Drexel’s Highline Park
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Purpose

Problem:
- The decrease of urban green areas have been a major problem throughout most major cities.
- Parks/Green areas are essential to civilization

Solution:
- The purpose of this project is to propose the creation of an elevated park near 30th street station on Drexel’s Campus
- Elevated parks allow for green areas, without wasted space
  - Multi-purpose uses
- Elevated Park allows the train tracks to still be there, with the park above the tracks
Format Of Project

1. Informative Website
2. 1000-word Proposal Document
Background Information

- 79% of the world’s population live in urban areas.
- The increase in population has caused the need for constant development of urban areas.
- Green areas in cities have become scarce due to development.
- Parks represent a good substitute for green areas in cities, due to positive side effects:
  - Economical
  - Environmental
  - Community Revitalization
  - Happiness
Survey Results

95 % of Drexel students surveyed want more parks/green areas around Drexel’s campus.

Only 5 % of Drexel students believe there are an adequate number of parks around Drexel.

"I would like them, but there's not much room." – quoted participant
Survey Analysis

- Most Drexel students believe that there should be more green areas around Drexel.
- They do realize, however, that urban land is extremely expensive and there is not much undeveloped land left.
- An elevated park would not take up much land, since it is elevated over a parcel of land.
- Could have an elevated park over the SEPTA train tracks, using the land for multiple purposes.
Environmental Benefits of Parks in Cities

- Climate Change
  - Moderate artificial heat through shade and evaporation
  - Enhance wind patterns, replacing warm, calm air, with cooler breeze
  - Help decrease the amount of the pollutants in the air

- Plants / Animals
Economic Benefits of Parks in Cities

- Economical Positive Side Effects
  - Increased property value
  - Municipal revenues increased
  - Retirees attracted and retained to the area
  - Homebuyers attracted to the area
- All of these attributes work together to improve neighborhoods
- Increased property value and population indirectly help the economy by supporting small businesses
Community Revitalization

- Parks serve as central walking, resting and meeting places for threatened areas
- Community working on a project together can improve a residential area
- Reduces crime rates, improves traffic, and helps eliminate graffiti
The Highline

- First famous elevated park in the United States
- Public park in New York City
- Created on a historic train bridge
- 8 blocks long
- 3 stories Tall
- Approximately $150 million to build
- Under construction from 2006 to present
Reading Viaduct

- Elevated train bridge in Center City Philadelphia
- Proposed Location of an elevated Park
- Owned by SEPTA
  - Potential donation by SEPTA to the city of Philadelphia
Bloomingdale Trail

- Elevated Park under construction in Chicago
- 3 miles long
- Under construction since 2007 to present
- Estimated to be completed by fall 2014
- Approximated $50-70 million to complete
Proposal
Aimed Audience

- People living in the neighborhood
- Environmental Enthusiasts
- Drexel Students
- Interested investors in the project
- City of Philadelphia, Major’s Office
- SEPTA Department of Recreational Services
Potential Deliverables

- Proposal
- Drawings
- Website
Project Proposals

- The assignment.
  - Description of the main project. Reasons why the project needs to be considered following the main description.

- Other objectives.
  - Description of related improvements that will go along with the new project (ex. drainage systems, lighting, vegetation).

- Criteria and Evaluation.
  - The overall design based on the local or state regulations. Drawings and other specifications included. In the drawings, existing conditions plans and proposed plans are the most important. Other special plans must be included (ex. Sedimentation and Erosion Control Plans).
Project Proposals

- Staff and other resources.
  - Here is specified the staff working on the project, the consultants, the contractor and the sponsors. Budget discussion is included.

- Forms of cooperation and Negotiations.
  - Specified the proper ways of communications. Discussed about the form of the submittals, RFI’s, change orders etc.

- Time limits.
  - Project constrains, time limits, due dates specified after discussed with the engineers and contractors.
Software

Different software might be used for this project.

- AutoCAD
- Revit Autodesk
- Google Sketchup
- Microstation
- Other Autodesk Programs
- Other Bentley Programs
AutoCAD

Used to do the general drawings and plans.

- Can show detailed plans, plans with utilities etc.
- Basic 2D and 3D drawings.
- Best used for 2D drawing plans, sections and profile view.
- Used to present details and other notes if needed.
REVIT Autodesk

Used for high graphic drawings.

- User friendly on 3D drawings.
- Many models are ready online.
- Detailed schedules.
- Great rendering.
Google Sketchup

- Used for location maps and site layouts.
- User friendly.
- It has work limits. Professionals need more advanced software
- Compatible with Google Earth and Google Maps.
Option 1 – Design for our Park
Option 2 – Design for our Park
Sources