

Proposal to
Hill House Association

for the development, implementation, and public awareness
of walking trails for connection of Green-Up lots in the Hill
District

February 12th, 2009

<i>Names</i>	<i>E-mail</i>	<i>Phone</i>
Rebecca McGinley	ram119@pitt.edu	(512) 971 8193
Blair Suter	bcs27@pitt.edu	(304) 550 6078
Michael Sweriduk	mes176@pitt.edu	(215) 767 0973
Declan Wilson	dww13@pitt.edu	(412) 610 4098

Team Website:

<http://www.engr.pitt.edu/freshman/academic/engr0715/studentdata/Team7/team7.html>

Engineering 0715 - Applications for Society



University of Pittsburgh

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Abstract

Problem Statement:

Our group aims to determine a means of publicizing and making more accessible the Green-Up lots in the Hill District to its residents and residents of Pittsburgh at large. We plan to use past project's efforts to create trails around the Hill District and our current goal to include Green-Up lots to develop ideal routes around the Hill District. In order to ensure that the routes are well known, we plan to put up a sign of the routes at either a central Green-Up lot location or at the Hill House. In addition, we will attempt to develop a pamphlet of some sort, which includes the walking routes and information about them, information about the Green-Up lots, and information about the Hill District. Finally we will analyze whether there would be use of a website for this project and if so we will develop an appropriate website to be used by the Hill House. More information about the specific tasks and a timeline given on the Work Breakdown Structure and Gantt chart attached.

Background Information:

The Hill House Association, an organization whose goal is to improve the Hill District through community-based action projects, is our main client for this project. They have a constant presence in the Hill District and aim to aid in the rejuvenation of the Hill District through education of all ages and responsible economic and neighborhood development.

Find the Rivers! is focused on developing the Green-Up lots in the Hill District. Green-Up lots are plots of land that are owned by the city, or other organizations, which are being redeveloped to be "green spaces," with plants like local grasses, trees, and flowers. The goal of Green-Up lots is to create a more aesthetically appealing space in the developed area of the Hill District and attempting to create a communal space.

Our group did background research on the Hill District in general, because we wanted to understand how the culture of the Hill District would influence our project. We also would like to incorporate some of the historic aspects of the Hill District into our project, through naming and trail design, because the community is so important.

The main resource of background information for this project was the journals and final project reports. We used these to learn more about what has already been done for the Hill House Association. Because most of the projects were similar to ours, we were able to use their experiences and work done to help better define our project description and to help create our Work Breakdown Structure.

In addition, we have done research on the process of erecting a sign, which for previous groups, as we learned from their journals, was a large road bump. We have identified the problem areas of the undertaking and we believe that we will be able to make more progress because of this background research. The Work Breakdown Structure explains the specific steps necessary to complete the task.

Goals and Rationale

The overall goal is to introduce sustainable means for the residents of the Hill District to travel easier to the recreational areas. This project will work in association with the Hill House and Find the Rivers! to develop new trails and use existing trails to connect new Green-Up lots in the Hill District.

1. Design a trail connecting the new green-up lots

The Hill District is developing several new Green-Up lots, which will make the Hill a nicer, greener place to live. A trail connecting these Green-Up lots will connect not only the Green-Up lots but also the residents of the Hill District to those Green-Up lots.

2. Select trails proposed by previous groups to connect to this new Green-Up lot trail to create a greater trail network in the Hill

The University of Pittsburgh Freshman engineering classes and other groups have been proposing and introducing projects that map the Hill District and create walking routes within it for several years. We would like to utilize these previously designed trails and develop new trails to connect the Green-Up lots and make a greater network of trails in the Hill District. This network of trails could be used as a community connection or a number of other things.

3. Advertize this trail network effectively so that it can be used by residents of the Hill and residents of Pittsburgh in general

Although lots of work has been put in to designing these trails, we have seen little evidence that it is being used effectively. We could not find anything as to current advertizing for the trail network that had been devised. In order for residents on the Hill District to be able to use the trails, they must first know about the trails. The Hill District has a lot to offer including the Green-Up lots and scenic views so trails incorporating these features could become an attraction for the Hill District if they are advertized effectively. We propose to make brochures to hand out at the Hill House, a website that the Hill House will be able to update when needed, and signs to put around the Hill District. All of these measures should promote the trails in a manner effective to make them known.

4. Provide a means of exercise for residents of the Hill

This is a continued goal from past projects. Being overweight is a problem with people in the Hill District. The Healthy Black Families Project is working against this trend to lead to healthier residents in the Hill District. Walking, running, or biking these trails could be a fun way to promote exercise and overall healthy life trends.

5. Create a new attraction for the Hill that will bring in people from the greater Pittsburgh area

The Hill District is a region of very little commercial or aesthetic to the people of Pittsburgh. People of Pittsburgh also tend to look down upon the neighborhood, but the Hill District is a region that is again on the rise with new housing projects and other new ventures. The Hill is being transformed but the perception of the Hill has not changed. These trails could be a reason for people outside the Hill to visit the neighborhood and to improve perception of the up-and-coming neighborhood.

