

Nature Play Project Timeline and Background Information

- Early 2019, Live Healthy Red Wing staff write a grant proposal to the University of Minnesota. The grant proposal describes a project focusing on a resident-driven nature play area with the goal of reducing cancer disparities in Red Wing by introducing residents to nature play. A separate element of the project was a pre and post project survey to gauge resident's knowledge of nature play before and after participating in the project.
- The original project proposal states that the following things will happen:
 - Stakeholder meeting in Fall of 2019
 - Two resident meetings in Fall of 2019. The pre-project survey will be given at first meeting.
 - Final resident meeting in Spring of 2020. Post-project survey will be given at final meeting.
 - Two-Day nature play demonstration project will take place near Bluffview Townhomes on East 5th Street.
 - Final Reports delivered December 2020, project finalized.
- June of 2019-LHRW receives the grant in the amount of \$25,000.
- June of 2019-Erin Augustin is hired as LHRW coordinator.
- September of 2019-LHRW hosts a stakeholder meeting to engage organizations that may be involved with project.
- October of 2019-LHRW hosts two meetings, each with 15 residents of the east end neighborhood participating. At these meetings, residents learned about the health benefits of nature play from Cathy Jordan, our U of M partner. Residents also built their own models of a nature play space, and brainstormed what they would like to see in a nature play space.
- January-February of 2020-LHRW applies for additional funding from United Way of Goodhue, Wabasha and Pierce Counties. This extra funding will be used to make the nature play area more of a permanent fixture, and instead of lasting for two days, the nature play space will be active for a minimum of three years. Funding from the United Way was received in the projected amount of \$2,000 per year, for three years.
- February 2020-LHRW applies for additional funding from the Red Wing Shoe Foundation. Funding is received in the amount of \$2,000 per year, for three years.
- February 2020: Location of nature play changes from Bluffview Townhomes, to green space by entrance of memorial.
- March 2020: Covid! Yikes! U of M extends a grant/project extension, LHRW decides to push back the nature play project to the spring of 2021.
- December 2020: Live Healthy Red Wing disbands as an organization, with the promise to complete Nature Play project, with Erin as the project lead with Red Wing Community Education and Recreation.
- January 2021: Erin contacts Chris Palmatier and Alan Gaylor to discuss idea of having Twin Bluff be the new location of the nature play project.
- February 2021: Erin gets support for location change from all project partners, including project funders, former LHRW team members, and resident group.
- March 2021: Get approval from school board and plan for the installation.

This project has evolved and grown quite a bit since the original grant proposal in 2019. I think installing the nature play area at TBS will meet the needs of the students while also fulfilling my project and grant requirements. And will bring a play area to TBS at no cost to the school district. It's an all-around win-win for the students and the community. Thanks for taking the time to read over the project notes, feel free to contact me with any questions,

E Augustin

Erin Augustin
Youth and Family Program Coordinator
Red Wing Community Education

Local Examples of Nature Play Areas



Nerstrand Big Woods State Park



Whitetail Woods Regional Park in Farmington