



# City of Hermiston

Visioning, Planning, and Design



City of Hermiston  
Oregon



University of Oregon  
"Green Cities"



Sustainable City Year  
Program

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# Acknowledgments

## Researchers

Zane Alaywan  
Holly Amer  
Katie Arredondo  
Khaleb Baker  
Sudha Basu  
Alison Beaulieu  
Sarah-Anne Bedrosian  
Andrew Black  
Charlie Boiler  
Ivy Brott  
Zaydhy Calderon  
Bryn Callie  
Annie Christofferson  
Bella Colombo  
Giannina Crocitto  
Caleb De Jung  
Caroline DeBruine  
Claire Devereux  
Nick DiCeglie  
Ali Egging  
Courtney Epstein  
Stella Feuerborn  
Ellie Fischer  
John Good  
Kaitlyn Halpin  
Zack Hatch  
Izzy Hazard  
Olivia Holah  
Maya Hosaka  
Jun Kim

Kailey Kreienbrink  
Michael LaQuay  
Payton Lagomarsino  
Kate Lloyd  
Mary Martinez  
Amena Martinez-Smith  
Seamus McGuinness  
Ann Moorhead  
Alaina O'Regan  
Julia Odenthal  
Lucy Partridge  
Blake Pederson  
Jp Phan  
Loralie Pulley  
Ashton Rantilla  
Ivy Renner  
Zara Replinger  
Noah Sary  
Bailie Severson  
Sequoia Shand  
Wiley Smith  
Paul Smoot  
Madeline Snoke  
Ashlyn Spencer  
Eralise Spokely  
Alex Staben  
Maggie Stathis  
Mia Steinfeld  
Rocky Stern  
Austyn Tavernier  
Cameron Tolbert-Scott  
Charlotte Tuttle

Aliya Ware  
Alina Wei  
Zach Williams  
Michael Yoo

## Advisors

**Megan Banks**, Director, Sustainable City Year Program  
**Dr. Daniel Paul Costie**, Professor in Public Administration and Policy, Eastern Oregon University  
**Dr. Andrew DeVigal**, Professor of Practice and Agora Journalism Center Director, University of Oregon  
**Julie Keniry**, Rural Engagement and Vitality Center Director, Eastern Oregon University  
**Evan Kristof**, Senior Instructor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Portland State University  
**Byron Smith**, City Manager, City of Hermiston  
**Ashley Sonoff**, Associate, SSW Consulting [Focus Groups]  
**Clinton Spencer**, Planning Director, City of Hermiston  
**Ric Stephens**, Instructor, University of Oregon School of Planning, Public Policy and Management

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# Introduction



## Green Cities

**H**ow can cities become more sustainable, resilient, and regenerative? This question is the foundation for studies in the “Green Cities” course that examines the history and future of the interface between urban growth and environmental concerns, and the technological, social, and political forces that continue to shape it. (Green Cities [syllabus](#)) The course is within the University of Oregon [School of Planning, Public Policy and Management](#) curriculum.

For the Fall 2021 course, students collaborated with the Sustainable City Year Program to conduct activities related to visioning, planning and development 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 this quarter was “experiential planning,” environmental design corresponding to experience/knowledge-based socio-economics.

All materials are on the course [Experiential Planning](#) website.

## Sustainable City Year Program

The [Sustainable City Year Program](#) (SCYP) matches University of Oregon students with an Oregon city, county, special district, tribe, or partnership of governments for an entire academic year. Students work on partner-identified projects through existing courses to provide ideas for real solutions to community challenges and sustainable development.

Through year-long partnerships, the Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) helps communities solve the problems of today and lay the groundwork for a sustainable, livable future—all while helping students prepare for the workforce through applied learning. The 2021 Sustainable City Year Program focuses on the [City of Hermiston](#).

## City of Hermiston

[Hermiston](#) is a city in Umatilla County, Oregon, United States. Its population of 19,696 makes it the largest city in Eastern Oregon. Hermiston is the largest, and fastest-growing, city in the Hermiston-Pendleton Micropolitan Statistical Area, the eighth largest Core Based Statistical Area in Oregon with a combined population of 92,261 at the 2020 census. Hermiston sits near the junction of I-82

# Introduction

and I-84, and is 7 miles south of the Columbia River, Lake Wallula, and the McNary Dam. The Hermiston area has become a hub for logistics and data center activity due to the proximity of the I-82 and I-84 interchange, Pacific Northwest fiber optic backbone, and low power costs. The city is also known for its watermelons, which are part of its branding. (Wikipedia)

The City of Hermiston is partnering with SCYP to study and provide guidance for city-wide visioning, planning, and a site-specific development project. Students in the Green Cities course conducted research, organized public participation activities, prepared a composite report, and produced informational videos. Program materials, the final report, and informational videos are published on the [Experiential Planning](#) website. Researchers focused on two separate projects: Community Visioning and North Hermiston Site Planning and Design.

## Community Visioning

The City of Hermiston is currently conducting a visioning program to guide the City's future: [Hermiston 2040](#).

One of the activities associated with this program is a series of focus groups that helps identify community values and aspirations. These focus groups typically consist of community members that



**North Hermiston Vacant Commercial Parcel**

represent special interests such as neighborhoods, business sectors, and others. The Green Cities focus group provides a unique perspective from non-resident, third-year university students studying urban planning, environmental science, and other fields.

This project is discussed in more detail in the following [Focus Group](#) section.

## North Hermiston

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 project is discussed in more detail in the following [Design Charrettes](#) section.

## Implementation Actions

The collaborative design and independent research efforts resulted in the compilation of more than 400 implementation actions/

# Introduction

recommendations to answer the original question “How can a city become more sustainable, resilient, and regenerative?” These implementation actions are based on the research topics described in this report and are presented as a ‘menu’ at the end. While they may be implemented individually, the most powerful results will be achieved by a systems approach that integrates them into a comprehensive strategy.



*The vision will create the blueprint for decisions about our community, including investments, collaboration, and partnerships. What we identify and create in this vision during the coming months will be the foundation for the next 20 years in our community.*

**Hermiston 2040**

# Focus Group



## Focus Groups

A focus group is a group of people assembled to participate in a guided discussion about a particular issue, or to provide feedback on a project. Focus groups are a great way to connect with the community and seek feedback. People typically appreciate the opportunity to share their opinions, and they are generally not shy about sharing them especially in a smaller group setting. Focus groups allow us to:

- Collect opinions, beliefs, and attitudes about issues of interest to the community
- Check our assumptions
- Encourage discussion on specific topics
- Build excitement about a topic
- Provide opportunities for the facilitator and participants to learn more about a topic or issue

Focus groups yield valuable information, and they can also build good rapport with the community. (Judith Sharken Simon)

## Green Cities Focus Group

This Green Cities Focus Group consisted of 35 non-resident, third-year university students within the 18-25-year-old demographic. Participants received briefings by City officials, conducted two design charrettes, researched specific topics, and prepared informational videos in conjunction with the Focus Group.

The Green Cities Focus Group gathered at the City of Hermiston Public Library on November 7th, 2021 with City staff and representatives from associated universities. [see [Acknowledgments](#)] A series of questions was prepared by Hermiston 2040 consultant **Ashley Sonoff**. The results were recorded and published on the [Experiential Planning](#) website and are summarized below.

# Focus Group

## Questions and Responses

**1. How do you see Hermiston 20 years from now? Describe your vision for the community.**

- Circular economy
- City as a sustainable ecosystem
- Diverse and integrated community
- Eco-Industrial Development
- Expanding City (additional annexation and population increase 2x-3x)
- Green City
- Multi- and Inter-Modal
- Renewable energy-based (esp. solar and wind power)
- Small business-focused
- Sustainable agricultural community

**2. What are the top 1-2 issues that you think need to be addressed in Hermiston?**

- Cross-cultural communication
- Develop solar power (photovoltaic installations and biosolar roofs)
- Diversify economy
- Enhance the sense of place
- Improve diet / nutrition
- Improve downtown

- Improve roads and traffic congestion
- Improve walkability
- Increase accessibility
- Increase pedestrian/cyclist safety
- Infuse public art and color
- Recycle (including banning plastic bags)
- Repair/upgrade general infrastructure
- Replace current landscaping with xeriscape (drought-tolerant) materials

**3. We received many ideas regarding more activities and attractions in Hermiston, especially for youth. What do you think would enhance the community?**

- Build more green spaces (i.e. parks, open spaces, and trails)
- Coordinate City programs with College/University curriculum (e.g. “town and gown” projects like Sustainable City Year Program)
- Create a vibrant youth culture connected with the downtown
- Fix traffic issues to increase safety
- Initiate City-sponsored social media for services (e.g. Instagram for notices and polling)
- Install high-speed Internet and provide classes related to online/digital media
- Organize sports clubs

# Focus Group

- Organize summer camps with a focus on outdoor activities
- Program seasonal/annual events with a focus on youth activities
- Provide a variety of athletic fields

**4. Building an indoor pool or covering the existing pool has been one of the top ideas submitted for improving Hermiston. Would you rather see the existing pool covered or a new indoor pool altogether? If you would like to see a new indoor pool built anywhere in the city, where would it be and why? How should we fund it?**

- Build biosolar roof to heat pool, insulate the interior to reduce heating/cooling, increase urban biodiversity, and provide all-weather access
- Make existing City pool accessible year-round with a movable/portable cover

**5. Another top suggestion we have received is a recreation center. Would you enjoy having a recreation center in your community? What amenities would you like it to include? Would you prefer it be connected with the pool? Where would you like to see it located in the community? Would residents and businesses be willing to pay for it? What other ways could it be funded?**

- Apply for federal/state grants
- Build a community/recreation center with an indoor gym supporting the following activities: basketball, exercise

equipment, pilates, rock wall, soccer, tennis, yoga, and others identified by the community

- Collaborate with YMCA or other community programs for funding and operations
- Organize a City-wide membership program with small, user fees
- Provide space for community education programs (e.g. American Sign Language and other language classes)

*Visiting Hermiston for the weekend provided valuable context to envision a plan and picture for a sustainable future for the City. I'm excited to witness Hermiston's growth and improvement.*

**Bryn Callie**

**6. To promote continued prosperity in Hermiston, we want to offer year-round, family-wage jobs. Which businesses or types of industry should we consider recruiting to provide these jobs?**

- Child care/daycare facilities
- Dispensaries
- Farmers' market (seasonal)
- Food co-ops
- Local health stores
- Markets (prevent food deserts)
- Plan for jobs/housing balance
- Small businesses

# Focus Group

**7. Affordable housing is in high demand in our community. What options should we explore to provide more affordable housing options to meet employee preferences? Where should this housing be located?**

- Expand “affordable housing” to include “adequate housing” concepts: security of tenure, availability of services, materials, facilities/ infrastructure, affordability, habitability, accessibility, location, and cultural adequacy
- Incorporate relevant policies from The Human Right to Adequate Housing Fact Sheet
- Increase property values, try to subsidize utility costs.
- Invest in the community with a long-term goal/view
- Plan for mixed-use development (e.g. amend development code to replace Euclidean zoning)
- Develop an inexpensive shuttle system

**8. Providing a great education is critical to economic success and prosperity in our community. How can we improve or upgrade Hermiston’s schools, including early**



**Valentine’s Day Pop-Up Market**

**childhood education, to enhance the overall education experience for our youth?**

- Build a combined Community and Cultural Education Center
- Build an urban farm and/or outdoor science center
- Develop trade programs and teach trades with school curriculum
- Hire more teachers and incentivize people to become teachers with accessible training programs.
- Integrate education with community programs
- Organize after-school programs (i.e. art programs, community events, National Honor Society, volunteer

programs...)

- Provide American Sign Language (ASL) classes
- Provide English as a Second Language (ESL) classes
- Teach courses applicable to professional/personal development (i.e. economics/finance, sustainable fashion, environmental stewardship, sustainability, resiliency, regeneration...)

# Focus Group

**9. The Hispanic/Latino community is growing with nearly half of all residents identifying as Hispanic/Latino. What can we do to better serve all residents in our community? What ideas do you have to celebrate our diversity?**

- Add Latinx food banks and consider Alimentando El Pueblo as a model. “People are thankful to have access to food banks, but there’s something special about seeing food you’re familiar with.” (Roxana Pardo Garcia, La Roxay Productions)
- Celebrate Latinx cultural events (i.e. Cinco de Mayo, Día de Los Muertos, Día de La Raza...)
- Create a sense of place incorporating Latinx culture
- Create family centers within public (e.g. school) and private (e.g. office) venues
- Develop a community outreach program with specific attention to bilingual and digital media (esp. the City website and social media)
- Expand the “Inclusive Community” initiative
- Organize a food fair event to celebrate cultural diversity
- Organize outdoor movie events
- Provide English/Spanish signage and City document translation

**10. We have received many concerns regarding increasing congestion and traffic in Hermiston, especially along Highway 395. How can we improve mobility in our community?**

- Build new sidewalks and widen existing sidewalks

- Color bike lane surfaces
- Construct traffic-calming features (e.g. roundabouts) to promote walking, biking, and micro-mobility (e.g. scooters)
- Designate bike lanes with barriers between them and the roads to make biking safer
- Designate shared-space streets for residential neighborhoods
- Develop a multi-modal and inter-modal transportation system
- Develop green streets with bioswales or rain gardens (esp. for commercial streets)
- Expand public transportation (e.g. build more bus stops). Consider Lime, PeaceHealth, and Bird examples
- Increase signage, stoplights, and street lighting
- Organize a shuttle service

**11. Like many communities across the country, Hermiston is dealing with the issues of homelessness. One of the actions suggested is to develop programs or services to work with transients. What are 3 programs, services, or policies we could explore to address this issue? What agencies could we partner with?**

- Adopt sustainable fashion principles regarding clothes donation and second-hand consumers
- Build more public bathrooms and water stations
- Construct a homeless shelter with principles similar to “adequate housing”

# Focus Group

- Construct more adequate housing
- Coordinate with the Federal Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8)
- Hire more social workers
- Organize food banks
- Provide a Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program. PATH program funds service people with serious mental illness experiencing homelessness. (e.g. White Bird)
- Provide access to drug rehabilitation programs
- Revise City development code to accommodate “tine home” and “granny flat” types of development to increase housing opportunities

***12. We have received many comments regarding revitalization of the downtown area. Do you agree this should be a priority? How could you see a revitalized downtown serving both residents and tourists?***

- Close a downtown street or streets for annual/seasonal events activities (i.e. farmers’ market, No Car Day...)
- Create a downtown sense of place based on a concept (e.g. “Americana”), theme (e.g. Pacific Northwest Country), and design elements (i.e. brick construction, wrought iron, nature themes, watermelon icons, etc.)
- Design a tourism development strategy to promote the local culture and enhance the local economy

- Designate a downtown street as a “Festival Street” and redesign as appropriate to accommodate programmed events (e.g. outdoor dining/music)
- Incorporate biophilic design (i.e. green streets, walls, roofs, and more permeable surfaces) for biodiversity, esthetics, local food, water/air filtration, rainwater management/irrigation...
- Incorporate design principles from *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*: outdoor sitting places, sun, wind, trees, water, food (e.g. food carts), street adjacency, the “undesirables” mitigation, effective capacity, triangulation.
- Infuse the downtown with public art including “cookies” (city comforts such as drinking fountains) and “Easter eggs” (small features that are discovered such as hidden public artworks)
- Integrate solar panels with architecture and public art
- Make the downtown a “third place” where people can congregate and build a community—a one-stop-shop with a wide variety of amenities (i.e. restaurants, bars, shops, etc.)

