Social Cohesion: Sustainable Playgrounds
Navigating a Transitioning Community

-Social cohesion is always a challenge when a community is going through a new transition

-Take Care New York 2020

-Sustainable playgrounds will have a positive impact on many aspects of the community, including child growth and education, community unification, and environmental gains.
What is a Sustainable Playground?

- Space for children to exercise and play in a safe, interactive, and natural environment

- Incorporate natural and recycled materials that make up the playground equipment.

- Unique playgrounds will hopefully encourage families to explore the community

- Sustainable public restrooms and water fountains
Possible Equipment

Monkey Bars

Jumping Stumps

Climbing Wall
From Hawaii
Implementation into the Northside

Multiple playgrounds, each of them different and unique

Existing neighborhood, commercial area, green space near Butterfly Creek, the VCOM campus, and near the rec center

Potential to be small, utilizing underused areas

Trails between playgrounds
Possible Areas for Sustainable Playgrounds

Historic established neighborhood homeowners

Fixed Use Commercial / Residential

School

Rec Center

Existing Fairground

Cleveland Park

Cleveland Heights Neighborhood

Victoria Gardens SHA

Cleveland Academy of Leadership

K-5

Spartanburg Regional Medical Center

Proposed Gateway Plaza

Archibald / Ruthledge (SHA)

Wofford College Campus

to downtown Spartanburg

Magnolia Cemetery

VCOM medical school

Brawley St

Forest St

Railroad Tracks
What are the benefits?

- Allows for friendly play
- Fosters a healthy relationship between children and their community
- Connects children to nature and stimulates growth
- Educational opportunities for children
- Lasts longer than traditional playground equipment
- Lower maintenance costs
- Adds real estate value to the area
- Significantly lower carbon footprint
Funding

Partnerships with local operations

book clubs, reading events, etc. taking place at the playground in return and recognition for funding

Reach out to recycling centers for reusable resources

Pieces of playground equipment can have a plaque recognizing who funded the projects

Eagle Scouts

Grants that fund educational signs and plaques
Maintenance

- Low maintenance
- Partnerships with Wofford organizations, local schools, community clubs, etc.
Security

- Security cameras
- LED WiFi light posts and solar-powered lighting
- Fencing
- Signs with hours of operation and park rules
Educational Aspect

- Educational and interactive signs
- Leave No Child Inside
- Space for children to experience nature outside of the classroom
- Being sustainable is possible in the real world
Collaboration with Other Groups

- LED light posts with WiFi in playground areas
- School Garden curriculum can teach children about how to use the sustainable playgrounds
- Waist high solar-powered lights throughout parks
- Sustainable public restrooms