

# Eksempelprosjekt : Naturlekeplass i Illinois - *helt uten bruk av gummi og plast !*



Bloomington-Normal, Illinois, august 2022

## [SPAM]U.S. Elementary School Project - Natural Playground



Charles Jobson

Thu 12/19/2019 12:49 AM

To: You

Hi Helle,

Tim Gill gave me your name as did Sharon Gammon Danks and, of course, I've done some research on your past work and writings.

Would you be interested in talking about a natural playground elementary school project in the USA (Illinois) with a large site? We could talk by phone and I could potentially come visit you in Copenhagen.

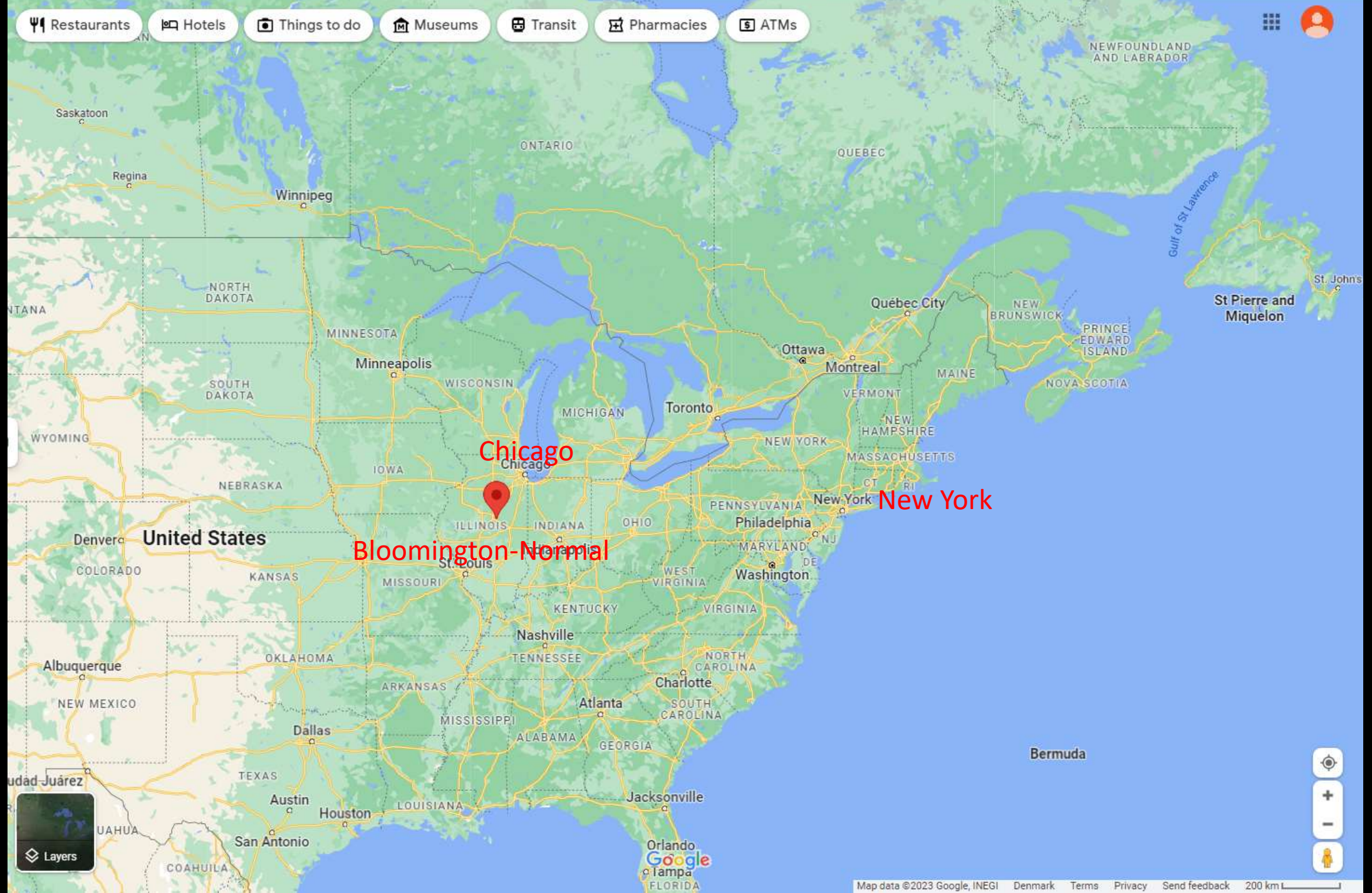
Best,

Charlie

[Reply](#)

[Forward](#)

Mail fra Charlie 19-12-2019







heimer's  
e Center

Cen

Aug

SB

Dor

Grandview Dr

E Vernon Ave

Vernon Ave



Colene Hoose  
Elementary School

Viola Dr

Joan Way

Google

Sheridan Rd

200 feet  
100 m





heimer's  
e Center

E Vernon Ave

Cole  
Elem

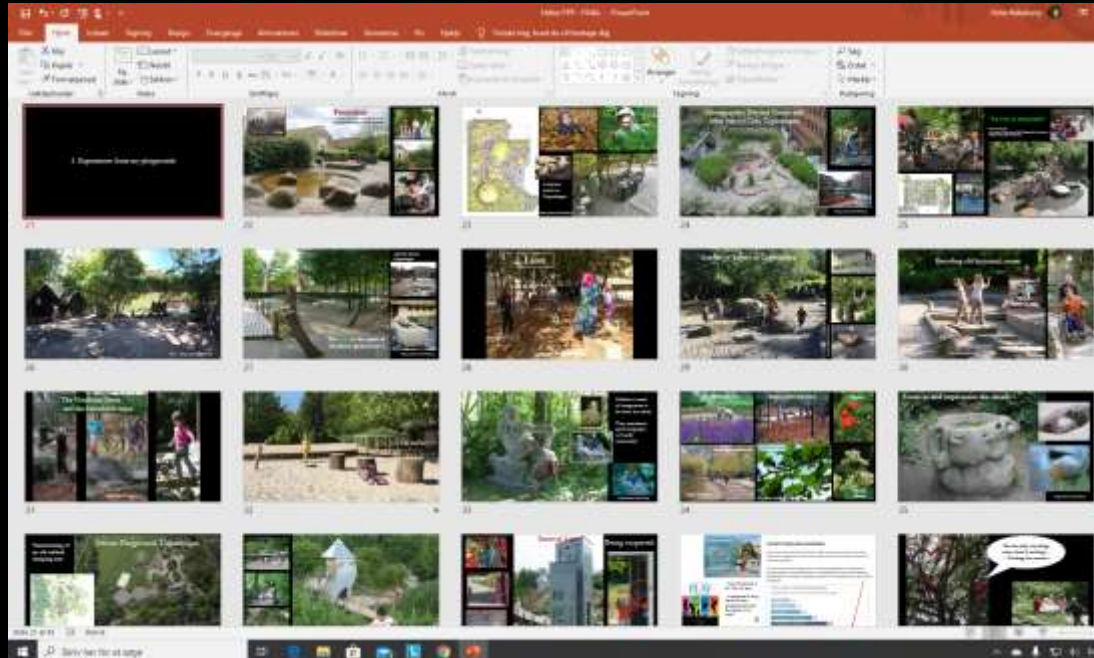
Sheridan Rd

Naturlegepladsen i Valbyparken  
25.000 m<sup>2</sup>

Sansehaven i Fælledparken  
8.000 m<sup>2</sup>







# Oplæg for teachers, staff, students and families 20-05-2020



Principal Adam Zbrozek 21-05-2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEr-YxUIRO0>



