Re-imagining River Road for Ecological Equity

STUDENT FINAL PRESENTATIONS

PPPM 445 Green Cities
Re-imagining River Road for Ecological Equity

STUDENT FINAL PRESENTATIONS

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COLLEGE OF DESIGN
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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.
About Lane Transit District

LTD provides more than 10 million trips per year on its buses and EmX Bus Rapid Transit line in Lane County, Oregon. Encompassing the Eugene-Springfield metro area, LTD is a special district of the state of Oregon and led by a seven-member board of directors appointed by Oregon’s Governor.

LTD also operates RideSource, a paratransit service for people with disabilities, and numerous transportation options programs to promote sustainable travel county wide, and Point2Point, an initiative that provides community members with the necessary information and resources to assist them in identifying opportunities to drive less by discovering transportation choices that meet their individual lifestyles.
Course Participants

BRENDAN ADAMCZYK, Environmental Studies
EGE AKINCI, Environmental Studies
EMMA ANDERSON, Planning, Public Policy, and Management
AUSTIN BAXLEY, Undeclared
LEAH BORDEN, Product Design
SABRINA BOUTIETTE, Planning, Public Policy, and Management
TYLER BRAHMSTADT, Environmental Studies
MIKEY BROOKS, Environmental Science
CALVIN BURKE, Environmental Science
CARLOS CHINCILLA GUEVARA, Planning, Public Policy, and Management
EMILY COOK, Environmental Studies
CATIE DEERING, Environmental Studies
EJ DEL ROSARIO, Environmental Studies
MAKAYLA DEMPSEY, Environmental Studies
GEORGIA DOWLING, Environmental Studies
CAMERIN FEAGINS, Environmental Science
ALEXANDER FITZGERALD, Environmental Studies
ALEXANDRA FLORES, General Social Sciences
DELANEY FOSSUM, Environmental Science
JANICE GONZALEZ VALERA, Planning, Public Policy, and Management
TYLER GRIMES, Environmental Studies
ARTHUR HADLEY IVES, Environmental Science
ELLIE HANNUM, Educational Foundations
KYANA HARRIS, Planning, Public Policy, and Management
JESSICA HILDEBRAND, Environmental Studies
OLIVER HOOVER, Environmental Science
VINCENT HUYNH-WATKINS, Computer and Information Science
RAINAJ JOHNSON, General Science
DEV KHALSA, Environmental Studies
ASHLEY KIM, Environmental Science
BENJAMIN KING, Environmental Studies
TIA LOHMAN, Planning, Public Policy, and Management
DANIELLE MAVES, Environmental Science
KYLE MCQUAIN, Environmental Studies
SAM MILLER, Environmental Studies
MELODY MONROE, Undeclared  
ELIZABETH NEFF, Environmental Studies  
ANNA NEUFELD, Environmental Science  
TYLER O’DONNELL, Environmental Science  
TENLEY ONG, Environmental Studies  
JULIAN OZUNA, Pre-Business Administration  
LEAH PERRY, Environmental Studies  
ADAM PETTUS, Environmental Studies  
JENNA PHAM, Planning, Public Policy, and Management  
ELIZABETH RADCLIFFE, Planning, Public Policy, and Management  
MATT RAGSDALE, Planning, Public Policy, and Management  
MAGGIE REDSHAW, Planning, Public Policy, and Management  
MTIMA RICHARDSON, Planning, Public Policy, and Management  
JULIAE RIVA, Planning, Public Policy, and Management  
EMILY RODRIGUEZ, Planning, Public Policy, and Management  
RUBEN SALVADOR BENAVIDES, Planning, Public Policy, and Management  
OLIVIA SAVAGE, Environmental Studies  
JESSICA SORNSENA, Pre-Journalism  
KIM SPILLANE, Environmental Studies  
ELIJAH TAN, Environmental Science  
HENRY TANNLER, Environmental Studies  
EASTON TAYLOR, Environmental Studies  
JEN THOMPSON, Environmental Studies  
AARON TISCARENO, Architecture  
ALEXANDRA TOWN, Undeclared  
DYLAN TRUONG, Planning, Public Policy, and Management  
JULIA URONE, Environmental Science  
ANDREW WARREN, Economics  
PARKER WATSON, Economics  
MELODY WHITE, Planning, Public Policy, and Management  
AUSTIN WIENS, Planning, Public Policy, and Management  
MACKENZIE WIGG, Interior Architecture  
JOHANN WILSON, Architecture  
JOSEF WINDHEIM, Environmental Studies  
YULING YANG, Planning, Public Policy, and Management
Student Final Presentations
Re-imagining River Road (R3): Ecological Equity on the River’s Edge

- Green Cities topics + assignments
- Tangible
- Equitable
- Small-scale green intervention
- Today’s presentations (7)
- **Memo** (to LTD)
  - executive summary
  - introduction
  - justification
  - approach
  - Precedents
  - Implications
  - policy recommendations
  - conclusion

(between Santa Clara + Whitaker)
Mon., December 2 (7 groups)

1. Boulder
2. Burlington
3. Copenhagen
4. Curitiba
5. Georgetown
6. Helsinki
7. Hood River

8 mins = Presentation
4 mins max = Question (1)

12 mins each group

I will warn at:
5 mins (blue)
2 mins (yellow)
1 min (pink)
Team BOULDER

River Road: Site Intervention

Janice Gonzalez, Sabrina Boutiette, Kyle McQuain, Elijah Tan, & Jen Thompson
Site Overview
Corner of Hunsaker Lane & River Road

Vacant lot owned by the City of Eugene

Proposed Idea
- Amphitheatre
- Picnic tables
- Garden beds
- Painted fences/tables
- Local food trucks
- Local vendors/booths
Approach

- Create a community space where community building can happen
- Partner with Eugene nonprofit: Huerto de la Familia
- Provide families with fresh, organic food
- Create a Farmers Market/Saturday Market
- Partner with local food trucks and vendors
- Bring in artists to create live art and music
- Local painters, bands, theater performances

Strategy and Justification

By partnering with Huerto de la Familia...

