

## **MPC 550 Metropolitan Greenspaces: Orlando & Portland**

Classes Meet 645-915 July 2-August 7, trip to Portland, OR (July 26-July 30).  
Bruce Stephenson, x1587, [bstephenson@rollins.edu](mailto:bstephenson@rollins.edu)

Metropolitan Greenspace Planning is key to regional planning. This course will analyze the regional “green infrastructure” of Orlando and Portland, Oregon and conclude with a five-day study of Portland, Oregon. Students will first assess and categorize model greenspaces in the Orlando and Portland region from the neighborhood scale to wilderness preserves. In Portland, special emphasis will be placed on assessing the quality of public and semi-public spaces in the Pearl District and Orenco Station. The criteria for this exercise is adopted from Lund and Chapman, “Housing Density and Livability in Portland, Oregon,” in Osawa, ed., *The Portland Edge: Challenges And Successes In Growing Communities*:

1. The presence of sidewalks and street trees.
2. Access to retail, civic buildings and parks.
3. Connected Street networks.
4. Utilization of alleys and home placement to enhance pedestrian environment.
5. The diversity of spaces and users.
6. Spaces that provide for wildlife and/or native plant species.
7. Access to transit

### **TEXTS**

Connie Osawa ed., *The Portland Edge: Challenges And Successes In Growing Communities* ISBN 978-1559636957

Mike Houck, *Ecological Landscape: Connecting Neighborhood to City and City to Region*\*

Mike Houck, *Respecting Nature’s Design in Metropolitan Portland, Oregon*.\*

Bruce Stephenson, *A Vision of Green: Lewis Mumford’s Legacy in Portland, Oregon*.\*

Sustainlane Most Sustainable Cities: <http://grist.org/article/defining/>  
[http://www.csrwire.com/press\\_releases/18628-SustainLane-Announces-Annual-U-S-City-Rankings](http://www.csrwire.com/press_releases/18628-SustainLane-Announces-Annual-U-S-City-Rankings)

\* On e-reserve, green=password

### **GOALS**

1. Assessing the elements and layout of a regional Greenspace plan.
2. Analyzing the quality of urban public and semi-public spaces.
3. Assessing the relation between land use and urban greenspaces.

### **Week 1: Introduction**

July 1 Portland, An Experiment in Livability

July 3

1. Stephenson, *A Vision of Green: Lewis Mumford’s Legacy in Portland, Oregon*;
2. *The Portland Edge*, Chapter 1

### **Week 2: Linking Past & Present**

July 8

1. \*ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE

Houck, *Respecting Nature's Design in Metropolitan Portland, Oregon*

July 10

Houck, *Ecological Landscape: Connecting Neighborhood to City and City to Region*

QUIZ

July 13 Saturday, Baldwin Park Site Analysis 9am-1pm

### **Week 3: The Portland Model**

July 15

*The Portland Edge*, 2, 7

July 17,

*The Portland Edge*, 9, 10.

### **Week 4: Portland-Orlando Urbanism & Greenspaces**

July 22

1. Creative Village Presentation

2. \*Assignment 2 Due

#### **Trip Agenda**

Day One: Sustainable Urbanism I (4 Hours)

Park Blocks

Willamette Greenway

Tanner Park, Jamison Square

Day Two: Sustainable Urbanism II (8 hours)

Craig Ustler, Pearl District (9am-11am)

Chinese Garden

Mike Houck, South Waterfront (1pm to 430pm)

Day Three: Historic Urbanism (8 hours)

Ladd's Addition Neighborhood

Laurelhurst Park

Forest Park

Day Four Sustainable Urbanism Part III (8 hours)

Orenco Station,

Washington Park and Portland Japanese Garden

Day Five Review (2 Hours)

**Final**

August 8<sup>th</sup>, Presentation, Assignment 4\*

## **Assignments**

Assignment 1: EATONVILLE (10 points) Pick a Greenspace category and analyze one site of your choosing, include:

1. Walks Scores [www.walkscore.com](http://www.walkscore.com)
2. Complete two Pedestrian Assessments for each site. Take the average of their score for your write up. Pick two segments that are conducive to pedestrians. Make sure origin points of the segments are separated by at least ½ mile.
3. See example of write ups on website.

Quiz (5 pts)

Assignment 2 BALDWIN PARK (25 points) In groups of 2, Analyze the Greenspace Types and the requisite urbanism for Baldwin Park

Assignment 3: PORTLAND (20 points)

1. Using the previous format, assess one example of each Greenspace type in Portland, with at least 2 examples coming from Orenco Station.

Assignment 4: PORTLAND (40 points)

1. Group projects: Assess the quality of public and semi-public spaces in the Pearl District. The criteria for this exercise is adopted from Lund and Chapman, "Housing Density and Livability in Portland, Oregon," in Osawa, ed., *The Portland Edge: Challenges And Successes In Growing Communities*:

1. The presence of sidewalks and street trees.
2. Access to retail, civic buildings and parks.
3. Connected Street networks.
4. Utilization of alleys and home placement to enhance pedestrian environment.
5. The diversity of spaces and users.
6. Spaces that provide for wildlife and/or native plant species.
7. Access to transit

In addition, rank the top 5 spaces that could inform Creative Village. Prepare a 3 page executive summary and powerpoint group presentation. For example, see: <http://db.tt/5gc2xd5>

Presentations:

1. Clarity
2. Quality of Material presented: was it rational and visually appealing.

3. Factual basis: was there data to support claims and was the text used.
4. Did you your proposal denote possible impediments, and means to overcome them.

5. Presentations:

1. Clarity
2. Quality of Material presented: was it rational and visually appealing.
3. Factual basis: was there data to support claims and was the text used.
4. Did you your proposal denote possible impediments, and means to overcome them.
5. Enthusiasm for material and ability to engage the audience.