

Plan Summary: TO BE FILLED IN FOLLOWING STAFF REVIEW _ PLAN BEGINS PG 3

Note:

This plan is intended to remain in DRAFT form until the public engagement portion of the plan is fully implemented and incorporated.

Commonly used acronyms in this document:

LCNP – Larimer County Natural Playscapes

LCNR – Larimer County Natural Resources

NP – Natural Playscape

NR - Natural Resource

RBOS – River Bluffs Open Space

RBOS-NP - River Bluffs Open Space Natural Playscape

Introduction

1.1 Natural Playscapes and Nature Play

A natural playscape is a defined area at an open space or park where regulations for resource protection can be suspended to allow for nearly unbridled, unstructured nature play opportunities for youth and families. The aim of designing this space is to create a natural space for play and sensory engagement, not to create a playground with a nature theme.

The goal of these areas is to connect youth and families to the outdoors by allowing them to learn through time in nature, manipulation, experimentation, or “nature play.” Kids should be allowed to alter the area by digging holes, building forts, manipulating water, collecting natural materials, and examining bugs and other small critters. Kids can also use the area to build their physical skills, and just relax or hide-out in nature.

These areas will not constitute a complete free-for-all with regard to regulations. Regulations for safe experiences will remain in place. For instance, setting fires, completely removing large trees, or building structures with nails, screws or bolts within trees will all be excluded.

A combination of community defined built and nonbuilt elements will make up the RBOS-NP. Built elements are static elements that are purchased, manufactured or fabricated, and remain in a fixed location. Nonbuilt elements, such as small rocks, sticks, logs, leaves, and sand, will help to provide a rich sensory experience for youth.

Appropriate playscape areas have a diversity of topography (or hills will be designed), habitats, and vegetation types; have reasonable access to water (natural or otherwise); and combine both built and nonbuilt elements to encourage children to imagine, build, explore, experiment, and connect with nature. The elements of the site should aim to engage all five senses and provide reasonable access to those with physical and other impairments.

1.2 Urgency and Need for Natural Play Areas

Today’s youth and families are facing a host of issues unseen in previous generations including lower achievement in schools, higher rates of obesity, and higher occurrences of ADD/ADHD and depression among young people. At the same time, some have called attention to children’s growing disconnect to the natural world, and coined the term “Nature Deficit Disorder.” The disconnect and subsequent issues are inexorably linked.

A growing body of research has demonstrated that these issues can be mitigated if children are given the opportunity to connect with nature and the outdoors on a regular basis through unstructured play. Larimer County Natural Resources considers these issues serious, and has identified the connection of youth and families to the outdoors as a goal. Providing these kinds of natural play areas in parks and open spaces can be an important component to addressing Nature

Deficit Disorder in Larimer County.

Potentially add any pertinent information from Plug in to Nature when appropriate to give local interest in issue.

1.3 Area Selection and Specific Location

Larimer County Natural Playscapes are appropriate for areas close to urban centers (within 15 miles), and will occur within the “developed” zone of a property. Developed zones include features such as picnic areas, bathrooms, and parking lots, which are convenient for parents and their children.

The areas in question should provide some natural resource values, but they should be in areas that do not contain sensitive wildlife or plant habitat, have no known cultural significance and are not designated as a conservation target in the property’s resource management plan.

Each property is unique and some may not have the appropriate amenities to facilitate a high quality nature play experience of this kind (different than traditional trail-based recreation). Each will be judged on a case-by-case basis, taking into account any planning constraints that exist at that particular site. Additionally, many sites fall within distinct plant communities and ecosystems; when choosing material to bring into such sites, every effort will be made to ensure that the integrity of these communities is maintained (i.e., using native plants in plantings).

River Bluffs Open Space is the first candidate for this type of land use on a Larimer County Natural Resources property. RBOS was chosen because of its proximity to Windsor, Timnath and Fort Collins urban centers, and because the developed zone on site provides a natural fit for this kind of land use.

Specifically, the playscape is planned to fit into the east side of the trailhead parking area between the parking spaces and the fence that bounds the eastern agricultural field. The area is approximately 72’ wide (at the widest point) and 200’ long. Elm trees provide a good deal of shade, and the access to and fence for the agricultural field provide easily understood boundaries. Diffuse light coming into the area through the elm canopy should provide enough sunlight for plantings within the playscape.

