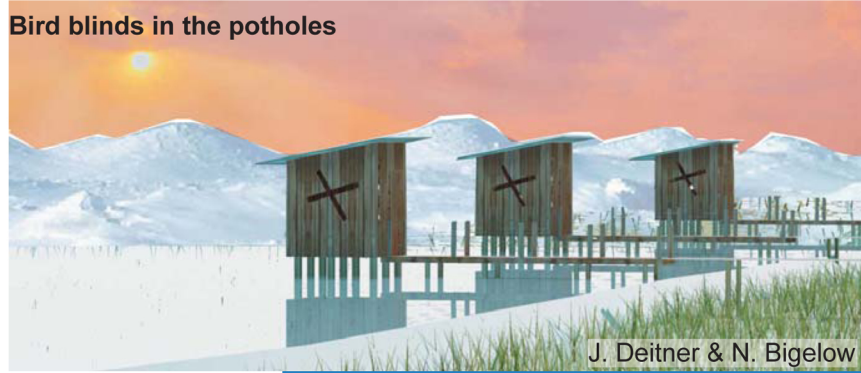


Spirit of the Coteau: Student Ideas to Catalyze Rural Economic Development

Catherine Wiley, Assistant Professor, North Dakota State University Department of Architecture and Landscape Architecture

Bird blinds in the potholes



J. Deitner & N. Bigelow

Restored habitat at pasture corners creates additional native bird and mammal habitat both as an attractant for tourists and has environmental benefits important to ranching.



S. Paavola



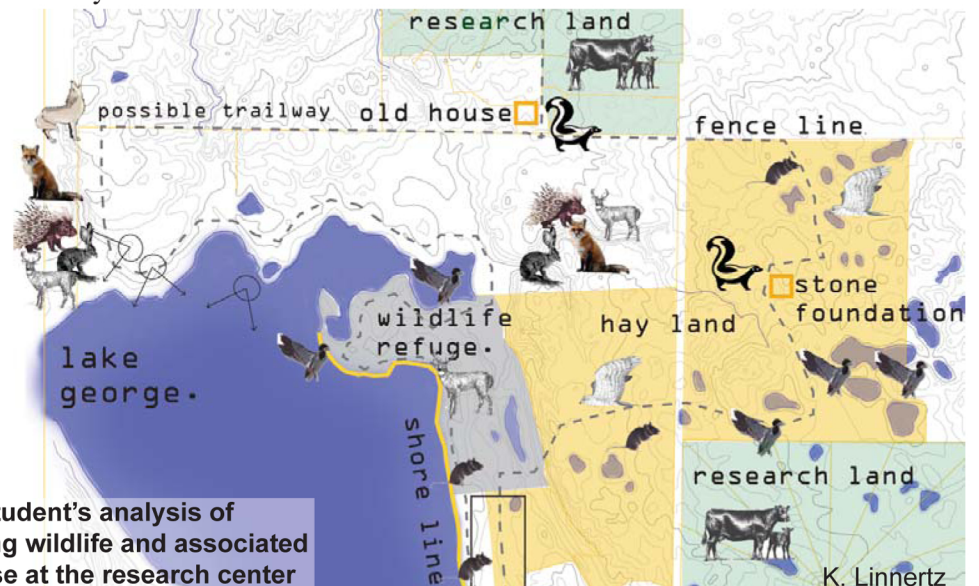
In fall of 2007, North Dakota State University Landscape Architecture students spent 7 weeks studying ways to expand the mission of the Central Grasslands Research Extension Center, looking for ideas for how the Center can host complimentary educational initiatives and display passive recreational uses for ranching lands to increase their economic viability. The proposals acknowledge that North Dakota ranchlands have long been used for hunting in addition to cattle raising. Yet recent research shows a compelling reason to expand beyond these traditional landuses. According to travel expert Marybeth Bond, 75% of those who currently take nature, adventure or cultural trips are women. A recent article in Road and Travel Magazine reported that women influence 85% of all vacation and travel decisions Worldwide, which suggests an opportunity for expansion of the rural tourism market in North Dakota. Charged with this insight and the challenge to create programmatic and design proposals for education and recreation based economic development, the student's ideas capitalize on the work, natural resources and spirit of the Coteau landscape at the Extension in Streeter, North Dakota.

The advanced landscape architecture design studio was directed by assistant professor Catherine Wiley.



