



City of Independence

Sustainable Urban Planning and Design



“Green Cities” Planning, Public Policy and Management Department, University of Oregon



Department of Land Conservation and Development, State of Oregon

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Introduction

In 2015, The City of Independence initiated a collaborative design project with the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and University of California “Green Cities” course. City Manager **David Clyne** and DLCD Economic Development Policy Analyst **Tom Hogue** outlined the desired elements, and Community Development Director **Michael Danko** and Economic Development Director **Shawn Irvine** provided guidance on community infrastructure and projects. University of Oregon Instructor **Ric Stephens** prepared a corresponding research program for the fall course, documentation and presentations.

Goals and Objectives

The goal was for student researchers to conduct research and prepare implementation measures for sustainable development. The objectives were to provide specific recommendations for innovative approaches to various community sites and topics including:

- Main Street
- Monmouth Street
- Neighborhoods

- Northern Gateway
- Parks
- Riparian Zone
- Riverside Development
- Second Street
- Sense of Place and Identity
- Western Gateway

Project Website

A University of Oregon blog was created to assist in managing the overall research program: <http://blogs.uoregon.edu/greencitiesindependence/>

Design Charrette

In order to guide their research, students conducted an intensive day-long charrette with City officials. The format consisted of an orientation meeting directed by Mayor **John McArdle** followed by a guided tour of the City. After a catered lunch, the researchers formed teams to address specific areas and topics. An initial design phase was conducted then followed by brief presentations. The second design phase refined the concepts which were then summarized and ranked by preference. This effort is synthesized by a brief list of prioritized

recommendations that are included on the following pages.

Research and Videography

Students selected individual topics to research and develop City recommendations. The researchers also produced individual videos on these topics, and links are provided on the project website at <http://blogs.uoregon.edu/greencitiesindependence/contacts/>

Report

This report is a summary of the research conducted on these sites and topics. It also includes specific implementation actions for the City of Independence and a comprehensive reference list for further research.

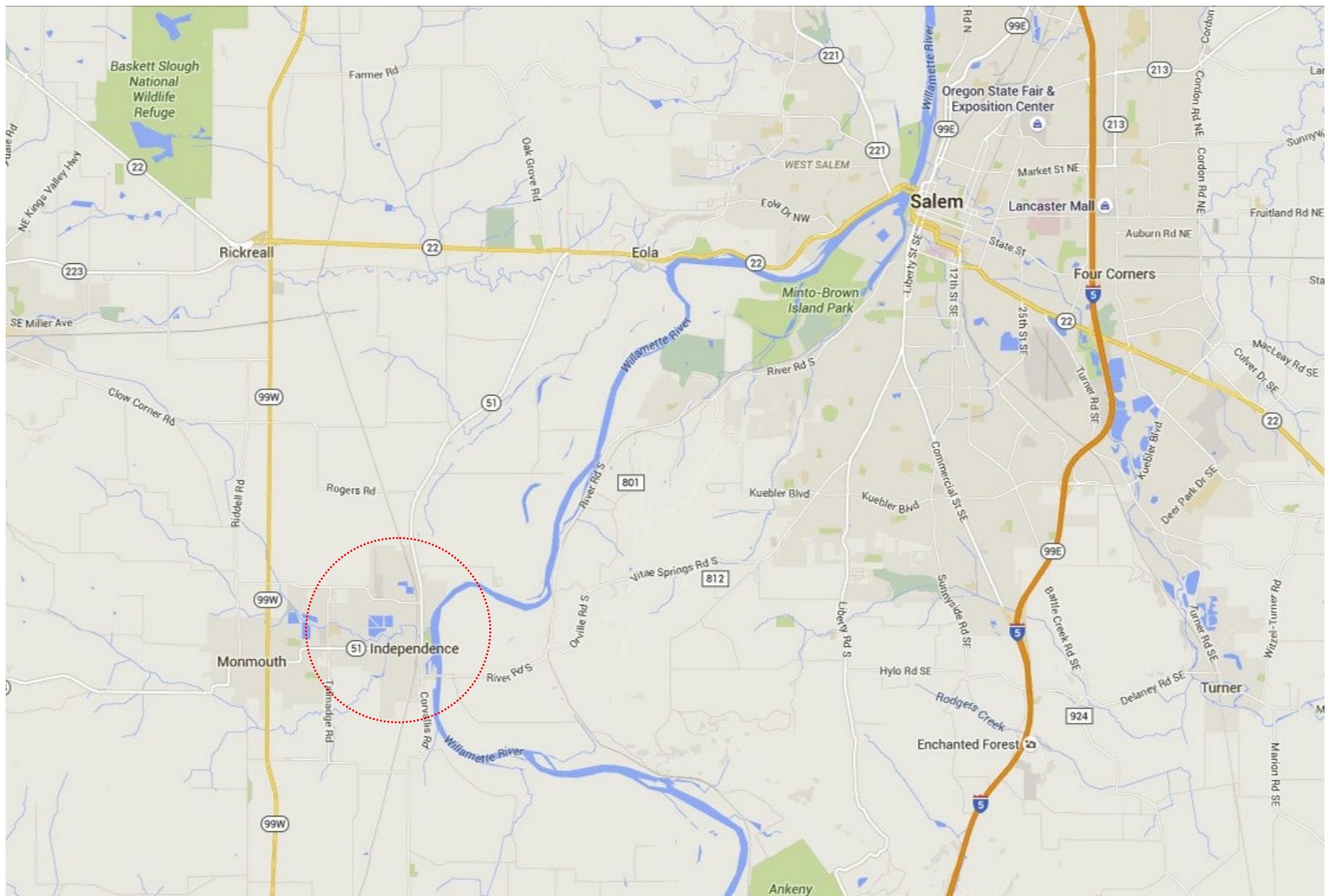
The students are grateful for the City of Independence’s hospitality and thoughtful reception of their research. It is also their deepest wish that the City’s future will be healthy, sustainable and vibrant.

Sincerely,

The “Green Cities” Researchers



Location Map



INDEPENDENCE



DESIGN CHARRETTE

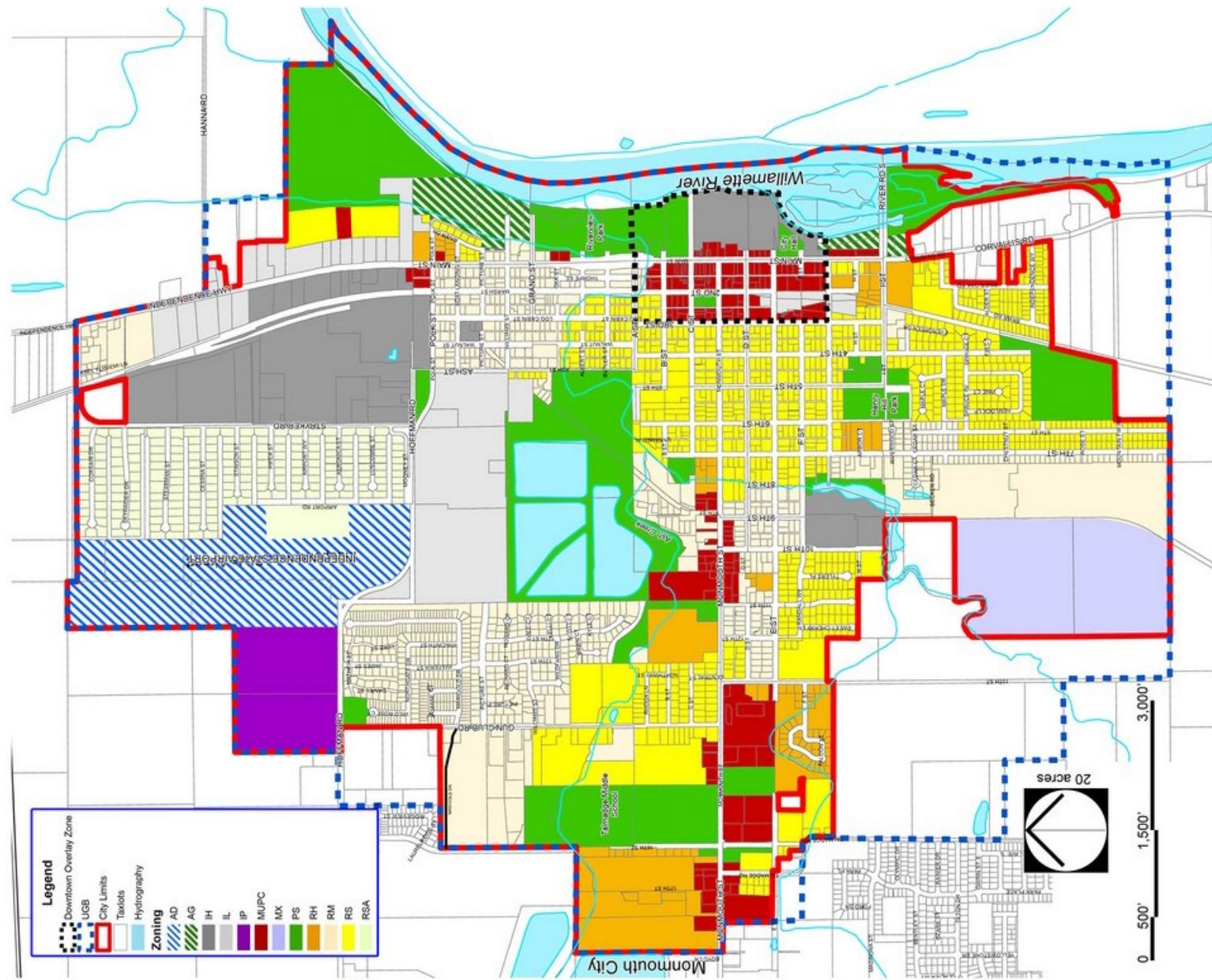
November 7, 2015, 10:00am-3:30pm, Independence City Hall

City of Independence

University of Oregon
Planning, Public Policy and Management

State of Oregon
Land Conservation and Development

INDEPENDENCE



DESIGN CHARRETTE

November 7, 2015, 10:00am-3:30pm, Independence City Hall

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Project Website

INDEPENDENCE PLANNING & DESIGN

Green Cities

University
of Oregon

HOME

CONTACTS

DESIGN CHARRETTE

RESOURCES



<http://blogs.uoregon.edu/greencitiesindependence/>

Green Cities

The Green Cities course is part of the University of Oregon Planning, Public Policy and Management Department program. Interdisciplinary students examine the history and future of the interface between urban growth and environmental concerns, and the technological, social, and political forces that continue to shape it. Special emphasis is given to sustainable development, urban resiliency and regenerative design.

The Fall 2015 Green Cities course will study the **City of Independence** in coordination with City staff, elected officials, citizens and international environmental design professionals.

