

# Self-Guided Sustainability Tour

## Stop 4. Electrical-generating Exercise Equipment: Dixon Recreation Center

OSU's student recreation center elliptical trainers are connected to cutting edge inverter technology that harnesses power humans generate during their workouts. Since installation in Feb. 2009, the setup has garnered international attention as the largest of its kind in the world. With funding from students and the Energy Trust of Oregon, this revolutionary concept changes our relationship with a kilowatt hour, and educates users about the value of energy conservation at home, school or work.

Dixon Recreation Center also uses green building materials & techniques including recycled rubber flooring, natural lighting, low-VOC materials, heat recovery ventilation, and more sustainably-harvested wood products.



## Off Campus Stop. Organic Ag: Organic Growers Club Farm. Directions and visit times can be found at the website below.

OSU's Organic Growers Club was started in 2001 by students concerned with the impact of food production on human health and the environment. They empower students by connecting them to more sustainable food production. The Club philosophy is that organic farming and gardening fosters one's appreciation of a delicate environmental balance.

With the help and donations of many community members, the Club has been able to propagate starts in a greenhouse, grow crops and flowers on the farm, experiment with plot design, and optimize food quality and quantity while respecting the natural capacity of the land. During the growing season, the club sells produce on campus.

All members of the OSU community are welcome to purchase produce, join the Club, or become volunteers. The club's website is [http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/organic\\_grower](http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/organic_grower)

## Stop 5. Reuse and Recycling: OSUsed Store, 644 SW 13th St.

**Best time to tour:** 8-5 Mon., Tue., Thu., and Fri. **Best time to shop:** Wed. noon-3 PM, or first Wed. of the month 5:30-7:30 PM.

The OSUsed Store is operated by OSU Surplus Property and sells items no longer needed by campus departments. They carry a remarkable variety of items: vehicles, bicycles, computers, laboratory equipment, furniture, and more. In addition to sales at the warehouse, surplus items are also sold through

sealed bids, at live auctions and online at eBay.

While there, check out the recycling operations that also take place in the warehouse. Thanks to efforts by Campus Recycling and University Housing and Dining Services, OSU handily won the 2006 RecycleMania Classic national competition by recycling the most material per resident hall occupant.

For more information, check the Campus Recycling and OSU Surplus websites: <http://recycle.oregonstate.edu> and <http://surplus.oregonstate.edu>

## Stop 6. Student Sustainability Center, 738 SW 15th Street

**For hours,** visit <http://recycle.oregonstate.edu/ssi/>

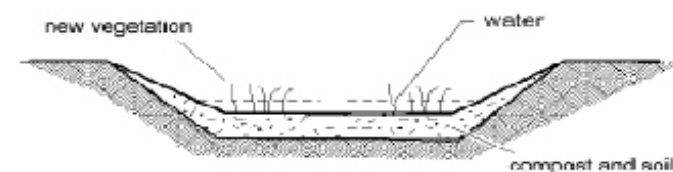
The Student Sustainability Center (SSC) is the hub of the student-powered sustainability movement on campus. A place for environmentally focused individuals and groups to meet and share information, the SSC also demonstrates sustainable practices in a residential or small office setting. The Student Sustainability Initiative operates from this location and provides student employment and sustainability grants for student-led campus projects. Permaculture, a Corvallis-OSU bicycle cooperative, and many other projects and events are based from this location. Solar resources and other larger projects are also planned for the Center. For more information, visit <http://recycle.oregonstate.edu/ssi/>

## Stop 7. Stormwater Management and Stream Restoration:

Bioswale behind Reser Stadium, along Oak Creek

Impermeable surfaces often increase volume and decrease quality of stormwater flowing into streams. Just south of the Reser Stadium parking lot, a bioswale is used for stormwater management.

A bioswale functions like a wetland. In the swale's gently sloping vegetated ditch, runoff is slowed and cleaned by biological methods, and silt settles out. Piping runoff to the swale from the paved lot minimizes surges in Oak Creek during storm events, releasing it



slowly to the creek as it would in an undisturbed setting.

Here and elsewhere on Oak Creek, projects are underway to maintain and improve the health of the stream: a dam was removed to return stream flow to normal; volunteers are removing invasive species from the riparian area; native plants restore and improve soil stability, stream shading, and habitat.

In June 2008, the Animal Sciences Dept. began a year-long project to create riparian buffers along more than 5 miles of streams on OSU livestock property, protecting 140 acres of wildlife habitat.

## Stop 8. Urban Horticulture and Restoration: Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture

This site, located along Oak Creek, is tucked into a corner of campus once used to teach beekeeping. An interdisciplinary group of faculty, students and staff are working to restore the natural systems of the creek-side riparian corridor and create a space that will provide a forum for learning that integrates landscaping, green building technologies, community food systems, organic horticulture production, natural history, science, the arts, and cultural ecology. The site has a calm atmosphere that many find inspirational.

