

Southside Permaculture Park



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Free Knowledge Exchange
 has begun...
 and the market place for materials, food, and the Free Knowledge Exchange

- ☉ Interpretive Signage in English and Spanish
- ☉ Website (southsidepermaculturepark.org)
- ☉ Class tours



Clothing

- ☉ Pop-Up Swap Shop (free thrift shop)
- ☉ >200 items collected
- ☉ ~100 items given away



Food



- ☉ Harvest
- ☉ Recipes
- ☉ Deer
- ☉ arugula, garlic, turkish rocket, parsley, basil, mint, and many more

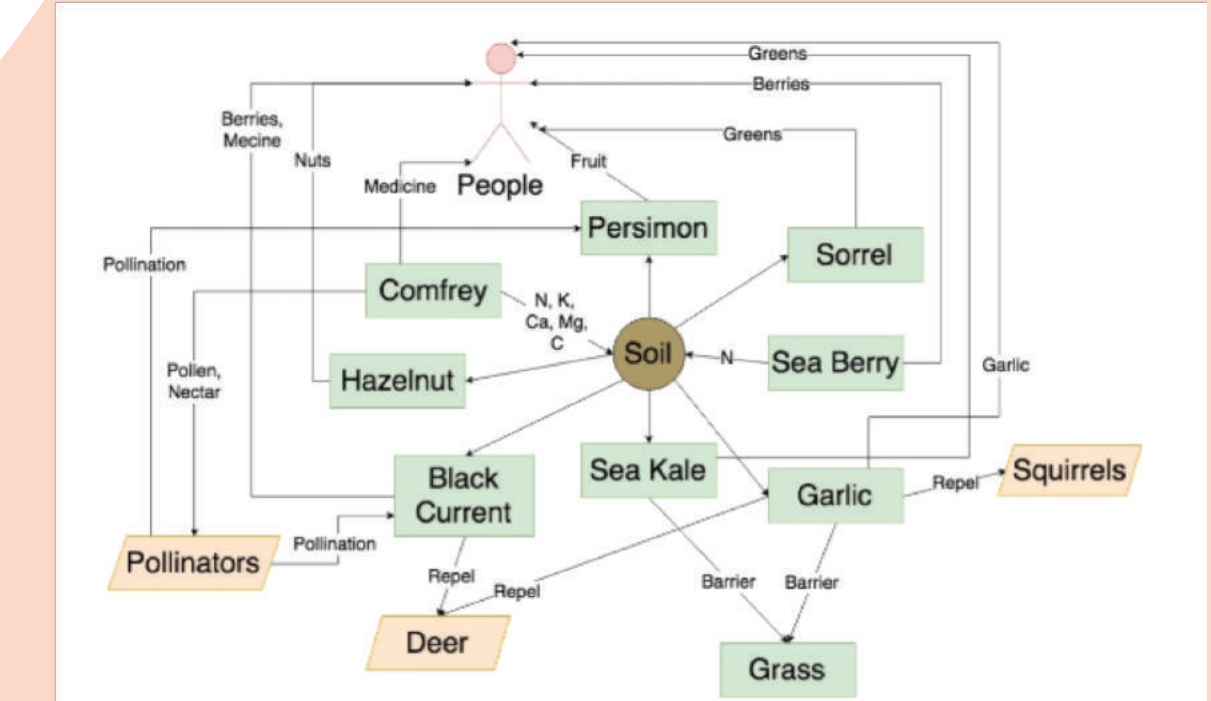
Methods

Interviews were conducted before and after a community event at the park to see the park's effect on the local community. Interviewees attended the event and were given a tour of the space. Interviews are still ongoing.

For structural development, sources for natural or up-cycled materials were sought after. Attending events and networking with the Lehigh Valley Natural Builders Guild was part of that. Facebook Marketplace was also utilized to acquire necessary up-cycled materials.

Food production was weighed for one event.

