



CONCEPT C – NATURE & IMAGINATION PLAY

OVERVIEW. The new play area at Dorothy Fox Elementary is situated on the top of the hill, north of the existing swing set pit. The pit is approximately 40'x80'. The new pit could include a variety of play features to spark imagination, provide hands on play and challenge gross motor skills (a.k.a. lots of climbing). The pit includes engineered wood fiber chips (12" depth) for safety surfacing.

Several of the features need to be installed by a certified playground installer when purchased from a licensed vendor. These pieces are durable and will serve the school for upcoming years of students.

Other components can be built and installed by volunteers. These features can be either be purchased and installed or designed by the community with unique style and character to represent the school. When volunteers participate in the planning, design and building of the features, the community has pride and ownership in the space for years to come.

These spaces are designed to be lots of fun. They can also support various school goals, including social and behavioral development, as well as curricula goals (PE – balance and coordination). The space includes accessible pathways from the main trail so that folks of all abilities can use the features.

Additional landscaping will create a more natural setting, which has been shown to decrease stress and encourage relaxation. Shade trees provide a respite from the sun while providing great places to watch wildlife, such as birds. The sound of the wind in the trees is also very restful.

KEY FEATURES:

- **New accessible pathways** – crushed gravel with binding agent. Two paths from the main trail and a new connection up the slope from the school.
- **Nature play logs** – a series of log discs and logs, along with wood planks, to create a course for play, tag and imagination fun. The layout would meet safety standards for height and gaps.
- **Imagination play** – include a wooden boat and concrete animals to support imagination play
- **Loose parts play** – create a sensory raised box and raised table to allow kids hands-on play. The box is filled with dirt or sand for digging and exploration. The table is filled with natural materials, including wood discs, blocks, cones, sticks, etc. for building.
- **Benches** – include a variety of benches at both 12" and 18" height. Several benches are L-shaped to allow small groups to support conversations.
- **Climber features** – work with vendor to select fun rope / rock / tower climbers