ASSIGNMENTS + EVALUATION

Course Journal

This course includes site tours of significant and representative parks and public spaces around Metro Vancouver. Students are expected to keep a journal of site observations, sketches and notes throughout the course. Each day students are required to complete a 1-2 paragraph summary of their observations and experience during the day, supplemented with sketches and observation notes.

Some considerations in preparing daily summary journal entries:

- Reflect on ecology, place, experience and systems
- What was unexpected or particularly intriguing about the park visited today?
- How does this park compare to others visited during this course, or others I am familiar with?
- What have I learned from this experience?
- How were people experiencing the park or public space? What was your experience?
- Quality and type of place - active, passive, reflective or energetic

Assignment 1 & 2 can be completed in course journals, though that is not a requirement. Student journals will be collected and graded for participation, then returned at the beginning of VSP – Course 2.

Assignment One – ‘Analyzing For Ecosystem Services’

Part 1 – Site Tour

Through a guided site tour students will identify the defining ecosystem services of Capilano River Regional Park through video/photos/sketches/ notes for use in Part 2 of the assignment.

Part 2 – Analysis

Working in groups of 4-6, students will build off the site tour to assess the ecosystem services of Capilano River Regional Park. Referencing the Ecosystem Service Evaluation Matrix, using site observations, applying information from the lecture, and reference material provided, each group must address the following:

1- Identify - Complete an ‘ecosystem services’ map/overview of Capilano Regional Park (Biodiversity, provisioning, regulating, supporting, cultural services; Identify Structure – Function – Service - Value)

2- Assess - Report on the ecosystem services provided by the park – what they are and why are they important to Metro Vancouver
   - If these ecological services were not provided by this park – how would they be provided, what are the alternatives?
   - How could the ecosystem services be enhanced or made to be more resilient?
   - How do the ecosystem services in the park relate – are they connected?
   - What was missing in the park – how can people be more connected to the ecosystem services that are provided by the park?

This assignment can be completed using the park map and trace paper provided and/or through PowerPoint/Prezi/images/video. On Day 3 groups will share their conclusions with the rest of the class.
Assignment Two – Iona Beach Regional Park: Systems, Planning, Vision

Working in groups of 3-4, students will complete a concept design for Iona Beach Regional Park. Students will apply lecture content, reference material and guest speaker insights for this assignment. This assignment can be completed through sketches, video, images or other media and must include the following:

1. Analysis and Narrative
   a. Role (ecological and recreational) of Iona Beach in a regional system of parks and greenways
   b. The spirit of place - defining characteristics of Iona Beach Regional Park
   c. Summary of the opportunities and challenges this park presents
   d. Explain how ecological values of the park influence the proposed concept
   e. Provide a concept statement – a paragraph on the big idea

2. Concept – Develop a high level concept plan for Iona Beach Regional Park including the following elements:
   a. Circulation – main trail and vehicular access
   b. Ecological protection, enhancement and connectivity
   c. ‘big moves’ (ecological, experiential)
   d. Park features and destinations
   e. Treatment Plant location

Given the limited time available to complete the exercise, students are encouraged to take a high level approach, focusing on the big picture and ideas. On the final day of class, groups will share their concept with the rest of the class.

Assignment Evaluation

15% Class participation
15% Journal completion
30% Assignment 1
40% Assignment 2