- Safe Green Space
- Local Economic Stimulation
- Sense of Community
- Education
- Accessibility
Precedents

- The Canal Community Garden in San Rafael, CA
  - Provides access to healthy foods in a Latinx neighborhood

- The Agua Gorda Cooperative in Long Prairie, MN
  - Unifies white and Latinx community members

- Nuestras Raíces in Holyoke, MA
  - 30-acre urban farm
  - Mobile market

Source: San Rafael Recreation & Child Care Division
Source: Shared Ground Farmers' Co-op
Source: New England Grassroots Environmental Fund

Implications

Challenges

- Possible noise complaints
- More events = more traffic
  - *However, areas with community gardens are sometimes seen to have less traffic

Positive Outcomes

- More community engagement
- Leading healthier and more eco-friendly lifestyles
- Promoting local organizations and boosting local economy
Policy Recommendations

- Conduct a survey to assess the need for a community garden in River Road
- Create a policy that requires Public Works to increase lighting infrastructure in River Road
- Conduct an assessment on all the vacant lots to understand where gardens can be implemented

Works Cited

- https://www.livelifelocally.org/community-gardens/
- https://sharedgroundcoop.com/farms/agua-gorda
- https://grassrootsfund.org/groups/nuestras-raices-community-gardens
- https://www.mprnews.org/story/2012/12/13/ground-level-latino-connections-longprairie
- https://nuestras-raices.org/about/
Team BURLINGTON

A New Rasor Park

Team Burlington
Rasor Park’s History

- Founded in 1970’s
  - A Failed Vision
    - Unique Location
    - Accessibility
    - Diverse Landscape

○ Two vegetative types recognized
  - closed riparian forest / Savannah.
  - (Both are acknowledged rare in the willamette valley)
Moving forward - “The Friends of Rasor Park”

- Founded in 1996
  - Community to combat the problems of Rasor Park
    - Volunteer Lead effort /= a lack of city effort
  - Amenities
    - Accessibility
    - Paved paths
    - Benches
  - Wildlife / native vegetation
    - Wildlife - Reptiles, insects, various birds
    - Native Vegetation - trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowers
    - Preservation of diverse lands

Issues of Razor Park

- No current clear purpose or direction:
  - Has not formally been categorized for its role and function
  - Creates ambiguity on what the park can be used for

- Lack of native vegetation:
  - Approximately 60 percent of the species is invasive
  - 95% of the land is covered with invasive species
Recommended Strategies

- Expand on / Build new park amenities
  - Playground
  - Community area
- Improve protection of local wildlife and native vegetation:
  - Riparian forest, Savannah oak
  - Fixing dog park
- Make park more accessible
  - Crosswalks
  - Enhance park boundaries
  - Increase park awareness

Our Approach

- Playground made from junk
  - Recycled oil rig materials
  - Plastic buoys
  - Old car parts
  - Wind turbine blades
  - Old tires, steel drums, water bottles, etc.
- Community Weeding Day
  - Removal of invasive species
  - Planting native species and bee/insect-friendly flora
- A place of recreation
  - Summer movie nights in the park
  - Local concerts to support local artists
  - Community clean-ups
Potential hurdles

- Funding for changes within the park
  - Community
  - Government
- Maintenance requirements
- How much restoration is needed?

Long term vision / goals

- Native plants preventing riverbank erosion
- Increase wildlife habitat and biodiversity values
- Incorporate daily life with green spaces
- Create an area for children to play
- Center of Community
Works Cited

https://www.friendsof rasorpark.org/blank
https://www.eugene-or.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/128

https://www.eugenewEEKLY.com/2016/05/19/a-day-in-the-park/

https://www.boston.gov/civic-engagement/play-around-city
https://kaboom.org/blog/tag/cool-playgrounds
https://www.boston.gov/civic-engagement/play-around-city

Team COPENHAGEN
SITE LOCATION

- Part of West Bank Park
  - Entrance behind Dari Mart on River Road
  - Field that connects to main bike/pedestrian path
  - Residential homes on north and south portions of the park
  - Community east of River Road will experience more immediate benefits
    - Currently have easier access to West Bank Park
• Underutilized space that connects park to main River Road corridor
• Can fill a need for services in the area
  • “River Road/Santa Clara does not have many specialty facilities, including a dog park, spray play park, community garden or running trail.” (River Road Neighborhood Report 2016)
1) PROVIDE A PAVED WALKWAY

- Pave over desire lines from pedestrians passing through the field
- Connect the Dari Mart entranceway to the main path of the park
- Intersection with current bike path may require a more gradual gradient than current slope if constructed

IMPACTS OF PAVING

- Safety among the community and residents
- Allows for more biking to occur
- Gives pedestrians a sense of direction
- More ideal for drivers and safety caution
- Prevents environmental degradation
2) BUILDING A DOG PARK

Provide a designated space for off-leash dog park
- Fenced area
- South side of park (shown on the right in the photo below)
- Possible separation of large and small dog areas

WHY A DOG PARK?
- Current supply
  - Currently 4 dog parks in Eugene and 2 unfenced, off-leash areas
    - Parks: Alton Baker Park, Amazon Park, Candlelight Park, Wayne Morse Family Farm
    - Unfenced areas: Lone Oak Park, Jefferson City Park
  - Community Input

