



NATURE PLAYSCAPE





THE IDEA

Create a natural outdoor play space on the lawn of Grand Rapids Area Library.

Using natural elements allows a playscape to blend in the with the beauty of the riverfront, while also acting as a piece of community art.



PHASE ONE

Build a foundation that encourages activity and imagination:

- Low balancing
- Low climbing
- Organic creation/manipulation (sand, rocks, sticks)
- Imaginative art
- Seating (cut logs, picnic tables, benches)



PHASE TWO

Enhance the play areas with larger buildouts:

- Higher climbing
- More gross motor
- Creative drama space (a theater stage, musical instruments)
- Educational/outdoor classroom space



THE INSPIRATION

NORTH COUNTRY PARK NATURAL PLAYScape:

- Bemidji Parks and Recreation currently is working with the Bemidji Rotary Club on this similar, but large-scale-concept project
- <https://www.bemidjirotary.org/page/north-country-park-natural-playscape>
- <https://www.ci.bemidji.mn.us/index.asp?SEC=3C02F7CF-2B18-4790-8D99-C69E5E994167>

FIND OLD-FASHIONED FUN AT NATURAL PLAYSAPES:

<https://www.exploreminnesota.com/article/your-kids-will-love-these-epic-minnesota-playgrounds>

- Hartley Nature Center, Duluth
- Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chanhassen

NATURE PLAYGROUNDS IN THE TWIN CITIES – GET BACK TO GREEN:

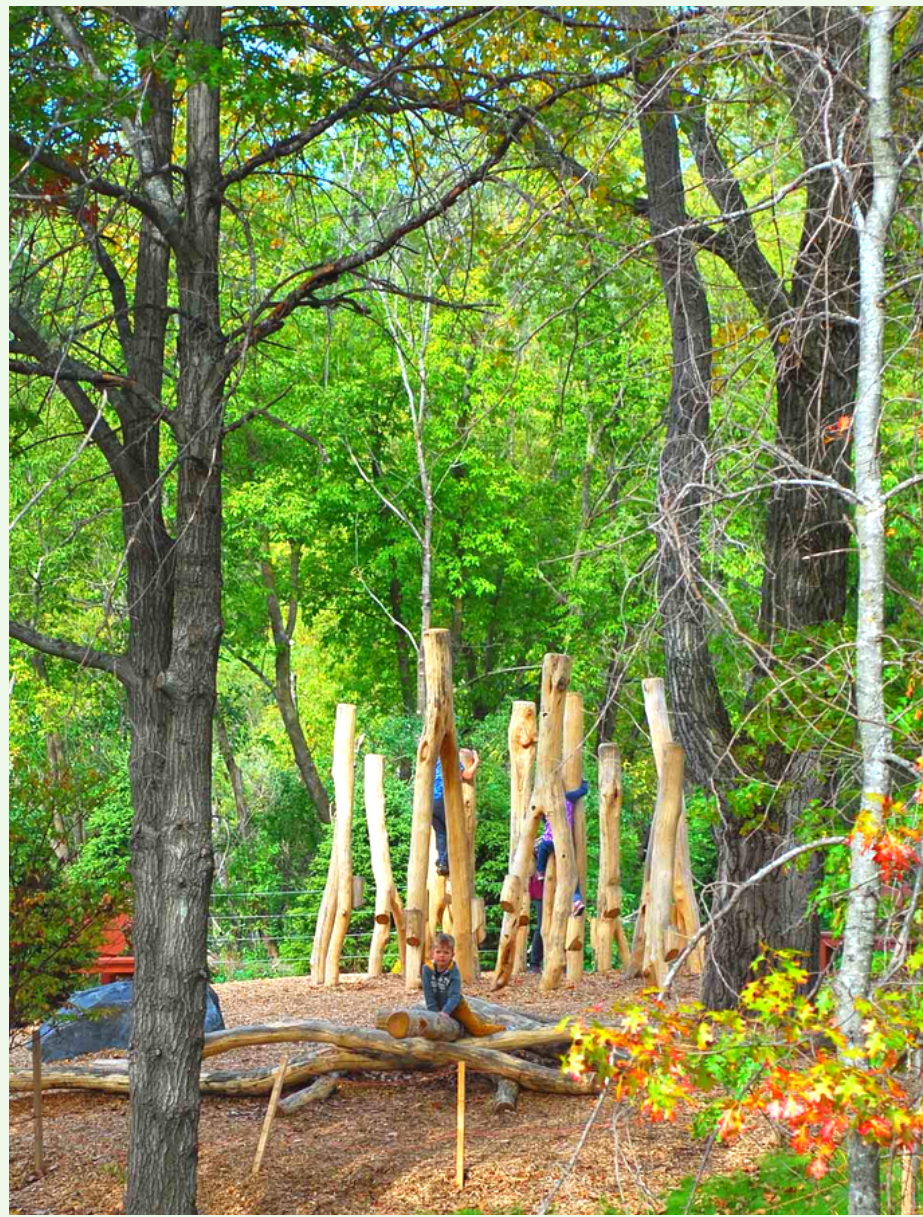
<https://www.familyfuntwincities.com/twin-cities-nature-playgrounds/>

