

# Celebration Playground

*Celebrating the differences that  
make all children special.*



*A Public-Private Partnership of  
The Town of Clayton and the  
Clayton Community Recreational Foundation, Inc.*

East Clayton Community Park  
1774 Glen Laurel Road  
Clayton, NC 27527

# Welcome to... Celebration Playground!

## *Universal playground concept*

- All children of all abilities can play together.
- Parents and caregivers with mobility problems can accompany children.
- Play equipment, ground coverings and access methods will all comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- The Celebration Playground will be divided into three learning and play environments—Create, Celebrate and Contemplate—each with its own unique experiences designed to enhance each child’s physical, emotional and developmental capabilities.

## *Johnston County children and families*

- There are about 5,000 Johnston County children with special needs.
- There are over 13,000 Johnston County citizens in families with children with special needs.
- The playground will serve over 16,000 children in Johnston County in Pre-K through Grade 6—the children who primarily use playgrounds.
- The playground is expected to draw from over 30 miles away, which means it will service every household in Johnston County as well as families from surrounding counties and the Research Triangle Park.
- Some Clayton Parks & Recreation facilities already receive over 50% of their users from outside Clayton.

## *An attracting county*

- A universal playground is the type of amenity that attracts relocating families, who include such amenities in their selection decision.
- It is direct proof that the Town of Clayton and Johnston County are forward-thinking entities that pay close attention to the quality of life of all their citizens.
- Relocating and expanding businesses and industries recognize that such community benefits contribute to their ability to recruit high quality management and staff.
- This will be a destination playground, so there is an expectation of many visits from families who live and work in surrounding counties. Those families will provide commerce to Clayton and Johnston County businesses.

## *Celebration Playground Partnership*

Located on two acres contributed by the Town of Clayton on the East Clayton Park site, the Celebration Playground is Johnston County’s first “universal” playground. It is the result of a public-private partnership between the Town of Clayton (public) and the Clayton Community Recreational Foundation, Inc. (private) and approved by the Clayton Town Council in February of 2014. Clayton Parks & Recreation will provide playground staff and maintenance.

## *Clayton Community Recreational Foundation, Inc.*

The Clayton Community Recreational Foundation, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) and is the private partner in the effort to build the Celebration Playground.

## *Clayton Universal Playground Finance Committee*

The Clayton Universal Playground Finance Committee is a special purpose committee operating under the auspices of the Clayton Community Recreational Foundation, Inc. Members from Clayton and other Johnston County townships will raise funds for the Clayton Community Recreational Foundation, Inc. for construction of the Celebration Playground.

## *Clayton Universal Playground Focus Group*

A focus group consisting of area residents, including the parents of children with special needs, was formed in 2013 to investigate the potential of a universal playground. This focus group presented the universal playground concept that was approved by the Clayton Town Council.

## *Concept and Cost Estimates Could Change*

Playground features, structures and activities are described as conceived by CLH Design in response to input from citizens and Clayton Parks & Recreation. Playground features may change depending upon final design and construction bids from various vendors. For example, the “elevated fort” described may become an elevated structure other than a “fort.” The total budget for the playground concept is approximately \$600,000, not including site preparation.

