



MicroDuck Hunt





MicroDuck Hunt

The MicroDuck Hunt is a collaborative public art project conducted by the 2022 “Green Cities” students in the College of Environmental Design at the University of Oregon.

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Participants

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Ric Stephens, Editor

Introduction

The MicroDuck Hunt blends multiple urban planning concepts including placemaking, experiential design, and public art. The project was for students to hide small rubber ducks to be accidentally discovered. Special attention was given to hiding the microducks in the public realm where they would be found by children.

Ducks on Parade

In 2003, Eugene Oregon organized the “Ducks on Parade” art program. Six-foot high fiberglass ducks were decorated by local artists and displayed in the downtown area. This program was modeled on the CowParade, an international public art exhibit that has featured in major world cities. Fiberglass sculptures of cows are decorated by local artists, and distributed over the city center, in public places such as train stations, important avenues, and parks. They often feature artwork and designs specific to local culture, as well as city life and other relevant themes. After the exhibition in the city, which may last many months, the statues are auctioned off and the proceeds donated to charity.

The Hunt is a public art project infusing the microducks in the public realm to provide a “sense of discovery”.

Cookies

In the context of urban planning and design, a cookie is a small item or feature that provides a pleasurable experience. These “cookies” are also called city comforts, delicate details, memory points, and micro-experiences. In an urban environment, these include drinking fountains, wayfinding, public art, and many other small design elements that make life more enjoyable.

Small public artworks such as the microducks are a form of urban “cookies”.

Small things—city comforts—that make urban life pleasant: ...art that infuses personality into locations and makes them into places.

David Sucher

Easter Eggs

In the context of urban planning and design, an Easter egg is a message, image, or feature hidden in the public realm that is

meant to be discovered intentionally or accidentally. These “Easter eggs” include hidden environment controls, micro-graphic design, miniature public artworks, optical illusions, Trompe-l’oeil, and many other hidden design details with a sense of discovery and humor.

Hidden microducks are urban “Easter Eggs”.

Children’s Garden City

In general, cities are designed for adults by adults. This

approach rarely considers how children experience and interact with the urban environment.

The MicroDuck Hunt was designed with a focus on a kindergartener's perspective at about 3½ feet tall.

The Oregon Duck

Oregon teams were originally known as Webfoots, possibly as early as the 1890s. The Webfoots name originally applied to a group of fishermen from the coast of Massachusetts who had been heroes during the American Revolutionary War. When their descendants settled in Oregon's Willamette Valley in the 19th century, the name stayed with them. A naming contest in 1926 won by Oregonian sports editor L. H. Gregory made the Webfoots name official, and a subsequent student vote in 1932 affirmed the nickname, chosen over other suggested nicknames such as Pioneers, Trappers, Lumberjacks, Wolves, and Yellow Jackets. Ducks, with their webbed feet, began to be associated with the team in the 1920s, and a live white duck named "Puddles" began to appear at sports events. Journalists, especially headline writers, also adopted the shorter Duck nickname.

Beginning in 1940, cartoon drawings of Puddles in student publications began to resemble Donald Duck, and by

1947, Walt Disney was aware of the issue. Capitalizing on his friendship with Disney cartoonist Mike Royer, Oregon athletic director Leo Harris met Disney and reached an informal handshake agreement that granted the University of Oregon permission to use Donald as its sports mascot, naming him Donald Duck. When Disney lawyers later questioned the agreement in the 1970s, the university produced a photo showing Harris and Disney wearing matching jackets with an Oregon Donald logo. Relying on the photo as evidence of Disney's wishes, in 1973, both parties signed a formal agreement granting the university the right to use Donald's likeness as a symbol for (and restricted to) Oregon sports.

The point with public art is that it helps people form a sense that the place they live in is unique, that there's something special about it.

