The purpose of this project is to gain a working knowledge of different greenspace systems and their planning and current management. A second objective is to develop realistic ideas for their future management. Both objectives will be accomplished by applying a comprehensive community forest planning process. You will be working in teams of three or four students each team working at one of the following study sites:

Site 1  Solano Park Family Housing, a section toward the W end, **SOLANOPARK**
Site 2  Davis Commons Parking Lot and peripheral plantings, **BORDERS**
Site 3  Streetscape City Block 1st to 2nd, from E to F, **HOLIDAY**
Site 4  Streetscape City Block 1st to 2nd, from D to E, **ORANGECOURT**
Site 5  Streetscape City Block 2nd to 3d, from D to E, including alley, **WATERMELON**
Site 6  Streetscape City Block 2nd to 3rd, from E to F, including plaza, **BASKINROBBINS**
Site 7  Amtrak Station, including parking lot and bicycle parking area, **AMTRAK**
Site 8  Central Park, South from sidewalk, including Farmer’s Market, **PARKSOUTH**
Site 9  Central Park, North from sidewalk, including Hattie Weber Museum, **PARKNORTH**

Boundaries will be explained during the Oct 4 Field Trip; additional sites may be chosen with permission. You will share your findings with classmates during the Quarter so that we can all learn from each other. Dimensions of the investigation that should be evident in each phase of the project include:

1) Extent of variation within your study site.

2) Relations between your site and the University or City Core Area as social/political/economic centers of Davis, and to the city as a larger system.

3) Changes over time, both historic changes, and predicted changes for the future.
**Procedure**

The project has three parts:

**Part 1.** *Greenspace Inventory:* Identify the distribution, health, management needs and other characteristics of the various greenspace subsystems present in the study area (turf, shrubs, trees, etc.).

**Part 2.** *Social Context and Landscape Character:* Describe the history, demographics, and community values influencing the site; interpret from available information, make surveys, and on-site observations. Describe physical aspects of the site such as circulation patterns and physical constraints to planting.

**Part 3.** *Management:* Integration of Parts 1 and 2 to identify management concerns and make recommendations.

**Project Rules**

1. Each team will produce a SINGLE written report with multiple authors; each author will participate in ALL aspects of the research and writing, as well as oral presentations. Work together within your team and cooperate with other teams in sharing available resource materials, maps, photos, reports, plant identification, etc.

2. Student relationships to public agencies: Because the number of students seeking information is large, students are to solicit information for this project only with utmost consideration for the busy schedules of the employees of these agencies.

3. Field conduct: This project gives students no special authorization or privileges, and must be conducted with the utmost SENSITIVITY to private and personal property in the areas you visit. You cannot enter private property or invade personal privacy except as invited to do so. Ask permission and explain what you are doing. In all cases, conclude visits before dusk. Consider this project an exercise in community sensitivity and efficient observation.
Part 1. Greenspace Inventory

The purpose of this inventory is to gather information concerning the structure and condition of the greenspace resources needed for the development of short and long term management ideas. You should collect information on trees and other greenspace components, including animal species. Data you collect will be used to answer the following questions:

How many trees are there and what is their condition (growing conditions)?

How diverse is the population and what is its age structure?

How are the trees distributed spatially (spacing, species mix)?

What are the primary and secondary management needs?

How many planting opportunities are there and for what types of tree species?

What conflicts between trees and other aspects of the urban environment are most prevalent, and or most serious?

What animal species are beneficial to the system, and what species are harmful?

Part 2: Social Context and Landscape Character

A. Gather information on the historic background of the site: when was it established and how has it developed and changed? What will it be like in the future? Interview local residents, business persons, and users to hear their needs. What specific issues concern them? Develop a short survey to determine their perceptions and values regarding important issues. What do they see as the important functions of the greenspace? Would they like to see changes in the plantings or their management? Use questions that are specific or open-ended as appropriate to what you want to learn.

B. Map the site and identify important social and historic features. Also show important features of the existing vegetation resource such as constraints to planting, exceptionally narrow or wide parkways, small planting pits, locations of underground utilities and overhead power lines, buildings close to tree planting sites. Some of this information will overlap Part 1. Show important air circulation and location of trees in relation to buildings and pedestrian traffic patterns.
Part 3. Management Ideas

A. Summarize what you have. Use text, tables, graphs, and maps to portray what you think are the most important findings concerning the study site's social context, landscape character, significant landscape features, and greenspace resource. Develop a composite of these factors. The composite should identify the spatial locations of:

1) Problem areas, i.e., poor air quality, excessive noise and dust, undesirable views that need to be screened, or desirable views that trees presently screen, eroded slopes, etc.

2) Opportunity areas, i.e., special areas to preserve or enhance, potential open space linkages, priority planting areas, etc.

3) Specific locations where constraints will influence future planting.

4) Vegetation management needs.

B. Describe what you want to accomplish. Based on what we know regarding the greenspace resource, the expressed needs of the residents, and the changing landscape character of the study site, list

1. Short term management goals (3 to 10 years),

2. Long term management goals (10 to 50 years), and

explain how these might be achieved.

Your team and project site must be:

chosen by Tuesday, Oct 16

Brief oral progress reports will be Tuesday, Nov 13.

Formal oral presentations will take place during the final 2 meetings of the Quarter.

Final written report is due Friday, Dec.7.

Yes, this is a BIG Deal, half of your grade! Don’t let your team mates down, do your share!