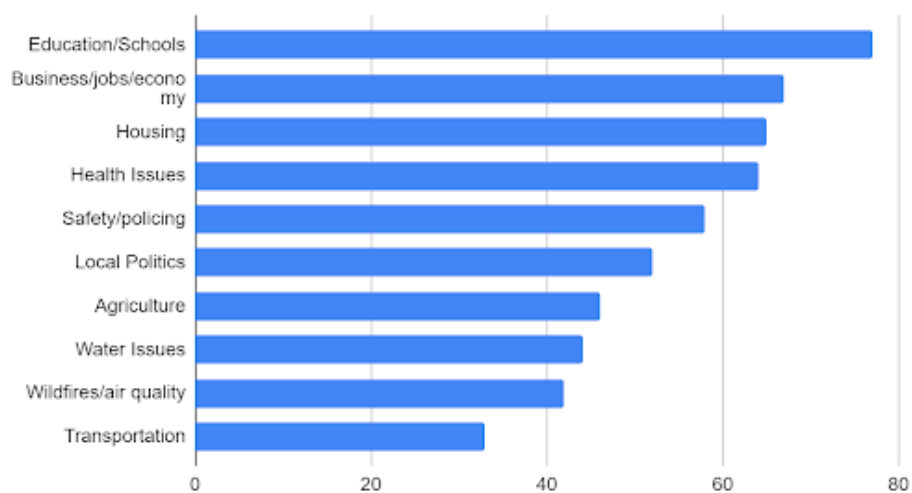


FIG NUM. 36

Type of info chart



FIG NUM. 37
Food pods

3. Media Changes to Support Spanish Speakers

The population of Hermiston is about 46% Hispanic. Survey results suggested that information could be catered more to this community, including more Spanish-speaking information sources. Translating the city website, information on Hermiston Facebook groups, and local media into Spanish could allow Spanish-speaking residents to have the same access to city information as other residents.

4. Take Advantage of the Online Platforms for Information Sharing

Results show that many Hermiston residents learn about community news and events through a Facebook page called “What’s Happening Hermiston.” However, there appears to be a disconnect between the Facebook group and other information resources in Hermiston like local news outlets (such as the Hermiston Herald and the East Oregonian), the city government, and the public school system. To bridge this information gap and encourage multi-lingual participation in community online spaces, information could be shared across media by encouraging journalist contributions to the “What’s Happening Hermiston,” Facebook page and facilitating direct communication between the public and public officials.

5. Foster Physical Gathering Spaces

Creating a healthy news environment can include offering spaces for public engagement. The main spot that emerged as a gathering space in Hermiston was the Food Pod. The Hermiston Food Pod holds the potential to grow as a physical space for community engagement; this would allow for the organic flow of information-sharing systems. Working with the Food Pod to enhance the space’s appeal as a place for gathering will also increase its capacity as an information-sharing center, where, for example, flyers, community bulletin boards or newsstands can be used to spread information. Some ways to do this are hosting communal events, inviting other vendors, and adding heaters, covered seating, and public toilets.

6. Sharing Communication Platforms and Programs

Greater collaboration between city government and news outlets and small businesses could improve information flow in Hermiston. This could be achieved by encouraging news outlets to seek out community leaders or prominent community members for information, and emphasize sharing information across media platforms.

SPRING 2022

Creating Shared Knowledge: An Asset-based Community Development Project in Hermiston

Class: Introduction to Public Administration

Faculty: Dr. Daniel Paul Costie



FIG NUM. 38

PROJECT SUMMARY

This report discusses the Asset-based Community Development (ABCD) project conducted between March 1st and May 30th, 2022 in Hermiston, Oregon. The purpose of the three-phase project is to better understand the city's assets as well as gaps in public service provision. Through an environmental scan, a survey, and a focus group, five investigators from Eastern Oregon University, collected and

analyzed data offered by both public and non-profit organizations in Hermiston. Findings indicate that there is strength in the city's 'small town feel' and that there is great potential for growth in the area. Gaps in services that exist relate to better understanding how to serve different vulnerable populations, how to address the economic insecurity many in the community face, as well as how to address the fragmented public services already

available in Hermiston. A community directory and a community navigator program are offered as potential solutions to the gaps identified in this project. This work is an important, preliminary step at realizing community development that is both self-sufficient and inclusive. Continued collaboration is needed in order to optimize the value of this ABCD.

HECTOR

BRENDA .

WHAT IS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT?