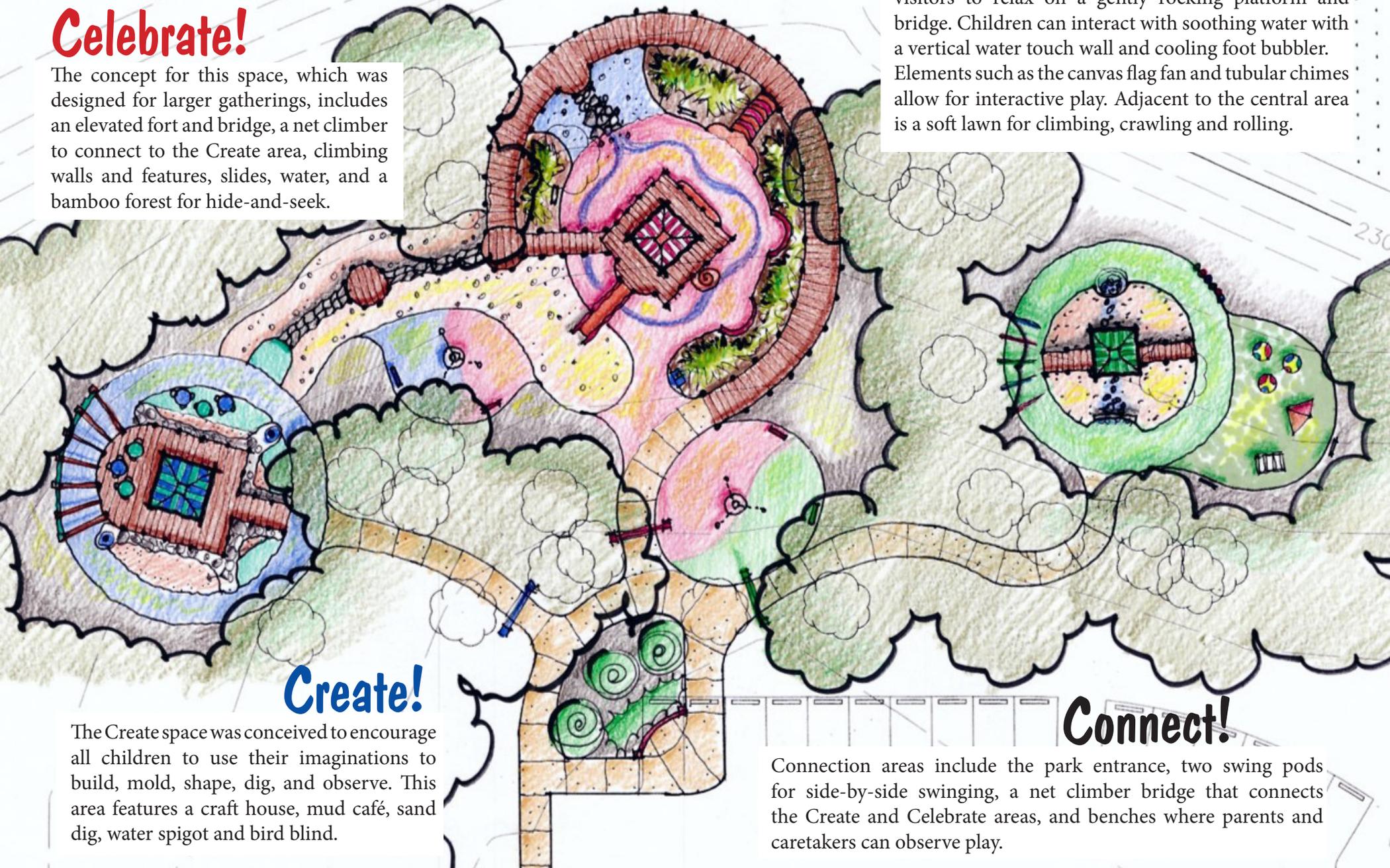
*Celebration Playground was designed to be a one-of-a-kind place that invites children (and kids at heart) of all abilities to play together.*

## Celebrate!

The concept for this space, which was designed for larger gatherings, includes an elevated fort and bridge, a net climber to connect to the Create area, climbing walls and features, slides, water, and a bamboo forest for hide-and-seek.

## Contemplate!

Here is a calming space designed to allow playground visitors to relax on a gently rocking platform and bridge. Children can interact with soothing water with a vertical water touch wall and cooling foot bubbler. Elements such as the canvas flag fan and tubular chimes allow for interactive play. Adjacent to the central area is a soft lawn for climbing, crawling and rolling.



