Sustainable Design-Green Means F04/W05 Leverich, Impara &Van Dusen

Wetlands and Flora and Fauna Workshop

The objectives of this group project are to learn about plants and plant communities on the Mission Creek Reserve (MCR) study site. From that information we will speculate (and perhaps observe) bird life that could be expected to be on the study site based on the plants (and plant communities) you identify. Secondary objectives are to become more familiar with the MCR study site and to learn how to use field guides for flora and fauna.

Background and Preparation:

Using several web sites (such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/, the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) at the US Fish and Wildlife website http://wetlands.fws.gov/ , the Army Corps of Engineers, and NGO websites such as Wetlands International http://www.wetlands.org/) investigate pages related to definitions, types of wetlands, and sections on what wetlands are, why wetlands need to be protected, and any information on how wetlands are protected now.

Goal:

We will be sampling/observing vegetation, determining habitat and plant community type, and developing potential bird lists from our sampling.

Assignments (1 – 5 due 10/12 to Peter; 6&7 for studio 10/6):

Type up answers to short questions (#1 – 5) and prepare drawings and samples (#6 &7)

1. After tromping around, and based on the descriptions, what type(s) of wetlands do we find at the MCR? How did you decide on this type (e.g. what observations made convinced you)?
2. Using Pojar or other guides, identify and collect from your assigned study site samples (just portions, such as leaf and twig) of three herbaceous plants, five woody plants, and one to three ferns. (You will need to draw the trees your twigs came from).
3. Using the plant community guides, make your best estimate of the plant community in your small sample site. What type of habitat is it (e.g. field, forest, mixed, wetland, scrub, etc.)
4. Using Sibley's and other bird guides, identify 6 – 12 potential birds for the site that are specific to your overall habitat type and/or plant communities. If you cannot find 6, identify as many birds as you can that will be found in your habitat type and/or plant community/site.
5. Identify or consider transient bird types would you expect to visit the area (e.g. migratory, predatory, etc.).
6. Due in studio Thursday: Draw a complete view of the 5 trees you took samples from and draw the twigs from each of these trees. Consider additional drawings of herbaceous plants (grasses, forbs, ferns) for review. not background
7. Collect 1 – 3 small 3D objects (e.g. cones, seed pods, mushrooms, interesting rocks) to draw in studio Thursday.