Green Gentrification: The Hidden Injustice of Greening Communities
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Background
• Green gentrification is when gentrification occurs with the creation of new greenspaces or increasing accessibility to it.
• The addition of greenspaces in neighborhoods increases property values, which could lead to displacement of vulnerable populations within these communities.
• This creates a disparity in the access to greenspace, with people of lower socio-economic status to have less access.
• Often the perspectives of people being affected by green gentrification go unheard, so there is very little data on this issue.

Researchable Questions
• Is access to greenspace equal in the Seattle Area?
• What are the views of people affected by the addition of a greenspace in their neighborhood?

Internship/Methods
• In Winter 2020, my Internship with the Green Seattle Partnership and participated in a restoration project in the Cheasty greenspace.
• Researched spatial analysis done on the City of Seattle to see if there is a disparity in access to parks.
• Conducted an online survey sent to South Seattle neighborhoods to learn about the residents’ attitudes towards the Cheasty greenspace mountain bike trail proposal.

Projects like the mountain bike trail proposal in Cheasty greenspace could cause green gentrification, making it a good case study for this project.

Results
Is access to parks equal?

Survey Results
How familiar are you with the planned mountain bike trail in the Cheasty greenspace?

- Very familiar: 22%
- Somewhat familiar: 50%
- Neutral: 0%
- Somewhat unfamiliar: 6%
- Very unfamiliar: 22%

How supportive are you of the planned mountain bike trail in the Cheasty greenspace?

- Very supportive: 44%
- Somewhat supportive: 22%
- Neutral: 17%
- Somewhat un-supportive: 0%
- Very un-supportive: 17%

Results (Continued)
• The two graphs show that majority of the residents are both at least somewhat familiar and somewhat supportive of the mountain bike trail.
• 50% of the respondents indicated that they believe the trail will have a positive impact on property values.
• 100% of responses mentioned that greenspaces and parks are very important to neighborhoods.

Significance
• There needs to be a higher awareness of the fact that improvements to greenspaces can lead to higher property values.

Figure 1: Diagram of the mountain bike trail

Figure 4: Graph of condo values in the Sunset Park Area in Brooklyn, NY

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