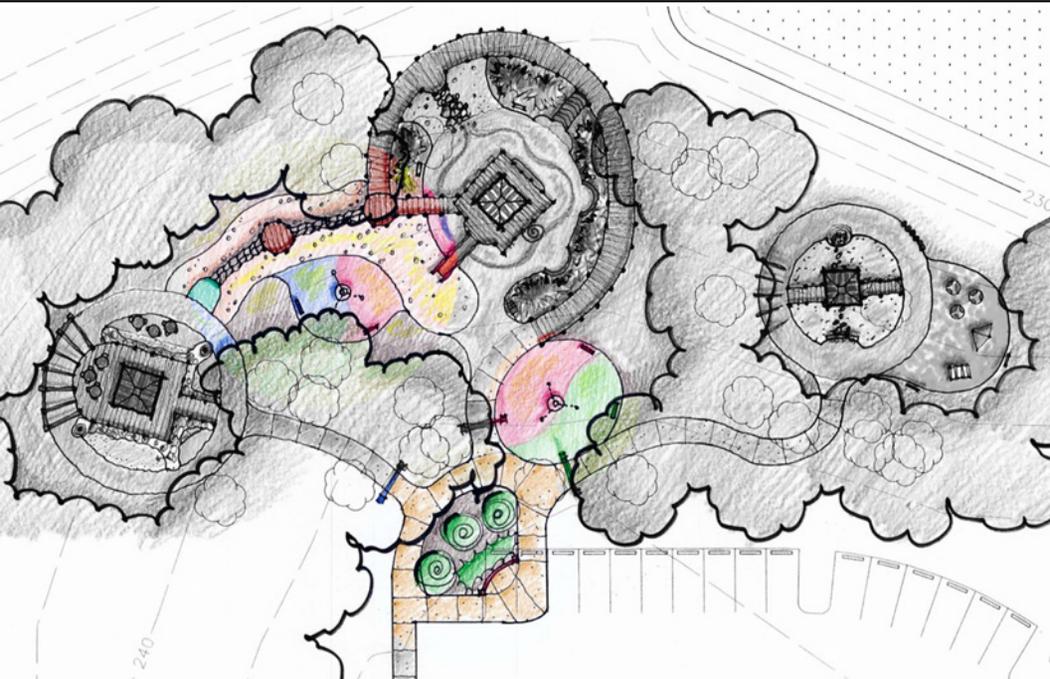
## Create!

The Create space was conceived to encourage all children to use their imaginations to build, mold, shape, dig, and observe. This area features a craft house, mud café, sand dig, water spigot and bird blind.

## Connect!

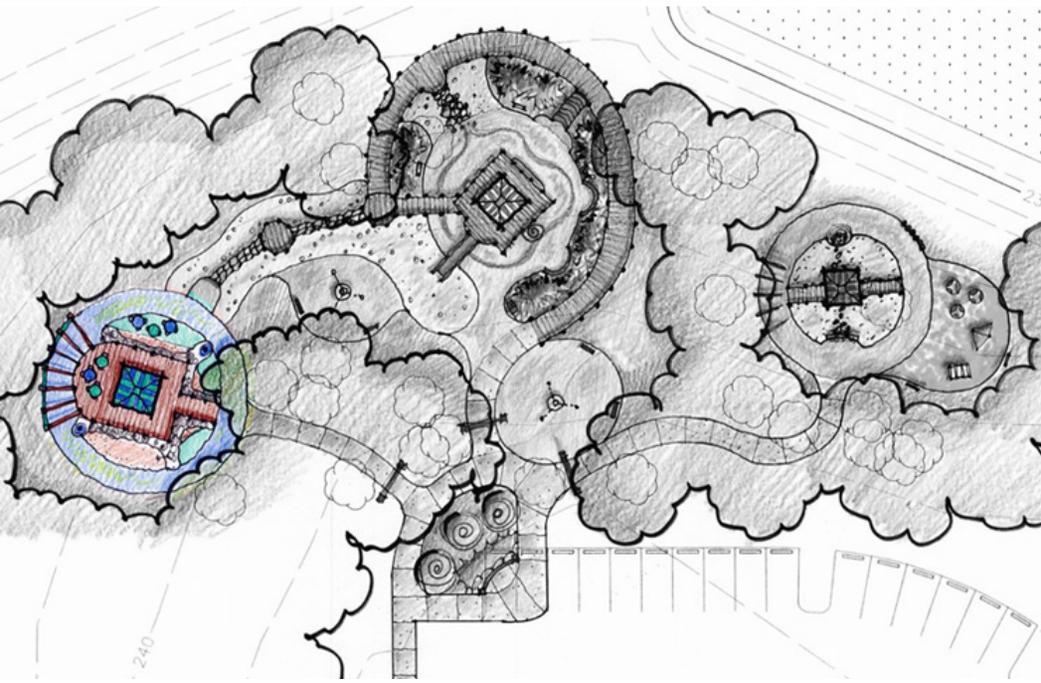
Connection areas include the park entrance, two swing pods for side-by-side swinging, a net climber bridge that connects the Create and Celebrate areas, and benches where parents and caretakers can observe play.

