

How can you make your community more playful?

PLAY

It Forward!

Engage children in the planning and design of outdoor spaces. Children can articulate their preferences if given a meaningful opportunity to participate. This should be more than just choosing the colors of the equipment. Allow children to lay out pathways, develop a theme, learn about and pick plants.

Keep it natural. Structured play equipment has a role in play and can still provide exciting play opportunities when combined and intertwined with pathways, planting areas, seating nodes, berms, and vegetation. Trees provide opportunities for play and also welcomed shade on hot days. Where mature trees cannot be maintained or don't exist, consider other opportunities for shade such as shelters and canopies.

Play spaces can be small, but should be numerous. Equitable planning, development, and maintenance should be considered. Vacant lots or small nodes along trails are some of the ways to provide additional opportunities for play, particularly in urban areas or established residential areas where new parks may not be feasible.

Talk about play. What do children like? Dislike? What makes their favorite spaces so special to them?

PLAY!

Try the activity on the other side of this sheet!



Invite your community to...

PLAY

It Forward!

1 Think of your favorite place to visit - it could be anywhere!

2 Draw or take a picture of that place.

3 Write down your favorite things about it.

4 Think of a park or open space near your home.

5 Send us your picture, and we will add it in the space below!

6 What could be added to make it even more fun?

7 What would make the trip to get there better?

8 Take a trip to that place and pick a memorable or favorite spot.

9 Draw a heart with sidewalk chalk and write "I would LOVE to see _____ here."

10 Take a picture with the ideas you wrote that you would LOVE to see there.