Recommended Actions
Build dog parks and/or off-leash areas in Eugene’s three underserved planning districts:
- City Central (location TBD)
- River Road/Santa Clara (location TBD)
- Southwest (location TBD)

Foster and support partnerships with neighborhoods and community organizations to build, maintain and manage dog parks and/or off-leash areas, including a pilot program of unfenced off-leash areas in undeveloped parks that limit ongoing maintenance requirements.
IMPACTS OF A DOG PARK

• Build a greater sense of community
  • Provides a gathering space for community members
    • Opportunity for new social ties to form
  • Public health
    • Depending on connectedness to pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure, may promote walking/biking to dog park destination
      • Construction of dog park should be done in conjunction with providing walking path
    • Frequency of walking tends to increase if nearer to a dog park
    • Mixed evidence of impact on owners’ physical activity within off-leash area
      • May be sedentary within park – socializing vs. walking

3) INCREASING “VISIBILITY” OF THE PARK

• Improve awareness of the park location from River Road
  • Providing the name of the park at the entrance from River Road
  • Rename site to “West Bank Dog Park”
  • Update GPS title name
• Improve signs for the park
  • Replace rusted or destroyed signs
  • Update information

Park entrance signs from River Road
Outdated community info
CURRENT ENTRANCES TO PARK AREA

East neighborhood entrance

Empty sign, river entrance

PRECEDENTS OF PARK CHANGES
POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The City of Eugene must invest in *improving infrastructural connections* between off-street bicycle paths and adjacent corridors, especially when a space and/or route for such connections preexists.

2. The Parks and Rec Department of Eugene must *invest resources in updating information* about park locations to improve awareness of green spaces and the benefits they may provide to the communities.

3. The City of Eugene must *investigate potentially underutilized park spaces* to fill needs for services/facilities as expressed by residents and the City, such as the space for a dog park in West Bank Park.

THANK YOU

Questions?
Team CURITIBA

Community Solutions

Ecological Education Center
Envision Eugene

- Two of Eugene’s Seven Pillars of Shared Values:
  - Protect, repair and enhance neighborhood livability
  - Protect, restore and enhance natural resources
- Enhancing natural resources & livability go hand in hand
  - 90% of Eugene residents believe parks and recreation are very or somewhat important to their quality of life

River Road-Santa Clara Overview

- River Road Park & Recreation District covers ~8 square miles
- Nearly 21% of the population in Eugene reside here
- Planning district encompasses 227 total acres of parks, recreation, and open space
  - 58% is made up of natural areas
  - 42% is developed land or park land that’s yet to be developed
- 172 of these acres are owned by the City of Eugene
River Road/Santa Clara Overview

What it has

- 12 neighborhood parks
  - 6 developed
  - 6 undeveloped
- 2 community parks (Emerald and Santa Clara Community Parks)
- 1 skatepark
- 1.6 miles of soft surface trail

What it lacks

- Availability of neighborhood parks
  - 3-5 park sites need to be acquired
- Specialty facilities
  - Dog parks
  - Community gardens
  - City-owned community center
- Access to large, natural areas compared to other parts of town

Community Priorities

- Developed community spaces
- Functional green community
- Repurposing vacant lots increases public safety
- Garden provides affordable food and sustainable resources
- Need to address lack of service for those in need
- Resilient Community?
Maynard Park

- Underutilized Green Spaces
  - Currently not open to public
- Not serving the community
- Competing Problems
- Competing Solutions
- “What does the community want?”

Community Ecological Education Center

- Community center contains kitchen, classrooms, and public restrooms
- Apiary that provides jobs, income for the city, and pollinators for community garden
- Sheltered bus stop in front of community center
- Community orchard and garden north of bike path, play and picnic area on opposite side
Education Building & Classes

- Cooking Classes
  - Cooking Plant-Based
  - Veggies from community garden
- Zero-Waste Cooking
  - Saving Money
  - Turning veggie scraps into broth
  - Roasting seeds from squash
  - Composting, canning, freezing, dehydrating foods etc.
- Community Ecology
  - Bike/ River Trail
  - Guided Tours
  - Local Ecosystems
  - Flora and fauna

Community and Environment

- Incorporation of native plants and education on invasive species
  - Indigenous use of plants, medicinal and culinary
- Bees and pollinator integration
  - Plants that support pollinators
  - Beekeeping education
- Rain water catchments
  - Reduces input costs of garden
  - Creates self-sustaining infrastructure

Stormwater collection:

- Reduces risk from floods
- Controls erosion
- Supports local ecosystems
- Provides reusable irrigation water
Competing Problems — Affordable Housing

- Solve problems, not symptoms
- Make housing affordable, not affordable housing
- Community solutions:
  - Enhance neighborhood livability
  - Develop functional green spaces
  - Build a resilient community
- A solution that creates living-wage jobs

Why?
References:

https://www.eugene.or.gov/2885/System-Plan
https://www.eugene.or.gov/2979/The-Pillars
https://www.eugene.or.gov/760/Envision-Eugene

Team GEORGETOWN
The Revitalization of River Rd.

Olivia Savage, Melody Monroe, Johann Wilson, Mikey Brooks

Overview

This site is accessible by route 51 bus at the W/S of River Rd S of Blazer bus stop directly in front of the Messiah Lutheran Church. The church is located about 0.8 miles north of the northern bound of the River Road Corridor. On the church grounds, there is a large grassy lot that when our team canvassed it was unkempt and had no discernible features or signs of active usage. For this reason, we propose to transform the parcel of land for community betterment.

