



# PLAYFULLY GREEN FUTURES: PLANNING NATURAL PLAYGROUNDS IN CANADA

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WHAT WAS YOUR CHILDHOOD LIKE?

Where was your favourite place to play?





# Last Child *in the* Woods

SAVING OUR CHILDREN FROM  
NATURE-DEFICIT DISORDER

UPDATED  
AND  
EXPANDED



RICHARD LOUV



# PLAYFULLY GREEN FUTURES:

A PLANNING GUIDE FOR  
NATURAL PLAYSCAPES IN CANADA





## NATURAL PLAYSCAPE =

A playground that has been deliberately designed to mimic the natural environment as closely as possible.

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# VISION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES





VISION



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES



# DESIGN GUIDELINES





# 1: HOLISTIC CHILD DEVELOPMENT

## 2: ANIMATION ZONES



# 3: MATERIALS



# 4: CONNECTIVITY & MOVEMENT





## 5: SAFETY & SECURITY



## 6: LOCAL CONTEXT



## 7: COST, MAINTENANCE & OTHER CONSIDERATIONS







“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,  
Nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”

– Dr. Seuss’ *The Lorax*



*THANK YOU*

# IMAGE SOURCES (BY SLIDE)

Slide 1 – <http://www.eenorthcarolina.org/images/Closer%20look%20at%20snail.jpg>

Slide 2 – <http://delightfulchildrensbooks.files.wordpress.com/2011/12/trees1.jpg>;

Author's own image;

and <http://www.flickr.com/photos/raystudio/2093144470/>

Slide 3 – <http://ntpressoffice.files.wordpress.com/2012/09/779642.jpg>

Slide 4 – [http://farm9.staticflickr.com/8521/8619116789\\_b5831f1c6f\\_o.jpg](http://farm9.staticflickr.com/8521/8619116789_b5831f1c6f_o.jpg);

[http://farm9.staticflickr.com/8106/8582773629\\_31db84355e\\_o.jpg](http://farm9.staticflickr.com/8106/8582773629_31db84355e_o.jpg); and

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Slide 5 – <http://richardlouv.com/images/uploads/last-child-cover-lrg.jpg>;

<http://blogs.abc.net.au/.a/6a00e0097e4e6888330133ecb3a00b970b-800wi>; and

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Slide 6 – Author's own image from MRP

Slide 7 – <http://www.cincynature.org/sites/default/files/kids%20in%20water%20feature.jpg>

Slide 8 – Author's own image from MRP

Slide 9 – [http://www.scenicreflections.com/files/earth\\_iris\\_Wallpaper\\_6r29z.jpg](http://www.scenicreflections.com/files/earth_iris_Wallpaper_6r29z.jpg)

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[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b1/Peacock\\_at\\_Warwick\\_Castle.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b1/Peacock_at_Warwick_Castle.jpg); and

<http://www.auburn.wednet.edu/cms/lib03/WA01001938/Centricity/Domain/47/Counselors%20Images/community.gif>

Slide 11 – <http://beaconhill.seattle.wa.us/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/beaconmountain-large.jpg>

Slide 12 – [http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-EcViQGJuB0Q/TpZ3Tbt8asl/AAAAAAAAAOg/tY7q6Ha2D3c/s1600/20111012\\_9999\\_13.JPG](http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-EcViQGJuB0Q/TpZ3Tbt8asl/AAAAAAAAAOg/tY7q6Ha2D3c/s1600/20111012_9999_13.JPG);

<https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-GSeXCcASaY8/TXCpu-tbQJI/AAAAAAAAAFG4/MaXt4Fw3Btl/s1600/week+5+Term+1+143.jpg>;

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# IMAGE SOURCES (BY SLIDE)

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and <http://babybudgeting.co.uk/new/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Picture-376.jpg>

Slide 14 — [http://cms.tng-secure.com/file\\_download.php?fFile\\_id=20501;](http://cms.tng-secure.com/file_download.php?fFile_id=20501;)  
<http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-aDM1HUHUI1w/Ti2wpKpONNI/AAAAAAAAABtY/57x95P8HCn8/s1600/playscape%2B066.JPG>;  
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Slide 15 — <http://www.playground-landscape.com/media/article/591/hires.jpg>;  
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Slide 17 — <http://wallpaper.goodfon.com/image/247522-4012x2675.jpg>

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[http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-cnxVSuAD-Z8/TlGhQqDqARI/AAAAAAAAABcs/9OxprszEnPk/s1600/IMG\\_5844.JPG](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-cnxVSuAD-Z8/TlGhQqDqARI/AAAAAAAAABcs/9OxprszEnPk/s1600/IMG_5844.JPG); and  
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Slide 19 — <http://www.branchesofasha.org/flowerchild.jpg>

Slide 20 — [http://old.wallcoo.net/paint/Schimmel/m01/p-Schimmel\\_70.jpg](http://old.wallcoo.net/paint/Schimmel/m01/p-Schimmel_70.jpg)

Slide 21 — [http://wallpaperscraft.com/image/child\\_brush\\_paint\\_leaves\\_autumn\\_67373\\_1680x1050.jpg](http://wallpaperscraft.com/image/child_brush_paint_leaves_autumn_67373_1680x1050.jpg)

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