13. Grass area - students use this at recess for field games (soccer, throwing balls, whining etc) Barely used but beautiful  
Free play great spot for the new playground Gets waterlogged - wasted space - never used

12. Reading garden (recently renovated) - used and LOVED by all classes when the weather permits vs to read and enjoy nature Friendship garden Butterfly space, trees, flowers

11. Orange & Black playground - main playground used by students in K-5 general education classes - recess

9. Staff parking lot, two lane - a paved area Students play on at recess Basketball, 4 square

7. Storage trailers used to extra furniture Trash and recycling area Staff parking Don't use this

14. Baseball fields sometimes used for kickball by PE classes and at recess Baseball diamonds used on occasion by grades used by several people within the community

1. STAFF parking lot area by a very busy road

2. Staff parking lot area and two lane for special Education (BEST parking)

3. P.E. classes use this also used during Field Day open grass area (kind of lower elevation and will stay wet after heavy rains) barely used at all (laugh vale for bygones, but beautiful space!) Mr. Tanner takes students into "The Field" to sit and get fresh air and have a mindful moment outdoor physical education - all grades Wasted space - never used

15. ideal place for parking lot Barely used "The Field" - used by all grades during field day events this side of school sign

Wasted space - never used

Skolems "fornside" / BUSY ROAD



10. "The Blacktop" used for recess by all classes and field day events

Skolems "bayside"

BEST K-5

9-15 used by all grade levels during recess and for Field day activities

8. Playground used by Special Education (and 1st, 2nd and 5th grades) Fenced playground

6. open grass area used located close to Constitution Trail too far away for some students used for Field day events - all grades Wasted space - never used open Field - Free play by 5th grade and BEST and PE classes

4. open grass area BEST classes use this and PE classes also used during Field Day (higher elevation) located close to homes barely used, but beautiful space! "The Field" with trees, used for nature walks in all seasons A great spot for the new playground Wasted space - never used some raised garden boxes that need attention hanging bird feeders

5. Was the BEST playground area is fenced in (Behavioral Emotional Support Team) Future Emotional/Behavior playground only used by BEST programme





**Adam Bienenstock 15-09-2020:**

- As a rule we don't work on other company's designs but we would be honored to break that rule with you! Happy to work with you!
- my partner in the business Lasse Larving is from Copenhagen and he is responsible for the certified installer program and our pricing in the US. Great person will be a huge help in anything that we might do together. Looking forward to introducing you. **The Danes are taking over!**





First proposal meeting m Adam  
Z. – the principal og Charlie 28-  
09-2020



# The Colene Hoose Elementary School Natural Playground Project 25-09-2020

## **Founder of The Jobson Family Foundation, Mr. Charles Jobson's vision:**

*The Colene Hoose Elementary School natural playground project should be a model for other schools in the area and become a community gathering spot.*

Located in Bloomington Normal, Illinois, the public school has around 450 students, of which 15 % are students with special needs of varying kinds. The school was built in the mid-1960s and has changed little since that time. The land surrounding the school is pancake flat and compressed with little vegetation except grass and there are cracked concrete basketball courts, some swings, and a plug and play playground equipment set.

## **Landscape Architect Helle Nebelong's mission:**

Transforming the Colene Hoose School flat environment into a natural playscape that could be a model for other schools in the area and become a community gathering spot.

The playground project should be comprehensive, challenging, stimulating and inclusive.



# Colene Hoose Elementary School Natural Play Park Project in Bloomington Normal, Illinois, US

- a model for other schools in the area and a community gathering spot



1965 - 2021



Existing playgrounds

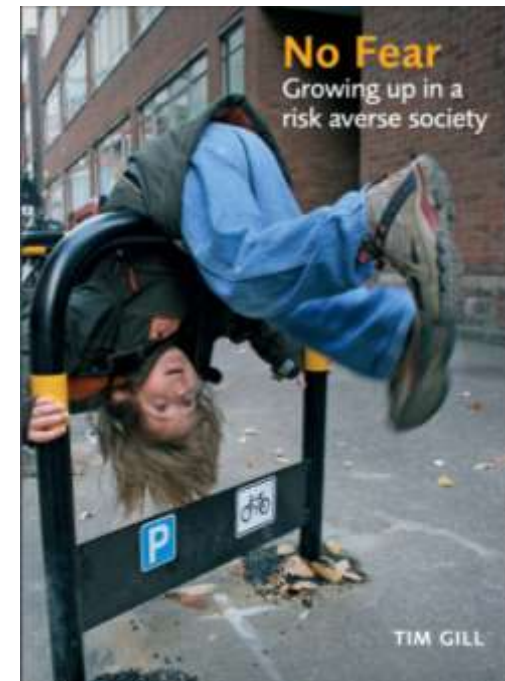
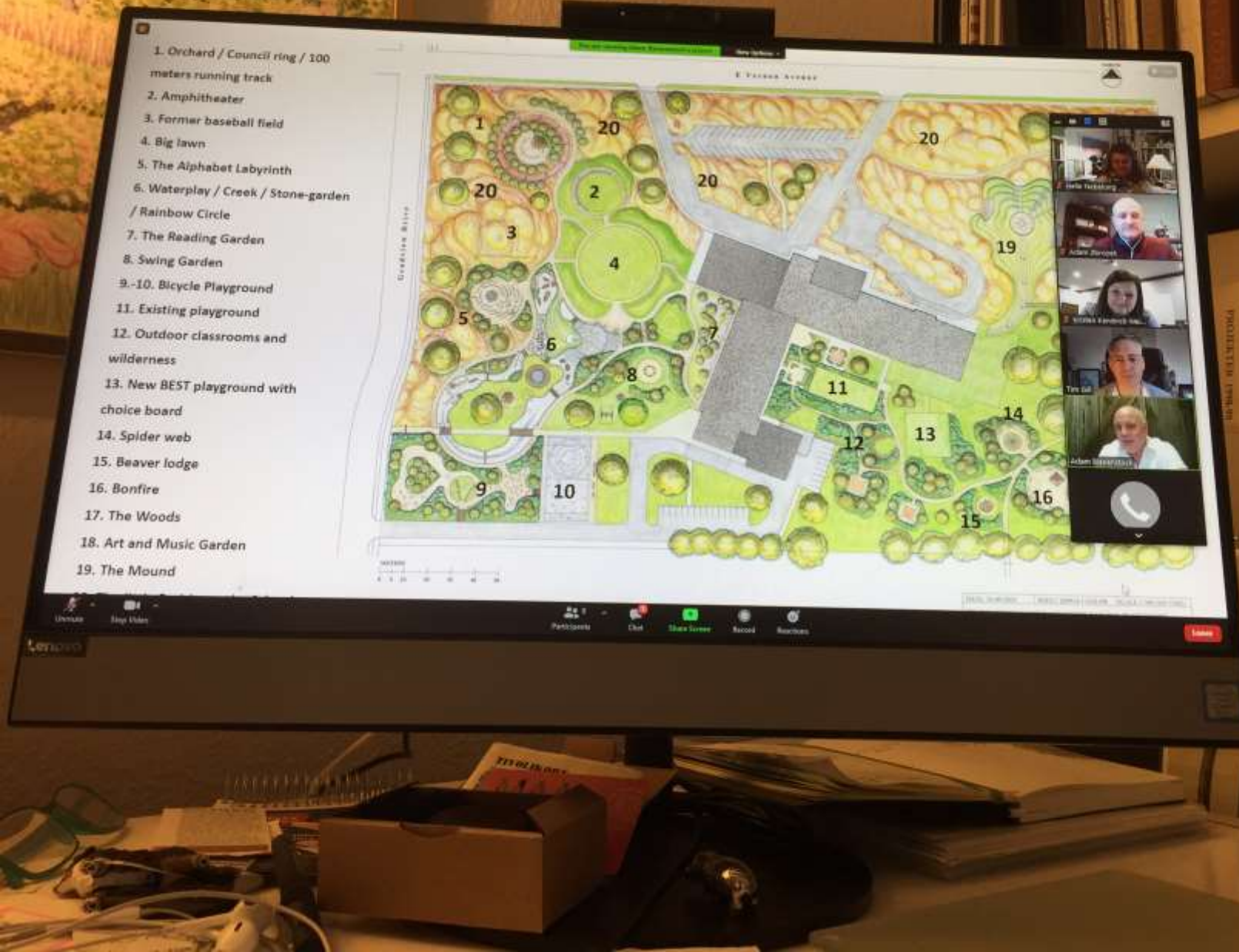