An OSU graduate student is performing research on green or 'eco' roofs on the site. These vegetated roofs can reduce storm water runoff, insulate buildings from heat and cold, reduce the urban heat island effect, increase the lifespan of the roof and increase biodiversity.

OSU Horticulture is seeking collaborative partners and grant funding to assist with the costs and implementation of the riparian restoration and program development.

If you'd like to be involved, contact John Lambrinos, Dept. of Horticulture, [lambrinj@hort.oregonstate.edu](mailto:lambrinj@hort.oregonstate.edu)

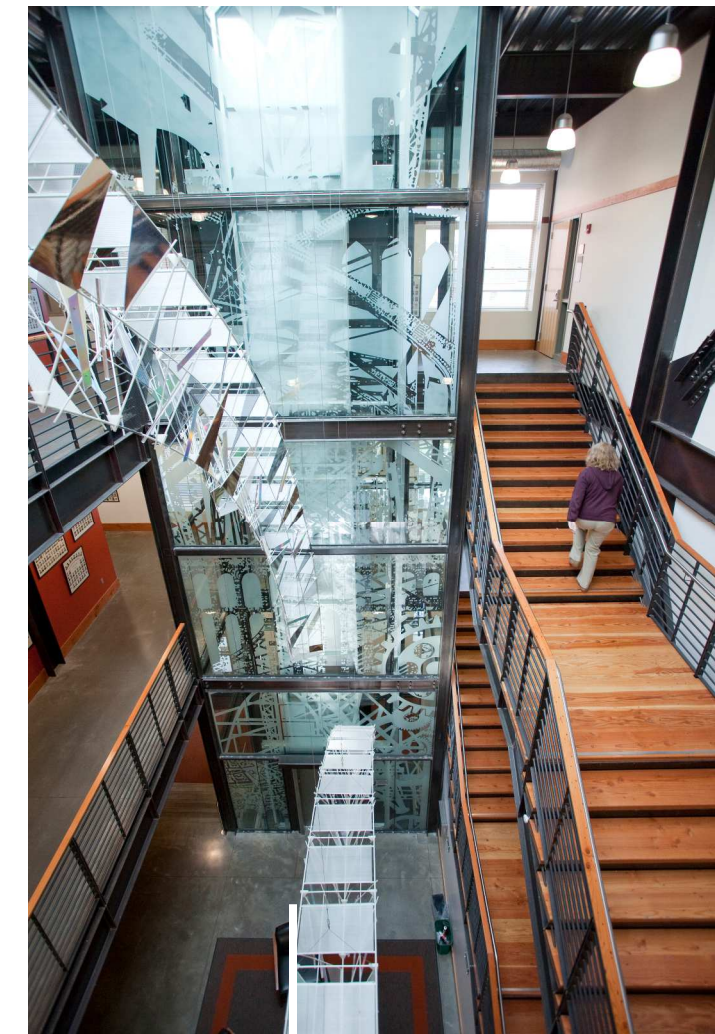


## Stop 9. Reducing Greenhouse Gasses: Energy Center

Aging systems at the existing OSU steam plant have prompted officials to build a new plant. The new facility, however, will not only provide steam to heat campus buildings, but will offset some electrical consumption with efficient cogeneration technology.

Generating electricity produces heat. By making electricity on campus, "waste" heat can be utilized in campus buildings. Also, because of line losses typical of electrical transmission lines, additional efficiency is realized by locating electrical generators close to electrical consumers.

In addition to improved efficiency, plant systems will be capable of burning renewable fuels like biodiesel and methane gas. The building will be built to LEED Gold or Platinum green building standards, and harvest rainwater and solar energy.



More information and an electronic version of this guide is available online: [www.oregonstate.edu/sustainability](http://www.oregonstate.edu/sustainability)

To obtain multiple copies of this publication, contact the OSU Sustainability Office: [sustainability@oregonstate.edu](mailto:sustainability@oregonstate.edu)

# Oregon State University Self-Guided Campus Sustainability Tour

This brochure highlights some of the many ways OSU is working toward sustainability. “Tour stops” correspond to numbers on the map below. Most sites can be visited at any time but a few are best seen during the hours specified.