Andy Stewart

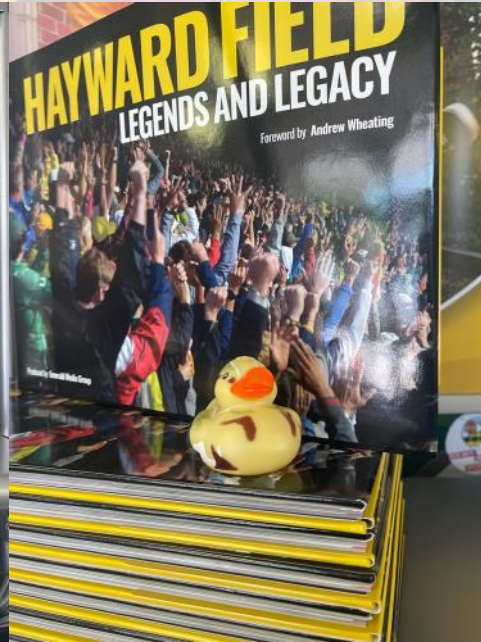
The MicroDuck Hunt

More than 200 microducks were located throughout Eugene, Oregon and beyond. The following photos show the microducks in their urban habitats with context and closeup shots. No microducks were harmed in the making of this art project.

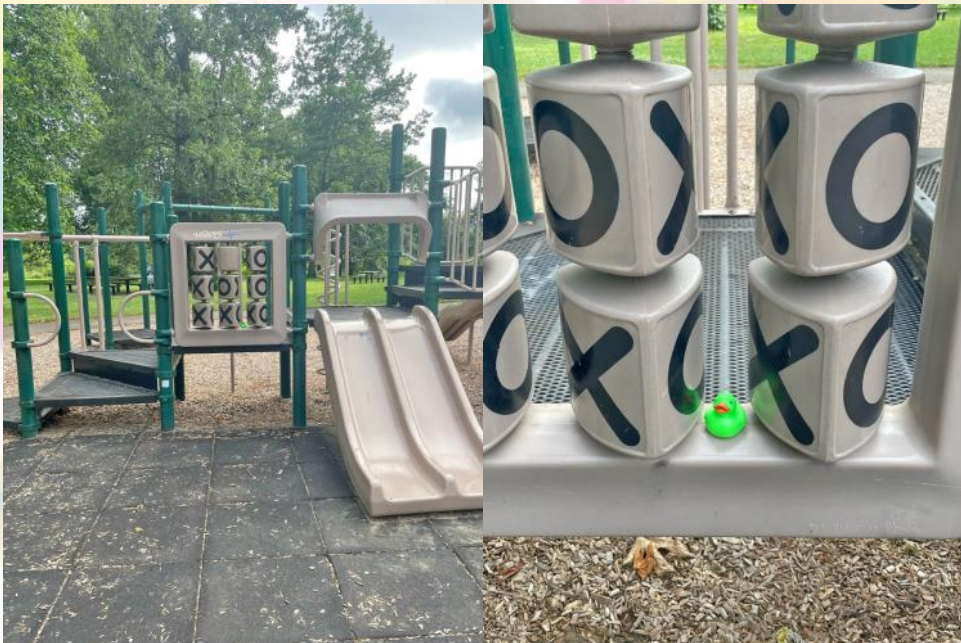
We hope that everyone participating in the program enjoyed the experience of hiding or finding a small urban "artwork".













