

CALFEE COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTER

Nature Play Space Conceptual Design

designed by:
NRVRC
12.14.21



PLANTING FOR CHILDREN IN PULASKI

Plants are an excellent opportunity to add beauty, function, nature, color, food, and fascination to any playspace. To create a low-maintenance and effective landscape that will flourish in our climate of Southwest Virginia, it is recommended that native and climate appropriate plants are utilized where possible. Native plants work well with the local climate, soils and wildlife and provide little input or maintenance after establishment. There are many easy to grow natives that will thrive in the Town of Pulaski. Invasive species are detrimental to the local ecosystem and should be avoided. A small sample of suggested plants can be found below. For more plant suggestions, head to GreenSchoolYards.org.



INFANT + TODDLER PLAYSPACE

1. Entry gate
2. Flagstone walkway/patio
3. Reading bench
4. Grass
5. Pull-up bar
6. Slide with wooden stairs
7. Outdoor sink and drinking fountain with storage
8. Outdoor tables
9. Art space with storage
10. Built-in storage
11. Sand and water play with logs
12. Shade sails
13. Log balance beam in resilient surface
14. Water spigot (x2)
15. Little library

PRESCHOOL PLAYSPACE

1. Entry gate
2. Log play in resilient surface
3. Mud kitchen
4. Waterplay and millrace celebration
5. Vine tunnel
6. Rain barrel
7. Natural forts (x3)
8. Slide with log stairs
9. Log amphitheatre
10. Quiet hammock area
11. Pollinator Gardens
12. Little library
13. Trike Loop
14. Music play
15. Entry gate
16. Grass
17. Weaving
18. Covered patio with storage and water fountains
19. Balance beam
20. Outdoor classrooms
21. Sand play with log border
22. Cover patio
23. Building equipment

CORBIN-HARMON DR

NATURE PLAY AREAS

As part of the design process, the New River Valley Regional Commission facilitated a design charrette held at the future Calfee Community & Cultural Center (CCCC), with the intention to reflect on the past and plan for the future of the outdoor spaces.

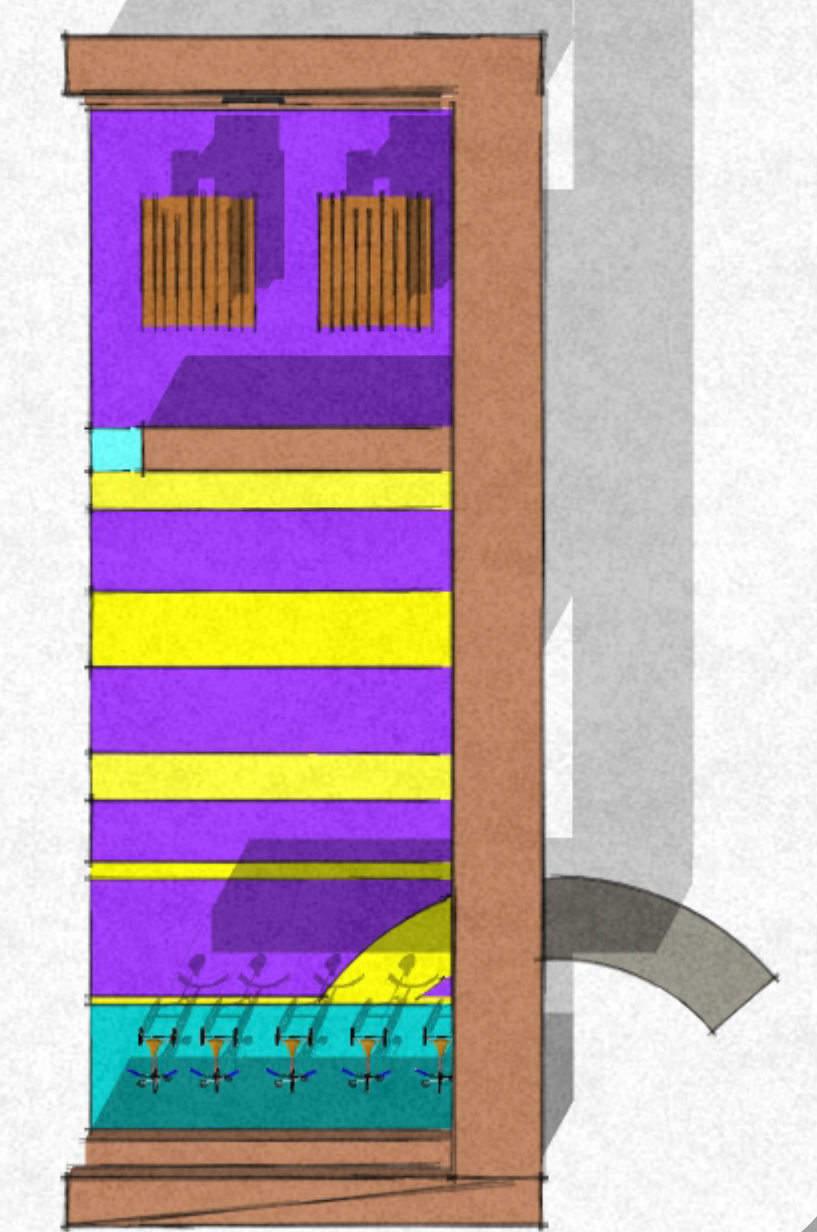
The future CCCC will be the home of the Chauncey and Lucy Harmon Learning Center, which will offer high quality early childhood education, across income levels. The children served by the center will have two natural outdoor playspaces, designed to foster creativity and an appreciation of nature.

Charette participants included past Calfee Training School students, CCCC board members, local educators, parents, government officials, and community members. The afternoon offered an opportunity to reminisce about play at The Calfee Training School, which educated African American children in Pulaski from 1894 to 1966.

The resulting designs were developed for two different age groups, infant through toddler and preschool age. An important intention of the spaces was to conceptualize landscapes that are all-needs and could serve children with a variety of abilities.

While safety remains a top priority, these playspaces are intentionally open-ended and emphasize the inherent desire of a child to discover the world around them through engagement with natural materials and the natural world. Here children are allowed to freely explore, climb, jump, ride, play, splash, reflect, create.

OUTDOOR BUILDING RETROFIT | plan view



see attachment for conceptual rendering

shade



vines



winter interest



habitat + pollinators



sensory