- EDUCATION
- BUSINESS
- RECREATION .
- URBANIZATION
- TRANSPORTATION
- HEALTH
- HOUSING
- COMMUNICATION
- EMPLOYMENT
- SAFETY .

WHAT SHOULD BE THE GOALS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT?

COVER ALL NEEDS RELATED TO ABOVE.

GET A COMMUNITY SELF SUFFICIENT ✓

INTEGRATE EVERY ONE (INCLUSION).

RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY OBSERVATIONS

Through the three preliminary phases of this ABCD project, several take-aways emerge:

- The small-town character of Hermiston offers an easier opportunity to build social capital than in larger, denser, and more complex environments. An openness to growth may indicate that the community is ready to take on major projects if a vision is proposed and leadership can be identified.
- While in the early phases of this work we identified Hispanics and the youth as large, underserved constituencies. These target populations are in need of broader assistance based on the results of the environmental scan. The need to help those experiencing homelessness was a particularly salient group emerging from the focus group.
- Issues expressed in the survey and the focus group often related to economic needs and vulnerabilities. This was expressed most often through discussions of employment. More specifically, the difficulty in finding and applying for jobs as well as employees being aware of their rights in the labor force were common themes.

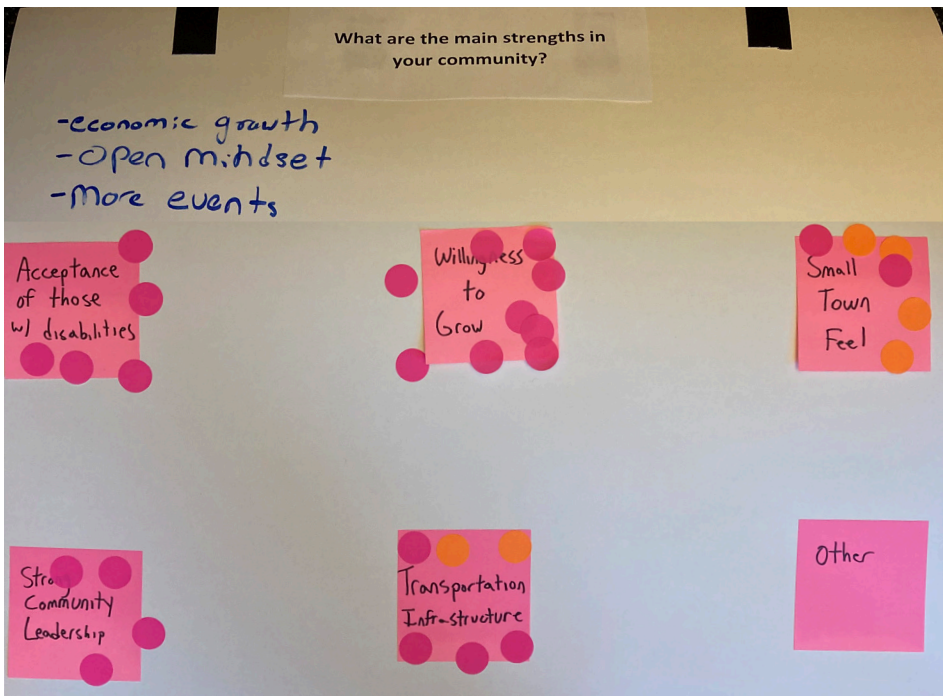


FIG NUM. 40



FIG NUM. 41

- A lack of information sharing across service providers but also between service providers and their clients. This most directly relates to the economic issues described earlier as clients (and potential clients) are not adequately informed about how to apply for a job, what their rights are, as well as where to go to receive the wrap-around services necessary to ensure stable and long-term employment.

Recommendations for Hermiston include:

- Create a directory. This directory would include the direct service providers in the area, their contact information, what types of services they provide, and qualifications for service provision. This would be a promising first step in addressing a fragmented public service ecosystem as it would address the most common

theme throughout this project: a lack of shared knowledge.

- Create a network of community navigators. Establishing a formal vision and strategy to build and maintain relationships in the community for the purpose of improving public service provision would be valuable. Community navigators help through a combination of referrals and interpersonal support.




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Parting Thoughts

The journey between SCYP and the City of Hermiston included many firsts—the first partner in eastern Oregon; the first time three public Oregon university—Eastern Oregon University, Portland State University, and the University of Oregon—engaged with a single community; and the first time students traveled to a community and were hosted by the region’s event center (EOTEC), which contributed to students feeling more connected to the community. The year led to new discoveries for students, faculty, city staff, and stakeholders. The journey of collaboration and creative problem solving resulted in strategic, tactical, and visionary tools; planning and design concepts; and policy recommendations on diverse topics, all of which Hermiston and its partners will ideally benefit from today as well as in the future as the City adapts to the challenges ahead.