Design Charrette Recommendations



●●● Add signage directing visitors towards community areas (library, museum). Add more signs downtown: “1 mile → Museum.” Add maps and signage to riverside. Use signage to indicate Main Street is a “shared space” with bicyclists and pedestrians. [[wayfinding, imageability](#)]



●● Fix drainage with bioswales. Add bioswales to Main Street. Build bioswales along 2nd Street to filter runoff from street and to add aesthetic value to the street. [[bioswales, low impact development](#)]



Have a downtown mural art competition. Create mural on side of second-hand store on 2nd and B Street. Design mural for vet clinic with community engagement. Implement more color/art for aesthetic appeal; sense of place. Incorporate a themed “artway” along Monmouth Street towards downtown. Paint a mural on the new theater wall at the high school. Install ‘airplane’ and ‘hop’ art. [[public art, arts/culture](#)]



Redesign the streets to incorporate [multimodal transportation](#). Promote connectivity with bike lanes, paths and greenways. Build a pedestrian/bike path

under power lines by high school. Create green belt/bike path that loops around city. Increase access to surrounding neighborhoods with more sidewalks and well-developed bike lanes. [[bike lanes, paths, sidewalks and greenways, connectivity](#)]



Host water tower design contest (culturally oriented). Paint the water tower. [[water tower](#)]



Rename “Monmouth Street” to “[Independence Avenue](#).”



Install light-up cross-walk. Install a crosswalk near

Design Charrette Recommendations

Waremart with safety lights/blinkers.
[crosswalks]

- ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● Incentivize greenwalls for private businesses. Create greenwall on side of second-hand store on 2nd and B Street. [[greenwalls, biophilic design](#)]

- • • • • • • • • Build microparks in unused city parking lots (between Community Center and Post Office).
 - Build covered outdoor picnic area near school and church (for Tuesday lunches).
 - Build outdoor food court / picnic area with solar panel covering empty lot adjacent to Post Office. [public space]

- Open brewhouse on corner of 2nd and D Street.

- • • • • • • • Extend and connect riparian zone to intersection. Repair riparian zone in front of old quarry development. Provide more river access to generate tourism. [riparian zone, greenspace]

- ● ● ● ● ● ● Build a pioneer-themed monument near Independence border. Install two welcoming ornamental and function light fixtures at the entrance of town. Install a “Welcome” archway on

River Road bridge. [entry statements, sense of arrival/place]

- Convert 2nd Street to a one-way street. [couplet]

- Close C and 2nd Street to create a **public square**.

- ● ● ● ● ● ● Include permeable surfaces in future developments.

- ● ● ● ● Explore community garden potential. Built/plant a school garden. [community gardens]

- ● ● ● ● Tell a story by placing historic information signs by historic buildings. Add interpretive signs along river path for plants and animals.
[interpretive signage]

- • • • • Close 2nd street for community events near the library/ cinema once a month. (1st Friday / Last Thursday) **[festival street]** Create community event by the river path at completion of river path and celebration of river history. Close 2nd Street for monthly community event. Incorporate community-oriented ideas. **[community events, programming]**

- Plant more trees, hops and native plants along sidewalks. Add planters as a divider between railroad/people/cars. Plant hops and native plants in entry way to amphitheater (between

pillars). Plant native shrubs around high school border. [landscaping]

- ● ● ● ● Rename lettered streets to hop varieties.

- ● ● Build a **frame** at the sides of Railroad Bridge to add visual interest/safety.

- Build **bike shop/rental shop** on bike path or on waterfront.

- Re-design old City Hall to include potential **transit center**.

- Create a roundabout on 2nd and G Street (incorporate art). Install a landmark / art piece / roundabout at Main and C Streets. Install a roundabout or traffic light to improve traffic flow. **[roundabout]**

The red dots represent individual selections for priority of the recommendation.



Community



Good Governance and Hope

The foundation for “Green Cities” lies in community vision and leadership provided by good governance and hope. “Good urban governance requires robust processes directed toward achieving the transformation of cities to sustainability through continual improvement. While in some areas gains will be incremental, there are also opportunities to make substantial improvements through innovative strategies, programs, and technologies.” (Newman, 2008)

The implementation actions focusing on *community* are integrated with governance that is transparent, accountable,

participatory and efficient. The five main ways for cities to create good governance and hope are:

1. Structures and processes of urban governance need to be inclusive, cooperative, and empowering in a way that reduces inequities.
2. Governance needs to be matched to local (polycentric) and bioregional scales, but have the ability to address global issues. Governance structure and processes need to facilitate visioning processes at these different scales.
3. Sustainability needs to be embedded in the day-to-day operation of government.
4. Indicator projects and reporting need to

be developed.

5. Governance structures need to support and facilitate the flourishing of community initiatives for sustainability, providing a wellspring of hope for the future. (Newman, 2008)

Sense of Community

In addition to good governance and hope, it is essential that Independence develop a strong sense of community.

“Sense of community is a feeling that members have of belonging, a feeling that members matter to one another and to the group, and a shared faith that members’ needs will be met through their commitment

Community

The screenshot shows a webpage for the City of Independence, Oregon. The header includes the city logo and navigation links for Community, Business, City Services, and Resource Center. A sub-navigation menu on the right side includes City Manager, About, Ethics Information, and Latino Outreach. The main content area is titled "Latino Outreach" and features a photo of a young man. The text discusses the Latino population in Independence, mentioning its growth from 2000 to 2010, and the city's efforts to engage and communicate with the community through hiring a liaison and implementing outreach initiatives. It also includes a Spanish translation of this information.

Independence Latino Outreach Webpage

to be together." (McMillan, 1976). Many of the implementation actions incorporate elements that promote sense of community through actively engaging with civic activities and programs. These implementation actions promote the four factors that create sense of place:

1. **Membership**—Membership is the feeling of belonging or of sharing a sense of personal relatedness.
2. **Influence**—The second element is
3. **Integration and Fulfillment of Needs**—This essentially means that by joining a community a member gets what they hoped to get by joining.

influence, or a sense of mattering. It has to work both ways, with members feeling like they have influence over the community and the community having influence over the members.

4. **Shared Emotional Connection**—All healthy communities have a story. Members will have a history of experiences together and the belief that there will be more experiences together in the future. (Spinks, 2013)

Empowerment and Participation

Independence will benefit from enhanced citizen empowerment and participation.



Ash Creek Arts Center

Community



Downtown Oblique Aerial



Monmouth Streetscape Illustration

"The journey toward sustainability requires broadly based support. Empowering people mobilizes local knowledge and resources and enlists the support and active participation of those who need to be involved in all stages, from long-term planning to implementation of sustainable solutions. People have a right to be involved in the decisions that affect them. Attention needs to be given to empowering those whose voice

are not always heard, such as the poor." (Newman, 2008)

The community implementation actions

All implementation actions contribute to a sustainable, healthy and vibrant Independence community.

Sustainable, healthy and vibrant

provide a wide spectrum of approaches to empowering the Latino community as well as all neighborhoods, business owners and community activists.

Energy & Resources



Sustainable Energy

Alternative energy typically refers to non-fossil fuel energy sources that have no negative impacts to the environment.

Alternative energy is renewable and essentially freely available such as solar and wind. Compared to traditional energy sources, alternative energy creates lower carbon emissions.

Independence has multiple opportunities to incorporate alternative energy into the urban fabric of the City. The recommended implementation actions for energy and resources focus on retrofitting and add-on systems that can supplement or replace the power grid. Ideally these are integrated into

an overall strategy to shift the City's primary consumption towards more sustainable energy sources and energy efficiency.

Wind turbines and solar panels are relatively easy to install on existing structures. The following page shows a photosimulation of wind turbines installed on the pillars adjacent Riverview Park. A key approach to inserting alternative energy systems in the downtown is to combine them with public art and education. Public art contests and displays make the systems more acceptable to the general public while information signage (e.g. placards) educate the public to their environmental and economic benefits.

Green Infrastructure

Sustainable communities are shifting emphasis from traditional to green infrastructure. “Green infrastructure is a cost-effective, resilient approach to managing wet weather impacts that provides many community benefits. While single-purpose gray stormwater infrastructure—conventional piped drainage and water treatment systems—is designed to move urban stormwater away from the built environment, green infrastructure reduces and treats stormwater at its source while delivering environmental, social, and economic benefits.” (EPA, 2016) This approach is

Energy & Resources



Amphitheater Wind Turbines

Photosimulation courtesy of Hannah Greenberg



Downtown Solar Panel Rooftops

Photosimulation courtesy of Hannah Greenberg

parallel to low impact development (LID), and these strategies are illustrated throughout the implementation actions for energy and resources. Green infrastructure is also a significant element in biophilic design and regenerative design, and many of these implementation actions are complementary.

Alternative energy is essentially free



Connectivity & Mobility



Transportation Planning

Independence has a traditional street grid and network with two primary corridors: Main Street and Monmouth Street. These provide north/south and east/west connectivity respectively. Both corridors provide a vast array of opportunities for multi-modal and multi-functional street design, and many of these have been suggested implementation actions. In addition to the primary corridors, there are a number of streets under reevaluation for their function and streetscape. These include 2nd, C and Polk Streets which

have specific implementation actions in several research sections.

Multi-Modal Street Design

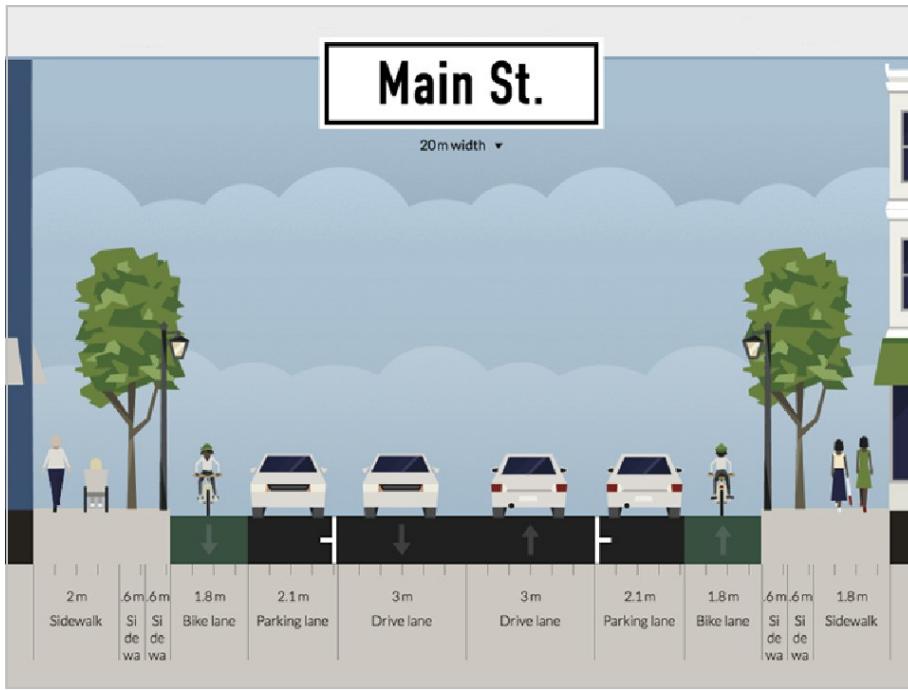
Typical street design focuses on autos, and there is an international shift towards more pedestrian and bicycle oriented design to reduce the environmental and economic impacts of auto-dominated travel. Walkability and bikeability are also ideals for community cohesion, citizen health and safety. In addition to reimaging streets to be multi-modal, there is a new emphasis on traffic calming which reduces traffic speeds and increases pedestrian and

cyclist safety. Traffic calming techniques range from narrowing street sections to providing parallel parking.

