

Assistant Professor Nancy Rottle  
Lecturer Brice Maryman

## Open Space Seattle 2100: Designing Seattle's Green Network for the Next Century

MWF 1:30-5:30 • 6 credits  
Gould 435/Studio

*Open Space Seattle 2100 seeks to develop a comprehensive open space network vision for Seattle's next 100 years that will complement the city's predicted growth and density, and to build the broad constituency required to implement this vision.*

### COURSE INTRODUCTION

Seattle's population is expected to at least double within the next 100 years, adding another half-million or more people within the city boundaries. This urban population influx could provide an overall benefit for the region: recent planning for the Puget Sound region and King County emphasize that in order to conserve our remaining farms and forests we must concentrate population growth within existing communities. Otherwise, development will continue to sprawl, engulfing our last rural and wild places (see the Cascade Agenda.org).

But in order for Seattle to successfully densify, it must remain livable. To accomplish this, the city must possess an open space system that gives people access to social and green spaces where they live, commute and work. Our Olmsted-based park system, initiated in 1903, has been the city's open space backbone over the last century. Now, with open space and accompanying ecological functions at a premium, we must move toward a more inclusive and comprehensive vision of urban open space that makes use of every opportunity to create parks, gathering spaces, community gardens, recreational spaces, wildlife habitat, waterfronts, urban streetscapes, pedestrian trails, and bikeways and other low-impact transportation avenues. Such an **ecological, inclusive and multifunctional** open space vision will attract families and people of all ages to live in a more compact city, instead of sprawling over our remaining farm and forest land. A well-planned, connected system may also provide habitat and passage for fish and wildlife through Seattle's critical location at the mouth of two major watersheds, the Cedar and the Duwamish. But, to create a livable city where people and wildlife thrive together, we must plan now.

Open Space Seattle 2100 is a coalition of urban leadership that has formed to engage citizens in collaborative visioning for Seattle's future open space network. The University of Washington's Department of Landscape Architecture has convened leaders and citizens from civic, environmental, professional, neighborhood and community groups to create plans for connected open space that will serve residents, businesses, and our natural systems for the coming century. The vision will reach from the city limits to the downtown core, creating a comprehensive network of parks, civic spaces, streets, trails, shorelines, and urban forests that will bind neighborhoods to one another, create ecological conduits from the city's ridgelines to its shorelines, and ensure a wealth of green spaces for all citizens to enjoy.

The centerpiece of the project will be a 2-day planning charrette on February 3 and 4, 2006. Students in Larch 504 and 402 will join with teams of planners, architects, landscape architects, engineers, real-estate developers, artists, and open space advocates to discover and develop ideas for connected green streets, parks, trails, urban social spaces, waterfronts, recreational facilities and habitat, focusing on distinct study areas of the city. You will play key roles in supporting your team's process and advancing plans that your team generates in the charrette. Prior to the charrette each student will:

- prepare a "dossier" of materials for a study area, including base and opportunity maps;
- engage key community members
- lead or co-lead a tour of your study area and
- conduct research that will inform our class as well as other charrette participants.

You will participate in the charrette with your professional team, and afterwards will further refine and detail the plan for your study area. As a group you'll coalesce all of the study area plans into a comprehensive vision plan that you will present to the Open Space Seattle 2100 leadership team on March 14. Your plans will include inspiring examples of multi-functional open spaces, implementation strategies, and priority recommendations for near-term actions.

## COURSE GOALS

The goals of this studio are for students to:

- practice land analysis and digital mapping skills
- apply multi-faceted system-based thinking to green infrastructure development
- apply case study precedents and issued-based research to planning and design
- practice innovative design at a variety of scales, from large-scale planning to detailed design, and explore new, multi-functional open space types
- interact as an effective design team member with peers, professionals and citizens
- practice the role of designer as an engaged community member, reflecting that design is an inherently political act
- produce compelling visual and verbal presentations of design and planning solutions
- have fun while making a difference for Seattle's future

## STUDIO PROCESS

We will meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and most Friday afternoons for discussions, presentations, reviews, desk critiques, and group and individual work times. In addition, we'll be engaged in the project on at least three Saturdays. We'll work together as a collaborative team to accomplish our project and educational goals. Each participant is expected to be in class during the scheduled class time. Your charrette team members are welcome to interact with you during studio time, while being respectful of scheduled activities. The final presentation to the public will be on Tuesday, March 14, 11:00-12:30 (please note that this time diverges from the published finals schedule; please let us know the first week of class if you expect to have a time conflict).

You are highly encouraged to keep a journal that documents your research and design explorations. Consider including your research, charrette and design process, notes from readings, class and team discussions, solutions seen, heard and imagined, and your reflections and conclusions about process and product.

### Resources

A course bibliography of books on Reserve in the CAUP library is available on-line. Additional sources will be added during the term, and there may occasionally be assigned readings. If you know of useful texts related to the course content or process, by all means please share them with the group. The studies and reports done in the Fall 561 course should be tremendously useful; they will be posted to the open2100.org website and are kept on the U-drive.

### Studio Evaluation

Course grading will be based upon the following:

- |                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Study Area Maps and Dossier       | 25% |
| 2. Research /Case Study              | 15% |
| 3. Mid-term and Final Project        | 40% |
| 4. Book page for summary document    | 10% |
| 5. Class and charrette participation | 10% |

Evaluation will be based on the Department of Landscape Architecture policy for graduate courses, with numerical grades per the Department's scale for studio courses.

*In designing a system of parks and parkways the primary aim should be to secure and preserve for the use of the people as much as possible of these advantages of water and mountain views and of woodlands, well distributed and conveniently located. An ideal system would involve taking all the border of the different bodies of water, except such as are needed...for commerce, and to enlarge these fringes at convenient and suitable points, so as to include considerable bodies of woodland, as well as some fairly level land, which can be cleared and covered with grass for field sports and for the enjoyment of meadow scenery.....it will be seen that the proposed parkways [to be immediately acquired] are located so as to be of the greatest possible immediate advantage to the existing population, as well as to secure for all time convenient access to a great number of exceedingly fine view points, to preserve sufficient areas of the beautiful natural woods, and to provide a sufficiently continuous and long series of pleasure drives, bridle paths and bicycle paths, which purpose cannot be accomplished at all satisfactorily in the existing parks, nor even by a much less extensive parkway system than that suggested*

–Report of the Olmsted Brothers, Adopted by the Seattle City Council October 19, 1903