2021 - 2023 new design  
A cultural change



Facilities Meeting  
with Unit 5 Board  
members, Tim Gill  
and Adam  
Bienenstock

02-02-2021





*"I am convinced that the playground will quickly become a cherished part of the school and its community. I also believe it will come to be seen as an American landmark and design icon: the kind of space that educators, designers and others will visit from far and wide. Some may come to be inspired by the aesthetic of the space as a whole.*

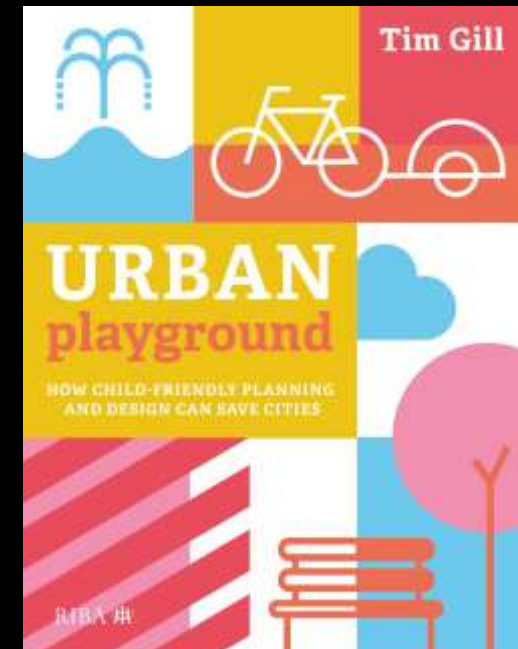
*Others may want to explore how specific 'rooms' and design features work. The current design caters for both these perspectives, and more.*

*I cannot wait to see it becoming a reality."*

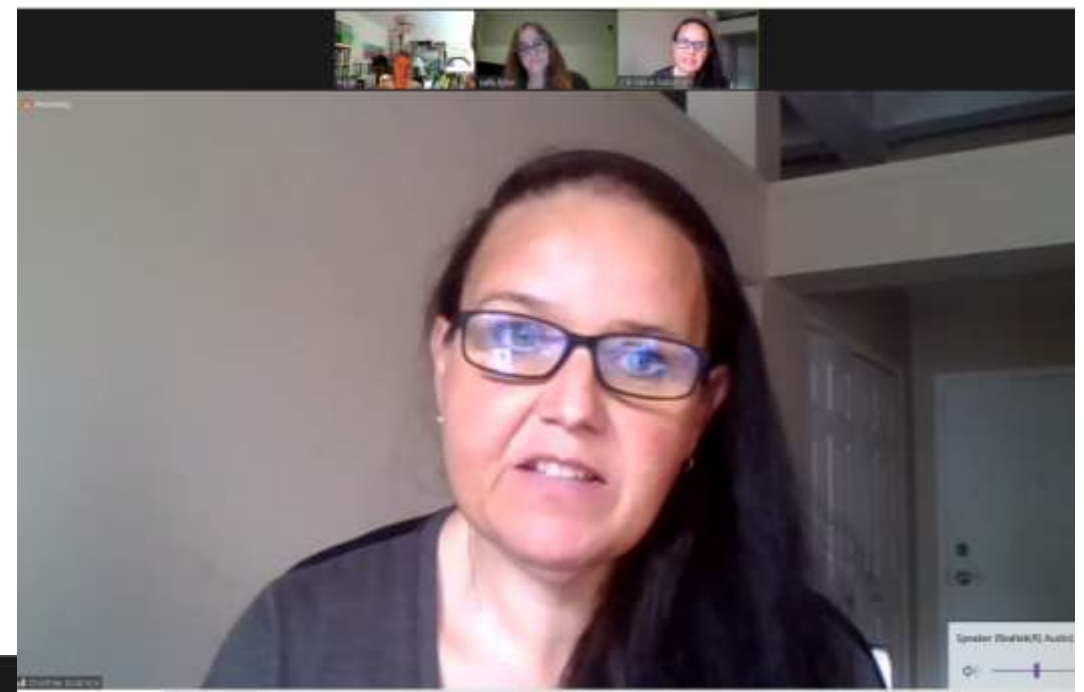
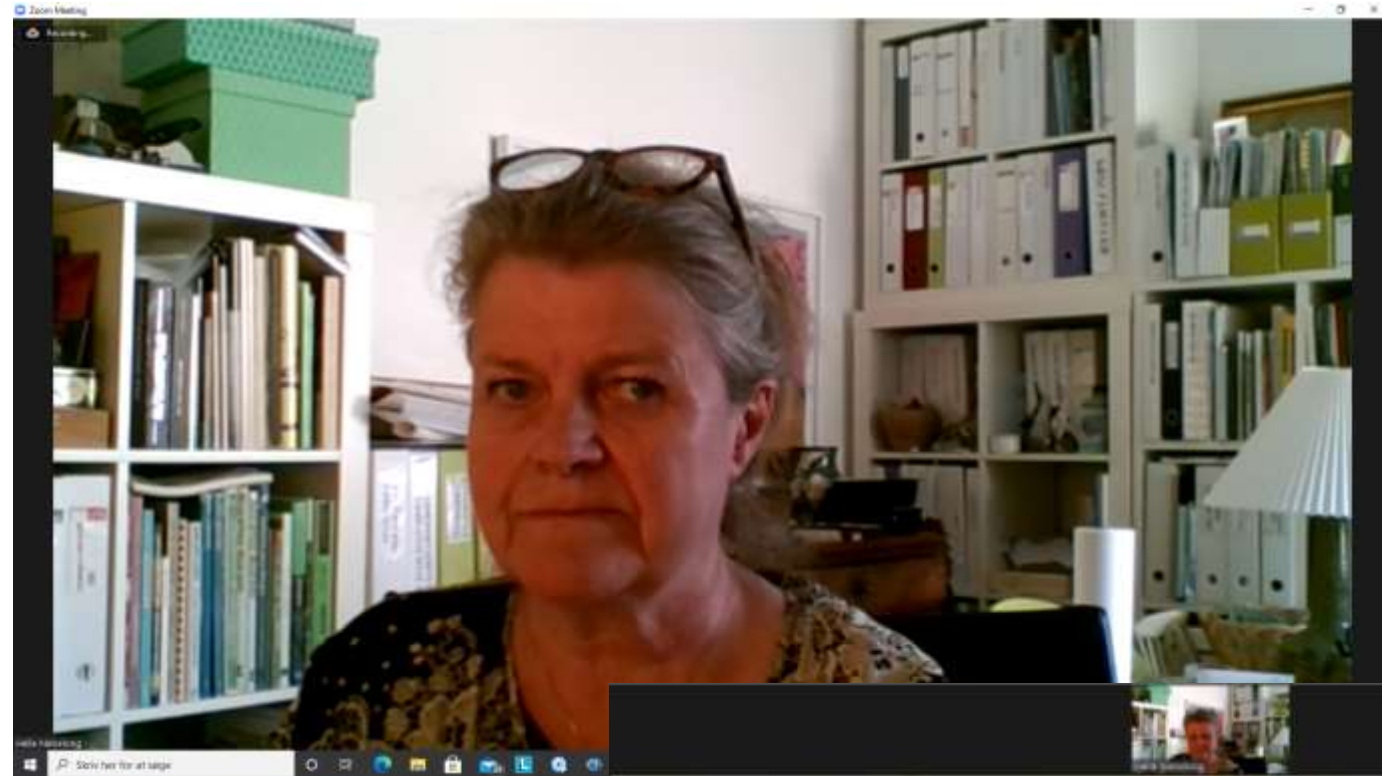
Tim Gill, 25 Nov 2021



