Course Description: Agate Playground is a beloved urban space that has been one of the most intensively used playgrounds in Eugene. In addition, the playground is located at the transition between the UO campus and several neighborhoods, which makes it a central hub connecting residential, commercial and university uses. Over the years the space has sorely deteriorated to its present state of disrepair and functional loss, but it has great potential to become integral urban fabric, a gateway to the East Campus providing an inclusive, sustainable, signature space for the university and residents of Eugene. In this studio, students will design a new activity life for the Agate Playground, and in the process explore and strengthen its connections to surrounding uses and public spaces like the Urban Farm community garden, Hayward Field, retail establishments and child care facilities. We will focus on creating an exemplary community resource and visitor destination emphasizing accessible gathering areas, play options, educational and environmental learning opportunities and green space wrapped in an envelope of sustainable design.

Studio focus: Develop individual design process, research and conceptual design development/urban context, spatial/site organization, community inclusion/connectivity, universal accessibility, use of sustainable design elements, structured and nature play design.

"Play is our brain's favorite way of learning." Diane Ackerman, Author
Image: Prakash Patel/Dewey Local Park, Silver Spring, MD