Multi-Functional Street Design

Many multi-modal and traffic calming approaches coincide with biophilic design implementation actions to incorporate bioswales and more green space. These implementation actions view street design as part of a multi-functional transportation, green infrastructure, and biophilic system. Multi-functional streets accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, public transit riders while simultaneously

Connectivity & Mobility



Main Street Redesign

Streetscape courtesy of Will Butler via StreetMix.com



Wayfinding

Photosimulation courtesy of Lily Oswald

providing rainwater management, urban ecology, wayfinding, and esthetics through landscaping and public art. In some cases,

Independence may wish to consider “shared space” streets which give equal rights to pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. These often do not have signage and are much safer than traditional streets as each

individual must be aware of each other’s use of the street. These are sometimes referred to as complete streets, living

Traffic calming makes safer streets

streets or the Dutch term, *Woonerfs*.



Biophilic Design



Biophilic Design

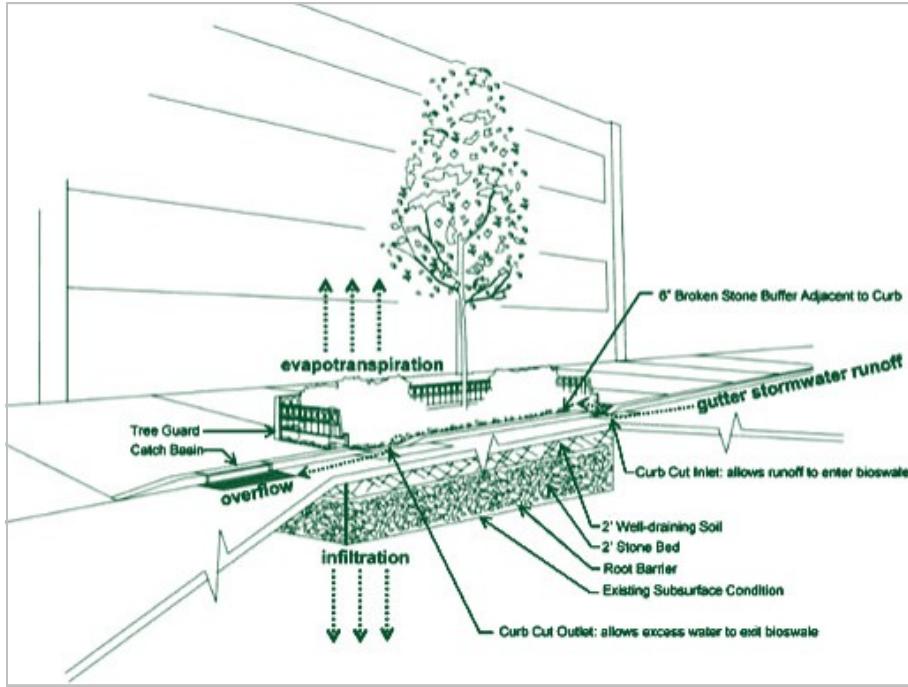
Biophilic design is based on the concept of *biophilia* which literally means “love of life or living systems.” It was first used by Erich Fromm to describe a psychological orientation of being attracted to all that is alive and vital. (Fromm, 1964) For centuries there has been a dualism between cities and nature that is not only no longer a necessity, but counter to a more holistic approach to creating and managing an urban ecology.

Biophilic City

The concept of biophilic design encompasses city development and management with the following key qualities:

- Biophilic cities are cities of abundant nature in close proximity to large numbers of urbanites; biophilic cities are biodiverse cities, that value, protect and actively restore this biodiversity; biophilic cities are green and growing cities, organic and *natureful*, them);
- Biophilic cities are cities that provide abundant opportunities to be outside and to enjoy nature through strolling, hiking, bicycling, exploring; biophilic cities nudge us to spend more time amongst the trees, birds and sunlight.
- Biophilic cities are rich multisensory environments, the where the sounds of nature (and other sensory experiences) are as appreciated as much as the visual or ocular experience; biophilic cities celebrate natural forms, shapes, and materials;

Biophilic Design



Bioswale Design

Illustration courtesy of DeepRoot.com from Eleandra Lewis

Enjoy the Willamette Riverbank



Riparian Restoration Information

Sign courtesy of Willamette Riverkeeper

- Biophilic cities place importance on education about nature and biodiversity, and on providing many and varied opportunities to learn about and directly experience nature; In biophilic cities there are many opportunities to join with others in learning about, enjoying, deeply connecting with, and helping to steward over nature, whether through a nature club, organized hikes,

Biophilic cities are natureful

- Biophilic cities invest in the social and physical infrastructure that helps to bring urbanites in closer connection and understanding of nature, whether

camping in city parks, or volunteering for nature restoration projects.

through natural history museums, wildlife centers, school-based nature initiatives, or parks and recreation programs and projects, among many others;

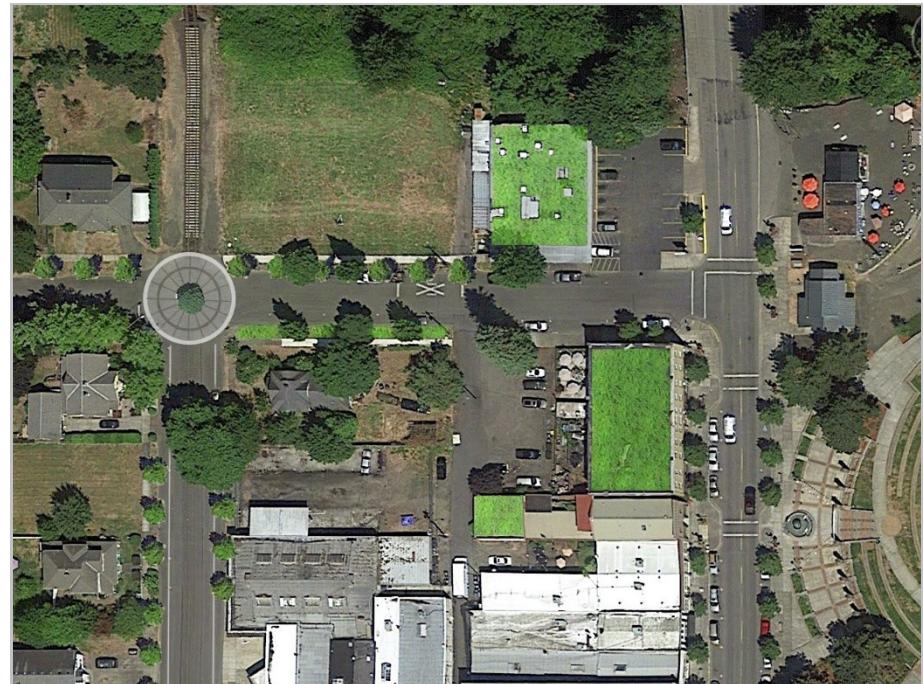
- Biophilic cities are globally responsible cities that recognize the importance of actions to limit the impact of resource use on nature and biodiversity beyond their urban borders;

Biophilic Design



Moss Graffiti Art

Photosimulation courtesy of Lily Oswald



Green Roofs and Streetscapes

Photosimulation by Ric Stephens

biophilic cities take steps to actively support the conservation global nature.
(Biophilic Cities, 2015)

The implementation actions recommended in this report focus on public spaces, green spaces and streetscapes with particular attention to the inclusion of local food (urban agriculture), community activities and sense of place.

Regenerative Design



Sustainability, Urban Resiliency and Regeneration

The “Green Cities” program is based on an evolving understanding of sustainable development that goes beyond the original concept of intergenerational equity to include urban resiliency and regeneration. The oft-quoted definition of sustainable development as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” has a number deficiencies including an anthropocentric bias, non-aspirational goal, and arbitrary standards. These are addressed by including urban resiliency and

regeneration.

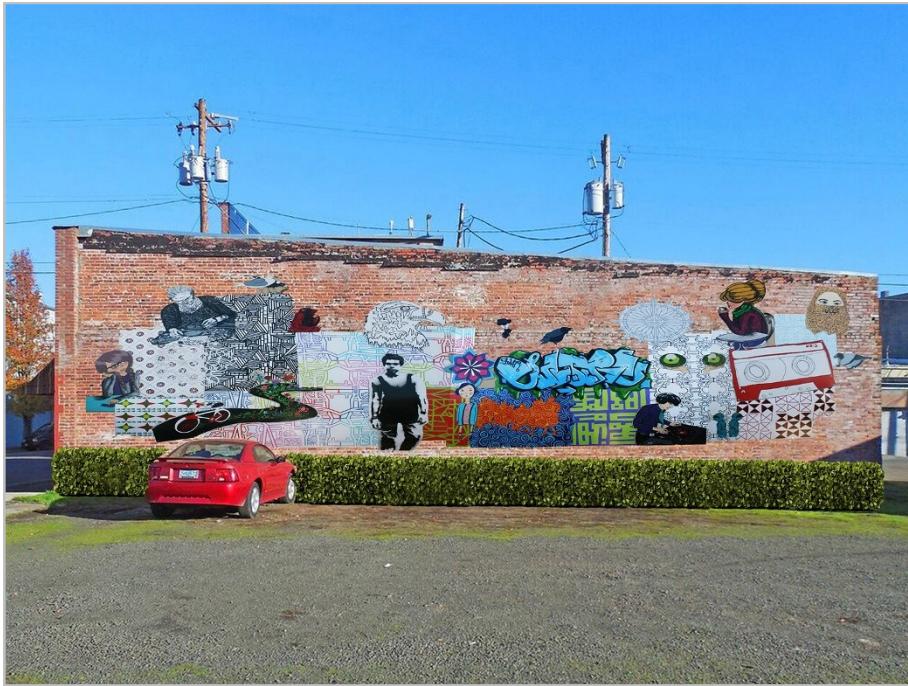
Whereas sustainable development considers a long-range view; urban resilience is connected with the immediacy of environmental, economic and social change. Although often equated with disaster preparedness, urban resiliency also includes positive change and recognition of opportunities within negative change.

Whereas sustainable development establishes an existing baseline or arbitrary standards for quality of life; regeneration seeks to always achieve higher levels of quality using nature a guide through natural systems and biomimicry.

Regenerative Design

Regenerative Design, which is still creating itself, introduces into Ecological Design at least two additional streams—the Science or Art of Place, and the science of living systems. Regeneration is far more than simple renewal or restoration. Definitions of the word “regenerate” include three key ideas: a radical change for the better; creation of a new spirit; returning energy to the source. It calls for the integration of aspects of ourselves as designers and as human beings—those of spirit and meaning—that in this era are too often left outside the studio door. It demands that we reunite the art and science of design because

Regenerative Design



Wall Mural

Photosimulation courtesy of Lily Oswald



Public Space

Photosimulation courtesy of Lily Oswald

we cannot succeed at sustainability if we fail to acknowledge human aspiration and will as the ultimate sustaining source of our activities. (Mang, 2001)

Regenerative design encompasses all sections of this report: community, energy and resources, connectivity and mobility, and biophilic design. The implementation actions can be viewed as discrete recommendations to be selected where there is community support

and resources. The implementation actions can also be viewed as a systematic approach to achieving city-wide sustainable

many of these implementation actions of value, and also that the City adopts the overarching principle that unifies them: regenerative design.