Water is available from a tap located in the northeast corner of the area, which is primarily used to provide stock water to livestock when they are present in the east agricultural field. Visibility into the playscape area is good from many points around the trailhead, allowing parents to observe their child at play if they remain outside the area.

1.4 Target Audience

The target audience for the RBOS-NP will be 1) toddlers (ages 6 months – 2 years), 2) preschoolers (ages 2 years through 5 years), and 3) school-aged children (ages 5 through 12). The main auxiliary audiences by necessity are parents of toddlers, preschoolers and school-aged children. Each of these groups has their own requirements due to age, developmental stage, size, and interest. Adults are included because they will need to bring the children to the NP and supervise the play while they are there.

As much as possible, built elements in the site will accommodate the needs of each of the above groups of children, with some limited separation (buffer zone, walkways, low walls) between elements that are appropriate for a specific age group.

Audience needs for these kinds of sites and experiences will be solicited during the public engagement portion of this project.

1.5 Outcomes for the visitor experience

The natural playscape area will be a place for kids to explore the natural world in many different ways. This area will provide for building, tearing down, digging, playing with water, running around, and even just sitting and “being in” nature, watching the clouds go by, or listening to natural sounds. It is a very self-directed sort of play, and hopefully parents will allow it to occur in an unstructured manner. While much of this document focuses on the elements that can make up the playscape, it is also important to consider the experience the visitors will hopefully have while interacting with this area.

Increased interest in the natural world: Research has shown that frequent, unstructured play, such as this area would encourage has been found to be the most common influence on the development of life-long conservation values. Getting kids out early and often, especially in areas that allow them to manipulate and experiment with the natural world is vital to ensuring future support for conservation actions.

Increased social skills: Children who spend time outdoors in unstructured play are more likely to engage in positive social behaviors with their peers.

Increased physical health from active play and time outdoors: Creating a natural space where kids can run around and be active can help encourage these healthy habits early in life.

1.6 Planning Considerations

Active Agricultural Use of RBOS – A lessee has access to farm the eastern agricultural field immediately adjacent to the proposed natural playscape area. The access for this field will essentially line up with the southern boundary of the natural playscape. Staff has determined that even though the lessee does not access this field frequently, this access should remain outside of the playscape area to avoid any kind of conflict.

RBOS Management Plan – A resource management and implementation plan for RBOS was adopted in April of 2011 that lays out the overall vision for RBOS within the LCNR system. This vision includes conservation targets for the site, and makes a wide range of recommendations for the management of the natural, cultural, and recreational resources on site. The natural playscape will not infringe on any of the above areas, as they are specified within the plan.

RBOS Education Plan - An education plan for RBOS that was adopted in 2011 lays out interpretive themes for visitor experiences at RBOS and calls for the development of a “wild zone,” now referred to as a “Natural Playscape” herein. As much as possible, the overall theme for interpretation on site will be maintained throughout the Natural Playscape.

Floodway location – The ideal location for the playscape at River Bluffs Open Space will fall into the floodway of the Poudre River. Any permanent items installed in the playscape area that may increase the level of the river should it flood will need to be reviewed and approved by the flood board. This process will need to be incorporated into the discussions with the public during the design phase of the project as well.

Safety in the Natural Playscape - While the natural playscape is not in and of itself a “playground,” and therefore not subject to regulations governing “playgrounds,” national guidelines used in the building of playgrounds may be appropriate in maintaining a safe environment for children to connect with nature.

These considerations include providing proper landing zones, while avoiding any fall hazards, crush and shearing points, entanglement and impalement opportunities, various forms of entrapment, tripping hazards, suspended hazards, and sharp points, corners or edges on any elements.

In order to avoid some of these issues, elements for climbing in the playscape will be limited to no more than 30” in height, unless a safety railing can be provided. If an element above 30” is favored by the public, it will include natural steps (log or boulder) that do not exceed 18” in height.

Any openings between logs, rocks, or other elements will measure either less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches in width, unless adjacent to the ground (i.e., the ground forms the bottom edge of the space.)

The play area will also be kept free of tripping hazards by installing any anchors for elements below ground, using contrasting coloration of surfacing with element color or boundaries.

2. Natural Resource Implications for River Bluffs Nature Playscape Areas

Natural Playscape Areas are intended for unstructured play, where children can learn about nature by playing in and manipulating natural features. Areas should be complex and provide a variety

of natural features like streams, densely vegetated areas, large rocks for climbing, trees for shade, limbs, leaves, soil or mulch to dig and mix with other materials. Animals are an important part of a complex and engaging natural playscape area, especially small organisms like worms, insects, amphibians and other creatures that can be held. It's important to locate Nature Playscape Areas where larger animals like birds and mammals are likely to be observed.

