East Side Rain Garden Project

MY IDEA FOR CHANGE

I would like to create a rain garden with public space for residents on the East Side of Buffalo. The goal of my project is to attract investment while improving the built environment. This project has three main objectives:

1. Beautify an underused lot to increase neighborhood attractiveness
2. Alleviate sewer overflow by capturing and absorbing urban water run-off
3. Create an attractive public space for residents and visitors

This project would benefit this community by contributing to the beautification of the neighborhood while improving the environment and potentially creating jobs in the future. It will also reduce the strain on Buffalo’s aging Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) system, ultimately contributing to the health and function of waterways in the area. There is an urgent need for the City of Buffalo to protect its water in a fiscally responsible manner. CSOs cost cities around the country millions of dollars in fines from the Environmental Protection Agency. This project provides an innovative solution to the problem.

This project will take place in three phases: 1. Design and planning of site; 2. Installation of rain garden; and 3. Installation of public space with seating area.

WHERE THE CHANGE WILL HAPPEN

The proposed site for this garden is located at the intersection of Best Street, Parade Street and Genesee Street, adjacent to Martin Luther King Jr. Park in the Masten District, directly at the southern border of the Fillmore District on Buffalo’s East Side. This historic district was developed at the end of the 19th and early 20th century and was home to German, Polish, Italian, Russian, and Canadian immigrants. After World War II, this area experienced a demographic shift to mainly African American residents, which is still true today. While the district has seen disinvestment and neighborhood decline in the built environment, it boasts historic housing stock and important institutions such as Canisius College, Buffalo Museum of Science and the Paul Robeson Theatre to name a few.

Planning a Change

ACTIONS TO MOVE IT FORWARD

Obtain funding
Recruit a community partner
Find an appropriate site
Develop a site plan

RESOURCES NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Partnerships, Access to a Site, Landscape Design Assistance

FUNDING RANGE

$5,000 - $10,000

STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT

IDEA

PLAN

ACTION

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I’d like to fulfill the potential of East Side neighborhoods by inspiring future investment through a community-based beautification project.