# CONNECT!



Friends meet at the entry to the Celebration Playground on the *Main Entrance Seat Wall*, ready for an afternoon of fun! The colorful tiles on the brick wall shine in the sunlight. Gliding smoothly on concrete past colorful day lilies and crepe myrtles, there are three choices of what to do next. *Create, Celebrate* or *Contemplate*? Through the blue-topped *Gateway Entrance Feature* to the left, one can see a blue house and a colorful blue path. Pass underneath the arched gateway, topped with blue pyramids, and follow the path through the forest. It's time to *Create*!

Zooming around the *Blue Circular Perimeter Path*, one first sees the *Craft House* with all the necessary supplies. Crossing the stone-lined bridge to the *Craft House* is like crossing a drawbridge over a castle moat! The *Bridge to the Craft House* gently slopes to the entrance. To the left is a *Sand Dig Area* for beach-like play and the joy of sifting warm sand while building a sandcastle! At the *Sand Dig Area*, a child stands at the *Water Spigot and Trough* and pulls the handle to let water flow out over the rocks. The sound is soothing as the water completes the sand castle moat! What else is there to explore?



**CREATE!**

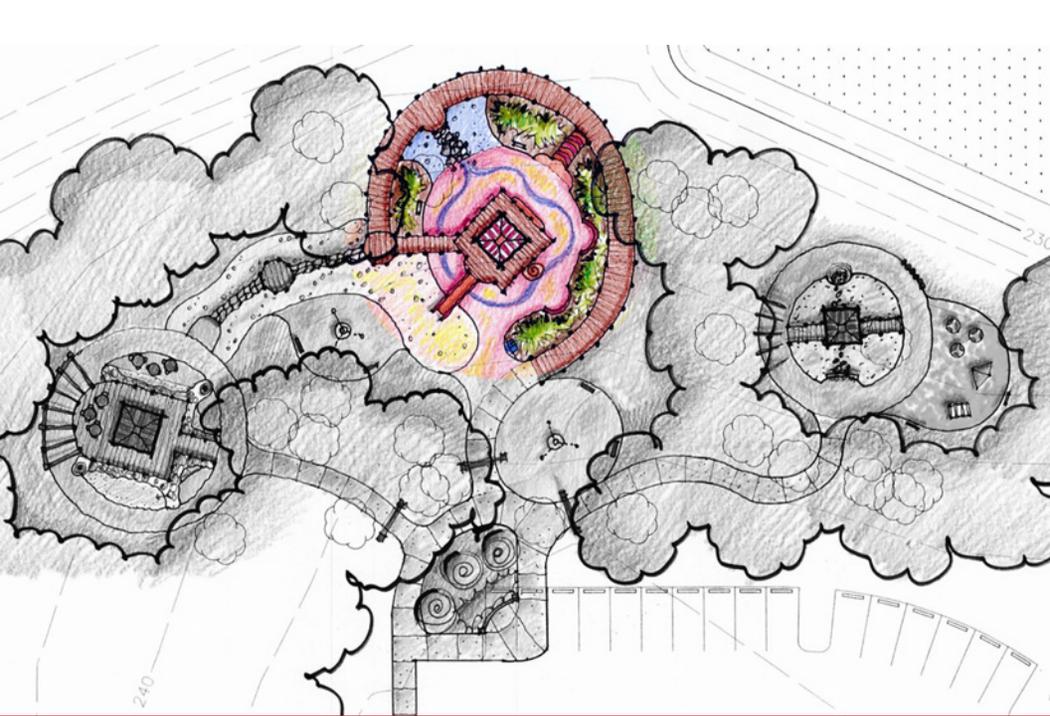




On the other side of the *Craft House* is the *Mud Café*, where children can use measuring cups, spoons, and rolling pins to make mud pies, leaf tacos, and grass pasta! If it's an especially warm day, sit at a *Picnic Table with Umbrella* for shade and a place to create. Afterward, children can use the water spigot to wash their hands in the cool water and roll up to a colorful painted wall—the *Bird Blind with Trellis*. Look through one of the triangular openings to see the birds flying to and from their nests.