Tim Gill, UK







11-06-2021



11. Outdoor Classroom & Wilderness



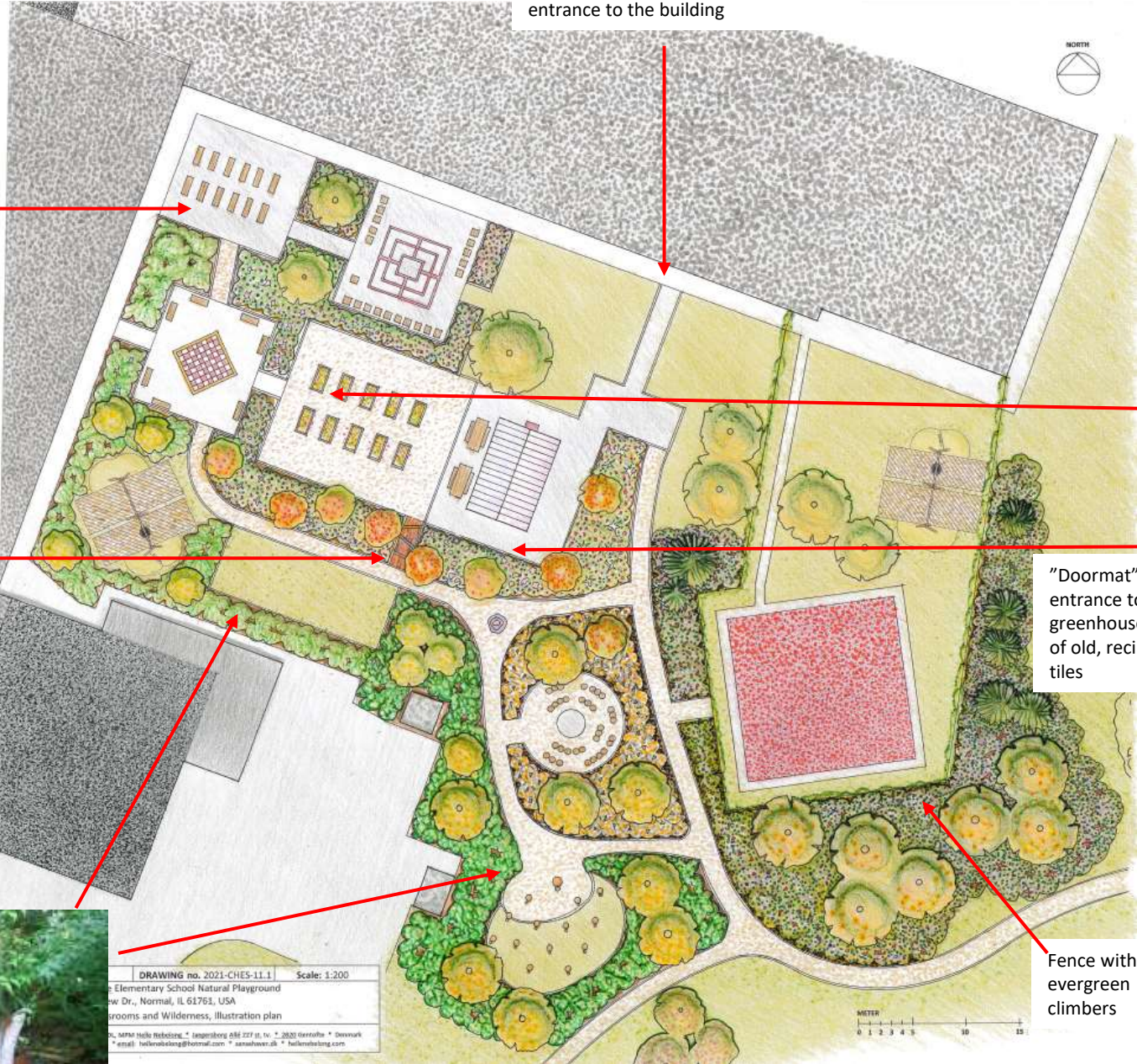
Tiles and ceramica Photo: Helle



Photo: Helle



Wilderness



This pathway should match the main entrance to the building



"Doormat" at the entrance to the greenhouse made of old, recycled tiles

Fence with evergreen climbers