***13. We have received many comments asking for more options for dining, shopping, and entertainment. We have also received many comments on keeping Hermiston’s “small town” feel. What are your thoughts on this topic? Do you have ideas for how to balance these (sometimes) competing interests? Add more small businesses to maintain small-town feel but bring more in so there are more options for dining and shopping.***

# Focus Group

- Attract more small businesses to maintain small-town—especially localized dining and shopping
- Encourage outdoor dining with street design/closure, food carts/trucks, and seasonal events (e.g. Watermelon Festival)
- Promote farm-to-table restaurant dining (see above “Festival Street”)
- Promote vertical mixed-use development (e.g. ground floor retail/dining, second-floor office/studio, third-floor residential)
- Promote walkability (evaluate and plan with consideration for accessibility algorithms such as [Walk Score](#))



**Movies in the Park**



# Design Charrettes



## Design Charrettes

**D**esign charrettes are short, collaborative meetings during which a member or client can share their work with members of their team. They can talk through, collaborate, and sketch designs to explore and share a broad diversity of design ideas.

The idea for design charrettes (from the French word charrette meaning “chariot” or “cart”) is believed to have derived from stories of architectural students in Paris in the 1800s. As the story goes, students’ exams were collected in a charrette, and some of these students continued to sketch together as their designs were being gathered for evaluation. ([Iconica](#))

## Green Cities Design Charrettes

The Green Cities class conducted two design charrettes: an ‘internal’ class charrette to explore planning and design practices and an on-site charrette to discuss development scenarios.

## Methodology

The methodology used for both charrettes included the following elements:

### Roles

- **Moderator/Facilitator**—Responsible for keeping the meeting on track and ensuring everyone is heard.
- **Notetaker/Scribe**—Responsible for making a record of the discussion.
- **Timekeeper**—Responsible for ensuring the design sessions and presentations keep within the allotted time and on schedule.
- **Presenter/Rapporteur**—Responsible for giving a brief verbal summary of the team discussions.
- **All Team Members**—Responsible for contributing to the session.





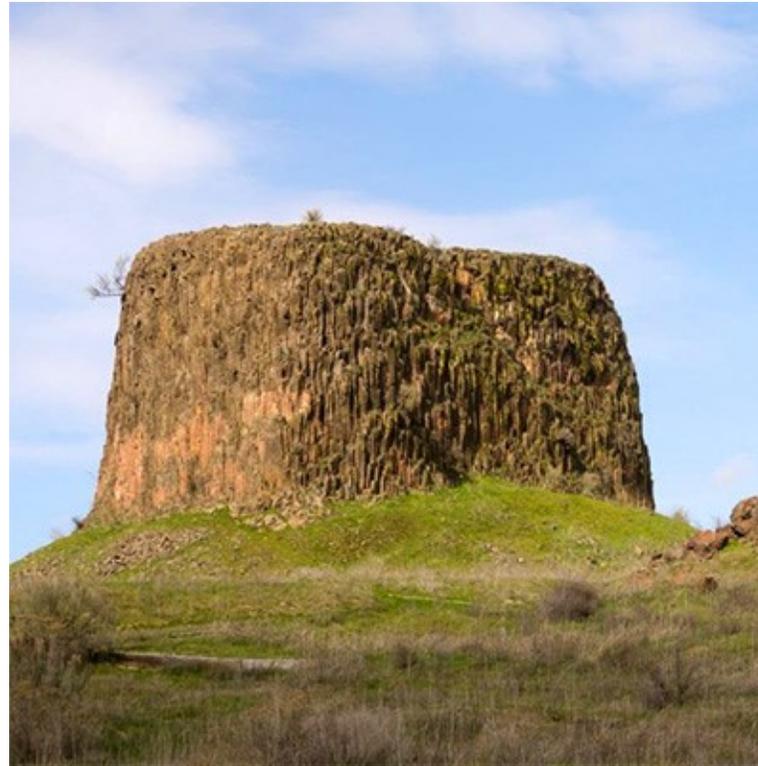
# Design Charrettes

ability (making sure people can get to shared space). Revamp 1<sup>st</sup> Street with protected bike lanes and parking. Revitalize streetscape on West Harper Road. Reduce parking. Remove north and SW lots and use space for a community space. Create/implement smart parking.

●●●●●● **6 Greenspace** – Provide an outdoor greenspace with micro-mobility. Include a bird sanctuary and organize a bird scavenger hunt with rewards. Establish as a temporary use for vacant lots. Enhance vacant lot to become a gathering space with tables, benches, etc., and host cultural events.

●●●●●● **5 Playground** – Establish a dedicated space for kids with play structures and activities.

●●●●●● **5 Public Art and Signage** – Introduce street art and more appealing signage throughout Hermiston including biking and walking distances/times. Include Braille/audible street signage to increase safety and awareness. Commission public art (e.g. watermelon-themed fountain).



**Hat Rock**

●●● **3 Greenspace** – Add greenspace near the canal. Include pathway benches, dog parks, exercise areas, and playgrounds. Transition commercial space to native habitat and landscape (untouched) and community garden (participation)

●●● **3 Greenspace** – Create more natural spaces throughout the City. Create an engaging greenspace where people can enjoy the scenery. Include native flower (e.g. Silk Tree) and drought-tolerant streetscape species. Create educational greenspaces to teach the community with an inclusive garden in partnership with local schools. Plant native grasses/wildflowers to create natural art.

●●● **3 Outdoor Venues** – Build a multi-purpose sports facility. Build an outdoor covered mall with community gathering spaces. Build an outdoor venue/shared space (e.g. amphitheater).

●●● **3 Outdoor Programs** – Sponsor community outdoor programming. (see “Events”)

●● **2 Sense of Place** – Define the culture and community of Hermiston. “What do you want Hermiston to be?” Design new City entry. Designate a “town flower” or animal or tree, etc. [in addition to the watermelon] to

# Design Charrettes

increase a sense of place. Implement a common theme that represents the city. Apply a theme to public facilities, open spaces, and streetscapes with local art, signage, landscaping, etc.

## Hermiston Design Charrette Recommendations (On-site)

1. **Adequate Housing** – Collaborate with regional programs to develop adequate housing [Oregon Affordable Housing Tax Credit]
2. **Boundaries and Limits, City/County** – Provide signage and other indicators (e.g. landscaping) to create clearer distinctions between City and County lines
3. **Boundaries and Limits, Property Boundaries** – Improve the identification of property boundaries with markers, barriers, and/or vegetation
4. **Climate Adaptation/Mitigation** – Adopt the applicable recommendations from Cool Planning: A Handbook on Local Strategies to Slow Climate Change

*Experiencing this vibrant city and getting to talk to local community members made me realize the importance of implementing conceptual ideas in a way that both considers and benefits the local community. This was an extremely valuable experience that I won't soon forget.*

**Caroline DeBruine**

5. **Commercial Development** – Incentivize local, small-scale retail [U.S. Small Business Administration Grants] and also attract national brands (e.g. Fred Meyer)
6. **Commercial Development** – Increase food options through incentivizing restaurants and grocery stores
7. **Commercial Development, Community Business** – Support community businesses
8. **Commercial Development, Grocery Stores** – Incentivize building small, local, grocery store in area/ vacant lot
9. **Commercial Development, Outdoor Dining** – Revise development code to allow outdoor dining within the public right-of-way (e.g. sidewalks, and temporary street closures)
10. **Community Engagement** – Establish a continual program of community engagement based on the initial efforts and findings of the Hermiston 2040 program
11. **Community Garden** – Build a community garden with greenhouses and aquaponics
12. **Cultural Art Center, Courses** – Program courses for arts and crafts, occupational training, communications (including American Sign Language)

# Design Charrettes

13. **Cultural Art Center, Event Programming** – Build a cultural art center and coordinate with local schools, artists/artisans, and event programming
14. **Emergency Services** – Identify and improve areas with inadequate emergency response times [Response time performance improvement through system re-design]
15. **Events, Día de Los Muertos** – Organize a regional “Día de Los Muertos” celebration each November
16. **Events, Watermelon Easter Egg Hunt** – Organize a “watermelon” Easter Egg hunt in the park
17. **Farmers’ Market** – Program a weekly farmers’ market for spring, summer, and fall at a public open space or temporarily-closed downtown street [Oregon Farmers Markets Association]
18. **Green Corridor** – Develop a green corridor in the public right-of-way (adjacent street or in median) with native species (especially wildflowers). The corridor may also function as a Pollinator Pathway [small-scale Wildlife Corridor]
19. **Green Roofs, Biosolar** – Incentivize green roof construction with solar panels
20. **Green Roofs, Wind Turbine** – Incentivize roof construction of mini wind turbines
21. **Green Streets** – Designate specific local, commercial streets as green streets with bioswale/rainwater garden design
22. **Green Walls** – Build green walls for esthetics, sound absorption, insulation, edible vegetation, urban biodiversity... A potential location is between residential and commercial development [Green Wall]
23. **Greenspace, Beehives** – Construct beehives as part of public greenspaces and/or green roofs [How to apply for beekeeping grants]
24. **Greenspace, Retention Pond** – Construct a retention basin within the public park to assist with stormwater management
25. **Landscape, Drought-resistant** – Plant native, drought-resistant (xeriscape) species
26. **Landscape, Edible** – Plant edible species and provide informational signage (e.g. when ripe) [Edible Landscaping]
27. **Landscape, Security** – Plant shrubs as a deterrent to camping on private property [Top shrubs and bushes to protect your property]
28. **Litter Prevention** – Clean up empty spaces with community volunteers [Keep American Beautiful Volunteer]
29. **Litter Prevention** – Implement a litter prevention program and provide more city trash cans [Some of the Best Litter Prevention Campaigns from Around the World]
30. **Mixed-Use Development** – Replace Euclidean zoning with mixed-use development code [Mixed-use Zoning]
31. **Public Art, Easter Eggs** – Organize a design competition with local schools and artists to create “Easter eggs” (miniature artworks that are partially hidden) throughout the City

# Design Charrettes

- 32. **Public Art, Murals** – Identify building walls suitable for murals and organize a design competition
- 33. **Public Art, Sports Courts** – Decorate sports courts surfaces with murals (e.g. watermelon at the 3-point line)
- 34. **Public Park** – Build a community or thematic park within the North Hermiston study area
- 35. **Public Park, Amphitheater** – Construct amphitheater with solar panel roof to host festivals and community events
- 36. **Public Park, Beach Volleyball** – Build a sandpit for beach volleyball in the public park
- 37. **Public Park, Dogs** – Locate and build a community dog park
- 38. **Public Park, Furniture** – Install BBQs and picnic benches
- 39. **Public Park, Hard-surface Sports Courts** – Construct courts for basketball, handball, and other organized sports
- 40. **Public Park, Sports Fields** – Construct sports field for soccer, softball, and other organized sports



**Riverfront Park**

- 41. **Rainwater Management** – Develop a city-wide rainwater management program in conjunction with low impact development systems
- 42. **Sense of Place, “Small Town”** – Retain and strengthen “small town” feel, identity, and imagery (including calm and simple lifestyle)
- 43. **Sense of Place, City Comforts** – Adopt the applicable recommendations from City Comforts: How to build an urban village ...examples of small things city comforts that make urban life pleasant: places where people can meet, methods to tame cars and to make buildings good neighbors, art that infuses personality into locations and makes them into places.
- 44. **Sense of Place, Experiential Design** – Incorporate experiential design throughout urban development (e.g. the sense of smell from fragrant landscape materials)
- 45. **Sense of Place, Story-telling** – Enhance the Hermiston “story” and share via digital media and event programming

# Design Charrettes

46. **Solar Energy, Parking Lots** – Install solar panels on parking lots [The best idea in a long time: Covering parking lots with solar panels]
47. **Solar Energy, Solar Farm** – Construct mini solar farm on a vacant lot)
48. **Street, Access** – Open trailer park entries (e.g. 4th Street)
49. **Street, Closure** – Close a commercial street(s) for a “no-car” day as an annual event or part of a programmed event (see Events)
50. **Street, Lights** – Improve street lighting with new/ additional lights with solar panels (surplus energy goes back to the grid)
51. **Street, Main** – Adopt the applicable recommendations from Main Street... when a highway runs through it: A Handbook for Oregon Communities
52. **Traffic, Calming** – Reduce the speeds with various traffic calming techniques including speed limit signage, street redesign, and roundabout (e.g. Oregon Avenue) [Roundabouts]
53. **Traffic, Control** – Create better traffic control through lighting, parking management, signage, street design, wayfinding...
54. **Traffic, Intersections** – Increase safety with better signage, speed limit signs, and warning stop lights (e.g. Highway 395 and West Punkin Center Road)
55. **Traffic, Lights** – Construct stoplights where warranted (e.g. Oregon Avenue and Highway 395)
56. **Walkability, ADA** – Ensure all sidewalks are ADA compliant [ADA Compliance Guidelines for Sidewalks]
57. **Walkability, Safety Barrier** – Build a barrier between highway and sidewalks for improved pedestrian safety [see *Green Walls*]
58. **Walkability, Sidewalks** – Build, expand and improve sidewalk system
59. **Walkability, Walk Score** – Analyze the Walk Score metrics and determine what planning and design measures are necessary to achieve the desired scores
60. **Walkability, Wayfinding** – Provide wayfinding signage (e.g. kiosk with city map)



# Research and Videography



## Research and Videography

**R**esearch conducted for Hermiston spanned a wide selection of topics from *biophilic design* to *public space*. Short informational videos were produced for these topics relevant to Hermiston and other cities. Research and videography recommendations are compiled in this section, videos are in the Appendices, and references are in the References section. The research was based on how to assist the City with becoming more sustainable, resilient and regenerative.

## Sustainable Development

Sustainable development can be defined as the practice of maintaining productivity by replacing used resources with resources of equal or greater value without degrading or endangering natural biotic systems. (Kahle, 2014) This concept is related to *intergenerational equity*, and these considerations have been expanded to include the entire ecosystem.

## Urban Resilience

Urban resilience has conventionally been defined as the "measurable ability of any urban system, with its inhabitants, to maintain continuity through all shocks and stresses, while positively adapting and transforming towards sustainability". (Mariani, 2018) This concept is often connected with *disaster preparedness*, and these considerations have been expanded to include not only recovery and continuity, but opportunities for a new and better equilibrium.

## Regenerative Design

Regenerative design is a process-oriented whole systems approach to design. The term "regenerative" describes processes that restore, renew or revitalize their own sources of energy and materials. Regenerative design uses whole systems thinking to create resilient and equitable systems that integrate the needs of society with the integrity of nature. Designers use systems thinking, applied permaculture design principles, and community development processes to design human and ecological systems. (Regenerative Design, n.d.)