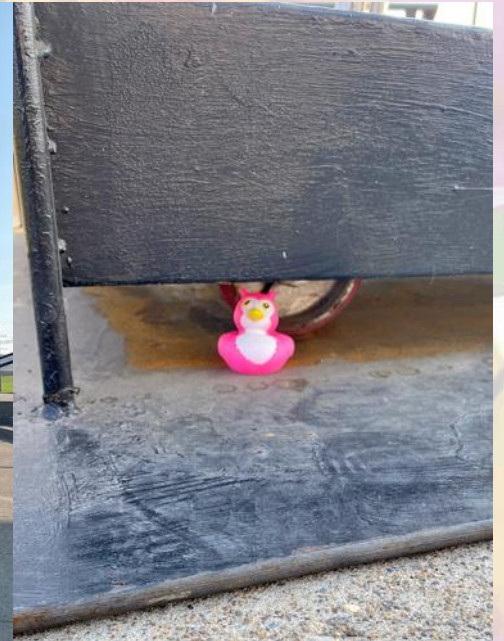


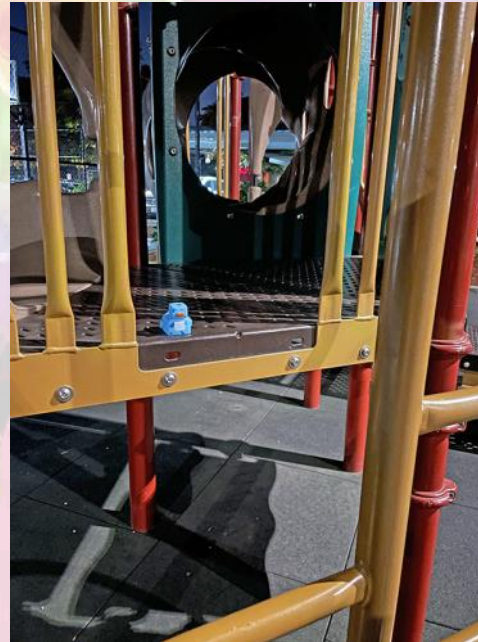
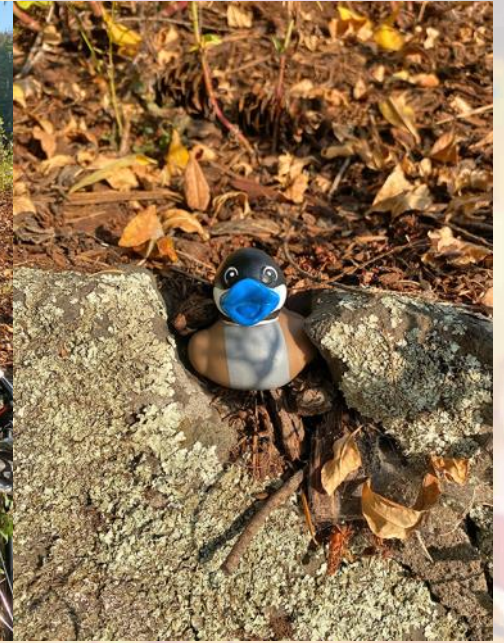














