

SEEKING GREENER PASTURES

Converting Lawns into Healthy and Sustainable Spaces



GEOGRAPHY OF RECREATIONAL LAND USE (Course to be redesigned)

Class Project and Goals: Convert existing grass area to appealing and sustainable place

Goal 1: Engage students in analyzing what makes a place appealing.

Identify what makes a space un-appealing (Students responses: Limited seating, no or dead landscaping, dirty, un-safe, scary, too much concrete), and, conversely, what makes a space appealing (Student responses: Relaxing/refreshing environment, available seating, landscaping, pretty, safe, accessible/convenient)

Goal 2: Engage students in considering what makes a space sustainable.

Minimal water usage, permeable materials, healthy and native ecosystem, low maintenance, enjoyable space.



The students are encouraged to think about their own climate, culture, and aspects of health (physical, mental, emotional) in their design of a space that reflects our Mediterranean climate.

Goal 3: Identify appropriate space on campus for redesign. Find spaces that are 1) largely unused and considered by the students to be unappealing, 2) spaces that are grass which necessitate relatively greater amounts of watering than native plants, and that require chemicals, mowing (CO2 emissions).



Goal 4: Utilize expertise of Landscape Architect to develop rational, workable parameters for a concept design

Goal 5: Develop concept plan in class, working in subgroups with group representatives.



Student Concepts

Class Design

Final Class Product

Goal 6: Build it! Use project to aid in educating Campus Community about Sustainability in our own environment.

Project Purpose

The purpose is to engage students in experiential learning by creation a place that incorporates many aspects of sustainability that they are learning, including water conservation, elimination of chemicals, and elimination of mowers. It will also address the factors that are important for human health and quality of life, such as creation of a space that is visually appealing and inviting, relaxing, encouraging community or solitude, and is consistent with the local environment. Future classes will study the usage of this and other conversions. The campus community - including other students, faculty, staff, and visitors - will also enjoy the new space and learn from direct experience and educational signage

Timeline for Project

July 2015 – December 2016

- Syllabus Redesign
- Identify and Invite Speakers to Class
 - Landscape Architect
 - Water Planner
- Landscape Architect design parameters for site design
- Identify potential campus locations

January 2016 – May 2016

- Class Project

June 2016 – August 2016

- Installation!

San Diego State University Team

Tom Abram - *Living Lab Champion*
 Josh Koss - *Landscape Services Manager, Facilities*
 Diana Richardson - *Lead Faculty Partner*
 Blake McCormick - *Student Project Leader*
 Laurel Moser Brady, ASLA - *Landscape Architect*