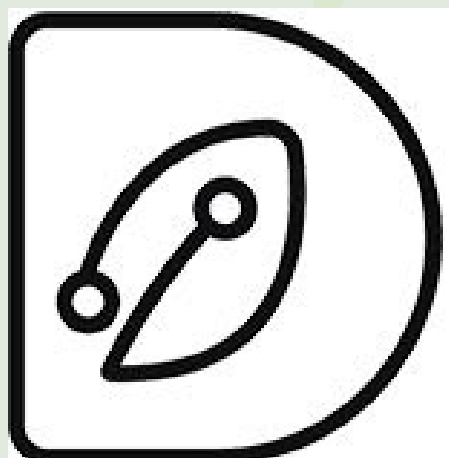


# URBAN NATURE PLAY SURVEY

**LAURA MURPHY, SOCIAL  
CONNECTEDNESS FELLOW 2022**



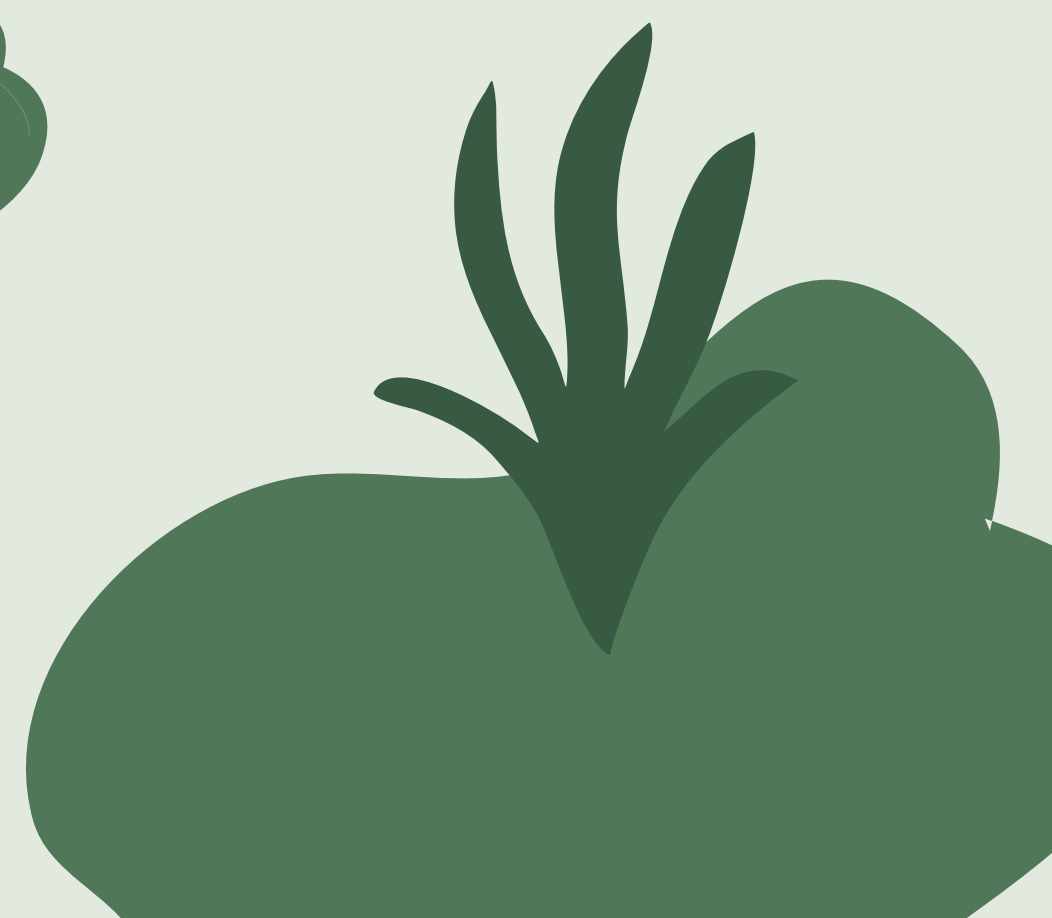
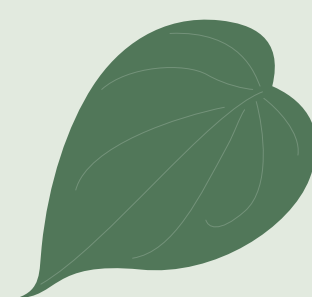
**DATA  
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# The Issue

Play is a critical component for healthy child development and building resilience against adversity. To combat the challenges and limitations that limit opportunities for kids to play, towns and cities need to make concerted efforts to incorporate play into urban design and planning, in part, by re-conceptualizing what and where it means to play. This includes broadening ideas of what it means for children to play in green space in their communities so that all children can access the benefits of nature.



# The Purpose

18 Professionals including Early Childhood Teachers, Nature Center Coordinators, and Education Directors from nature-based organizations (community & school gardens, urban farms, nature centers, farms, apple orchards) across the Hudson Valley and New York City participated in an online survey about the benefits of play for child development, the diverse kinds of activities and programs their organizations have to promote playful learning, and what challenges their towns and cities face in creating opportunities for kids to play.





"Live animal interactions"

"Pretend to be bees in the garden"

"outfitted a food truck to become a mobile teaching kitchen"

"Building fairy villages"

## Nature Play Activities & Programs Offered

"jumping on the haybales and rolling down the hill"

"Making salads in the garden from the vegetables we planted and harvested"

"garden exploration"

"nature walks"

"simulate crater impacts using corn starch, cocoa powder, and marbles"



# RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Fund more community outreach events and recreation programs
- 2 Renovate and maintain public spaces (more parks, new equipment)
- 3 De-emphasize testing in schools
- 4 Improve access to transportation (ex: bussing for lower income students)
- 5 Incorporate nature-themed playgrounds and nature interpretive elements
- 6 Add paths & seating options to encourage use of green spaces that don't have any formal equipment

