

# Colene Hoose Natural Playground Project Brief

## The Benefactor

Charlie Jobson, long time resident of Normal and past student at Colene Hoose Elementary has chosen to provide the very generous gift of a world class natural playground to his old school. He is doing this to honor his mother and father who lived and worked and raised their children here for 40 years.

## The Donation

The natural playground rethinks the entire 16 acre grounds as a place for learning, exploration and play. We are lucky to be working with the world's top designer of these parks and playgrounds, Helle Nebelong from Copenhagen. The design brief was prepared by Helle Nebelong who began working on the project in August 2020. The design has undergone significant review since then as a result of feedback from Unit 5 staff.

Newer versions include a junior soccer pitch and have removed the fire-pit at the school's request. It is to be built this year in collaboration with the top North American natural playground design/builder Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds (BNP). Adam Bienenstock is available for questions from the Unit 5 Board prior to and during Wednesday's meeting.

1. Orchard / Council ring / 100 meters running track
2. Amphitheater
3. Former baseball field
4. Big lawn
5. The Alphabet Labyrinth
6. Waterplay / Creek / Stone-garden / Rainbow Circle
7. The Reading Garden
8. Swing Garden
- 9.-10. Bicycle Playground
11. Existing playground
12. Outdoor classrooms and wilderness
13. New BEST playground with choice board
14. Spider web
15. Beaver lodge
17. The Woods
18. Art and Music Garden
19. The Mound
20. The little Prairie on the School



## The Agreements

The contracts we have before you are to enable Colene Hoose Elementary to receive this gift as a design/build project fully funded by the Jobson Foundation. There is a Donor Agreement between Unit 5 and the Jobson Foundation, and a Design/Build Master Agreement between the Benefactor (Jobson Foundation), the Beneficiary (Unit 5), and the Design/Builder (Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds).

## Design Process

The design review process will include significant input from Dr. Weikle and Joe Adelman of Unit 5 over the next two months with a full professional drawing set including all construction documentation completed by the beginning of August this year.

## Build Process

The build portion of the project will begin immediately after design and run through till October 15th 2021. Planting of the meadow and some of the final shrubs and trees will be completed in the spring of 2022 during conditions optimal for their survival. Milestones identified in the construction documentation such as drainage, surfacing, water, component installation and planting will all be certified by Joe Adelman, Executive Director of Operations for Unit 5, as complete to our satisfaction prior to any release of payment to the Design/Builder (BNP) from the Benefactor (Jobson Foundation)

## Maintenance

The Jobson Foundation has also generously committed funds \$70,000/yr to maintain the new Colene Hoose Elementary School asset for its first three years. The fund will pay the salary of this dedicated Horticulturist/Arborist to be hired by Unit 5 for the project. The donation will also cover consumable expenses for the upkeep of the natural playground over the three years.

## Lifespan

The new grounds are expected to survive indefinitely and components will last for 15 to 20 years matching that of our current outdoor park and playground components.

## Compliance

All features will comply with building codes, ADA, and ASTM regulations.

## Insurance

BNP as the Design/Builder are meeting all Unit 5 insurance requirements as per their contract.



## Risk and Liability

BNP are the North American experts in risk and injury prevention strategies as it pertains to nature play in public space. Adam Bienenstock is the co-author of the systematic literature review on outdoor risky play. With over 2000 natural playgrounds under their belt since 2002, BNP maintains an impressive perfect record of zero claims to date. Also on the design team, Tim Gill is the recognised world leader in managing risk through play provision. Author and speaker on play and risk management, Tim is the Chair of the Play Safety Forum in the UK and just published his second book "Urban Playground" How child-friendly planning and design can save cities.