Winter possibilities for recreation trails

J. Braski



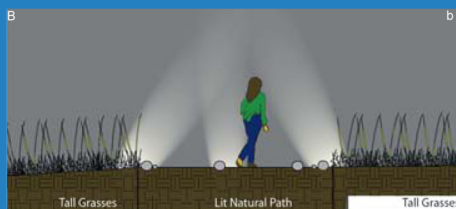
One student's analysis of existing wildlife and associated landuse at the research center

K. Linnertz



Hiking trail through teepee rings- plan

S. Foss



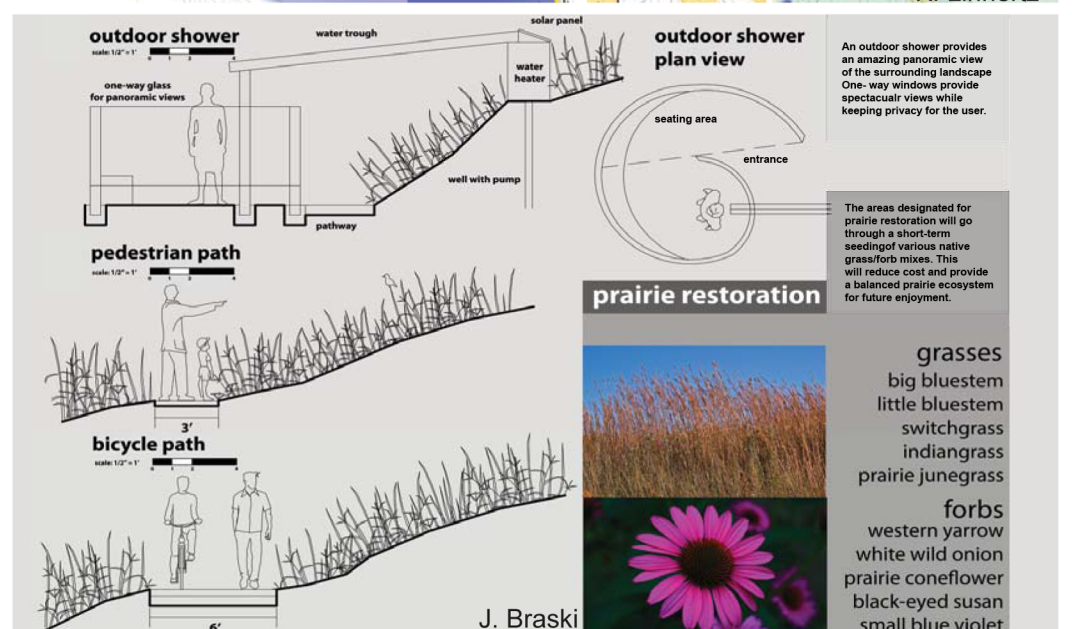
Teepee ring lighting at night- Section

S. Foss



K. Linnertz

Agri-ecotourism programs allow guests to earn their keep by helping replant native prairie plants and hearing cattle.



J. Braski

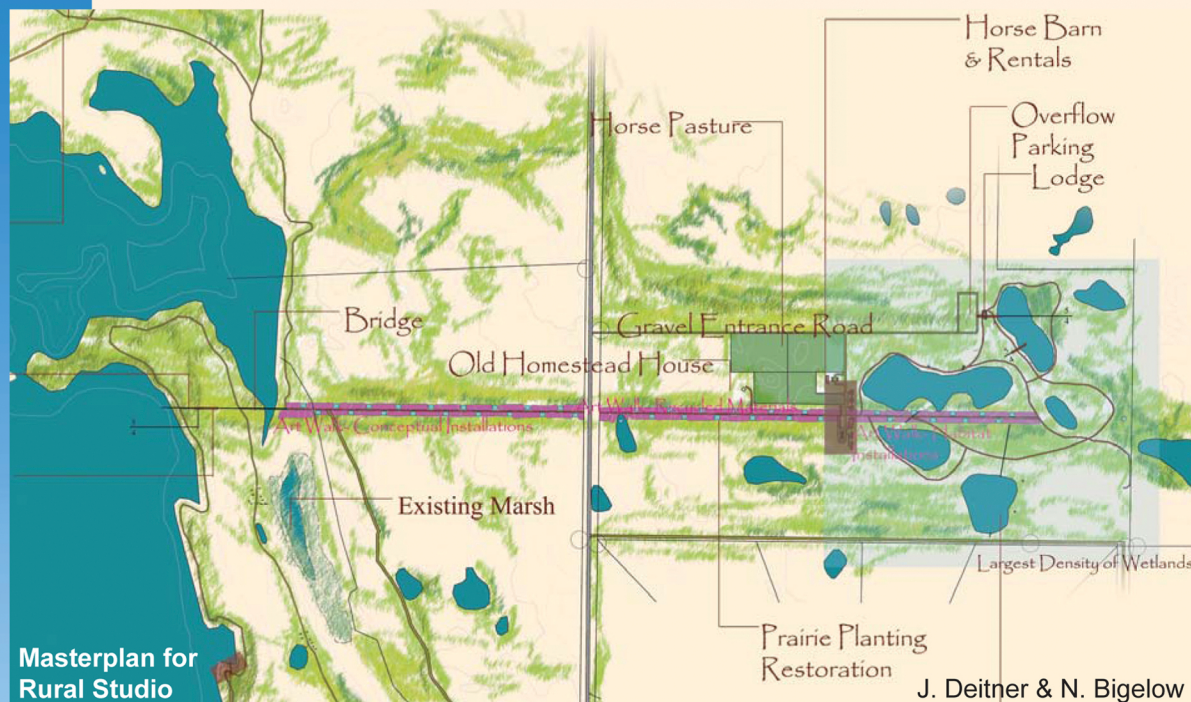
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Story posts Incorporate stories from local residents about their experiences of this place. They mark space, leading visitors through the Coteau landscape.