Our proposed intervention seeks to implement a public community garden in the currently unused grass lot on the church grounds. This would be supplemented with features such as a small playground for kids, implementing gardening workshops and classes for community education, a small public orchard, and spaces for public gatherings for the church.

This intervention would address community desires and issues outlined in the Santa Clara/River Road neighborhood plan such as issues of food access, a lack of community gardens and edible landscape, and promoting gardening within the community.
Proposed Site Renderings
Justification: Needs of the Community

- River Road/Santa Clara lacks specialty facilities.
- Six neighborhood park sites have not yet been developed. There is a need for three to five more neighborhood park acquisitions.
- People want access to large natural areas. Other areas of town have much more available green space to the public.
- Here in Lane County, food insecurity rates are among the highest in the state.
- 1 in 5 children in Lane County live in food insecure homes.
- Many open and overgrown lots that are not being utilized to their full potential.
- There are only 6 community gardens in Eugene, but it costs money to have a plot.
Benefits for the Community and Environment

- Contact with nature helps children to develop cognitive, emotional, and behavioral connections to their nearby social and biophysical environments.
- Nature experiences are important for encouraging imagination and creativity, cognitive and intellectual development, and social relationships.
- Outdoor activities can help alleviate symptoms of Alzheimer's, dementia, stress, and depression, and improve cognitive function.
- Allowing kids to build a stronger relationship with nature at a young age and carry out these habits for the rest of their lives.

Approach: Volunteering

The garden will be open to all community members and has the potential to foster connections between people that wouldn’t otherwise have the opportunity to interact.

- Messiah Lutheran Church members.
- North Eugene High School is a mile away. The community garden would provide high school students an opportunity to fulfill community service requirements.
- River Road and Santa Clara neighbors.

Implement a volunteer schedule/garden maintenance checklist to manage upkeep.
Approach: Community Groups and Organizations

Food for Lane County offers free “seed to supper” gardening workshops that teach how to start a garden and grow food on a budget.

Those that complete the course receive access to a course booklet, seeds, organic compost, and fertilizers to create their gardens.

Course Topics:
- Garden site and soil development
- Garden planning
- Planting a garden
- Caring for a growing garden
- Harvesting and using garden bounty

Implications

Pros:
- Access to useable green spaces on River Road would help address issues and concerns noted in the River Road/Santa Clara neighborhood plan like food availability and community gardens.
- Makes use of currently unused and unmanaged plots of land.
- Fosters community engagement and interaction.
- General benefits of gardening and promoting it as a practice.

Cons:
- Community members may feel excluded due to this specific proposal being focused on a church.
- Unequal sharing might cause community resentment if people take advantage of the food source without pitching in to help with the garden.
- Church members could feel
Policy Recommendations

1) City of Eugene must continue to incorporate community building green spaces to the Santa Clara Neighborhood to ensure and promote the healthy/beneficial livelihood of each of its residences. Currently there is an abundance of underutilized green spaces and a strong desire from the community to create a network of parks and paths in Santa Clara that are bike and pet-friendly.

2) City of Eugene must allocate funding for the development of a public community garden, orchard, and playground on the unused lot at the Messiah Lutheran Church on River Road. This would serve to address the community’s desire for more public spaces and amenities.

Policy Recommendations Cont.

3) Messiah Lutheran Church/Preschool must explore the development of a new initiative based on the “seed to supper” gardening workshops for the Santa Clara community that seeks to collaborate with Food for Lane County and their efforts to ensure a more widespread community gardening program. Currently the Food for Lane County Youth Farm only offers gardening workshops on their main property which is located in Springfield, the creation of a new gardening workshop based in Santa Clara would not only increase the amount of participants but would also increase participation in the workshops as a whole.

4) North Eugene High School Administration must promote healthy eating, connections to the natural environment, and community engagement among teenagers by recommending that students fulfill their school’s community service requirements through volunteer work at the Santa Clara garden site. Involving students with plant care and garden management fosters responsibility and care for the natural environment.
References

https://foodforlanecounty.org/go-learn-more/other-programs/gardens/
https://www.eugene-or.gov/2885/System-Plan
https://www.eugene-or.gov/496/Reserve-a-Community-Garden
http://gardening.cals.cornell.edu/program-tools/planning-organizing/effective-youth-engagement/
https://calvin-church.org/community-garden/
https://depts.washington.edu/hhwb/Thm_Mental.html
Mobile Produce Drop and Urban Farming Library

Rasor Park and Beyond

Team Helsinki

Overview

- Main Site: Southwest Portion of Rasor Park
- Secondary Sites: Santa Clara Station, Emerald Park
- Recommendations:
  - Small community space/community garden/lending library in Rasor Park
  - Van to act as “mobile city hall” and distribute produce.
  - Programming to increase community engagement and use of this green space.
Justification

- Rasor Park is an underused public amenity.
- It has potential as a key point in nodal development of the area by:
  - Bringing the community together.
  - Encouraging sustainable habits.
  - Increasing community health and resilience to disasters/shortages.
  - Being an area to develop infrastructure around.