Since the purpose of these areas is unstructured play by children, natural resource damage is expected. Therefore, these areas should be located in an area that does not provide sensitive wildlife or plant habitat and has no cultural significance. Locating a Natural Playscape Area near developed features like picnic areas, bathrooms and parking lots, which are convenient for parents and their children, should also be considered.

The area east of the parking lot, under mature elms, has been selected as the Natural Playscape Area at River Bluffs Open Space. This area is not a sensitive natural area, is not a conservation target in the River Bluffs Management Plan and has no cultural value. The elms were also thinned and dead growth was removed during the construction of River Bluffs Open Space. The understory was replanted in a native grass seed mix and the site is currently mowed and maintained as an open area adjacent to the trailhead.

2.1 Current Biological Condition of Site

The results of a botanical inventory of the site indicated a lack of plant diversity, absence of mid-story woody plants, no flowering or sub-shrub plants and an overall general lack of biological integrity. The trees on site are non-native and were planted decades ago in two rows.

Due to this lack of natural habitat, the use of the site by wildlife is also limited. Songbirds and raptors have been observed roosting in the mature elms. Mowing the site also reduces cover for wildlife thus reducing the likelihood of use by small mammals for denning and hunting and by ground nesting birds. Insect diversity is also presumed low. This site does not provide the assemblage of plants needed to provide host plants for butterflies and skippers and the lack of flowering plants prevents insect pollinators, like beetles, wasps and bees from foraging at the site.

The lack of vegetative structure and surrounding parking lot and agricultural fields also reduce the likelihood of the federally endangered Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse from inhabiting the site. A Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse Survey was completed for the entire River Bluffs Open Space site in 2009 and no animals were trapped. No other threatened or endangered species are known or likely to occur at this site.

2.2 Limits of Acceptable Change

Since the site contains few natural resource values and no cultural resource values, the site will need to be replanted and habitat created. A planting plan will be developed during the design phase of the Natural Playscape Area. Materials that are suitable for importing are those that are

native to where the habitat area is located. In other words, upland areas will include upland features such as sedimentary rock outcrops or dry grasses and shrubs. Lowlands will include willows, mesic or hydric plants and other features that are adapted to riparian or intermittently wet areas. Using materials that are native to each habitat type will teach children about the composition of healthy ecosystems, help them understand there is a dynamic “order” to the natural world and help them become familiar with features they will encounter in the natural environment. It will also help maintain the native look of a play area and improve the likelihood of attracting wildlife.

Native grasses will be used for all grass seeding. Only native trees or shrubs will be planted. If soil, mulch or other recycled material is added to the site, it will be certified weed free and will not contain artificial materials like plastic, trash or other non-woody debris.

Once the Natural Playscape Area has been built a new baseline for the biological condition of the site and limits of acceptable change will be established. Since the site is designed for unstructured play, the biological condition of the site is expected to change and the limits of change should be loose. The bottom line is that the Natural Playscape Area should be managed to allow all natural features to be affected by unstructured play but prevent features from being ruined. In other words, pulling up all the grass or removing all planted shrubs prevents other children from playing with these materials. Ruining or removing natural features also simplifies the site and reduces the likelihood of a complex and engaging natural experience. The Natural Playscape Area or portions of the area may be fenced off or closed to prevent the loss of a natural feature.

3. Playscape Element Options

The elements described below are all options for the RBOS-NP, broken out by sensory engagement and other possibilities that can provide high quality nature play experiences. The local community will help decide which options are best for their natural playscape, and help design the space.

3.1 Options for sensory engagement

Touch - The sense of touch can be expressed through providing a variety of textures in the materials throughout the playscape. Tree bark provides rough textures, while some plantings may offer smooth or waxy textures. Sand and mulch fill material both provide excellent texture, and rocks brought in for “stages” or boundaries can be varied from smooth to rough in texture. Likewise, other nonbuilt elements (sticks, leaves, small rocks) will provide ample texture for children to explore.

Smell - The Poudre River is nearby the playscape area, and the water and willows throughout the corridor will provide a variety of pleasing smells throughout the seasons. Plantings in the area should account for smell and incorporate both sweet (flower, fruits) and savory (herbs) smells into the playscape area.