Imagine being a bird! Flying high, birds will see the house surrounded by the water-like blue path and the entry where friends meet. What's that off in the distance? Traverse the *Net Climber*, looking down to see children swinging side-by-side on the *Standard Swings* and *Tire Swing*.



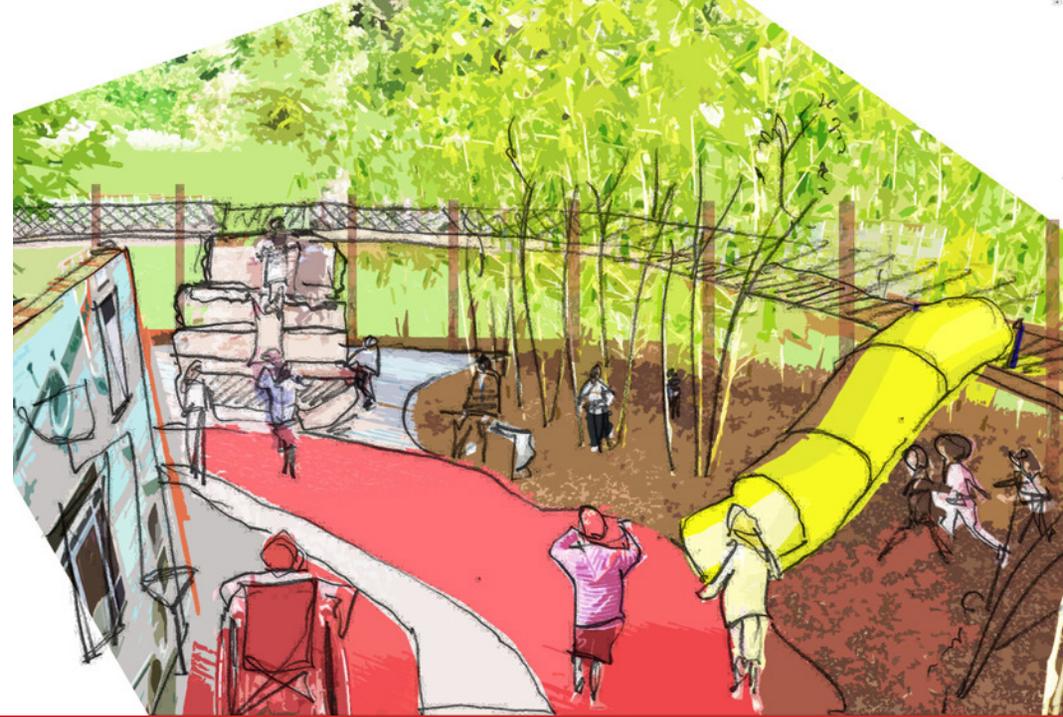


## CELEBRATE!

Across the *Net Climber* is the *Fort*, topped with a red flag. It's the centerpiece of the *Celebrate* area. See the entire playground from here! Stop on the *Elevated Bridge* to watch friends go down the *Slide* from the *Elevated Fort*. On the ground are the *Climbing Dolphin* and *Climbing Boulders*, where children take turns "swimming" with the dolphins. In the distance the *Gateway Entrance Feature* and the *Standard Swings* can be seen.