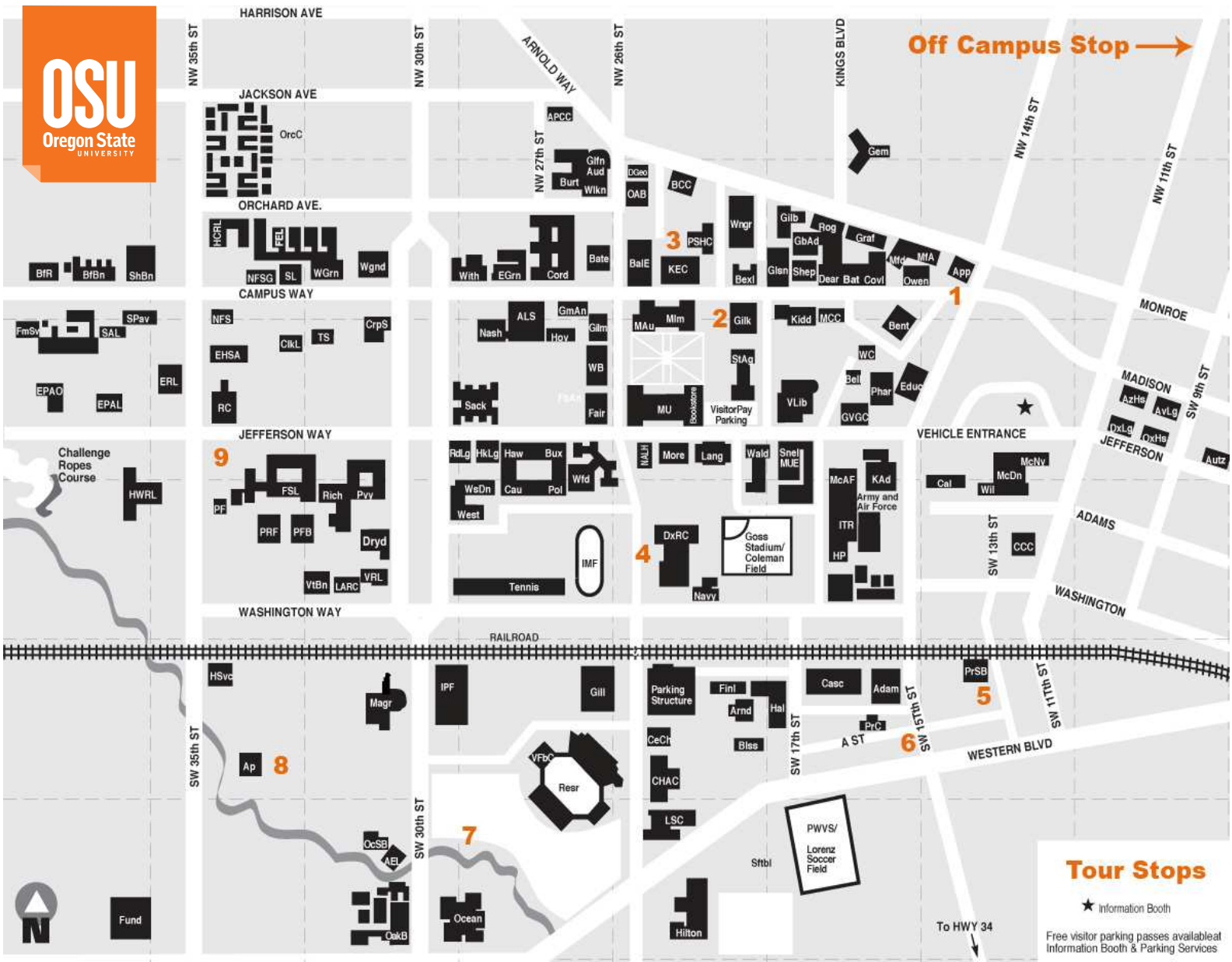
## Throughout Campus & City: Efficient Transportation

Corvallis is one of only four communities nationwide rated “Gold” for bicycle friendliness by the League of American Bicyclists. At **Stop 6**, check out the Corvallis/OSU bicycle cooperative. And while Corvallis is nationally known as a bike-friendly community, it also has a good transit system. Corvallis Transit & OSU have teamed up to prepay for transit services so OSU commuters can conveniently get on board and avoid single occupancy vehicles simply by showing OSU ID.



The OSU shuttle is free to all riders. To encourage pedestrian trips, the OSU Master Plan emphasizes higher density development to prevent campus sprawl and allow students to walk between classes in 10 minutes. An online rideshare system facilitates easier carpooling. At **Stop 3**, check out the bike lockers northwest of Kelley Engineering, east of Wilkinson Hall.

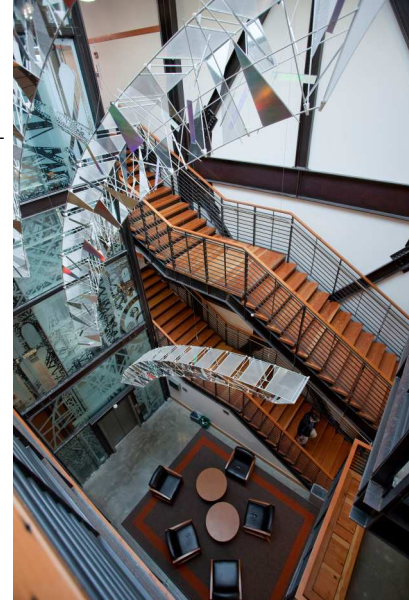
Several departments now rely on electric vehicles for transportation and delivery. Perfect for short stop-and-go trips, electric vehicles have no tailpipe emissions and use considerably less energy and money than their petroleum-powered counterparts.