2021-2022

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SCYP Class: Human Settlements (PPPM 617)



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ric@uoregon.edu

SCYP Class: Green Cities (PPPM 445)

Appendix A

SCYP Hermiston Report Links

FALL 2021

Building a Neighborhood; Community Development Strategies for North Hermiston

[https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/
xmlui/handle/1794/27100](https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/xmlui/handle/1794/27100)

PPPM 611 - Introduction to Planning Practice

PPPM 613 - Planning Analysis I

PPPM 617 - Human Settlements

Joëlle Harris, Author

Anne Brown, Assistant Professor

John Arroyo, Assistant Professor

Gerard Sandoval, Associate Professor

Kaarin Knudson, Instructor

City of Hermiston Visioning, Planning, and Design

[https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/
xmlui/handle/1794/27105](https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/xmlui/handle/1794/27105)

PPPM 445 - Green Cities

Ric Stephens, Instructor

Financing an Aquatic Center: Health and Wellness in Hermiston

[https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/
xmlui/handle/1794/27099](https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/xmlui/handle/1794/27099)

PPPM 629 - Public Budget Administration

Natalie Kataoka, Author

Rebecca Lewis, Associate Professor

WINTER 2022

Information Needs Assessment for the City of Hermiston

[https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/
xmlui/handle/1794/27203](https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/xmlui/handle/1794/27203)

J 463 - Engaged Journalism

Sarah-Mae McCullough, Author

Andrew DeVigal, Professor of Practice

SPRING 2022

North Hermiston Local Circulation Plan

[https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/
xmlui/handle/1794/27204](https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/xmlui/handle/1794/27204)

PSU Civil & Environmental

Engineering Capstone

Evan Kristof, Instructor

Community Navigator Assessment

[https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/
xmlui/handle/1794/27504](https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/xmlui/handle/1794/27504)

POLS 151 - Introduction to Public Administration

Daniel Paul Costie, Assistant Professor,

Eastern Oregon University

Appendix B

Hermiston Press Book

ABOUT HERMISTON

Hermiston is a vibrant destination that incorporates rural and urban opportunities as the largest city in eastern Oregon. In the 1860s Hermiston was known as a hotel called the “Six Mile House,” a stop for travelers in the Columbia River Basin. Following the establishment of railroads, the City was incorporated in 1907. Approximately eight square miles in area, Hermiston currently has more than 19,000 residents.

Hermiston’s employment rate is 62.1%, which is above Oregon’s employment rate of 59.3%, and has a mean household income of \$54,123. Seventy percent of the residents are between the ages of 18-64.

Hermiston is located at the junction of Interstate 82 and Interstate 84 in Umatilla County, near the Oregon-Washington border. Stanfield, the closest city, is five miles southeast, and Umatilla is located six miles north along the Umatilla River.

Renowned for its watermelons, Hermiston’s desert climate and proximity to the Umatilla River and the Columbia River have made agriculture a dominant industry since the early 1900s. In the 1970s potato processing plants and the introduction of center pivot irrigation firmly established agriculture as an economic asset to the City. At the same time, industrial businesses like Marlette Homes, Inc., Lamb Weston, and Union Pacific expanded into Hermiston, further stimulating the economy. Additional commercial development in the 1990s and 2000s with Walmart and FedEx building distribution centers, led to an increase in employment opportunities and diversified economic growth. The 2010s saw further diversification of the economic base with the construction of data centers in Boardman and Umatilla with additional centers proposed for Hermiston as well. The City is a regional trade hub and is central to a broader area serving over 76,000 people. Hermiston’s success as a retail and data center continues to spur growth and development.

The City maintains 13 parks, 15 landscape areas, and more than 100 acres for the community while Hat Rock State Park, located near Hermiston, offers City residents and visitors a variety of recreational activities. In the summer, the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center hosts the Umatilla County Fair and Farm-City Pro Rodeo, among other events that highlight Hermiston’s rural culture.

Forty-four percent of Hermiston’s population is Hispanic and as the City grows, it has emphasized inclusion. The City created the Hispanic Advisory Committee in 2012, which proceeded to represent and integrate Hermiston’s Hispanic communities. It was presented the National League of Cities 2013 City Cultural Diversity Award, following achievements such as an annual Cinco de Mayo festival. Much of Hermiston’s outreach materials are available in Spanish and English, including information and inquiries related to the City’s most recent visioning process, Hermiston 2040.