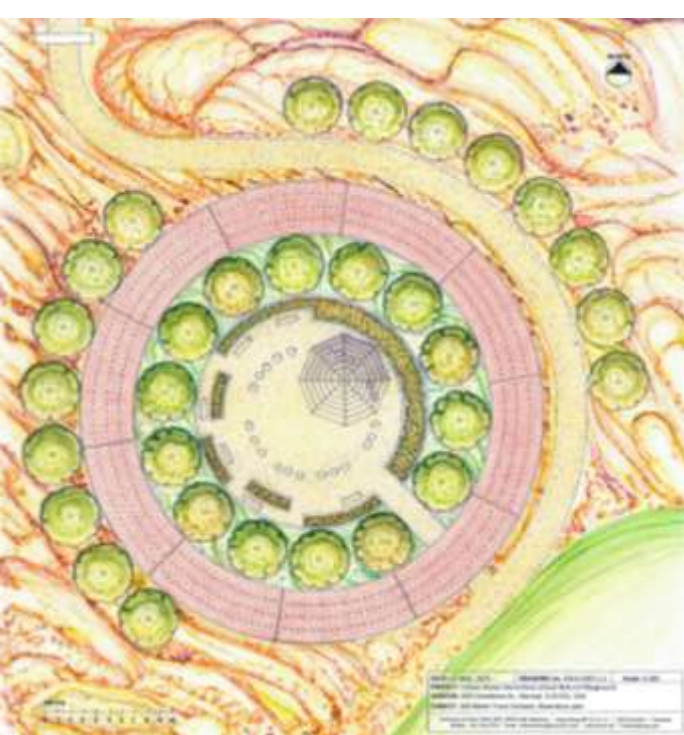


Photos: Sloane



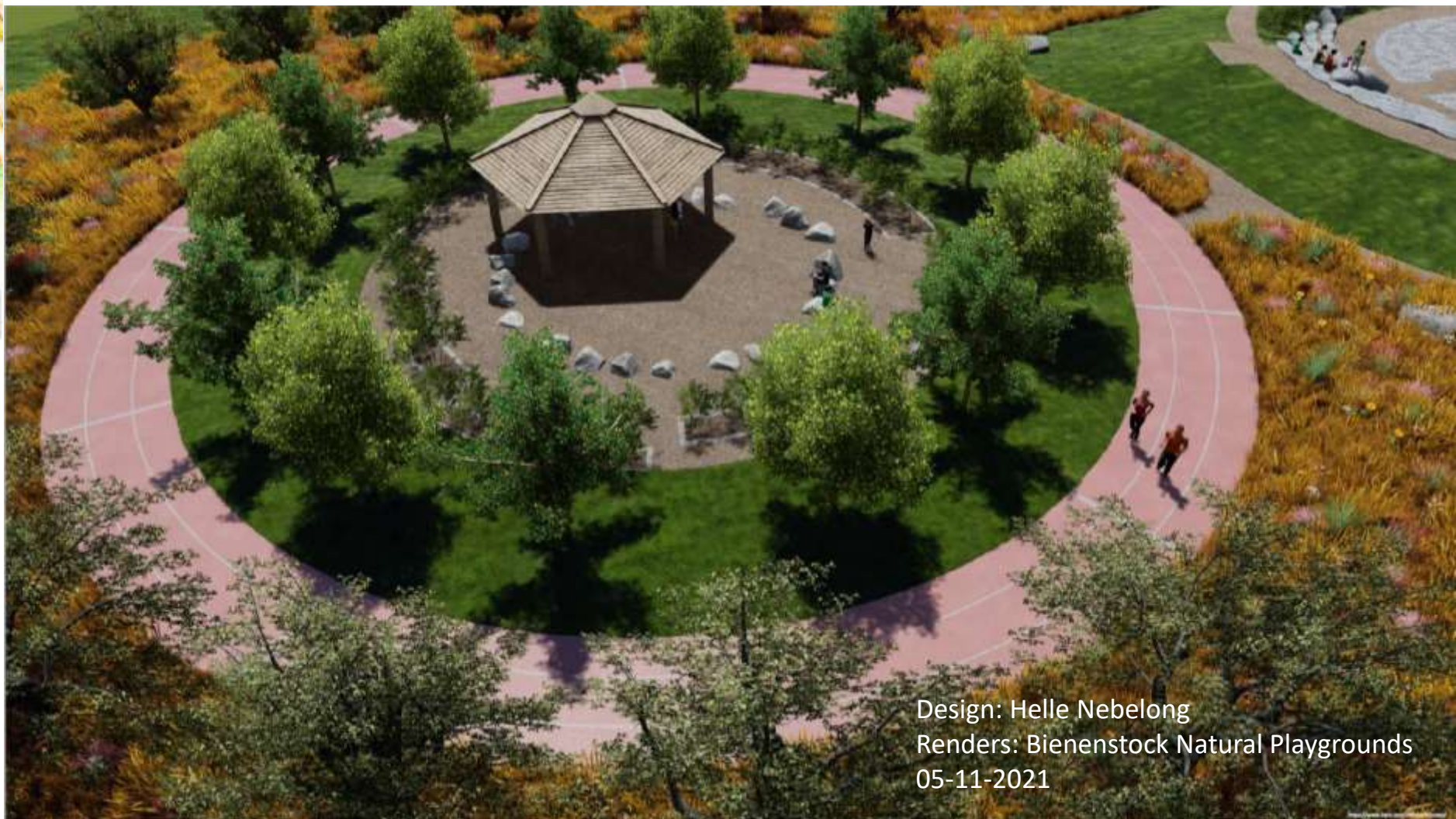
Design: Helle Nebelong  
Farvelægning: Tim Ebikon





## 1. 100 Meter Track Orchard

Design: Helle Nebelong  
Farvelægning: Tim Ebikon



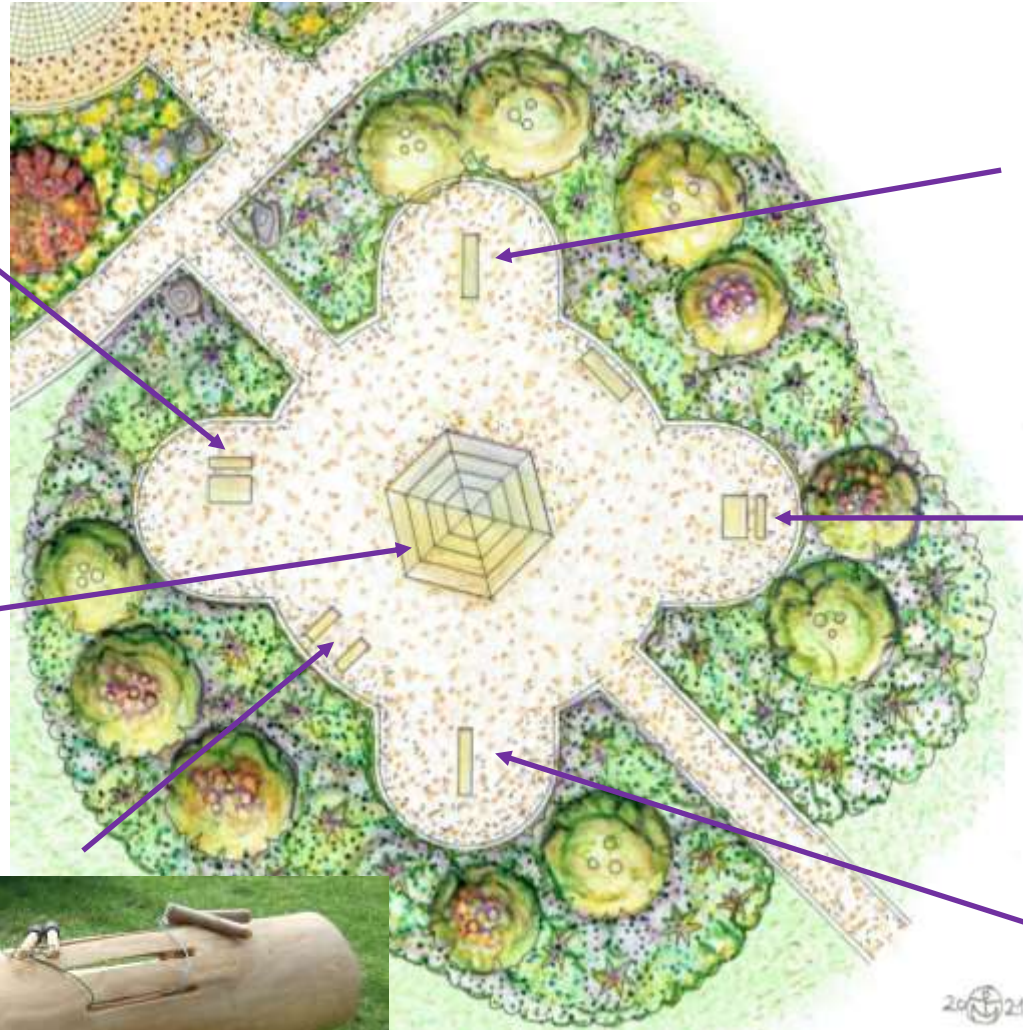
Design: Helle Nebelong  
Renders: Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds  
05-11-2021