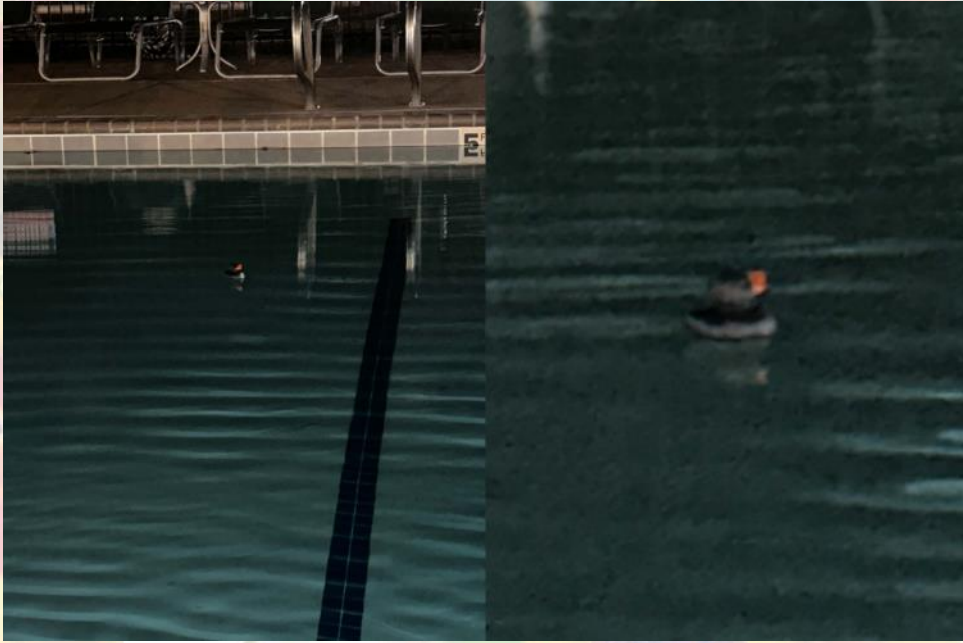








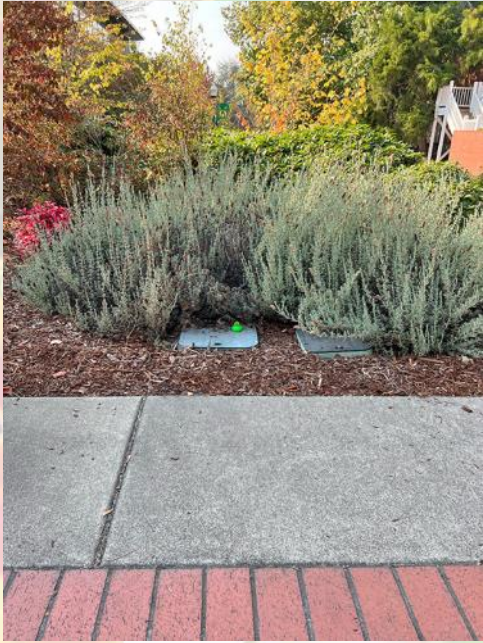




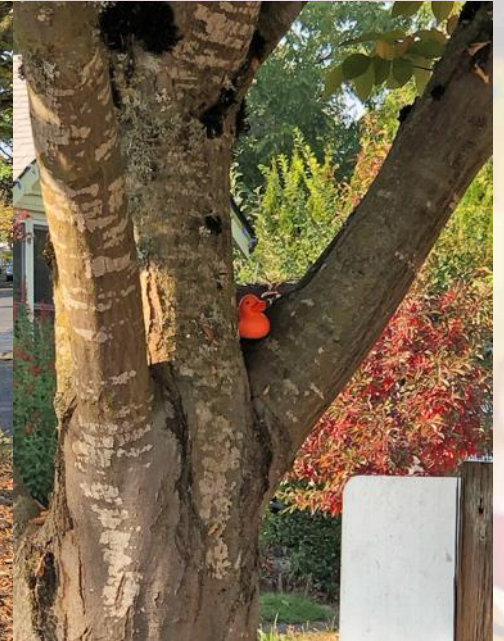




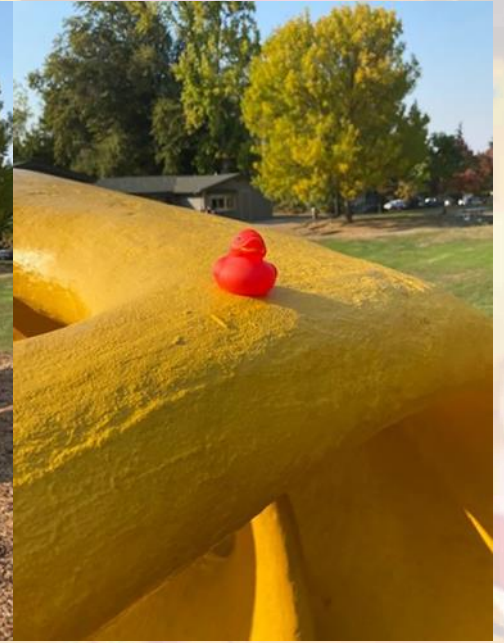


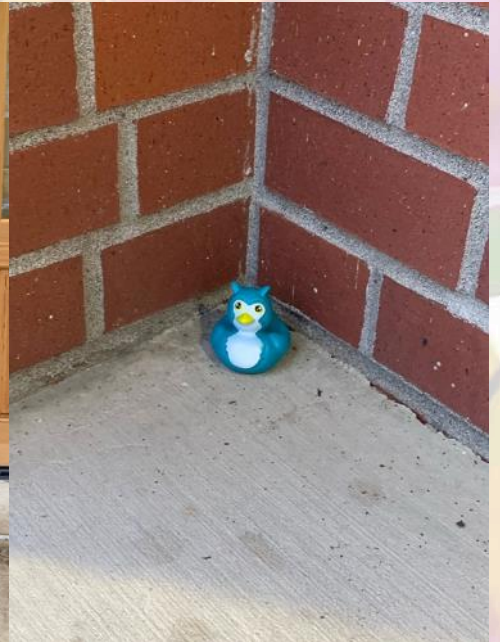