# Research and Videography

The independent research was largely focused within the following subjects: Community Engagement, Green Space, Infrastructure, Public Art, Public Space, Sense of Place, Transportation, and Urban Ecology.

## Community Engagement

Community engagement is “a dynamic relational process that facilitates communication, interaction, involvement, and exchange between an organization and a community for a range of social and organizational outcomes.” (Johnston, 2018) 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.

## Green Space

In land-use planning, urban green space is open-space areas reserved for parks and other *green spaces*, including plant life, water features—also referred to as blue spaces—and other kinds of natural environment. (Urban Green Spaces, 2017) 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.

## Infrastructure

Infrastructure is the basic physical and organizational structures and facilities (i.e. buildings, resources, power supplies) needed for the operation of the city. In this report, *transportation* is separated for more in-depth recommendations. Other infrastructure topics of specific interest include *adequate housing* (defined as meaning: 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.

*Public art can tell the story of community spirit and aspirations by honoring the past and envisioning the future*

## Public Art

Simply put public art is art in public spaces. 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. An objective of the recommendations is to infuse the City with art for *sense of community* as well as *sense of place*.

## Public Space

A public space is a place that is generally open and accessible to people. Roads (including the pavement), public squares, parks and beaches are typically considered public space. For

# Research and Videography

this report, road recommendations are included in transportation is the recommendation is related to mobility, and park recommendations are within green space if their function is specific to plant life and water features.

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.) Placemaking is also integral to creating and enhancing the City's *sense of place*.

## Sense of Place

The term *sense of place* has been used in many different ways. It is a multidimensional, complex construct used to characterize the relationship between people and spatial settings. (Caves, 2004) In simplistic terms, sense of place is "knowing when you have arrived."

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



Hermiston City Hall Rendering

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.

## Transportation

Transportation planning is the process of defining future policies, goals, investments, and spatial planning designs to prepare for future needs to move people and goods to destinations. As practiced today, it is a collaborative process that incorporates the input of many stakeholders including various government agencies, the public and private businesses. This

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

## Urban Ecology

Urban ecology is the scientific study of the relation of living organisms with each other and their surroundings in the context of an urban environment. (Niemelä, 1999) An

# Research and Videography

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.

Although the following 300 recommendations can be implemented individually, it would be ideal to consider them collectively with a systems approach to achieving sustainability, resiliency and regeneration goals and objectives.



*The project researchers and advisors wish the City of Hermiston every success in realizing their vision for an engaged and vibrant community.*

# Research and Videography



## Recommendations

1. **Community engagement** – Convert shared streets to seasonal festival streets on ‘no car days’ and organize community events. (See *Transportation, shared streets*)
2. **Community engagement** – Empower residents to participate in the overall design process. Empowerment can be done through public hearings, public forums, social media, town halls, etc. This helps residents engage with certain situations that community leaders are reviewing. Empowerment leads to participation by community members, which ultimately enhances the decision-making process. All residents' voices should be heard; inclusion for all people groups is paramount for a sustainable community. For the North Hermiston site plan, community leaders should ask residents what they have in mind for the development and understand their concerns.
3. **Community engagement, annual fair** – Form an annual tradition like a fair every Summer. The focus of the fair would be to put together everything that makes Hermiston unique into one giant event. Local artists could perform, while local businesses could dish out samples. Fun activities within the fair could include carnival games, a mini-concert, a watermelon scavenger hunt to keep in tradition with the city’s icon, and much more. Lastly, the event would need a theme associated with the city such as a homecoming theme. To quote the organizers of 626, a night market event that occurs in Southern California every summer with a similar theme, homecoming would be a great theme “...because ‘home’ is a place of familiarity and nostalgia where you see all your friends and family again after a long time like a family reunion” (626 Night Market).
4. **Community engagement, art competition** – Host an art competition amongst the local high school students, the top three winners get to place their artwork in one of three locations: corner of E Theater Lane and N 1st Street, in the dwelling park on E Montana Street, or near the entrance of the Aspen Community Center.
5. **Community engagement, CicloDias and No Car Days** – Establish Street Closures in The Downtown Corridor for “CicloDias”. “No Car Days” not only encourage people to get out of exercise, but they can also help to revitalize the community by creating more foot traffic for the retailers in the downtown corridor. Furthermore, the name “CicloDias” is a play on words in Spanish for bike days and connects to the

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growing Latinx community. Implementation: This street closure would occur on East Main Street from North 1st Street to North 7th Street. This six-block stretch is part of downtown Hermiston and has a variety of shops and restaurants. Furthermore, parking along the street could be utilized for food trucks, stimulating economic growth.

6. **Community engagement, community fridges** – Install community fridges throughout the city to allow those in need to have access to fresh produce without charge and those who have an abundance to donate to those in need.
7. **Community engagement, community garden focus group** – Create a focus group to specialize in the equity of edible gardens. This could be a group that focuses on how people can access the edible gardens and make sure people understand the gardens’ purpose and can be eaten. Their goal is to think about ways to promote more walkability and connect mixed-use accessibility for all ages. They could also specialize in the placement of the edible gardens to ensure they are located in places where people could use them. For example, having the gardens near bus stops or schools so people could grab a quick snack like an apple on their way to work.
8. **Community engagement, community garden projects** – Create a list of different groups or community organizations that could benefit from having edible landscaping and reach out to them to get groups involved in project ideas. It is important to get people informed and invested in projects like this so that they can benefit and share the sense of place and community through increased food security and sustainability. Getting larger groups involved not only prolongs the legacy of the project but inspires future generations to continue with the gardens and maintain a sustainable environment. Examples of groups that could use and help create edible gardens are the Altruista International of Hermiston, housing communities, neighborhood groups, youth groups such as YMCA, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, daycares, hospitals, and schools.
9. **Community engagement, Day of Caring** – Invite local communities to participate in a “Day of Caring” event where people can volunteer for different events or charities. Can be environmental, social, civil, etc.
10. **Community engagement, design charrette** – Conduct a design charrette for the edible landscaping projects. Encourage people to bring in their wildest and most unique ideas to a design charrette meeting in hopes to make the edible gardens their own and create a sense of place in Hermiston. It creates an opportunity for the public to give direct feedback to the designers and decision-makers of the gardens and keeps the projects action-oriented and definitive.
11. **Community engagement, Día de los Muertos** – Build partnerships with Hispanic local businesses (restaurants, bars, art shops, etc.) before planning the festival(s).
12. **Community engagement, Día de los Muertos** – Build upon the existing festival street on NE 2nd Street and add more benches, lampposts, and whatever else the committee sees fit.
13. **Community engagement, Día de los Muertos** – Collaborate with local elementary, middle, and high schools to help get local children involved; offer them the opportunity to create sugar skulls and other culturally relevant icons into mini ceramic sculptures and incorporate them into lampposts and benches and hide them in vegetation as “Easter eggs” for festival-goers to find.
14. **Community engagement, Día de los Muertos** – Commission local Hispanic artists to design and paint murals, statues, and any other types of public art that they see fit (within the design layout of the street).

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15. **Community engagement, Día de los Muertos** – Create bilingual (Spanish/English) signage for businesses, public art, and landmarks in the area around NE 2nd Street.
16. **Community engagement, Día de los Muertos** – Employ Hispanic individuals at every step along the way, from artists for renderings of the street, to electricians, plumbers, and landscape designers to ensure that the projects' founders, the ones receiving financial compensation for the project, are Hispanic.
17. **Community engagement, Día de los Muertos** – Erect flag posts and hang flags that represent all the countries that celebrate some form of Día de los Muertos. (México, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Perú, Venezuela, and any others.)
18. **Community engagement, Día de los Muertos** – Invite local and regional performing arts groups including choirs, theatre groups, musicians, bands, dance troupes, to perform during the festival.
19. **Community engagement, Día de los Muertos** – Organize and advertise a community brainstorming and a design charette session (in multiple languages) well in advance and create a diverse committee to tackle the project.
20. **Community engagement, Día de los Muertos** – Plan, advertise, host, and evaluate festival events including, but not limited to Día de los Muertos, La Semana Santa, and Día de la Raza.
21. **Community engagement, edible landscaping** – Engage the community through info sessions to get people excited about the ideas of edible landscaping and how it can be a positive addition to their lives. People first need to know what edible landscaping is, how it works, and why it should be incorporated into their community. Getting people invested in these projects will help gain materials and resources for the construction of the gardens and keep the projects moving forward.
22. **Community engagement, environmental education** – Integrate environmental education into projects by producing reports and inviting the local school to participate in the process or final product
23. **Community engagement, environmental stewards** – Incentivize youth to be stewards of the environment.
24. **Community engagement, farmers' market** - Host a monthly farmers' market along Southeast 3rd Street with local farms, family-owned retail businesses, food vendors, and city program managers to present both educational initiatives and food subsistence for community members
25. **Community engagement, farmers' markets** – Create weekly scheduled events such as farmers' markets during the dry season. Farmers' markets provide fresh locally grown food to the public. This benefits residents and farmers alike. Usually, the quality of produce at a farmers' market is much higher than in traditional grocery stores. The positive externalities of farmers' markets enhance community interaction. People can engage and meet with others at this event, and it gives artists such as musicians a place to perform. Farmers' markets should be held in the dry months throughout the year to maximize attendance.
26. **Community engagement, food donation** – Allot a portion of food grown in said community gardens around the city to local elementary-high schools' cafeterias to ensure that students are meeting their nutritional needs when in school.

*Out of gardens grow fleeting flowers but  
lasting friendships.*

**Beverly Rose Hopper**

# Research and Videography

27. **Community engagement, food education** – Install urban gardens and food education programs for Sunset Elementary School to enhance youth’s literacy with nutrition while enhancing community resilience to food insecurity
28. **Community engagement, food forests** – Donate land and monetary resources to be used to support food forests that can be integrated into the city, encouraging community participation, education on ecosystems, and overall production of fresh food in the city.
29. **Community engagement, food truck events** – Host monthly or quarterly food truck events. Invite various food trucks throughout Oregon.
30. **Community engagement, food voucher program** – Create a food voucher program in which members of the community can apply to receive a voucher for a trip to harvest at a community garden or shop at a local grocery store.
31. **Community engagement, Founders Day** – Establish an annual community event on July 10 (Founders Day) for locals to paint a large mural on the back of the information center.



4th of July Fireworks

32. **Community engagement, gardening education** – Implement community education on gardening these plots of land.
33. **Community engagement, green space walks** – Implement daycare park walks and teach children about edible landscaping.
34. **Community engagement, NE 4th St. Art Festival** – Holding an art festival in the new NE 4th St. Park is an easy and affordable way to promote community involvement. Inviting local artists to the park to promote their art allows the community a chance to view and appreciate the talent within their local community. Promoting art creates a sense of belonging, economic growth, and cultural identity and expression. An alternative to an art festival could be art installations in more populated areas of Hermiston. Doing so creates a sense of purpose for many, ensuring the artwork represents the identity of Hermiston to enhance the town’s sense of place.
35. **Community engagement, NE 4th St. Summer Watermelon Bash** – Form a summer community Watermelon Bash to raise money for the Mixed-Use Park and more Hermiston projects. A yearly Watermelon Bash festival should be held, utilizing vendors who donate their time and some of the money they make that day as proceeds to the park. During the town’s watermelon festival, there would be a watermelon growing

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competition, watermelon smashing, and much more. People will pay to participate in the events to have a good time, build community and help the park or other community-based projects.

36. **Community engagement needs assessment** – Conduct a wide public needs assessment to list the expectations of residents.
37. **Community engagement, No Car Day** - Establish a ‘no car day’ street closure as an annual event.
38. **Community engagement, nutrition classes** – Invest in Life Lab/gardening classes in local schools in which students would learn the importance of eating nutritious foods, caring for their health, caring for the environment, and reducing waste.
39. **Community engagement, outdoor dining** - Reserve a bi-weekly day for pedestrian-only use of streets in the downtown area to allow retail and restaurants to set up seating outside
40. **Community engagement, polling** - Ask for community input on a wide spectrum of city activities and programs. Techniques could include public participation in online media and more unique approaches.
41. **Community engagement, recreation assessment** – Bring in recreational facilities consultants (e.g. PlayCore) to conduct and research the needs (Outdoor gym, running track, walkable path, etc.)
42. **Community engagement, recycling** – Invite the community to a recycling drive to collect the different resources to build the edible gardens. For example, Lane County in Eugene is hosting a community plastics drive in December as a way to localize the transaction of plastic between the public and the state. Not only would a drive like this help Hermiston gain materials for the edible gardens, but also brings the community closer together and reminds the residents how easy it can be to live in a sustainable environment. Items to be suggested for a donation could include wooden pallets, bathtubs, sinks, buckets, plastic containers, wooden containers, old windows, chicken wire and fencing, plastic or glass bottles, and plastic piping.
43. **Community engagement, shared street event** – Offer a shared street ‘grand opening party’ to spread the word of this new attraction to the community (offer free food for the opening to attract as many people as possible).
44. **Community engagement, small business workshops** – Offer free workshops for small business owners so that they can connect in hopes of helping grow their business. For businesses, one of the easiest sales is repeat business-to-business transactions, as these are routine and help keep the money within the city, instead of sending the money outward. This will help the city grow quicker, as the money spent within the city stays within the city instead of feeding a global business.
45. **Community engagement, sports** – Add regular public events, and promote them to draw interest from locals. This could range from things like a 5K run to a little league baseball league to a street fair where local businesses share their products. Events like these will give residents things to be excited for and participate in, allowing them to make new friends and develop memories associated with the city along the way.
46. **Community engagement, Summer Sundays** – Summer Sundays on Main. Beautify the roads of Hermiston. For example, Tiburon, California brings the community and businesses together on its main street and holds a weekly Friday “festival.” Essentially, the main street would be closed

# Research and Videography

to through traffic, so restaurants and vendors can flow onto the road to eat, drink, listen to music and have fun! This is an excellent opportunity to go out with your friends or family on a summer evening and bring the community together. This would increase business and foot traffic along with central areas of the town, therefore increasing the economy in the area.

47. **Community engagement, visioning** – Host a community visioning meeting where the community defines the future of Hermiston that they want to build together. This is an opportunity to get people inspired and involved and be able to identify the purpose and core values of the city. It is very important to make the public feel welcomed and valued in these events so little comforts such as snacks and refreshments would be beneficial for keeping people engaged and encouraged. This can be in one meeting session, or it can take place multiple times throughout the project. The goal is for the residents who aren't physically building the project to feel involved and excited about its progress.
48. **Community engagement, watermelon Easter eggs** – Hide Easter eggs (watermelons) throughout the park.
49. **Community engagement, Watermelon Easter Eggs** – Hide watermelons in street signs, pathways, architecture, or benches could add a sense of place to your community and something to remember by visitors.
50. **Community engagement, Watermelon Festival and Holiday Market** – Introduce new events to create active

engagement in the community. Establish new festivals such as the “Watermelon Festival” and a Holiday Market to be promoted regionally in Eastern Oregon. Not only do these festivals encourage community engagement but they also allow an opportunity for small businesses to promote themselves and boost the economic interests of Hermiston. Implementation: These new festivals could be held on East Main Street during a street closure or in the new outdoor community space located at the intersection of Umatilla Stanfield Highway and Hermiston Highway. These festivals can be sponsored by local businesses and promoted by the city. The Watermelon Festival could be implemented by having a variety of watermelon-themed foods, beverages, products, and games. The Holiday Market will provide an opportunity for a gathering space in which the community can come together during the festive season each year. Local small businesses can set up booths as well as local entrepreneurs, boosting the economy in Hermiston.