Ecological Processes



Results

Completed and installed ~20 interpretive signs with English and Spanish // Weighed produce for one event: 286 grams garlic, 123 g sea kale, 78 g sage, 47 g green onion, 206 g red Russian kale, 152 g Turkish rocket, 325 g arugula, 22 g chives, 60 g anise hyssop, 13 g lemon balm, 61 g parsley, 31 g basil, 293 g kohlrabi, 59 g curly kale, 29 g fennel, 9 g mint // Hosted community event Pop-Up Swap Shop where ~200 items were collected and ~100 items were taken by community members // Received feedback that indicates a general increased interest in community gardening and widened knowledge of permaculture processes and edible plants through research interviews // Collected over 300ft in length of Black Locust logs // Upcycled 2 tons of stone and 200ft of rebar // Expanded network web and strengthened institutional support and communication // Gained real-life experience with formal

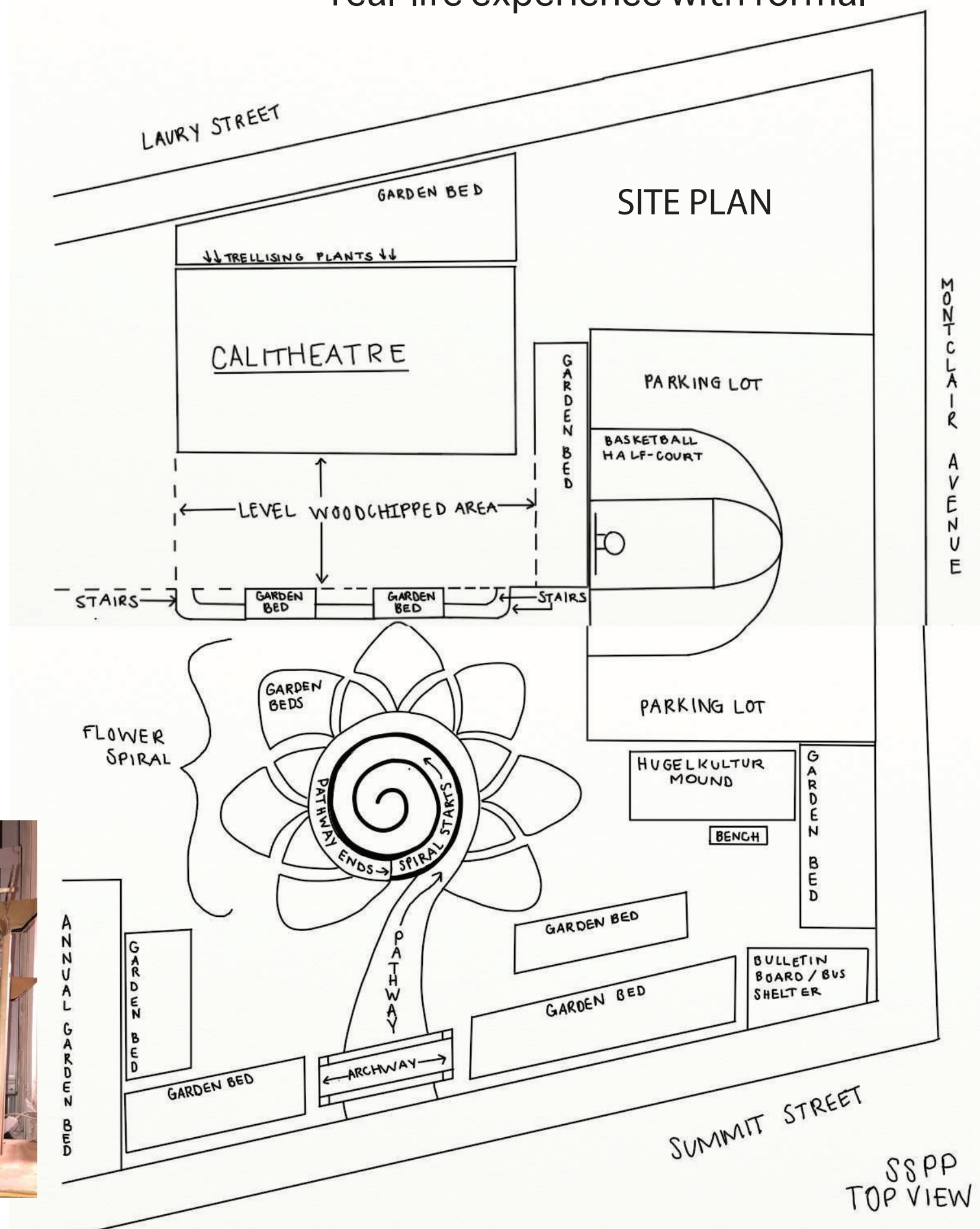
Natural Building

- ☉ Lehigh Valley Natural Builders Guild
- ☉ Black Locust
- ☉ Flower Spiral



Future Work

In addition to the Flower Spiral, the site plan to the left indicates all of the other projects that are going on. The Flower Spiral and archway should be done by the Spring. At that time, we plan to start constructing the next big project, the Calitheatre. Funding has been secured for the project, and collaboration with the Lehigh Valley Natural Builder's Guild is underway to help make this happen. During all of this development, we will be planning more community events and listening to their feedback to ensure that the creation of the Southside Permaculture Park is a gracefully planned community project.



- ☉ LU Space Planning Committee
- ☉ Housing Services
- ☉ Facilities
- ☉ Risk Management

Introduction

"Permaculture is a holistic design philosophy, rooted in systems science and based on observations of stable systems (like forests), that informs our decisions to help us create stable and regenerative systems" (Goldman). The main principles of permaculture are that nothing is wasted, diversity and interconnectivity are valued, and most importantly that all systems must be observed and revised accordingly to ensure that progress is constant. Permaculture techniques provide community with tools necessary to combat issues of climate change, social fragmentation, urban chemical soups, food deserts, and the loss of community autonomy.

