VISION FOR 2005 MASTER PLAN

“This schoolyard is a landscape narrative - the stories of Denver's geologic, ecologic, and cultural histories are expressed in imagery, form, plants, and materials. With acknowledgement of the school's past and future, here, play becomes a daily act of regional celebration.”

SITE CONTEXT

GOOGLE EARTH

SITE ANALYSIS

PLAY EQUIPMENT

MATERIALITY

UNIQUE QUALITIES

OBSERVATIONS:

• 2 benches and 1 trash can on site
• No dedicated ECE area
• Most play equipment is outdated and existing play pits are not large enough
• Simple material palette: pea gravel, concrete, asphalt, grass
• There is no vegetation within the schoolyard other than shade trees and turf lawn
• Main pedestrian gateway into schoolyard is not ADA accessible
• Row of mature Red Maple provide shade and character and should be preserved

Information gathered through interviews with Moore Community:

• Community support for artificial turf field, DPS is requiring artificial turf at this site
• Attachment to 2005 design and theme
• Desire for updated play equipment
• Need to maintain basketball and other asphalt play areas for older students
• Need for more swings
• Would like to see beautification of the fence, which is currently tall chain link with no climbing vegetation
• Need to secure site; schoolyard is surrounded by very busy one-way streets

RE-USABLE MATERIALS:

• Possibility of re-use of outdated play equipment as gateway arch

Crucial to 2005 Master Plan:

• 2005 budget estimate is 75% over current budget
• Plan indicates shift of drainage chase that would require costly re-grading of the site and might prove fatal for the trees
• Play pits and poured-in-place concrete benches encroach upon root systems of mature trees
• ECE area is too small: Must be 1500 square feet to meet requirements for Colorado childcare facility
• Only 4 swings for 1-8th grade; only 2 swings in ECE
• Design theme lacks educational elements

2005 MASTER PLAN

ORDERING SYSTEMS

ENTRY GATEWAYS

DRAINAGE CHASE POSITION

TREE ROOT SYSTEMS

HABITAT AREAS

Field and Track
28,000 sq ft
61.3%

Play Pits
6,500 sq ft
14%

Concrete
4,500 sq ft
10%

Asphalt
5,200 sq ft
11.4%

Concrete
3,300 sq ft
6.6%

Unique Qualities

Re-useable Materials:

Possibility of re-use of outdated play equipment as gateway arch

Design Analysis

Alison Kelly
Learning Landscapes
3 December 2009

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**DORA MOORE SCHOOL**

846 CORONA STREET
DENVER, CO 80216

**DESIGN DEVELOPMENT**

**October - November 2009**

**Design Theme: Confluence**

From 2005 Design Development Plan:

“Confluence: A coming or flowing together, meeting, or gathering at one point.”

**Goals for Design Development:**

- Make the theme more relevant to Colorado
- Incorporate educational elements related to the theme
- Keep as much of the 2005 Plan intact as possible, while acknowledging its shortcomings with regard to excessive budget and threat to mature trees

**Alterations to “River”**

**South Platte River**

Diagram showing confluence at the city of Denver

**Feedback from Midterm Review**

- ECE still smaller than required square footage
- 2 swings is not enough
- Can we add a true track?

- Swings should be moved to this end of the field
- Swings should be split into 2 separate play pits: one with 4 swings to be included in ECE, one with 8 swings for all other students

**Maximizing Field Size**

- Integrating track into artificial turf field with permanent striping to delineate track would maximize the area that could be used for games such as football and soccer
- This option means the field could be as large as 22,000 square feet, substantially larger than the midterm plan’s 18,000 square foot size

**Photomontages**

- Maintenance Gateway
- Intermediate Play Pit
- “Canyon” Area

**Parent, Student, and Teacher Surveys**

- Moore faculty requested this step in order to assess the current preferences of the Moore community for their Learning Landscape
- Administered to students and teachers during the week of November 16th
- Administered to parents at student band concerts November 17th-18th

**Results**

Top 5 program elements indicated after all surveys were tallied:

1. Outdoor Classroom
2. Play equipment
3. Climbing
4. Water play
5. Shade structure

**Scale: 1”=30’**

**Proximity to one-way street is a problem for positioning entry here**

**Request from school to provide 2 full basketball courts**

**This is the gate where most children enter the schoolyard when dropped off in the morning**

**Parent, student, and teacher feedback from midterm review**

- MOORE FACULTY REQUESTED THIS STEP IN ORDER TO ASSESS THE CURRENT PREFERENCES OF THE MOORE COMMUNITY FOR THEIR LEARNING LANDSCAPE
- ADMINISTERED TO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS DURING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16TH
- ADMINISTERED TO PARENTS AT STUDENT BAND CONCERTS NOVEMBER 17TH-18TH

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EDUCATIONAL ELEMENTS

COLORADO ANIMAL SPECIES

- Different types of stamped footprints in the concrete teach students about which animals live in and along rivers and how interactions occur between animals in their habitats

ECOLOGY

- Plantings in outdoor classroom transition from prairie to montane to teach about different habitat zones
- Suggested plants: Amelanchier, Aster, Buddleia, Bouteloua gracilis, Gold Yarrow, Goldenrod, Phlox, Sedum

RIVER SYSTEM

- River walk in outdoor classroom features bands of different materials to demonstrate the historic patterns of channelization of rivers

COLORADO HABITAT AND RIVER CHANNELIZATION EDUCATIONAL PIECE IN OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

2009

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BUTTERFLY GARDEN AND BIOSWALE IN ECE

FOCUS CONFLUENCE ON GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF DENVER IN MAP OF COLORADO

COLORADO HABITAT AND RIVER CHANNELIZATION EDUCATIONAL PIECE IN OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

PAINTED TILES ON SIDES OF STAIRWAYS

BANNERS AND TILES PAINTED BY MOORE STUDENTS

ART PIECE SHOULD FIT WITH THE THEME OF COLORADO HABITAT AND BE APPROPRIATE TO HISTORIC BUILDING

MATERIALITY

DYED CONCRETE USED FOR RIVER

STAMPS USED TO CREATE ANIMAL TRACKS IN CONCRETE

SURFACE MATERIALS

SCALE: 1"=40'