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE NATURE PLAY AREA:

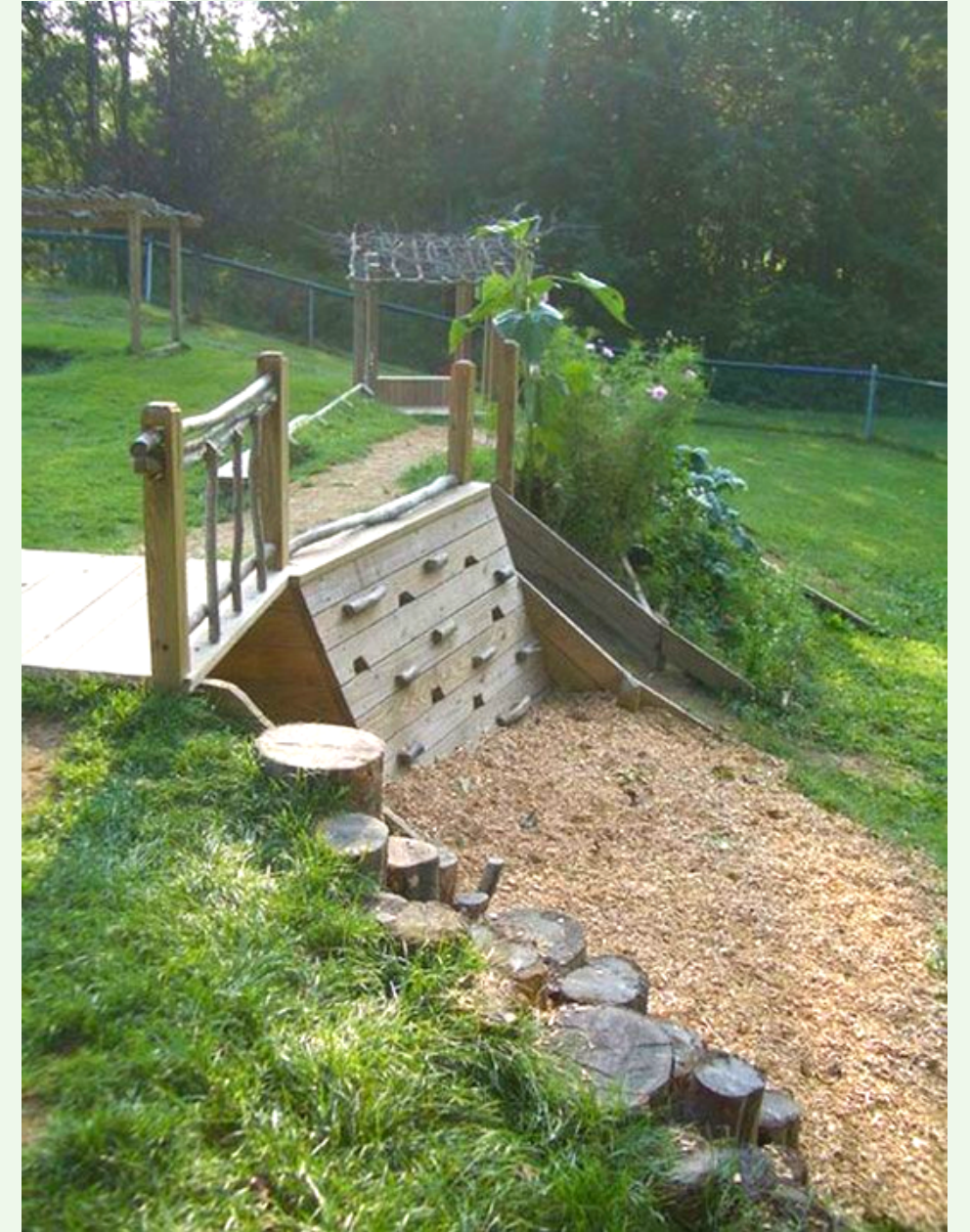
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Minnesota_Valley/Nature_Play_Area.html



THE INSPIRATION



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THE IMPACT

For the Library:

- More outdoor programming and learning opportunities meet the needs of more Library users, enriching and enhancing the experience of young people and their families.
- The playscape acts as a natural continuation of the StoryWalk.

For the City:

- There is nothing like this in the City. It's a unique, feel-good experience.
- It's in Minnesota's Nature: we are encouraging the community to interact with the natural environment around them, providing them with unparalleled access to the river, and promoting the existing walking path and footbridge.
- A stay-and-play destination for locals and visitors who are increasingly looking for places to gather outdoors.

