Double density in the context of the Eugene-Springfield transportation plan update doesn’t refer to computer disks. It’s a proposed target for doubling average residential densities in key nodal areas throughout the metropolitan region.

Under the plan, a series of neighborhood centers would get improved public transportation systems, from walking and biking to trolleys and buses, and slightly higher residential densities with nearby services would make the plan both desirable and feasible.

The potential benefits are many: more walkable neighborhoods; reduced vehicle miles traveled (VMTs); the possibility of keeping the present city urban service boundaries beyond the year 2015; a modest and incremental reformation of the present urban pattern toward a more sustainable way of life.

In the east campus area the university owns a number of older homes it rents out as married student housing. Walden Village is an experiment at doubling the density on three of these lots by combining the properties into one larger site, moving the older houses to more appropriate locations, and rebuilding on-site for 6 couples. The university hopes to combine lower rents with some of the social benefits of cluster and co-housing experience gained elsewhere.
The program calls for:

1. Seven 2-story cottage residences @ 1000 sq.ft. (max) May be separate or attached.
2. Private, semi-private and common outdoor space, including a large pond.
3. Parking on site for 6 cars.
4. Common toolshed, workshop and maintenance area.
5. Conceptual planting plan for the village and a specific planting plan for the pool and central common area.
6. Small greenhouse and composting area.
7. Common areas for mail delivery, trash and recycling.
8. 10’ setbacks from property lines except for hedges and fences.

(cont. from pg. 1) where.

No one is quite sure how it started, but someone in the housing office started reading Walden and passing it around until everyone was intoxicated with Thoreau. That’s the only explanation for the large pond the program calls for at the heart of the village. The housing director says it’s her hope “that the small cluster of residents will draw inspiration from their pond in the same way that Thoreau did, and that they will dwell around it in the same spirit that Thoreau dwelt by it.”

Studio requirements:

1. Keep your process materials: conceptual images, sketches, drawings and diagrams for discussion and review.
2. Site study model and evaluation: in groups.
3. Project location diagram @ 1” = 100’
4. A schematic plan for the village @ 1” = 16’
5. Overall conceptual site model for Walden Village @ 1/8” = 1’- 0”
6. Layout and planting plan for the central common and pond @ 1/4” = 1’- 0”
7. Section through the central common and pond @ 1/4” = 1’- 0” with accurate renderings of the proposed planting design.
8. Plan and section of one residence showing important indoor-outdoor relationships @ 1/4” = 1’- 0”
9. A sequence of small sketches which help rehearse the character and quality of moving throughout the village and which provide vignettes of village life.
10. An axonometric showing a significant village occasion.
11. A small one point and one large overall (20 x 30) two point perspective of the village.
12. Other materials, lists, images and references of project significance.