*Community gardens bring people together, they provide cities with a sense of place, allow citizens to have access to home-grown produce, and introduce a sense of responsibility and community.*

**Kate Lloyd**

51. **Community engagement, weekend market** – Organize a weekend market where local farmers and those participating in community gardens/food forests can bring produce and other goods and share with the community, raising awareness around the importance of local shopping/eating and also supporting the local economy.
52. **Green Space** – Plant trees, bushes, and flowers suited for the local climate along the sides of the shared street.
53. **Green space and public space, safety/security** – Install Police Panic Buttons in sensitive public spaces.

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54. **Green space, children's garden** – Create an edible garden that is specifically targeted towards children. Creating edible gardens directed towards children can be placed in parks or near schools to educate children about where their food comes from and why they should get invested in localizing their produce. Implementing edible gardens in public spaces such as parks can minimize “undesirables,” which are spaces that can attract crime and homelessness. Busy parks are full of ways for the public to interact with the space, which decreases the likelihood of dangerous activity and makes a safer space for children. A major export in Hermiston is their watermelons. This could be a great way to include children because it is a fun way to take pride in Hermiston and makes the city unique and recognizable to others who are not from the area.



**Hermiston Green Space**

55. **Green space, community garden** - Build a community garden that provides residents with a sustainable source for food throughout the neighborhood. Community gardens limit the need for residents to traditionally buy their produce. A garden is extremely beneficial to the environment and sustainable. Hermiston community gardens would be a great way for residents to interact with each other while also

producing food for the community. In addition, the quality of produce from a community garden is much higher than produce that is transported long distances.

56. **Green space, community garden food bank partnership** – Create a partnership with a local food bank and donate food from the communal plots to this organization.

57. **Green space, community garden group** – Develop a community garden group that meets weekly to discuss improvements that can be made to the Hermiston community garden.

58. **Green space, community garden mural** - Create a mural on a large piece of wood or banner and implement it on the fence of the community garden.

59. **Green space, community garden plots** – Install 20 individual raised gardening plots and 5 communal raised plots on the vacant commercial area.

60. **Green space, community garden public information** – Inform the community about the garden by attending local government meetings and educating the audience about the garden and how they can get involved.

61. **Green space, community garden support** – Introduce the idea of a community garden to small businesses and other community groups and determine if they would be willing to sponsor the garden or donate towards its creation.

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62. **Green space, community garden tools** – Organize a city-wide donation drive for gardening supplies (shovels, gloves, etc.) that can be used at the Hermiston community garden.
63. **Green space, community garden volunteer group** - Establish a volunteer group with local public schools in the area to help care for the plants in the communal plots.
64. **Green space, covered areas** – Construct covered areas where people can have gatherings. <https://www.portland.gov/parks/picnic-reservation>
65. **Green space, East Browning St.** - Create a shared green space just past E Browning Street in the vacant commercial area to allow for congregation and appreciation for the environment.
66. **Green space, edible community gardens** – Conduct research of different spaces in Hermiston where the edible community gardens could be built. In this step, research teams could be created to go and collect data about which parks, rooftops, bus stops, empty lots, alleys, or walls could be suitable for an edible community garden. Examples of possible locations for edible landscaping within the project area include either bus stops on the intersection of Northeast 4th Street and East Oregon Avenue or the Aspen Community Center. Various empty lots such as 1753, 1741, 1885, 1875, or 1865 could also be considered.
67. **Green space, edible park landscaping** – Grow edible landscaping in the park.
68. **Green space, educational gardening** – Institute an educational community gardening program.
69. **Green space, entrance** – Form an entrance to the park, so that people feel excited to be stepping foot into the space. <https://www.archilovers.com/projects/199088/entrance-gate-for-jarfalla-s-public-park-competition.html>
70. **Green space, food security** – Create a community garden to further drive interest in growing your food. A community garden will contribute to greater food security while also teaching individuals the value of gardening and sustainable agriculture.
71. **Green space, native plant garden** – Create a native plant garden.
72. **Green space, NE 4th St. Mixed-Use Urban Park** – Create a community gathering location for the lot located on NE 4th St., by bringing an outdoor community park with an amphitheater that holds native agriculture throughout the park's vicinity. This is a base suggestion for the lot and will be built upon in the following recommendations. An outdoor amphitheater will allow for more community events such as festivals, summer outdoor movies, local musicians, and more. This will inspire more and more families to get outside and enjoy the art and festivities Hermiston has to offer.
73. **Green space, North Hermiston** – Build a public park in the north Hermiston site plan that interacts with the environment, such as edible landscaping. Public parks allow for residents with a place outside their homes to enjoy relaxation, exercise, or communal interaction. A park design should be unique to the location it is in and be able to accommodate all ages. In the north Hermiston site plan, a public park would enhance the green space in the area and provide an enjoyable setting.
74. **Green space, North Hermiston ephemeral stream** – Create an ephemeral stream by leaving a 1 ½ foot stream channel as the shallowest part of the green space, utilizing diverted runoff from rains to function as the stream, running into the Hermiston Ditch to avoid flood complications.
75. **Green space, North Hermiston facilities** – Add at least three benches, three water fountains, and two dog-walker stations

# Research and Videography

alongside the path. Dog-walker stations at entrances would increase the likelihood of use.

76. **Green space, North Hermiston landscaping** – Implement a green space modeled after a Blue Mountain ecoregion in a 1-acre section of the North Hermiston vacant commercial lot using ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, juniper, antelope bitterbrush, snowberry, mountain big sagebrush, elk sedge, pinegrass, and bluebunch wheatgrass.
77. **Green space, North Hermiston open space** – Keep a 250 square foot area clear off the path towards the middle of the space to accommodate those who would like to eat, read, or simply watch people walk by. Layer with wood chips, including a table for picnicking.
78. **Green space, North Hermiston path** – Connect the space with a six-foot-wide path, with half accommodating micro-mobility and half accommodating walking traffic using concrete as the base for bike-friendliness.
79. **Green space, North Hermiston sculpture** – Include a mini-watermelon sculpture in the center of the space to complement the theme of Hermiston as a whole, as well as to add to the sense of place of the space. Statues can be designed by an artist or the community, but utilizing the community would be a good option for engagement.
80. **Green space, North Hermiston signage** – Include educational signage along the path with artistic hints of community expression. Artists can volunteer or be drafted, but volunteers are preferred for community reach. Include information about species & their contributions to the Blue Mountain ecosystem.
81. **Green space, North Hermiston vacant lot** – Develop the vacant lot to be a mixed-use public park. The vacant lot is a great candidate for public green space because it is off the main road and close to residential spaces. A mixed-use green space would create a space that people of all ages could access. Furthermore, public spaces allow individuals to feel passionate about something within their community and can create community engagement. For example, in Portland, citizen involvement with public spaces is quite high: “working together to accomplish goals... True collaboration is challenging and messy, but the result is far greater than if we all worked alone” (Reimagining, 2019).
82. **Green space, North Hermiston vacant lot environment** – Test the soil at the vacant commercial lot to see whether or not it is polluted.
83. **Green space, North Hermiston viewing station** – Implement a viewing station (bolted-down binoculars) in a position best presented to provide viewing opportunities of the wildlife to those visiting the space.
84. **Green space, North Hermiston watermelon hunt** – Hold a weekly or monthly volunteer competition in which the public designs baseball-sized mini watermelons to be hidden around the space. Those who find one or more would be gifted with a shirt or other prize. Include community-safe food.
85. **Green space, outdoor fitness park access** – Provide outdoor fitness parks in neighborhoods making them extremely accessible to people of all ages at any point in time.
86. **Green space, outdoor fitness park colocation** – Locate fitness parks near other parks to add to the green space provided or to create a new and inviting one.
87. **Green space, outdoor fitness park events** – Incorporate outdoor fitness activities with other planned events.
88. **Green space, outdoor fitness park funding** – Fund these parks using government subsidies through state and local community building agencies.

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89. **Green space, outdoor fitness park hygiene** – Install biodegradable cleaning wipes for people to wipe down the station after use.

90. **Green space, outdoor fitness park location** – Place the outdoor fitness parks in low-income neighborhoods as these are often places where interaction, community gatherings, and even exercise are at the least.

91. **Green space, outdoor fitness park signage** – Ensure that all equipment, machines, and parks have visible signs that state how to use, the possible dangers, and the rules. On top of signs posted in general areas, individual signs should be located on the equipment thoroughly explaining the exercise and equipment.

92. **Green space, outdoor fitness park trainers** – Place either a volunteer or city-paid trainer at the location to ensure the safety and comfort of all the users.

93. **Green space, outdoor fitness park visibility** – Paint the equipment with bright and inviting colors, very visible to everyone, as well as inviting people at all hours.

94. **Green space, outdoor fitness park wayfinding** – Locate visual signs on different corners directing people to the fitness park and equipment.



Farm-City Pro Rodeo

95. **Green space, playgrounds** – Increase the number of safe playgrounds for children. When installing new playgrounds, you have to first make sure the location of each playground is just outside of walking distance between each other. This ensures that each house/neighborhood has one playground that is within walking distance. Another important aspect of installing them is making sure they are safe. Consider installing a soft landing under the entire structure and making sure the “surfacing extends at least 6 feet in all directions from play equipment” (cpsc.gov).

96. **Green space, park benches** - Provide park benches in all green spaces. Orient seating to accommodate natural views and people watching. (Caston, 2019)

97. **Green space, sense of place landscaping** – Increase greenery and natural spaces throughout Hermiston. Establishing more green space in Hermiston's downtown corridor with engaging elements for the community can benefit the “sense of place”. This could include native flowers, and trees suitable for urban environments. Furthermore, planting pollinator gardens, native grasses and wildflowers creates natural art as well as improves the natural environment. Planting vegetation in street setbacks and medians improves public landscaping and the aesthetic of the area.

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98. **Green space, streetscapes** – Create more green spaces along North First Street. The majority of the land in the studied area of Hermiston is made up of concrete. Whether it be roads, parking lots, and buildings, there is minimal green space. To begin with, there could be more natural landscaping in between parking lots, sidewalks, and roads. Over time, if parking lots are being used less from other redevelopment projects, parklets could be developed as a public activity space or as a private place for restaurants to offer additional seating. It is important that natural landscaping is incorporated to break up concrete parking lots and allow for water to return into the soil. For example, in Seattle, a redevelopment project to transition a large parking lot into a usable space is underway: “Carved out of an abandoned parking lot, the Thornton Creek Water Quality Channel treats urban stormwater runoff from 680 acres... The facility is a model for how multi-functional landscapes can be integrated into the dense urban fabric” (Benfield, 2011). Undergoing such a project will not only improve the overall well-being of users but will also benefit the surrounding environment.
99. **Green space, vacant plots** – Donate vacant plots of land to be used for community gardens as a way to increase in-city production of fresh produce, encourage community collective involvement, and increase community education of farm-to-table meals and the importance of sustainable ecologies.
100. **Greenspace, North Hermiston boundary** – Construct a basic wooden beam or rope fence around the North Hermiston green space with defined entrances off of Northeast 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Northeast Aspen Drive, and between 1660 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street / 1550 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street.
101. **Greenspace, vegetable garden** – Designate a specific section of a park for a community garden, in which members of the community can plant vegetation of their choosing.
102. **Infrastructure – Water Conservation Committee** – Create a water conservation committee. Water conservation in the United States is becoming more and more critical, especially in dry areas, like Hermiston, and demand continues to rise with the increasing population. “The U.S. population has doubled over the past 50 years, while our thirst for water has tripled. With at least 40 states anticipating water shortages by 2024.” (EPA) This committee can discuss different ideas that the city can then ratify. Examples ideas include different campaigns that promote water conservation within households, and it can be phrased in a way that saves the person money.
103. **Infrastructure, accessible daycare** - Reduce carbon footprint by putting daycare at a walkable distance away from residential areas.
104. **Infrastructure, adequate housing, high-density** – Increase high-density, affordable housing in the Marete Homes area and collaborate with the Oregon Affordable Housing Tax Credit (OAHTC) to ensure that any additional housing is accessible to disadvantaged Hermiston communities. The OAHTC program’s ability to increase affordable housing projects is especially helpful in Hermiston where the median household income is below the national average (“Oregon Affordable Housing Tax Credit”; “Hermiston Community Profile” 2021).
105. **Infrastructure, biosolar roofs** – Create more green roofs by using biosolar to incentivize. Roofs that couple green roofs and solar power together are often referred to as *biosolar roofs*. These are an attractive option because they lower energy usage and utility bills.
106. **Infrastructure, climate change** – Plan cool. Adopt the recommendations of the Oregon Transportation and Growth

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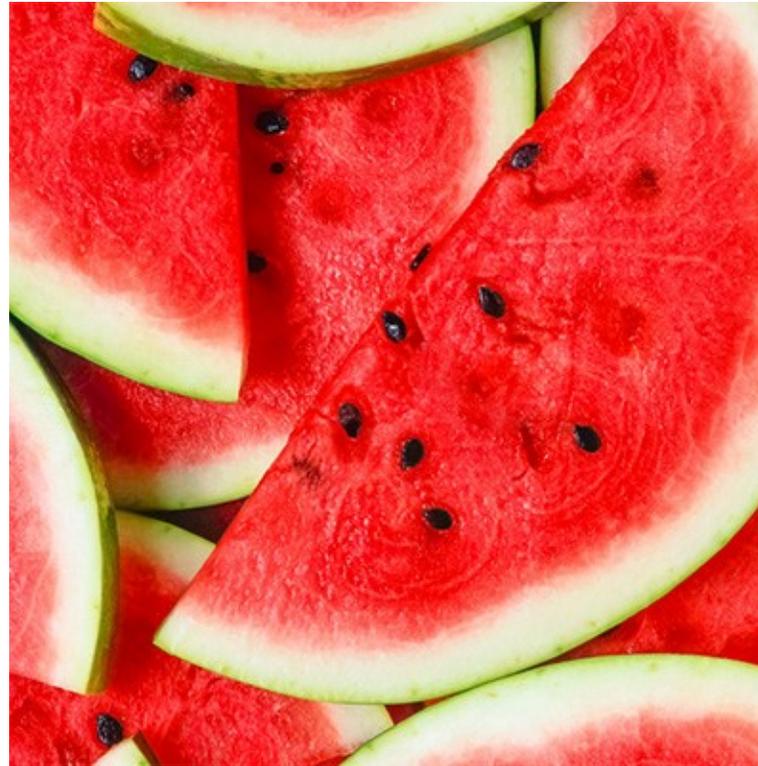
Management Program *Cool Planning: A Handbook on Local Strategies to Slow Climate Change*.

