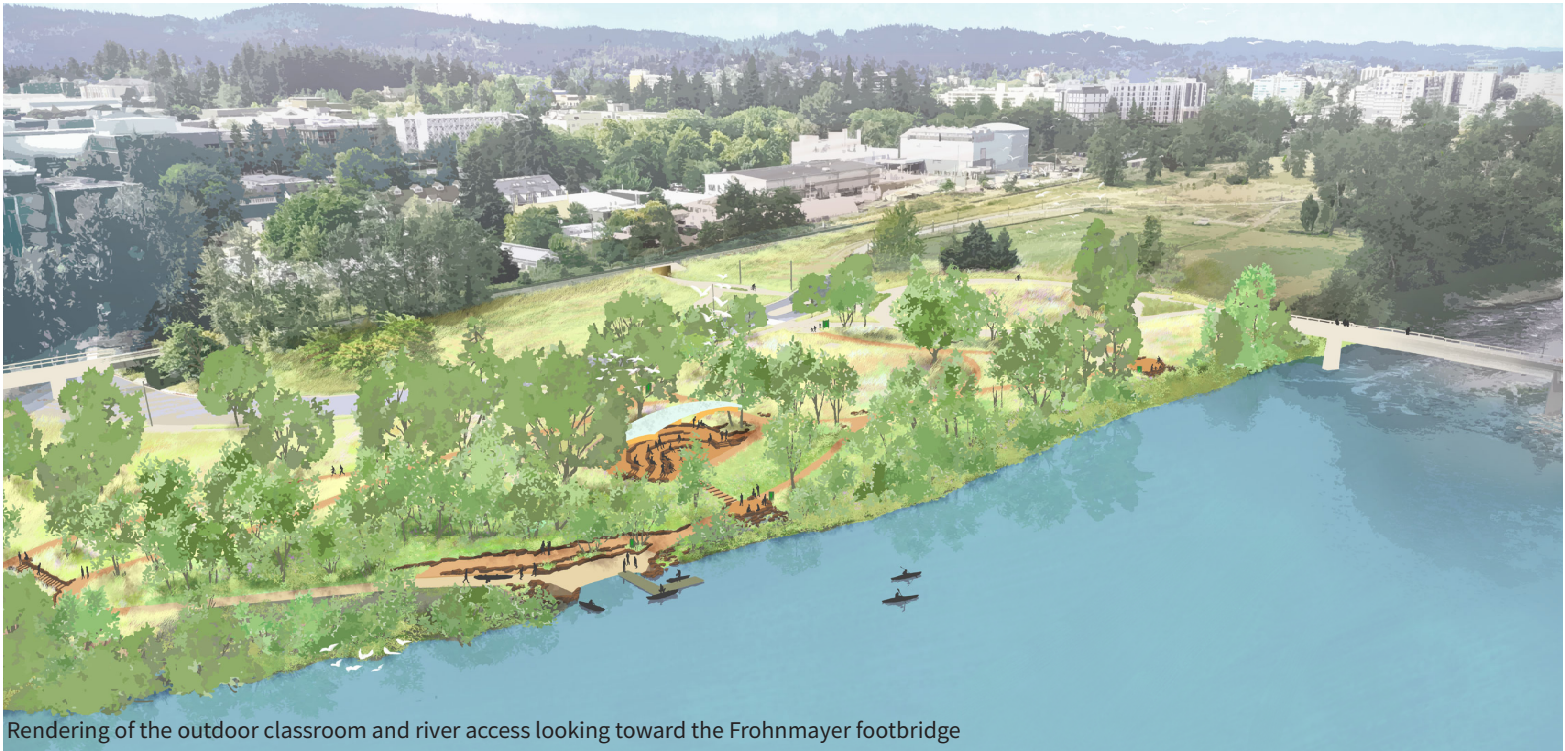




Rendering of the outdoor classroom and river access looking toward the Frohnmayer footbridge

Willamette River Natural Area

River Access and Outdoor Classroom Feasibility Study

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project provides access to the Willamette River and a covered outdoor classroom that can host classes and performances. These enhancements advance the Willamette River Natural Area's (WRNA) mission to support restoration, recreation, research, and education.

These 2025 Concept Design illustrations are intended to help the campus community visualize the potential to enhance the natural area along the river, improve accessibility and views to the river, and create space to gather.

Situated to the east of the Frohnmayer footbridge and along the Ruth Bascom Riverfront Path system, the project will strengthen connections between the university and City of Eugene, helping transform the WRNA into a unique campus space to promote environmental education and stewardship, improve access for recreation, and connect people to the river.

Objectives:

- **Improve River Access:** Re-contour the riverbank to allow safe, accessible entry for paddle craft and general public use.
- **Create Outdoor Learning and Performance Spaces:** Establish a covered outdoor classroom and gathering area
- **Restore Native Habitat:** Enhance riparian zones with native vegetation to support ecological health and biodiversity.
- **Connect to Existing Pathways:** Integrate new trails and overlooks with the Ruth Bascom Riverfront Path system to improve connectivity and public access.
- **Foster Community Engagement:** Create informal gathering spaces to encourage use and exploration of the riverfront.

PROJECT STATS

Project Status: Concept design completed 2025

Anticipated Budget: \$4.4M - \$6M

Location: Upstream from the Frohnmayer footbridge along the Willamette River

RIVER ACCESS & OUTDOOR CLASSROOM FEASIBILITY STUDY UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

CAMERON
McCARTHY
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING

PLAN LEGEND

- WRNA BOUNDARY
- FEMA FLOOD BOUNDARY
- ORDINARY HIGH WATER LINE (OHW)
- EXISTING TOP OF BANK LINE
- EXISTING WATER LINE
- EXISTING CONTOUR - 1ft
- PROPOSED CONTOUR - 1ft
- EXISTING NATIVE TREE WITHIN BANK
- RE-CONTOURING (Potential removal)
- EXISTING TREE CANOPY (Native and non-native)
- PROPOSED TREE CANOPY (Native species**)
- Diagrammatic canopy density is approximate, symbol size and location is random.
- PROPOSED DESTINATION AREA
- (Typically pervious material unless noted otherwise)
- PROPOSED PERVIOUS AGGREGATE PATH
- PROPOSED IMPERVIOUS PATH
- PROPOSED RETAINING/SEATING EDGE
- PROPOSED STEPS
- PROPOSED RIP RAP
- NEW RIPARIAN VEGETATION**
- NEW GRASSLAND/MIXED VEGETATION**
- EXISTING RIPARIAN VEGETATION**
- PRIMARY ACCESS FROM UO
- CAMPUS HEART
- WAYFINDING OR INTERPRETIVE
- SIGNAGE

* Proposed improvements for purpose of feasibility study.
** Not all vegetation types are shown. UO Wildlife and River Natural Area Landscape Management Plan for additional information.

KEYNOTES

- 1 RE-CONTOURING RIVERBANK TO IMPROVE ACCESS AND VIEWS
- 2 MEETING SPACE FOR 50+ PEOPLE (Outdoor classroom & community space)
- 3 RIVER ACCESS BELOW OHW (Concrete paving, Paddle craft & general access to river)
- 4 TRAIL-HEAD (Interpretative and wayfinding signage)
- 5 INFORMAL OVERLOOK (Pervious aggregate or similar)
- 6 TRAIL CONTINUES EAST (Outside of study area)
- 7 OPEN-AIR SHELTER (Covered space for 50 people)
- 8 EXISTING RAILROAD BRIDGE
- 9 EXISTING BICYCLE PARKING
- 10 EXISTING RIVER RAPIDS (Visual interest)
- 11 EXISTING WATER LINE VAULT