6. Gain publicity for this trail and those similar to it by seeking publication within a local newspaper.

Gaining publicity by using a newspaper will expand our advertising to the people of the greater Pittsburgh area. The newspaper article will make people know about the project and show the work that is being done in the Hill District and hopefully better the city of Pittsburgh's perception about the Hill District. Dr. Lund mentioned that she has a contact in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette that might be able to help us.

Work Breakdown Structure:

- 1.0 Further gather information about project
 - 1.1 Contact Terri Baltimore and tour proposed Green-Up lots
 - 1.2 Get journals of previous groups
 - 1.2.1 Read journals
 - 1.2.2 Identify potential problems
 - 1.2.3 Identify previous trails
 - 1.3 Walk previous trails
 - 1.3.1 Analyze quality of trails
 - 1.3.2 Determine relevance to our project
 - 1.4 Gather historical research about the Hill District
 - 1.5 Evaluate work needed to install permanent signs
- 2.0 Finish team website
 - 2.1 Develop code
 - 2.2 Finalize information for website
 - 2.3 Upload website
- 3.0 Develop proposal
 - 3.1 Develop abstract, project description, and problem statement
 - 3.2 Develop statement of work
 - 3.2.1 Goals and rationale
 - 3.2.2 Deliverables
 - 3.2.3 Assumptions
 - 3.2.4 Work description
 - 3.2.5 Schedule estimates
 - 3.3 Gantt Chart
- 4.0 First client presentation
 - 4.1 Practice for presentation
 - 4.2 Evaluate client input
 - 4.2.1 Adapt scope of the proposal
 - 4.2.2 Reevaluate Gantt Chart
- 5.0 Design Green-Up lot trail
 - 5.1 Map our Green-Up lot trails
 - 5.1.1 Include locations of Green-Up lots
 - 5.1.2 Utilize information from previous groups
 - 5.2 Walk the trails
 - 5.2.1 Evaluate difficulty based on topography and distance
 - 5.2.2 Analyze safety and accessibility
 - 5.2.3 Determine pros and cons of trails
 - 5.2.4 Modify if necessary
 - 5.3 Create a final map, incorporating new and old trails
- 6.0 Creation of signs
 - 6.1 Design signs specifically to suit needs
 - 6.1.1 Create one central sign
 - 6.1.2 Create signs to mark green-up lots
 - 6.2 Cost analysis

- 6.2.1 Find business that will make signs
- 6.2.2 Determine best way to use available funds
- 6.2.3 Determine cost of sign contractor
- 6.3 Obtain permission from City of Pittsburgh
 - 6.3.1 Fill out sign permit application
 - 6.3.2 Find someone to perform structural and wind load calculations
- 6.4 Install signs
- 7.0 Creation of pamphlets
 - 7.1 Design pamphlets
 - 7.1.1 Include map and link to website
 - 7.1.2 Make pamphlets appeal to Hill District residents
 - 7.2 Print pamphlets in Benedum computer lab
- 8.0 Creation of website
 - 8.1 Determine effectiveness of website for overall project
 - 8.2 Plan out information for website
 - 8.3 Develop HTML code
 - 8.4 Create instructions for updating website
- 9.0 Prepare final summary of project
 - 9.1 Prepare presentation for Freshman Conference
 - 9.2 Write final report
 - 9.3 Present at Freshman Conference
 - 9.4 Present final report to instructor
 - 9.5 Present final report to client and hand over deliverables

Deliverables

1. Map of final trails
 - a. Colorful and creative, something that will grab people's attention
 - b. Detailed with street names, distance and difficulty of trails, location of Green-Up lots etc.
2. Signs to put up around trails and one central sign
 - a. Include on central sign a map of trails, reason for trails, and information about trails and Green-Up lots
 - b. Use previous groups signs to place along the trails
3. 1000 pamphlets
 - a. Will resemble central sign with same information including a website
 - b. Include map from item 1
 - c. To be placed at particular locations to maximize awareness of trails and Green-Up lots
4. Digital copy of pamphlet
 - a. To be used to re-print pamphlets after original supply runs out
 - b. In a modifiable format if any changes arise
5. Webpage
 - a. Include information about our project, project member's websites, interactive map, digital copy of pamphlets, etc.
 - b. Website will be interesting and fun
 - c. HTML code will be delivered with item 4 also in a modifiable format
 - d. Instructions to update website
6. Final Report
 - a. Summary of work completed and previous deliverables
 - b. Hard copy and digital format

Schedule Estimates

Finish team webpage	2/3/2009
Tour of Green-Up lots	2/5/2009
Present proposal	2/12/2009
Completion of signs	3/3/2009
Creation of webpage for Hill House	3/23/2009
Creation of pamphlets	3/27/2009
Final map of trail/trails	3/30/2009
Instillation of signs	4/5/2009
Final report	4/16/2009

Assumptions

1. Good weather to walk trails in the Hill District
2. Signs will be completed in time
3. Adequate funds for project
4. Getting a sign contractor on time
5. Printer availability for pamphlets
6. Hill House Association has someone on staff to update website
7. Hill House has server space to host web site

Development of Hill District "Green-Up" Space Walking Route - Gantt Chart



Development of Hill District "Green-Up" Space Walking Route - Gantt Chart