Sense of place and living systems

development, urban resiliency and regeneration.

It is the sincerest hope of the research team that the City of Independence will find



Implementation Actions

Community

1. **Annual 5K Event**—Organize an annual community event such as a 5K run to celebrate the City's green space and the newly connected path system to bring people to downtown Independence.
2. **Bilingualism**—Encourage Bilingual Meetings and Signage: Holding public hearings in Spanish and advertising for civic events in Spanish can increase attendance and accessibility to city government. According to the city's website, over 30% of students speak Spanish as their first language and as their primary language at home. Easy solutions include hiring a city translator and partnering with Latino run business and/or congregations to advertise about city events. Add bilingual signage in the town: Adding signs in Spanish will help establish Independence as a welcoming place for people of different cultural backgrounds and fortify the city's identity as hub for the Latino community. Bilingual signs will also help community members with limited English ability navigate the area and will make them feel more comfortable within their community. Not every sign needs to be bilingual but by including things such as "Bienvenidos a Independence" on the welcoming sign to the city or including Spanish signage in city hall or the public library the city could improve the level of inclusion of the Latino community in these spaces and help non-Spanish speaking community members gain some basic vocabulary in the language. Make the official website of the City of Independence available in Spanish: Some articles on the city website, particularly those about events involving the Latino community, are already available in Spanish but by making the entirety of the website available in Spanish the city could decrease a barrier to civic engagement. Making the site available in Spanish would facilitate more civic engagement by allowing native Spanish speakers to better understand the content presented on this forum which would in turn increase the likelihood of them being involved in city events.
3. **Citizen Park /Garden Involvement**—Directly involve citizens in park/garden site development and construction. Involve citizens in park/garden site management.
4. **City Council Meetings**—Move City Council Meetings Across the City: One strategy outlined on Planetizen is for city council meetings to occur in alternative spaces throughout the city. Having a meeting at Independence Elementary School or in a Latino owned business can increase participation in those sub-groups. The space may also be deemed less intimidating and more intimate.
5. **Code Amendments and Flexibility**—Reevaluate the City Municipal Code to include sustainable development and sense of place principles.
6. **Community Art**—Create public art programs. Public art can also be a way to engage the cultural aspects of the city. The City of Independence has a Latino population of nearly 40% and has a long history engaging with the Latino culture. Integrate art from the Latino community into public spaces: Independence has various spaces in and around downtown that could be enhanced by adding art work from the community. This could include sculptures, murals or other forms of public art. If this were to come from the Latino community it could increase the level of comfort of Latino community members as well as connect them with the city. Additionally this will help create a sense of place for community members and be visually appealing for both tourists and locals Including aspects of this culture could greatly increase the sense of community within the city. Also, engaging with local artists and community members would

Implementation Actions

- also increase the community aspects of this art
7. **Community Art Contest**—Host a community art contest decorating the old quarry's pipe.
 8. **Community Bulletin Board**—Create a community bulletin board to facilitate community engagement and communication somewhere accessible and highly visible in the downtown area (potentially near the fountain at the amphitheater). Inform residents about the existence of, and uses for, the bulletin board via fliers in the mail and/or information with their electricity bills. [May be combined with Community Kiosk]
 9. **Community Center**—Revamp Community Center: The *Independence Community Center* is currently home to thrift clothes and a small selection of classes, such as ceramic and music lessons. The center should expand their classes to attract younger audiences. Access to bilingual classes/events would help to draw the Latino community to downtown. The community center also has significant parking space that could be converted to a community garden. Community gardens can connect residents to Independence's agricultural roots and give youth another extracurricular activity that increases

- traffic downtown. Incorporate a community center into the proposed plan for the empty gravel processing site that would complement the hotel and serve a variety of functions for the city including acting as a food hub, cultural center, and community arts venue. Change the design of the community center to make it more appealing to younger generations: The community center is located in a central location in downtown Independence. This facility has the potential to be a hub for the community yet based on design and programming it is under utilized by the youth of Independence. Redesigning this space to make it more appealing for younger generations, by doing things such as putting a basketball court in the parking lot, repainting the space or hosting events and classes that appeal to younger people, the community center could become an exciting and safe space for youth to spend time. A large number of youth in the community are Latino and by having a space where they can gather, learn and engage with the community the city of Independence could foster civic pride and civic engagement from a young age, not just among Latinos but youth from all walks of life.
10. **Community Interviews**—Talk to neighbors and businesses, and see what

they want. Tap their energy and expertise for ideas about what will and won't work.

11. **Community Signage/Kiosks**—Provide signage and kiosks that announce and promote community activities and events.
12. **Cultural Nights**—Create Monthly Cultural Nights: The *Independence Community Fiesta* in August draws large crowds to the Riverview Park Amphitheatre. The city should expand on this success and create a monthly cultural night hosted by Latino community members. Activities can include cooking lessons, language circles (to teach English speakers common Spanish phrases), and traditional dancing. In order to ensure high Latino attendance, the event should take place in a safe space for the Latino community, such as a church or school.
13. **Design Charrette**—Recreate Green Cities Planning Charrette with Community Members: City Council can pick a site of concern (2nd Street, Downtown, Vacant Incoming Lots) and host a collaborative charrette process with community members. The charrette should be hosted in a central location, such as the amphitheater, and could be included in the schedule of one of the bigger draws to downtown (Annual

Implementation Actions

- Fiesta or Fourth of July). Charrettes can serve as an educational opportunity to inform citizens of Independence's environmental footprint. Residents can also evaluate ideas brainstormed by the University of Oregon students and decide which ones are feasible for the community.
14. **Latino Citizen Circle**—Form Latino Citizen Circle: Similar to the Youth Advisory council described above, city council can select Latino community leaders to meet once a month to discuss issues faced in that particular community.
15. **Latino Outreach Internship**—Make the Latino Outreach Internship project a full time position: The Latino Outreach Internship proved to be an effective and informative program. The work done by this intern, to improve understanding of the Latino community and create a plan to engage this community in the future, will have long term benefits for the city. By making this position full time it would show the city government's commitment towards fostering a relationship with the Latino community and allow the person in this position to attain a greater understanding of the community's needs and wants as well as allowing them to create more effective long term plans for engagement.
16. **Latino Non-profit Organizations (NPOs)**
- Develop Latino specific non-profit organizations: The Willamette valley has a variety of non-profit organizations that work to support members of the Latino community such as the FHDC, Casa Latino de Benton County, Latino Network and others. Although some of these organizations provide services to the citizens of Independence none of them are located within the city. By developing or incentivizing non-profit organizations within the city, Independence can accrue the benefits that come with developing this sector of the economy. These organizations could help bring jobs to Independence, increase the well being of the city's residents and provide services that the government does not. By targeting non-profits that work with the Latino community the city can better support this demographic and foster a positive cycle of engagement between city officials, non-profits and citizens. The city can encourage these types of organizations by offering tax incentives or giving them land or resources at discounted prices.
17. **Latino Public Meetings**—Host meetings with city officials in Colonia Amistad: Colonia Amistad is a hub for the Latino community of Independence. Hosting meetings in this space would show the commitment of city officials to engage with the Latino community as well as help establish a relationship between community members and government employees. As a whole the Latino community tends to be less engaged with public institutions than other demographics and by having meetings in a space where they are comfortable it would help establish a rapport that could be the basis of a productive long term relationship.
18. **Latino Youth Mentorship Program**—Partner with Western Oregon University to create a mentorship program for the Latino youth of Independence: Having a university in such close proximity to the city of Independence offers countless benefits. One way the city could utilize the university and its students is by establishing a mentorship program between Latino youth of Independence and Latino students at Western Oregon University. 12% of WUO students identify as Latino, giving it the highest percentage of Latino students of any university in Oregon. If these students could create mentor relationships with the youth of Independence it could help foster engagement among the youth, positively channel the energy and passion of the youth and increase the connection between Independence and Monmouth. Mentorship provides

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benefits for mentors as well as mentees, such as: increased graduation rates, increased pro-social behavior, improved interpersonal skills and much more. These positive effects would be felt by members of both the Monmouth and Independence communities and could provide long term benefits for both cities.

19. **Online Outreach**—Adopt Accessible Online Outreach Tools: The internet hosts numerous tools that can help city governments survey and collaborate with residents online. Participation in public hearings may be difficult for working families and older residents with limited mobility. Common tools used by other city governments include Mind Mixer and Peak Democracy (Open Town Hall). The City Council can use polls to determine resident's opinions on issues ranging from one-way street conversion to art contest winners.
20. **Parent University**—Create a “Parent University” at local elementary school: The idea of a “Parent University” is to have classes at the local elementary school that teach a variety of skills to the parents of the students, as well as to other members of the community. Classes could range from teaching reading and writing, to English classes, to classes that teach basic computer skills. Placing the “Parent University” in a school setting is ideal because it is a

space that is already set up for education and one that many parents are already involved in, in some way because of their children. Using the school as a hub would also increase the level of participation in school activities among parents who are involved in the “Parent University”. This model has been used in schools throughout the country and has been shown to be an effective means of engaging parents with their children, their schools and their communities. Additionally the benefits that come from having a population with a greater understanding of reading, writing, basic computer skills and other life skills helps in various facets of community life and could lead to higher levels of public participation and civic engagement

21. **Picnic Area**—Create a BBQ and picnic area in the Riverfront Park close to City hall which could allow use for community engagement activities.
22. **Public Involvement**—Involve the public through public outreach, education and active engagement. Providing meaningful opportunities for participation increases the likelihood that plans for the City will be implemented.
23. **Public Space Planning**—Plan for all. Consider children, seniors and disabled

users for all public space development.

24. **Soccer Complex Community Design**—Collaborate with the community to design soccer complex: Independence is in the midst of creating a soccer complex on the north side of the city limits. This project provides the city with an opportunity to collaborate with community members on the design of this space to create a complex that meets the needs of the community. The Latino community tends to use soccer matches as social gatherings and this is an opportunity to get the input of community members and allow them to feel a sense of ownership over the project and the space. Additionally if the complex is designed to meet the needs of the community it will be utilized more often and become a meeting space for community members rather than simply soccer fields.
25. **Visioning**—Create a community vision that combines goals, principles, cornerstones and values. Include an evaluation process to measure success.
26. **Youth Advisory Council**—Create Youth Advisory Council: The City Council can select a small number of youth in the community to serve for a year as a representative for issues concerning children in Independence. A good example is the youth council in Tualatin,

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OR (*Tualatin Youth Advisory Council*). Member responsibilities include presentations at city council meetings, school outreach, and hosting seasonal events for the community. Youth Council can assist in the planning and outreach of the two following recommendations.

