

## Landefeld, Josh

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**From:** Paige Morrison <paigepb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2023 9:58 AM  
**To:** PAC\_Distribution  
**Cc:** Landefeld, Josh; Ramaswami, Praveena (PAC)  
**Subject:** support for the nature playscape at LSNC

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Dear Parks Advisory Commission,

As current board members of the Leslie Science and Nature Center and former members of the Parks Advisory Commission, we are writing to you in support of the nature playscape at Leslie Science and Nature Center.

At your upcoming November meeting, you will hear a presentation about the playscape project at LSNC from its Executive Director, Susan Westhoff. The playscape, as it progresses today, has been a wonderful addition to LSNC and has been enjoyed by visitors of all ages. It attracts children and families from all areas of Ann Arbor and visitors from surrounding communities. The playscape allows everyone who visits LSNC to interact with nature and encourages them to learn from the natural environment while having fun.

There is potential for the playscape to reach a much larger audience and expand the natural play experience in new ways with the future phases of construction. To date, financial support has come from several grants and many individual and corporate donations. As LSNC is a public space and shared with the parks system, we encourage PAC with the City to contribute funds to the subsequent phases of the nature playscape to create more moments of discovery in nature.

From the time that Dr. Leslie deeded his land to the City for preservation as open space to now, when the PROS plan public meetings yielded the desire to "consider more natural play areas, designs for children and their comfort will encourage use by all", the desire for learning from the natural world has been consistent. LSNC and the nature playscape is a place where members of the community can gather whether that be for an afternoon playdate, part of a summer camp program, or on a school field trip focusing on nature education.

As former PAC members ourselves, we know that you get many requests; however, this is an opportunity to engage our youth with natural play and explore the surrounding areas. We hope you will consider supporting the LSNC playscape so that we can continue to provide opportunities for children to engage with the natural world and provide families with unique recreational opportunities.

Sincerely,

Praveena Ramaswami  
PAC Commissioner 2014-2023

Paige Morrison  
PAC Commissioner 2014-2022