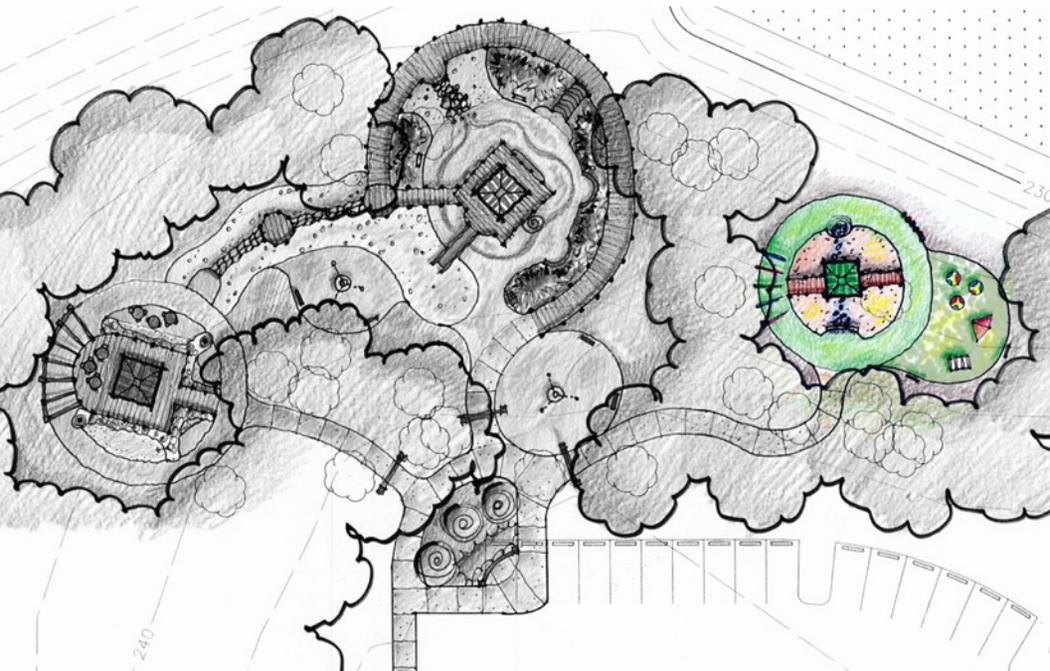
From the top of the **Fort**, descend around the spiral ramp through the bamboo forest using the **Boulder Climbing Wall** or by the **Tube Slide**. The **Jungle Mister** in the **Bamboo Area** cools children as they exit the **Tube Slide** in front of the **Ball Drop Wall** onto a soft, colorful red surface. Watch as the balls are put in at the top and fall through a maze to the bottom!



What will happen next? Follow the differently colored stripe in a sea of red to the **Climbing Wall**, and around to the **Corkscrew Climber**. There is just one more area to explore, so go back through the forest to arrive at the most peaceful place in the playground.



# CONTEMPLATE



The *Contemplate* area is surrounded by a green path. A clear sheet of splashing water is seen first and provides a calming influence. Children place their hands in the *Water Touch Wall* and see the water stream into the *Stone Stream Bed* underneath the *Swing Bridge*. Take the *Green Circular Perimeter Path* past the *Flag Fans*—waving above in colorful unison—and get on the *Swing Bridge* to the *Accessible Swing*.

From here, the lawn area can be seen. Children use the *Pull-Up Bars* and *Pull-Up Ladybugs* and pretend to ride a ladybug! Kids dart through the *Tent Tunnel*, landing on the soft grass. Listen for the *Tubular Chimes* resonating in low, gentle tones and to the *Water Foot Bubbler* nearby.



## ***Glossary of Items by Area***

### ***Gateway Entrance Feature***

Entrances are critical for way-finding and storytelling. Entrance features will be custom fabricated with an overhead structure under which visitors pass to begin, or end, their park experiences. To enhance way-finding, this entrance to the “Create” area will incorporate the color blue.

### ***Craft House***

The craft house provides a space for small group activities, park programs, imagination development and sensory exploration. It’s purposely small to provide a “nook” for kids who need a quieter space.

### ***Bridge to the Craft House***

This feature is an example of the route becoming part of the experience. It gently slopes to the level of the craft house.

### ***Blue Circular Perimeter Path***

A contained path around the craft house is provided for those who like to explore and run, but also require some supervision. The safety surfacing is for visitors who need a gentle surface and is color coordinated to assist with way-finding.

### ***Sand Dig Area***

A sand digging area is provided for tactile experiences as well as gross motor skill development. A roll-up surface ledge welcomes those in wheelchairs to the sandy fun!

### ***Water Spigot and Trough for Sand Pit***

Water provides an opportunity for interaction through touch and sound. Incorporating an imaginative spigot feature and basin enlivens the setting and calls for interaction with all children of varying abilities. Water provides endless entertainment and contemplative opportunities through just watching the flow and falling drops. The sound is also soothing in a busy atmosphere and can provide white noise for more sensitive children.