In 2016, the Livable Hermiston process included feedback from over 2,000 residents who identified priority assets, including the development of more parks and a multi-use facility over the next 20 years. In 2013, the Hermiston Urban Renewal Agency (HURA) was created to revitalize Hermiston’s downtown area and in 2019 HURA was awarded Urban Renewal Project of the Year for development that stimulated the local downtown economy. With numerous plans to incorporate community ideals in the City’s development, Hermiston has a promising cultural and economic future.

Sources:
United States Census Bureau
City of Hermiston
Hermiston Chamber of Commerce
Hermiston 2040

https://www.eastoregonian.com/news/local/university-of-oregon-promotes-survey-to-understand-how-people-get-their-news/article_37820ad4-82e2-11ec-94ab-8fc24e80b49d.html

FEATURED

University of Oregon promotes survey to understand how people get their news

By ERICK PETERSON East Oregonian
Feb 2, 2022



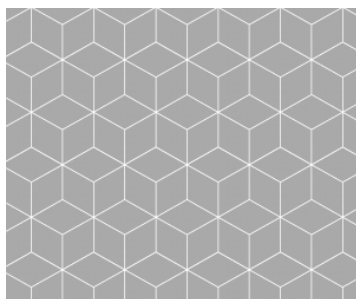
Newspapers sit in a rack Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022, outside the office of the East Oregonian and Hermiston Herald in downtown Hermiston. A University of Oregon survey is collecting information about the media preferences of Hermiston residents, including their sources for news.

Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

HERMISTON — A University of Oregon survey is reaching out to Hermiston residents with questions about their media preferences.

Where do you go to learn of news? What type of information is most important to you? How informed do you feel about things happening in your community? All of these questions, and more, are on the survey, which is part of a larger initiative called Sustainable City Year Program, is available at bit.ly/uosurvey-hermiston.

Andrew DeVigal, professor at the UO School of Journalism and Communication, is one of the people behind the survey. Also, he is the director of the Agora Journalism Center, University of Oregon's forum for the future of local news and civic health in Oregon and beyond.



“Increasing our knowledge of how information is received and shared in a local information ecosystem would be good for our communities and information providers, such as news organizations and community organizations,” DeVigal said.

He said he is teaching a class on how “journalism can authentically start with community first in its coverage of the community.” Referred to as “participatory journalism” or “social journalism,” DeVigal’s work centers on communities.

He described a movement in journalism that has been influential to the work behind the survey. People within journalism, he said, are looking to better understand informational flow. Initiatives, such as the Listening Post Collective and this survey seek to learn how information passes from one person or organization to another.

The survey asks for demographic information, name and contact information, if a person should want to answer. Ethnicity, home location and how long someone has lived in town also are questions on the survey.

Then, the survey gets into questions about media consumption — websites, social media use, etc. Also, it asks for physical locations, such as a farmers market or a church, where people obtain information.

In learning about how people receive their news, DeVigal said, researchers can discover the best ways to communicate to people. The survey also attempts to discover the information people want to know, which can be helpful to local politicians, too.

DeVigal said the survey will end by the second or third week of February, and he should have results by the end of March.

Sustainable City Year Program

The program has organized UO classes, such as DeVigal’s, to get a deep dive into understanding a particular city. The initiative now is focusing on Hermiston, collaborating with its city government. Information suggesting recommendations will be shared with the city.

The program has focused on other Oregon cities in the past, but this is the first time it has worked with an Eastern Oregon city, according to Megan Banks, the Sustainable City director.

“We want to span the entire state,” Banks said.

Because Hermiston is the city with the largest population in Eastern Oregon, it made sense to select it for study, she said.

Banks complimented the town as forward-thinking and added her program has worked on other Hermiston projects recently. She said those collaborations have been productive.

“We’re lucky to be working with Hermiston,” she said. “A lot of this comes down to how the city approaches the partnership, and (Hermiston) has been very welcoming and extremely knowledgeable. I have nothing but good things to say about the city staff and community.”

Byron Smith, Hermiston city manager, said he is very happy with Sustainable City. Also, he said he is looking forward to the results of the survey.

“We are looking for ways that people get information so we can be a better source of information,” he said.

Banks said UO will be doing more studies in Hermiston in the coming months.