107. **Infrastructure, “Dark-Sky”** - Review development code to consider night sky protection. [International Dark-Sky Association](#)
108. **Infrastructure, drinking fountains** - Install drinking fountains near and on bike paths.
109. **Infrastructure, LED lighting** – Replace street lighting adjacent to parks/greenspaces with LEDs.
110. **Infrastructure, LEED certification, buildings** – Improve existing buildings by pursuing LEED certification if/when there is a need for building improvement.
111. **Infrastructure, LEED certification, government buildings** – Require all new government buildings to pursue LEED certification.
112. **Infrastructure, LEED certification, neighborhood development** – Support LEED Neighborhood Development criteria and certification.
113. **Infrastructure, light pollution** – Implement shielded park/greenspace lighting to minimize light pollution.
114. **Infrastructure, low impact development** – Plant using minimal irrigation because of the steppe climate.
115. **Infrastructure, NE 4<sup>th</sup> St. daycare** – Build a daycare on the corner of NE 4th Street.
116. **Infrastructure, pedestrian signage** – Install solar-powered pedestrian flashers along West Orchard Avenue stretching from West Park to Newport Park for heightened visibility and enhance community safety
117. **Infrastructure, permeable surfaces** - Implementing permeable surfaces in the vacant commercial lot no matter what goes there would allow for better water drainage and the ability for greenery or moss to grow within the paved permeable area.
118. **Infrastructure, rainwater management** – Construct a retention pond within the public park space as a means of rainwater management. A retention basin would protect the surrounding greenspace area from flooding. In areas where bioswales are impractical, retention ponds are essential in providing a method for collecting rainwater.
119. **Infrastructure, rainwater management** – Install a rainwater collection system that can store water to be used for community gardens, food forests, and backyards across the city to reduce overall water usage and reuse the water the city already has.
120. **Infrastructure, recycling** – Recycle things from local dumps or thrift stores to turn into features of the park. <https://newatlas.com/recycled-park-rotterdam/55441/>
121. **Infrastructure, renewable energy** – Interactive renewable energy farms will help educate the community on renewable energy, from how it is harnessed until it is finally used by residents. More importantly, it will help educate the youth on this topic, as this topic is more important for them considering the longer life expectancy in comparison to their parents. This will encourage and allow children to understand the world around them from a young age so that they grow up more educated and aware of the climate crisis facing our country.
122. **Infrastructure, renewable energy** – Renewable Energy. Bringing renewable energy to Hermiston would have so many positive impacts for a metropolitan area and an agricultural hub. Hermiston has many forms of renewable energy sources to choose from, including solar, wind, Biomass, Biogas, and more. However, for Hermiston specifically, I would

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recommend solar or wind-powered renewable energy sources. Renewable Energy will decrease the city's dependence on fossil fuels and diversify Hermiston's energy sources. It will also create jobs for those in Hermiston, including maintenance, installation, and more.

123. **Infrastructure, smart housing** – Housing can be improved by creating smart housing to make room for the population increase. With mixed-income and the varying needs for different types of families, Hermiston can provide a variety of different properties for community members and those thinking about moving into town. This will allow for the new residents to feel right at home, making the transition very smooth and easy, giving them a sense of belonging in their new home.
124. **Infrastructure, solar energy** - Installing solar panels in addition to or instead of green roofs on commercial areas would help with energy-saving as well as economic relief with buy-back policies.
125. **Infrastructure, solar farm** – Construct small solar farms to increase renewable energy production in the city. The price of solar has dropped significantly; this allows communities such as Hermiston to invest in renewable energy resources. Small



**Hermiston Watermelon**

solar farms can provide homes with electricity during the daytime, without the use of carbon-emitting resources. The awareness of global climate change is increasing every year. Cities must start planning for a future that is net-zero in terms of carbon production. Solar panels can be installed on rooftops or through different artistic designs that blend in with the urban theme of a city.

126. **Infrastructure, solar panels** – Emplace solar panels: With Hermiston having a relatively sunny climate with very little rainfall solar panels would be a great option for sustainability. Although there are some cons to using solar power energy like cost, they never outweigh the pros. Solar energy is expensive, but it is a long-term investment.

127. **Infrastructure, solar street lighting** – Design the Main Pathway from major hubs of the city and upgrade street lighting to create safe walk environments. Where feasible, install solar-powered street lighting.
128. **Infrastructure, street lighting** – Add unique streetlamps along N First St. Adding unique street lighting distinguishes a city apart from others and contributes to an overall sense of place. Big cities like London, Paris, and New York are known for their public lighting systems: “The ornate-style lamp posts of London, brass post tops bearing suspended street name placards of New York, or the iconic light fixtures of Paris-

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public lighting has been an integral part of each city's character" (Brandon Industries, 2018). Furthermore, by adding streetlamps, users can safely use spaces at different times of the day, which extends business hours.

129. **Infrastructure, vacant lot** – Use Vacant Commercial area to build a public park and Community and Recreation Center which will bolster community interactions with the space from nearby residents, and increase motivation to use the whole North Hermiston Site Plan as a community hub. Quality public space and a strong sense of community directly improve wellbeing, perceptions of safety, and community / civic participation environment (Francis et al. 2012).
130. **Infrastructure, wind microgeneration** - Use small wind turbines on large structures to reduce utility costs and supplement the grid.
131. **Public Art** - Create artificial public art that is designed and made by local artists in the region. Art is very important to the cultural makeup of a city. Providing public art can help beautify a city and provide residents with aesthetically pleasing public spaces. The city of Hermiston should hire local artists to help design public art pieces that enhance the culture of the city. Different types of art pieces such as sculptures, murals, memorials, statues can be included in the design process.
132. **Public Art** - Display public art every 20 ft on the shared space street to represent local Latinx artists and culture. Swap the art pieces annually.
133. **Public art, city comforts** – Infuse the downtown corridor with public art and city comforts. Incorporating public art in the downtown corridor can encourage a better sense of place. Public art can be placed anywhere including utility boxes, alleyways, bus stops crosswalks, and more. City comforts such as public benches, picnic tables, and drinking fountains can make the downtown area more usable and allow for more time spent in the area. Implementation: As one of their trademark symbols for the city, hiding watermelons throughout the city design would be effective in infusing character into Hermiston. Murals could be commissioned from local artists, infusing the community with cohesive themes. Public Art can also be created as community projects. Watermelon symbols can be hidden in park benches, on sidewalks, in alleys ways, and more.
134. **Public art, environmental** – Incorporate public art installations or themed works into the downtown area tying together nature, climate, and bioregion to connect citizens to ecology and further instill values of biophilia.
135. **Public art, fountain** – Make a large fountain in the center of the park.
136. **Public Art, graffiti wall** – Create a graffiti wall so that members of the community can express themselves artistically and openly. <http://www.pdxstreetart.org/articles-all/2019/4/5/legalwalls>
137. **Public art, local artist commissions** – Commission local artists to design artworks around the city to improve the sense of place and overall community participation in City design.
138. **Public art, local artists** – Promote local artists. It could be musical artists, a painter, or any other art form. By getting these local artists' names out to the public, it provides the people a name and face to take pride in their hometown. This impact could be magnified even further if one of them gains national recognition and becomes famous. The locals from Hermiston would be able to say that they were from the same town as the artist and meld that into part of the city's identity. In addition, these artists can benefit the communities in other ways because "many artists have a true passion for making

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their communities a better place to live through their artwork” (MacART). It is common for famous artists to give back to their hometowns in events such as charities so this could benefit the city too.

139. **Public art, murals** – Create a community and cultural-based Mural ally. Murals are an easy way to express a town or neighborhood’s history, culture, and much more. To implement, you need to find an alleyway and seek permission from the owners of the building to use the alley-facing side of their facility for a mural. Then every couple of months, the murals will rotate out with new pieces and new artists. Mural ways are a new form of street art that has started to become more and more popular.
140. **Public art, talking stones** – Design Hermiston’s version of “talking stones” to tell stories of the land and its Native people. <https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3322/Talking-Stones-Brochure?bidId=>
141. **Public art, watermelon theme** – Integrate more watermelon architecture into and around the city: Hermiston has a watermelon as its city logo, it is also known for having super sweet watermelons because “the climate and soil in Hermiston, OR is perfect for growing watermelon and with temperatures getting up into the 90s.” (Roth’s Fresh Market) Hermiston should capitalize on how good their watermelons taste by putting up “plop art” of watermelons. A long-term idea would be to install another water tower that not only has a picture of a watermelon on it like the current one, but a watermelon-shaped water tower and label it as the largest watermelon water tower; this will be sure to attract more tourists.
142. **Public art, watermelon theme** – Main Street Watermelon Decals. Create a pop of color and visual appeal, an addition of watermelon decals or paintings along Main Street. Since watermelons are a logo of Hermiston, they will add to the culture and ambiance of the town. For example, the Castro District in San Francisco has rainbows painted along the street to represent and honor the Gay Pride and LGBTQ+ history that has existed in that neighborhood for over 75+ years. Beautifying the area will increase walkability in the city by creating the want to view and see street art. This is an opportunity to bring the community together by giving them a say in the placement and design of the artwork on the street. When people put hard work into a city, they value it more and have an increased sense of respect and belonging for the area.
143. **Public art, watermelon theme** - Public art can be installed organically throughout the city of Hermiston. Public Art can include projects from young students or from elderly people in Care Homes to engage all ranges of community members in beautifying their city. One option for the elementary/middle school ages for a public art project would be designing a watermelon and then an architect in the area can bring one of these watermelons to life in the city center. Watermelons are a key part of the history of Hermiston as they are a key part of its agriculture and economy.
144. **Public Art, wildlife mural** – Design a public mural project with local artists to highlight urban wildlife.
145. **Public space, Aquatic Center** – Establish partnerships between the current Hermiston Community Center and athletic programs, such as the YMCA, to expand the center’s capabilities through reconstruction
146. **Public space, Aquatic Center** – Extend the operations of the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center year-round to enhance community engagement for youth and stimulate high school athletic programs

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147. **Public space, baseball field and basketball court** – Build a public baseball field and basketball court near the Kennison Field to widen the accessibility of sports facilities for youth
148. **Public space, basketball court** – Construct a basketball court and baseball diamond in the old commercial area, it's a large enough space to foster a communal park setting. There would not be enough space to put either of these in the dwelling park. Seeing how 30% of the population is under the age of 18, it's important to have ways for kids to be active.
149. **Public space, benches** – Provide comfortable benches, along with some small tables along the sides of the shared street, preferably incorporated in the green spaces.
150. **Public space, children** - Build portions of the public space to child scale. (Sucher, 1996)
151. **Public space, city comforts** - Provide many small city comforts such as drinking fountains, wayfinding signs, and small details that enrich the urban experience. "Human comfort is the measure of a city's success." (Sucher, 1996)
152. **Public space, daycare** – Establish a dedicated space in the park for daycare kids to play with structures and activities.



Hermiston, Where Life is Sweet

153. **Public space, edible** – Design and construct an edible public space. That concept might sound foreign or outlandish on paper, so allow me to explain what it is as well as its benefits. It is exactly what it sounds like, and serves three main purposes. The first is purely aesthetic, as food is typically associated with pleasure for most people, so seeing the food as like architecture in a way could provide a new unique experience. The second reason, and also the most obvious is for consumption. And the third reason is to keep citizens in touch with homegrown food that can also boost the sense of place. An example of this can be seen "In Chicago, the rooftop of one youth center was redesigned as a farm and now produces 1,000 pounds of organic produce while teaching urban kids where food comes from" (Green). This is also an example of what a Green Roof, one of

my earlier recommendations, could potentially look like.

154. **Public space, farmers' market** - Converting the empty lot on NE 4th St and Hermiston Ditch to a communal gathering area for farmers markets and possibly occasional flea markets could make use of the commercial vacant lot and facilitate more community interaction.
155. **Public space, food** - Let people purchase food or drink. (Sucher, 1996) Design public spaces for food by allowing outdoor vendors, trash cans, and seating. (Whyte, 1980)

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156. **Public space, food truck access** – Promote food trucks in shared streets and public spaces.
157. **Public space, games** - Consider how games can be integrated into public space. For example oversized chess/checkers could be designed into the surface or painted on tables.
158. **Public space, green space** – Create Shared, green space for residents to use. Use biophilic design to create a micro-urban ecology.
159. **Public space, main street** – Transition N First St into a ‘traditional main street. The ‘traditional main street has been preserved in American towns as a thing of the past, often referred to as historic districts. Developing N First St will increase the overall connectivity of the town and attract users. With the increased use of N First St by walking, biking, and bus transit, development will be encouraged to move away from strip-mall development. Over time parking lots can be divided up and turned into more commercial spaces allowing for the space to be closer together instead of a strip mall suburban area. The City of Hartford, Connecticut has released a project called “Re-imagining Mainstreet” where city planners have defined important design elements that make main streets functional: “Complete Streets is a shorthand term for streets that have been planned, designed, and operated with the consideration of the needs of all travelers within the corridor, not just motor vehicle operators, but also including people of all ages and abilities who are taking public transportation, walking, or riding a bicycle” (City of Hartford, 2021). The mission of the project is to create a usable space for all ages and abilities to better connect its community and city.
160. **Public space, Marketplace Promenade** – Invest in a long-term project of building a marketplace promenade in the western corridor. Hermiston could take inspiration from the success and design of the Third Street Promenade in Santa Monica, California—a three-block pedestrian mall, completely closed to cars. A two-year, \$10-million renovation of the promenade that brought more dining options, entertainment and public space, greenery, and public art alongside the many storefronts has since encouraged more community interaction and sense of place in Santa Monica, and has even bolstered the economy with over \$1-billion taxable sales generated annually (Masters 2015).
161. **Public space, multi-use trail** – Develop a multi-use trail along the Hermiston Ditch. There is an irrigation ditch that runs perpendicular through N First St. Developing a walking and cycling trail along this irrigation canal that extends into nearby neighborhoods will continue to connect residents to their city and decrease automobile use. In more urban cities like New York, the use of bicycle trails and streets has boomed in this post-pandemic era: “Bike traffic on the Hudson River Greenway often appears to match the paralleling West Side Highway. Last summer, around 150,000 cyclists a month — or about 5,000 a day — passed through Kent Avenue, in Williamsburg” (Surico, 2021).
162. **Public space, music** - Provide a place for music. (Sucher, 1996) Design public spaces to accommodate music such as the local high school band or venues for other musicians.
163. **Public space, outdoor community center** – Construct an Outdoor Community Center. An outdoor community space could consist of fields, basketball hoops, a playground, tennis

*You step onto the road, and if you don't  
keep your feet, there's no knowing where  
you might be swept off to.*

**J.R.R. Tolkien**

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courts, and more. Hermiston already provides youth recreational leagues in basketball, volleyball, flag football, and soccer, and this could be a great place to conduct those. Furthermore, it would establish an area to host current local community events such as the Spring Bazar or new events such as a Holiday Market during Winter. Implementation: A viable location for this would be across from the Walmart on the corner of Umatilla Stanfield Highway and Hermiston Highway. There is a large dirt field behind a few businesses which could be used.