### ***Mud Café***

The mud café is a place to get dirty, and to make mud pies, leaf tacos, grass pasta and more. The area will be equipped with durable, real kitchen supplies such as wooden utensils, plastic bowls, measuring cups and spoons, muffin tins, pie pans and rolling pins. A large rock ledge will serve as the work surface and is conveniently adjacent to the water spigot that provides for proper mud consistency and hand washing.

### ***Picnic tables with Umbrellas***

All children need a stable surface and solid seating when eating. Colorful umbrellas will provide cheerful shade and shelter.

### ***Bird Blind with attached Trellis***

The bird blind provides a chance to commune with feathered friends and watch them play. Simply structured similar to a wooden privacy fence, the bird blind has peep holes for viewers to observe birds in the forest canopy. The fence screens people so birds feel free to move about the forest. A trellis provides shade and an opportunity for vegetative growth to further blend this feature into the natural world.

### ***Composite Benches***

The composite material looks natural, but doesn’t have splinters or the maintenance issues of natural wood. Benches provide respites for all playground visitors.

### ***Landscape Materials***

Vegetation, mulch, fertilizers and landscape edgings are all important details that enhance visitors’ experiences and minimize park upkeep.

### ***Net Climber with Safety Surface Underneath***

The net climber links play elements in a fun and challenging way. Like all pieces of play equipment, the net climber requires fall-attenuating surfacing underneath.

### ***Standard Swings and Accessible Swing/Safety Surface***

No park is complete without old-fashioned to-fro swings over a safety surface fall zone. The swing set can include molded bucket and harness swings as well as belt swings.

### ***Tire Swing with Safety Surface***

Close to the active Celebrate area is a tire swing inviting groups of children to go for a spin over colorful safety surfacing.



### ***Elevated Bridge to Fort Structure***

The bridge provides an accessible route to the upper level of the fort.

### ***Slide from the Elevated Fort Structure***

The slide is a fun way to get down from the fort's upper level.

### ***Climbing Dolphin***

The Celebration Playground even provides a member from the animal kingdom to join in the fun! A custom-designed friendly dolphin invites visitors to climb on it for imaginary rides.

### ***Climbing Boulders***

Adjacent to the dolphin are natural boulders to provide climbing experiences for visitors waiting for their turns on the dolphin.

### ***Safety Surface Paths and Fall Zones***

Going beyond typical playground requirements, paths around-and-to the play equipment are surfaced with the same fall-attenuating surfaces that protect children in equipment fall zones. These surfaces give parents, caregivers and users peace of mind and more freedom to explore.

### ***Elevated Fort Structure***

This custom-designed structure provides an opportunity for all children to explore the vertical world that is often off-limits for many wheelchair-bound children. The fort's large and open floor space facilitates interaction among all children. The fort (or other elevated structure) will be designed through collaboration with a design team and a manufacturer of play structures.

### ***Rock Climbing Wall at Fort Structure***

The rock wall provides a challenging method to access the upper level of the elevated fort.

### ***Ball-Drop Wall at Fort Structure***

One wall of the fort will contain an interactive ball-drop maze providing activities for children on both levels. Balls are dropped into the maze by children at the top level, the balls wander down the wall in a "mousetrap maze" fashion, and the balls are then retrieved by children or caregivers at the lower level to be carried back to the top level.

### ***Tube Slide***

The tube slide is a fun, alternate way to move from the elevated level to the ground level.

### ***Jungle Mister in Bamboo Area***

The jungle mister in the bamboo forest is a soft water spray to help everyone keep cool on hot days.

### ***Boulder Climbing Wall***

The rock wall provides a challenging method to access the elevated bridge.

### ***Corkscrew Climber***

The corkscrew climber is a fun and twisty ladder from the ground to the upper level of the fort.

### ***Elevated Accessible Route to Fort Structure***

Rather than using typical concrete ramps, the fort incorporates a gently sloping route from the ground level to the upper level constructed with composite decking to coordinate with other play area features.

### ***Water Touch Wall***

Almost sculptural, a curtain of water at a child's seated height invites users to reach out and touch—or simply watch—the ever-changing flow.

### ***Flag Fan***

The flag van is a vertical feature extending over the perimeter path to provide gentle activity and interaction. Manually-operated colorful flags wave slowly overhead.