Erick Peterson

Editor, Hermiston Herald

UO's Sustainable City Year program heads east to Hermiston



November 12, 2021 - 5:00am

[Twitter](#) [Facebook](#)

For the first time in its 13-year history, the UO's Sustainable City Year Program is partnering with a community in northeastern Oregon.

The university-city partnership program is part of the [UO Sustainable Cities Institute](#), founded in 2009 and now duplicated around the U.S. and world under the title [EPIC-N](#). It involves faculty and students engaged in existing courses across campus directing their coursework toward a single Oregon community over an academic year to address community-identified issues.

During the 2021-22 academic year, Sustainable City Year is uniting faculty members and students with the city of Hermiston.

"Hermiston is not only the region's trade center; it's a diverse and growing community," said Megan Banks, Sustainable City Year program director. "We are pleased to partner with the city of Hermiston to examine a variety of priority issues that support livability, workforce development and community engagement."

Hermiston has almost doubled in size since 1990 and currently has a population of almost 20,000 and according to 2020 U.S. Census data is the fastest-growing city in Eastern Oregon. Forty-six percent of residents identified as Hispanic or Latino in 2020, and 37 percent speak a language other than English at home.

"Hermiston's growth can be attributed to many things: a can-do spirit, a supportive business community, strong schools, proactive housing development, and investment in infrastructure and a united sense of purpose," said Hermiston Mayor Dave Drotzmann.

The year kicked off with five UO planning, public policy and management classes, ranging from an analysis of innovative funding options for a potential community recreation center to planning for equitable residential and commercial development in north Hermiston. Additional classes will conduct an information needs assessment to support the Hermiston library.

In addition to UO faculty members and classes, Sustainable City Year provides an opportunity for other public universities to participate. Hermiston will benefit from Portland State University civil and environmental engineering students as they develop a street plan for north Hermiston. Eastern Oregon University students will assess Hermiston's services to ensure people are able to link to community resources to access nutritious food, shelter and safety from domestic violence, with a focus on immigrant and refugee communities and communities of color.

"The UO's Sustainable City Year Program is providing a valuable benefit to the city of Hermiston and other communities in Oregon," said Hermiston City Manager Byron Smith. "We are excited to have the opportunity to partner with UO faculty and students on planning projects that will help us support our growing community and workforce."

Previous partners in Central and Western Oregon have included communities as diverse in geography and population as Salem, La Pine, Redmond, Medford, Silverton, Springfield, Albany and Gresham.

"The partnership with the city of Hermiston and SCYP, as well as the inclusion of three Oregon universities, is a great example of how this program serves communities across the state," said Marc Schlossberg, co-founder and co-director of the Sustainable Cities Institute.

COVID-19 Updates and Information

UO Experts Respond to Coronavirus

ACADEMICS & RESEARCH

[College of Arts and Sciences](#)

[Lundquist College of Business](#)

[College of Design](#)

[College of Education](#)

[Graduate Studies](#)

[Knight Campus](#)

[Research and Innovation](#)

[Robert D. Clark Honors College](#)

[School of Journalism and Communication](#)

[School of Law](#)

[UO Libraries](#)

[School of Music and Dance](#)

ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

[UO law prof on quest to root out injustices in parole decisions](#)

[SOJC documentary program connects students to filmmakers](#)

[Education initiative at UO advances STEM learning statewide](#)

[Physics group gets funding to keep probing the unknown](#)

[Professor to probe the toll of virtual interaction at workplaces](#)

[All Academics and Research](#)

There are currently no events happening.

ABOUT AROUND THE O

Around the O is the UO's go-to place for information about the university, its people and the difference they make in Oregon and around the world. We bring stories of the university's groundbreaking research and world-class faculty and students to the broadest possible audience, while also serving as the hub for news, announcements and information of interest to the campus community.

[Submit Your Story Idea](#)

School of Planning, Public Policy and Management



Dear PPPM Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from Hendricks Hall! Students, faculty, and staff are thrilled to be back in person. With the UO vaccination requirements and mask mandates, we were able to complete fall term without any major disruptions.

This newsletter highlights some great stories about what is going on in PPPM. Our fall term classes just wrapped up some interesting projects with the City of Hermiston as part of the Sustainable City Year Program. Our faculty and graduate students have already started working on Capstone, CPW, and Nonprofit Consultancy projects with Lane County and other federal, local, and nonprofit partners. Our undergraduate Real World Eugene class is now being led by IPRE in collaboration with the City of Eugene. The students recently gave public presentations about their projects on climate resiliency hubs, downtown graffiti, electrical vehicle adoption, and University Park renovations. There are also some great stories about PPPM and IPRE research.