Sound - The sense of sound can be broken into two groups: sounds that kids can hear and sounds that kids can make. Both are important to provide options for. The proximity of the river will provide some

pleasing sounds, but because the river does not have many riffles nearby, this is somewhat limited and will need to be enhanced.

Enhancing the sound in the playscape could be accomplished by hanging natural wind chimes high in trees, placing bells or chimes in shrubs, providing bird feeders for song birds, and using plants that “talk” or “whisper” in the wind. Simple “listening cones” made of old painted road cones could be oriented toward the river corridor from the playscape for kids to listen for birds. To provide sound making options for kids, “PVC telephones” or “Boom Drums” could be used (see appendix XX for designs).

Sight - The natural beauty of RBOS will engage the sense of sight quite well. Additional enhancements for this sense could include the incorporation of artwork into the site design, use of vivid colors in built elements, the creation of “secret” spaces with small artistic features for kids to find, and the buds, fruits, and flowers of plantings.

Taste – Planting shrubs or plants that produce edible berries or fruits, or easy to tend vegetables that can create structure such as bean stalks within the playscape would enhance the possibilities for engaging the sense of taste. Strawberry patches, vegetables, edible berry bushes, and herbs are all favorable options. Kids and volunteers can be enlisted to help maintain these resource hungry elements of the area.

3.2 Additional site elements to consider

Pathways – Paths or trails winding through elements can help to provide separation between different zones of play (active, quiet/reflective) and elements specific to one of the three target age groups. These should tie into the site theme as much as possible or even become elements of the site themselves. Tree cookies could be used as natural pavers, or natural surface trails could be installed between elements and open areas. Mazes could be cut into tall grasses to provide pathways.

Topography enhancement – Creating varied topography within the playscape can allow children to change their perspective and get an “adult’s-eye-view” of the world. Climbing and descending hills allows kids to work out a wide range of muscles not used in general running around. Hills also provide the option for rolling or for games of “king/queen” of the mountain. Installing a slide into one side of the hill (buried) is also an option. If this were done, a soft landing zone would be required.

Stages are another important way to enhance the topography of the area. Flat rocks or stumps for kids to climb on top of and “perform” could be brought in from other open spaces or purchased. These could be used to line some of the open areas of the playscape and would also provide a spot for kids or parents to sit. To keep the stages age-appropriate and safe (i.e., not build railings), these will need to be less than 30” in height. This may be too short for some adults to sit comfortably, so additional adult-sized seating may also be required in the form of benches.

Hideouts – Children appreciate places to hide themselves or small treasures they find. Hideouts can take many forms, shapes and sizes. Tall shrubs or sunflowers could be planted to create “rooms” for kids to hide out or play in. Willow bores could be planted and woven together into a hut or a tunnel shape so that when they leaf out, “walls” are formed. Hollow logs, trees with notches or holes, and rocks could all provide spots for kids to hide treasures.

Open Areas – Open areas within the playscape are vital to allow kids room to run, build, dig, and stare up at the clouds. Designs for the playscape should include plenty of open area, with mulch, native grasses, sand, or even just soft dirt as ground cover.

Seating – Seating will be important to consider both for children and adults within the playscape. The intention for the experience in the area is that parents or grandparents allow the children to play for extended periods of time. This may not occur if people cannot make themselves comfortable while the children play. A small corner of the area may be dedicated to benches for adults so they can keep an eye on their kids.

3.3 Nonbuilt elements

In addition to the built elements installed within the playscape, it is important that nonbuilt elements be planned for, sourced, and provided for kids to play with. These elements will comprise the building blocks for forts, castles, or shelters. Small rocks, sticks, logs, and/or leaves could be set around the playscape or in a specified “kids construction zone” area for building. Sturdy logs can be balance beams (if staked properly), building material for shelters or forts, and even just natural objects for kids to roll over to find bugs underneath. Materials can be solicited from local forestry departments, or found on-site following resource management projects.

3.4 Water

Water is perhaps the most vital element to the playscape. It allows for nearly unlimited experimentation, interaction and allows kids to manipulate the landscape around them. The designated area at RBOS has a water tap located in the northeast corner of the playscape. Being able to move water from this tap to other areas of the playscape is important for kids to use in building, watering plants, and other types of play.