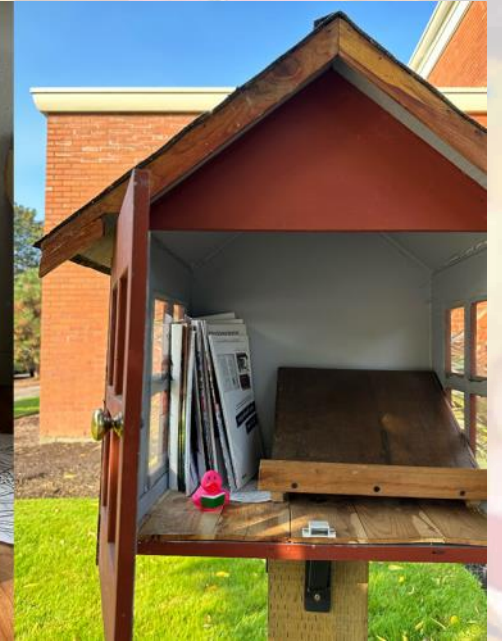














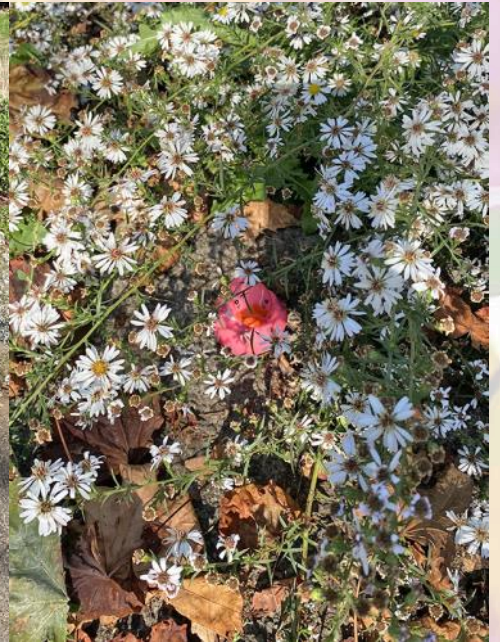


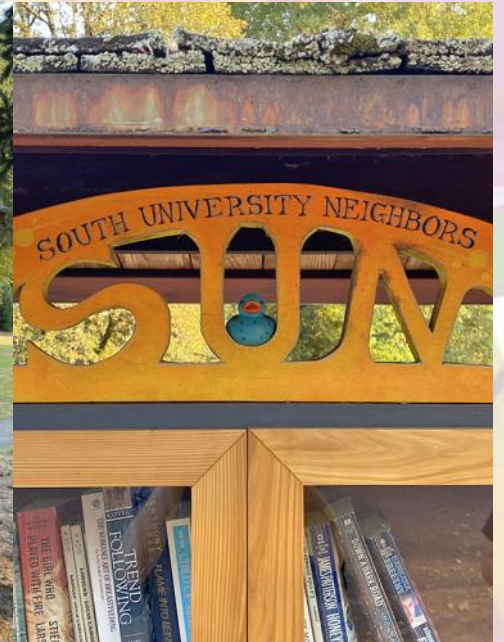


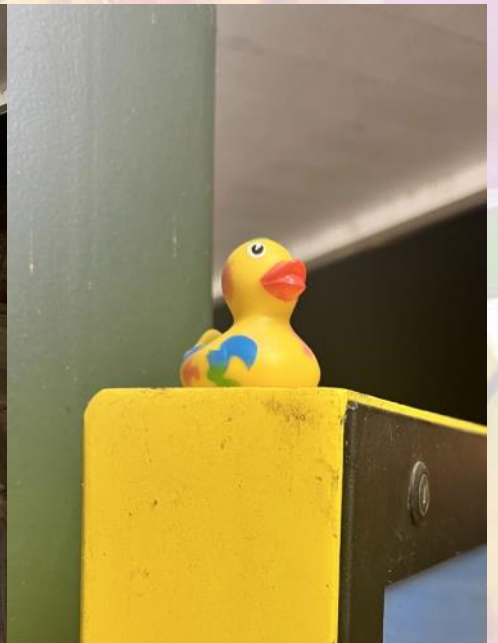