Our undergraduate enrollment is continuing to grow, particularly with the launch of a new PPPM-centered Academic Residential Community in one of the dorms. Our graduate enrollment is holding steady and recent national rankings have raised the profile of our programs. Student support is a big priority because financial needs are at an all-time high. If you are able to financially support PPPM, student funding is our top priority!

From the PPPM community, we hope you are all healthy and safe.

Best wishes,

Rich Margerum,

Professor and Director
School of Planning, Public Policy and Management



Fall News from the Sustainable Cities Institute



In this issue:

- SCYP Updates: New Partner and New RFP
- Urbanism Next: Knight AV Project Update
- Transportation-related news
- Highlight: Professor Anne Brown at TRB
- Highlight: Natural disaster reflections by Sian Meng

Letter from our Co-Directors

Note from the Directors

This is a brief note to state the obvious: we have big environmental, social, and economic challenges to deal with and they aren't getting any easier. We still firmly believe that higher education has a key, catalytic role in addressing these challenges and that through integrated and applied education and research, we can help accelerate change and do so more boldly than otherwise possible. Read on for some of what we've been up to along these lines.

- Marc Schlossberg & Nico Larco

Welcome to the City of Hermiston: Our SCYP 2021-22 Partner!

For the first time in its history, the Sustainable City Year Program will be working in eastern Oregon as it partners with the City of Hermiston (pop. ~19,000). Sitting at the heart of the Pacific Northwest, Hermiston is the region's trade center and is experiencing significant growth. Now in its 13th year of partnerships with Oregon communities, Hermiston projects will engage with courses in: Public Budgeting, Planning Principles and Practices, Planning Analysis, Human Settlements, Green Cities, Journalism, and Civil and Environmental Engineering (Portland State University course). More courses may be added throughout the year as project and course matches are made.



Throughout the year, students will work on a variety of projects, from North Hermiston land use and design to a fiscal analysis and case studies focused on a potential community center, as well as a transportation engineering project. Students will also analyze the value of "brick and mortar" libraries in an online era and facilitate community discussions in small groups. Students will conduct their work in-person and online, presenting solutions to city staff and community stakeholders both virtually and in-person.

Participating academic disciplines include planning, public administration, engineering (Portland State University) and others. Through classroom work, applied learning assignments, and collaboration with the city, SCYP students will endeavor to help Hermiston work towards its optimal future.

[Here is an engaging, visual overview of the range of projects](#) SCYP-Hermiston is working on together this year!

TriMet, Too!!!

In addition to working with Hermiston, SCYP is also working with 2017-18 partner, TriMet. As often happens with former partners, current projects are matched because relationships exist and the SCYP partner understands how to tap university expertise to work on projects not necessarily suited to take on internally nor ready to be taken on by a consultant. SCYP fills a niche and is looking forward to seeing the results of the Portland State University architecture and UO landscape architecture design studios as they design light rail stations for TriMet's "Better Red" extension. In January 2022, SCYP also hopes to kickoff a small partnership with the city of Veneta, located in western Lane County and in the UO's "backyard." Veneta projects will focus on the Highway 126 corridor that bisects the City and a trails master plan.

We are looking forward to a great year with these fantastic partners!

SCYP Applications for 2022-23 Partners Now Open

We are now soliciting interest from Oregon cities or public agencies to partner with SCYP during the 2022-23 academic year. Please see the application information on the website (<https://sci.uoregon.edu/scyp>) or contact SCYP Program Director, [Megan Banks](#), directly with your interest, ideas, and questions.

Urbanism Next



Communities that plan for autonomous vehicles (AVs) and new emerging technologies are much more likely to be prepared to take advantage of the benefits of these technologies, while minimizing the costs. With support from the Knight Foundation, the cities of Detroit, Pittsburgh, San Jose, and Miami-Dade County (the cohort) are actively working to understand how AVs can be deployed in ways that incorporate community input and address community needs and concerns. Urbanism Next is working with these communities, and the consulting firm Cityfi, to assess pilot projects and report on lessons learned from the pilots. A primary goal of the project is to understand how community engagement efforts can shape AV pilots to advance equitable outcomes. To organize our thinking, Urbanism Next drafted the [AV Initiative Framework](#), where we describe how the public sector should focus on both identifying community needs and shaping deployment.