One of the main interpretive themes of RBOS is how the Poudre River makes life possible in Northern Colorado because of irrigation for agriculture. In keeping with that theme, providing a model irrigation ditch from the water tap running through the playscape and into a small catchment basin would be a simple, low-maintenance way for kids to move water through the area. The water would only flow when kids turned it on from the tap, and a simple sign on the tap could encourage them to shut the water off when they are done playing. The “ditch” itself could be lined, but kids could dig lateral ditches from the main line out to other areas of the playscape.

The basin that the water ends up in should be able to accommodate this use, allowing the water to drain into the ground in order to avoid the long-term presence of standing water, which may facilitate the breeding of mosquitoes.

Additional options for moving water throughout the site include creating a more natural drainage area filled in with river rock leading to a wider basin filled with rock. Similar to the idea above, this more natural feature would only be filled when the kids in the playscape turn on the water from the tap.

Providing buckets, milk jugs, hollow bamboo poles, and watering cans would also facilitate the movement of water quite well.

3.5 Boundaries

Due to the location of the playscape alongside a parking area, a boundary may provide a better sense of safety to parents allowing their children to use the playscape. If there is only one way in or out of the area, it is likely parents will be less worried about the child wandering off, or into the parking area, and allow children to roam a bit more freely around the playscape.

The use of a split rail fence or some other site appropriate boundary is recommended.

3.6 Signs and other communication tools

Several signs will help create a sense of welcome and lend explanation to visitors about the use of the playscape area.

Welcome Sign – will identify the area as a natural playscape and welcome parents and children in. Design of this sign should reflect the playful nature of the site with plenty of color, and creative fonts.

“Rules”/Explanation – A sign detailing the acceptable uses of the area, and creating a sense of the visitor experience will be mounted either on the site boundary or a post just inside the playscape area. One important point to make to families is the “sandcastle concept” for the forts, etc., that the kids may build in the area. People should expect that what they build one day may not be there when they return, much like a sand castle built at the beach.

Ask a Naturalist Box – A wooden box mounted on a post in one corner of the playscape, with a small brochure box below holding question cards and pens could give kids a chance to write their questions down for education staff to follow up on.

Web Presence – A section can be added to the RBOS site page on www.larimer.org/naturalresources to make visitors aware of the playscape amenity. While the public engagement portion of the project is taking place, LCNR can make use of the county website’s “Projects” and “Hot Topics” areas to generate interest in the project. Additional promotion of the project and meetings can take place on Facebook and Twitter.

4. Upkeep and Maintenance of RBOS-NP

The maintenance and upkeep of the playscape at RBOS will be largely dependent on the type of built and nonbuilt elements the community selects. Generally speaking, elements with little or no maintenance are preferable.

Any built elements being considered will have maintenance needs detailed prior to purchase and installation. Any built elements (log walks, slides, boom drums etc) requiring upkeep and maintenance more often than every six months may not be selected for installation.

If logs are staked down to keep them from rolling, these elements should be inspected biannually or by request of a visitor to ensure that they remain stable.

If mulch or sand is brought into the site, the material may need to be replenished annually to ensure that proper depths are maintained. Other nonbuilt elements will need to be replenished in the area as needed seasonally.

If a mock irrigation ditch is built for the use of water in the site, it will need to be inspected annually to determine if cracking or seepage is occurring.

Native plantings in the playscape will need to be watered to help them become established, and plants intended to generate edible fruits may need additional water to produce.

Much of the upkeep on the playscape can be performed by volunteer gardeners (watering plantings, etc.) or kids themselves can be encouraged to water plants around the area. If the public engagement process is successful, volunteers from that process should be easy to come by. Other more labor intensive maintenance duties will need to be performed by the department's visitor services staff as needed.

5. Resources for RBOS-NP

5.1 Staff and volunteers

The RBOS-NP will require minimal maintenance and upkeep, but what is required will be critical to ensuring that parents continue to return to the area with their children. Open Lands Visitor Services staff will be primarily responsible for maintenance beyond what volunteers can reasonably accomplish.

The initial building process for the playscape will be a great opportunity for larger volunteer groups to participate.

A new volunteer opportunity will be created to help maintain the area. This opportunity will be similar to a volunteer gardener position, but will include responsibility for "resetting" building areas where kids set up temporary forts and structures, watching out for bigger maintenance issues that may arise,

and following monitoring protocols for vegetation. These volunteers should be easy to recruit if the community is successfully engaged in the planning process for the area.