E. Miller & J. Cook

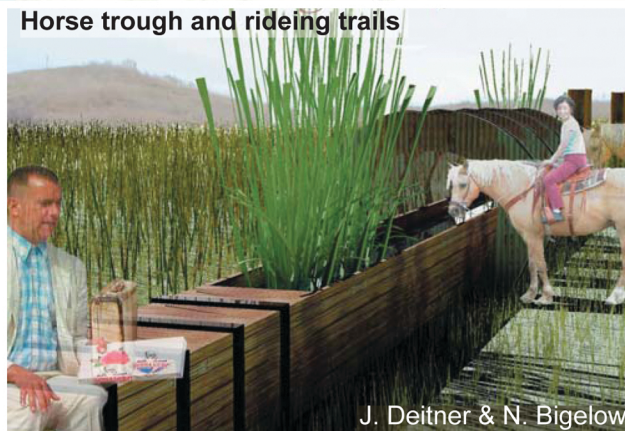


Masterplan for Rural Studio

J. Deitner & N. Bigelow

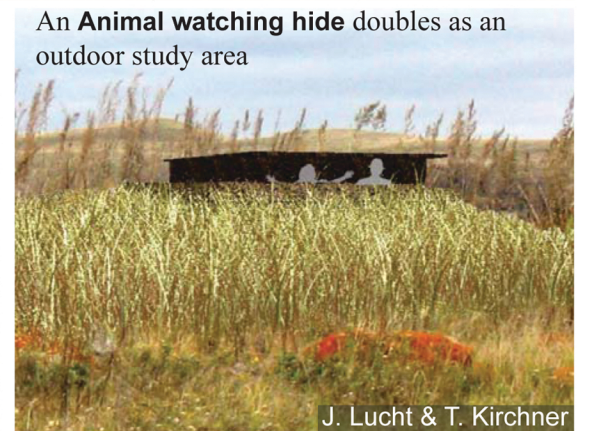
A rural design studio can act as a hub for art, architecture, landscape architecture and planning projects in the vicinity of Streeter. NDSU's Center for Community Planning and Design, an outreach arm of the department of architecture and landscape architecture seeks funding to conduct rural studio projects.

Horse trough and riding trails



J. Deitner & N. Bigelow

An Animal watching hide doubles as an outdoor study area



J. Lucht & T. Kirchner

All students proposed hiking and biking trails through restored prairie in addition to a range of other development activities catalyzed by the coteau landscape. Other proposals include:

Both permanent and mobile **birding blinds and hides** is in response to the Extension's own research that ground nesting birds fare better in grazed pastures. Additionally, Kidder County is considered a top North American birding destination by the Audubon Society among other birding organizations.

Students proposed **small guest cabins** for animal and bird watching. Bird watchers travel great distances to observe life list birds and often prefer to stay in their habitat over travelling daily to bird habitat from a city motel.

A Boardwalk crossing wetlands will make them accessible for water quality research and animal watching



E. Miller & J. Cook

Pothole swimming pool from guesthouse



J. Lucht & T. Kirchner

View from proposed guesthouse balcony



J. Lucht & T. Kirchner