Approach

- Small open public space in Rasor Park
  - Garden, lending library, and public space.
- Van (“mobile city hall” model)
  - Circulates River Road area.
  - Conveys sustainability related info to citizens and increases community engagement.
Approach: Inspiration

Public Space - Hamburg

Public Space - Paris

Approach: Mock Up of Building

Green Roof

Lending Library

Demo Space

Open seating public space

Created by Vincent Huynh-Watkins
Approach: Main Site

- The van will be stationed at a renovated section of Rasor Park
- Additions include:
  - Community Garden
  - Covered sitting/eating area
  - Demonstration Kitchen
  - Solar lighting
  - Lending Library

Approach: Secondary Sites

- Santa Clara Station
  - Next to the main shopping center on river road
  - Planned site for LTD station.
- Emerald Park
  - Central location in the River Road corridor.
  - Well known and used.
Approach: Volks Veggies Van

- Van that circulates to secondary sites on different days of the week.
  - Distributes produce and other food items.
  - Acts as a mobile city hall/bulletin board related to sustainability focused issues.
  - Allows residents to be engaged with relevant topics without having to go to city hall or the like.

Approach: Programming

- Examples:
  - Cooking with produce workshop.
  - Urban gardening tutorials.
- Work with community partners
  - Food for Lane County.
  - Local Restaurants—cooking workshops.
  - Eugene Carbon Free Challenge
- Use Rasor Park space as a hub for events
- Veggie Van serves as means to diffuse information about new programming.
- Gets community involved in sustainability and resilience.
Health Implications

- Improve
  - Access to fresh foods.
  - Food security
  - Dietary habits via education.
- Reduce risk of obesity and obesity-related diseases.
- Improve mental health and promote relaxation

Social Implications

- Gardens in urban areas are positively correlated with decreased crime rates
- Vacant lands can lead to crime which can detrimentally impact the health of residents
- The consequences of vacant lands are decreased property values, drug use, and the illegal dumping of litter
- Gardens can improve economic opportunities by training volunteers and selling food at farmers’ markets
- Urban agriculture can teach residents useful skills in planning, food production and business
- Improving vacant lots increased property values in New Kensington, Philadelphia by 30%
**Policy Recommendation #1**

The City of Eugene and Lane Transit District must continue to evaluate vacant and underused public spaces for potential use in nodal and community development in order to create connected and vibrant communities.

**Policy Recommendation #2**

The City of Eugene must encourage community members to engage with, improve, and create new community spaces in order to foster ownership and investment by constituents.
Policy Recommendation #3

The City of Eugene must lower barriers of access to community programs in order to increase community engagement, education, and involvement in relevant issues.

Questions?
Works Cited

- Rasor Park Master Plan
  - https://www.publicspace.org/works/-/project/f084-open-air-library
  - https://inhabit.at.com/torontos-converted-veggie-bus-brings-produce-to-food-desert-areas/
- https://pinterest.com
- https://foodforlanecounty.org/go-learn-more/other-programs/gardens/

Team HOOD RIVER
Bike Lane Community Engagement Project

PPPM 445: Green Cities

Ellie Hannum, Elizabeth Neff, Tenley Ong, Matt Ragsdale and Melody White

Our Project Proposal

- Address safety and convenience of bike lanes along River Rd
- Implement a two-way protected bike lane on River Rd
- Planter boxes between bike lane and traffic
- Community engagement
River Road, including the current unprotected bike lanes.

Site Selection

- Between Howard Avenue and Hillcrest Drive
  - This site is between two well-used bike path connections to the River Front Path
    - City designates River Road as **Bike Lanes** *(usually on higher traffic streets)*
    - The stretch of road within our scope of this project, Irvin Road/Hunsaker Lane & NW Expressway/Railroad Boulevard, is all unprotected bike lanes (painted barrier) with the speed limit at 35MPH but speeds observed were often faster than that
    - Many cross streets on River Road connect to the River Front path
      - To the south, there is the West Bank at Hillcrest
- This site is great for a **tactical urbanism** and **community engagement** project!
  - Tactical urbanism involves short-term, low cost efforts which typically brings the community together to address a potential concern
Issue

August 2018 citizen responses →

Problem: not enough bike paths

Most suggested:
- Bike path expansion
- Increased safety
- Increased accessibility

Source: https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/42378/062818_MyIdea_Transportation
Our approach

- Working with the community:
  - Implementation of community work projects to engage with residents of the area and speed up the process:
    - Planting native plants
    - Decorating planters
    - Bike lane art
  - Communicate needs and concerns of the community to the city:
    - Impact on community
    - Time and noise implications of construction
    - Community participation

What We Envision:

Photo: Portland, Oregon

Photo: Vancouver, British Columbia

Photo: Vancouver, British Columbia
Implications of This Project

- Overall improved safety for cyclist on River Road
- Less bicycle-vehicle conflicts.
- Improved, unique aesthetic adding in more distinctive cycle protection.
- Active community participation!!

**NOTE: here’s a website for the precedens that may be useful!** [https://peopleforbikes.org/blog/americas-10-best-new-bikeways-of-2018/](https://peopleforbikes.org/blog/americas-10-best-new-bikeways-of-2018/)

- A 2016 report from the American Bicyclist League released stated that 2016 was the deadliest year for U.S cyclist since 1991, with a high of 840 cycling fatalities.
- The average of cyclist- vehicle fatalities from 2006-2016 was estimated to be a steady 600-800 people.

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Implications of This Project

- High costs/expenses. With the implementation of protected bike lanes, there will be expenses such as the planters, the time/labor of the workers, etc

Possible unintended consequences:

- Congestion on River Road while the project is taking place
- Extra noise at the site selection while the project is taking place
- Current cyclist will need to temporarily take a different route
Policy Recommendations

In order to protect cyclists, the City of Eugene should mandate protected bike lanes for streets with speeds at or exceeding 40 miles per hour. This will make cycling a more desirable and safe transportation option for commuters and recreationalists, especially along River Road and the River Path.