The playscape will also be integrated into monthly programs carried out by staff and volunteer naturalists. Existing programs focused on toddlers (Tiny Trekkers) and wilderness survival will be a good fit for the area, along with more general nature-based programs. When school programs are expanded to include RBOS, unstructured time can be planned for the playscape area.

5.2 Donations

Belt-Collins of Boulder, a landscape architecture and design firm in Boulder, has offered to donate eight to twelve hours of design time to the project in 2011. This will help ensure that the community selected designs can be transposed into construction documents for implementation, and will help avoid any obvious pitfalls prior to the implementation process.

As the options for elements are narrowed down, there will be many opportunities for soliciting donated materials from the business community surrounding RBOS. The public engagement process will likely provide many sources for donated materials, such as mulch, sand, gravel, large rocks, or native plants for plantings.

Friend of Larimer County Parks and Open Space would be an excellent group to engage in soliciting donated materials from the community.

5.3 Grant Funding

In order to implement the designs worked out with community involvement, grant funding from Great Outdoors Colorado will be solicited either as a “mini” grant, or as a part of a larger river corridors grant. .

The total project cost for the RBOS Playscape is anticipated to be no more than \$25,000..

Donated time from Belt-Collins is now eligible for matching, as well as the cost of any donated materials.

6. Public Engagement for RBOS-NP

To garner widespread public support for the project, which will likely translate into meaningful use of the area, a series of small targeted public meetings will be planned for Spring 2012. These meetings will allow for the public to define the built and nonbuilt elements of the site, and participate in the development of a site plan that will meet their specific needs. Since parents are the target audience for these meetings, volunteer naturalists will be on hand to do environmental education activities with kids who are brought along, and solicit their ideas for the area.

In order to gain support for this project neighborhoods close to River Bluffs Open Space will be targeted to generate attendance at these meetings. Drawing audiences from Windsor, south Fort

Collins, and Timnath will be important to the design process. Stakeholders will be identified through this process, as well as by working with local nature clubs (NOCO Nature Tribe for instance) who may have an interest in this process. Nearby schools may also provide insight into interested parties and stakeholders for this project. The Town of Windsor recreation department may also be a strong partner for this process, and may know of interested parties.

Meeting 1 – Late March - Introduce the concept to identified stakeholders and interested parties community, and gain a basic understanding of site elements and style. Provide cutouts of elements, and large area maps for participants to “lay out” the site. Gather information and provide it to volunteer designers to create the first round of basic plans for the second meeting. Solicit information on community resources for donations and volunteers. A parallel focus group can be held with kids who come to the meeting along with their parents to get general ideas of the kind of nature play that they would enjoy.

Meeting 2 – Late April - Present basic plans to the community and solicit feedback for changes and improvements. Solidify commitments for any donations and volunteer opportunities. Depending on weather, this meeting may take place at RBOS.

Meeting 3 – Late May - Present final plans and solicit any last-minute adjustments to plans. Finalize commitments for any donations and volunteering. Set plans for volunteer building days and grand opening (following grant successful grant application, announced in late June(?))

Parallel engagement with the Open Lands Advisory Board will include presentation of initial plans and project scope, site visits to RBOS and other local wild zone/playscape areas, and updates following public meetings.

7. Timeline and Budget for RBOS–NP

Design planning for the RBOS-NP will take place in the Spring of 2012 and the concept and plans will be submitted for grant funding in the Spring 2012 GOCO Grant Funding Cycle. Following grant awards, plans can be adjusted and work can begin in the early part of Summer 2012.

Fall/Winter 2011	Stakeholder identification
Spring 2012	Submit Grant for Funding. Begin Design Phase with public
Summer 2012	Grant Awards Announced
LateSummer 2012	Kick-off construction, volunteer days
Fall 2012	Grand Opening of RBOS-NP

The budget for the playscape will be largely defined by the elements that the community selects to include, as well as savings from community support and donations. As these elements begin to be

selected, a rough budget will be created and added to this plan (between public meetings 1 & 2). A concept budget will need to be included in the grant application, and will reflect the estimate of \$25,000 for this portion of the project. This will give adequate time to align community expectations with the realities of available funding before the planning process is complete.

Similar projects in the county in smaller spaces have had budgets between \$10k and \$15k, and the entire project at RBOS is not anticipated to exceed \$25K. The majority of that funding will come from a GOCO Mini-Grant, and the project will be redefined should the grant application be unsuccessful.