164. **Public space, outdoor dining** - Designate space for outdoor dining on the edges of the street for the restaurants nearby.
165. **Public space, parklets** – Creating parklets throughout the town. Parklets have become a nationwide phenomenon that has visibly increased people's quality of life. Parklets are an outdoor setting area created by either a local business or community member and located along a street or road in a parking space. They serve many purposes, some being dining, lounging, and or mini street parks. Parklets increase people's time outdoors as well as the town's walkability. Parklets also provide much more than just socialization; they add an aesthetic level to the city as well. Hermiston can implement parklets on their main streets to improve relationships between small businesses and customers. These parklets can be used for small vendors, sitting areas, or more greenery in the area for community members. This allows for the growing city to create a better atmosphere and become livelier which could help stimulate the economy.
166. **Public space, people watching** – Invest money in creating more scenic parks with people watching areas: As discussed in class, the main activity people like to do is people watch so creating more parks, especially ones with people watching areas, will attract more people to the city and entice more people to get out and enjoy the great outdoors. Watching other people, and being watched, and chatting, is the core of the social stroll. (Sucher, 1996)
167. **Public space, play structures** – Produce a safe and fun play structure for children to explore and climb on. <https://littletikescommercial.com/blog/how-to-improve-community-parks/>
168. **Public space, recycling** – Install trashcans and recycling bins near food truck locations to mitigate excess littering.
169. **Public space, sitting space** - Provide seats. (Sucher, 1996) Provide ample seating in public spaces either through moveable chairs and benches, fixed benches, or architectural features. (Whyte, 1980)
170. **Public space, shared streets** – Convert Hermiston Avenue and East Main Street into shared streets.
171. **Public space, sports court** - Build a public sports court to enhance public exercise opportunities. The Covid-19 Pandemic showed many people around the world how important it is to have a healthy lifestyle. Many gyms and other indoor recreations had to close their doors leading to people not having a place to exercise. Outdoor sports courts provide residents with a place to exercise that is outdoors. Sports courts can include many activities such as basketball, tennis, a place for running, balance beams, pull-up and sit-up bars, along with various youth games. In addition, local artists can paint or design different art pieces that first with the theme of the park.
172. **Public space, the street** - Orient public spaces to provide connectivity with adjacent streets rather than isolating them. (Whyte, 1980)
173. **Public space, sun, wind, trees and water** - Incorporate and balance as many of these elements as possible in all public spaces. (Whyte, 1980)

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174. **Public space, sundials** - Tell time by the sun. (Sucher, 1996) Include sundials in public spaces as a part of public art or architectural design.

175. **Public space, surveillance** – Install video surveillance for security monitoring.

176. **Public space, tactical urbanism** – Increase Tactical Urbanism within Hermiston. Utilizing Tactical Urbanism is a recent development that is used to improve urban spaces, these projects are usually short-term with long term-effects. Forms of tactical urbanism are guerilla gardening, parklets, street art, and more. Tactical urbanism is hugely community-inspired and driven to make cities livable and enjoyable. A way to increase tactical urbanism within Hermiston is to encourage creativity and participation among town members by giving them a voice and growing commitment to the beautification of Hermiston.

177. **Public space, “undesirables”** - Consider having volunteer “park mayors” or other volunteers to assist in monitoring parks. Recurring problems may be an indication that the park is under-utilized, and measures should be taken to increase park use. (Whyte, 1980)



**Umatilla County Fair**

178. **Sense of place, accessible signage** – Create More Accessible Signage Throughout Hermiston. This would include biking and walking distances and times. Allowing bikers and pedestrians to navigate the city. As well as improving and introducing braille/audible street signage to increase safety and awareness along the downtown corridor. Implementation: Ensure compliance with the ADA standards in street design related to crosswalk closures, curb ramps, pushbutton signal locations (ADA, 2010). Establishing better bike signage along the primary biking routes in the city, especially detailing distance from landmarks such as Butte Park, Hermiston High School, Riverfront Park, Newport Park, and Downtown Area.

179. **Sense of place, appreciation sign** – Construct a watermelon appreciation sign and place it on the corner of N 1st Street and E Oregon Avenue to help build a sense of pride for the city.

180. **Sense of place, bilingual signage** – Use bilingual signage to make all residents of Hermiston feel included.

181. **Sense of Place, central point** - Sense of place can be improved upon for this city as there needs to be a main attraction center point that you can tell people exactly where you are. Distinguishing where you are through one statue or a building, or even a park that is well-known in the city is what

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Hermiston needs. This sort of central point is important for people to meet up with friends, and somewhere to spend a night out.

182. **Sense of place, City display** – Create a display with cultural heritage & historical information in the downtown and/or public spaces.

183. **Sense of place, concepts, themes, and design elements** – Utilize Cultivated Planning Concepts, Themes & Design

Elements. Community concepts, themes, and design elements are crucial for establishing a consistent sense of place throughout Hermiston. The community concept Cascadia and theme Pacific Northwest are well suited for the community design and culture. Making the downtown a “third place” where the community can gather is critical to establishing a better sense

of place for Hermiston as a whole. Implementation: Design elements such as river rock, wood, bricks, iron, nature elements, & watermelon symbolism should be utilized to achieve the Pacific Northwest theme. (Stephens, 2010)

184. **Sense of place, decorative features** – Include colorful lighting and public seating to help create a sense of place.

185. **Sense of place, entry statement** – Create a new entrance sign with landscaping and hardscaping that reflects the City's sense of place.

186. **Sense of place, environmental restoration** – Cultivate a sense of place through representation and restoration of plant life.

187. **Sense of place, explanatory signs** – Establish explanatory signs within the Green Spaces and edible landscapes (ex. Fruit trees, edible cacti).

188. **Sense of place, garden sign** – Create a visually appealing “Hermiston Community Garden” sign.

*One might think that small city comforts are too trivial to consider. But it is precisely such small details and courtesies that enrich life and make some cities a pleasure. Without such details, urban planning is simply the board game Monopoly but for adults.*

David Sucher

189. **Sense of place, humor** - Incorporate humor in the urban environment through signage, Easter eggs (partially hidden small public art works), and urban design elements.

190. **Sense of place, inclusive community** – Expand Existing Inclusive Community Initiative. On the south side of the city, there is a “Welcome to Hermiston” sign, which reads “We are building an inclusive community.” Inclusive

communities are welcome to diverse groups of people, including seniors, children, aboriginal peoples, persons with disabilities, and the Latinx community (PlanH, 2021) There are current ESL programs in place for students and assistance for their parents within the school district. Improving accessibility for minority populations in Hermiston will help to improve the sense of place (The Other Oregon, 2021). Implementation: Developing community outreach programs with specific attention to bilingual and disabled access to the city's social media and websites. Provide city documents in Spanish and English. Organizing community Spanish movie

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- nights with English subtitles (Coco, Encanto, etc.). Focus on expanding affordable housing options.
191. **Sense of place, information center** – Construct an information center with a small museum and gift shop inside.
  192. **Sense of place, kiosk** – Provide one or more downtown kiosks with city maps.
  193. **Sense of place, kiosk signage** - Add signage to compliment the kiosk.
  194. **Sense of place, land use zones** – Redraw North Hermiston Site Plan land use zones to encourage a built environment that prioritizes walkability and sense of place through mixed-use and adaptable zoning. Marlette Homes area: M-1, Light Industrial R-3, Multi-family Residential—with specific intent to build affordable, diverse, high-density homes. Vacant Commercial area: C-2, Outlying Commercial OS, Open Space. Remaining M-1, Light Industrial, and C-2, Outlying Commercial areas R-3, Multi-family Residential and C-1, Central Commercial as mixed-use zoning. The City of Vancouver found that a livable and sustainable environment includes provisions of accessibility through land use and finds that it is difficult to retrofit livability into cities that have existing car-focused infrastructure and single-function zoning (Chris et al. 2006). As such, adapting zoning in Hermiston must also be accompanied by significant infrastructure projects that encourage walkability
  195. **Sense of place, landmark** – Create a landmark that has historical and cultural significance to the local region to increase the sense of place within the community. Landmarks provide the community with visual public art. Different forms of landmarks may include paintings, murals, bridges, towers, buildings, statues, signs, etc. The north Hermiston site plan can implement a landmark that has cultural and historical significance to the community.
  196. **Sense of place, Latinx /western street** – Develop a Latinx/western festival street with public art, shops, restaurants, and other businesses.
  197. **Sense of place, Latinx plaques** – Tap into the Latinx culture that is so prevalent in this area and the city’s history by making informational plaques and signs throughout the dwelling park, explaining how the demographic has changed over the years and how Hermiston has changed with it.
  198. **Sense of place, local business** – Lean into local businesses and encourage residents to make use of them. The benefits of this are very similar to promoting local artists. Residents will be able to point to these unique businesses as something Hermiston has that is not available elsewhere, and in addition, it will build communities and relationships through direct social interactions between the owners/workers and the customers. Lastly, “Local ownership ensures that important decisions are made locally by people who live in the community and who will feel the impacts of those decisions” (Teamsters).
  199. **Sense of place, local food business investment** – Invest in local food businesses such as grocery stores and restaurants that are committed to feeding the community nutritious and locally grown foods.
  200. **Sense of place, maps** – Assemble maps of the city and important areas, so that it is easy to see one’s exact location, and how to get to any part of town. <https://www.techchange.org/2015/07/15/maps-making-cities-green/>
  201. **Sense of place, mascot/trademark** – Create a mascot, or trademark item, and then lean into it. One thing Hermiston is known for is its watermelons. Hermiston’s watermelons are some of the sweetest in the Pacific Northwest because “Hot days spur the plants to produce more sugar for energy, and

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cool nights help them retain the sugar” (Loneragan). It is common for people to flock towards the city for watermelons during the Summer specifically for the watermelons. The city of Hermiston should embrace this fact, and add little Easter eggs related to watermelons hidden around town. This will give residents a sense of pride in their town’s product, as well as small destinations to visit for fun. Little things like this go a long way in developing a sense of place.



Roemark’s

- 202. **Sense of place, multi-lingual/icon signage** - Specifically, create multi-language or icon signage for international visitors.
- 203. **Sense of place, museum** – Showcase the history of Hermiston and its environment through an interactive experience, like a museum.
- 204. **Sense of place, music** – Advertise public space venues for local musicians, and provide monetary encouragement if necessary.
- 205. **Sense of place, Native American** – Infuse all planned aspects with Native American recognition through art, words, or events.

206. **Sense of place, neighborhood gateways** - Create gateways for neighborhoods with signage, streetscaping, and temporary street art. (Sucher, 1996)

207. **Sense of place, plaques** – Install species plaques in city parks to commemorate events, patrons, and identify plant and tree species.

208. **Sense of place, signage and wayfinding** – Incorporate Community Identity in Signage & Wayfinding Elements. Introduce Spanish into signage for bathrooms, plants, landmarks, businesses, and street signs. Providing bilingual signage and public resources allows for more active and passionate engagement from the Latinx community in Hermiston. Implementation: One example of the ways this can be done is to add Spanish signage to the newly opened Funland Park in Hermiston. This

playground is huge and visited by many children in the community.

209. **Sense of place, Spanish signage** – Add Spanish translations to street crosswalks and other public signage.

210. **Sense of place, story-telling** – Increase Hermiston’s history or “story” through contemporary techniques such as social media. The small city of Hermiston, like a lot of communities near the Columbia River, has a rich history. This history should be presented through various forms such as art

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exhibits, easter eggs, cookies, and festivals. Social media is one of the quickest ways to communicate with a community. Hermiston should improve their social media reach to inform residents, as well as the rest of eastern Oregon about certain news, events, or facts that are significant to the city's history, or "story".

211. **Sense of place, symbolism** – Define the Culture and Community of Hermiston. Hermiston needs to have its community culture better utilized in its branding and placemaking strategies. Their motto, "Where life is sweet" evokes a sense of happiness and the symbol of a watermelon reminds people of summer. This symbolism could be employed more effectively in the branding and design for the City of Hermiston to enhance the sense of place. Implementation: Creating a common aesthetic theme for public facilities is crucial, including hidden watermelons elements. Establishing a cohesive color scheme to complement the natural surroundings of Hermiston. This theme can be incorporated within public spaces, city buildings, street art, signage, and wayfinding elements.
212. **Sense of place, tourism** - Plan, design and develop commercial districts for tourism. This approach is different than traditional planning in that planning must focus on city imageability and touristic experience.
213. **Sense of place, transect planning** – Incorporate urban-rural transect planning to promote the connectivity between urban areas and rural areas. This is the combination of zoning methodology for community design and environmental methodology for habitat assessment to remove the boundary between nature and the human-made environment. To move forward with transect city planning in Hermiston, environmental specialists could be involved to assess the current layout of the streets and figure out ways to incorporate nature in urban design.
214. **Sense of place, water feature** – Invent a water feature landmark, to give the town a sense of place and to draw the attention of tourists, while giving them a sense of where they are located in the city. This landmark would also provide a space with some of the cleanest air in the city. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Fountain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Fountain)
215. **Sense of place, watermelon theme** – Design a watermelon-themed street with public art. The festival street would be the center of the Watermelon Festival.
216. **Sense of place, welcome sign** – Create a huge welcome sign: The welcome sign for a city is the first thing people are going to see and it is also their first impression of the city. If the sign lacks the attention-grabbing details people are less likely to stop for a visit, vice versa if it is an amazing eye-grabbing sign people are going to need to stop there. The sign should be big and has to have something to do with watermelons; people who do not already know need to know how tasty Hermiston watermelons are. The second aspect of the sign should have something that can light up to attract people in the nighttime, that is powered by a solar panel.
217. **Sense of place, zoning** - Revise development code to be more flexible and less standardized to promote socio-economic changes (e.g. outdoor dining in commercial zones) and enhanced sense of place (e.g. unique neighborhood street trees). Consider performance zoning for commercial districts.
218. **Transportation, bike co-ops and shops** - Establish bike shops downtown. As bike sales have increased over the pandemic, bike shops have been capitalizing on the demand for bikes. Cities with more bike shops have seen an increase in riders as well because greater access to bikes, encourages more people to get out and ride. (Bernhard, 2020). Hermiston currently only has one bike shop in town. Adding more bike shops, particularly to the downtown area, will increase

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ridership because residents will have more access to bike materials and repair services. In Tallahassee, bike culture is booming due to the significant amount of bike co-ops and shops in the community (AC Shilton and the Bicycling Magazine Editors, 2020). <https://www.bicycling.com/culture/a23676188/best-bike-cities-2018/>

