



South Lake Neighborhood Play-Park & Community Garden

“Is a South Lake
Neighborhood park feasible,
and if so, how can we most
successfully approach it?”

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PURPOSE

This Feasibility Study Matters Because...

Local residents would like to see that the fifty-four children of the Geneva Garden Apartments have a safe space to play. Currently the nearest park is a 22 minute walk, making the South Lake Neighborhood a “play desert”. The adults in this community have also expressed interest in a shared garden space.

Our Mission Is To...

Provide an escape from the limited and static space existing in the Geneva Gardens complex through green play space and a community garden.

Create an accessible space for interaction between Geneva Gardens residents and their neighbors.

Encourage creative interaction and development that transcends the lines of race and class permeating the landscape of the Pulteney Street section of the South Lake neighborhood.



METHOD

Legal Feasibility:

The five plots of land could be leased to Geneva Gardens LLC by HWS. Both parties have agreed to this partnership. This will be feasible if Geneva Gardens LLC covers the liability of the project and HWS manages the maintenance and security for the area through campus academic and social programming. The park will be publicly accessible and privately maintained, meaning it will be open to use for those who live around the park, but it will not be advertised to those living outside the neighborhood.

Social Feasibility:

We surveyed residents surrounding local parks and analyzed prior studies regarding the impacts of Geneva City Parks on neighborhood life.

Findings from our survey of Brook St. Park include:

- Generally positive responses
- 50% of respondents use the park at least 5 times during the summer, fall and spring
- 7/8 respondents do not notice disagreeable noise during park hours
- 50% notice noise and use after park hours
- Concerns of drug use and “partying” in the parks

How can we best evaluate these results in the context of the South Lake Neighborhood?

DESIGN

Why “natural” play?

Our research shows that children have longer term engagement with parks that are absent of built equipment because these spaces are more imaginative, versatile and sustainable.

How is a garden beneficial?

The residents of Geneva Garden Apartments have expressed interest in a community garden. We are committed to pursuing this request because we feel it will empower the residents, diversify the use of the park space and build local relations. This garden would also offer a wholesome source of produce for an urban community as well as a space for experiential learning for children and adults

What could this look like?