Now, the communities are working on pilot projects with [Kiwibot](#), a personal delivery device service (think of a cooler on wheels). Pilot use cases include restaurant food delivery in every community. In addition, select cities are experimenting with delivery from urban farms, libraries, and pharmacies. In San Jose, residents within a certain geographic area can make donations of non-perishable food, clothing, and small household items and a Kiwibot robot can pick up the donation and deliver it to a distribution center.

In all four cities, Kiwibot is also mapping and collecting sidewalk and infrastructure data through an automated data collection system and the [Mobility Data Specifications](#) (MDS).

Ultimately, the purpose of the pilot is **not** to solve transportation inequities through new technology. Instead, local governments have a responsibility to understand the potential opportunities and challenges so that they can maximize the public good and minimize the negative externalities.

Urbanism Next will continue to work with these communities to create a pilot project assessment. Get updates at the project [Medium website here](#) and look for the assessment report in 2022.

Some Exciting Transportation-Related News

We are also excited to share the following great news:

SCI-affiliated faculty are creating multiple transportation research roadmaps, due to be completed in February. With funding and support for these multi-campus, multi-disciplinary teams from the National Institute for Transportation and Communities (NITC), we are happy to be involved in the following ways:

- **Advancing Equitable Mobility** - Anne Brown & Nico Larco
- **Transportation, Land Use, & Housing** - Rebecca Lewis
- **Transportation Resiliency** - Nicole Ngo
- **Multimodal Data & Modeling** - Thomas Gottschi
- **Bicycle Transportation** - Marc Schlossberg
- **Technology and New Mobility** - Becky Steckler & Stephen Fickas

Know a college student who might want to learn how to redesign cities for people on bike from some of the best cities in the world doing just that?

If so, send them our way! SCI's Summer 2022

study abroad program on "Sustainable Bicycle Transportation" is now accepting applications. Any U.S.-based undergraduate or graduate student can be part of this monthlong, experiential course that bases itself in multiple cities in Denmark and the Netherlands. Local contexts and local experts, combined with immersive activities and instructor-based material, make this class highly place-based such that we don't need to use formal classrooms. More information is [here](#). Space is limited so earlier applications receive priority. Questions or expressions of interest can be [sent directly to Professor Lewis](#).



Sometimes it takes a group of non-professionals to make change happen and that is what happened in Eugene when a group of students thought that the one mile stretch between the University of Oregon and downtown Eugene ought to be connected by a high quality, two-way protected bikeway. The David Minor Bikeway along 13th Avenue in Eugene just celebrated its 1 year anniversary and really, because of COVID, is just now getting its full use as the 40,000 students, faculty, and staff returned to in-person university life. SCI is proud to sponsor the student group that helped Eugene move faster and better than otherwise would have happened. [Check out this related article](#) that covers comments from Congressman Peter DeFazio, SCI's Marc Schlossberg and more. Following the event, the participants rode down the David Minor Bikeway and then gathered around food and beverages to talk infrastructure, cycling, and what governments at all levels need to do around these issues.



Rethinking Streets During COVID-19, the third volume in the ‘Rethinking Streets’ case study book series, will be formally shared at the **Transportation Research Board 2022 Annual Meeting**.

The book has had close to 2,000 downloads since being released earlier this year, with interest coming from across the

globe. You can download this newest volume, as well as the previous two, for free at <https://rethinkingstreets.com/>. Thank you to the National Institute for Transportation and Communities (NITC) for supporting this applied work.

The TRB Spotlight on Professor Anne Brown



Professor Anne Brown will be semi-taking over the TRB annual conference in January given she will be presenting 10 papers and projects, spanning the issues that SCI research focuses on. With apologies to all the collaborators, both inside and outside of SCI, that are engaged in these projects as well, here is what Professor Brown will be speaking about:

1. Extending Access: Examining the Prevalence and Types of Equity Requirements in U.S. Bikeshare and E-scooter Programs
2. Exploring the costs of addressing equity in the transition to cashless fare collection
3. Can information increase support for transportation reform? Results from an experiment
4. What Makes People Split From Ridesplitting? Rider Attitudes Towards the Shared TNC Services Uberpool and Lyft Shared
5. Buying Access One Trip at a Time: Lower-Income Households and Ride-Hail
6. Invisible Rides: How Car-less Americans Access Cars
7. Political Partisanship and Transportation Reform
8. Are Transportation Planning Students' Views Shared by Engineers and the Public?
9. Commute by Microtransit: Evaluating Google's Microtransit Pilot Program
10. Can Information Increase Support for Transportation Reform? Results from an Experiment