27. **Youth Design Contest**—Create Youth Design Contest: A popular suggestion given during the Green Cities Charrette was to add public art to the sides of businesses and the Independence water tower. A youth art contest can encourage school aged children to create an art piece of what it means to live in Independence. Displaying art done by local youth fosters a sense of place and ownership for the next generation.
28. **Youth Educational Circles**—Form Youth Educational Circles: Independence Mayor John McArdle described the importance of teaching youth the history of Independence in order to encourage settlement by the next generation. One way to do this is by hosting educational circles with elected officials, business leaders, and older residents in the area. Youth can gain valuable historical insight from long time residents and also form networks for future careers. These interactions can increase cross-cultural and cross-generational dialogue, allowing older residents to pass on what they find important about independence

to the next generation of owners.

Energy and Resources

29. **Airport Wind Turbines**—Provide an aviation-themed windmill (e.g. propellers) at the entrance to the airport that powers the street lights.
30. **Alternative Energy Program**—Develop a comprehensive alternative energy program that considers the following techniques: photovoltaic cells, community microgrids, hydrogen cells, microturbines and cogeneration, wind, geothermal and organic waste (biomass).
31. **Alternative Energy Buildings**—Convert government buildings to run on alternative energy, also pursue smart lighting options for the inside of buildings.
32. **Alternative Energy Streetlights**—Replace all streetlights under City jurisdiction with hybrid wind and solar powered LED streetlights.
33. **Amphitheater Wind Energy**—Incorporate small vertical axis wind turbines above the pillars in the amphitheater to generate energy for the City and events held in the amphitheater.
34. **Bioswales**—Construct bioswales in parking lots close to the river. Bioswales filter pollutants from parking lot runoff, reduce the volume of discharge, and address water quality standards. By building bioswales close to the river, for instance in the parking lot of Riverview Park, they can break down a large portion of pollutants, like oil and grease dripped from cars. Furthermore, by improving and collection more water quality runoff the City of Independence can decrease the number of discharge of stormwater permits required by the EPA under the Clean Water Act of 1987. Build bioswales on Monmouth Street. Install bioswales along South Main Street between C and I Streets.
35. **Bridge Wind Turbines**—Install an array of vertical-axis wind turbines on the bridge to mark the East Gate of town.
36. **Cisterns**—Require all new development of the land behind the Courthouse to install cisterns for toilet flushing and irrigation. Establish a program where city residents can receive a rebate on their water bill if they install a personal cistern at their residence.
37. **Commercial Composting**—Demand that your contractor for trash start commercial composting, then later on, move to residential. Start holding courses for backyard composting.
38. **Dedicated Trees**—Dedicate a tree trench to City donors. Tree trenches allow

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stormwater to flow off the street, enter the tree trench through an inlet and be stored in a filtration system underground that allows runoff to soak into the ground, evaporate, and transpire through the leaves. The tree trench should also provide an overflow so excess water can drain out once the trench has reached capacity. In addition to capturing and cleaning stormwater, tree trenches improve water quality and provide shade and attractive green space. Tree trenches can be implemented in areas throughout Independence, but because they can be a more costly to install they could be used as an incentive for city donors to contribute funding to the city and have a permanent tree trench dedicated in honor of their memory.

39. **Disconnect a Downspout**—Implement a “Disconnect a Downspout” program. When you disconnect a downspout from a house roof you redirect water to your yard or garden. Disconnecting a downspout reduces the probability of basement flooding by moving water away from building foundations so that it soaks into the ground. It is also a low-maintenance option for watering your yard during the wet winter months. Disconnecting includes: cutting the downspout; attaching elbows, extensions and splashblocks to direct the water to

flow away from the house; plugging the standpipe (or a vertical pipe extending from the water supply of the house); and securing the materials to existing structures.

Environmental Services for the City of Portland, Oregon also noted that there are also several different ways to design your disconnection. Most notably a local resident could install a hinged downspout elbow that can be flipped up in dry weather or lawn mowing; allow for infiltration by removing concrete walkways between the downspout and rain garden area; and add a boulder or rock at the end of the downspout to reduce erosion.

40. **Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations**—Provide EV stations in the downtown and at City Hall.
41. **Electric Vehicles**—Swap government vehicles to be fully electric, starting with the Postal Service. They drive small amounts, for short distances, and park in the same spot each night.
42. **Energy Management**—Form a collaborative initiative to manage power use. This group should analyze how Independence gets, and uses its power from a social, economic, and environmental standpoint. Make resources for all homeowners and

businesses to understand how upgrading power use technology is a benefit to them and their community. Explore opportunities in alternative energy source grids once use is at a manageable rate. Make alternative energy use, self-sufficiency, and sustainability primary goals of the city. Prepare a Climate Action Plan.

43. **Low Impact Development**—The adoption of a low impact development (LID) style of city planning could give the city the opportunity to improve the connectivity of the city to the surrounding rural area. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, LID strategies integrate green space, native landscaping, natural hydrologic functions, and various other techniques to generate less runoff from developed land (NRDC, 2001)
44. **Night Lighting**—Implement an outdoor lighting code, shield the lights at home to protect your neighbors and wildlife. Shielding the lights on top directs their pool of light to the bottom, making them most effective.
45. **Off-Grid 2040**—Make a goal to go completely off-grid as a town by 2040 to be truly Independent!
46. **Permeable Surfaces**—Replace Main Street’s pavement with a permeable alternative such as pervious asphalt.

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- Enforce businesses to install permeable surface parking lots. Use porous pavers for the sidewalks and bike paths along Main Street and the river. Use pervious pavement for all re-paving projects across the City including driveways and sidewalks.
47. **Rain Barrels**—Provide rain barrels to collect roof-top runoff water for irrigation.
48. **Rainwater Gardens**—Plant rain gardens in local yards. As noted above, the second logical step to disconnecting a downspout is to build a rain garden leading from the downspout to plants in resident's yards. Rain gardens recharge groundwater aquifers by redirecting water to flow into the ground instead of the sewer system, provide wildlife habitats, and beautify yards. Most local residents can build a rain garden on their own by following guides like the *Oregon Rain Water Guide* which also includes a list of where, how, and what you will need to build a garden, as well as a list and diagram for acceptable plants based on the bioregions of Oregon. Install rainwater gardens in vacant lots throughout downtown. Install rainwater gardens in the amphitheater area.
49. **Rainwater Management**—Develop a city-wide rainwater management program. Advertise the benefits of the City's

- adoption of new rainwater management methods.
50. **Recycling**—Install more recycling options at public parks to make recycling more convenient and nurture this practice with children. Provide public trash, recycling and compost bins along the river. Engage the help of K-12 students in labeling and painting the bins to personalize them and therefore elicit a sense of pride, ownership, and responsibility to keeping the area clean in the community.
51. **Renewable Energy**—Incorporating renewable energy to developments in Independence helps to promote a culture of sustainability within the community and also shows the initiative of the city to be proactive on issues of the future. Wind and solar options would be the most suitable for the area, with wind being an enticing opportunity. The City of Independence could look to incorporate some wind turbines to their new soccer field development.
52. **River Walkway Solar Lighting**—Install solar powered LED lights along the new river walkway.
53. **Soccer Field Filtration System**—Construct a soccer field filtration system. Modern sports fields can be designed with a healthy filtration system in mind. On natural turf fields (companies like *Greenshield* who work in the Pacific Northwest and dug a filtration system for *South Eugene High School*'s athletic field) trenches are dug and laid with pipes that are backfilled all the way to the surface with a column of sand. The sand column helps the field have a reduced soil saturation which allows for an extended playing season and safer playing conditions. This proposal could easily be implemented in the much anticipated soccer fields of North Riverfront Park in Independence.
54. **Soccer Field Wind Turbines**—Place large wind turbines on the edge of the soccer fields.
55. **Smart Lamppost**—Install the first smart lamppost at the west gate entrance. This lamppost would efficiently use energy by using different sensors to regulate its use.
56. **Solar Energy Rooftops**—Increase the installation of solar PV rooftops in the City by at least 30% by 2025.
57. **Solar Flower Garden**—Place artistic solar “flowers” or solar panels in the shape of flowers in the green spaces beyond the amphitheater and plant hop vines around them.
58. **Solar Lighting**—Build wildlife friendly lights along the bike path, and city. They should be shielded on the top,

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- charge during the day using solar panels, and have motion sensors to limit the amount of energy and light pollution/trespass they create.
59. **Solar Panels**—Add solar panels to rooftops and other structures such as the Monmouth Bridge.
60. **Solar Parking/Carports**—Add solar parking with PV-covered carports or PV surfaced driveways. Combine with EV Charging Stations where feasible.
61. **Solar Roof Picnic Shelters**—Build picnic shelters along the new river path with solar panels on top.
62. **Solar Shades**—Design solar shades that are both collapsible and attachable to restaurants that have outside dining. When not used for outside dining, place them on roofs for energy generation.
63. **Stormwater Grate Painting**—Paint stormwater grates in downtown and in school zones. Recently, the City of Bend created a “Clean Water Works” campaign to entice people in a creative and emotional way to their local storm drains. The city encouraged local artists to submit their work to the Art, Beautification, and Culture Commission for approval and reimbursement of their work on local storm grates in and around the city. The paintings were done in time for their local Stream Stewardship Day river cleanup. Independence could raise awareness of local artists work while partnering with schools to get younger children interested in both art and ecology.
64. **Stormwater Management Video Contest**—Create a video contest for school children on the importance of stormwater management. Local students worked with Bend Film and Zolo Media to inspire future film makers with both hands on experience and networking leads to community partners. As part of the “Clean Water Works” educational campaign, the City of Bend brought together students and community partners to learn more about how to keep the stormwater clean and the river clean, and why that’s important. This program could easily be implemented in Independence on a similar level.
65. **Water Management**—Review weather patterns and related drainage issues within the city limits to designate potential planting strip water management opportunities.
66. **Ash Creek Trail**—Build permeable pathway along Ash Creek.
67. **Bicycle and Pedestrian Signage**—Provide more bike and pedestrian information signage to promote the use of surrounding nature destinations and trail routes.
68. **Bicycle Buffer Zones**—Utilize green paint in buffer zones at intersections that signify bike space not ok for vehicles to be idling in.
69. **Bike Days**—Encourage community involvement by creating a “bike to work” and “bike to school” days.
70. **Bicycle Education**—Implement a bike program into the physical education program of local schools.
71. **Bike Incentives**—Incentivize cycling to community events through free and reduced prices on goods or special bike-only amenities.
72. **Bike Intersections**—Make intersections more bike-friendly by making them a yield zone for bicycles and stop signs for cars.
73. **Bike Lanes**—Add bike lanes to Main Street, Monmouth Street and Second Street. Create a buffered lane on North Main Street.
74. **Bike Map**—Create a bicycle map for the City.
75. **Bike Paths**—Connect bike paths to the River Trail. Build a paved multi-use