## 16. Art and Music Garden



Musikinstrumenter fra danske Lydleg.dk



Design: Helle Nebelong  
Farvelægning: Tim Ebikon

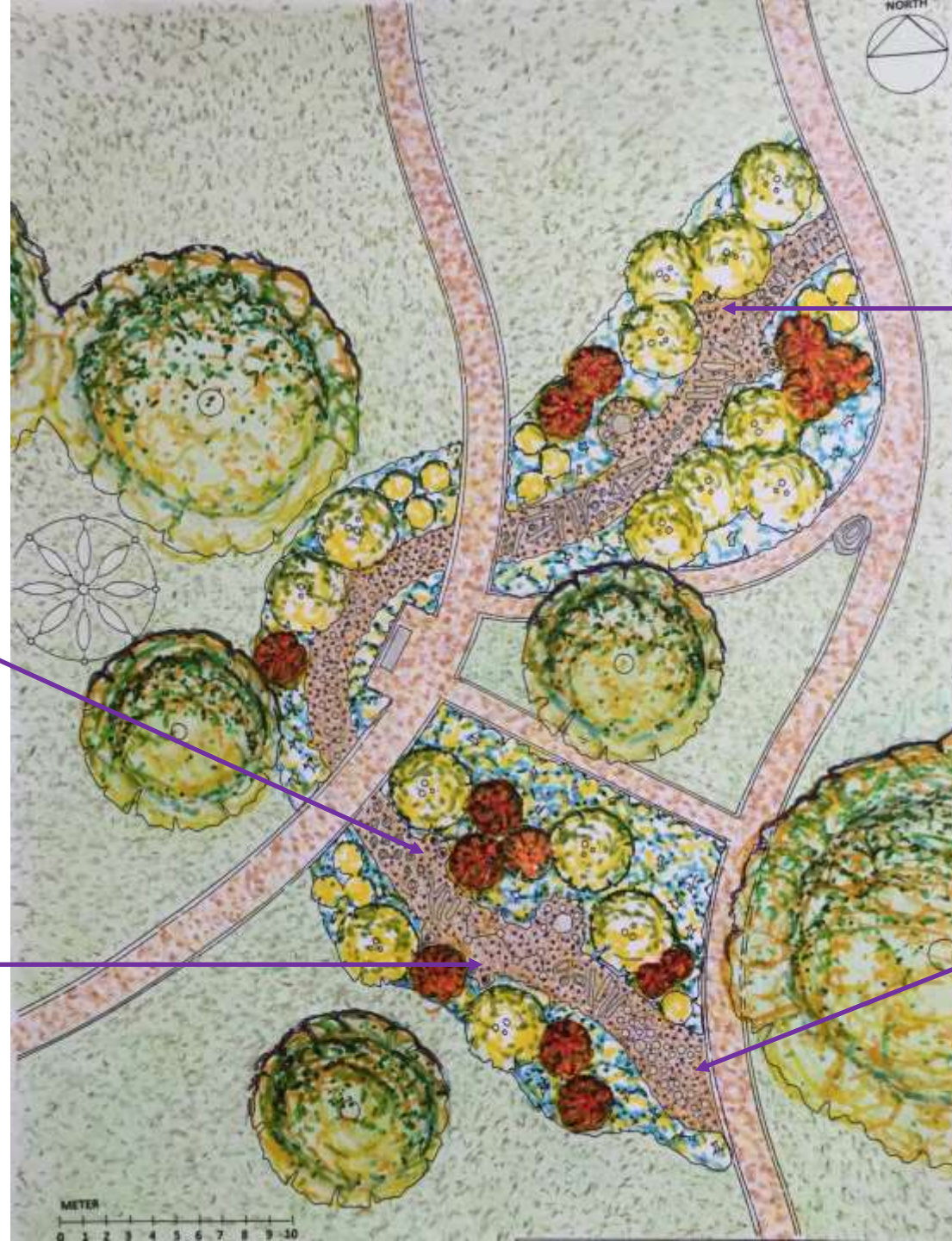




Design: Helle Nebelong  
Renders: Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds  
05-11-2021



## 17. THE WOODS



Referencefotos fra Trollskogen  
Naturlekplats, Helsingborg



Design: Helle Nebelong  
Farvelægning: Tim Ebikon





Design: Helle Nebelong  
Renders: Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds  
05-11-2021



## 2. The Amphitheater

The steps are 30 cm high, total height is 120 cm

### 5 stk. *Prunus americana*

American plum

(Wood chips as groundcover)

In groups of 3-5 bushes should be planted:

### 24 stk. *Viburnum opulus* L. var. *americanum* Aiton

American Cranberrybush

(Wood chips as groundcover)

And – as part of The Arboretum:

### 1 stk. Norway Spruce

*Picea abies*



Mixed  
pavement



Design: Helle Nebelong  
Farvelægning: Tim Ebikon





Design: Helle Nebelong  
Renders: Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds  
05-11-2021



## 5. The Alphabet Labyrinth



Design: Helle Nebelong  
Farvelægning: Tim Ebikon



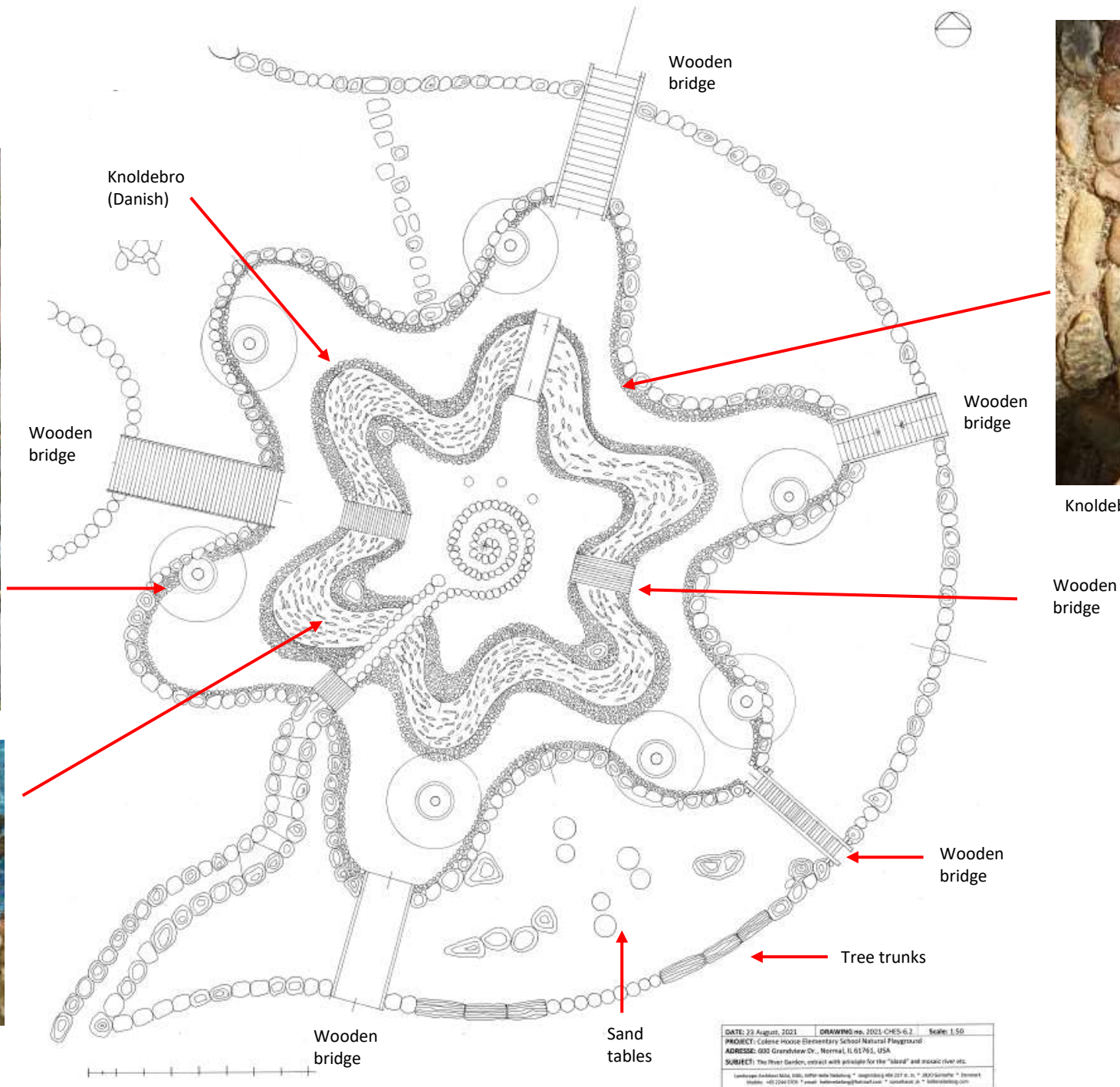
Design: Helle Nebelong  
Renders: Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds  
05-11-2021