## Stop 1. Green Renovation and Green Building: Kearney Hall and other campus buildings

Originally built in 1899, Apperson Hall became the first engineering building on campus with the establishment of the Department of Civil Engineering in 1906. Apperson was remodeled and renamed Kearney Hall in 2008 to provide the Civil Engineering and Construction Engineering Management programs with state-of-the-art classrooms, offices and a 120 seat auditorium. The project aims to receive a LEED Gold rating by the US Green Building Council.

The remodel left intact the building’s familiar granite and sandstone exterior while completely remodeling the interior. Special green features include an interactive computer displaying real-time energy use of the building, upgraded thermal insulation, energy-efficient lighting, limited finishes on flooring, ceilings and walls, and exposed ceilings and “windows” into walls allowing students to view structural, mechanical and electrical building elements. Wander the halls of Kearney for a lesson in green building engineering.



Similar to Kearney, the historic **Weatherford Hall** is a LEED certified renovation. Other LEED buildings include **Kelley Engineering** (Stop 3) and the **Energy Center** (Stop 9).

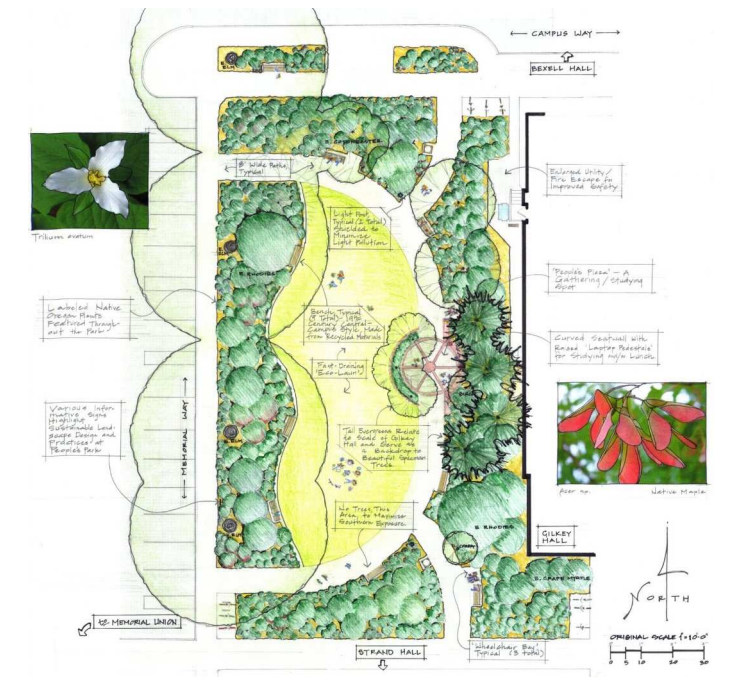
For more information on these and other green buildings and green building practices, please visit [www.oregonstate.edu/sustainability/greenbuilding](http://www.oregonstate.edu/sustainability/greenbuilding)

## Stop 2. Preserving Green Space: Future Site of People’s Park

The first OSU People’s Park was an open space created in 1972 to honor student activists. An effort is underway to create a new park space that will continue these strong social and environmental connections.

With financial support from the Student Sustainability Initiative, a conceptual landscape plan (next page) was created based on student- and community-generated design principles and goals.

Principles and goals include creating a quieter contemplative space for use by small groups and individuals, encouraging diverse species of plants and animals (including pollinators and beneficial insects), introducing visitors to plants and materials that have a minimal lifecycle impact on the earth, and giving the park an identity and sense of place.



The Park project is seeking contributions to match new student funds that will enable the Park’s construction. For more information, visit [oregonstate.edu/sustainability/donate.html](http://oregonstate.edu/sustainability/donate.html)

## Stop 3. Green Building: Kelley Engineering Center

Certified Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) “Gold”, Kelley Engineering has many features common to green buildings, such as natural lighting and renewable materials.

Other green features:

- A 16,500 gallon rainwater collection system provides water to toilets throughout the building.
- A modular raised floor system allows air to circulate in occupants’ workspaces, eliminating the energy required to move air from ceiling ducts to the occupied space.
- Building systems designed to use about 50% less electricity and 70% less water than required by code.
- Heat from a computer server room is ducted to cooler parts of the building in winter while cool air from outside is piped directly into the server room for natural cooling.
- A solar hot water system supplies much of the hot water needed for restrooms, kitchen areas, and bike room showers.



While at Kelley, be sure to see the bike lockers to the northwest, near Wilkinson Hall.