Connectivity and Mobility

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- path along the Willamette River. Repaint and widen the bike lane on North 16th Avenue outside Central High School.
76. **Bike Rack Incentives/Sponsorships**—Provide business incentives for creative and artistic bike racks. Ask businesses to sponsor sidewalk bike racks or paths adjacent to their businesses or points of interest.
77. **Bike Rack Design Competition**—Start a design competition for new bike racks on Main Street to encourage biking and sense of community.
78. **Bike Racks**—Add artistic bike racks near the downtown amphitheater and/or added to the new soccer field complex. Install artistic sculptural bike racks downtown using recycled/repurposed materials and the handiwork of local artists. Install a second bike rack outside City Hall.
79. **Bike Repair Stands**—Install free public bicycle repair stands across the city.
80. **Bike Sharing**—Increase outdoor activities and convenience through bike sharing. Begin a city- or region-wide bike sharing program.
81. **Bus Transit**—Provide expanded bus routes to allow for increased connectivity such as from Western Oregon University to Riverview Park.
82. **Car-Free Days**—Close down 2nd Street one day a month to encourage pedestrian and bicycle traffic to businesses. Close selected downtown streets one or two days a year to promote walking and cycling.
83. **Carpooling**—Create an incentive for carpooling. Sign up with *Drive Less Connect* (already has some service in Polk County), add more park-and-ride locations, and make city hall the first building to fully support alternative transportation.
84. **Cobblestone and Pavers**—Use cobblestone or pavers for intersections, crosswalks and commercial/institutional entrances.
85. **Crosswalks**—Install crosswalks in major intersections to increase safety for pedestrians and cyclists.
86. **Cycle Track**—Add two-way cycle track through downtown next to amphitheater. Include bike signals at main intersections.
87. **Green Streets**—Adopt green street designs for all major streets with bioretention, permeable surfaces and complementary landscaping.
88. **Landscape Buffers**—Use nature as a buffer between cars and sidewalks.
89. **Light Rail**—Make use of the railroad tracks. Reconsider the potential for future light rail on the existing railroad tracks.
90. **Main Street Public Open Space**—Close Main Street from “B” to “C” Streets as a public open space.
91. **Medians**—Construct medians with landscaping on selected streets with high traffic flow.
92. **Multi-Modal Streets**—Convert 2nd Street to a one-way multi-modal street by using one side to create 2-direction bike lanes. Currently, C Street in downtown is home to some small business with two more shop fronts opening soon in the newly renovated “Speak Easy” building. It could be to the benefit of the city to look into the possibility of incorporating multi-use aspects to this street to create more public space, economic opportunity, and sense of place.
93. **Multi-Use Design**—Integrate low impact development, bikeways, walkability, and shared space design concepts.
94. **Neighborhood Ride**—Implement “Neighborhood Ride” service that travels to main areas and hot spots around town to encourage multimodal transportation.
95. **One-way / Two-way Streets**—Evaluate the use of one-way and two-way street alternatives to consider design speed,

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- traffic calming and destination.
96. **Parking**—Rethink parking spaces and lots to serve as temporary use sites for public space, community gardens, parklets, etc. Convert the diagonal parking on C Street to parallel parking. Once that is done, it will leave room to paint a bike lane. Adopt a parking management strategy.
97. **Pedestrianization**—Invest in pedestrian-friendly streets and walkability.
98. **Pavement Treatments**—Install colored, textured and tiled pavement for bicycle lanes and intersections to increase visibility, identify potential areas of conflict and reinforce priority to bicyclists.
99. **Pedicabs**—Offer pedicabs (bike taxis) as a green way for people to get around town for business, pleasure, or tourism.
100. **Promenade**—Convert S 2nd Street to be a car-free promenade.
101. **Public Transit**—Plan for expanded public transit along the major corridors: north-south Main Street and east-west Monmouth Street. Encourage bus improvements and bus infrastructure before Independence roadways are out of date. Establish bus service that travels like a trolley traditionally might have that travels up and down Main, 2nd and C Streets. Start an electrical tram (trolley) for Main Streets connected to bus transit.
102. **Reduce Parking**—Reduce the amount of parking on C Street between 2nd and Main Street. Create parallel parking and expand the sidewalk to promote walkability.
103. **Riverside Trail / Riverview Path**—Extend river walking path with permeable surfaces. Create a walkable, chronological timeline of the history of the city along the Riverview path starting near City Hall and ending at the North end of the park. Be sure to include history of indigenous local people in the timeline, too.
104. **Roundabout, Polk and Main Streets**—Establish a roundabout at Polk and Main Streets complete with a flashing light crosswalk to make pedestrians feel more comfortable crossing the street in an intersection full of businesses. Design an artistic green space or public art for the roundabout center.
105. **Roundabout, 2nd and C Streets**—Install a roundabout at 2nd and C Street intersection.
106. **Roundabout, 2nd and G Streets**—Create a roundabout on 2nd and G Street (incorporate art). Install a landmark / art piece / roundabout at Main and C Streets. Install a roundabout or traffic light to improve traffic flow
107. **Safe Routes to Schools**—Integrate a “Safe Routes to Schools” program with routes connecting businesses and recreational areas.
108. **Second Street Shared Space**—Transform 2nd Street into a shared space. Remove curbs on either side of the street to remove pedestrian, cyclist and driver’s designated portion of the street. Lower speed limit, preferable to 20 miles per hour, to ensure safety. Remove land and crosswalk marking, creating an unsure feeling to cause people—especially drivers—to be more aware of others potential in their area. Remove stop signs at intersections. Change asphalt to paving stones to create vibrations while driving making it seem as if one is driving faster than if the surface were smooth. Use existing railroad tracks as a border, causing the street to appear narrower. Plant more trees and shrubs to change shape of the road. Install a sculpture, or other forms of public art, to change the shape of the road. Install bike racks to change the shape of the road and encourage more biking.
109. **Second Street and C Street Public Square**—Close C and Second Streets to create a public square and promote walkability.

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- 110. **Self-service Bike Repair**—Install self-service bike repair stations throughout the City to promote bike use.
- 111. **Shared Parking**—Adopt shared parking practices for all new development and review current parking practices to increase efficiency.
- 112. **Shared Space**—Incorporate the idea of “shared space” into all planning considerations that emphasize multi-modal transportation options wherever possible.
- 113. **Shuttle**—Work with neighboring Monmouth to establish a nighttime and/or weekend shuttle that transports citizens and tourists to various nightlife and entertainment locations.
- 114. **Sidewalks**—Widen Main Street sidewalks. Include continuous sidewalk on east side of Main Street from City Hall to the end of town. Replace/repair sidewalks with permeable surfaces. Demolish and rebuild the sidewalk along C Street. Incorporate artistic elements into the new sidewalk. Create a scale mosaic of the Willamette River that “flows” toward Riverview park. Place foot/paw/hoof prints of local fauna with labels denoting what indigenous creature the prints belong to along the walk. Wherever possible, widen sidewalks to twelve feet (12').

- 115. **Street Lighting**—Provide more sufficient lighting throughout the City for safe travels at night.
- 116. **Traffic Calming**—Add green spaces and/or bioswales to various bulb-outs along Main Street.
- 117. **Transit Center**—Repurpose old city hall to be a multi-functional transit center.
- 118. **Wayfinding**—Create wayfinding signs with bike or walk times.

Biophilic Design

- 119. **Amphitheatre Hop Plants**—Fill the planter beds between the pillars of the amphitheater with Hops that can grow up twine. One string horizontally strung across the pillar tops and 2 or 3 strings hanging vertically can support hop vines, add greenery, and reinforce the branding of the town.
- 120. **Aquaponics Education**—Include aquaponics projects with local school programs.
- 121. **Aquaponics Projects**—Create aquaponics projects in conjunction with Willamette River development.
- 122. **Ash Creek Stewardship Day**—Organize an Ash Creek Stewardship Day. In 2013, the Luckiamute Watershed Council received a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to restore Ash Creek, which is a tributary that runs through the heart of Independence and gives residents both recreation and educational opportunities. The creek is currently undergoing two faces: revegetation of native wildlife in degraded areas along the stream and stewardship where invasive species are being removed in healthier areas along the stream. Even if local residents can't volunteer each week or month to help restore the stream they can still partner with Luckiamute Watershed Council for a day of planting native shrubs, targeting invasive species, and continuing outreach in the local community.
- 123. **Barrel Planters**—Create planter beds from recycled materials like wine barrels to create a cohesive feeling of sustainability, food justice, and to support the local wine industry. Due to the amount of impermeable surface throughout C Street, create above-ground planters to separate pedestrians and cars. Use barrel planters that incorporate historic value, plant hops to further establish a “sense of place.” Place information about plant growth and care, harvesting, and recipes for cooking specific vegetables being grown on the outside of the container so the community can learn how to grow and how to prepare it themselves.

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124. **Bioswales**—Install bioswales with native plants along Main Street in order to increase the aesthetics and beautification of the area while collecting and filtering stormwater.
125. **Birds**—Install bird friendly mesh window coverings on reflective glass windows that are prone to bird strikes. Similarly, install a bird friendly/cat-free water bath for hot summer months (simply take a water bath but wrap cattle fencing around it to prevent attacks). Install bird feeders on street corners and near green walls.
126. **Blueberries**—Plant rows of blueberries along the proposed bike path under the powerlines on the west side of Central High School. Not only will they be beautiful all year long, they provide great erosion control and fresh blueberries.
127. **Chalkboard Map**—Build a covered chalkboard with an interactive map of the City for people to draw or write where they are growing food or have edible plants or trees available. This could be located right next to the herb wall on *Umpqua Bank's* west side. Room should be made for kids to draw on the chalkboard.
128. **Community Gardens**—Plant community gardens in schools, nursing and retirement homes in conjunction with City programs. The corner of 2nd and D Streets has a vacant lot that would be perfect for a large [temporary use] community garden. Promote community gardens by installing cisterns at locations where gardens are desired.
129. **Community Supported Agriculture**—Organize community supported agriculture (CSA) such as monthly food boxes and other co-op programs.
130. **Compost Station**—Install a city-use compost station by the Hotel, to be used by the hotel, the roof-top garden waste, restaurant green waste, and city yard waste pickup programs to be made available to the community for free public and private use.
131. **Culinary Herb Boxes**—Establish culinary herb boxes outside of restaurants to promote local food and educate customers on the value of knowing where their food comes from and how to utilize it.
132. **Edible Flower Garden**—Plant a recycled tire edible flower garden on the corner of S 17th Street and Monmouth in front of the *Les Schwab Tires*.
133. **Edible Landscaping**—Plant a mix of fruit trees, shrubs, and low-lying vegetables to provide for accessible harvest by individuals of all ages and ability levels. In addition to sites throughout the City, edible landscaping could be incorporated in the City downtown park and riverfront.
134. **Education Garden**—Propose that the *First Baptist Church* turn its front lawn into an interactive education garden. This could be a place kids can go during lunch that is peaceful as well as a place parents can take their kids after church to learn about nature. Teach a class at the community center that teaches about building urban gardens.
135. **Farmers' Market**—Organize a monthly farmers' market at the vacant parking lot next to the Post Office at 2nd Street and Monmouth. Close B and C Streets between 3rd and Main Streets to traffic once a month to host a local farmers/ artisans market.
136. **Fitness Park**—Build a fitness park on the unused Community Center parking lot to encourage attendance and allow for joint use.
137. **Food Fairs**—Organize periodic food fairs and related events with food from private and community gardens.
138. **Garden Funding and Management**—Find or create a foundation or financing mechanism to fund gardens. Coordinate with local businesses and institutions to manage and educate citizens about urban/community gardens. Use urban/

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community gardens as a community service and employment opportunity and support with volunteer services such as an outdoor kitchen for lunches.