219. **Transportation, bike culture** – Invest in bike culture. Bike culture is a quality investment for small cities like Hermiston because it creates a healthy community, bringing people together through sustainable transportation. In the city of Farmington, New Mexico, they created an extensive plan with maps to encourage more biking and walking in the city (2019 bicycle and pedestrian plan: Farmington, NM). The city prioritizes bike and pedestrian infrastructure by checking to see if there is street space for bike lanes before overlaying new pavement for vehicle lanes (Gjerdingen, 2021). If Hermiston followed a similar system, they would be able to save money on future infrastructure developments by not having to put more money into vehicular road paving all while increasing the number of bike lanes available on the roads. <https://fmtn.org/384/2019-Bicycle-and-Pedestrian-Plan>
220. **Transportation, bike education** – Implement bike education in schools. Bike education programs include hosting events in after-school settings where students have the opportunity to learn bike safety and for some, even how to ride a bike. By starting young, implementing these programs in elementary and middle schools, Hermiston will be able to encourage a whole generation of kids to ride bikes as a primary mode of transportation. In San Francisco, and other cities around the country, Safe Rides to School is a program in which kids are taught bike safety and are shown the safest routes to ride to school. <https://www.sfsaferoutes.org/>
221. **Transportation, bike lane** – Create a protected bike lane connecting Theater Sports Park to Butte Park to Hermiston High School to encourage non-automobile options
222. **Transportation, bike lane** – Implement a protected bike lane along N First St. My recommendation is for a protected bike lane to be added to both sides of N First St to not only encourage the reduction of automobile use but also increase the accessibility of services through cycling. Because N First St is highly trafficked, the implementation of a protected bike lane is important because “they improve traffic safety for everyone, including drivers and pedestrians” (Lloyd, 2021).
223. **Transportation, bike lanes** – Create bike lanes connecting residential areas to downtown. In Copenhagen, Denmark, suburban and residential areas are connected to the city centers through bike lanes. They call these advanced bike lanes, “cycle superhighways” and they create an extensive network of bike paths that can take you from the suburbs to the city, in a short and easily bikeable distance (The Urban Land Institute, 2012). Now, it is not feasible for Hermiston to incorporate an entire network of bike lanes that is to the extent of the cycle superhighways in Copenhagen, however, taking inspiration from them would be helpful. If Hermiston were even able to implement a few protected bike lanes in different areas of the city that would connect the suburbs to the city center, this would be a major improvement. By doing so, more people can ride their bikes to work, school, the grocery store, or other retail shops, and this decreases the need for cars. Making biking more feasible as a mode of transportation, is the first step to getting more residents to choose biking over driving. <https://americas.uli.org/wp-content/uploads/ULI-Documents/Copenhagen-Cycle-Superhighways.pdf>
224. **Transportation, bike lanes** – Create two-way protected bike lanes on NE First Street. In Manhattan, two-way protected

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bike lanes are incorporated throughout the city to protect bikers from vehicular traffic and congestion. This provides bikers with the safety to feel comfortable enough to bike in a busy city such as New York (The City of New York DOT, 2021). However, these bike lanes are not only designed for big-city settings, they may be implemented in small towns as well. Hermiston's NE First street is a five-lane, two-way street that runs through the middle of town. Removing one of these lanes to create a barrier-protected two-way bike lane would provide a safe route for bikers to get around town. <https://www.nycstreetdesign.info/geometry/two-way-bike-lane>



**EOTEC Rodeo Arena**

227. **Transportation, bike paths** – Add more bike paths to allow for easier transportation across the town. As shown in the map below, current bike paths are very limited with where residents can travel. This would have the same environmental benefits as walkable transportation, and additionally, it would help residents feel more at home and establish a sense of community as they would be able to be more in touch with nature and also use it as a social activity.

228. **Transportation, bike paths and sidewalks** – Create more bike paths and sidewalks: Every city can use more bike paths and sidewalks, this is especially true for the city of Hermiston. An increase of bike paths and sidewalks is extremely beneficial in multiple ways; it decreases traffic and carbon emissions because people are less

likely to take their cars, increases will-being because people can take a walk or enjoy a nice bike ride through the city, and it also increases the safety of the city because of the decrease of vehicles on the road. When they build the bike paths it is also a smart idea to paint them green to increase the safety of the bikers.

225. **Transportation, bike parking** – Add more bike parking at all shopping centers.

226. **Transportation, bike parking** – Design bike parking. In the Netherlands, bike parking is extensive, with the city of Utrecht having the world's largest bike parking garage beneath the city's train station. It's three stories and has over 12,000 bike parking spots (Cook, 2019). In Hermiston, if more secure bike parking, more than just a couple of bike racks, is constructed, residents will feel more comfortable locking up their bikes.

229. **Transportation, bike rental** – Furnish City hourly rentable bicycles and install stations at major gathering hubs.

230. **Transportation, bike safety** – Improve cyclist safety. Cyclist safety can be improved by implementing traffic lights for bike

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signals (Ink, 2019). In Eugene, Oregon on 13th Ave there is a two-way protected bike lane complete with bike traffic signals at every intersection between the cross-streets of Lincoln and Alder (Register-Guard, 2020). This would encourage more residents to bike on main roads because bike traffic signals protect bikers and prevent car-bike collisions. <https://www.registerguard.com/story/news/2020/10/22/13-th-avenue-bikeway-gives-cyclists-protected-lane-travel-campus/3718536001/>

231. **Transportation, bike share** – Implement a bike-share program like PeaceHealth, place a bike hub on the corner of the dwelling park NE 4th Avenue and one on the beginning of the commercial area on the corner of NE North Street and Oregon Avenue.
232. **Transportation, bike share** - Introduce affordable bike-share programs. Bike share programs allow people who are unfamiliar with bikes, a feasible introduction to biking at low costs (Bryce, 2016). To increase bike usage in Hermiston, an affordable bike share program could allow residents, particularly those who wish to bike but cannot afford to purchase one, to use them whenever needed, at a rideshare equivalent or less cost. In Seattle, Limebikes, a bike-share program, had 1 million rides in its first six months of being available in the city (AC Shilton and the Bicycling Magazine Editors, 2020). <https://sdblog.seattle.gov/2020/06/22/lime-bikes-return-to-seattle/>
233. **Transportation, bikeability** - Create Bicycle Lane from downtown to the project area.
234. **Transportation, bus app** – Create an app for bus navigation
235. **Transportation, bus route** – Implement a bus route along N First St. Because N First St runs through the entire city, a bus route would make the most sense to reduce automobile traffic and allow for goods and services to be more accessible. Once a city that reflected an automobile-dependent American town, the City of Brampton has become a model of success for implementing public transportation: “Brampton [has] managed to double its per capita ridership in only 12 years” (Robert, 2018).
236. **Transportation, buses** - Add more bus routes and consider themed busses such as double-deckers.
237. **Transportation, curb management** - Reevaluate curbside land use and development. “Curbs are quickly evolving from repositories for a single smog-emitting mode into hyperlocal transportation terminals, with a variety of transportation modes zipping in and out.” (Barth, 2019)
238. **Transportation, curb strip** - Create a narrow strip—16 inches or so—of concrete, brick or any hard surface at the curb and extending into the plating strip to allow a person getting out of the car to keep the feet dry. (Sucher, 1996)
239. **Transportation, electric vehicles** – Transition to electric vehicle public transportation: Especially with the increasing gas prices, diesel-reliant busses are a huge waste of money and a strain on air quality. Compared to electric busses, the cost of filling up the tank costs more than just simply charging the bus. There are also hundreds of moving parts in an internal combustion engine that could all break at any given moment, and that can cost tens of thousands of dollars; electric vehicles are so much simpler – the only maintenance you have to do to them is the breaks, which costs next to nothing compared to all of the maintenance you have to constantly keep up with an internal combustion engine. Another obvious reason to switch to an electric vehicle public transportation system is the amount of carbon emissions that it will reduce, making the air more breathable, the city cleaner, and reducing our carbon footprint.

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240. **Transportation, environmentally-friendly** – Implement an environmentally-conscious transport system. The city is already doing a solid job, as there is a very cheap and accessible bus system. While that is a great starting point, there is a potential way to improve it even further. As reported by the Hermiston Herald, “...out of the approximately 20,000 rides per year the service provides, about two-thirds are to Walmart, Lifeways, or Good Shepherd Medical Center” (McDowell). When looking at a map of Hermiston, you can see that both Walmart and Lifeways are favored to sides of the town as opposed to being centrally located.
241. **Transportation, infrastructure** – Establish accessible transportation infrastructure that encourages alternative modes of travel within the North Hermiston Site Plan area via Implementing bike infrastructure, protected bike lanes, bike share stations, Repair and maintenance stops, Bike racks, Reliable and equitable transit network, Accessible transit infrastructure, separated transit lanes, Covered and comfortable transit stops. Seattle models an effective approach to diversifying transportation and reflects positive trends in increasing non-car travel. In response to post-COVID reopenings, Seattle has added new bike facilities, bus-only lanes, options for scooter share, and Stay Healthy Streets—closed to traffic to open up space for people and encourage improvements to individual health—as well as making adjustments to optimize pre-existing transportation and traffic operations (“Our vision to creating a smoother commute for you”). Hermiston’s sense of place would benefit tremendously from an effective transit network and infrastructure that encourages diverse transportation behaviors.
242. **Transportation, micro-mobility** – Re-pave NE North Street, E, Oregon Avenue, and NE 2nd Street. Add bike lanes on the major streets, Hermiston is a relatively flat area that is a good place for alternative modes of transportation rather than a car.
243. **Transportation, micro-mobility lanes** – Bike and Micro mobility Lanes. Add visual appeal and micro-mobility is a “Third Lane” with a green divider along North 1st Street starting at Munoz N.E. to E Gladys Ave. Not only does it slow the traffic down, but it also adds beauty and an alternate form of environmentally friendly transportation. This Path would connect the new vacant lot with the main shopping areas of Hermiston. By turning a four-lane street into a two-lane street and adding a separated bike lane. It would also allow kids to get to Sunset Elementary School safely. This bike lane would add visual appeal to the street, creating a whole new level of connectivity. Increasing the city’s biking would also increase the need for bike-share, a prevalent and affordable form of micro-mobility accessible to all.
244. **Transportation, micro-mobility paths** - Create wide bike and walking paths.
245. **Transportation, multimodal / intermodal** - Reevaluate public transportation with a focus on improving transportation options (multimodal) and the ability to shift between them (intermodal).
246. **Transportation, North Hermiston parking** – Replace remaining North Hermiston Site Plan parking lots with mixed-use, diverse, and compact buildings to establish the area as a walkable and interactive community center. Examples of infrastructure that could be put in include high-density affordable housing, local businesses and markets, restaurants, public space, transportation infrastructure, and community and government buildings that connect the community. The decisions of which projects will be implemented into the space should be community and equity informed via

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community outreach and other efforts to understand and fulfill community needs and visions.

247. **Transportation, North Hermiston walkability** – Create walkable pathways to Walmart, Home Depot, Cinema, etc.

248. **Transportation, parking requirements** – Eliminate parking requirements in the City of Hermiston to encourage affordable housing, changing transportation preferences, and to utilizing available space for pedestrian livability rather than car experience. Typical parking requirements for two-bedroom apartments measure more than half the size of the actual apartments and raise the rent by an average additional 17%. As a result, there are more than 130 examples of communities nationwide that have reduced or eliminated parking minimums that the City of Hermiston could reference to implement associated community benefits (Spivak 2018). Further, the supply of parking massively exceeds demand and often sits empty, and as cities develop more frequent transit near residential areas, apartment buildings use less parking (“Stalled Out” 2016).

249. **Transportation, parking spaces** – Create smaller parking spaces and distribute them proportionally



**Hermiston Funland and Aquatic Center**

250. **Transportation, pathways** – Build various pathways to enhance social interaction between residents as well as provide an alternative mode of transportation. Sustainable cities must have alternative transportation methods. This is something that will be crucial to the future development of cities. Hermiston should include well-designed pathways through the planned site, as it allows for residents to interact more with the environment.

251. **Transportation, pavement** - Construct a textured, permeable pavement to make the street more friendly to walkers and other modes besides automobiles.

252. **Transportation, public** – Transportation needs to be improved upon by having only one taxi and bus system within the area. Creating a city that wants more

options than just driving around through the perspective of being more environmentally friendly. This will allow and enable people who don't have cars to still regularly go out and offer a safer and easier option than just walking. Walking is effective at times, but if someone is carrying groceries home or picking up their children from school, it can become a little illogical, and inconvenient.

253. **Transportation, rideshare** – Expand the current rideshare program through Uber and Lyft, making a pickup zone in the most heavily populated parts of Hermiston. Increase the

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number of jobs in the area while providing a safe way to get around town.

254. **Transportation, road design** - Level the road and remove any curbs, lane markings, and stoplights.
255. **Transportation, road diet** – Decrease number of vehicle lanes on major streets. The USDOT refers to this concept as “Road Diets” in which traffic is calmed by removing the number of vehicle lanes or decreasing the width of the travel lanes (USDOT, 2019). Back in 2012, the city of Portland removed car lanes on Northeast Multnomah Street to make room for environmental barriers to protect bike lanes from vehicle lanes (Rose, 2014). If Hermiston were to remove vehicle lanes, particularly on big four or more lane streets, bikers would feel more protected from vehicle congestion and there would be increased space available for shared street space options.
256. **Transportation, roundabout** – Add a roundabout where N First St and E Oregon St intersect. Where N First Street and E Oregon St intersect no traffic signal protects the turn onto E Oregon St, which is a residential street. Adding a roundabout will slow down traffic and reduce safety risks: “In the state of Indiana, 256 roundabouts (also called traffic circles) have been constructed since 2016, and the data is showing what Europeans have known for decades: they reduce collisions, fatalities, traffic congestion, and fuel consumption” (Corbley, 2021). There is an opportunity to add a public art display in the center of a roundabout.
257. **Transportation, roundabouts** – Create more roundabouts at high-traffic intersections in Western Hermiston to increase exposure to natural sights, improve wayfinding, and improve visibility for pedestrians
258. **Transportation, scooters** – Invest in an electric scooter system (ex. Lime, Bolt, or Spin) to station along the shared streets.
259. **Transportation, shared streets** – Designate the streets downtown as shared lanes with bikes and automobiles using the street in conjunction
260. **Transportation, shared-space roads** – Add a shared space in frequently-populated public areas. For those who are unaware, a shared space refers to a roadway that is shared by both pedestrians and drivers alike. This may sound a bit strange on paper or as a recipe for traffic accidents, but it has many benefits. This is because it is arguable that we have lost our sense of what streets should be like. This is summarized by the quote “The problem that many towns suffer is that, in trying to accommodate traffic, they have allowed streets to become so heavily dominated by vehicles, that those streets have lost their primary purpose, which is as places that attract people, that attract investment, that attract spending” (Hamilton-Baille). By making streets a walkable public area, it will bolster the sense of community in a place by attracting both tourists and locals alike to experience amenities that could then be added to the said street.
261. **Transportation, sidewalks** – Implement wider and protected sidewalks along N First St. Implementing wider sidewalks will allow goods and services to be more accessible, and lead to the decreased use of automobiles. By adding a natural sound barrier like trees or bushes, the pedestrian experience becomes more enjoyable and safer. On Michigan Avenue in Chicago, streets have been made wider to resemble plazas: “giving walkers dedicated space... contribute[s]... to the overall experience in a way that benefits tourists, residents, and workers in local office buildings. To make the area even more of a destination, we expanded the pedestrian

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plazas and gave over even more space to visitors” (Sisson & Walker, 2017).