6. The River Garden



Mosaic river



Knoldebro (Danish)

Wooden bridge

Wooden bridge

Tree trunks

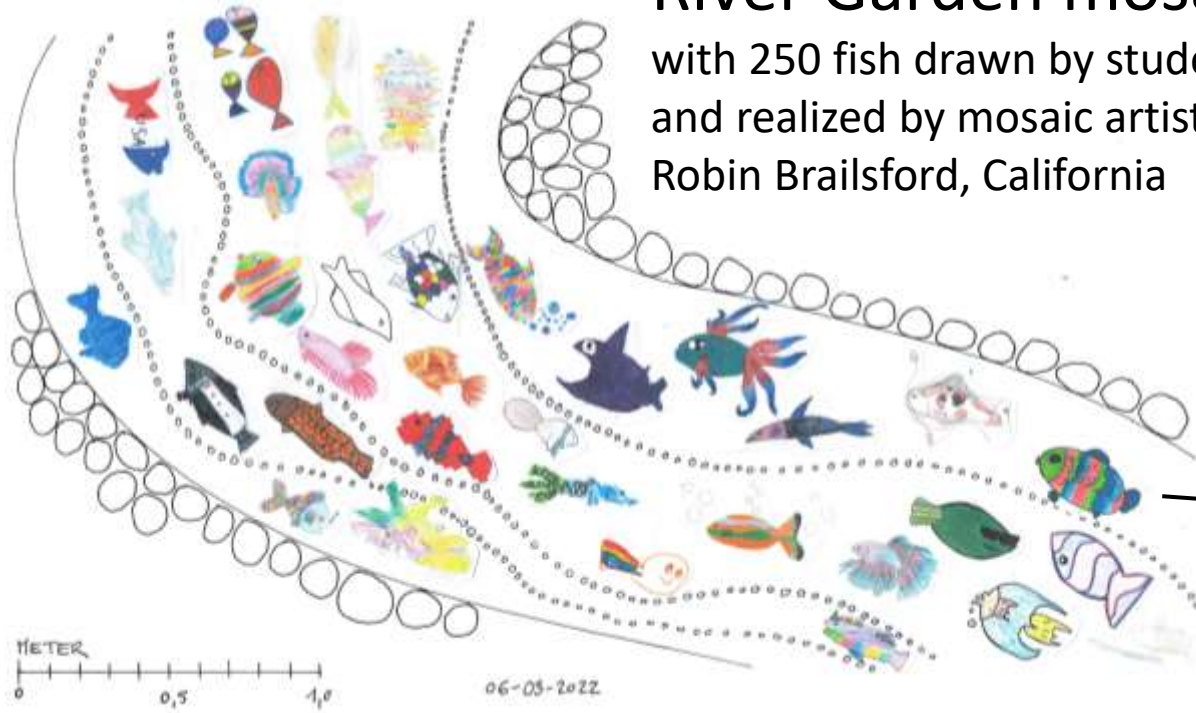
Wooden bridge

Sand tables



# River Garden mosaic

with 250 fish drawn by students  
and realized by mosaic artist  
Robin Brailsford, California



IF I WAS A FISH, I'D LOOK LIKE THIS:



Drawing and design:  
Helle Nebelong



# Colene Hoose Elementary School Natural Playground



100 Meter Track Orchard

Portal

Amphitheater

River Garden mosaic

Swing Garden

Snail Shaped Mound

The Alphabet Labyrinth

Portal

Portal

Outdoor classrooms and  
board games

Art & Music Garden

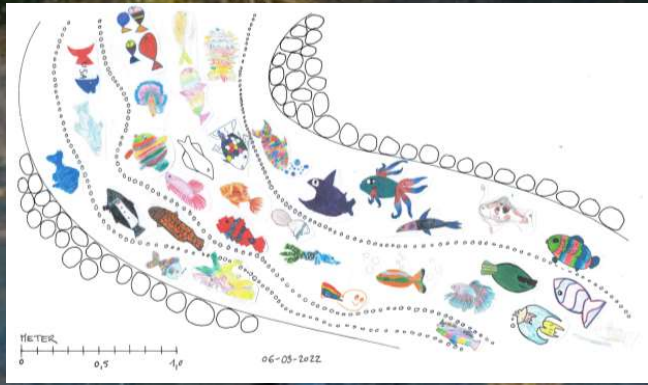
Design: Helle Nebelong  
Renders: Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds  
05-11-2021





Design: Helle Nebelong  
Renders: Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds  
05-11-2021