139. **Green Belt**—Create a green belt around the City of Independence connecting existing bike paths to facilitate bikeability and multimodal transportation, and to foster a sense of place.

140. **Green Pavement**—Replace City parking lot cement with grass pavers.

141. **Green Roofs**—Construct green roofs on main buildings: City Hall, Independence's National Bank, Library... The incorporation of green roofs into a city has a long list of both public and private benefits. For the general public and health of the community the benefits of green roofs are very considerable. Reducing the urban heat effect, is the largest asset of green roofs, which reduce heat through the process of transpiration and can absorb up to 80% of the energy input. Green roofs also provide a habitat for plants and animals as well as retain stormwater and reduce flooding. The vegetation on the roofs also reduces smog levels and promotes healthy air quality in cities increasing the health of the community. As for individual owners, there are many economic

benefits to utilizing green roofs. They not only act as a thermal regulator and can help insult during the winter months, but also act as a heat shield during the summer season. This temperature regulation can greatly reduce an individual's monthly bills. Noise reduction and increased longevity of the roofs are also added benefits of installing green roofs to the infrastructure of a city.

142. **Green Space Inventory and Development**—Assess the City's potential for new green spaces and determine the feasibility of implementing development to enhance the social and environmental benefits to the community. Increase green space in the City with mini parks and green space strips.

143. **Green Walls**—Green walls (vertical landscaping) not only increase oxygen in the air, but they cool temperatures in the City and create a more beautiful and aesthetically pleasing atmosphere. Native plants can be incorporated along with educational elements that help community members identify and learn about local plants in the Willamette Valley. Increase visibility of the Public Library from the Cinema by creating a green wall on the 2nd Street side. Incentivize green walls/vertical gardens throughout the City and businesses.

Right on the corner of 2nd and Monmouth Streets is the Public Library which could have a green wall with grape.

Collaborate with local artists to find creative ways to make greenery look artistic in order to enhance sense of place. Designate a green wall to be maintained and used by a local school to potentially plant edible foods and decorate. Occupy smaller vacant walls with green walls or do-it-yourself "moss graffiti," such as the vacant *Elks* wall or the side wall of *Taylor's*.

144. **Hanging Edible Baskets**—Install hanging baskets along 1st and 2nd street to utilize as planters for hanging tomatoes and ever-bearing strawberry varieties. They can also double as off the ground herb gardens in areas with narrower sidewalks.

145. **Hanging Flower Baskets**—Seasonal flower baskets can be added to the street lights on 2nd Street to brighten things up and add color to the landscape.

146. **Harvest Festival**—Host a garden/harvest festival once during the growing seasons with culinary specialties. Coordinate this event with the farmers' market and local schools.

147. **Herb Wall**—Install an herb wall on the west facing back side of the *Umpqua Bank* on Main Street. This gives community members a great alternative

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to buying dried herbs or expensive fresh ones at the supermarket.

148. **Hop Heritage Wall**—Along the lines of a green wall, hops can be placed on the wall instead of other plants. Catering to the City's hop heritage, a hop wall can be established showcasing different hop varieties grown in the area. The brick wall lining the parking lot on C and 2nd Streets is a potential location.

149. **Hop Plant Trellises**—Install Hop plants on twine trellises to grow up the bare brick building walls in the downtown area, and along the back of the brick buildings which face downtown and back up to the river development lot.

150. **Hops Design Contest**—Host a design contest to incorporate living hops into a public art piece that can reside on the corner adjacent to the Movie Theater and end of the pavement on 2nd street, promoting community integration in historical development.

151. **Hydrologic Landscape Design**—Plant water-friendly native vegetation along the perimeter of the amphitheater area. Plant woody shrubs and bunch grasses on slopes in the new development site which exceed a 20% grade, especially those oriented to face the east (and the river). Entrench trees with attached root wads into the bank of the river adjacent to city hall and the new

development site, orient these trees such that the top is buried within the bank, perpendicular to the river, with root wads extending into the channel. Drive trees vertically into the river channel to form small jetty structures attached to the western riverbank, this can be done in the same area. Dig a low relief channel along the perimeter of the amphitheater and plant native shrub grasses along it. Note this channel will not receive visible flow for the majority of the year. Build permeable walkway surfaces in the new development site, basalite tiling is a great example of how to do this, they are interlocking basalt stone tiles with designed slits to let water through.

152. **Hydroponics**—Provide hydroponic gardening “vegetable stations” that use mineral nutrients in water as opposed to soil. [See **aquaponics**]

153. **Independence Street**—Rename Monmouth Street to Independence Street where the Cities intersect.

154. **Information Signage**—Create signage to be placed near bioswales, permeable paved areas, the riparian zone and green roofs to educate the public on the positive ecological changes happening in the community. Add placards and signage in front of the tree and plants in the Riverfront Park to add an

educational aspect to the park.

155. **Landscape Screening**—Incorporate larger bush variety herbs such as thyme and rosemary to hide less aesthetically pleasing developments in town that currently have unknown production timelines, such as along the 2nd street unfinished project.

156. **Living Street Lamps**—Construct vegetated street lamps at City gateways.

157. **Living Walls**—Construct living walls on the schools especially in view from public streets.

158. **Micro Parks**—Locate places within the denser areas of the City to build a park such as a micro park in a parking lot. Build a micro park in an abandoned lot on C Street.

159. **Native Plant Garden**—Provide a native plant garden to support the importance of learning about the history and uses of native plants is valuable.

160. **Natural Landscape**—Rethink lawns, plant a mix of native coniferous and deciduous shrubs, and trees planted as they would grow in nature—not in rows or drifts. Keep organic matter on the ground and you won't need to bring excess much in, dead leaves can be used to smother unwanted plants.

161. **Online Edible Landscape Guide**—

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- Provide a map and guide to local, public, edible landscapes. (e.g. Fruit Map app)
162. **Old City Hall Landscape**—Plant a wider variety of edible and medicinal plants along the edges of the old city hall lot, allowing for larger or vining varieties, making a central location for harvesting and educational opportunities while also increasing the aesthetic appeal of this lot.
163. **Park Active/Passive Design**—Provide opportunities for high physical and passive activities.
164. **Park Memorial Gifts / Donations / Sponsors**—Establish programs to encourage memorial gifts and park donations. Adopt a strategic approach to recruiting private sector sponsors.
165. **Parklets**—Build a parklet at Main Street and D Street with info plaques about the herbs and vegetables used by local restaurants planted in it. Giving the community examples of the connectivity of Independence will motivate people to become more connected themselves. Consider using selected parking spaces as temporary parklets especially in conjunction with City events and outdoor business activities.
166. **Pesticide Ban**—Ban the use of pesticides in the city limits of

- Independence on Public spaces to ensure the best quality of edible and medicinal produce for citizens as well as clean, safe habitats for other species.
167. **Plant Signage**—Build informative signage at all multifunctional plant installations that describe the plant varieties seen, ways to utilize the plant variety, as well as further local resources for more information on the plants benefits.
168. **Plant Survey**—Circulate a survey to community members listing specific plant varieties such as; basil, thyme, mint, lemon balm, comfrey, chives, hanging tomatoes etc. as well as providing space for recommendations on additional species varieties, in order to determine most beneficial plants for the people.
169. **Planter Beds**—Add planter beds to the downtown sidewalks to grow organic vegetables for the specific purpose of providing free produce to the community
170. **Planting Strips**—Build planting strips along main streets and gateways to accommodate current and future planting projects.
171. **Raised Beds**—Put in four (4) raised beds into the dirt parking dividers in the *Central High School's* east side parking lot on Monmouth Street. These would be great to kickstart the creation of a school garden project.
172. **Raised Garden Boxes**—Grow kale and other edible yet beautiful plants in raised garden boxes in front of the Independence Welcome sign in front of *Waremart*. This will not only beautify the entrance to the City, it will inform people of the simplicity of growing vegetables.
173. **Riparian Buffer**—Provide a 25' wide riparian buffer between new and existing development. Improve the buffer by planting native trees and other vegetation along the river.
174. **Riparian Zone**— “Repair the Riparian Zone.” Sow native plants in a riparian zone in the downtown development area. By planting a healthy riparian zone on part of the 20 acre property acquired by the city for downtown development, the city can stabilize the meandering river bank and prevent erosion. The vegetation will filter stormwater runoff, slow flooding, add habitat for salmon and trout that need the cooler water that the shaded area produces. The new vegetation will also prevent noxious weeds from colonizing the bare soil. Host a weekly or monthly river clean-up to encourage residents to partake in stewardship of their river resource.
175. **Riverfront Park**—Set aside part of the

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riverfront land to build a park. Consider building it closer to the rest of the City so that residents could potentially walk to it. Distribute trash, recycle and compost bins throughout the park.

176. Riverfront Playground—Install a playground with wood chips in a corner of the Riverfront Park. Consider a play structure in the shape of a covered wagon since the City has history involving the Oregon Trail.

177. Recreational Rock Wall—Build a rock wall in the Riverfront Park for climbing, bouldering and belaying.

178. Roots Box—Plant a “roots” box of edible plants and root veggies in front of the *Heritage Museum*. The box will symbolize both the history of Independence as well as their future endeavors towards increased education on sustainability.

179. Soccer Complex—Enhance the soccer complex with sports leagues; night lighting; and cultural identity marketing.

180. Sports Park Area—Leave a good portion of the Riverfront Park as an open grass area to allow for recreation use such as practicing soccer or grass volleyball.

181. Streetscape—Change the city code to include six feet [6'] planting strip between streets and sidewalks. Widen

sidewalks to six feet [6'] if not already in code).

182. Street Trees—Plant native trees, shrubs, plants, etc., in the planting strips and outside of businesses, do not use pesticide/herbicide, irrigate only the first couple years while these drought tolerant plants get established then discontinue.

183. Street Trees, Edible—Replace some of the downtown trees with edible fruit trees.

184. Urban Gardens—Plant “temporary use” urban gardens on small, vacant sites or parklets. Vary the garden types to include bird/butterfly, edible, fragrant, herbal, medicinal, meditative, ornamental, renaissance, etc.

185. Urban Orchard—Plant a small orchard of five (5) fruit trees in front of Central High School on Monmouth Street. Cherry or apple trees not only have beautiful blossoms but give students the opportunity to watch trees grow and eventually taste the fruit.

186. Vacant Lot Parks—Expand the park master plan to locate empty lots that can be temporary uses or used in future development as locations for parks.

187. Water Features—Include water features in all public spaces such as fountains, reflection pools, rainwater

chains, drinking water, etc.