The Permaculture Park is meant to be a competitive model for land development options. It is intended to coexist with the infrastructure in urban areas and act as a cure to the redundancy and isolation of modern architecture. In addition, due to the fact that this is a student led project it serves as a precedent for other students to do the same as well as offer a platform for student research and experimentation. Research involving community engagement, soil testing, ethnobotany, architectural design, structural analysis are all brought to the forefront and motivate students to learn and apply these concepts that are already taught at Lehigh University. Lastly, as Lehigh expands deeper into Southside Bethlehem, the Permaculture Park team is taking the initiative to make sure that we do so with grace through interpretive signage, community consensus forms, door to door engagement, interviews and community events throughout the development of this land.

Abstract

In a day and age where the infrastructure in urban cities is so mesmerizing to the human eye yet unforgiving to the Earth's Core, the Southside Permaculture Park attempts to reconcile the aesthetic lure of developing cities with the long term ecological concerns of our planet through the creation of a captivating social and ecological safe haven that fosters the free exchange of food, materials, and knowledge. Located near the heart of Bethlehem's urban southside community and next to Lehigh's themed community "EcoHouse", the Southside Permaculture Park welcomes all walks of life to learn about its various ecological processes and relationships while providing a space for people to come together to garden, exercise, learn, and socialize. Community autonomy is a primary focus in the park's event planning efforts and is ultimately an effort to reduce the social fragmentation between Lehigh students and local residents. The features of the land are designed to be multifunctional, informational, open-ended and guided by common permaculture practices. In light of Lehigh's recent developments in the local area, there has never been a time more important for the preservation of green spaces such as the Southside Permaculture Park. The influx of visitors, workers, volunteers, students, faculty, and professors joining the project and utilizing the space is a testament to the increasingly prominent nature of this project. The park centerpiece, the flower spiral, has been the most recent initiative in the park and is intended to incorporate members of the community through community garden plots.

Institutional Engagement



- ☉ Community interviews
- ☉ Door-to-door
- ☉ Local park tabling
- ☉ Event hosting



Community Engagement

Knowledge



- ☉ LU Space Planning Committee
- ☉ Housing Services
- ☉ Facilities
- ☉ Risk Management