### ***Swing Bridge over "Stream"***

Swing bridges are accessible swings designed to securely hold wheelchairs and provide a swinging experience. The safety surfacing under the swing is colored to resemble a stream running underneath the bridge.

### ***Bridge to Accessible Swing***

A gently sloping ADA compliant surface is used to convey a user up to the swing.

### ***Green Circular Perimeter Path***

A contained but endless path around the craft house is provided for those who like to explore and run, but who need constant supervision. A caregiver can easily monitor a child's activities. The safety surfacing is for visitors who need a gentle surface and is color coordinated with the area to assist with way-finding.

### ***Water Foot Bubbler***

Incorporated into the stream and water-wall area is a foot bubbler to provide a gentle flow of water to keep toes cool on a hot day.

### ***Stone Stream Bed***

Duplicating a natural feature, a stone stream bed invites exploration.

### ***Tubular Chimes***

Located along the circular path, the tubular chimes engage the sense of sound. The chimes will emit low volume, soothing sounds to correspond to the features and activities of the Contemplate area.

### ***Tent Tunnel***

The tent tunnel is a less-stimulating version of the fort. Located at ground level, it provides a space for children to explore or play hide-and-seek with a sibling or caregiver. Details in décor add to the charm.

### ***Pull-up Bars***

Located at ground level, the pull-up bars provide an opportunity for upper body gross motor skill development and therapy for wheelchair users.

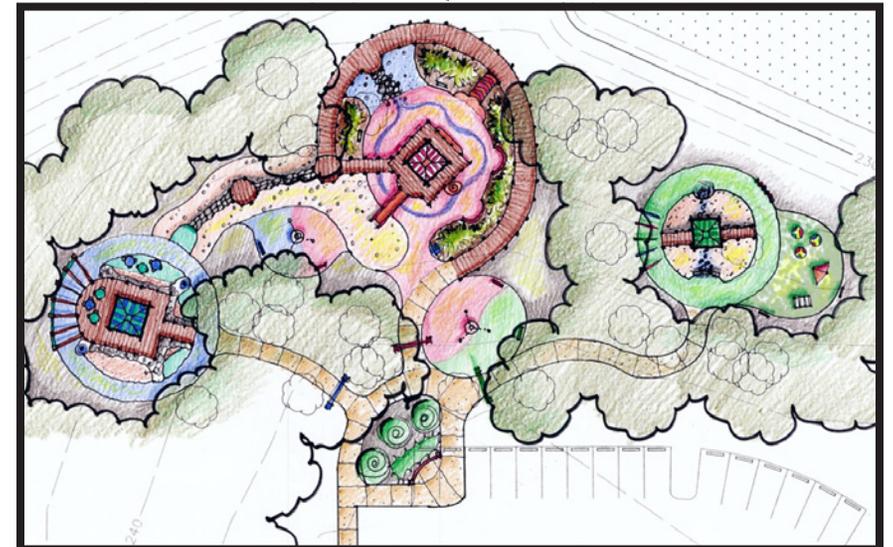
### ***Pull-Up Lady Bugs***

Like the pull-up bars, friendly lady bugs provide a ground level surface for upper body therapy and development.

## **East Clayton Community Park**



### **Celebration Playground**



## Sponsorship and Donation Requests

<b>Create!</b> Gateway Naming Rights	\$100,000
<b>Celebrate!</b> Gateway Naming Rights	\$100,000
<b>Contemplate!</b> Gateway Naming Rights	\$100,000
DIAMOND LEVEL	\$50,000
PLATINUM LEVEL	\$25,000
GOLD LEVEL	\$10,000
SILVER LEVEL	\$5,000
BRONZE LEVEL	\$2,500
FRIENDS	\$1,000
ENGRAVED IDENTIFICATION	\$100 +

*For More Information about the  
Town of Clayton's First Universal Playground  
and to be referred to a Finance Committee Member:*

*Town of Clayton Parks & Recreation  
919-553-1550*

*Join us on Facebook at: Clayton Universal Playground*

**Create! Celebrate! Contemplate! Connect!**

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*Booklet designed, created, and donated by CLH Design, P.A.*