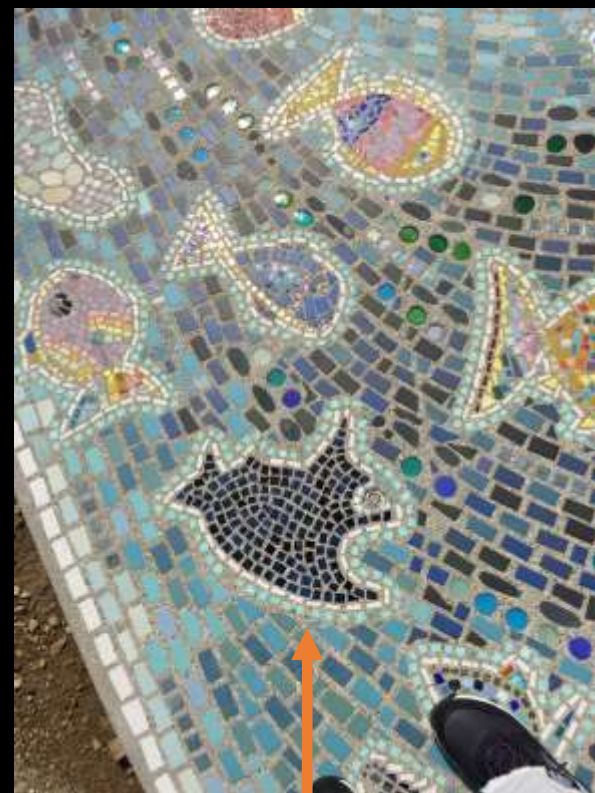
Been there... August 2022













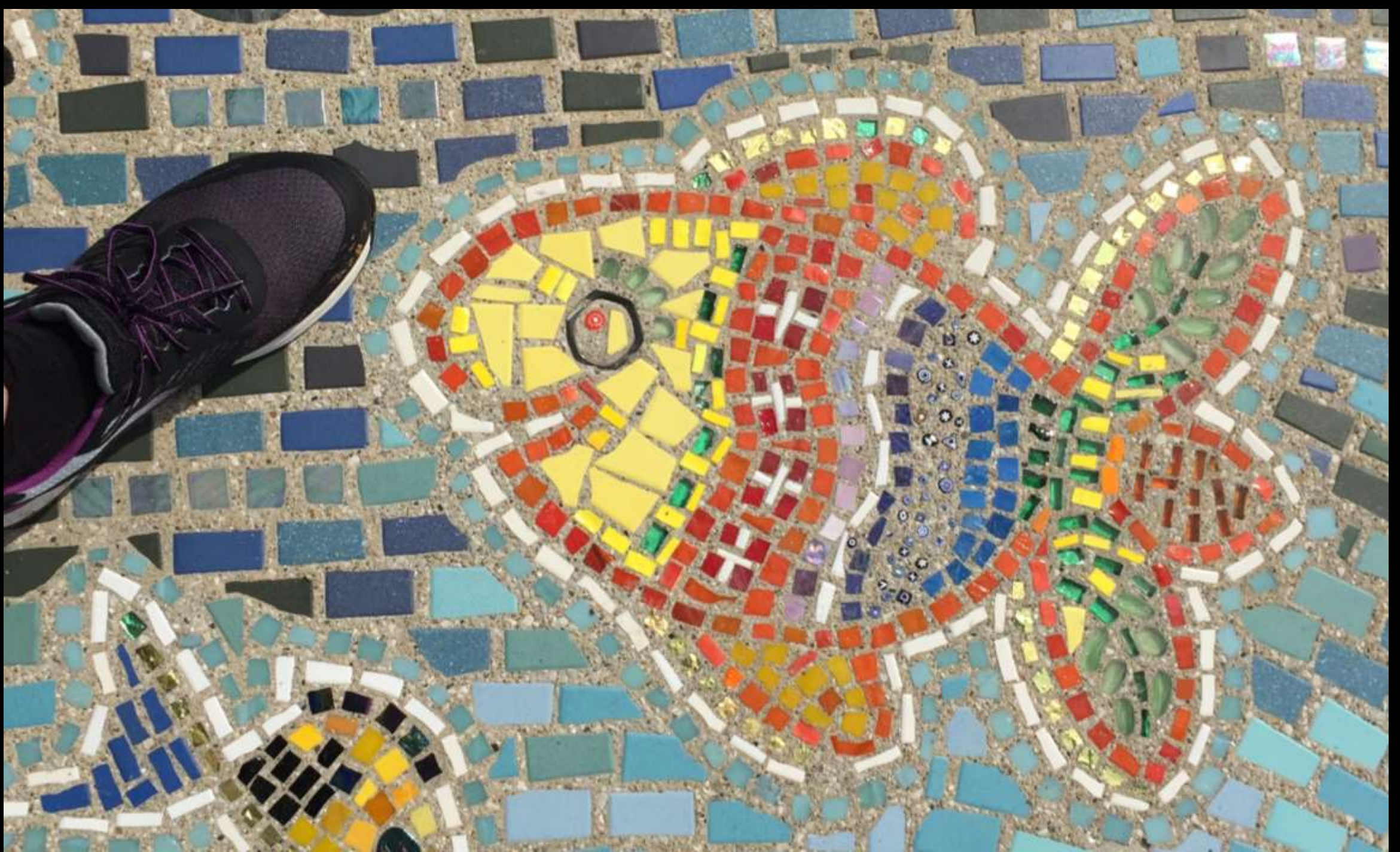




Photo: Google Earth



Design: Helle Nebelong. Photo and construction works: Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds







# The Pantagraph

BECAUSE NEWS MATTERS. SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM.



## Off and running

Fieldcrest girls basketball not resting on laurels **B1**



## Aaron Rossi case

Judge rules against attorney-client privilege **A**

## Central Illinois date

Leah Marlene to perform in Chillicothe **B5**



WINDS SUBSIDING; COOLER **35 • 25** FORECAST, B10 | **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022** | POW

## EDUCATION



CLAY JACKSON PHOTOS, THE PANTAGRAPH

This aerial image shows Unit 5's new natural playground at Colene Hoose Elementary School, 600 Grandview Drive in Normal. The playground is designed by Danish landscape architect Helle Nebelong and implements natural materials throughout the various spaces.

# A NATURAL FIT

## New playground unveiled at Colene Hoose Elementary

MATEUSZ JANIK  
mateusz.janik@lee.net

NORMAL — Students at Colene Hoose Elementary School will soon be able to experience a long-awaited sprawling natural playground full of unique features.

The \$5.1 million project, funded by a donation from former student Charlie Jobson, was unveiled this week ahead of next year's formal opening.

"The combination of all the different elements in the design, when we see how the children actually use it and develop their favorite places, and how the whole project works together is



Principal Gina Tenuta, left, and former student Charlie Jobson walk through Unit 5's new natural playground on Tuesday at Colene Hoose Elementary School in Normal. The new playground is funded by a donation from Jobson.

something I'm really looking forward to seeing in the spring," Jobson said. "I think it's gonna be

actually better than I anticipated when we first started talking about the project together."

McLean County Unit 5 administrators and project developers joined Jobson on Tuesday to show their progress on the highly anticipated playground that has been in the works for almost three years.

Designed by Danish landscape architect Helle Nebelong, the playground occupies the 16-acre plot adjacent from the school along Vernon Avenue and implements natural materials throughout the various spaces.

"Every single piece of how this was put together was equally important to Charlie, the funder, and to all of us that it actually continues to have that storyline of climate change being taken care of," said Adam Bienenstock, founder of Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds. "How do we teach

Please see **PLAYGROUND**, Page A4

## Playground

From A1

those lessons to the next generation of kids?"

The playground includes an alphabet labyrinth for children to reinforce their early writing skills as they move through it, an outdoor amphitheater big enough to fit everyone in the school in one place, a swing garden made from logs of wood and a stone garden creek with mosaic fish artwork designed by students.

Bienenstock said the playground is also a full arboretum with every native plant in Illinois planted in the ground. All the storm water is managed on site without hooking up to a storm water drain.

The trails, lined with historic cobblestone from the streets of Chicago, are accessible under standards from the Americans with Disabilities Act. They present no major inclines throughout the playground, including

the spiral mound near the outdoor amphitheater, Bienenstock



A stone garden creek with mosaic fish artwork designed by the students appears in the new playground.

said.

"Our students and staff and families are all very excited to be able to explore this space," said Principal Gina Tenuta. "We have a lot of opportunities for our staff to learn how to utilize the space to properly educate our students about outside learning."

Tenuta said the playground essentially doubles the space of the school and allows for the

flexibility of using the outdoor spaces for classes, lessons or projects and hosting school assemblies.

"We wouldn't have been able to do this had it not been for the donation from Charlie," said Unit 5 Superintendent Kristen Weikle. "I think it's definitely going to set a new standard for parks in the Bloomington Normal community."

Weikle said the playground



CLAY JACKSON PHOTOS, THE PANTAGRAPH

The design of the new natural playground includes a spiral mound with a trail. It has no major incline and is designed to be accessible for people with disabilities.

can have other schools in the district visit and access the space while hosting other local organizations for activities or events.

Colene Hoose Elementary students are expected to begin

using the playground after winter break and the official opening will take place in May 2023.

Contact Mateusz Janik at (309) 820-3234. Follow Mateusz on Twitter: @mjanik99





And don't forget to  
smell the flowers!



Helle Nebelong

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