"The relationship between crashes and fatalities is complex, but the relationship between speed and crashes is very clear. Speed makes crashes more likely and the severity of injury more deadly." - Kathleen Ferrier, Policy and Communications manager at Vision Zero Network (Anderson and Schmidt, 2017)

Policy Recommendations

The City of Eugene in collaboration with the Lane Council of Governments and potentially LTD should implement a Tactical Urbanism task force to allow for short-term, low cost, community driven projects to be implemented in an attempt to strengthen community in River Road and allow for safety concerns to be addressed more quickly than they might going through the government ladder.

Photo: Tactical Urbanism at work; courtesy of Tree Hugger
Policy Recommendations

- The City of Eugene should mandate the use of native species in all new urban developments in an attempt to mitigate invasive species and promote native pollinators and habitat growth.

- Current policies prohibit certain invasive species and only encourage the use of native species when possible.

Sources


Questions?

Wed., December 4 (7 groups)

1. Victoria
2. Kigali
3. Oslo
4. Portland
5. Sapporo
6. Savannah
7. Sydney

Upload PowerPoint (not PDF) of presentation to Canvas by 9 am
Re-imagining River Road (R3): Ecological Equity on the River’s Edge

- Green Cities topics + assignments
- Tangible
- Equitable
- Small-scale green intervention
- Today’s presentations (7)
- **Memo** (to LTD)
  - executive summary
  - introduction
  - justification
  - approach
  - Precedents
  - Implications
  - policy recommendations
  - conclusion

(between Santa Clara + Whitaker)
Wed., December 4 (7 groups)

1. Victoria
2. Kigali
3. Oslo
4. Portland
5. Sapporo
6. Savannah
7. Sydney

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8 mins = Presentation
4 mins max = Question (1)

12 mins each group

I will warn at:
5 mins (blue)
2 mins (yellow)
1 min (pink)
Team VICTORIA

River Road Community Garden
Introduction

- **Problem**: Lack of community art and engagement/green spaces and parks along River Road
- **Solution**: Transform the empty lot into a community garden for local residents
- **Site**: Empty lot on the corner of Maynard Avenue and River Road (1515 River Road)

Approach

**Location**

- 1515 River Road, Eugene, OR 97404

**Legal Action**

- Submit Land Use Application
- Approval by the City Planning Division
Potential Partners

● The City of Eugene
● Lane Transit District (LTD)
● Erwin’s Quality Plants (Garden Center)

Education

Encourage public schools from elementary → high school to engage!

● River Road Elementary School
● Kelly Middle School
● North Eugene High School

Approach

Actualization

● Volunteers gathered
● Construction of garden
Action Plan

1. Determine correct location
2. Community leaders
3. Urban garden model: UO
4. Educational systems
5. Volunteers gathered
6. Garden constructed
7. LTD phased-out

Goals for Community Garden

Health
Social
Economic
Education
Implications

The City
- Funding and policy

Lane Transit District (LTD)
- Intermediary between the city and the residents

Residents
- Leaders, volunteers, education

Policy Recommendations

- The City of Eugene and LTD should convert empty lots into community gardens so that the residents of River Road have an accessible space for community engagement, education, and sustainable practice.
- The City of Eugene and LTD should provide funds for these conversions and upkeep so that the community can fully benefit.
- The City of Eugene and LTD should designate community leaders and incorporate local schools and organizations so that the gardens can run efficiently and have a wider impact on the community.
Conclusions

- **Issue**
  - Lack of accessible green space

- **Solution**
  - Open lot turned into community garden

- **Impacts**
  - Community involvement
  - Promotion of healthy living
  - Cultural engagement

Thank you!

Questions?
Team KIGALI

Pedestrian Safety & Community Engagement

Presented by Ashley Kim, Sam Miller, Makayla Dempsey, Aaron Tiscareno, Yuling Yang
Overview of Site

INTERSECTION OF RIVER ROAD AND HILLIARD LANE

- Connector from River Road/El Camino del Río Elementary School to the river & parks
  - Partnership with school
  - Community engagement
- Speed limit: 35 mph
Children need safe routes to and from school
  • Busy roads

Could increase:
  • Community engagement
  • Walkability of the area
  • Local park access for residents

Creates a sense of place and community
  • Students/children
  • Families
  • Locals

Our Approach
A PILOT PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LTD, RIVER ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND LOCAL ARTISTS
CROSSWALK MURALS

Local artists to lead project
Bayne Gardner
UpStream Art

Bright colored and “River” themed
Highlight the connection to the Willamette River
Bright colors to draw attention to the crosswalk and safety

Fish "swimming" towards Willamette River
Highlight the ecological diversity
SIDEWALK MURALS

Partnership with River Road Elementary School and local artists

Culturally and Environmentally appropriate artwork

- West side corners: human oriented
- East side corners: environmentally oriented and reflective of historical landscape

WAYFINDING TOOL

- Direct pedestrians and cyclists to important/popular landmarks
  - River Road Santa Clara Volunteer Library
  - Aubrey Park
  - Maurie Jacobs Park
  - Emerald Park Community Center
  - Willamette River
  - River Road Elementary
- Lighting for increased safety
- QR codes for each landmark

Source: Dayoo News
POSITIVES

• Pedestrian friendly
• Public education
• Community engagement and ownership
• Improved relationship between River Road elementary, LTD, and community
• Highlight the community characteristics

NEGATIVES

• Gentrification
• Changes to "rural" atmosphere
• Little input from residents
• Lifespan of mural/maintenance costs
• Necessity of blocking street
POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

LTD should sponsor an art project with local artists & River Road Elementary school to design and paint interesting, environmentally and culturally appropriate crosswalks and sidewalks to increase awareness of pedestrian safety.

