

**TERMS OF COMMITMENT TO A NATURE PLAY SPACE**

After agreeing to abide by the following terms, your Organizing Group will be officially accepted and ready to begin. Please read this document carefully, making sure that all members of your group understand and agree to the terms listed below. Signing this Letter of Commitment formalizes your agreement with the Chicago Park District. Nature Play Space Organizing Groups are expected to renew their commitment every three years.

MANAGEMENT

CPD's Environmental Conservation & Engagement (ECE) staff will work to help your group start your Nature Play Space, and also help you sustain a positive and productive presence in your park. Maintaining communication with the Park District regarding management of the Nature Play Space is expected. Information about changes in leadership, or events that are hosted in the space should be shared with ECE staff. If problems occur with the operation or patrons of the Nature Play Space, the Park Supervisor should be informed and involved in the resolution of any issues. In the event the group leader needs to step down, they are responsible for recruiting and facilitating new organizational leadership.

The Group shall inform any new volunteers of the Nature Play Space Guidelines, stressing the importance of ongoing stewardship. The Group must follow a transparent membership process open to all. As a public agency, Park District policy requires inclusiveness; anyone interested in joining the Group is to be fairly considered.

NATURE PLAY SPACE STEWARDSHIP

The Group is responsible for the stewardship of the Nature Play Space nodes of play and for reporting damaged or trampled plants. Volunteers should "re-set" the space every 30 days. ECE crews and contractors may assist with periodically scheduled plantings and maintenance. Keep in mind that the space allocated is on public land and upkeep is important. The Group must follow the Stewardship plan, outlined in Step 3.7 of your Written Proposal.

WORKDAYS

Each Group must schedule one or more workday events per calendar year. Examples of workday tasks include resetting play nodes, supplying loose parts, removal of litter, mulching trails and assessing the site for other needs. Workday tasks for all ages are encouraged. Pairing your workday with additional play events is also recommended.

PLAY SPACE BORDERS

The Nature Play Space boundaries must remain as submitted on the original design plans. Any proposed modification or expansion requests must be approved by the Department of Cultural and Natural Resources BEFORE any changes are made. Please contact ECE staff for further guidance and instructions.

VANDALISM

Weather, wear, misuse, theft and vandalism are among the assumed risks of operating a Nature Play Space in the park. All spaces within parks are and will continue to be public property. While the Nature Play Program continues to support efforts to reduce unnecessary vandalism or theft, we cannot guarantee that any space is free from the risk.

LIABILITY

The Park District is not responsible for the Nature Play Space itself, or to anything in or pertaining to the Area. **EACH MEMBER OF THE GROUP MUST SIGN A WAIVER OF LIABILITY [FORM 4B].**

SIGNAGE

Each Nature Play Space will be provided with signage by the Park District. Any additional signage, permanent or temporary, needs to be approved by the Chicago Park District.

VEHICLES

Park patrons are permitted to use motorized vehicles within a park **ONLY** on designated roadways, driveways and parking facilities. The parking or driving of motorized vehicles by any park patron on walkways, restricted-access drives, lawn areas, under trees, or within landscaped areas is strictly forbidden.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES IN THE NATURE PLAY SPACE

- **Littering, dumping, grilling, alcohol consumption,** and any otherwise unlawful activities.
- **Amplified sound.**
- **Pets** are not allowed in the space per the Code of the Chicago Park District.
- **Ball playing** or other forms of active recreation.

PLAY SPACE TERMINATION

If the Group decides to no longer maintain their space, they must immediately notify the Park District. The Group will be responsible for proposing a plan to restore the Nature Play Space to parkland to the satisfaction of the Park District's Department of Cultural & Natural Resources (DCNR).

While unlikely, the Chicago Park District reserves the right to remove the Nature Play Space at any time and will make every effort to provide notification prior to removal.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

A Chicago Park District representative is available to attend a neighborhood association and/or Park Advisory Council meeting to review the successes or challenges experienced by the Nature Play Space Group. The Park District will take appropriate action based on that assessment. Failure by the Group to provide the required operational and financial support will result in the removal of the space by the Park District.



CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

NATURAL AREAS

NATURE PLAY SPACE LETTER OF COMMITMENT

I _____ (please print name) am the official liaison of the Nature Play Space Group. Each current member of our Group has read the attached terms and agrees to abide by them and now enters into a commitment to maintain our Nature Play Space in _____ Park.

Liaison's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Group Name: _____ **Date:** _____

How many active members? _____ **Additional volunteers (number, if any)?** _____

Park: _____

Park Supervisor's name: _____

Square footage of the Nature Play Area: _____

Liaison/Group Leader's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Alternate Contact's Name*: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

**The Primary & Alternate contacts may not be in the same immediate family and may not reside at the same address.*

Group website or blog address, if any: _____

Please email completed form, along with the required attachments (see above) and signed Liability Waivers for each member to:

Sean Shaffer

Chicago Park District – Department of Cultural & Natural Resources

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