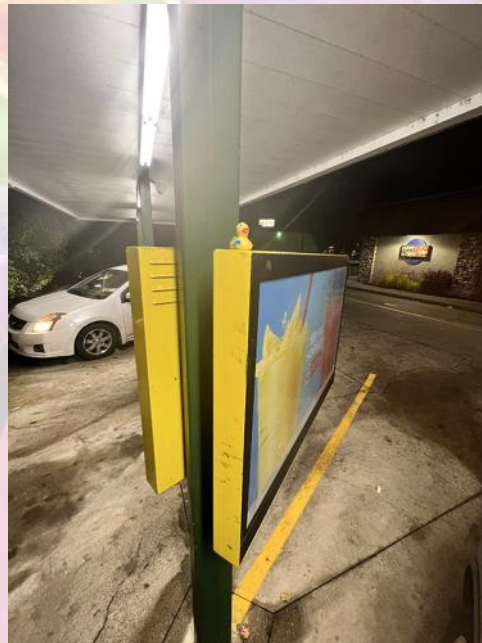


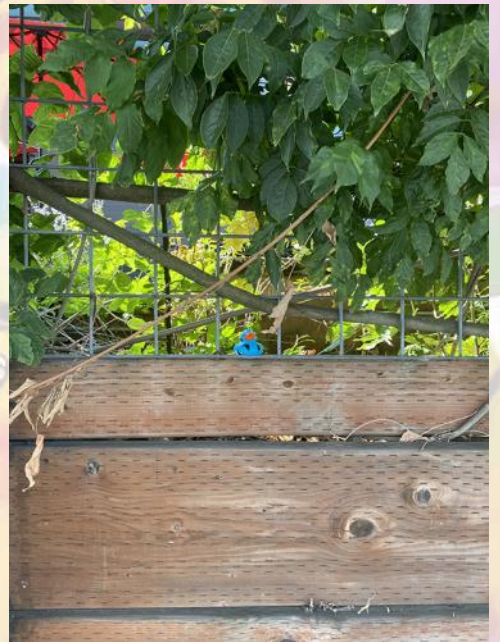




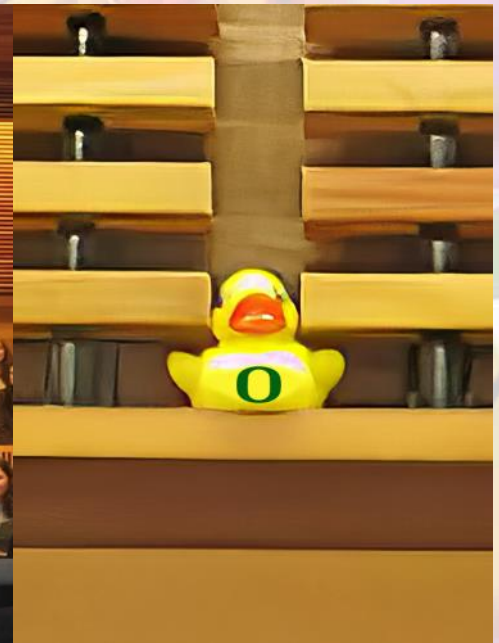














The End

I've always said the rubber duck is a yellow catalyst.

Florentijn Hofman