City of Eugene should partner with River Road Neighborhood Association to create an interactive wayfinding tool that would incorporate the history and experiences of current residents and their relationship with the area.

CITATIONS


QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!
Team OSLO

Refabrication of Maurie Jacobs Park

By Emma Anderson, EJ Del Rosario, Elizabeth Radcliffe, Dev Khalsa, Tyler O’Donnell
- Located in the SouthEastern portion of River Road.
- Connected pedestrian byway that lines the Willamette River.
- Near other commercial and residential communities.

Overview of Site
- Diverse resources and public engagement.
- Multiple and various access points.
- Difficult to be seen.
Current Amenities and Features

Justification of your strategy

- Very industrial heavy; green space is needed
- Access to Willamette River
  - Natural asset
- More community involvement
- Natural landscapes/infrastructure are highly valued
  - Enhances ecosystem’s health
Approach

- Increase local awareness of parks’ location
- Entryway at the park entrance and on the other side of Willamette River bridge
  - Partner with River Road Community Organization
- Bike Rack(s)
  - Partner with GEARs (Greater Eugene Area Riders)
  - Partner with PeaceHealth

Approach

- Open up the parking lot to allow more room for bikes and pedestrians
- Implement a seasonal Attraction.
  - Oregon Forest Resources Institutes
- Improvements to the children’s play area
  - KaBoom!

http://cityobservatory.org/happy-earth-day-oregon-lets-widen-some-freeways
Current Layout of the Parking lot

New Proposed Parking Lot
Implications

- Construction will cause short term accessibility issues to the park (Willamette Bridge access, Maurie Jacobs Park)
- Noise pollution from the repositioning of the main parking lot.
- New signage and other amenities are susceptible to graffiti.
- Maintenance costs of proposed structures and high potential costs of the project itself.

Implications continued

The benefits:

- An increase in community engagement with the park through are proposed amenities that promote accessibility.
- Bike racks provide a resource to ride in and feel welcomed into the park.
- Improved playgrounds will benefit the local pre-school as well as families who can utilize the parks space.
- The increase in seasonal trees will provide a more natural feel to the park.
Policy recommendations

1. The City of Eugene must consider the addition of a gate or entryway over Fir Lane and at the entrance to Maurie Jacobs Park.
   - Placemaking
   - Wayfinding
   - Local art

Ex: Overton Park Bike Gate in Memphis

Policy recommendations

2. The City of Eugene’s Public Works Department must redesign its parking lot to provide less car spaces and more paths for bikes and pedestrians.
   - Sustainable travel
   - Accessibility for people without cars
Policy recommendations

3. The City’s Parks & Recreation Department must add bike racks to Maurie Jacob’s parking lot, including a PeaceHealth bike rack, to further encourage sustainable travel to the park.

Policy recommendations

4. The City of Eugene must add a seasonal attraction to the park.

- Tourism
- Placemaking
Policy recommendations

5. The City’s Parks and Recreation Department must improve the play structure at Maurie Jacob’s park, to make the park more family friendly and provide children an outdoor space to play.

Works Cited

- https://www.eugene-or.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/114
- https://oregonforests.org/content/k-12-resources
- https://www.peacehealthrides.com/
Team PORTLAND

Team SAPPORO
Team
Sapporo: River Road Market

By Brendan Adamczyk, Julia Urone, Carlos Chinchilla, Georgia Dowling, and Danielle Maves

Take a Look!

Overview of Site

Maynard Park

Precedents

- “Thursday Night Food Truck Feast” - Orinda, CA
- Eugene Food Truck Fest - Pk Park
- Many other large urban areas; Atlanta, Chicago, Baltimore etc.

Justification

- River Road lacks the presence of [usable] green spaces.
- Most green spaces in the area are located at the south end of the corridor.
- Vacant lots and parking lots can create ‘gaps’ in the pedestrian environment, reducing ‘eyes on the street.’ This decreases safety or perception on safety, deterring people from walking in these areas (Food Cartology).
- Using food carts as a mean to create a sense of community by taking advantage of their “Optical leverage” to create spaces where people gather while waiting for food, which in turn attracts more people (Whyte, 1980).

Approach

1. Clarify that our site is available
2. Connect with community partners
3. Meet with Saturday Market planners
4. Get in touch with important stakeholders, including:
   a. Artists and musicians
   b. Food truck community
5. Gather public input
6. Begin to execute intervention
Implications

CONS
- Traffic
- Taking business from companies & stores in that area

PROS
- Get to know neighbors, local foods
- Healthier travel options
- Reduce GHG
- Connection with merchant and buyer
- Discovering stores near the area
- Economic development & job creation

Policy Recommendations

1. LTD placing emphasis on bike accessibility within River Road, at the north entry bike path specifically, at Formac Ave. and Copping St.
   - This would greater accessibility to reliable transportation with no wait time

1. LTD providing dependable frequency and availability of bus transportation that can accommodate as many people as possible.
   - Shorter wait times make people less inclined to use another mode of transportation. Less carbon emissions!
   - If stations are widely dispersed within River Road, people may have an easier time traveling outside their neighborhoods instead of being stuck in their homes. Mental health improved!
Further Recommendations

3. Working with Lane County Farmers Market to expand their role of distributing affordable, healthy produce to the River Road/Santa Clara neighborhoods.

-This partnership would allow people without easy access to home grown organic produce to come and buy food for reasonable prices that will strengthen and nourish their bodies and minds.

