

# Sustainable City Year Program

2025-26 

## Architecture, Planning, and Public Policy

Project Outcome

### Downtown Tualatin Land Use Planning and Design

Community and Regional Planning graduate students analyzed a 41-acre site near downtown Tualatin's Lake at the Commons. Recommendations embedded urban design principles such as walkability, economic development, and age-friendly community and were grounded in placemaking, connectivity, and permeability. Students proposed redesigned walkways, traffic calming mechanisms, and the addition of a farmers' market with food carts to create an accessible, vibrant downtown core. A phased approach will allow Tualatin to address evolving needs over time.

### Multi-Modal Connections to Downtown Tualatin

Students used three integrated focus areas—multimodal transportation, network connectivity, and parking and land use—to evaluate transportation opportunities in and around downtown Tualatin's Lake at the Commons area. Thirteen recommendations prioritized safety, reinforced transit and trail connections, emphasized public spaces, and encouraged development patterns that support community life and economic growth. Recommendations include but are not limited to, protected bike lanes and enhanced bikeway connections, a traffic garden, rail grade separation, an intersection redesign, and a multi-level parking structure.

### Tualatin Downtown Market Study

Oregon Consulting Group students conducted a formal market study and developed an action-based strategy to increase downtown visitation, strengthen business vitality, and crystallize Tualatin's identity, focusing specifically on the Tualatin Commons area. The two-phase strategy aims to revitalize Tualatin through targeted events and marketing that increase foot traffic and strengthen and activate downtown businesses.

### Timber Tectonics in the Digital Age

Architecture, Wood Science, and Civil Engineering students from the University of Oregon and Oregon State University designed, prototyped, and fabricated a kit-of-parts full size modular structure for the City of Tualatin's Riverfront Park. Students proposed site designs for the Riverfront Park that included a large boat launch, pedestrian footpaths, and two large gable structures that feature a boat rental space, restrooms, and a community gathering space surrounding a new community garden.

### Architecture Design Studio

Architecture students produced design proposals for four sites near the Lake at the Commons in downtown Tualatin. Proposals focused on nodes, grounded pathways, and raised pathways to increase housing, economic activity, and connectivity throughout downtown Tualatin. Node proposals sought to increase density in Tualatin while pathway proposals balanced floodplain challenges with pedestrian priorities. Student designs provide Tualatin with a way to foster human-scale development and community identity.

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## Civil & Environmental Engineering

| Project | Outcome |
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| <b>Downtown Tualatin<br/>Hedges Creek Stormwater<br/>Management Study</b> | Hedges Creek flows through the City of Tualatin and joins the Tualatin River just north of downtown. Because this area lies within the floodplain, it regularly experiences high-water conditions and flooding events. To help manage stormwater and reduce flood impacts, students proposed a series of bioswales that can be adapted to site-specific dimensions. These bioswales would retain and slow runoff, promote the settling of pollutants, and increase infiltration by allowing water to remain on-site for longer periods. |
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| <b>Downtown Tualatin<br/>Floodplain Study</b> | Much of Tualatin's downtown is impacted by floodplain. Students developed a planning-level reference document that summarizes existing floodplain conditions and regulatory requirements, and connects those to potential redevelopment decisions. For example, systems that rely on conveyance and temporary storage are appropriate for the downtown's shallow groundwater and poorly drained soils. Larger flood events are addressed through watershed-scale mitigation strategies. Students also provided ideas for the "Blue and Green" lot by proposing a parcel-scale conveyance area with the potential for floodplain and wetland restoration. |
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| <b>Downtown Tualatin<br/>Boones Ferry Road<br/>Walkability</b> | Students studied the accessibility and pedestrian features of SW Boones Ferry Road from the intersection at SW Tualatin Road to the end of the SW Boones Ferry Road bridge. Students focused on improving pedestrian-friendliness and access to key downtown areas, including access to a planned waterfront park along the Tualatin River near Hedges Creek as well as shopping centers, and living and communal areas. After evaluating cost, environmental impact, overall traveler experience, and related project considerations, students proposed a tunnel across SW Boones Ferry Road from SW Barngrover Way to the future riverfront park entrance. |
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