

Bloustein Graduate Planning Studio

Public Access - Raritan River Multimodal Bridge and Walkway

970:510:04

Instructor: Sara Malone, sara.malone@rutgers.edu, (848) 932-2720

Studio Meets: Wednesdays, 6:10pm-8:40pm, CSB 474/476

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 3:30pm-5:30pm, or by appointment, CSB 486

Studio Description

This guest lecture-style studio focuses on environmental, design, and regulatory aspects of planning two components of *Rutgers 2030: Rutgers University Physical Master Plan* – the Raritan River boardwalk and the bicycle/pedestrian bridge across the river that will jointly help reestablish an intimate relationship between the City of New Brunswick, Rutgers University, and the Raritan River. These 2030 Plan components propose to, (1) enhance bicycle and pedestrian access between Livingston and College Avenue campuses via a new bicycle/footbridge across the Raritan, and (2) reconnect the Delaware and Raritan canal and trail network at the north end of College Avenue campus with Boyd Park and the Rutgers Boathouse at the foot of Douglass campus via a boardwalk on the New Brunswick side of the river.

Students will work in teams to explore planning and regulatory issues as well as environmental, public access, and policy issues around the boardwalk and pedestrian bridge. Regulatory issues include examining complex multijurisdictional (state, federal, local) public policy and standards. Students will learn from guest lecturer experts about topics of ecological and habitat restoration, public access and recreation planning, coastal resilience planning (projects are in the tidal reach of the Raritan), the role of government, non-profit and private partnerships, and strategies to increase multi-model access among the campuses with a focus on bicycle and pedestrian transit.

The studio should appeal to students interested in environmental planning, public/private partnerships, public access, community economic development, and site design.

Studio products include a comprehensive report that includes maps, detailed site characterization, public access goals, regulatory road-map, implementation phases and recommendations for potential funding and collaborative partnerships. A studio summary poster and public presentation of studio results will also be required.

Studio Client

Rutgers University Office of Capital and Facilities Planning is the client for this guest lecture style studio that will examine important considerations in planning, environmental, and design of components that are intended to address a variety of objectives including maximizing multi-modal access between Rutgers campuses, increasing student and public access in and through the tidal reach of the Raritan River, and contributing overall to the redevelopment of the New Brunswick campus.

Goals for Studio

- Inform the client about priorities of local officials and other stakeholders so they can be addressed as part of the site design

- Produce a regulatory roadmap that identifies specific state, federal and local regulatory approvals needed for each component of the project that includes contact information, standards for approval, and a recommended sequence of timing for applications for approval
- Produce a robust report of findings and recommendations that can be used immediately by the client in advancing development of the multimodal bridge between campuses and the walkway along the Raritan between Landing Lane and Boyd that addresses issues related to, among other things, regulatory and permitting issues, key stakeholders, environmental issues including habitat, invasive and endangered species, and funding mechanisms and partnerships
- Develop media kit/communication pieces to explain and/or advance project for various audiences

Goals for Students

- Gain experience working with a client to identify/confirm project scope and deliverables and to meet client expectations
- Become proficient in understanding state, federal and local regulations relevant to waterfront development
- Understand the complexities of site design as influenced by vested stakeholders, endangered or invasive species, public utilities, climate resilience concerns, and other human, engineered or natural factors
- Gain experience in researching and identifying potential funding mechanisms to develop public access amenities across varied jurisdictions
- Strengthen ability to work effectively in multidisciplinary teams towards a shared outcome
- Strengthen public presentation skills

Syllabus

Syllabus is subject to change based on class preferences and availability of speakers. Updates, additional readings suggested by guest lecturers and reference materials will be posted on Sakai.

Date	Schedule	Deliverables
Sep 6	Introductions, context for project - University overview by Frank Wong, review course logistics, plan field trip	Student resume due
Sep 13	Project overview presentation by Frank Wong, interview client	Student biographies due
Sep 20	Karen Lowrie and Leigh Ann Von Hagen – HIA and pedestrian/bikeways	Team and presentations discussion
Sep 24	Field trip to EcoPreserve (Richard Lathrop), Rt18 Trench Bikeway and Boyd Park	SUNDAY FIELD TRIP

Sep 27	NJWSA and water supply by Ken Klipstein	Discuss Individual presentation topics
Oct 4	Canal history by Linda Barth – D&R Canal Watch LRWP & co-LAB Arts, watersheds, wayfaring and Rail→Arts→River by Heather Fenyk and John Keller	Individual presentation assignments
Oct 11	RU Recreation and Boathouse by Dave Williams and Jesse Stratowski	Student presentations start Discuss report outline and teams
Oct 18	Resilient design/feasibility of construction by Tobiah Horton, and resilience/flooding by Matt Campo	Draft report outline due Student presentations continue
Oct 25	TNC and natural capital/ecosystems services by Elizabeth Schuster	Student presentations end Team status reports, peer review
Nov 1	Regulatory/permitting/alternatives analysis by Dave Charette	Team status reports Final outline of report due
Nov 8	Environmental Communication by Jeanne Herb (date to be confirmed)	Team status reports
Nov 15	Class directed lecture and work session	Team status reports Draft findings/recommendations due
Nov 22	No Class – Thanksgiving Break	NO CLASS
Nov 29	Class directed lecture and work session	Team status reports
Dec 6	Dress rehearsal and work session	Draft report/poster/blog/Peer review
Dec 13	Final presentation (public presentation)	Presentation to client & public
Dec 20	Final Report, Poster, and Blog write-up due electronically	NO CLASS / MAKE UP FOR FIELD TRIP

Field Trip

One class will be replaced by a guided field trip to view the potential site for the pedestrian/bikeway across the Raritan to the Ecological Preserve and Johnson Park and to walk the existing trail from

Landing Lane Bridge to Boyd Park (approximately 3 miles). The date and time of the field trip and the class the field trip will replace will be determined on the first day of class (Sept 6th).

Readings

There is no required text for this studio. Readings will be posted to Sakai or will be handed out in class. Students should visit the Sakai site prior to class for first day assignments.

Grading

This is a graduate-level studio. Each student is expected to actively participate in discussions, teaching and learning associated with the studio as well as to actively engage with guest lecture/experts and our client in a professional manner. You are essentially the teacher when you deliver your individual presentations and you are the consultant to our client in the research, analysis, preparation and delivery of your group findings and recommendations in the final report, presentation and associated materials. Grades will be factored on the following:

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| ▪ Attendance | 5% |
| ▪ Participation | 15% |
| ▪ Individual presentation | 25% |
| ▪ Other Assignments | 15% |
| ▪ Peer review/instructor discretion | 10% |
| ▪ Final products | 30% |

Academic Integrity

All members of our community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain advantage not given to all students is dishonest, whether or not the effort is successful. A violation of academic honesty is a breach of trust, and will result in penalties, including possible suspension or expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, or collaboration, consult the course instructor. You can find Rutgers' academic integrity policy at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>.

ALL SOURCES OF PHOTOS, WEBSITES, and OTHER REFERENCES must be cited in all work.