Thanks for your time! Any questions?
Team SAVANNAH

Team SAVANNAH
Food Access & Ecological Education On the River Road Corridor

Emily Cook, Tia Lohman, Parker Watson, Josef Windheim & Maggie Redshaw

Site Overview: Rasor Park

Source: Google Maps
JUSTIFICATION

- A study by FOOD For Lane County showed that nearly 24% of children in Lane County reside in food-insecure homes.
- Oregon Center for Public Policy found that 15.4% of Lane County Residents lack access to nutritious foods.

APPROACH

- Improved signage at park entrances & restoration areas
- Community garden
- Designated days for farmers market
- Education which promotes food access & utilizes restoration areas
Permanent Signage

Community Garden

Gives local residents greater access to locally sourced, culturally relevant, and nutritious food.
Farmers Market

Education

Utilize current restoration projects to educate the community on native species.

Promote food access by holding workshops & events in the community garden.
IMPLICATIONS

● Increased sense of place in community and environment
  ○ Location
  ○ Signage creates connection to surrounding environment, natives species, and ecology

● Farmers market supports migrant and seasonal farm workers
  ○ Availability of traditional foods and locally grown food
  ○ Provides access to food alternatives not supplied by outside source

POLICY 1:
Farmers Markets in the Park
City of Eugene should allow parks to implement temporary farmer’s markets, providing local vendors with user-friendly permits.

Source: Lane County Farmers Market
POLICY 2: Education Programs

City of Eugene should require parks to implement educational components which promote knowledge of native species and raise awareness about food access.


POLICY 3: Community Collaboration

Community gardens in Eugene parks should include an information center along with an app. This app will benefit the community’s network and awareness about the parks’ activities, programs, events and amenities.
Works Cited:

http://bacoathistoriccommunitygarden.blogspot.com/

https://villageofbellville.com/farmers-market/

https://www.klcc.org/post,double-food-bucks-program-returns-lane-county-farmers-market

https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/park-path-app/


Team SYDNEY
River Road Project: 
Bees

Bee Hospitable!

- Top three things we can do for bees:
  - First, give them homes!
    - Mason bee homes can be made from many common objects and plants.
  - Second, give them food!
    - Bees need plants that will be flowering throughout the season.
  - Third, don’t poison them!
    - Educate your friends and neighbors on how harmful pesticides are to bees.
    - Neonicotinoids in particular have been shown to hurt entire hives.
Bee Informed!

- Honeybees are good pollinators
  - However, they are significantly less efficient than most native bees.
- Mason bees can pollinate as much as 100 times more flowers in a day than honeybees!
- There are many different types of bees who call the northwest their home, including:
  - Mason bees
  - Ground-Nesting bees
  - Leafcutter
  - Bumblebees!
Make Your Own Bee Habitat

Bee Appetizing!

Early Season:
Alfalfa, Strawberry,
Oregon Grape

Mid Season:
Borage,
Buckwheat,
Lavender

Late Season:
Chrysanthemum,
Globe Thistle,
Mint
Why Are Bees Important to the River Road Community?

- Maintain local food sources through pollination
  - The River Road community has historically been a farming area
- Maintain floral growth and habitats for other species
- Makes surroundings beautiful to look at/nicer to be around
  - Increasing community livability
- Brings money into the local economy, over $15 billion in increased crop value country wide

Eugene recently became a Bee City! What does this mean?

Bee City USA fosters ongoing dialogue in urban areas to raise awareness of the role pollinators play in our communities and what each of us can do to provide them with healthy habitat.

The Bee City USA program endorses a set of commitments, defined in a resolution, for creating sustainable habitats for pollinators, which are vital to feeding the planet.

Incorporated cities, towns, counties and communities across America are invited to make these commitments and become certified as a Bee City USA affiliate.
Potential Bee Habitat Locations

- River Road Elementary
- Implementation of Mason bee habitat

Potential Bee Habitat Locations

- North Eugene High School
- Addition of honey bee boxes on the roof of the high school
Implementing Bee Habitats in Schools

- Students can learn about the importance of pollinators
- Lane County Beekeeper Association can help maintain the habitats
- Rooftop habitats to avoid interruptions
- Students can help build habitats
- The project will be funded through a pilot fund
  - Fairly inexpensive

This could lead to...

- Partnering with more schools of all levels
- Park participation:
  - Emerald Park
  - Walnut Grove City Park
  - Maynard Park
- Benefits to local farms
  - Within a 5 mile radius will be directly benefited
- The project will be funded through a pilot fund
  - Fairly inexpensive
Policy Recommendations

- Local Subsidies and Tax Abatements for Providing Bee Habitat
- Incorporation of Local Businesses
- Partnership With Eugene 4J School District

Subsidies and Tax Abatements

- Local farmers can be given subsidies for providing ample bee habitat.
- Residents of Eugene can file for tax abatement when they provide bee habitat on their properties.
  - Tax abatement based on total bee habitat provided
- Ex: Green roofs tax abatements
  - Tax abatement in New York City based on square footage for building a green roof on your property
Incorporation of Local Businesses

- Businesses that sell pesticides harmful to bees must post signage to inform the public.

- Clearly label all neonicotinoid pesticides to state that these chemicals are detrimental to bee population health.

Eugene 4J School District

- Improve public opinion on bees especially among children
  - Change the public stigma towards bees regarding bee stings
  - Most bees are not aggressive and will not sting and even more aggressive bee species will only sting if threatened.

- Education is Key
  - Provide students with ample information on the benefits of bees through in school workshops
  - During after school events to provide parents and local community members with information they can use to help pollinators.

- Community engagement
  - Community bee habitat building events after school hours
  - Placing bee habitats in public areas near school.
THANK YOU for being a part of Green Cities.

Our ecological future is in YOUR hands.

-- John
SCI Directors and Staff

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