Design and Sustainability Proposals for Site 5 in Downtown Geneva

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Major Issues & Opportunities of the site

Open Space
Connectivity
Identity

Existing conditions of the site

Buildings and Grounds:
Three out of four buildings on site are service-oriented; one offers recreational opportunities. The grounds are mostly covered by impervious surfaces and generally underutilized.

Users and Population:
The offices offer services to a diverse group of people (families, school groups and unemployed) and they host employees with varieties of expertise.

Sustainability & Social Equity:
The Geneva Recreational Complex serves as a model with its long-term sustainability plans for the buildings. Each of the offices of the buildings provides services to people regardless of their ability to pay.

Design Proposals for the site

Short-term Solutions

Phase 1: Clear the gravel, clean up groundscape
Phase 2: Plant grass + other native shrubbery
Phase 3: Add seating, tables, lighting, trash and recycling facilities, etc.
Phase 4*: Add stairway that connects South Main Street and our site
Final Phase: Create 'moments' of designed park spaces for community gathering

Long-term Solutions

Phase 1: Connect + improve pathways for pedestrians and bikers
Phase 2: Phase out excessive parking spaces
Phase 3: Widen the Lakefront tunnel
Final Phase: Facilitate changes on Highway 5&20
Reduce lanes and slow speed limit

Sustainability Attributes

Reducing Impervious Surfaces
The clearing of impervious surfaces of gravel and the phasing out of underutilized parking spaces will allow for more ground space to encourage environmental programming opportunities in the future.

Storm Water Management
By implementing a collection system that funnels the storm water run-off from 5&20, our design will reduce flood build-up on the site. The water will be funnelled into a filtration bin that leads directly into the raised bed gardens.

Permeable Pavement
The system will utilize a range of sustainable materials to control storm water at the source, reduce run-off and improve ground water quality by filtering pollutants.

Educational Panels
Creating public awareness of storm management and benefits of community gardens. These panels will show the clean up process of the site and environmental improvements our group has facilitated.

Community Gardens
A raised bed community garden will be built on the Northwest side of the tunnel. The public will have access to the beds to assist with planting and management.

Sustainability Initiatives in Offices
Our team plans to help facilitate sustainability initiatives within the offices on site. The initiatives include energy and water saving programs, an effort to increase recycling rates and a compost program.

Re-use of Gravel
After clearing the gravel from the area around the tunnel, our team plans to build a natural staircase on the North side of the site recycling collected gravel.