Class Project Comes to Life: Natural Disaster Reflections by Sian Meng



How often do a school project and a real life disaster intersect? This past July, Sian Meng, UO Planning and Public Affairs PhD student and SCYP report writer, experienced a 1000-year flood event in Xinxiang, Henan, China as he was working on his spring term Advanced

GIS report, “Assessing Hazard Vulnerability in Troutdale.” Taught by Prof. Yizhao Yang, the class conducted research, collected data, and analyzed the potential for hazard susceptibility in the city of Troutdale. As the effects of climate change intensify, it is increasingly important for cities to establish natural disaster protocols and infrastructure, and SCYP courses can help cities move forward in planning for these disasters. Amidst clean-up efforts in his community and newly restored power, hazard planning was already on Sian’s mind. Below are some of Sian’s reflections:

Planning

Due to climate change and more extreme climate events, hazards planning should not only be based on historical data. Planning should highlight key areas threatening public security, such as subway stations, underground tunnels, and other underground spaces during floods. Cities could also analyze and identify the location, scale, and accessibility of emergency shelters.

Preparation

Cities could establish an early-warning system, combining urban planning, meteorology, catastrophology, and information science to forecast meteorological change and release early-warning messages. In addition, cities should make multi-level preparations. At the regional level, cities should coordinate with each other to prepare emergency supplies. The local governments and community organizations could host workshops to educate residents on coping with environmental hazards.

Response and Recovery

Cities could establish an emergency response mechanism for extreme climate events, which should involve multi-sector cooperation. For example, the city’s Transportation Department could work with Meteorological Department and Water Resource Bureau to decide when to shut down the subway system and subterranean tunnel. Regional collaboration is an important component in the response and recovery phases.

Other

More attention should be paid to rural communities with under-developed public infrastructure. Cities should also consider preventing secondary disasters caused by floods, such as liquefaction, landslide, and infectious diseases.



Sustainable City Year Program: Hermiston



Where Life is Sweet

For the first time in its history, the Sustainable City Year Program will be working in eastern Oregon as it partners with the City of Hermiston. Sitting at the heart of the Pacific Northwest, Hermiston is the region's trade center and is experiencing significant growth. Now in its 13th year of partnerships with Oregon communities, this fall SCYP will connect Hermiston with five courses, all in the UO's School of Planning, Public Policy and Management. During winter and spring terms, Hermiston will work with Portland State University's Civil and Environmental Engineering capstone course. More courses will be added throughout the year as project and course matches are made.

Throughout the year, students will work on a variety of projects, from North Hermiston land use and design to a fiscal analysis and case studies focused on a potential community center, as well as a transportation engineering project. Students will also analyze the value of "brick and mortar" libraries in an online era and facilitate community discussions in small groups. Students will conduct their work in-person and online, presenting solutions to city staff and community stakeholders both virtually and in-person.

Participating academic disciplines include planning, public administration, engineering (Portland State University) and others. Through classroom work, applied learning assignments, and collaboration with the city, SCYP students will endeavor to help Hermiston work towards its optimal future.

[UO Libraries Hermiston Research Guide](#)

Virtual Open House

City Information:

[City of Hermiston Homepage](#)

[About Hermiston](#)

[Community Events List](#)

[Population Statistics](#)

[Population Forecast 2016-2066](#)

[Community Profile](#)

Maps:

[Various City Maps](#)

[City of Hermiston Map](#)

[Parks and Trails](#)

Housing:

[Comp Plan Appendix F: Housing Capacity Analysis](#)

[Comp Plan Appendix G: Buildable Land Inventory](#)

Media:

[League of Oregon Cities Podcast](#)

[Hermiston Funland Playground video](#)

Branding:

[Branding Style Guide](#)

[Hermiston Images](#)

City Facilities:

[Airport](#)

[Aquatic Center](#)

[Library](#)

Public Works:

[Capital Improvement Projects](#)

[Public Works Design Standards](#)

[Public Works Construction](#)

Plans and Reports:

[Livable Hermiston Final Report](#)

[Comprehensive Plan \(policies\)](#)

[Umatilla County Multi-Jurisdiction Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning](#)

[Hermiston Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan](#)

[Transportation System Plan](#)

[Demographic Report](#)

Land Use:

[Development Code Title XV: Land Usage](#)

[Land Use Procedures and Applications](#)

Economic Development:

[Retail Strategies Market Guide Report](#)

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