262. **Transportation, street parking** – Remove vehicle street parking. By removing car street parking to implement bike lanes and multi-use street space, Hermiston will not only be able to disincentivize driving but encourage more residents to bike to downtown, therefore cutting down on congestion and traffic (Andersen et al., 2015).
263. **Transportation, symmetrical sidewalk systems** - Constructing symmetrical sidewalk systems throughout the neighborhood containing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Streets would provide not only safety but urban cohesion and walkability. Symmetrical sidewalks meaning on each side of the road where it is not already present.
264. **Transportation, traffic calming** - Construct roundabouts as entrances to the street to reduce speeds and signal entry.
265. **Transportation, traffic calming** - Install bilingual, advisory speed signage at each entrance of the shared space street.
266. **Transportation, traffic calming** – Traffic calming points are essential with the city growing. These traffic calming points can be designed in roundabouts with a small patch of greenery in the middle, this will make the city look much classier. More importantly, this will help reduce accidents keeping the residents safe which makes the city as a whole increase its optimal living potential.
267. **Transportation, walkability** – Walkability is important when it comes to the sustainable growth of a city, as everyone doesn't have the luxury of owning their car. Creating a walkable city makes the city more accessible for all the residents. A tool for measuring this can be the [Walk Score](#), which is a type of automated efficiency model focused on location efficiency.
268. **Transportation, Walmart Parking** - Convert the current Walmart parking lot into a hybrid, multi-use parking structure. This structure would provide the parking space for the whole North Hermiston Site Plan and flex into different uses during periods of low parking needs. The City of Hermiston could cite ways in which other communities have converted parking structures into community centers when the structure is at its lowest capacity. Examples for repurposing underused parking structures—combined also with green infrastructure that emphasize roof gardens and public-art opportunities—could include temporary community spaces like San Francisco’s Park(ing) Day or hybrid service space like a French project that uses different levels of the structure for urban logistics, a delivery hub, and a space for bike storage and repair (“10 ideas for repurposing city car parks” 2019).
269. **Transportation, West Harper Road** – Transition W. Harper Road to a transit and pedestrian/bike space only to connect the Marlette Homes area residential extension to the marketplace promenade proposal and park areas, and to encourage pedestrian comfort, safety, interaction, and sense of place in this area. (See *Marketplace Promenade* recommendation) Removing cars from this street would contribute to the pedestrian-centered intent of these recommendations which will directly create a more concrete sense of place.
270. **Urban ecology native plant species** – Choose native plant species for landscaping citywide and privately.
271. **Urban ecology, biodiversity** – Increase biodiversity throughout and around the site by incorporating native flora
272. **Urban ecology, biophilic design** – Build a biophilic design (e.g. green wall) on one of the commercial buildings on N 1st Street.

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273. **Urban ecology, bioswales** – Implement the use of Bioswales along N First St. Bioswales need to be implemented to collect rainwater, prevent standing water, and flash flooding. Due to the large amount of 'concrete islands' along N First St, the concern for standing water from the rain and snow season is prevalent. Portland has had great success in integrating bioswales because "these water diversion systems [have] worked at capturing and slowing down stormwater from streets, driveways and diverted downspouts. Their dugout shapes collected and held back the deluge" (Peterson, 2017).

274. **Urban ecology, bioswales** - implementing biophilic structures within commercial regions such as bioswales in the parking on E Oregon street can bring more nature into highly manmade landscapes.

275. **Urban ecology, bird boxes** – Utilize the Bird Box Program by the Willistown Conservation Trust to create safe nesting habitats.

276. **Urban ecology, bird-friendly** – Join the Bird Friendly City certification program.



**Centennial Bell and Clock Tower**

277. **Urban ecology, bird-safe glass** – Invest in bird-safe glass for any new buildings constructed for the Hermiston 2040 Project.

278. **Urban ecology, curbside gardens** – Incorporate curbside gardens.

279. **Urban ecology, drought-resistant plants** – Make and place more drought-resistant plants: Since rainfall is very limited in Hermiston, drought-resistant plants would be able to survive the long season of no rain and yet still yield growth. These plants will also still have their luster when the dry season hits, whereas non-drought-resistant plants will shrivel up and die.

280. **Urban ecology, edible landscape** – Plant more edible foods in public spaces: Planting foods like apples, oranges, and berries in public spaces for everyone to take

would not only increase the health of the population but also increase the well-being. This increases the well-being of the community for a few reasons first, it lets the citizens know that the government cares about them, and second, it gives them a "home" feeling in public areas because they can take however much food they want.

281. **Urban ecology, edible plants** – Plant edible native plants when possible.

282. **Urban ecology, fall foliage trees** - Planting deciduous trees Along E Theater Ln and NE 4th street would give visual

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appeal in fall along with the residential community as well as aid slightly in climate control by carbon sequestration. A possibility could be a Sugar Maple which has bright orange and yellow leaves in the fall.

283. **Urban ecology, flower boxes** - Placing green boxes and flower boxes outside of big box stores like Walmart on NE 4th could give more visual appeal to otherwise mundane strip malls and connect pollinating pathways within the commercial region.
284. **Urban ecology, flowers** - Stop and smell the flowers. Plant species that have fragrant foliage and blooms.
285. **Urban ecology, grass areas** - Minimize non-native grass areas.
286. **Urban ecology, green infrastructure** - Installing green infrastructure into existing buildings and future projects in the North Hermiston Site Plan including green roofs and interactive garden roofs, Replacement of grass with native plants. Open green space and public parks, Community gardens, green walls, Street trees, etc.
287. **Urban ecology, green roofs** - Add Green Roofs on top of the major buildings. This would serve two major purposes. The first would be mainly as an aesthetic. Green roofs are pretty to look at visually, and it would send a nice message that the city is taking environmental measures seriously, which is the second purpose. Green roofs provide many benefits, such as providing shade, trapping heat, and cutting energy costs. The latter point is going to be very important over the next few summers if they are anything like what Oregon saw this summer. The heatwave peaked with "...the Tuesday, June 29, temperatures in Pendleton - 117 degrees - and Hermiston - 118 degrees - are all-time modern highs for the two cities" (Sierra). These temperatures were lethal, causing many heat-related deaths across northern Oregon. Green Roofs will make it a lot safer for people to just survive if this event occurs again.
288. **Urban ecology, green roofs** - retrofitting existing commercial roofs with green roofs along Umatilla-Stanfield Hwy and E Theater Ln. would have many environmental benefits as well as visual appeal being next to a residential area.
289. **Urban ecology, green spaces** - Build more green spaces such as paths and parks while also integrating more waterways and water features into future architectural endeavors.
290. **Urban ecology, green streets** - Designate specific commercial streets as green streets with bioswales and rainwater catching methods. In the future development, push for bioswales on all commercial streets as they are means of efficiently and effectively transporting excess water.
291. **Urban ecology, green walls** - Install green walls on buildings as a means of sound absorption, insulation, biodiversity, and esthetics. Green walls are proven to drive down temperatures within buildings and allow less energy to be spent on the cooling of interior spaces.
292. **Urban ecology, native plants** - Plant native plants and wildflowers on any empty patches to advance biodiversity within the park and to attract pollinators. <https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/37893/Native-Plant-Alternatives?bidId=>
293. **Urban ecology, planter boxes** - Incorporate edible landscaping into the downtown planter boxes and provide signage specifying species and important characteristics such as when food will be ready for harvest.
294. **Urban ecology, pollinating pathways** - Planting flowering native pollinating species in small increments along Umatilla-

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Stanfield Hwy and Hermiston ditch would help bees and other pollinators during the springtime and connect local green spaces.

resistant species while planting native plants will increase biodiversity and help keep invasive species away.



295. **Urban ecology, pollinators** – Plant bee-friendly plants within a community garden.
296. **Urban ecology, rooftop gardens** – Create urban agriculture on top of buildings
297. **Urban ecology, shared street landscaping** - Implement Green Spaces (ex. Trees, flowers, bushes) along the sides of each shared street.
298. **Urban ecology, street trees** – Plant more trees along streets and in public spaces to heighten sensory stimuli and contribute to building a natural canopy of biodiversity and life. Increase in streetscapes with trees with filter air, provide habitat for animals, and allow individuals to interact with the natural world. Consider experiential values: seasonal color, fragrance, blossoms, wind sound, fruit and nuts.
299. **Urban ecology, streetscapes** – Appeal to green transportation by evaluating ways to turn public transportation into environmentally active contributors that lower Co2 emissions. While vertical edible gardens could line bus stops, green roofs could be added to buses and other forms of public transportation to improve air quality and cool temperatures during the summer months. Lining streets with trees and other vegetation not only cools streets down but slows traffic and makes it safer for pedestrians and cyclists to travel. So why not line those streets with edible plants? It would increase walkability and localize the space, so it feels more inviting to walk because there is now something to walk to and explore.
300. **Urban ecology, xeriscaping** – Expand landscaping design to include xeriscaping and planting of native plants. Xeriscaping will be practical as it will allow the planting of drought-

# Appendices



## Informational Videos

**V**ideos were produced by each student to briefly describe planning and design projects and programs relevant to Hermiston and other cities. The video topics are listed alphabetically and linked to YouTube.

- [10 Steps for Home Resiliency Disaster Preparedness](#)—Nick DiCeglie
- [5 Reasons for Implementing Green Roofs](#)—Charlotte Tuttle
- [A Five-Step Guide to Hermiston’s Public Mini-Golf Course](#)—Wiley Smith
- [Addressing Food Security in Urban Areas](#)—Cameron Tolbert-Scott
- [Amazing Ideas for Hermiston](#)—Andrew Black
- [Amsterdam: Green Space and Cycling](#)—Lucy Partridge
- [Bicycle Transportation](#)—Bailie Severson
- [Biking Mobility](#)—Alina Wei

- [Biophilic Cities](#)—Ivy Brott
- [Building an Interactive Multimodal Greenspace for North Hermiston](#)—Zach Williams
- [Celebration NOT Commodification: 10 Steps to Equitably Construct a Cultural Festival Street](#)—Alex Staben
- [Color Wheel of the City: Urban Color Psychology](#)—Madeline Snoke
- [Communication in Design](#)—Ann Moorhead
- [Community Gardens](#)—Julia Odenthal
- [Creating a Stronger Community Through Smart Design](#)—Payton Lagomarsino
- [Cultivating Sense of Place Through Restoration and Representation of Plant Life](#)—Giannina Crocito
- [Ecosystems in the Sky: Green Roofs](#)—Kailey Kreienbrink
- [Edible Landscaping in Lane County](#)—Ellie Fischer
- [Environmental Ethics](#)—John Good

# Appendices

Experiential Planning: Public Art—Zaydhy Calderon

Gather Around the Outdoor Dining—Izzy Hazard

Green Facade: Walk in the Forest City—Jun Kim

Green Infrastructure—Bella Colombo

Green Roofs—Bryn Callie

Green Roofs—Caroline DeBruine

Green Roofs—Mia Steinfeld

Habitat-Friendly Housing—Habitat-Friendly Housing

Hermiston 2040: Urban Wildlife Conservation—Ali Egging

Hermiston Community Visioning—Ashlyn Spencer

Hermiston Eats Its Way into Sustainability: How Hermiston Can Integrate Edible Gardening Into Its Public Spaces—Kaitlyn Halpin

Hermiston Informational Video—Michael Yoo

Hermiston Project—Michael LaQuay

Hermiston, Oregon: City with Bike Potential—Sarah-Anne Bedrosian

How to Make a City Safe for Pedestrians—Aliya Ware

Inclusive Experiential Planning for the Homeless Community of Eugene, Oregon—Sequoia Shand

LEED Certification—Katie Arredondo

On the Verge—Alaina O'Regan

Outdoor Dining: Sense of Place—Charlie Boiler

Outdoor Dining: The Benefits of Community Dining Spaces—

Stella Feuerborn

Painting Caves Today Just Like Our Ancestors Did Yesterday: An Experiential Art Proposal—Austyn Tavernier

Parklets—Claire Devereux

Parklets—Courtney Epstein

Plunk Art—Khaleb Baker

Public Art and Sense of Place in Hermiston, Oregon—Eralise Spokely

Public Art as a Means to Complement Biophilic Design—Olivia Holah

Public Art in New York—Sudha Basu

Public Art—Zane Alaywan

Public Parks—Holly Amer

Repurposing Infrastructure: NYC—Mary Martinez

Sense of Place—Rocky Stern

Sense of Place—Zara Replinger

Shared Space Street—Maggie Stathis

Sharing is Caring—Caleb De Jung

Solar Energy in Hermiston—Ashton Rantilla

The Importance of Art Education in Urban Development and Resilience—Alison Beaulieu

The Importance of Public Art in Hermiston—Noah Sary

The Need for Outdoor Fitness Parks—Blake Pederson

Urban Agriculture: The Future of Farming—Seamus

# Appendices

McGuinness

Urban Agriculture—Ivy Renner

Urban Agriculture—Maya Hosaka

Using Earthships as a Model for Adequate Housing in  
Hermiston—Zack Hatch

Walk Score—Kate Lloyd

Why Cities Should Adopt a Smart Parking System—Annie  
Christofferson



# Appendices



## Experiential Planning Website

The Experiential Planning website is part of **UO Blogs**, an easy-to-use academic blogging and web publishing service for the University of Oregon community. The <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/experientialplanning/> website serves as a repository for all Hermiston materials and other class projects including:

- Contacts
- Design Charrette Reference Materials
- Design Competition Reference Materials
- Experiential Icons Font
- Green Cities Introduction and Syllabus
- Hermiston Visioning and Design Charrette Recommendations
- ***Hermiston Visioning, Planning and Design***
- Informational Videos

- ***Public Art: 200 Examples for Experiential Design***
- Public Art Reference Materials
- Public Hearing Reference Materials
- ***The Queue Mannequin Challenge***



# Appendices



## Public Art Projects

Public art is one of the planning and design approaches to enhancing sense of place and community. Green Cities students engaged in several activities related to public art.

### Experiential Icons Font

Student researchers designed or selected icons relevant to their research. Many icons are connected with the senses and experiential design, the course theme. These icons were converted to vector graphics and published online by **1001 Free Fonts** as *Experiential Font*.

### Public Art: 200 Examples for Experiential Design

Student researchers compiled 200 examples of public art as a reference and inspiration for Hermiston and other cities to infuse public spaces with art projects and programs. The example were published on the project website: *Public Art: 200 Examples for Experiential Design*.

## The Queue: Mannequin Challenge

To experience a type of participatory public art, students organized a “mannequin challenge.” The mannequin challenge refers to a viral video trend in which a group of people are filmed frozen in position like mannequins. In this exercise, students laid on the ground while a small drone flew over to take photos/video. The resulting composite image was rotated 180° to simulate a line (or queue) of students. [see image above] The photo and an infographic are on the [Experiential Planning](#) website.



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*It's never too late to have a happy childhood.*

**Tom Robbins**

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*Don't cry because it's over.  
Smile because it happened.*  
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*Go the extra mile;  
it's never crowded.*



*The best views come from  
the hardest climbs.*

Anon.

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*They come.  
They go.  
They seldom know  
What they do.  
But they do  
Change you.*  
**Laurence Craig-Green**

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**Vacant Parcel Figure-Ground Image**  
Courtesy Anna Murphy

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