188. Whitewater Park—Install a whitewater park with multiple channels for slow, general recreation; one that develops waves for kayaking and surfing; and a natural habitat restoration channel.

189. Youth Gardening Program—Establish a youth gardening program in order to get kids involved in plants and food production.

Regenerative Design

190. 20-Minute Neighborhoods—Work towards creating 20-minute neighborhoods where traditional amenities are within a 20-minute walk. Encourage more grocery stores near residential neighborhoods.

191. Airport Public Art—Provide an aviation-themed public art display at the entrance to the airport.

192. Banners—Drape banners off the Civic Center’s roof to cover the brick work. These banners should provide visual insight into the uniqueness of Independence or perhaps upcoming town events. Install a bilingual banner downtown to inform citizens of upcoming community events in Spanish.

193. Bike Rack Art—Additional bike rack art designs that incorporate the river or hop

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- history of the city.
194. **Blue Tourism**—Construct a swim area and boat dock. Also provide a rental shop for water sports such as kayaks and paddle boards.
195. **Bridge Viewpoint**—Establish a viewpoint of the Willamette River Bridge.
196. **Chain Store/Restaurant Identity Restriction**—Ensure that chain store/restaurant identity and branding is integral and complementary to the City's identity and branding.
197. **Eco-Friendly Hotel**—Develop an ecologically friendly hotel plan in new riparian zone.
198. **Disaster Risk Reduction**—Invest in disaster risk reduction initiatives in existing and future city buildings, parks, and public areas, while also incentivizing private building owners to also invest in disaster risk reduction programs. Combine with Climate Action Plan.
199. **Downtown Urban Design Theme**—Create an historic, urban design theme for architecture, landscaping, signage and lighting for the downtown. Require design theme for new development and provide incentives for existing development.
200. **Empty Lots**—Activate empty lots to provide opportunities to improve the street: farmers' markets; outdoor dining; pedestrian connectivity; playground; pocket park, garden, or interactive fountain; public restroom; skateboard park; staging area for outdoor exhibits; tot lot...
201. **Dumpster Art**—Collaborate on community-inspired dumpster art (i.e. “Dumpster Beautification Project”) throughout town.
202. **First Friday Community Art Event**—Organize a monthly (perhaps “First Friday”) community art event to encourage public engagement and social interaction among community members. An idea for the first art event is to hold a creative workshop asking people to create artistic, personalized maps of the area and then put these on display. The differences between visions will provide subject matter for interesting - and likely enlightening - discussions.
203. **Gateway Pillars and Arches**—Please entrance pillars and “welcome” arches on both sides of Monmouth and Main Streets at the west and north entrances to the City.
204. **Gateway Signage**—Replace the southern gateway sign with one that captures the patriotic nature of Independence with red, white and blue colors, and a thematic slogan. [See Slogans]
205. **Green City Typology**—Adopt a “green city” typology as a framework for future development. Examples include “compact city,” “eco-city,” “smart city” and many others.
206. **Green Wedding Destination**—Draw people in from all over by becoming a Green Wedding Destination and by catering to a niche market. Organize with local florists, bakeries, photographers, farmers, wineries & breweries.
207. **Harvest Festival**—Start a Harvest Festival to celebrate the seasonal growth and the abundance of free public food. Boxes of produce could be distributed at an event like this, or in a food hub location of the city’s choice.
208. **High School Mural**—Install a mural on the open brick wall of the school theatre that conveys the importance of the Willamette River.
209. **Historic Preservation Commission**—Encourage the Historic Preservation Commission to work with the City to incorporate history into proposed projects.
210. **Hop Capital of the World**—Grow hops in planter boxes in historical areas of the City to tie in the cultural significance of

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the area. Between 1900 and 1940 Independence was the coined “Hop Capital of the World” because the alluvial soil around the river and tributaries yielded vast amounts of hop plants. The hop industry became the town’s largest industry and brought prosperity to the thousands of pickers who came to the city to make a living. In fact, one of the yards where the plants were grown was the site of the present Riverview Park and the amphitheater was called the “Hop Bowl (History of Independence, p.6).” Once competition from foreign markets and beer became more common the hop industry fizzled out in Independence, but the history still remains. The best way to tie in the cultural significance of the amphitheater is by planting hops in the well-drained soil and giving it plenty of room to climb up the theatre’s arches.

- 211. **Independence Avenue**—Rename Monmouth Street to Independence Avenue.
- 212. **Independence Brewery**—Encourage a local micro-brewery in conjunction with City’s hop heritage.
- 213. **Information Signage**—Add historical markers, placards and signs with information related to Independence’s history. Place these informative markers throughout historical sites in town,

different neighborhoods and natural landmarks. Place educational and artistic placards around Riverview park.

- 214. **Kiosk**—Install an artistic map kiosk (Parish Map) at the soccer field park with information about the Willamette River, including the ecological and cultural importance of the river.
- 215. **LEED Programs**—Consider adopting U.S. Green Building Council LEED programs for public buildings and development sites. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design programs provides criteria for sustainable development.
- 216. **Main Street Crosswalk**—Create a brighter crosswalk to cross Main Street from C Street to encourage access onto Main Street to and from Riverview Park. Use this as an opportunity to apply art to create a sense of place and arrival.
- 217. **Mural Art**—Paint mural art on downtown building walls that are visual illusions to create visual interest. Examples include a painting a 3D hole; internal pillars holding the wall up; an elk (on the Elk’s Lodge building); and outlines of trees on walls adjacent street trees. Utilize the back facade of the bank building for a mural showcasing the local environment and non-human others. Select the artist by holding a community art competition with local environment as the guiding theme. Memorialize the multicultural heritage of Independence through a collaborative community mural on the side of the Taylor’s building. Engage an ethnically diverse cross section of the local population to ensure that a wide array of voices and backgrounds are represented. Paint a street mural at the end of 2nd Street to identify the end of the road. Paint a mural along the grey wall of the veterinarian’s office and allow the local artists in the next door gallery to host a competition or have the high school art class do a competition. Refresh the mural on the side of the building that used to be a fountain shop. The mural used to be an advertisement for Coca Cola which might sponsor a competition or artist to recreate the advertisement.
- 218. **Mural Art Competition**—Start an art competition with the winner getting to create a mural on the side of the bank on the corner of Monmouth St. and Main St .
- 219. **Mixed-Use Development & Density**—Create a denser City center with emphasis on living and businesses. Promote vertical mixed-use development and downtown densification for economic development, walkability and social cohesion.
- 220. **Native Plants**—Plant native species to

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help create a sense of place and have the Riverfront Park fit into the local community.

221. Park Public Art—Install art into the Riverfront Park. A traditional public art statue could be of John Thorp or another significant pioneer who was among the first settlers in Independence.

222. Photocatalytic Cement—Replace or construct new cement paving areas with “smog-eating” cement. Photocatalytic cement reduces the amount of toxins released by vehicles.

223. Public Art—Place artwork related to Independence’s history throughout town. For example, include hop artwork and pioneer artwork throughout various spots in town. Wherever possible integrate public art with alternative energy and/or green space design. Commission public art near the corner of Polk St. and Main St. in an attempt to connect downtown and airport districts.

224. Public Art Hunt—Locate small, public art throughout the City and provide a map to finding them. These “Easter Eggs” can be seasonal or all-year.

225. Public Art Incentives—Offer incentives to property owners in the Historic District to create public art and revitalize unoccupied spaces.

226. Public Art Statue, Buffalo—Place a 5-

tall bronze statue of a buffalo on the corner of E Street and South 2nd Street to convey the Oregon Trail by its iconic megafauna.

227. Public Art Statue, Settler—Place a statue of an early settler on the sidewalk on the corner of South 2nd Street and D Street, near the cinema.

228. Public Art Streetlamps—Add public art in the form of hops décor to the streetlamps.

229. Public Music—Fund a public music grant to make public spaces feel “humanly active” in Main Street and C Street. This may be a combination of local students, local artists or invited musicians.

230. Public Space/Square—develop a public space refers to the need for Independence have a space that makes it unique in the way that people go to New York City and want to experience Times Square or Central Park. A location that could be used to develop more of a public space that comes to mind is the area around Independence’s fountain. Including a public square into the downtown could also benefit the cultural connectivity of the community by bringing diverse groups of people to a centralized location. (PPS, 2015)

231. Recreation Marketing and Promotion—

Reach out to river recreation companies to draw in future business with the idea of rebranding the City with a focus on the Willamette River.

232. Riverfront Development—Divide the riverfront development site into hotel/commercial and park area.

233. Sculpture Park—Use the cinema parking lot to incorporate public art. Engage the community to design a sculpture park to attract more visitors.

234. Seating—Fund artful public seating in Main, C, D and E streets. Fund a street seat program “where local partners apply to transform underused streets into vibrant, social, public spaces.” (DOT)

235. Sidewalk Painting—Add a themed series of paintings on the sidewalks throughout town. They should be related to Independence’s history and culture.

236. Slogans—America’s Fame is our Name. Can Brew Attitude. Independence: a hop -pening place to be. The Town that Can Brew Attitude. #hportunity.

237. Street Art—Paint visual illusions on streets for temporary, permanent or event display. One location would be the concrete between Main Street and the amphitheater. Lead people down Monmouth Street to downtown Independence with fun and historically

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- accurate street art.
238. **Street Banners**—Create banners for the City entrances. The banners could say whatever relevant events are occurring in the City and/or the City's name, and around and over the banner plant vines of hops. Post seasonal event banners along Main Street, on light poles, and in parks for advertisement and inspired community engagement.
239. **Street Flags**—Add a row of flags on either one side of Monmouth and Main Streets at the west and north entrances to town. The flags can be combinations of greetings, events, artwork and civic organizations.
240. **Street Theme**—Rename lettered streets after hop varieties.
241. **Sustainability Centre**—Construct or renovate a building to serve as a “sustainability center” using biophilic design. The Centre could include education classes and training courses for permaculture, sustainable living, recycling...
242. **Sustainable Public Art**—Collaborate on sustainable art around town such as solar-catching sculptures that provide energy to local businesses and incentive clean energy in Independence.
243. **Sustainable Riverside Development**—Insist that the space by the river be used as an ECO- Hotel and Local Market Place. A hotel with a focus on sustainability and a mission that supports the community's local goals of becoming a green city. An example of combination Hotel-Markets is Eugene's 5th Street Market which draws in local retail shoppers.
244. **Urban Resiliency**—Incorporate urban resiliency into all urban development projects. For example, ensure that any athletic fields developed within the existing park system and riparian zone are environmental conscious, drought-tolerant, and are designed to flood if necessary.
245. **Water Tower Design Contest**—Host art design contest for the water tower.
246. **Wayfinding**—Add signs directing visitors to historical areas, important buildings, downtown, the Willamette River and other sights of interest throughout various spots in town. These signs should have a theme and should help visitors find their way around.
247. **Welcome Sign Design Contest**—Hold a design competition for a new welcome sign at the North Gate that may incorporate vertical-axis turbines and LED lights.
248. **Willamette River**—Increase exposure and connectivity to the river with trails, view corridors, wayfinding...



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