Design Intent:

After a semester long analysis of school playgrounds, the design students at the University of Colorado at Denver had the opportunity to recreate and develop a workable and creative play system. Upon analyzing Kaiser Elementary, a problem was presented. This problem came in the form of a large and very steep hill. Built on top of a drained pond, Kaiser struggled with moving wheelchair bound students down to the bottom of the hill and back. However, every cloud has a silver lining. For Kaiser, this hill has become a dynamic learning and playing environment for the children. This site opens up the possibilities of many creative innovations.

One element is the concept of an ant hill. Because the school has one of the highest percentages of handicapped children, the whole site needs to be handicapped accessible. The ant hill allows for a creative way for wheelchair bound children to access the lower playgrounds, while still maintaining the proper grade and slope. With the help of puzzle piece shaped playgrounds, anchoring the ant path, the children are presented with a fun and creative adventure, when descending the hill.

Goals and Objectives:

- Provide adequate and age appropriate play equipment.
- Provide new play areas for structured games.
- Provide areas for self guided play.
- Develop full ADA access playgrounds for all children.
- Provide shade on playground.
- Develop a turf multi-purpose field.
- Develop outside gathering place for the school and community.
- Develop areas for hands on learning.

"An education isn’t how much you have committed to memory, but how much you have committed to change. It’s being able to recognize what you know, and what you don’t." — Aristotle Prouse

"Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten." — S. K. Decker

"No one, has yet realized the wealth of sympathy, the kindness and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure." — Emma Goldman

"The range of a ladder was never meant to rest upon, but only to hold a man’s foot long enough to enable him to get the other some what higher." — Thomas Henry Huxley