

CURA RCP: Scoping Meeting for Greenway and Community Center Projects | ARCH 3250

Friday, December 1, 2017 | Eddy Lake Room, Ramsey Municipal Plaza

Attendees: Mark Riverblood, Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent; James Wheeler, Course Instructor; Mike Greco, RCP Director; Dan Herrera, RCP Program Associate

Course Description. Architecture Workshop – Community Landscapes and Architecture (ARCH 3250-001) is an undergraduate class co-taught by James Wheeler and Joseph Favour. The class focuses on teaching students how to work with community partners and design green infrastructure and space. 20-24 students will be working in interdisciplinary teams of three with two teams on each project. The class meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Mark and RCP are invited to frame the project to the class and field questions in the beginning of the term.

Important Dates

Mark and RCP will visit the class on January 17, 19, 22, 24, or 26 depending on James' schedule

Mid-Semester Check-in Presentation will occur on March 5, 7 or 9

Both of the above mentioned events will occur between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm. The class's meeting location is has not yet been decided.

Project 4 – Community Center Plan

- The City of Ramsey is looking to build a community center for its residents, and is investigating whether this should be done in a centralized or decentralized model. Students in fall semester classes are currently researching what would be involved in either model
- The initial idea for the involvement of this class was for students to retool the Flagship Fitness proposal to make it meet the needs of Ramsey as a centralized community center
 - The Flagship Fitness plan has since been abandoned, but the location is still secured
 - Students could focus on the building and its uses
 - Specifically look into sustainable building practices, such as the construction of a green roof, etc.
- If the city decides to use the decentralized model, the buildings' uses must be flexible and avoid redundancy.
- Because residents in northern Ramsey have a strong preference to maintain their rural character, they would likely be opposed to building community center buildings
 - Instead, the city could turn the underutilized city-owned parcels in that area into public recreation areas that maintain the rural characteristic of northern Ramsey, such as edible landscapes
 - Students should look to see what gaps exist in recreation resources around the city, and how those gaps can be met in these dispersed parcels, as well as how to connect residents to these recreation areas

- Students can investigate what the city can do to design these parcels to be visually-unobtrusive recreation areas
- Students should read and interoperate the work of the fall semester students as they work on these projects

Project 8 – Greenway Plan

- Ramsey has several regional parks for its residents to use, but some residents have limited access to these resources. The City of Ramsey has proposed that a greenway be built that circles to the community to connect residents to the parks across the city
- There are currently gaps within the greenway that need to be filled, such as the section of trail that will connect the COR, Ramsey's downtown district, to Lake Itasca
 - A tentative plan for this connection was recently dismissed because it lacked specificity
- The students could design this trail paying particular focus to the following aspects:
 - The specific route the trail will follow
 - The design landscape design surrounding the trail
 - Storm water retention systems for the greenway
 - Where infrastructure such as benches or signs will be placed
 - How the trail will connect with the COR
 - The city currently has several concept designs for this connection that the students can use as a foundation
- This clearly defined concept design will be used to create a city-approved greenway plan that ensures its development
- This project will allow for the collaboration of all three professors and an interdisciplinary team of students

General Meeting Discussion

- The three proposed projects are listed below:
 1. Building concept for a centralized community center in the COR with a particular focus on sustainable and green architecture
 2. Identify underutilized parcels in rural Ramsey and create concept designs for decentralized recreation areas/facilities that will not detract from the area's rural character
 3. Create a detailed concept design for a greenway that connects Lake Itasca and the COR that incorporates storm water management and trail space
- James will discuss these projects with his co-instructors on Monday
- Students in the class will be working on the projects that are proposed. That is to say, there is no chance of a project being proposed and not being selected by the students
- The instructors will write project proposals for each of these projects and share them with Mark and RCP before presenting them to the students
- Mark and RCP are invited to come to class to speak on and field questions about the projects

- The students will undergo a formal mid-semester check-in via a presentation to Mark on March 5, 7 or 9
- The students will work with the instructors to write Scope of Work (SOW) documents for the projects
 - These will act as RCP SOW agreements
- Mark identified the Lake Itasca Greenway project as the priority if projects must be paired down or dropped

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