Nature Play Spaces

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5801 N. Pulaski Rd.
BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE CHICAGO MUNICIPAL TUBERCULOSIS SANITARIUM

Capacity on day of opening, 650 beds. Full capacity, 950 beds.
Creating A Nature Play Space

The Journey of

.........Welles Park
How It All Began

Fall 2015
One Acre Natural Area with Nature Play Space included
Community Buy In and Involvement

Involve the children
Nature Kit: Input from Children
Design Input

Cast Your VOTE
Budget & Fundraising

- Design = twice the price of our budget
- Additional Fundraising
- Crowdrise
  - Individual challenges
  - Group effort
  - In Memoriam donation with additional matching challenge
- Grants
  - Peoples Gas, Patagonia, Excelon/Com Ed
  - Meet Me at the Park- Disney/ABC
- Other:
  - Elected Officials
  - Businesses
- Donor Recognition
Keeping Community Engaged

It’s Your Park Day
Keeping Community Engaged

Media

Lincoln Square, Albany Park & Irving Park
Sports & Outdoors

Welles Park Wants Grownups To Know New NaturePlace Isn't Mere Child's Play

By Peter Bamber March 3, 2017 5:10am

Futuro Stephanie Ridolino

Welles Park Needs $10K To Go Vital With Proposed NaturePlace

Welles Park wants $10,000 to become a vital part of the community with the proposed NaturePlace. The park has a long history of providing recreational opportunities for residents, but the new NaturePlace aims to take that to the next level.

Art features that attract children

Quiet spaces to relax, read and unwind

Shaded private paths for wandering

Natural sculptures, logs, and tree stumps for climbing

Tools and building supplies for kids to construct and create

Small shelter like tree forts, netting and other structures

DONATE AND LEARN MORE AT
WELLES PARK NATUREPLACE
WELLES PARK ADVOCACY COUNCIL

Lincoln Square – Parks are open, but they aren't necessarily “natural.”
Construction
Elements
Native Plantings
Loose Parts
Sensory Garden Planting
Nature Helped with Design
Community Ownership & Pride
Welles Park Nature Play Space
Welles Park Nature Play Space
Welles Park Nature Play Space
Loose Parts
Larger Loose Parts
Nature Play Vision

We want people of all ages in the Welles Park Community to be comfortable playing (building, creating, digging, etc) in nature. In time, we would like to encourage even more messy and creative play using natural loose parts.
LET’S PLAY
Challenges

Keeping loose parts in play space
- Tree cookies & building material/ public and CPD staff
- Mud kitchen

Adult directed

Injuries

Volunteers
Events & Activities

- Library/Storytime
- Loose Parts Palooza
- Bonfire
- Bird Watching
- It’s Your Park Day
- Family Nature Days/Nature Play Dates
- “Auntie Litter” project
- Use kiosks to share Nature Play info
We hope that eventually our public will feel comfortable exploring and playing in larger natural areas, forest preserves, and adventure nature programs.
FORM #1

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

INITIAL APPLICATION FOR A NATURE PLAY SPACE

PART 1: COMMUNITY MEMBER INFORMATION

Part ___________________________ Date ___________________________
Park Address ___________________________
Part Supervisor’s name ___________________________
How many active members in your Organizing group? ___________________________

Liaison/Primary Leader’s Name: ___________________________
Phone Number: ___________________________
Mailing Address with zip code: ___________________________
Email: ___________________________
*The Primary & Alternate contacts may not be in the same immediate family and may not reside at the same address.

Alternate Contact’s Name: ___________________________
Phone Number: ___________________________
Mailing Address with zip code: ___________________________
Email: ___________________________

PART 2: PROJECT LOCATION AND SCOPE

Describe in detail the location where your Group wants to build. Please be specific. Example: “Our location of interest is 100 feet southeast at the corner of 117 St & Cornell Ave, bordered by...” ___________________________

Estimate the desired square footage: ___________________________

Provide a brief description about your reasoning for developing a Nature Play Space in your park (your Group’s purpose, goals, and any other relevant information):

_____________________________
Nature Play Space Checklist

Welcome! As the Nature Play Space Organizer,

We are glad to know that you’re interested in creating a Nature Play Space in your local park. This is a serious responsibility which will require community support and dedicated ongoing commitment by all members of your organizing group.

To start a new Nature Play Space, you must follow this checklist to guide you through the reference plan:

**Step 1**
- Read the PVP MANUAL detailing the development process
- Form a GROUP of committed organizers (at least 3 supportive community members)

**Step 2**
- Talk to the Park Superintendent and Area Manager for permission to start a Nature Play Area
- TOGETHER with the Park Superintendent, choose several appropriate locations in the park

**Step 3**
- Submit the completed "Initial Application for a Nature Play Area" (Form #1)
- Wait to hear that your location has been approved by the Chicago Park District

**Step 4**
- Attend an ADVISORY COUNCIL meeting to talk for their support and approval
- Hold a PUBLIC MEETING in your neighborhood with the Chicago Park District
- Identify the funding to develop and operate the Nature Play Space
- Collect signatures for the petition (Form #2)
- Complete HIST SURV, INUS report on three separate visits (Form #11)
- Collect a letter of support from the Advisory Council (or local community center/club/Friends Advisory Council & applied)

**Step 5**
- Complete a MONITOR PROPOSAL
  - Group Membership Form
  - Project Design
  - Funding Plan (2-year)
  - Maintenance Plan
  - Suppliers & Information Plan
  - Plant List
  - Playshop/Workday schedule for the coming year

**Step 6**
- Submit ALL REQUIRED PAPERWORK (see Proposal Package)
- Negotiate a MAINTENANCE contract with the Chicago Park District
- Review Final written permission
- Request site & submit "Committee Letter" (Form #14)
- Have each GROUP MEMBER sign a "Liability Waiver" (Form #32)
- Have each GROUP MEMBER undergo a Chicago Park District background check

**FINISH**
- Install the Nature Play Area
Questions?

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