

Nature Play Space Capital Grant Program

Purpose/Summary:

Through this program, the Chicago Park District's Department of Cultural and Natural Resources can award in-kind grants of up to \$10,000 to help support the development of Nature Play Spaces for children in Chicago Park District parks.

The Chicago Park District defines a Nature Play Space as a designated, managed area in an existing or modified outdoor environment where children of all ages and abilities play and learn by engaging with and manipulating diverse natural elements, materials, organisms, and habitats, through sensory, fine motor and gross motor experiences.¹

Chicago Park District's Nature Play Space Program provides support and resources to registered nature play space groups that maintain or are working towards developing a nature play space in their neighborhood park. The purpose of the Nature Play Space Program is to:

- reconnect children and families to nature by providing valuable outdoor space for positive, hands-on nature experiences
- invite communities to re-imagine park spaces for the purpose of promoting spontaneous free play by children, allowing them to immerse themselves in nature

These grants can help fund capital aspects of existing nature play spaces, or nature play space designs (See Appendix A for examples of relevant capital expenditures). Projects must be aimed at designing, creating, expanding, or enhancing a new or existing nature play space.

Application Criteria:

1. Applications must contain ALL of the required information.
2. Grant requests should not exceed \$10,000
3. Applications must be completed and received by **May 30, 2018**.
4. Applications must be emailed to: natureoasis@chicagoparkdistrict.com

Eligibility

To apply for a grant, applicants must represent a registered Nature Play Space Group (or a group that is in the process of becoming registered). For an application to become a registered Nature Play Space Community Group, please email:

natureoasis@chicagoparkdistrict.com

Deadline/Project Period

Applications must be received by **May 30, 2018**. Awards will be announced **June 15, 2018**. The project start date should be no earlier than **June 18, 2018**, and the project must be completed by **November 30, 2018**.

¹ "Nature Play and Learning" by Robin C. Moore



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Please sign and date below:

This is to declare that we have filled out this entire application truthfully and understand the commitment we have made to The Chicago Parks Foundation to accept funds for their stated use and will report on their expenditure in an honest and complete manner.

Signature of Grant Contact Person

Date

I have discussed this application with the nature play space group and approve the proposal.

Signature of Park Supervisor

Date

Please submit by email to NatureOasis@ChicagoParkDistrict.com

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

Total requested grant amount: (must NOT exceed \$10,000): _____

Total project budget: _____

Submit your budget narrative below for each line item included in your total project budget. A budget narrative is the justification of 'how' and/or 'why' a budget line item helps to meet the program deliverables.

For existing Nature Play Spaces, how will this grant improve your Space? Please enter NA if you are applying for a new Nature Play Space.

For new Nature Play Spaces, what resources will your Nature Play Space group provide? Please enter NA if you are applying for an existing Nature Play Space.

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

Appendix A:

All costs are estimates and include labor, delivery and/or installation.

Fencing:

- Split-rail wood fence: \$35/linear ft.
- Construction fencing: \$12/linear ft.

Edging for woodchip pathway: \$7.50/ft. (both sides)

Asphalt pathway: (6' wide, 2" deep): \$45/ft.

Crushed gravel pathway: (5' wide): \$38.10 / linear ft.

Boulders:

- 2'-3' boulders: \$450 each
- 4'-5' boulders: \$1,700 each

Mulch for planted areas (double-processed): \$35/cubic yard

Outdoor Bulletin Board/Kiosk: \$2500

Grading: \$30K+ soil & trucking costs

4' hill = \$14k

6 small hills: \$10k

Native Plant Plugs:

- \$85/ 36 – 50 plugs
- Quarts: \$5.25/ea

Appendix B:

Free resources that can be provided by the Chicago Park District. Various lengths and diameters available.

Logs

Stumps

Sticks

Woodchips (play and/or pathways)

Tree cookies